

Cornhusker Boys' State Has Returned



Pictured back row (L to R) Executive Assistant Amanda Washburn, Interim President Doug Boldt, Fred Tisdale, Commander Dan Benes, Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Landkamer, PDC Jerry Landkamer, Dave Bruckner, and Adjutant Dave Salak. Front row (L to R) Deb Day, Jeanie Costello, and Alternate National Executive Committeeman Jim Costello.

two candidates campaigning very hard and creating a lot of interest. The race came right down to the wire with Vikram Menon winning, in a tight race over Joshua King.

This year we were able to have perfect attendance and had a 100% graduation rate. A lot of that credit goes to all the staff, the many volunteers, and the high-quality counselors that we had that made CORNHUSKER BOYS' STATE a huge success. A big THANK YOU goes out to each and every person who helped us.

Doug Boldt, Boys' State Chairman

"THE BOYS ARE BACK" yes indeed, the boys were back. The American Legion Cornhusker Boys' State was back in session with 209 of the finest young men you could ever be associated with. Sunday, June 5, 2022, at noon they converged on the University of Lincoln campus and by 2:30 they were off to Kimball Hall. That evening, after band and chorus practice, new towns, with the names of Bunker Hill, Valley Forge, Yorktown, Gettysburg, Alamo, Manila Bay, Bataan, and Belleau Wood would take shape. Campaigning for Mayor began with enthusiasm.

The week-long experience was filled with campaigning for various offices including the likes of county and district judges. The 2019-2022 Governor Evan Jolley interviewed candidates for the supreme court. Then the Unicameral Legislature started to take shape.

In addition to setting up their own "51st STATE," the delegates then heard motivational speaks like Dr. Joanne Owens-Nauslar, a longtime friend of Boys state. Coach Amy Williams and Coach John Cook both represented the University of Nebraska. Also presenting was the law enforcement community. This year, the Boys' Staters heard from three political groups and were able to tour the National Guard Center.



From the Desk of the Department Adjutant:

At the 2022 Convention in Columbus, Resolution 5 "Honoring World War II Veterans" was adopted.

I ask all Posts to go through their membership and identify known WWII veterans and then send me a consolidated list of their names. If their "war era" isn't marked but you suspect they are a WWII member, please call them and verify. We want to honor all our WWII veterans.

At Department Convention in 2023, all WWII names provided to Department will be printed in our Convention Program. Department staff would greatly appreciate your time and effort and request this information not later than May 1.

This is also a great way to have your members renew their dues for the 2023 membership year!

David W. Salak
Department Adjutant

Department Assistant Adjutant Is Retiring



Brent Hagel-Pitt is retiring on November 30, 2022, after 13 years of faithful service to the Department.

We are looking for his replacement to start in September.

The majority of time is spent managing Department Programs like Legion Baseball, Junior Law Cadet, Oratorical, Scholarships, and County Government Day. But as Assistant Adjutant, he assumes other duties as directed by the Department Adjutant. The job is full-time with very good benefits.

If interested, send a resume to Adjutant Salak to begin the interview process.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

The Nebraska Legionnaire

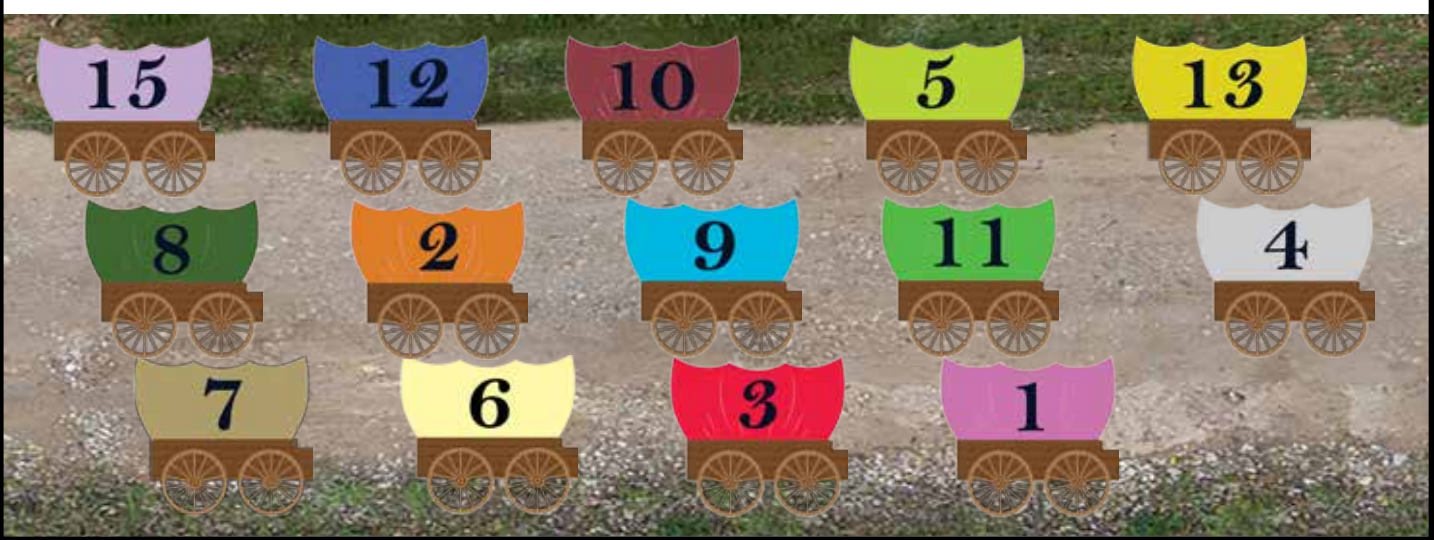
P.O. Box 5205

Lincoln, NE 68505-0205

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

2023 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 24,835 AUGUST 15TH TOTAL: 8,759 – 35.27%

DISTRICT 15 - 50.53%	DISTRICT 8 - 44.40%	DISTRICT 7 - 36.69%	DISTRICT 12 - 35.86%	DISTRICT 2 - 34.69%
DISTRICT 6 - 34.41%	DISTRICT 10 - 33.77%	DISTRICT 9 - 28.78%	DISTRICT 3 - 27.72%	DISTRICT 5 - 27.64%
DISTRICT 11 - 26.64%	DISTRICT 1 - 26.49%	DISTRICT 13 - 26.47%	DISTRICT 4 - 20.87%	





Commander's Corner

Don Suchy
Department Commander



My first month serving as Department Commander has been overwhelming in so many ways. My first official invitation was to attend the dedication of a beautiful Veteran’s bench at the Osceola cemetery in Osceola, NE. Auxiliary President Vicki Ozenbaugh and Auxilary Vice President Angie Foster also were in attendance. This bench was donated by the Osceola American Legion Auxiliary Unit 91 in remembrance of the veterans buried there. We then attended a flag retirement ceremony that evening at the Osceola Golf Club conducted by Osceola Post 91. At this ceremony there was a young Boy Scout member standing with his hand over his heart during the playing of Taps, properly paying respect to the flag of our country. It was very impressive.

On July 7, Assistant Sergeant of Arms Al Bartek and I attended the meeting of Post 32 in Papillion to install their new officers. On July 10 we attended Omaha Post 1 to install their new officers and enjoyed a great banquet. Post 1 puts on a great event, always a pleasure to attend. The following week on Friday, July 15 we went to the Wahoo Vets Club to recognize the Saunders County Veterans of the Month ceremony.

It has been a pleasure to be invited to many parades this summer. In the towns of Ceresco, David City, Wilber, and Schuyler where I was happy to represent the American Legion Family at these events.

I just recently returned from the National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis. Joining Department Adjutant Salak and I were District 1 Commander Judy Walters, District 6 Commander Julie Schnitzler, District 11 Commander Tom Crisman, and District 15 Commander Bruce Gubser. I would like to thank these District Commanders for taking the time to attend, it shows their true dedication and leadership. Thank you also to Department Membership Chairman Steve Bartos for attending also.

It’s been my pleasure to represent the American Legion Family at many District and State American Legion baseball playoffs. These young players put their heart and soul into every game. It was my honor to present the runner-up and winning teams with their trophies. A special moment was when I got to present my hometown of Valparaiso with their District Championship trophy.



On August 9, my wife Marge and I left for Shelby, NC to attend the American Legion World Series baseball tournament. We were greeted by old acquaintances that we met seven years ago when we attended with PNC Mike Helm. What an honor it was to attend again.

I would like to thank everyone for the acknowledgment and courtesies that have been extended to my wife and me at the events that we have attended.

Serving Our Veterans on the Road to Success
Marge and Commander Don Suchy attending the American Legion World Series. Pictured (L to R) Marge and Commander Suchy.



Chaplain's Thoughts

Father Alexander Borzych
Department Chaplain



How Much Faith Do You Have?

One of the stories in the Old Testament that always comes to mind when the question of faith is brought up is that of Elijah and the Priests of Baal in 1 Kings Chapter 18. To summarize: There was a great drought and the Israelites had turned to Baal, the god of rain and storm, who was also recognized as one who brings fertility. Elijah took the prophets of Baal to the task. Elijah challenged them to build an altar of sacrifice, and each would offer a bull to their God. The crux was that they were not to light a fire but call upon their god to start the fire. The prophets of Baal prayed, jumping up and down calling on Baal all day and all night to no avail. Elijah then built his altar and placed the wood and bull on it. However, he also went a step further. He had the other prophets pour four jars of water on the sacrifice and the wood, not once, but three times.

With faith, he prayed, “Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, Lord! Answer me, Lord! Answer me, that the people may know that you Lord, are God and that you have turned their hearts back to you.” The fire came down and devoured the offering, wood, stone, and dust, and lapped up the water in the trench.

Talk about faith, Elijah had faith in God. Without a doubt, Elijah trusted in God that his prayer would be answered.

We must take our prayer to heart just like Elijah. Trust without a doubt that God is going to answer our prayers, but maybe not our way but his way.

It reminds me of the story about a rural community that was experiencing a drought, they needed rain bad if their crops were going to amount to anything. The pastor said, “Let’s gather in the church and pray as a community that God will send us rain.” People gathered in the church; did they think it was going to work? One lady believed and came prepared with an umbrella. Now that is Faith!

