**Former Department Commander Don Buffington**

**Dept. Commander 1986-1987**

Donald J. Buffington died peacefully at the Montana Veteran’s Home in Columbia Falls, December 20, 2016. He was born September 20, 1929, in Ft. Benton, Montana, the son of Q.R. (Rufe) and Alvina Schrupp Buffington. He and his brothers, Norman and Phillip, grew up on the family ranch south of Chester, where Don farmed and raised cattle for many years.

Don graduated from Chester High School in 1948 and joined the Marine Corps Reserve in Shelby, Mt., on November 20, 1949. He served with the 1st Marines in the Wonsan-Hangchum-Chosin Campaign, Northern Korea in 1950 and was discharged from the Marine Corps in Sept., 1952, as a Corporal. Always a Marine, Don was a life member of both The American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow veterans and felt it a duty and a privilege to participate in honor guard. He served in many positions at state and local levels, then as Department of Montana American Legion Commander from 1986-87 and as Department of Montana Adjutant 1991-1992. In 1995, he was highly honored to be chosen to represent the state of Montana at the dedication of the Korean War Memorial in Washington D.C. His fiercely patriotic love for his country, his flag, and his beloved Marine Corps has been passed on to present generations.

He will be remembered for his story-telling, his voracious love for reading, enjoying military history, the expeditions of Lewis and Clark and the history of Montana and its people.

Don was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Phillip. He is survived by his brother, Norman and family, Phillip’s children and widow, Anke. Don is also survived by his wife, Peggy, and her children, Estelle, Joe and Roy and their families; his children Marie, Douglas, Lee Ann, Sharon and Gary and their families; his former wife, Jean, and her children Marvin, Donald, Diane and Rita, whom he loved and raised as his own; and his first wife, Evelyn. Don had many grandchildren and great grandchildren, creating countless memories with them all. Don maintained enduring bonds with his cousins and extended family, always enjoying the Buffington and Schrupp reunions.

He will be remembered by his many Legion friends and his comrades of the Chosin Few organization. Don was surely one of a kind. Semper Fi.

Don’s family would like to thank everyone from the director, Helen, to each and every one of the nurses and staff at the Montana Veteran’s Home in Columbia Falls, and know how much we appreciate the time, care, kindness, and love shown in so many ways during his time with them. They treated Don like family and showed deep concern and compassion for him and for us all. They are very special people.

A memorial service with scattering of ashes will be scheduled for the spring. It will take place at the family farm and we will welcome all neighbors and friends.

[Past Department Commander Donald J Buffington (1986-87), Don also served as Department Adjutant 1991-92.Cards and remembrances may be sent to Don’s wife Peggy Buffington, 16 S Main St, Conrad, MT 59425]
I cannot believe my year as Commander is half over. Time seems to fly by when you’re busy. On Oct. 21, I attended the renaming ceremony for the Army National Guard and Reserve Center in Great Falls. It was dedicated to two soldiers, Captain John E. Moran and Captain William W. Galt. Both of them had received the Medal of Honor. Speakers included Senator Jon Tester; Senator Daines’ Veterans Representative, Cari Kent; Congressman Ryan Zinke; Governor Steve Bullock; Major General Matthew Quinn; and Brigadier General Greg Mosser. It was a nice ceremony with a group of Captain Galt’s family there.

Fall conference in Helena was well attended and a lot was accomplished. Our Guest Speaker, National Vice Commander Paul Espinoza honored us by attending a steak dinner in Montana City Friday evening. He also gave a nice talk at the Saturday night banquet. He said he had a great time in Montana and wants to come back.

Friday afternoon I held a coming home party at American Legion Post 2 in Helena. It was a fun party, great turnout. I would like to again give a special thanks to Karen Semple and Josh Clement for arranging for food and drinks and a place to have it. A lot of good memories were made. Remember Randy, my turn to lead next time.

November 4 and 5, 2016, I was in Great Falls for District 8 revitalization. We all had good days of recruiting and retention. My better half, District 8 President Monica, was also there and conducted recruiting for the Auxiliary. Michelle Steenmetz from American Legion National Headquarters had the lead on this and everything went smoothly. We worked in Vaughn, Sun River, and Great Falls area with some making calls to other towns in District 8.

On November 11, Veterans Day, I was honored to be one of two speakers at the Great Falls Veterans Memorial. Montana National Guard Brigadier General Robert Sparing gave a very nice address. I was pleased to see in the December issue of the Chief Joseph Post 135 newsletter that they have such a program. In Post 135, every member who pays dues by December has their name placed into a drawing for $100. Every Post could have such a program. The prize, or prizes, can be money or something like a gift card to a local restaurant. Use your imagination, based on what you think would work best in your Post. Such a program can help get renewals in quicker in order to be in the drawing. But every member needs to be aware your Post has such a program. This means communicating with your members. If you have a Post newsletter, it is a good place to promote the Early Bird program. If you don’t have a system of regular communication with your members, you could have a onetime mailing of a gift card. Remember, if you do not have any form of regular communication with your members and they only hear from you when it’s time to renew, that could be a big part of the problem.

The third issue is recognition. The majority of every Post is made up of members who pay their dues year after year. There are no special awards and deadlines for some of our programs. Although, this varies, but there has to be a system of regular communication with your members who tire of getting solicitations through the mail. It is nearly one in five members who receive the solicitation every year. This is sometimes referred to as a “mailing fatigue” in other organizations without any voice for veterans at the organization. This is why it is so important to get everyone we can to renew their membership. One means of increasing our renewal rate is for your Post to have an Early Bird program. I was a very nice ceremony. They all affect our membership. First is our non-renewal rate. This varies, but runs around 18 percent. This is nearly one in every five members. If these are not replaced, it would not take very long for the organization to be a small organization without any voice for veterans at the national level. That is why it is so important to get everyone we can to renew their membership.

The second issue is retention. The membership awards come into play. Recognize your people for their remaining members. The cost is very reasonable and even cheap when one has to go out and chase them down every year. There are certificates, lapel/cap pins and cloth stars for wear on one’s cap. They are all available in five-year increments from 5 to 75. The certificates and cloth stars run around 50-75 cents each and the pins around $9, and are available from the Emblem Sales catalog. The Post Adjutant has rosters showing each member’s years of continuous membership. Some Posts have “Pin Nights” an annual occasion to recognize their long-term members. Membership is more than just signing up new members. It is keeping and recognizing those we already have.

