Cousineau placed a few last wreaths, assisted by fellow Veteran Linda Juvik. Around 100 volunteers placed 756 wreaths across the cemetery to honor those that served.

“You know this is an opportunity for all of us to show our respect for our service members, our veterans, the families. It’s a privilege,” said Wreaths Across America Location Coordinator Linda Juvik. Juvik said the event wouldn’t be possible without the generous donors, volunteers and support they’ve received from the community.

Volunteers holding the branch of service wreaths at the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Yellowstone National Cemetery.

Yellowstone National Cemetery, LAUREL MT

- **Post 5 Commander Bob Prall places a wreath on the All Branches of Service Marker at the Custer County Cemetery, MILES CITY MT**

- **Miles City Post 5 Commander Bob Prall places a wreath on veteran Henry Hogan’s grave. Henry was a recipient of two Medals of Honor for his service in the Indian Wars.**

HELENA – Around 100 volunteers gathered at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery Saturday Dec. 15 for Wreaths Across America Day and to honor those that served.

Veterans, families and community members placed 756 wreaths across the hallowed grounds after a service at the Fort William Henry Harrison Chapel.

Saturday’s event coincides with events at Arlington National Cemetery and 1,400 additional locations across the United States. Before laying the first wreath, retired Col. Jen Dalrymple with the United States Air Force thanked everyone present for their support. “Thank you for helping us lay these wreaths. To remember, honor and teach,” said Dalrymple.

Organizers say this year’s turnout was fantastic and are glad to see so many people pay homage to our veterans.

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Happy New Year! There are two things that I’m going to address. First, as usual is membership.

This year National Commander Brett Reistad has introduced an incentive program that rewards both the Posts and the Departments. For every renewal from our expired lists (2014-2015-2016), the Post will receive $5. If the Department gets to 100 percent by May 8th, it will receive $2,500. If by the delegate strength date, the Department membership gets to 105 percent, it will receive $5,000. So you can see that there is an opportunity to make some money and also make gains in our membership.

As I write the there are 16 Posts in 8 Districts that have made their membership goal for the year. Membership numbers are important to keep pressure on our Legislature and members in Congress to provide the support needed for our veterans.

In Montana we have 124 Posts in 120 communities. These Posts are divided into 11 Districts and 4 Zones that make up Department of Montana. The Posts, Districts and Department operate under their own independent bylaws and charters. If you take the time and get out your American Legion “OFFICERS GUIDE and MANUAL of CEREMONIES”, in the front under section 1, Published by the American Legion Department of Montana Armed Forces Reserve Center, P.O. Box 6075, Helena, MT 59604-6075 Telephone 322-3989/3990 Toll Free 866-793-1257 E-MAIL: lmtprpub@gmail.com Subscription: $5.00 per year. $5.00 annual membership dues goes to Montana Legionnaire Subscription. Now published 4 times per year in the months of: February, May, August and November. Copy deadline is the 1st day of the month prior to publication. Commander - Richard Klose Vice Commander - Jeff Nelson Adjutant - Gary A. White

Commander Klose

Post Operations, is a good description of the Adjutant. The Posts are responsible for electing their own Post officers and recruiting their members. There are times when a Post, regardless of their membership size or size of their Oratorical Society, fall on hard times, either in membership or getting members to step up to be Post officers. One or two can lead by being commander and adjutant, however it is better if more members help. This can be done by having committees, even if it’s a committee of one.

Montana has about 20 Posts that are not being responsible to the membership as well as their communities, because they either have one or in most cases have no Post officers. That leaves no one local to run that Post. No one that the local veterans can turn to. The running of these Posts then falls on our Department office. The veterans in these communities deserve better and our Department Adjutant doesn’t need the extra responsibility. From time to time one or more of these mentioned Posts either merge with another Post or have their charter pulled. This is regretful but is better than not supporting why? Because to me we are telling the veterans in these communities that we are abandoning them and that they are no longer important to us. No matter the size of the Post or community the Post is located in, it’s the first place that veterans can go to for help and to close a Post makes it harder for the veterans to get the personalized first-line support that they may need.

Every Post has someone whether they are officers or not, that others consider a leader. It is during challenging times when these individuals need to step up and get the Post back on track. Sometimes there is a personality problem between members but personal ego should be left at the door to do what is right for the Post and the community’s Veterans.