My challenge to you this month is to ask yourself, are your prayers just words or do you put your trust in God and truly believe that your prayers would be answered? Would you carry an umbrella and believe?

NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION

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Commander.....Don Suchy, Valparaiso
Senior Vice Commander.....John Henry Percy, Papillion
Area A Vice Commander.....Carl Lorenzen, Blair
Area B Vice Commander.....Ken Meyer, Creighton
Area C Vice Commander.....Dick Binder, Minden
Area D Vice Commander.....Gene VonForell, Crawford
Adjutant.....Dave Salak, Lincoln
Activities Director.....Brent Hagel-Pitt, Eagle
Chaplain.....Fr. Alexander Borzych, St. Paul
Historian.....Jennifer Laux, Omaha
Judge Advocate.....William Harris, Omaha
Finance Officer.....Mark Novak, Dawson
Sergeant-At-Arms.....Fred Tisdale, Omaha
Asst. Sergeant-At-Arms.....Albert Bartek, Valparaiso
Service Officer.....Levi Bennett, Lincoln
National Executive Committeeman.....Fred Craigie, Lincoln
Alternate NECman.....Jim Costello, Bellevue

District Commanders

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Dist. 2.....Kelley Hanvey, Center
Dist. 3.....Michael Ellis, Jackson
Dist. 4.....Steve Stanec, Alliance
Dist. 5.....Scott Bell, North Platte
Dist. 6.....Julie Schnitzler, Kenesaw
Dist. 7.....Jerry Schulte, Omaha
Dist. 8.....Ron Riley, Omaha
Dist. 9.....Ron Wiest, Moorefield
Dist. 10.....Don Nelson, Clay Center
Dist. 11.....Tom Crisman, Crete
Dist. 12.....William Lawrence, Nehawka
Dist. 13.....Scott Buss, Sterling
Dist. 15.....Bruce Gubser, Lincoln



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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.


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

Name: _____

Email Address: _____


Member ID: _____

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



S.A.L. Notes

Chris Casey
Detachment Commander





Greetings from the Detachment of Nebraska! We continue to remain just shy of our 2022 membership mark of 100%. Please continue to push your Squadrons to renew their memberships and get started on the 2023 renewals. There is a reason these members joined in the first place, and we want to help them find that passion again. Is your Post/ Squadron/ Unit getting involved in your community or active in the programs of The American Legion? There is no greater way to retain members and recruit new ones than to be active in programming. Consider picking one or two programs that you can focus on for this year and get your members engaged!

I am writing this article prior to my trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the 50th Sons of The American Legion National Convention. It is always good to network with other leaders from across the country. It brings about a renewed focus on our mission and energizes me for the work that needs to be done to successfully lead our Detachment. I'm hoping to announce a couple of membership border challenges after meeting with the Iowa, Kansas, and South Dakota teams in Milwaukee.

Please make plans to attend the Leadership Training/Homecoming at the Seward County Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 1st. Registration begins at 12:30 PM at the Harvest Hall. The American Legion family will break into separate training sessions at 1:00 PM. The Sons training will be facilitated by Past National Commander, Danny Smith. Smith continues to make himself available to our membership and we appreciate everything he does to help improve the Detachment of Nebraska. Please take the opportunity to become a better educated and productive member by attending the training. There is a social hour from 5:30 PM-6:30 PM, followed by a banquet. Please make sure to register ahead of time if you plan to attend the banquet.

I have decided that my project for this year will be the Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial (NVVM). "NVVM seeks to memorialize, educate, commemorate the Vietnam War and highlight veterans and their sacrifices; so that future generations can better understand this period as a touchstone in our history." The memorial will be located at 11691 S. 10 St. near SumTur Amphitheater in Papillion, Nebraska. You can learn more by visiting www.nvvmf.org. This project is very special to me since I qualify for membership in the Sons of The American Legion because of my grandfather who served from 1953-1969 and is a Vietnam Veteran. He was a flight crew chief on C-123 transport planes out of Phan Rang Air Base during his deployment. This is a long overdue and well-deserved project for so many veterans in Nebraska. Please consider supporting the project in any way you can.

As always, please consider contacting the Detachment to start your own Sons Squadron now!

Sons of The American Legion Membership As of May 16, 2022		
District	2021 Members	2022 Members
1	329	0
2	636	13
3	221	3
4	348	0
5	134	0
6	1,300	14
7	720	0
8	849	0
9	342	0
10	363	16
11	1,078	0
12	254	0
13	130	0
15	145	0
Total	6,849	48



Rider's Rally

John Arias
Department ALR Liaison



Greetings Fellow Riders,
I attended the Grand Island ALR 3rd Annual Freedom Run on July 16th. It was a good turnout with approximately 65 bikes and 85 people attending. Our Department Adjutant, Dave Salak, had received a lot of Legacy Scholarship Awards and I will be handing them out. The following American Legion Rider Chapters received the 2021 American Legion Legacy Scholarship Awards: Commemorative Medallions: Kearney, St. Paul, Homer, Norfolk, Lincoln, Benson, and Edgar. Legacy Scholarship Award Plaques: Columbus has the 2021 plaque and Edgar has the 2020 plaque.

The 2022 Legacy Run Across Nebraska began on Friday, August 12 with 11 bikes and 12 riders. We stopped at Shoemakers Truck stop in Lincoln and then proceeded to Beatrice for our Lunch stop. One Beatrice Rider joined us there and we headed to Red Cloud where Deputy Mike Goebel and the Red Cloud Sheriff's department, Sheriff Troy Schnitz escorted us through town. Upon arriving in Franklin, to our surprise, the Franklin Police Chief, Jennifer Woodis, escorted us through town and to Alma. After 8 ½ hours of riding, we stopped for the night in McCook where the McCook Legion Family fed us a delicious meal with a cake for dessert.

We started our second day by riding to Palisade and stopping at their Veterans Memorial which honors Veterans from the five branches of service. Stopping at memorials to give homage to our Nebraska veterans is just one small thing we can do. I would encourage all travelers to go to <https://visitnebraska.com/history/memorials> before you start a trip and find a memorial to stop at while traveling to your destination.

We proceeded to Imperial and rode down the main street before their parade started getting waves and smiles from the kids. We headed to Venango for lunch at America's Crossroad, where we ate a very delicious lunch and rode a quarter of a mile to the State line and proceeded to Ogallala. We stopped in North Platte for fuel before ending our run at The Wall That Heals in Kearney at Patriot's Park.

It was a very enjoyable two-day ride through parts of Nebraska that I had not ridden through. The temperature was around 103 degrees by the time we got to McCook, but we rode for "the cause, not the applause." To date, we have raised \$1,600 with two chapters pledging donations after their meetings this month. I would like to thank all those who have donated to the Legacy Scholarship fund to help our children of fallen Veterans and Children of Veterans with a service connection of 50% or more.

I would like to thank the American Legion Riders who have attended flag lines, and funeral escorts and have conducted poker runs to help their post and communities. It's been a busy summer with lots of poker runs and paying our respects to those who have passed on with funeral attendances. The dedication shown is always appreciated.

Nebraska American Legion Baseball Player-of-the-Year



Each year, thousands of Nebraska's youths participate in American Legion Baseball across the state. One young man is then chosen as the Nebraska Player-of-the-Year and his name is forwarded to National to be considered for the George W. Rulon National Player-of-the-Year for 2022.

This year, the Nebraska American Legion selected Dillon Olson of Concord as the 2022 Nebraska American Legion Baseball Player-of-the-Year. Olson plays for the Pender Post 55 Legion Senior Team sponsored by Pender Post 55. He has shown extensive dedication to academics at Laurel-Concord-Coleridge School, supporting his peers, and volunteering in his community.

He participated in baseball, basketball, cross country, and track and frequented going to State in these activities. Olson was involved in band, National Honor Society, Student Council, speech, and choir, as well as art, science, and Spanish clubs. Olson has volunteered for various youth activities, helped students with studies, and is known for helping the people of his community. There is no doubt that he understands the impact he can make by supporting his community. His positive outlook and leadership skills demonstrate the Code of Conduct that is sought in Legion Baseball. He was selected for the 2022 Legion Baseball All-Academic Team.

Olson will attend the University of South Dakota-Vermillion working towards a degree in Kinesiology. He plans on using his degree as a stepping-stone to becoming a Physical Therapist. He would like to come back to the northeast Nebraska area to continue helping the community he grew up in. He is the son of Mark and Tiffany Olson.



If you are interested in placing an advertisement in the Nebraska Legionnaire, contact Kylea at Headquarters. 402-464-6338 or kzpestel@windstream.net



It's History

Jennifer Laux
Department Historian



American Legion Department of Nebraska History Word Search



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

September 1932 (90 years ago)

- When the boys of the **VERDEL** Legion band were getting ready to make their trip to **NORFOLK** convention, Mrs. Mary Jacot of Verdel thought they might possibly be hungry before they went far, so she baked them a loaf of **RYE** bread that was the grandpappy of all loaves. It tipped the scales at exactly ten- and one-half pounds.
- In one of the closest and cleanest **ELECTIONS** ever held by the Nebraska Department, Robert **ARMSTRONG** of Auburn, Department Judge Advocate during 1932, was elected as Department Commander for 1933, defeating **GOLDEN** Kratz of Sydney. It was an election between two men who were equally popular, who were fraternity brothers and close friends as only true Legionnaires can be.

September 1942 (80 years ago)

- Reaffirming its belief in the policy of the universal **DRAFT**, the Department Convention at Omaha adopted a **RESOLUTION** demanding immediate enactment of national legislation providing for drafting and conscription of all resources of the nation necessary to carry the **WAR** to a successful conclusion.

September 1952 (70 years ago)

- Evidence of the widespread interest in Nebraska's County **GOVERNMENT** Program is given in the July-August issue of "Case and Comment," a magazine for **LAWYERS** which is published in Rochester, NY. One of the leading articles on that issue is "Crusade in Nebraska," an interesting account of the program. Since the publication of this article, Department Headquarters has received letters from several states ordering copies of "County Government in Nebraska."
- OMAHA** Post 1 retained its title of "the world's largest Legion post" by a narrow margin this year as **DENVER** followed in second place with less than 250 members. At the close of the **MEMBERSHIP** period June 30, 1952, Omaha has enrolled 11,717 members and Denver 11,475 members on its roll.