The next four months are when the Post Adjutants will need to get very busy, not just with membership, which is always their concern, but with all the reports and award nominations that will be coming due, such as Recruiting Awards, Best Newsletter Awards, Top Recruiter, CPRs and Post Data Forms. Post Data Reports will be mailed in February. This form is used to generate dues renewal notices. If your Post does not submit a Post Data Form, then all dues renewal notices could be wrong for the 2018 membership year (which starts 1 July 2017). The Post Data Form includes information on dues, the address dues are due to Department Headquarters by April 15. Please ensure your Post has submitted theirs. The next four months are when the Post Adjutants will need to get very busy, not just with membership, which is always their concern, but with all the reports and award nominations that will be coming due, such as Recruiting Awards, Best Newsletter Awards, Top Recruiter, CPRs and Post Data Forms. Post Data Reports will be mailed in February. This form is used to generate dues renewal notices. If your Post does not submit a Post Data Form, then all dues renewal notices could be wrong for the 2018 membership year (which starts 1 July 2017). The Post Data Form includes information on dues, the address due to Department Headquarters by April 15.

The Consolidated Post Reports (CPR) will be mailed in March for the 2016 - 2017 year. At first glance, the CPR may appear complicated and something you don’t want to be troubled with, but perhaps it is the most important document your Post can complete and submit. This information will be combined with that of other Posts, which submit forms to be put into the report annually sent to Congress. Your Post is encouraged to send a photocopy to your Senator and the Chair of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee. Although, this is a great way to ensure your Post is seen, our strength is magnified... your Post needs to be a part of that united force. If you have volunteered or done some other service, make sure your Post Commander and Adjutant know so they can include your efforts on the CPR. Consolidated Post Reports are due to Department Headquarters by 15 May, 2017.

We are at the time of year when many of our awards and deadlines for some of our programs are due. None of these awards or programs can be completed without the involvement and input of our Post members. I would ask that the membership take an active part in the selection process for our awards. The awards are available on the Depart-
ADJUTANT
continued from pg. 2

At the beginning of this article I mentioned the next four months would be busy, now you see what I mean, and I left out the District Meetings – the first Spring District Meeting starts Saturday, March 12, in Butte and the last one is Sunday April 29 in Helena. The Legion has several bills that we are concerned with and I urge you to seek out information on proposed legislation and make your feelings known to your legislators. Remember, our form of government allows for our participation in the making of our laws, however if we don’t exercise that right we will get the legislation that will affect veterans and their families. Remember, your recruiting awards, there are individual and Post recruiting awards which require submission – most due by May 15. Please advise any interested boys to obtain a copy of their parent’s or grandparent’s discharge so they will be able to make all the reporting deadlines.

American Legion Boys State packets were mailed in January to the Post Chairperson that the Department had on file. If your Post did not receive an American Legion Boys State packet it was sent to the high school in your community. The fee for this year has increased to $300, therefore if you have any questions, please advise me right away so you must file for your Post 28, Chester
BYERS, JAMES, 2/17/16 – Korea – Unknown - 22-year member of Post 16, Lewistown MURRAY, HARVE, 11/5/16 – Korea – US Navy - 26-year member of Post 151, Alberton, Interred with Military Honors

The Department is accepting applications for students to attend American Legion Boys State, which is sponsored by the American Legion. There are two sessions this year, the first session will be held from June 26 – July 9 at North Park College in Dubuque, Iowa. The second session will be held from August 1 – 14 at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. Applications are available on line or from Department Headquarters. Submission date to Department is no later than 15 June, 2017.

Don’t forget the Department Oratory finals is Saturday March 11 in Helena.

For our days
Nearth the stars
God is nigh.
Thanks and praise.

As we go
Gleaming bright.
Drawing near
Fades the sight

From the lakes
Falling light
Dips the night
God is nigh.

For our days
Nearth the stars
God is nigh.

This we know
God is nigh.
### DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER 2017

#### Total 2016 Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>696</th>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>552</td>
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#### Districts

**District #1**

- **Bozeman**  130  100%  100%
- **Big Timber**  94  86%  86%
- **Livingston**  95  95%  95%
- **White Sulphur**  62  82%  82%
- **Belgrade**  212  129  74.87%

**District #3**

- **Choteau**  27  25%  25%
- **Pondera**  120  113  94.12%

**District #4**

- **Townsend**  41  43  102.56%
- **White Sulphur Springs**  62  52  83.87%

**District #5**

- **Billings**  140  109  78.57%
- **Chinook**  48  33  68.75%

**District #6**

- **Butte**  153  122  80%
- **Helena**  118  103  87%

#### Incentive Goals

- **Total 2017 Incentive Goal** 11,500
- **2016 Membership** 10,840
- **2017 Membership to date** 8,204

### SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

**January 9, 2017**

**Squadron**

**Goal 2017**

- **WOLF POINT 22**
- **GLASSOON 41**
- **PATRICIO WOOD 58**
- **CULBERTSON 81**
- **NASHUA 104**
- **HAIRED 11**
- **CHINOOK 48**
- **MALTA 57**
- **PLENTYWOOD 58**
- **WOLF POINT 22**
- **FORSYTH 39**
- **BOZEMAN 14**
- **LEWISTOWN 21**
- **MISSOULA 27**
- **HAMILTON 47**
- **BUTTE 1**
- **HELENA 2**
- **ANACONDA 21**
- **TOWNSEND 42**
- **BELGRADE 30**
- **LIVINGSTON 23**
- **MANHATTAN 87**
- **CHOTEAU 6**
- **BIG SKY 99**
- **GERALDINE 102**
- **VAUGHN 130**
- **HARLOWTON 15**
- **LEWISTOWN 16**
- **MILES CITY 5**
- **BAXTER 35**
- **FORSYTH 39**
- **BILLINGS 47**
- **POPLAR 55**
- **BROADUS 128**
- **BIG SKY 99**
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- **HAMILTON 47**
- **BUTTE 1**
- **HELENA 2**

**Squadron Goal Met**

- **2012**
- **2013**
- **2014**
- **2015**
- **2016**
- **2017**

**Website**

http://www.legion.org/renew

**Save a bundle.**

**Get a quote.**

http://www.legion.org/2017/11a

**Renew Online Today!**

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

[Image]

[Image 2]

[Image 3]
VHA's current process provides Veterans with three monthly billing statements in increments of 30, 60 and 90 days in an attempt to collect first party copayments. Under the new Cross-Servicing program, first party debts that are not paid after 90 days will automatically transfer to VA's Debt Management Center (DMC) for offset of VBA benefits (if available). If VBA benefits are not available, Veterans will have an additional 30 days to make payment arrangements to satisfy the debt. If arrangements to pay the debt are not made, VHA will automatically refer it at 120 days to the Treasury Cross-Servicing program who issues official notification letters to Veterans. If the letters go unanswered, VHA will use the Treasury Offset Program (TOP) collect delinquent debt. The Treasury Offset Program (TOP) is used to offset any federal payments to include federal tax refunds, Social Security benefits, military pay, retirement pay, and other federal payments that are not exempt by law.