In the next few months it will be time to hold Post elections. Now is the time to start looking for those people to lead your Posts. After your elections, don’t forget to send the officers names and contact info to the Department.

Have a great 2019!

Richard Klose
Dept. Commander

Vice Commander Nelson

I want to start off by thanking everyone that made those contacts and phone calls to reach the 75 percent goal in December. There are still plenty of members out there that haven’t renewed or been transferred yet. We just need to get one member at a time and look at it as a success till every Post is at 100 percent. There are still enough DMS Members that could be transferred to make 100 percent goal for some post. Let’s really make an effort to get them moved over.

For those of you attending the Department Convention this year, there will be a hospitality get together at our home on Wednesday evening, June 26th. There will be snacks and refreshments with some local microbrew beverages. We hope to see as many of you as can make it. Also, Polson hosts one of the few beer museums in the state and we have the owner, Steve Lozar, giving a detailed history of beer making in Montana, and showing us his display of memorabilia.

By the time this paper is published The American Legion Orators’ Contest should be underway. It always gives me a sense of pride when I listen to the speakers give their oration at the Department contest. So many times, we wonder if the next generation will be there to lead our country and after hearing these speakers, I have no doubt in my mind our country will be in good hands. If you don’t mind a drive to listen to some awesome speeches, take the opportunity to drive to Belgrade and listen to these outstanding young adults give us a lesson on the Constitution.

I look forward to this Spring’s District Meetings and seeing so many of you again. For every Post that attends the Centennial Convention with a 100 percent membership, I will personally have something special for that Post. May God Bless us all and wishing everyone the best New Year in Montana.

Jeff Nelson
Dept. Vice Commander

American Legion Department of Montana Seeks to fill the Position of: Department Adjutant

The Department Adjutant is a term hire position for 3 years and serves as the Chief Administrator for The American Legion of Montana of approximately 11,000 members. The Adjutant supervises one paid person at Department Headquarters in Helena, Montana and is responsible for the efficient performance of their duties. Applicants will be considered by the Department of Montana Adjutant search committee and advanced to the Department Executive Committee for approval by the Department Executive Committee.

The Adjutant reports directly to and through the Department Commander and Department Executive Committee. The Adjutant is subject to the policies, rules and regulations/guidelines contained in the Employee Handbook, The American Legion manuals and guides, the National Constitution/By-Laws, the Department Constitution/By-Laws, and the Department Executive Committee.

Applicants must possess the following qualifications.

Honorably discharged United Stated Military Veteran, copy of DD214 required
Must be a United States Citizen
Must be a member of The American Legion in good standing
Undergraduate degree from an accredited University/College, work experience could be substituted
Proficient in Microsoft Office

- Working knowledge in QuickBooks or related financial software
- Good oral and written skills
- Excellent personnel and stress handling skills
- Supervisory and Management experience required
- Possess professional work interaction with American Legion members/Officers and Politicians at Local/State/National levels
- Must live in Helena 90 days after job acceptance
- Must possess valid Montana driver’s license
- Applicant must submit copy of driving record prior to use of The American Legion Vehicle
- Air and Vehicle travel required
- Must pass background check, credit check, and drug screening
- Must have a passport
- Must be able to travel to all District meetings (Spring and Fall approximately 10 weekends a year) and Fall Conference (end of October), Department Convention (end of June), National Convention (end of August) and any other meeting that may come up
- Sensitivity and contact information by September 1, 2019 to the American Legion Department of Montana, Po Box 6075, Helena MT, 59604 or amlegmt29@mtlegion.org. Also provide a short essay explaining your interest in the position and a brief salary history.

From the Desk of the Adjutant

GARY WHITE

Many of you may have heard that I am retiring on April 1, 2020, which is true. If there are any of you interested in applying for the Department Adjutant position, there is more information to the right of this column. The deadline for submitting applications is September 2020.

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. Please give them all the assistance you can and be responsive to any request for information they may ask of you.

Each Post will soon be receiving its Consolidated Post Report (CPR); now is the time for the Commanders, Adjutants, Finance Officers and Post members to start gathering the information required, remember you Post can submit their CPR on line if the Post is using MyLegion.org. Additionally, you’ll soon be receiving the Post Data Form which is used to report your Post’s dues amount and the address where renewals for the 2020 membership year are to be sent.

More ADJUNTS page 13

Montana Legionnaire — Feb. – Apr. 2019
Roger Hagan receives Royal Canadian Legion Friendship Award

Roger Hagan was presented the Royal Canadian Legion Friendship Award from his Royal Canadian Legion affiliate - Coleman, AB!