Corporal Daegan Page
Matt Schnabel, Millard Post 374 Member

On June 30, 2022, members of the Millard American Legion Riders took part in the ceremony to honor the legacy of U.S. Marine Corporal Daegan Page. During this ceremony, an unveiling took place for the street that Cpl. Page grew up on (Honorary Cpl. Daegan Page Street) and Sarpy County Sheriff's Office announced the name of their newest K-9, Daegen. Cpl. Page graduated from Millard South High School and enlisted in January 2018. He served in the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment based at Camp Pendleton, California. Cpl. Page was deployed to Afghanistan, helping Afghans at the Abbey Gate when he and 12 other soldiers lost their lives to a suicide bombing. He was only 23 years old when he gave his life, becoming a local American hero. The Millard American Legion Riders of Post 374 were honored to support Corporal Daegen Pages' family, proving our favorite sayings, "It's all about our Veterans."

For more information about Corporal Daegan Page you can visit the Cpl. Daegan Page - Never Forgotten Facebook page or visit <https://daeganpage.org/home>





POW/MIA

Boyd Yochum
POW/MIA Liaison



First Lieutenant Paul Magers

On June 1, 1971, First Lieutenant (1LT) Paul Magers, a pilot from Sidney, NE, and Donald L. Wann, Aircraft Commander from Shawnee, OK were on a mission in Northwest Quang Tri Province in South Vietnam (Grid Coordinates XD855454). They represented the Army as Company D, 158th Aviation Battalion, part of the 101st Airborne Division.

Magers was the pilot of an AH1G Cobra gunship 68-15002. Another aircraft had just successfully extracted a Ranger team from a landing zone, and Magers gunship was to destroy ammunition that had been in the area.

Witnesses saw tracer rounds hit the underside and tail section of the helicopter and saw the fire from escaping fuel. The aircraft nosed up, then lost air speed; appeared to shudder, then turned in flames. As the aircraft fell in an uncontrolled spiral pattern, six calls were made to Magers aircraft with no response. The aircraft crashed and slid down a steep hill before the ammunition on board started tearing apart what was left of the aircraft. All witnesses stated the crash was non-survivable. Up to that point, there had been no enemy fire. Magers was on his first or second mission after arriving in the country and started his tour on May 12, 1971.

Another pilot in the unit, Skip Butler clearly recalled the day when he heard that Magers and Wann's attack helicopter had been shot down. "I was flying my helicopter back to base for the night. On my radio, I heard, 'Give me the tail number of the aircraft that went down.' When it came back '002', the operations radio operator said, it was Wann and Magers."

In 1990, analysts from the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), and their predecessor organizations interviewed both American and Vietnamese witnesses and produced leads for field investigations.

In 1993 and 1998, two US – Socialist Republic of Vietnam teams, led by JPAC, surveyed the suspected crash site, and found artifacts and debris consistent with a Cobra gunship. In mid-1999, another joint team excavated the site, but it stopped for safety reasons when the weather deteriorated. No remains were recovered, but the team did find wreckage associated with the specific crash they were investigating. The Vietnamese government subsequently declared the region within Quang Tri Province off limits to US personnel.

In 2008, as part of an agreement with JPAC, a Vietnamese team unilaterally excavated the site and recovered the human remains of Paul Magers, Donald Wann, and other artifacts. The Vietnamese returned to the site in 2009, expanded the excavation area, and discovered more remains and additional evidence.

Forensic analysis, circumstantial evidence, and the mitochondrial DNA match to the Magers and Wann families by the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory confirmed the identification of the remains.

1LT Paul Gerald Magers's remains were interred on August 27, 2010, at Yellowstone County Veterans Cemetery in Laurel, Montana.

To see the crash location on a map, go to <https://legallandconverter.com/p50.html> and search Grid Reference 48QXD855454.

Be an Early Bird for 2023!



All regular members (those who pay dues annually) whose dues are paid and received at Department Headquarters by September 6, 2022, will be in a drawing for \$500 this year!!

Help us build membership momentum!!

Be in the drawing!!



MAKING YOUR PURPOSE HAPPEN



Do you know what your “purpose” is as an Auxiliary member? You might answer, “sure, to support our veterans.” Is it that simple? I do not believe so. Let’s think about the American Legion Auxiliary and our mission.

“In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) is 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.”

I ask you to re-read our mission and write down how many purposes there could be for you. As for myself, I can

list fourteen different purposes. Now reflect on how many programs we promote throughout the year. I count as many as fourteen. Hmmmm.... fourteen purposes, fourteen programs. Is it a coincidence? Perhaps.

Now back to my initial question --- what is your purpose as an Auxiliary member? You have many possibilities. Maybe you like working with our youth. If so, you have many opportunities with our Americanism, Education, Poppy, and Junior programs. You might be someone who follows our National and State political issues. If so, then our Legislative program is for you. Are you a volunteer in your community? Then, there are a variety of areas within our Community Service that you could select as your purpose. I believe you get the idea.

What I would like each ALA member to do is write down your purpose on an index card. Every day read your purpose to pursue a plan to complete it. Then DO IT!!

Of course, every unit could follow this same thought process. Select a purpose for each month, create the plan to accomplish it, and complete it. Remember how I related fourteen purposes from our mission statement to fourteen programs of the ALA?

That means you have a couple extra ones to add in throughout the year.

Just think how many hours of service and dollars spent we could report at the end of the year if every member --- as well as every unit --- followed through with “making your purpose happen.” So, don’t forget to record your time, miles, and dollars spent.

Another purpose that I ask each of you make happen is to pay your dues NOW. Your membership in the ALA is from January 1 to December 31. We all should “budget” our dues into our required yearly payments. Although the ALA does not charge any interest if you do not pay prior to the beginning of your membership year, it does cost our National organization extra money when they must mail out reminders. Make your “membership purpose” a top priority and pay your dues TODAY!

As your newly elected President there are many aspects of this new title. One that I have been working on is the 2022-2023 Directory. In the directory, all Past Department Presidents (PDP) are listed by the year they served. I thought it would be interesting to know what unit these PDP’s belonged to while serving as our President. Would you know

where to find that “history tidbit?” Of course, the Cavalcade of Memories at our Headquarters in Lincoln. While doing my research there, I came across the message written by President Verna Bosely (1948-1949, Palisade), and her closing remarks fit perfectly for my message this month.

“I cannot appraise in words the honor you have bestowed upon me by permitting me to be your Department President for the coming year. I am fully aware of the responsibility now placed upon me and I hope I shall not fail in my duties. I pledge to you my whole-hearted and complete devotion in carrying out the Auxiliary program. I cannot succeed alone, but must have your guidance and assistance at all times. We must tell others about our work and program, and seek to have those who are eligible to join our ranks. Membership is most important, because the more we are in number,

the greater will be our influence and strength.

May I urge each of you to take a more active interest in our Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is a mighty influence for the protection of our Democracy and way of life. Let’s resolve to keep it strong and vital in every phase of its activity. Faithfully, Verna”

Well said, Verna, well said.
Never Forget, Ever Honor.

Vicki Ozenbaugh
Department President '22-'23



YOU WON’T WANT TO MISS THIS!

The Homecoming – Leadership Training will be held on October 1 at the Harvest Hall on the Seward County Fairgrounds. Commander Don, President Vicki, and Detachment Commander Chris will host this event. A fun afternoon of Auxiliary training is planned, and an evening of food, fellowship, and entertainment will complete your day. Complete information and a registration form is included in this issue of THE STAR as well as on our website www.nebraskalegionaux.net.

LEADERSHIP

“The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets people to do the greatest things.”

-Ronald Regan

“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”

-John F Kennedy

These are two quotes that sum up my opinion of leadership. First, you do not have to do everything yourself. Second, if you educate your members, you will not have to do everything yourself.

President Vicki Ozenbaugh’s theme is “Never Forget, Ever Honor.” If we educate our members, we can do both. Start the 2022-2023 year by giving your members the information and let them run with it. Ask your members and see what programs they want to learn about. If you have a unit that is not very active, start small and pick a few programs. Don’t try to educate them on every program right away. It can be very overwhelming to throw out too much information at one time.

Also, use resources that the American Legion Auxiliary already has --- like the ALAAcademy. There are several self-guided courses that teach you about the ALA. These can be found at www.legion-aux.org. You can also do these at your unit meetings. The ABC book is also a great resource.

If you have questions, reach out to the program chairman. Try to get your members to attend county, district, or state events. It sometimes helps to hear what other units are doing. I learn something new every time I attend these events.

We encourage everyone to come to the Homecoming / Leadership training. It will be October 1st at the Harvest Hall at the Seward County Fairgrounds. Registration will begin at 12:30 pm with training starting at 1:00 pm. The officers and chairmen are working really hard in preparing for a fun and educational workshop, so I hope to see everyone there.

Justina Birkel,
Leadership Chair

AMERICANISM

I’m excited to be your Department Americanism Chair for this year.

I’m looking for each member to help me promote Americanism this year. I have started working full-time again, so the easiest way to contact me is either by text (402-469-3367) or by email (trnelson81602@gmail.com). If you call and leave a voicemail with the best time to call, I will happily call you back.

I am highlighting just a few of many things for this year, but that doesn’t mean if you have other ideas they can’t be shared. “The Big 3” is what I’m looking to promote this year:

- 1 - The Americanism Essay Contest,
- 2 - Flag Code / Etiquette, and
- 3 - Voting.

You can help spread the word about the Essay Contest at schools and any place in the community that you find youth. The theme is “What Does Patriotism Mean to You?” The age group breakdowns and Essay Cover Sheet will be found in your ABC Book.

I look forward to hearing how your unit promotes Americanism, Patriotism, and Good Citizenship in your communities.

Tina Nelson
Americanism Chr.

HONORARY JUNIOR PRESIDENT

Hello from your Honorary Department Junior President –

Where has the summer gone? I was able to go on the 4-H DC trip for 10 days, so that took a big part of summer. Also, sports camps, fairs, showing cattle for 4-H and FFA, and actually working at the pool some.