Beginning in May 2017, Treasury will also employ the following collection methods as part of the Treasury Cross-Servicing Program:

1. Administrative Wage Garnishment (AWG) – Treasury issues a wage garnishment order to the employer to deduct up to 15 percent of the Veteran's disposable income until the debt is paid in full.
2. Private Collection Agency (PCA) – Accounts are referred to a contracted PCA to attempt to collect the debt. Treasury provides significant oversight to ensure Veterans are well protected and treated properly in their interaction with PCAs.

If there are any questions regarding Cross Servicing at Fort Harrison, please contact the Facility Revenue Department at (406) 447-7844.

**VHA Medication Co-Payments:**

VA has a final rule, RIN 2900–AP35, Tiered Pharmacy Copayments for Medications that was published in the Federal Register on December 12, 2016. This rulemaking replaces those rates and establishes three classes of medications for copayment purposes, identified as Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3. These tiers are defined further in the rulemaking and are distinguished in part based on whether the medications are available from multiple sources or a single source, with some exceptions. Copayment amounts are fixed and would vary depending on the class of medication. The following medication copayment amounts are applicable on the effective date of this final rule:

- Tier 1: $5 for a 30-day or less supply of a Tier 1 medication, $8 for a 30-day or less supply of a Tier 1 medication, and $11 for a 30-day or less supply of a Tier 1 medication.
- Tier 2: $15 for a 30-day or less supply of a Tier 2 medication.
- Tier 3: $25 for a 30-day or less supply of a Tier 3 medication.

For non-service-connected veterans, these copayment amounts will result in lower out-of-pocket costs, thereby encouraging greater adherence to taking prescribed medications and reducing the risk of fragmented care that results when Veterans use non-VA pharmacies to fill their prescriptions.

According to VA, 88 percent of all billable prescriptions are Tier 1 or Tier 2. 94 percent or 2.54 million copay eligible veterans will experience no cost increase and 87 percent or 2.33 million veterans will receive savings of $1 - $4 per 30-day supply equivalent.

VA plans to implement these new medication copay rates effective February 27, 2017. Service Organizations have expressed concerns about the short time lag from now to VA's proposed implementation date and requested VHA to provide their plan for communicating this information to veterans.

The goal of our 10 Montana Veterans Affairs Service Offices staffed with accredited Veterans Service Officers is to assist all veterans and their dependents with their VA benefits. Please contact us for more information.

**MVAD/AL offices throughout the state:**

- Belgrade: (406) 388-4601
- Billings: (406) 248-8579
- Butte: (406) 533-0910
- Great Falls: (406) 452-2265
- Havre: (406) 265-4225
- Helena: (406) 495-2080/2081/2082
- Kalispell: (406) 755-3795
- Lewistown: (406) 538-3174
- Miles City: (406) 322-1203
- Missoula: (406) 542-2501

Thank you for your service to our great Country!

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**Historian**

**Montana’s Contributions are Important to the Legion Centennial 1919-2019**

**Raymond R. Read, Dept. Historian  raymondreadmld@gmail.com**

Since the Montana Department of The American Legion’s Fall Conference is being held in development for this membership year and the next two years leading up to the American Legion’s Centennial Celebration. As the Department Historian, I feel that I need to reemphasize the guidance I have received from the National Historian concerning upcoming Historical activities. The following is provided as guidance for the Posts. Districts and Department to successfully conclude the American Legion History program. Commanders need to stress to their Post history committee the importance of the following:

**SUBJECT:** The Montana Department, The American Legion, Centennial Celebration 1919-2019, the Department 100th Anniversary Committee; and Post One Year narrative and Post One Yearbook (pictorial) history Program.

Reference is made to:

1. Letter, dated July 31, 2015, from the American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee announcing the updated 5-year plan for the American Legion Centennial 1919-2019.
2. The American Legion's Centennial Celebration Workbook;
3. The American Legion's Legacy Vision brochure;
4. The American Legion’s Post 9/11 Veterans Booklet
5. Resolution No. 31, Spring 2011, National Executive Committee

The Department of Montana, The American Legion Executive Committee, has established a Department Centennial Committee in accordance with the request of the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee

And the Department Historian has been designated the Department Centennial Chairman.

In addition, the Department authorized a three-person 100th Centennial Committee. At this time the members are Joyce Babcock (Custer Post 5), Michael Shepard (Post 72, Columbia Falls) Lowell Long, (Blaine Post 48, Chinook). The Committee's task is to engage the Department of Montana American Legion Posts in meaningful participation concerning The American Legion’s Centennial.

I encourage all American Legion Posts to implement The American Legion’s Legacy Vision for The American Legion Centennial 1919-2019. Resolution No. 31, states,

“The American Legion wishes to call to the attention of the American People the record of achievements that have been accomplished by the American Legion during the 100 years since its founding, to emphasize the impact the organization has had upon the American society, and the extent of its contributions in national security and the welfare of military veterans, their families and their communities… The American Legion wishes to set forth the objectives and the aims that will motivate its programs and activities during the years ahead and to illustrate the contribution made to the future of country as intended by these programs.”

Some initial ideas for this very important program for Montana Legionnaires to review and implement.

1. All documents referenced above are available on the National American Legion website. Go to www.legion.org/centennial and follow the prompts. If your Post/Auxiliary/Sons of the American Legion have access to the internet you can accomplish the American Legion Centennial Challenge. Remember, look to your strengths and leverage them. Also, look to your local community for ideas and support.
2. I am asking all Montana Department American Posts to establish their Local Legacy Task Force: Post’s History. National Headquarters has developed a webpage that will allow each participating Post its own online page where photos, text and videos can be posted and shared. So, whether your Post was established in 1919 or just few years ago, you have the opportunity to tell your story in your community and throughout The American Legion.

I emphasize again that all the aspects of The American Legion Centennial Program are available on the National website:

In less than 600 days the American Legion will celebrate its 100th National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and in less than 800 days the American Legion will celebrate its 100th Birthday, March 15-17, 2019. The culmination of Centennial events will occur at Indiana during the 100th National Convention, August 2019. Montana’s contributions to The American Legion deserves to be placed on the official record.

It is a goal of the Montana Department to update its historical record by incorporating the current written record of the soon to be 100 years in celebration of an American Legion Centennial History for Montana. With your cooperation and participation that can happen.

Annual One Year Narrative and one yearbook (pictorial) history

Contests

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More History page 6
Chaplain’s Corner

On Feb. 3, 1943, the United States Army Transport Dorchester – a converted luxury liner – was crossing the North Atlantic, transporting more than 900 troops to an American base in Greenland. Aboard the ship were four chaplains of different faiths: Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic).

Around 12:55 a.m., a German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck Dorchester’s starboard side, below the water line and near the engine room. The explosion instantly killed 100 men and knocked out power and radio communication with Dorchester’s three escort ships. Within 20 minutes, the transport sank and more than 670 men died.