NWT Branch 9 - recognizing his participation last Remembrance Day as their U.S. guest speaker.

Rogers Hagan (ctr), to his left are: Wayne Shaw, District 6 Commander of the Royal Canadian Legion. Joining in the photo is the Montana American Legion contin- gent (l-r): NEC David Driver, Ray Stolp, Janice Dobb, Larry Dobb (in WWI uniform), Colter Landt, and far right Gary White. Hagan said, “it was such an honor to work with his veteran comrades to the north.”

Canadian Friendship Award to John Mahon

Past Department Commander Jim Grosset presenting the Friendship Award to John Mahon at the Montana American Legion Alberta North West Territories fall meeting at the Calgary Military Museum.

Fort Owen Post 94

American Legion Post 94 mem- bers replaced the flag and added a solar power light to the flag pole at Ft. Owen State Park, as part of the restoration and clean up from September.

Post 42 Townsend-

Celebrates Life of Ralph Morand, WWII Army Air Corps

Townsend Post 42 rendered honors at the Celebration of Life for longtime Townsend businessman and Veteran Ralph Morand on Dec. 22, 2018. Ralph took his final flight on November 20, 2018 just two weeks shy of his 99th birthday. Ralph loved aviation from early childhood and at 21, with the war growing in Europe, he was accepted in the first group of 20 for a civilian pilot training program. The program offered the training for free, if he agreed to volunteer for aviation in the US military if and when needed. It seemed a fair trade for a flying enthusiast. Ralph worked hard and got his private license. Then in November 1942, the government called in their note and Ralph entered the Army Air Corps eventually becoming a P-38 pilot in the 429th Fighter Squadron stationed in Warnwill, England. There he flew 65 combat missions over France and flew cover in the D-Day invasion of France. Neath the sun, Neath the sky, France was liberated.

Following his military service Ralph had many adventures and business ventures that finally landed him in Townsend where he employed many locals in his Chicken farm. Ralph will be remember- ed by his faithful employees and by all those Townsend folks who moved chickens for him as teens. He will be greatly missed by all those lucky enough to have known him and by his extensive family.

2019 Chaplain Conference

Calling all District Chaplains, Past Chaplains, and aspiring Legion Chaplains! Plan to attend the 2019 Chaplain Conference in Polson on Thursday, June 27th, prior to the Department Convention.

The conference will begin promptly Thursday, June 27 at 1 pm at the Red Rock Resort in Polson and last until 4 pm. You do not have to register for Department Convention to attend this information and spiritually training opportunity.

Not all we will get equipped and share best practices, a wide variety of pertinent topics will be covered and discussed. You are not required to be currently appointed or ordained to attend; however, you must register by May 30th so there will be enough materials and seating for everyone.

A refundable $50 fee (charged upon completion) will hold your seat. Please register soon!

I am looking forward to seeing you in Polson!

May you be well, 
Karen Sampe
Department Chaplain

Chaplain Conference Registration

Thursday, June 27, 1 PM

(Please Print legibly)

Name: _____________________________
Address: _____________________________
City: __________________ Zip: __________
Email: _____________________________

(Required to confirm receipt of registration)

Appointed on Chaplain for 2019-2020 Year? (Please circle one) Yes No

Please send your registration to NELA/chaplainfortheYear
Chaplain Karen Sampe, 34 Margaret St. RD, Missoula City, MT 59804

Post Everlasting

Oct/Nov/Dec 2018

ALBERTSON, DAVID, 9/15/2018 – Vietnam – US Army – 4-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors

ART, MICHAEL, 10/25/2017 – Korea – US Army – 20-year member of Post 23, Livingston, Interred with Military Honors

CHI, ALDO, 9/7/17 – WWII – US Navy – 66-year member of Post 71, Fromberg, Interred with Military Honors

COLLINS, DAN, 11/15/2018 – WWII – US Navy – 21-year member of Post 41, Glasgow, Interred with Military Honors

COLLINS, LEE, 12/18/2018 – WWII – US Army – 53-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors

COPPLE, CHARLES E, 11/5/2018 – Branch – 9-year member of Post 41, Glasgow, Interred with Military Honors

DELUO, ROBERT, 12/9/2018 – WWII – US Navy – 74-year member of Post 6, Choteau, Interred with Military Honors