As for the Juniors, some of us took part in July 4th activities in our town by helping with our raffle, Bingo, and riding on the float in the parade. Two juniors did a flag folding demonstration at the museum. We plan to take part in the Czech Days Kids Parade in Wilber with Krasna “Beautiful” America

Float.

Our year begins in September when we pack “Make a Difference” goody bags for local veterans and shut-ins. We will get our new year books and our annual back to school goodie bags.

Hopefully, our Juniors and your Juniors can plan an activity for veterans. Plan to help with Bingo or a special food night or just visit --- which they enjoy so much. Plan to pack special bags for them and try to help with a flag raising at a game.

Hope you can use some of these ideas.

Yes, we’ll all be busy getting back

to school, but let’s not forget our veterans. That’s what we’re all about.

Remember. “Food and Games Make Happy Veterans.”

Carly Rains
Honorary Dept. Jr. President



DISTRICT 3 PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Third District, where we cover the northeast corner of Nebraska --- namely, the counties of Burt, Cedar, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Thurston, and Wayne. We have 22 units gearing up for the 2023 year in renewals, new members, active programs, and events.

Our fall **District Fun-Raiser** will be held on **Sunday, October 30, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM**, serving up homemade Chili, Chicken & Noodle, and Vegetable Beef soups --- along with sandwiches and desserts. We will have a silent auction and bake sale as well. All are welcomed to journey to **Tekamah** (Burt County) and share the day with us in the Third District. We have lots of fun, good food, and great volunteers. Proceeds from the Fun-Raiser will go one-third each to the Norfolk Veterans Home, District 3 American Legion, and District 3 American Legion Auxiliary for their distribution at our Spring Convention.

Did I mention **Spring Convention**? You bet. My hometown of **Winside** (Wayne County) will be host site with assistance from the other Posts/Units in Wayne County; namely, Carroll and Wayne. Our date is **Saturday, March 18, 2023 with registration at 8:00 AM and the Joint Session at 9:00 AM**. Again, we have great fun, good food and volunteers, and informative and creative moments throughout the day.

Our annual Fun-Raiser and Convention are rotated by county, and we find that works out very well.

The Third District Auxiliary President’s project is two wood/metal patio chairs from Sugar Plum Oak in Norfolk, Nebraska for the Norfolk Veterans Home pavilion and pod areas. Donations may be directed to our District 3 Treasurer Adeline Hanel, and her contact information can be found in the Department Directory.

Our **Third District officers** include: President Beverly Neel

(Winside 252); Vice President Laura Novak (Winside 252); Secretary/Treasurer Adeline Hanel (West Point 70); Chaplain Cheryl Schultz (Beemer 159); Parliamentarian Jacki O’Neill (Jackson 175); and Junior Past District President Vicky Gullicksen (Coleridge 114).

Theme: “Veterans – Our Soul & Inspiration”

Beverly A. Neel
District 3 President



QUILT OF VALOR

Alvin Kasper, of Crete, was the recipient of a Quilt of Valor presented to him by Gerry Johnson, Paula Valenta, and Pat Filip --- all officers of the Crete American Legion Auxiliary Unit 147.

Kasper served in the United States Army from 1961-1964. He went to basic training at Fort Carson, Colorado and then served two years of active duty as a supply sergeant at the Gablingen Kaserne military facility near Augsburg, Germany. After returning to the states, he finished out his military career at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Quilts of Valor Foundation is a nationwide nonprofit organization

whose mission is to award heirloom quality quilts to veterans and service members touched by war.



EDUCATING OUR YOUTH ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

We are back in the swing of things in the education world. Although classrooms today look a little bit different than 15 (or maybe more than 15) years ago, some aspects still remain the same. Our children are all there to learn, to grow, and to achieve. I truly believe that educators want the best outcome for the kids as they go through life and prepare for life beyond a K-12 education.

That's where we, the Legion Auxiliary, can step in. If we want to grow our organization, we have to make ourselves known to those who are our future. The American Legion Auxiliary is the life beyond the traditional school day.

At our back-to-school night this year, I was surprised by questions that parents have, whether they are new to the community or the school building. Things that are just everyday business at the school are sometimes what people have questions about. How many times do we take our organization for granted? Sometimes just bringing awareness to our organization will fill those questions people might have. How many new people to your community are aware of your local Auxiliary?

As I ponder what can be done, I look to what has already worked in the past. One of my favorite places to go for lesson ideas is social media. A site I follow is called TeachersGiveTeachers, and this is a place where teachers openly

share lessons and ideas that have worked. The same can be true for educating about the American Legion Auxiliary. Work smarter, not harder. Use the success in what other units are doing. I could list tons of ideas here, but use what works.

I know in educating our children and youth, some units connect with elementary aged students. Why not set a goal to connect with an additional age group this school year? Handing out treats at Halloween? Why not include membership paperwork? Auxiliary members hand out scholarships, which are available under the education tab on the website (and will be updated to the 2023 model in the coming months), but we have the opportunity to connect with these youth prior to scholarship paperwork.

"Never forget, Ever honor" is what president Vicki Ozenbaugh presents to us this year. We can move forward with this in education by making our youth, whether in elementary or secondary school, aware of our organization. We are here to help and honor veterans and service members. But, our future begins with our youth. We have the opportunity to help our youth learn, grow, and achieve for the future in the American Legion Auxiliary.

Crys Bauermeister
Education Chairperson

SECRETARY

From the Desk of Pro-Tem Department Secretary/Treasurer

The office is running smoothly with the help of Roxanne Hiatt, Julie Totten, and some loyal volunteers. The new and improved Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules will be ready to go to print soon. Those documents will be in the new and improved ABC Book.

Each unit should have received an AUGUST newsletter. Enclosed were reports from Department President Vicki Ozenbaugh, Membership Chairperson Beverly Neel, and Secretary Pro-Tem Jacki O'Neill.

Documents included were:

- Reports
- President Ozenbaugh's invite to her workshop and homecoming

- President Ozenbaugh's project information
 - Donation sheets – General and Veterans Projects
 - Assessment forms – VA Hospital Gift Shop and VA Homes
 - New Unit Officers update – most units hold elections in May or June
 - Announcement for trial ALAMIS Full User until December 15th
 - 8822b request responsible party changes. This sheet needs to be sent in prior to year end if you want your unit's IRS 990e filed.
- September newsletter will include:**
- Poppy order form
 - VA Medical center Gift Shop and VA Home assessments.
 - Reports and more

ALA TIP

A new year --- and it will only be as good as we make it. So, here goes for suggestions:

Go contact your family and friends and offer a ride to an Auxiliary meeting (most meetings will be only about an hour and a half --- not much time out of a month). Encourage

them to join our unit.

Volunteer to help at the unit or district level. It's all good, and you will be glad you did.

Pat Clausen,
Unit 58 President

Remember to send your assignments a couple weeks before the month they are due.							
2022-23 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
Sept.	#145 Bloomington	#141 Hampton	#235 Union	#84 Columbus	#133 Culbertson	#133 Culbertson	#160 Polk
Oct.	#257 Eustis	#52 Kearney	#95 Curtis	#283 Platte Center	#10 Morrill	#364 Naponee	#222 Shubert
Nov.	#251 Arcadia	#209 Franklin	#109 Mullen		#10 Morrill	#301 Dalton	Dept. Jrs.
Dec.	#283 Platte Center	#377 Wilcox	#245 Plymouth	#302 Leigh	#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	#183 Friend
Jan.	#305 Hostein	#199 Cambridge	#353 Louisville	#62 Newcastle			#49 Utica
Feb.	#288 Farnam	#11 Hastings	#154 Blair	#264 Dorchester	#200 Bayard	#200 Bayard	#354 Pleasant Dale
March	#310 Gibbon	#141 Hampton			#301 Dalton		#146 Rising City
April		#225 Eddyville		#253 Platte Center			Dept. Jrs.
May	#126 Broken Bow	#288 Farnam		#307 S. Souix City			#264 Dorchester Jrs.
June		#193 Ohiowa		#70 West Point			
July				#302 Leigh			
Aug.							
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							
NOTE: Grand Island cannot accept Centerpieces but would take 40 Door Hangers.							

NEBRASKA ALA HISTORY WORD SEARCH

The Nebraska American Legion AUXILIARY (ALA) was chartered on March 18,1922 and is still celebrating its 100th birthday during 2022. The first Nebraska Department President was MINNIE Penny of Fullerton, and she was elected in 1921. In 1925, OMAHA, Nebraska was the host city of the 7th Annual National Convention. Thousands of American Legion and Auxiliary members met in the city for the convention. In 2005, Carol VAN KIRK of Sutton was elected as the National ALA President in Honolulu, Hawaii. Vicki OZENBAUGH of Ohiowa was elected as the 2022-23

Department President during the Department Convention held June 2022 in Columbus, Nebraska. The mission of the ALA has always been to help the VETERANS, MILITARY, and youth in their community. They accomplish this through Dollar Days, Gifts for YANKS, SCHOLARSHIPS, Girls' State, JUNIOR Activities, and other programs.

From the paragraph above, find the words in **BOLD** in the Word Search below.

Amanda Washburn
Dept. Historian

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

COMMUNICATE!

“Good communication is the bridge between confusion and clarity” --- Nat Turner. Let's focus on better communication between the department, districts, and units this year. How can we do this?

Communication is a two-way street. Leaders need to send out newsletters, make calls, send emails, or send group texts. Each member needs to have access to information and know what is going on in the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary.

Unit members also have the responsibility to provide updated contact information and to reach out to leaders with questions or new ideas. Communication is key!

Angie Foster
Dept. Vice President



John McVicker received a Good Deed Award from Valparaiso Unit 371. John was recognized for having conducted a “diaper drive” on his birthday for the last 5 years. He collected over 14,509 diapers. Pictured with John are his mom, Kelsi Abolafia, and Unit 371 member Marge Suchy.



Norma Buresh received a certificate recognizing her for dedication as the Valparaiso Unit 371 Secretary. Thanks for your service.