As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, the four chaplains spread out, comforting the wounded and directing others to safety. One survivor, Private William Bednar, later said, “I could hear men crying, pleading, praying. I could also hear the chaplains’ preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going.”

Another survivor, John Ladd, watched the chaplains’ distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men. “It was the finest thing I have seen, or hope to see, this side of heaven,” he recalled.

As Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.

Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington were posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart, and in 1948, Congress declared Feb. 3 to be Four Chaplains Day. The four chaplains were also honored with a U.S. postage stamp that year.

Because of the Medal of Honor’s strict requirements of heroism under fire, Congress authorized a one-time Chaplain’s Medal for Heroism on July 14, 1960. The award was presented to the chaplains’ next of kin Jan. 18, 1961.

On Feb. 3, 1951, President Truman dedicated a chapel in the chaplains’ honor at Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia. When the building was sold, the chapel fell into disrepair, and the foundation overseeing the chapel moved it to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard in 2001. The chapel was repaired in 2004 and given the name Chapel of the Four Chaplains.

In 2006, at The American Legion’s 88th National Convention in Salt Lake City, the National Executive Committee passed a resolution that supported awarding the Medal of Honor to Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington.

Every year, American Legion Posts nationwide remember Four Chaplains Day with memorial services. To request information on how to conduct a Four Chaplains Memorial Service, contact the Americanism and Children & Youth Division at (317) 630-1212.

You are encouraged to remember this historic event by conducting a memorial service in February, by reading this tribute at your Post meeting and by sharing with others this memorial for the purpose of inspiration and education.

Thank you...

Post 23 would like to thank everyone for their support of our raffle fundraiser held on Veterans Day. Winners were:

- 10-22 Rugger - Teresa Lehman
- 22-250 Ruger w/scope - Robin Melts
- Handmade Quilt - Dan Nelson
- $100 Rib & Chop House Gift Certificate - Marilyn Eike
- $50 Sinclair Gas Card - Michelle Kandel

Built in 1942, the old chapel at the former Philadelphia Naval Shipyard is a fitting place to honor the memory – and promote the legacy – of four of the nation’s most revered brothers in arms.

Entering the building, visitors’ eyes are immediately drawn to its original stained glass murals, which depict divine guidance at sea. Next, they notice a menorah flanked by a Protestant cross and a Catholic crucifix.

Finally, looking around, you see portraits of the chapel’s namesakes. To the left of the wooden pews are the Rev. George Fox, Methodist, and Rabbi Alexander Goode, Jewish. To the right are Father John Washington, Roman Catholic, and the Rev. Clark Poling, Reformed Church.
HE IS BACK!!!

National Executive Committeeman (NEC) Merv Gunderson returned home October 25. He was greeted by some of the fellow Legionnaires at the airport. They followed him to his new home west of Bozeman and got settled in very quickly. He is looking forward to doing some work in a limited capacity. His only thought was “being in the hospital really stinks.” What is really neat, he still has a positive spirit. WELCOME HOME BUDDY.

THANK YOU
Patty and I want to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers and generous donations after my accident and now while I continue to recover. Words cannot express how grateful we are and how much those healing words meant.

Merv Gunderson

I’m the Guy!
I’m the guy who asked to join your organization.
I’m the guy who paid his dues to join.
I’m the guy who stood up in front of you and promised to be faithful and loyal to the organization.
I’m the guy who came to your meetings and no one paid any attention to me.
I’m the guy who tried several times to be a friend.
But they all had their own buddies to talk to and sit next to.
I’m the guy who came several times, but no one paid any attention to me.
I’m the guy who was left out when I volunteered to help on projects and membership recruitment.
I’m the guy who missed a few meetings because I was sick, but at the next meeting no one asked where I had been.
I guess it didn’t matter very much to others whether I was there or not.
I’m the guy who decided to stay home and watch TV one meeting night.
The following meeting I attended, no one asked me where I had been.
You might say that I’m a good guy, a good family man who holds a responsible job, loves his family, community, and country.
You want to know who else I am?
I’m the guy who never came back!
It amuses me how the officers of the organization think that they spend so much time looking for new members when I was there all the time.
They all needed to do was make me feel needed, wanted and welcome.

Welcome to 100 Cities / 100 Memorials
A National Matching Grant Challenge
To Preserve WWI Memorials

http://WorldWar1centennial.org/100-cities-100-memorials

It is in the spirit of these words—“Lest We Forget”—that the World War I Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum & Library jointly launch the 100 Cities/100 Memorials initiative as its first sponsors, with support from The American Legion.

In observance of the upcoming centennial of World War I, 100 matching grants of up to $2,000 apiece will be awarded for the restoration of 100 World War I Memorials across the United States. Any municipal government, individual, or organization may apply. Likewise, any individual, organization or company can become a sponsor of this effort, as the more we can raise toward this program, the greater the amount of the matching grant to the winning memorials.

A century ago, the founders of the American Legion wrote in their charter, “The sacred purpose of [The] American Legion is to preserve the memories and incidents of their associations in the Great War.”

FOUNDERS: [The] American Legion

This sentiment mirrors the commitment of the World War One Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum & Library to encourage the restoration and maintenance of World War I monuments across the country.

By restoring these monuments and memorials, many of which bear the names of those members of the community who served and fell in the Great War, the sponsors of the 100 Cities/100 Memorials initiative hope not only to honor the names of those who served, but to raise awareness of this momentous event in our nation’s history, and increase each and every community’s understanding of their towns’ and cities’ place in military history.

It is our great hope that the 100 Cities/100 Memorials initiative will help unite the nation in a collective celebration of our victory in World War I and in proper recognition of the contributions of those who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of liberty and freedom.

KENNETH CLARK, PRES. & CEO | Pritzker Military Museum & Library
DAVID DUTTON-ENG, DIA | U.S. World War I Centennial Commission

Endorsed by your Department of The American Legion

If You’re a Member In Good Standing With Your Department of The American Legion...

You are eligible for LegionCare; $5,000.00 in Accidental Death Insurance at NO COST TO YOU if a covered accident occurs while traveling on official Legion business*, or $1,000.00 at NO COST TO YOU for all other covered accidents. This has been arranged on your behalf by Your Department of The American Legion.

As soon as your enrollment is received, LegionCare will take effect, and will continue through August 31, 2021. Your acceptance is guaranteed, so mail your coupon today.

http://WorldWar1centennial.org/100-cities-100-memorials

Cut it out and mail it in today to enrol in LegionCare.

If You’re a Member In Good Standing With Your Department of The American Legion...