ERICKSON, RAYMOND, 9/24/2018 – Korea – US Army – 10-year member of Post 27, location, Interred with Military Honors


GREAT, ROBERT, 9/20/18 – Korea – US Air Force – 2-year member of Post 23, Wolf Point, Interred with Military Honors

HAWKINSON, ROBERT, 8/16/17 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 3-year member of Post 134, location, Interred with Military Honors

HINES, JERRY, 10/26/2018 – Vietnam – US Army – 1-year member of Post 111, Custer, Interred with Military Honors

HOLT, KENNETH, 9/7/18 – Vietnam – US Army – 5-year member of Post 11, Havre, Interred with Military Honors

JACKSON, CLINTON, 12/15/2018 – Korea – US Army – 14-year member of Post 341, Great Falls, Interred with Military Honors

KLUIN, MERRILL H, 11/5/18 – Korea – US Army – 8-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors

KOLSTE, LES, 9/30/2018 – Korea – US Navy – 6-year member of Post 87, Manhattan, Interred with Military Honors


MILEY, LARRY SIMONY-KROH, 9/7/18 – Vietnam – US Army – 11-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors


NEISENDORFER, ROLAND, 10/16/18 – Korea – US Army – 43-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors

PAYNE, ROLAND, 12/7/2018 – Korea – US Army – 64-year member of Post 23, Livingston, Interred with Military Honors

PETERSCHICK, JEROME B, 9/20/2018 – Korea – US Army – 6-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors


SIMON, ELMER, 10/20/2018 – WWII – US Army – 6-year member of Post 42, Townsend, Interred with Military Honors

SLEETON, JACK A, 10/16/18 – Vietnam – US Army – 21-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors


TRASK, GEORGE W, 1/19/2019 – Korea – US Army – 24-year member of Post 76, Hobson, Interred with Military Honors


WALTON, DAVID E, 10/8/18 – Vietnam – US Navy – 45-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors


WHITE, THOMAS, 11/16/18 – Vietnam – US Army – 5-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors


FADING light

Dims the sight

And a star

Glimmering bright.

From year

Drawing night

Falls the night

Thanks and praise

For our days

Nearth the sun

Yeath the stars

Nearth the sky

As we go

This we know

God is nigh.
American Legion Teams Up To Help Veteran

Hells A-Roarin’ Outfitters in Gardiner, MT has been raising money every year during their wild horse roundup to provide Action Trac Chairs for disabled Veterans and civilians alike. The last two years they have reached out to Andrew Pearson Post 117 for assistance in finding a Veteran who would benefit from receiving an Action Trac Chair. Last year the recipient was a War on Terrorism Veteran from Great Falls and this year it was a Vietnam Veteran from Billings.

After Veteran Bob Crandall agreed to receive the chair, the good folks from Action Outside met with Bob and showed him what he would be getting. While they can customize the chairs to make it easier for users to fish or hunt or perform any number of tasks, Bob said he wanted to be able to use his chair to better perform his duties as a volunteer for Horses Spirits Healing, an equine therapy organization outside of Billings. Given the opportunity to have something customized to suit him personally, he chose to use it to help others and that sums up what kind of person Bob is.

Post 117 to see if they could raise the additional money to get the chair that would work best for Bob and Post 117 set out to accomplish the task. With the help of Forsyth Post 191, and, Andrew Pearson Post 117, Gallatin Post 14, The American Legion Department of Montana, District Eleven, A.C. Buckner Post 11, Treasure Post 92, Lewis & Clark Post 2, and Elks Lodge 394 the mission was completed. Because everyone pitched in to help, and because of an unexpected donation from the Second Chance Foundation, we were able to not only finish paying off the chair, we were able to purchase an enclosed trailer for Bob to store and transport the chair in.

The day that the chair and trailer were delivered, Bob was very excited yet very humble as usual. With a small gathering of people and KULR8 television of Billings looking on, Bob took the chair for a spin around his yard. He hit the appropriate buttons and the chair raised him to the standing position and a smile broke out on his face that went from ear to ear. It was exhilarating to see him so happy but the best part and the moment that really drove home how significant the whole thing was, is when Bob motored over to one of his best friends and stuck his hand out saying “Hi, I’m Bob!” and shook his friend’s hand while looking him straight in the eye. That handshake was followed by a hug and we witnessed the first handshake and hug Bob was able to give in the standing position in over thirty years. This story likely would not have turned out this way if it were not for the cooperation of a bunch of Legionnaires from different Posts and Districts and our Department Headquarters.