On August 7, 2022, Past District 9 President Peggy Kennedy (r) presented a Caregiver Certificate to Danbury Unit #276 President Karen Stevenson. Karen's husband's condition requires round the clock attention which she gives lovingly and faithfully.



Pictured are Osceola Unit 91 officers Roxanne Page, Linda Anderson, Lou Kresha, and Kay Jones at the dedication ceremony for a Veterans Bench placed at the Osceola Cemetery. Unit 91 raised funds for the bench, which is a one-of-a-kind design made by a local welding shop.

2022-2023 DISTRICT PRESIDENTS



Mary Krause
District 1



Carolyn Conroy
District 2



Beverly Neel
District 3



Luayne Weisgerber
District 4



Donna Hatfield
District 5



Nancy Harold
District 6



Nancy Niemann
District 7



Paula Pillen
District 8



Maria Atterberry
District 9



Cathy Weber
District 10



Vicky Thompson
District 11



Charlene Hobelman
District 12



Anita Lang
District 13

VALLEY

Continuous Membership Certificates, presented by Membership Chairman Jo Lewis, were awarded to Valley Unit 58 members Julie Corder (70 yrs.), Donna Liggett (60 Yrs.), and Charla Mehaffie (50 yrs.). Pictured are Donna, Charla, and Julie with their certificates.



KEARNEY

With Department President Vicki Ozenbaugh performing the honors, members of Kearney Unit 52 recently gathered for the installation of officers for the 2022-2023 year.



Picture in the back row (l to r) are: Ann Day, Lila Chappel, Kathy Kennedy, Sarah Schrock, Billie Rayburn, Sandy Reuter, Renee Van Winkle, and Department President Vicki Ozenbaugh. Front (l to r) are: Sergeant-at-Arms Nell Johnson, Chaplain Nancy Dissmeyer, Historian Elaine Sluti, Treasurer Judy Kouba, Secretary Vicki Sinsel, Vice President Denise Fenster, and President Kathy Fisher.

UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Phyllis Schoenholz, a member of Ohioia Unit 193, was selected as the 2022 Unit Member of the year. Phyllis, who worked in the University of Nebraska Extension Service for 28 years as an Extension Educator and retired in 2015 with Professor Emeritus status, is an active member of her unit and a leader with the Quilts of Valor

program. She also is a member of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Ohioia and recently took on the role of Unit 193 Chaplain. Pictured at the presentation of her certificate at the Department Convention in June are (L to R) Department Leadership Chair Loree Hendrickson, Phyllis Schoenholz, Department President Barbie Meyer.



We have just wrapped up the 2022 Membership Campaign, and I am proud of all the support and hard work each member has contributed to this campaign. Our 2023 campaign is underway, and we need each of you to give that same level of diligence and commitment at this time. When we capture the moment to reach out to our fellow members --- either by going door-to-door, phone tree, or sending a “thinking of you” note --- we are telling our members that they are important to the growth and stability of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA). Stability is a big word which we will be working on this year to do everything we can to stop the slide in membership and to halt the recent influx of “turning in the unit charters.” Every unit struggles; and, together, we must do all we can to turn the tide and move upward and onward. That will take every member knowing their “WHY” and sharing it with one another. We must also be able to answer “Who we are,” “What we do,” and “Why we matter” to prospective members. We have begun a journey that

MEMBERSHIP 101

has brought us 100 years into the foundation and structure of the Nebraska ALA. Now is not the time to look back, but to look forward. We need new members --- no doubt. With that, we get new ideas -- which we need. We get new energy -- of which we need even more. Recently, I was reminded by a Junior graduating to a Senior membership that it is their time to carry the torch, learn the ropes, guide the ALA, and make a difference. I could not agree more with this young lady. She is right on. Our organization does need all of these “new” things, but we also need to appreciate those who have “been there, done that,” and are willing to assist but not lead. They are our mentors. In fact, I believe I am in the mentor stage of life now. Also, as I have told our unit president, someone needs to learn what I do with membership and take it over. So, over the next two years, that will be done. I hope many of your officers/ chairs will take the same leap of faith and support our young members. Remember, we were once in their place.

A couple new ideas for this year in membership:
1) Arrive early to your unit meeting and give 15 minutes to a phone-a-thon to remind members to get their dues to the unit;
2) Stay 15 minutes after your meeting and ask the questions you did not want to ask in front of others. These two steps in communication can bring about new life to your unit. The American Legion Family has some great programs and most all involve our youth. Please share what you can with your local leaders, schools, churches, civic organizations, and more --- and seek their insight to the programs and work together for the good of our children / grandchildren and the community. Public Relations and first impressions are vital to The Family. Until next time, remember: “Veterans–Our Soul & Inspiration” Blessings to all.
Beverly A. Neel,
Membership Chairman
402-369-0152
bbneel1912@gmail.com

DISTRICT 2 PRESIDENT

I am Carolyn Conroy, and I am District 2 President for the next two years. I am also President of Spencer Unit 78. I am eligible for the Auxiliary through my husband, Gary Conroy. Gary is the current Commander of Spencer American Legion Post 78. We live on a farm north of Spencer and have 8 children and 13 grandchildren. I work full time at a medical clinic and part time opening for coffee drinkers at the County Café in Spencer. My hobby is collecting antiques to put in my little antique village.
Carolyn Conroy
District 2 President



PLEASANT DALE

On June 21, the Pleasant Dale Unit #354 held a dinner and special meeting to recognize members with significant anniversaries of membership. Lola Schildt was recognized for 50 years of continuous membership. Lola is pictured in front with the rest of those present (left to right): Cheryl Witzel, Rose Wiechert, Kathy Ptacek, Rose Topil, Linda Olson, Linda Anderson, Darlene

Gerner, Sherry Hutchison, Deb Schneider, Annette Pankoke, and Nancy Smith. Other members who were recognized, but not present, were Jeanne Kalkwarf and Anne Hohnstein (60 years), Roxann Zajicek (40 years), Marjorie Wiechert and Samie Anderson (30 years), Kris Ficke (20 years), and Marilu Fichtner (10 years).



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

President Vicki’s theme for the year has me thinking about the meaning of “Never Forget, Ever Honor.”

What is it like to be forgotten? This took me back to a time when I was younger. Our family, which included mom and dad, along with 5 children, rarely shopped in Lincoln. But, when we did, all of us went. Keeping track of all of us was a real trial for my parents.

On one occasion, we were shopping in Montgomery Wards. My parents decided that we needed to move to K-Mart on 48th and Vine. After arriving at the store, my parents realized that we had left my little brother at Montgomery Wards! When we returned to the store to get him, he was so sad that he was left behind; and he felt forgotten.

This makes me realize how a veteran must feel. They must experience a roller coaster of mixed emotions during the deployment stage and leaving their families. Then, with all the changes that have taken place when they return, it may be overwhelming. It is so important that we never forget our active-duty

veterans, as well as the veterans who have returned home. My prayer this month is to keep our veterans safe, and to care for their well-being, both while away and when returning home. Our military needs good men and women who will pray for them.

John 15:13. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Dear Heavenly Father,
We pray for the safety of our military, for their families, along with good mental health. Let us never forget these great warriors and let us always be reminded to cherish their spirit, honor their commitment, and send them our love. Help us never forget the service that they are giving and have given. Let them feel your comforting presence so that they can conduct their work with strength and courage and fight fear or discouragement. Thank you, Lord, that you are their God and that you are with them wherever they go. Amen

Ruth Hietbrink
Dept. Chaplain



Children and Youth Chair Vicki Colson presented a check from the American Legion Auxiliary for \$750 to Colleen, a representative of the Carolyn Scott Rainbow House. The Rainbow House in Omaha provides free housing for families with children receiving services at the Nebraska Children’s Hospital.



At the Children & Youth Luncheon held at the Department Convention, Daniel was presented the Youth Hero Award for saving the life of Lydia . Pictured are (l to r) Lydia, Daniel, and National ALA President Kathy Daudistel of Kentucky.

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

Wow. What a week. Just about the time the world is starting to show a glimmer of normalcy while we all complain about the weather and how fast the summer is going, it all goes down the sewer. Between our shaken faith in the separation of powers to the senseless tragedy of our very own, it’s getting hard to breathe. I guess a little perspective is in order.

Consider the beloved hymn, “It Is Well with My Soul:”

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,

When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to know

It is well, it is well, with my soul.

What brought hymnist Horatio Spafford to write these words?

1. His four year old son died in the Chicago fire

2. The Chicago fire ruined him financially

3. The ship carrying his family to England sank, drowning his four daughters

As Spafford traveled to meet his wife (his ship passed over where his daughters had died), he wrote those immortal words.

When famed artist Joni Eareckson Tada, a quadriplegic, becomes overwhelmed with her pain, she picks a hymn and meditates upon it until the pain fades. Life is hard, and it very often stinks. But, we cannot let the worries of this world win. God needs us to do His Will, and our pitiful excuses are pale.

Do you have a roof over your head? Clothes on your back? Food in the fridge? Congratulations. You are richer than 99.9% of the planet. Now, get up and go forth.

And Keep Singing!

Jean Vackiner
Music Chair

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 SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

In Memoriam

Received June 10 to August 10, 2022

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Lyn N Beltz.....Homer.....97	Donna Adams.....Department.....500
Judith Schwab.....Syracuse.....100	Leatrice Knopik.....Department.....500
Grace Kubovec.....Wilber.....101	Rhonda Harmon.....Department.....500
Hazel Hatfield.....Lexington.....111	Dorothy Johnson.....Department.....500
Tammi Uher.....Dodge.....122	Pamela R Tikalsky.....Department.....500
Dorothy I Lipp.....Allen.....131	Mary Tiegs.....Department.....500
Sonja Gunther.....Crete.....147	Lois Willoughby.....Department.....500
Katherine A. Wehrbein...Burchard.....156	Mae McClymont.....Department.....500
Anna M Andrews.....North Platte.....163	Patricia Ambler.....Department.....500
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Val J Reinsch.....Shickley.....164	Romona M Shaw.....Department.....500
Sandra Hall.....Carroll.....165	Carol Franzen.....Department.....500
Jemma M Romine.....Palmyra.....195	Twila Brynoff.....Department.....500
Lena L. Busse.....Decatur.....215	Emarie M Post.....Department.....500
Evelyn Lanman.....Verdel.....223	Nina K Keith.....Department.....500

Thank you to everyone who gave to my President’s Gift for a PUFL membership. I am overwhelmed by your generosity. Also, thank you for all the special gifts from districts, units, and friends. They, along with your support

and friendship, will be treasured forever.