United States of America, Department of Montana


daniel dayton, exec. dir. | U.S. World War I Centennial Commission

Kenneth Clark, Pres. & CEO | Pritzker Military Museum & Library

http://WorldWar1centennial.org/100-cities-100-memorials
American Legion Department of Montana
Convention 2017
June 22nd—25th
Hosted by Andrew Pearson Post 117

Name(s) ________________________________  ________________________________
Address __________________________________________________
City _________________________ State __________ ZIP __________
Phone ____________________________________________

Registration .................................................. $20 X ______ = $________
40 & 8 BBQ .................................................. $18 X ______ = $________
Past Dept. Commander’s Breakfast ................... $17 X ______ = $________
Children & Youth Luncheon .............................. $17 X ______ = $________
Auxiliary Banquet .......................................... $23 X ______ = $________
Past Dept. President’s Luncheon ....................... $17 X ______ = $________
Incoming President’s Luncheon ....................... $17 X ______ = $________
Joint Banquet ................................................ $27 X ______ = $________

Total $ __________________

Convention Hotel
Red Lion Inn Hotel & Convention Center
1223 Mullowney Lane
Billings, MT 59101 (406)248-7151
Room Rate $92

Questions
George Blackard
C# 406-855-6781
gblackard@yahoo.com

Send Registration Form & Payment To
Post 117 Convention
PO Box 866
Billings, MT 59103

WREATHS OVER AMERICA – Yellowstone National Cemetery

On 16 Dec 2016, the heaviest single-day snowfall in 20 years, along with blizzard winds and dangerous wind chills, delayed laying of wreaths at Yellowstone National Cemetery, Laurel, Montana, for the national Wreaths Over America program.

Favorable weather finally came, and on Friday, 23 December, volunteers gathered at the national cemetery for a poignant ceremony prior to placing the wreaths. Deep drifts covered most of the cemetery, and volunteers struggled to place the wreaths. They never gave up, even when that meant digging out the drifts.

The ten-acre Yellowstone National Cemetery, the first operational national cemetery under the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration’s Rural Veterans Burial Initiative, is one mile north of Laurel, Yellowstone County, Montana, on Buffalo Trail Road (state highway 332).

Photos for the 2016 Wreaths Over America at Yellowstone National Cemetery are found on Flickr at (click on link): https://flic.kr/s/aHskKqr1K6

Fort Owen Post 94 Christmas Wreaths for Veteran’s Graves

Members of Stevensville, Fort Owen Post 94 along with parents and members of Boy Scout Troop 1117 (sponsored by Post 94), as well as, other community citizens placed Christmas wreaths on veterans’ graves in Riverside, Maplewood and Sunnyside cemeteries on December 24, 2016. The “Wreaths Across America” activity was originally scheduled for December 17, but was cancelled due to the arctic weather conditions on that date.

Crysta Wortman and her family supply the wreaths and actively participate in the activity.

Commander Chuck Burgmeier with arm loads of wreaths at Maplewood cemetery.
February

F e b r u a r y  

is Americanism month so let’s get into the schools and let them know what we have to offer the students who write about this great subject. Show our involvement by handing out our great flag with some information on etiquette. Know the proper handling of the flag like what to do and what not to do. Set up a flag disposal ceremony with the local Boy Scouts and Girl Scout troops. Show your fellow Americans what it is like to honor our great flag in this ceremony.

March is American Legions Birthday so plan to have cake and/or cookies plus a drink at your Post meeting to honor the Legion on its day. It is also Community Service month so get out there and help with a Community project or get together and do one of your own. It doesn’t take much to help within your community. Help a Veteran do something around his/her home and make sure you put out a sign saying who is helping this Veteran and their family. Let it be known who and what we are and what we do for our Veterans and our communities. Enjoy what you do and make it fun for all.

March is also starting of the Spring District meetings. Be sure and invite everyone within your District so when we come to visit it is worth our time and money spent to get there to give out the information that is important to each and every one of the Auxiliary members. We like seeing all your bright smiling faces and helping you to achieve your goals.

April is Children & Youth month. Get into the schools to read books or just to help with any little project that might be coming about. Do little things to help out the children of your community and always remember your Veterans children. Set up a time at the school for the older kids to show them all the scholarships that we have to offer to help them further their education. Anything you do with children is a wonderful thing and very inspirational to all who are involved.

Reports are due to Terry Kemp by April 15th and also one to the appropriate Chairman. Please send one report to Terry and one to the Chairman so as to make it easier on everyone involved in putting these reports together for National. Make one then just make a copy it will be greatly appreciated.

For God and Country

Janette Bossen

President

Happy New Year!

I’m one of those fools who LOVES the New Year. It’s a fresh start for everything and I find a renewed spirit through wide-opened eyes. I hope you share some of the enthusiasm with me.

Getting right down to business, I have great news to report from our national headquarters. During the Department Secretary’s Conference in late November we were informed that they aren’t going to be raising the dues for the coming year. That means the Department dues increase we voted for at the convention last June will be all ours for at least a year. Thank you for supporting this necessary increase and it was our hope at the time that we’d have at least a year to get more financially stable between the raffle and the dues increase. Job well done ladies. NHQ reminded us that they will be raising – just not in the next year. Don’t get too comfortable!

You will want to vote at the Unit level to raise your dues as well - unless your treasury can withstand the increase. Department’s treasury will not be able to carry Units who don’t remit the proper amount. In fairness to all Units, the transmittals will need to be returned to you for proper payment if you don’t send in the correct amount. That also means it’s time to clean house. Please dispose of all the old forms you have. I provide you with a packet at convention time that will literally allow you to run your office for the next year. Because of the changes to rates etc., it will be a good time to clear out the old supply and inventory what you’ll need for your new membership year when it arrives. These actions alone lay a nice foundation for the next membership year and your new officers. The forms requesting that new officer information will come out in February or March. In order for all your materials to print correctly we need to abide by the deadlines NHQ sets for us. It’s never too early to recruit officers or begin the training process for future leaders. It’s also the perfect time to review your Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules reflecting the changes in your dues rates if applicable. Upon confirmation be sure to send a copy to the Department C&B Chairman.

Where are you with your 990 filing? Joyce Babcock gave a tremendous workshop at Fall Conference and everyone came away with the confidence and directions to file for your units. Please do not ignore this very important piece of compliance. It is NOT hard to do. It literally takes longer to brew a pot of coffee than it does to submit your 990. I just did mine for my Unit. You can too.

I don’t intend to travel to Spring district meetings but as always, if you need something let me know and we’ll make it work.

Department Raffle

1st prize is $1,000
2nd prize is $500
3rd prize Red-White-Blue Golf Bag

Tickets:
$5/ea. or 6/$25

The raffle is open to EVERYONE. Sell to friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc.

Even one ticket per month helps the Auxiliary, plus increases your chances of winning.

Tickets can be mailed or e-mailed to you by contacting Jamie DeBates. If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask.

Drawing at 2017 Department Convention in Billings.
Veterans Affairs
Voluntary Service (VAVS)

-- FORT HARRISON REPORT BY SANDY RUNKEL

The 2016 Christmas season was off to a wonderful start at the Fort Harrison VA Hospital. Thanks to our members who donated gifts and cash, to those who worked setting up and helping our Veterans select gifts for their family members. Our 10 volunteers gave 64.25 hours for the two days of the shop. There were 71 Veterans and family members shopping. Twenty boxes were mailed at a cost of $170.81. The value of cash donations and gift items received was $7,836.

A special word of appreciation for the Volunteer Coordinator Terrie Casey and her staff. The week prior to the shop posters were placed around the hospital. She was there to help us get set up before the shop on Sunday. Thanks to Terrie and her helpers, Kerry Patton, Bill White and Lois Schmidt.

Good wishes to all our members and their families for a wonderful year ahead in 2017.

Unit 100, Park City

Jean Bossen

Department President Jeanette Bossen presented 7th-grader Katie Hess with her Second Place trophy for her 6th-grade Poppy Poster during the Veterans Day celebration at Park City Schools.

Three generations in Post 50 Color Guard

Big Sandy Post 50 Memorial Day Color Guard features three generations, Ed Allderdice, Ted Allderdice, and Michell Allderdice Sabo.

Fort Owen Post 94

Stevensville Conducts Funeral Honors

Jerry Esmay, Fort Owen Post 94, Stevensville

Members of Fort Owen Post 94, Stevensville, conducted funeral honors for one of it’s long time and highly respected members, Robert (Big Bob) Smith on December 3, 2016.

Bob served his country in the United States Navy during the Korean War. Bob and his wife Ruby moved to Stevensville following his retirement from the Portland Oregon fire department.

The funeral was generally conducted in accordance with The American Legion Manual of Ceremonies. Jerry Esmay was in charge of the ceremony supported by Chaplain Rick Harrison and Commander Chuck Burgmeier who gave the Eulogy. Bob’s ability to make friends with anyone and everyone was highly stressed. The funeral was concluded with not only military honors, but also firefighter honors and a final Navy “piping.”

The military honors were performed by Commander Chuck Burgmeier with Bill Lyon, Brad Smith, and Paul Sokolowski on rifles, Earle McMonaha on the bugle, and Brian Potton and Ron Toomer folding and presenting the flag.

The firefighter honors were led by Hamilton firefighter Tom Pitzsinger who provided a verbal description of the honors followed by the “Last Call” ringing of the bell. Tom was supported by Stevensville firefighters as well as two representatives from Bob’s old department in Portland. A very special touch to the funeral was provided by the Stevensville firefighters bringing a ladder truck which was parked at the entrance to Post 94 with a ladder extended from which the American flag and one of Bob’s old helmets were hanging.

The funeral ended with a final Navy tribute provided by one of Bob’s firefighter friends from Portland, Mark Sears, who gave a last call with his Bosons Mate whistle.

On the very chilly, windy night of December 19, 2016, at the Fred Moody Intermediate School in Anaconda, over 400 friends, Vets and family members observed a dual ceremony. First, a remembrance ceremony was conducted for the eight Anaconda warriors who were killed in Vietnam (Patrick J. Fleming, USMC; John E. Laipple, USA; Raymond G. Kriskovich, USA; David A. Anderson, USA; Ronald J. Moe, USA; Wayland D. Stemberge, USA; Robert J. Thomas, USA and Eugene F. McNally, USN) followed by the pinning of the Army Commendation and Bronze Star Medals for Michael A. Nazer. Nazer served in the U.S. Army’s 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam from 1968-1969. He was never presented the awards until 47 years later. Teryn Green, 2nd Lieutenant, Montana National Guard, pinned officers while Col. MTANG Ret. Don Clark read the citations. Honor Guard provided by Anaconda American Legion Post 21.

Stevensville Conducts Funeral Honors

Jerry Esmay, Fort Owen Post 94, Stevensville

The funeral ended with a final Navy tribute provided by one of Bob’s firefighter friends from Portland, Mark Sears, who gave a last call with his Bosons Mate whistle.

Three generations in Post 50 Color Guard

Big Sandy Post 50 Memorial Day Color Guard features three generations, Ed Allderdice, Ted Allderdice, and Michell Allderdice Sabo.
Don Burrell, Thompson Falls Post 52, was awarded a plaque of Certificate of Appreciation at the Post October 20, 2015 meeting. Commander Charlotte Beaudy commended Burrell’s outstanding civic commitment to the community of Thompson Falls. Don has been a Legion member for 11 years, has been the Vice Commander and held the Sergeant-at-Arms position. Burrell drives the DA V van and also drives for the Council on Aging. He has been a Grange member since 1966 and has worked for the Concessionaire Group (Sanders County Fair) for eight years. The Christian Men’s Prayer Group, of which he is also active, can count on Don Burrell’s outstanding civic commitment to the community of Thompson Falls.

Legion Cap Etiquette

As a member of The American Legion, I take great pride in wearing my Legion “uniform” – the Legion Cap is a very visible symbol of my military service and membership in The American Legion.

At fall conference, some members were apparently unaware there are guidelines (published in the Emblem Sales Catalog) that help us be uniform, not an embarrassment to our fellow members or our great organization when we wear our caps. Commanders, please do your new members a service by ensuring they receive a copy of Cap Etiquette before they start adorning their cap with pins, ribbons and medals. It may help to review it with them in case they won’t read it.

1. The left side (embroidered side) of the cap is reserved only for the Legion emblem, city, county, district or state lettering.
2. If desired, the following items must be placed on the right side of the cap:
   A. additional lettering, restricted to either the name of a Post, or to an officer title (such as “Past Commander”),
   B. cap insignias or badges (for Past or Present officers),
   C. consecutive membership insignia, membership stars and/or authorized Legion or military services decorations.
3. Names or nicknames of individual members cannot be used on caps.
4. The Legion Uniform Cap should be worn by its members only when in attendance at official Legion meetings or ceremonies, or as official guests at patriotic or other civil functions, or by individuals when officially representing The American Legion on public occasions.
5. The cap should be worn in a place of worship only by the Guard of Honor, Color Guard and Commander of same while marching order or standing guard. When returned to and seated in pews, the cap should be removed.