Thank you so much,
Barbie Meyer,
ALA Past President, 21-22.

DISTRICT FALL MEETINGS

District	Assigned	Date	Location	Time*
1	Vicki	Sun, Oct 9	100 W Walnut Cody	11:30am
2	Angie	Sun, Oct 9	175 Main St Spencer	12:30pm
4	Vicki	Sat, Nov 12	2090 Emerson Ave Alliance	11:30pm
5	Beverly	Sat, Oct 15	160 S Maple St Sutherland	12:30pm
6	Angie	Sun, Oct 16	1222 2nd St St. Paul	9:30am
7	Beverly	Sun, Oct 16	112 E 7th St Wahoo	1:30pm
8	Ruth	Sun, Oct 16	4830 S 21st Omaha	12:30pm
9	Angie	Sat, Oct 15	301 Garlick Ave Curtis	1:30pm
10	Vicki	Sat, Oct 8	1201 G Road Franklin	10:30am
11	Jacki	Sun, Oct 16	1604 Kennedy Dr York	1:30pm
12	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
13	Ruth	Sat, Oct 15	322 N Main Shubert	11:00am

COMMANDER DON, PRESIDENT VICKI, &
DETACHMENT COMMANDER CHRIS INVITE YOU TO
LEADERSHIP TRAINING/HOMECOMING 2022!

Saturday, October 1

Harvest Hall – 1625 Fairgrounds – Seward, NE

Registration – 12:30 pm

Joint Opening – 1:00 pm

Separate meeting/training – 1:30 pm

Social Time – 5:30 pm

Banquet – 6:30 pm

Special Entertainment

NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD MUSEUM
201 N Eighth Street – Seward, NE
Open for The American Legion Family
Saturday morning – Free admission

LODGING IN SEWARD

Cobblestone Inn – 402-646-1004 or 888-693-8262
2575 Progressive Road

East Hills Motel – 402-643-3679
131 Us Hwy 34 E

Liberty House Bed & Breakfast – 402-643-2555
441 N 5th St

Blue Valley Campground – No Reservations Required
730 S 6th Street

2022 HOMECOMING MEAL REGISTRATION

Name _____
Post/Unit/Squadron _____
Mailing Address _____
Town _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____
Phone Number _____
Number Attending: _____ Amount enclosed _____

Cost: \$15 prior to September 21
\$20 day of event

Menu
Sliced Beef Brisket, Twice Baked Potato Casserole,
Green Beans, Melon & Grapes,
Cherry & Blueberry Cheesecake

Complete and return with check payable to Don Suchy
by September 21

Don Suchy
1589 Little Salt Road
Valparaiso NE 68065

2022 Cornhusker Boys' State



Four young men were selected to represent our state during Boys' Nation. Pictured (L to R) Jeff Birkentall (alternate), Vikram Menon (delegate), Holden Fershee (delegate), and Jacob Horner (alternate).



Vikram Menon was awarded the Bob Riddle Traveling Governor's Trophy. Pictured (L to R) 2022-23 Boys' State Governor Vikram Menon and Cornhusker Boys' State President Douglas Boldt.



Jacob Horner was selected as the outstanding athlete. Pictured (L to R) Athletic Director Marcus Donner and Jacob Horner.



The American Legion Samsung Scholarship Recipient Ethan Andrew Hinkle. Pictured (L to R) Boys' State President Douglas Boldt and Ethan Andrew Hinkle.



The outgoing Boys' State Governor was recognized by Commander Benes. Pictured (L to R) Department Commander Dan Benes and 2019-2022 Boys' State Governor Evan Jolley.



Each town was able to nominate an outstanding citizen. Pictured (L to R) Payton Dellevoet, Josh King, Hudson Davis, Broden Dean, Vikram Menon, Derek Domeier, Daniel Kumm, and Andrew Moyer.

Membership Minute Steve Bartos, Membership Chairman

Hot, dry summer. No? The 2023 membership year is well underway, and it appears that we will be hitting the 50% National Target Date for September. It's too early to be able to put results in the Legionnaire, but your membership committee is hoping that the special prize award of \$500 that we established for this year's Early Bird Award yielded a much higher than normal turn-in by September 6th. Our hope was that it would help each posts establish some early momentum on renewals, and keep it going!!! I hope every post publicized it and followed up.

This year, the national organization established a membership goal for each department at 103% of its July 4th membership, essentially the same method that they used last year. And, like last year, their method remains quite aggressive. Regardless of their method, we have a national goal for 2023 of 24,835 members. Sadly, and quite disturbing, this year's goal is 1262 members LESS than our 2022 goal. And that goal was 881 members LESS than the 2021 goal. The declining goals are a direct reflection of our declining membership, and only we, all working together can do something about it!!

Also, as we did last year, I established individual post goals for 2023 that would result in our internal department goal is identical to the department goal established for us by the national organization. Except for 5 posts that were impacted by the influx of members transferred in from the former Ralston post, Headquarters Post 500, and 2 posts that had only 7 members, all the other posts' goals were established at 1 or 2 members above their membership on 7/31.

I suggest that, for sure, there are 2 things that must happen for any department to have a chance to reach its assigned goal. Renewals are a must. Nebraska does fairly well and renews at a rate in excess of 90%. We need to increase that percentage. We know that 100% is unrealistic, but we can increase the rate if EVERY post gets involved and is a little bit more relentless in pursuit of the renewals. The renewal notice is nice; but, if the renewal hasn't come in by now, start thinking about some follow-up.

Getting new members on your roster is the second thing that must happen. You can't argue there are no veterans to ask. National headquarters research indicates that Nebraska has a veteran population of 118,000. We have about 24,000 of them. Do the math. On August 8th, there were 900 Legionnaires in our Headquarters Post 500 who were still encumbered to the national organization and had not yet renewed for 2023. And they can be renewed and transferred to your post (and count toward your goal). And you can use MyLegion.org to identify them! There are another 200 members who are not encumbered. The same goes for them. Renew and Transfer. But you have to reach out to them. The 2023 Membership Awards are posted on the website. Please look at them.

Have a nice September!

It's Never too Late to Honor Our Veterans



Pictured (L to R) Cowles Commander Jack Klingenger, Wayne Gerlach, and Liberty Commander Charles Barr.

Wayne W. Gerlach, a World War II combat veteran of the European Theater of Operations was presented his awards and decorations at his American Legion Post on August 8, 2022. He is a member of Cowles Post 116. Mr. Gerlach celebrated his 98th birthday on July 27, 2022.

His awards and decorations include the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star Medal, U.S. Army Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle East Campaign Medal with two bronze campaign service stars, World War Two Victory Medal; marksmanship badges for the M-1 Rifle, .30 caliber Machinegun, and 81-millimeter mortar; World War II Honorable Service Lapel Pin; 222nd Infantry Regimental Combat Citation. He was a machine gunner assigned to Company F, 222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Infantry Division.

Gerlach was presented his awards and decorations in a framed display which also included his ribbon rack of five ribbons representing the five medals he received along with his 42nd Infantry Rainbow Division shoulder patch and 7th Army Shoulder patch.

Gerlach was drafted into the U.S. Army on his 20th birthday and completed infantry basic training at Camp Wolters, TX. Following a short furlough, he sailed for France and joined his unit as a replacement soldier in the Battle of the Bulge concluding in January 1945. The 42nd Infantry Division had suffered heavy losses in that campaign. Gerlach's division then fought into Germany through Wertheim, Miltonberg, Wurzburg, Schweinfurt, Furth, and Donauworth. Several of his buddies in his unit were killed or wounded. Gerlach was also wounded in the town of Donauworth but the wound was classified as "non-hostile" since it was caused by a bullet accidentally fired from a captured German pistol by a fellow U.S. Soldier. The bullet shattered the fibula bone in his right leg and badly damaged the muscles in his lower leg. Gerlach was evacuated to France on a C-47 aircraft where he received further medical care and then flown to England for further treatment. Then he was shipped to the U.S. aboard a hospital ship and on to Camp Carson, CO by train for more treatment and physical therapy. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in September 1945. Following WW II, he became an electrician and rural mail carrier. He still lives independently in Cowles and enjoys driving his car.

The medals presentation was made possible through the efforts of Liberty Commander Charles Barr, who initiated a request for Gerlach's awards through U.S. Senator Deb Fischer. Barr took an interest in Gerlach's combat service and asked him if he'd ever received the medals and badges that he'd earned. When Gerlach replied that he had not, Barr started the process. Chase Kratochvil, military liaison for Sen Fischer, saw that Gerlach's request was sent to the National Personnel Records Center. Barr coordinated the presentation through Webster County Veterans Service Officer Gary Ratzlaff and Cowles Commander Jack Klingenger.

In Remembrance

PDC Leon H. Deunk



Leon Henry Franklin Deunk, 84, of Cortland entered into rest on Thursday, August 11, 2022. Leon was born on June 16, 1938, to Henry and Grace (Schowengerdt) Deunk in Beatrice. He met the love of his life, Phyllis Irene Ehmen, and they wed on June 11, 1961, at Zion Lutheran Church, Pickrell. They joined Christ Lutheran Church on November 22, 1961. From a young age, there was nothing Leon loved more than helping his father on the farm. He and Phyllis farmed and raised Registered Polled Hereford cattle simultaneously while working his other careers.

In 1957, he enlisted with the Nebraska Air National Guard and served until 1965. He earned his Masters’s degree in Vocational Agriculture from UNL in 1968. He then taught Ag classes at Barneston followed by teaching Ag at Cortland and started the Norris FFA chapter. Following this, he began his career with NPPD,

working as a lab technician for 34 years. Following his "retirement," Leon could be found behind the wheel of his semi, selling buildings, or supervising the boys on the farm. He never stopped supervising, even from the comfort of his recliner at Lakeview up until his final days.