6. Legion Posts marching in formation into a place of worship should uncover, at the door, hold the cap with the right hand over the heart until the arrival in the pews and commanded to take seats, remaining uncovered during the entire service. At the close of the service, upon command, the Post shall arise, the members holding the cap with the right hand over the heart will march out of the place of worship and recover after marching through the door.
7. Legion members not in formation will uncover upon entering the place of worship and remain uncovered during the entire service, and will recover after leaving the place of worship.
8. When at a funeral, the cap should be held over the heart as one approaches the casket, and is not at any time worn in a place of worship (except by the Guard of Honor, Color Guard or Commander of same while in marching order or standing guard.) At the graveside, the cap should be held in the right hand over the heart during the entire service. In cold and inclement weather, the cap should not be worn.
9. In Legion meetings, the cap should be worn except during movements of the Pledge of Allegiance, POW/MIA flag placement, prayer, and when standing in silent reverence in memory of departed comrades, when the cap should be held with the right hand over the heart.
10. Female members of the Legion should wear their caps in the manner prescribed for female personnel of the armed services.

Out of respect for those who have worn the Legion cap and gone on before us, if, after reading these guidelines, you’ve learned you need to clean up your cap in some way by removing all pins on the left side or removing unauthorized pins, please do so as soon as possible.

Thank you!
For 30 passengers - $165

We need a minimum of 30 passengers, the coach can seat up to 42 passengers. Pick up passengers in Butte and Dillon. We would depart from Helena on Thursday, August 17 at 6:00 PM and arrive in Reno, Nevada. The Convention runs from August 18 through August 24; the coach is an absolute drop dead date as I will have to procure additional rooms on our hotel contract.

American Legion Family members National Convention Registration form would be waived.

If we need east to cover one night’s room deposit, plus others as noted.

- King (1 or 2 persons) $129.95 (this includes tax of 13%) $  
- Double (1 or 2 persons) $129.95 (this includes tax of 13%) $  
- Commanders Banquet @ $46.00 each $  
- Parking Rate – Fee $  
- Hospitality Room - $16.00 $  
- Registration (nondelegates only, delegates are paid) $25.00 ea $  
- Parade Transportation (if not needed will be refunded) $19.00 $  

(Note: ALL Convention attendees must be registered and have a Convention badge to ride busses, attend convention functions and enter the convention hall.) If you are attending Commander's Banquet please advise Department by 25 February, 2017.

TOTAL $_______

1/ We will arrive (DATE) ___________________ (TIME) ___________________ Do not leave blank

2/ We will depart (DATE) ___________________ (TIME) ___________________ Do not leave blank

**LEGION ONLY** – I would like to be a delegate and would serve on the following Committee, (official delegates must be nominated and elected at the Department Convention in Billings, June 23 – 25, 2017).

1st Choice ____________________________

2nd Choice ____________________________

**ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS:** JULY 1, 2017, early receipt will guarantee staying with the Montana Delegation

Please send check payable to the American Legion of Montana and this form to:

Department Adjutant

PO Box 6075

Helena, MT 59604-6075

2017 NATIONAL CONVENTION TRANSPORTATION

If there is enough interest the Department will provide transportation for all American Legion Family members to the 2017 National Convention in Reno, Nevada. The Convention runs from August 18 through August 24; the coach would depart from Helena on Thursday, August 17 at 6:00 PM and arrive in Reno approximately 8:00 PM on Friday, August 18. If needed the coach could also pickup passengers in Butte and Dillon.

We need a minimum of 30 passengers, the coach can seat up to 42 passengers. The cost would be:

- For 30 passengers - $165
- For 35 passengers - $135
- For 40 passengers - $125

The cost is for round trip.

If we have enough to take the coach, then the parade transportation fee on the National Convention Registration form would be waived.

Anyone desiring to ride the coach to Reno needs to fill out the form below and submit a refundable deposit of $100 per passenger prior to March 1, 2017. This is an absolute drop dead date as I will have to procure additional rooms on our hotel contract.

If you have questions, contact Department Headquarters at (406) 324-3889 or toll-free (866) 783-1257.

NAME: _____________________________________________

ADDRESS: __________________________________________

PHONE: _____________________________________________________________________

Please reserve the following accommodations for ________ persons. I will be sharing a room with ________

Enclosed is a check to cover one night’s room deposit, plus others as noted.

 technoLOGY

Stay vigilant against these 4 cyberscams

Content provided courtesy of USA.gov/bureau

Online fraud rates increased by 30 percent last holiday season, and military personnel are a favorite target of scammers. So, protect yourself and your money by staying on the lookout for these common scams.

**Phishing:** No, phishing isn’t new, but it’s always evolving. Criminals create legit-looking emails, texts or social media posts requesting personal financial information. If you respond, they drain your bank account or run up debt in your name.

**Card Cracking:** Thieves can pose as an online buddy who asks for credit card information or a bank PIN. Then they deposit fraudulent checks and withdraw money, leaving you with an empty account and potential fraud charges.

**Job-Search Fraud:** Watch out for online job postings that promise special consideration to military and then request that you provide personal financial information, such as checking or savings account details. Criminals can use those to clean out your accounts.

**Imposter Scams:** A con artist claims to be a friend or family member in distress and requests money or personal information. Investigate before responding to make sure you’re exchanging messages with the real person.
HELENA — Andy Kim, then 15, a self-proclaimed “rascal,” and some of his buddies were having their usual Sunday morning fun in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when he noticed a tiny black speck in the sky.

The Navy had been out on maneuvers a few days earlier, most of the Navy ships had returned to the port and U.S. military planes had been flying drills so no one was suspicious when that small dot appeared above.

Soon, the small speck got closer and passed the boys as they were standing on a railroad trestle.

It was a Japanese fighter with what Kim calls “a goose egg” on the side.

The pilot flew by with the canopy pulled back and wiggled his wings as if waving, or perhaps to scare the boys as they were standing on a railroad trestle.

“Flies low and slow,” the 89-year-old Kim remembers three-quarters of a century later. “He was waiting for the other planes to catch up. He was seeing for a bigger plane.”

Shortly thereafter one of his friends said the Japanese had just bombed Pearl Harbor.

“It was unbelievable,” Kim said. “Who would think of doing that?”

The teens raced to the naval base but could not get in. He said he watched the battleship Arizona as it burned for three days and saw flatbed trucks piled high with bodies.

Kim volunteered to help carry the dead and wounded.

Kim, now 89, said an anger boiled up inside him and he wanted to enlist.

“I’ll be darned if I’ll let it happen here,” he said.

Andy and Dolores Kim, now Helena residents and married for 69 years, both lived at Pearl Harbor during the Dec. 7, 1941, attack by the Japanese that propelled the United States into World War II.

Dolores, who was 11 at the time and known as Dolores Perry, said she was in church. The priest stopped the service and told the people to run.

“I said, ‘I have to do my job.’” Kim recalled.

“Mom didn’t want to sign,” Kim recalled. “I said, ‘I have to do my job’.”

Kim’s son-in-law, Ed Reed, is surprised he waited.

“I bet he would have joined if they would have let him,” he said.

Kim said there was no basic training or boot camp, the sailors were immediately placed aboard a ship. He was aboard the destroyer the USS Shaw's magazine exploded after being bombed by Japanese aircraft in the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. Army and USCG officers were on the island. People painted the windows of their homes black to avoid detection from above.

Andy Kim had a long-simmering hatred of the Japanese.

His father had died when he was younger and his mother moved the family back to their native Korea, which Japan had occupied.

He was forced to take a Japanese name and to his family out of Korea. They returned to Pearl Harbor.

“When I saw the Japanese bomb (Pearl Harbor) it changed the course of my whole life,” he said. “I said, ‘I’m not going to let this happen in my country’.”

He joined the Navy on July 3, 1944, when he was 17. But he needed his mother’s consent.

“Mom did not want to sign,” Kim recalled.

“Now that he is older he is talking about it,” Kim’s daughter, Debbie, said.

When Kim returned to the States, he volunteered to help carry the dead and wounded.

Kim, who now uses a hearing aid and carries two brothers when she was a child.

“Now that he is older he is talking about it,” Kim’s daughter, Debbie, said.

“But now that he is older he is talking about it,” she said.

“Kind of what shaped his whole life,” Debbie said, “and consequently it shaped us.”

In terms of observing Pearl Harbor, the Kims, who also have seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, had no plans as of late last week.

“I have nothing planned but bugging my wife and him,” Kim said as he pointed at his son-in-law.

Kim remained in the Navy until 1969 and served in Korea and Vietnam. He also joined in sweeping for mines around Cuba during the Cuban missile crisis. He retired as a chief boatswain’s mate.

He was at Eniwetok Atoll in the 1950s when the U.S. did nuclear testing and was five miles from the testing site for two tests.

“I was never so scared in my life after the blast,” he said.

And when water seeped into one of the craters he decided to take a swim in ground zero, not knowing of the dangers of radiation poisoning.

He spent three days in the hospital and said he could not stop perspiring.

The Kims have lived in Montana for three years with their daughter and son-in-law. They said it is one of the most patriotic places they have lived, adding restaurant patrons sometimes pick up their tab when they go out to dinner and Andy Kim is wearing his veteran’s baseball cap.

“At least Montana gives us a little recognition,” he said.

In October 2015, Kim was honored by Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., for being among the first Montanans who told their story to the Veterans History Project, which Congress created in 2000.

“It’s part of the American Folklife Center at the Library Congress, where the stories of wartime veterans are stored. Since then, nearly 100,000 veterans have shared their stories.

Kim continues to lead by example, Daines said.

“His selfless service and bravery is true testament to the heart of all Montanans who put country first,” he said.

A couple of years ago Kim and his son, Wayne, who is also a veteran, were on the Montana Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. He visited the war memorials and shook hands with elected officials.

Ed Reed said last summer he got a camping trailer and last summer took the family to Mount Rushmore.

Kim, who now uses a hearing aid and carries an oxygen tank to deal with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which impacts the lungs, said he is hurt when he sees others disrespect or burn the flag.

“It’s tough to watch,” he said, adding he hopes his story will let the younger generation see what others went through to protect the freedoms of the United States.

“I fought for them then and I’ll fight for them again,” he said. “I’m not in the condition to do it, but I am willing.”

[Andy Kim is a member of Helena Post 2]

Solution - usp005 to Puzzle on page 12
I wanted to give a report on the Elk Hunt Raffle that was given out at the Department Convention in Bozeman last June. I started out the hunt leaving Polson on November 7, 2016, and staying at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown that night. Arriving at the ranch the next morning, my guide, Shawn, was waiting to take me to the area that would be the best for cow elk.

We visited with one of the ranch personnel that morning and he told us about an outlying valley that he had spotted close to a 100 head of elk the night before. We headed towards this valley just as the sunrise was coming up over the horizon. Coming from the west side of the mountains, we do not get sunrises of this grandeur, it was awesome. Sharing hunting stories on the 10-mile trip to the valley made the hunt all that more memorable. When you get two hunters that have experienced a few hunts, the stories never end. We arrived at a timbered area and parked the ranch truck where we glassed across the valley. It appeared there were elk everywhere on an open hillside about 1000 yards away. We got out of the truck and I put a round in the chamber of my .300 Win Mag and started to follow Shawn down a hillside in the direction of the elk. We hadn’t gone a quarter of a mile when Shawn motioned that there was a cow standing on the trail about 100 yards away. I got the cow in my sights and fired. She walked a few yards away and fell.

As they say, “the easy part is over and now the work begins.” In this case luck was on our side as we could pull up right beside the cow with the pickup. We quartered her up and put the meat in game bags and were back at the ranch by 9:00 that morning. Shawn suggested a processing business not too far outside of town. If you do a good job, they will come pulling up right beside the cow with the pickup. We quartered her up and put the meat in game bags and were back at the ranch by 9:00 that morning. Shawn suggested a processing business not too far outside of town. If you do a good job, they will come. We arrived at the ranch the next day and there was a cow standing on the trail about 100 yards away. I got the cow in my sights and fired. She walked a few yards away and fell.

We would like to thank the Lewistown American Legion Post for arranging this hunt. I found out while there that the following week eight wounded veterans were scheduled to arrive for cow elk hunts also. We also would like to thank the N-Bar ranch for opening their doors and allowing these special hunts to take place on their property. The folks I met at the ranch were very friendly and gracious. It would be great if this opportunity would continue down the road with the help of the Lewistown American Legion Post.

Editor’s Note: In March 2016, I interviewed American Legion National Executive Committee member Merv Gunderson, a Vietnam War veteran and former Montana State University Police officer, alongside Helena, Mont., Post 2 Commander Josh Clement, an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran and full-time active Army National Guard reservist. In April, Gunderson was severely injured in a motorcycle accident and spent several months receiving medical care in Seattle. He recently returned to his home in Belgrade, Mont., where he holds offices in The American Legion at the local, state and national levels, as does Clement, who Gunderson has mentored along the way.

An American Legion member since 2003, Clement got to know Gunderson through a revitalization effort at Post 46 in Boulder, Mont. A change of National Guard duty stations later sent Clement to Gunderson’s Post 30 in Belgrade, Mont., where he went on to be elected commander. Clement is now commander of Helena’s 700-member Post 2 and serves on the National American Legion Americanism Council. He is also an American Legion Baseball umpire, as Gunderson was.

Their message to Legion leaders at every level, regardless of war era, is that mentorship of young leaders is critical to the future of the organization. It’s especially important now, they say, as younger veterans look to The American Legion to find ways to keep serving and leading their communities, states and nation after discharge or, in the case of Clement, while still actively serving in uniform.

Read some of their thoughts about mentorship, leadership development, connections between the war eras, and why it all matters at www.legion.org/dispatch/235540/mentorship-american-legion-leadership.