Leon and Phyllis were very involved in their community. Leon was a proud member of the Cortland American Legion and served as the Nebraska State Commander from 2009-2010. He was also a member of Christ Lutheran Church and served in various capacities. He and Phyllis had a love for music - singing and displaying his unusual talent of playing the saw. They loved to travel, but always found time to attend their grandkids' activities. They never missed a beat!

Leon and Phyllis were blessed with three children, Randall Deunk and wife, Ruby, Kathryn Niemeier and husband, Todd, and Christy King and husband, Geoff. They were also blessed with seven grandchildren, Carrie VanLaningham and husband, Derek, Kelli Niemeier, Brandon Deunk and wife, Emily, Aaron Deunk and fiancée, Faith, Chad Niemeier, Connor King and Bradyn King. They were excited to meet their first great-grandson, Baby boy VanLaningham, due to arrive in September 2022. Leon was preceded in death by his wife, Phyllis (July 2022); parents, Henry and Grace Deunk, sister, Henrietta Moats; parents-in-law, John and Lucille Ehmen; and brother-in-law, Warren Ehmen.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at Christ Lutheran Church, in Pickrell with Pastor Doyle Karst, and Chaplain David Kersting officiating. The service was live-streamed on Christ Lutheran Church's Facebook page. Burial was at Christ Lutheran Cemetery with military honors conducted by the Nebraska Army National Guard and the Cortland American Legion Post 253. A memorial was established for the Norris Public Schools FFA, Tri-County Public Schools FFA, and the Cortland American Legion Post 253.

PDC Deunk was a dedicated Legionnaire and will be missed greatly.

PDC Gene A. Twiford

Gene A Twiford, 86, of Laurel, NE entered into rest Thursday, August 4, 2022. A memorial service was held Friday, August 12 at 10:30 a.m. at United Lutheran Church in Laurel, NE. The burial was held at Laurel City Cemetery. The service was live streamed at laurelulc.org/live-stream.

Gene Allen Twiford was born February 25, 1936, in Laurel, NE to Harold and Lillian (Obermeyer) Twiford. He grew up on a farm west of Laurel. He graduated from Laurel High School in 1952. After high school, he helped his dad and uncle farm in Laurel. Gene enlisted and served in the Army from 1958-1964. He met Janet Haan in 1960 and were united in marriage on April 15, 1961, at Mayflower Congregational Church in Sioux City, IA. They lived on the farm south of Laurel for 53 years and raised four children there. Gene farmed and worked in the hay business for over 50 years before retiring and moving to town.

Gene was a lifetime member of the United Lutheran Church in Laurel where he enjoyed helping with Meals on Wheels. He was a very active member of the Laurel Veterans Post and the American Legion for 48 years and was honored to serve as the Nebraska State Commander of the American Legion from 2000-2001. He was chairman of the Cedar County Veterans Service Committee for 31 years and was instrumental in getting Highway 20 across the state of Nebraska renamed the Medal of Honor Highway. He worked tirelessly to honor those who served, loved being grandpa to all his grandkids, and taking “shortcuts” with his grandsons.



Those left to honor his memory include his children: Todd (Judy) Twiford, Sioux City, IA, Jill Olesen (Brian Eddie), Carroll, NE, Gail (Jeff) Curry, Laurel, NE; 5 wonderful grandchildren: Elizabeth Curry (Justin Janecek), Skyler (Allison) Curry, Mary Jo (Eric) Coleman, Michael (Caterina) Olesen, Laura (Wyatt) Westberg; and 4 beautiful great-grandchildren: Theo and Willa Curry, and Eli and Oliver Coleman, sister-in-law Joanie Peters, Thornton, CO.

He was preceded in death by his parents Harold and Lillian Twiford, parents-in-law Ray and Ida Haan, sister-in-law Dorothy Huwe, and brothers-in-law Eddie Huwe and Vern Peters. He entered into rest with his loving wife Janet and daughter Dana.

In place of flowers, memorials can be directed to the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department or the Laurel Vets Club.

PDC Twiford was a dedicated Legionnaire and will be missed greatly.





Straight Talk

Levi Bennett
Department Service Officer

What Does the Passing of the PACT Act Mean For Veterans?

The passing of the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act is incredibly important for our brothers and sisters who have been exposed to environmental toxins such as burn pits. This opens the door for veterans to receive healthcare and other benefits associated with exposures to toxins by expanding and extending eligibility for VA health care to Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras. The Act is supportive of 23 new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures, adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation, and requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care. For post-9/11 combat veterans, the bill extends the period of time they have to enroll in VA health care from five years to 10 years post-release from active duty. For combat veterans who do not fall within that window, the bill also creates a one-year open enrollment period. This will allow for more veterans without service-connected disabilities to enroll in VA health care.



Beyond VA health care the PACT Act adds 23 more presumptive conditions to the existing 3 (asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis) and possibly more if the VA Secretary determines another condition(s) is warranted based on a positive association with certain substances, chemical, or airborne hazard(s). The PACT Act adds the following presumptive conditions: head cancer of any type, neck cancer of any type, respiratory cancer of any type, gastrointestinal cancer of any type, reproductive cancer of any type, lymphoma cancer of any type, lymphoma cancer of any type, kidney cancer, brain cancer, melanoma, granulomatous disease (disorder associated with white blood cells). The importance of the addition of these presumptive conditions is this should greatly reduce the amount of information necessary in the submission of disability claims and exams, resulting in veterans’ claims being processed quicker and thus the veteran receiving their earned benefits sooner. Survivors of veterans who have died due to one of these conditions may also be eligible for benefits. The bill “provides VA with mechanisms to enhance claims processing and to increase the workforce” which indicates the Veterans Benefits Administration should soon be pushing to hire personnel to deal with the increase in presumptive disability claims. Every day VA waits to begin the hiring of sufficient personnel will determine the true timeliness of claims processing and the backlog of presumptive claims for veterans. There still is much unpacking of this legislation for Veteran Service Officers (VSO) to do to be able to fully assist veterans in applying for VA benefits.

The bill also directs the Secretary to convene a new interagency working group to develop a five-year strategic plan on toxic exposure research. There are also resources being devoted to investing in VA health care facilities by authorizing 31 major medical health clinics and research facilities in 19 states. The takeaway is if you’ve been exposed, you should consider scheduling a meeting with a VSO.



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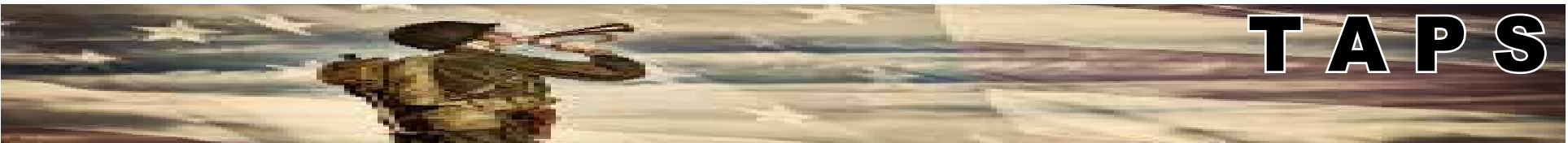
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Adams, David, Plainview, Vietnam
Appleby, Danny, Edgar, Vietnam
Arias, Jimmy, Gibbon
Armstrong, Douglas G., St. Paul, Vietnam
Askvig, Kent, Papillion, Vietnam
Backemeyer, Charles, Elmwood, Korea
Bataillon, Frank, Papillion, WWII
Batenhorst, Keith, West Point, Vietnam
Beavers, Kent O., Elm Creek, Vietnam
Beitler, William, Cowles, Korea
Bishop, Earl E., Fullerton, Korea
Blaser, Eldon, Silver Creek
Boehler, John E., Orleans, Korea
Boeka, Donald, Wood River, Vietnam
Borchers, Carroll, Columbus, Korea
Bourg, Charles, Holstein, WWII
Bourks, Arthur L., Millard
Brandt, Arlen R., Alma, Vietnam
Brewer, Glenn E., Ewing, Korea
Brewer, John E., Columbus, Vietnam
Brixus, Casper W., Alliance, Vietnam
Brown, Wylie, Grand Island, Vietnam
Bruns, Lewis, Lodgepole, Korea
Burrows, Wally, Grand Island, Korea
Busboom, Duane J., Virginia
Cernin, Emerson A., Schuyler, Vietnam
Clements, Billy, Emerson, Korea
Coder, Paul D., Maywood, WWII
Collin, Thomas E., Ainsworth, Vietnam
Contreras, Sabas J., South Omaha, Korea
Coon, George A., Franklin, Korea
Cooper, Richard A., Aurora, Korea
Coughlin, Don, Fremont, Vietnam
Cullinan, Robert, Paxton, Korea
Custer, Neal S., Columbus, Korea
Dailey, Leo F., Tryon, Vietnam
Daley, Rick L., Madrid, Vietnam
Dannelly, Gaylen G., St Edward, Vietnam
Davis, Robert W., Central City, Korea
Denesia, Donald E., Broken Bow, WWII
Deunk, Leon H., Cortland, Vietnam
Dittmar, Calvin, Oconto, Korea
Dobrovolny, Harold T., Stuart, Korea
Dolezal, Stanly, Venango, Korea
Drummond, George L., Columbus, Vietnam
Dubas, Daniel, Columbus, Korea
Dunkin, Sherman R., Waverly, Vietnam
Dunn, Daryle, Gordon, Korea
Dunning, Thomas J., Grand Island, Vietnam
Egnoske, Virgil, Millard, Korea
Ehlers, James H., Seward, Vietnam
Eisenach, Robert J., Culbertson, Korea
Elks, Bobby, South Omaha, Vietnam
Elvers, Paul W., Millard, Korea
Ewoldt, Robert, Stapleton, Korea
Fawcett, Rodger, Millard, Vietnam
Fleecs, Robert, Sutherland, Korea
Fletcher, Alva D., Omaha
Foltz, Mark W., Humphrey, Korea
Forehead, Jim, Omaha, Vietnam
Gadeken, Ronald, Neligh, Vietnam

Garfield, Charles J., South Omaha, Vietnam
Gdowski, Richard E., Columbus, Korea
Gilmore, Larry, Humphrey, Korea
Godemann, Glenn, Falls City, WWII
Goebel, Dick D., Red Cloud, Vietnam
Goll, Richard A., Tekamah, Korea
Gollehon, Jim M., Lebanon, Vietnam
Graham, Donald, Omaha, Korea
Gray, Richard W., O’Neill, Korea
Hank, Rollie W., Neligh, WWII
Hanson, Donald, Dodge, Vietnam
Hasenkamp, Larry L., Oakland, Korea
Hastings, Tom Jr., Columbus, Vietnam
Hegr, Leo F., Madison, Lebanon/ Grenada
Heinson, Robert, Omaha, WWII
Hellbusch, Norman H., Creston, Korea
Hendrickson, Bruce C., Holdrege, Korea
Henke, Robert, Columbus, Korea
Hilton, Gerald E., Cambridge, Korea
Hines, William Sr., Oshkosh, Korea
Hobelman, Lance L., Denton, Vietnam
Holscher, Neri, Cook, Korea
Horton, Richard L., Holstein, Vietnam
Howe, William R., Sidney, Korea
Humphrey, Gene, Battle Creek, Vietnam
Jackson, Harley, Beatrice, WWII
Jarecke, Clifford E., Central City, Vietnam
Jeffery, Thomas H., Omaha, WWII
Jensen, Allen, Lincoln, Vietnam
Johnson, Brent, Ainsworth, Korea
Kamas, George, Ainsworth, WWII
Kaser, Walter, Madison, WWII
Keber, Joe E., Spalding, Korea
Keim, Duane C., Ainsworth, Korea
Kempcke, Arlen D., Lyons, Vietnam
Kerl, Thomas, Bruning, WWII
King, Kent, Kearney, Vietnam
Klanderud, Lewis C., Benson, WWII
Knobbe, Jerome A., West Point, Korea
Knott, Lyle, Grand Island, WWII
Kobza, Bernard, Omaha, Korea
Kohl, Richard A., Central City, Vietnam
Kolbet, Jerome, Hastings, WWII
Kottas, William J., Wilber, WWII
Krysl, Larry J., Stuart, Korea
Kudlacek, Edwin H., Valparaiso, WWII
Kuhllenengel, Melvin H., Syracuse, Korea
Kunkee, Wesley, Shelby, Korea
Kuta, Donald F., Millard, Korea
Lafin, Lewis E., Crab Orchard, Korea
Lash, Clarence, Auburn, WWII
Leach, Jerry A., Lincoln, Korea
Lippincott, Gordon D., Blair, Vietnam
London, David C., Newman Grove, Korea
Loseke, Leland, Schuyler, Korea
Lucht, John E., Ainsworth, Vietnam
Maranell, Michael L., Millard, Vietnam
Marquardt, Marvin, Venango, WWII

Martin, Paul R., Gordon, Vietnam
Maxwell, Paul, Kearney, WWII
Mayo, James E., Broken Bow, WWII
McBride, Mort A., Ainsworth, WWII
McCoy, James, Bellevue, Korea
McGee, Howard, Homer, WWII
McIntosh, James W., Silver Creek
McPherson, Robert, Kearney, Vietnam
Morgan, Francis E., Fullerton, Vietnam
Moseman, Densel H., Wakefield WWII
Murphy, Roy Jr., Falls City, Vietnam
Nelson, Gil A., Millard, Korea
Nelson, Merlyn, Jackson, Korea
Novak, Gene, Leigh, Korea
O’Hern, Dean, Bellevue, Vietnam
Obrien, William, Omaha, Korea
Odens, Larry, Gretna, Vietnam
Ogle, Lee, Humboldt, Korea
Opocensky, Willard, Lincoln, WWII
Ottemann, Harlan, Johnson, Vietnam
Owens, Edward L., Grand Island, Korea
Patterson, James, Oshkosh, WWII
Petersen, Marvin L., Millard, Vietnam
Pittam, Dean E., Adams, Vietnam
Polacek, Delmar, Shelby, Korea
Poplau, Raphael J., Grand Island, Lebanon/ Grenada
Post, J., Palisade, WWII
Psota, Duane L., North Loup, Vietnam
Ramos, Roger, Kearney, GWOT
Randall, Dale, Lincoln, Vietnam
Reinke, David, Neligh, Vietnam
Remmich, H. Dale, Norfolk, Vietnam
Rempe, Ray H., Hastings, WWII
Rexilius, Dale R., Ceresco, Korea
Rutledge, Alan D., Utica, WWII
Schaefer, John D., Millard, Korea
Schendt, James P., Ainsworth, Vietnam
Schneekloth, Howard, Springfield, WWII
Schneider, Myron W., Schuyler, Vietnam
Schuster, Orville, Gibbon, Korea
Schwarz, Donald, Humphrey, Korea
Silvers, Alfred L., Papillion, Vietnam
Simmons, Niles, Wallace, Korea
Sisson, Richard E., Ainsworth, Vietnam
Skorniak, Andrew L., Ashton, Vietnam
Slahn, Charles, Norfolk, Vietnam
Smith, Forrest, Allen, Korea
Smith, James A., Omaha, Vietnam
Spencer, Bernard R., Hyannis, WWII
Stalling, Gerald, Wakefield, Vietnam
Steele, Lyle W., Arapahoe, Korea
Stobbe, Thomas, Lexington, Vietnam
Stoll, Clyde C., Nebraska City, WWII
Stromath, David, Omaha, Korea
Stutheit, Robert A., Denton, Vietnam
Taylor, Gary E., Millard
Tekolste, Melvin, Beatrice, Korea
Thompson, Arthur, Crab Orchard, Vietnam
Thompson, Jim, Papillion, Vietnam
Timberlake, Van N., Millard, WWII

Tool, Jerry, Elm Creek, Vietnam
Travis, John C., Omaha, WWII
Trojan, Richard, Beaver Crossing, Korea
Twiford, Gene A., Laurel, Vietnam
Vargason, Garry, Bassett, Vietnam
Varilek, Dean, Fremont, Korea
Vawser, Lowell, Fairbury, Korea
Voichahoske, Edward, Fullerton, WWII
VonSeggern, Ted, Pender, Korea
Wagener, John E., Lincoln, WWII
Waggoner, Gene F., Alma, Korea
Wagner, Marion, Norfolk, Korea
Walden, Raymond L., Beaver Crossing, Vietnam
Walters, Frances, Brainard, Vietnam

Weiss, Richard, Kearney, Vietnam
Wemhoff, Tom R., Humphrey, Korea
West, Monte, Herman, WWII
Wilkerson, Dean, Coleridge, WWII
Winchester, William H., Omaha, Korea
Witt, Michael, Ainsworth, Vietnam
Wolf, Don, Lincoln, Vietnam
Wright, Bruce A., Denton, Korea
Wulf, Dean B., Blair, Vietnam
Yoder, Michael A., Aurora, Persian Gulf
Zade, Virgil, Red Cloud, Korea
Zastrow, John A., Colon, WWII

Events Calendar

September

5 Labor Day - Office Closed
14 50% Membership Target Date
19-22 Americanism and C & Y Conference - Indy

October

10 Columbus Day - Office Closed
10-13 Fall Meetings - Indianapolis
13 55% Membership Target Date

November

9 65% Membership Target Date
11 Veterans Day - Office Closed
24-25 Thanksgiving - Office Closed

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



Lincoln Post 1919 presented multiple donations to organizations that support our Veterans. Commander Deborah Bjorman is pictured with the check and organization representatives in the following order (top to bottom) Victory Park Apartments, Operation Veterans Encouraging Recovery, and VFW Post 3606.



Weston Post 308 presented a certificate for 70 years of continuous membership to LeRoy Ohnoutka. Pictured (L to R) Commander Ken Meduna and LeRoy Ohnoutka.



Blair Post 154 presented certificates for continuous membership. Pictured (L to R) Raymond Ruzicka (50 years), Adjutant Steve Rounds, and Martin Kuhr Jr. (75 years).



Gordon Post 34 member Virgil Hagel had a private Quilt of Valor ceremony and was presented a certificate for 60 years of continuous membership. Pictured sitting is Past Department Commander Virgil Hagel.



Barneston Post 356 members were presented with Quilts of Valor from the Freedom Quilters of Nebraska. Pictured back (L to R) Liberty Commander Charles "Jim" Barr, Ann Freese of Freedom Quilters of Nebraska, and Barneston Commander Bob Theye. Pictured front (L to R) John Andreesen, Ivan Bartels, John Delmar Gerdes, Dan Parde, William Paul, and Gary Weyer.



Auburn Post 23 had members presented with Quilts of Valor. Pictured (L to R) Dennis Anderson, Gailen Bohling, Roger Broady, and Robert Helms.



Milford Post 171 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership to Calvin Kunze. Pictured (L to R) Commander Jim Eberly and Calvin Kunze.



Kearney Post 52 presented a certificate for 75 years of continuous membership to Vernon Erikson. Pictured (L to R) Vernon Erikson and past Post Commander Burdett Chappell.



Sarpy County Deputy Sheriff and Post 339 member Dave Coombs, Jr. was presented with a lifesaving award at the June 2022 Sheriff's Office award ceremony.



Sidney Post 17 Color Guard presented the flags at a Legion baseball tournament. Pictured (L to R) Dale Dickinson, John Shaffner, Dennis Tuzicka and Ken Childers.



Hallam Post and Unit 294 celebrated their 103rd birthday. Pictured (L to R) President Doreen Cole and Commander Wayne Eggert.



Dodge Post 122 members were presented with Quilts of Valor from the Dodge Unit 122 members. Pictured (L to R) Hubert Kampschneider, Ken Hunke, Larry Faltin, and Robert Houser.



Gretna Chapter 216 visited nursing homes in the Gretna area and gave over 30 veterans a plaque thanking them for their service. Pictured (L to R) Vice-Director Dick Gorton and an honored veteran.



Beaver Crossing Post 178 presented a certificate for 75 years of continuous membership to Marvin Schulz. Pictured (L to R) Jim Schulz, Marvin Schulz, Commander Dave Pankoke, and Mike Geiss.