When we work together, there is no task too large, and nothing that we cannot accomplish. Thank you to every Legionnaire in Montana because by being a dues paying member, you were a part of this too.

Post 112–Polson Ace Hardware relief fund

Polson Post 112 has set up a fund for Veteran’s Relief in case of emergencies. Every year for the last four years Montana Ace Hardware has raffled off an item and donated the proceeds to help veterans in need throughout the Mission Valley. So far the fund has generated over $7000 to help veterans and their families.
Service Officer, Department of Montana

TIMOTHY R. INGRAHAM
Department Service Officer

Oratorical program: Back to the basics

BY CAROLINE RICHARDSON

American Legion Department Oratorical Chairman, Montana

The Department of Montana Department of The American Legion has been an Oratorical program for 20 years, first presented at the 1999 Convention in Indianapolis. Each year, the program is unveiled during a special ceremony at the American Legion State Convention. The program, coordinated by the Department Service Officer, includes a contest for high school students to present a prepared speech on a topic of their choice, followed by a debate on the same topic. The program is open to all high school students, regardless of their participation in other scouting activities.

The contest begins with the selection of a theme, which is announced at the beginning of the school year. The theme is selected by the Department Service Officer and is based on a patriotic theme. The theme is announced at the beginning of the school year and is open to all high school students.

The contest is divided into two phases: the prepare and present. In the prepare phase, contestants are given a topic of their choice and are required to prepare a five-minute speech on the topic. They are also required to prepare a five-minute rebuttal to the opposing team's speech. The speeches are presented to a panel of judges, who determine the winner based on the contestants' performances.

The present phase of the contest is held during the Department Convention. The contestants are given a topic of their choice and are required to present a five-minute speech on the topic. The speeches are presented to a panel of judges, who determine the winner based on the contestants' performances.

The program also includes a debate, where contestants are given a topic of their choice and are required to present a five-minute speech on the topic. The speeches are presented to a panel of judges, who determine the winner based on the contestants' performances.

The program is open to all high school students, regardless of their participation in other scouting activities.

Changes to Boy Scouts of America

BY ROGER MASON, BOY SCOUT CHAIRMAN

There are some changes in the Boy Scouts of America organization.

First, the name changes to Scouts BSA in 2019. Second, girls are now welcome in all areas of Scouts BSA. In the past girls could only participate in the Girl Scouts program. Now, girls have the opportunity to participate in the Boy Scouts program, which includes both boys and girls.

Second, the name changes to Scouts BSA in 2019. The organization is now called Scouts BSA, which includes both boys and girls. The organization is also transitioning to a new curriculum for girls, which includes both boys and girls.

Third, the LDS Church cut its ties with Scouts BSA as of December 31, 2018. It was a major decision for the LDS Church, which had been a long-time partner with Scouts BSA. The decision was made after the church evaluated the program and determined that it was not in line with the church's values.

Finally, Eagle Scout of the Year applications are due to Department No later than March 1, 2019. Forms can be found at www.legion.org/scholarships. Also, Eagle Scout Recognition certificates are now available for download by Department and District personnel. The availability of this certificate makes it easier for you to obtain and present the certificate. Simply go to www.legion.org/scouting/certificates and log in or create a Legion account to access the forms for the BSA certificate. Once you have entered the requested information, you will be allowed to fill in and download the BSA Certificate of Recognition. Simply print to a color printer with margins set to narrow.

Stevi Students honored for Visiting Veterans Hospital

BY MICHAEL HOWELL

Bill White, a member of The American Legion, was one of a host of Legionnaires who showed up at Stevensville High School last week to show his appreciation for what several of the students do twice annually, that is, visit the veterans at the State Veterans Hospital in Helena.

“I’ve volunteered at the Veterans Hospital for nine years,” said White, “and that bus load of students from Stevensville always shows up. They may have been a little late a couple of times but they always showed up twice a year. It’s amazing. They are the only school in the state that does this.”

Stevi Students honored for Visiting Veterans Hospital
Is Your Pet Ready for an Emergency?

One thing disasters teach many is that it is too late to prepare to evacuate their pets when they must leave their homes during a disaster or emergency. During the massive California wildfires this fall, in addition to the daily horrific death toll, news stories of miraculous survival frequently focused on burned wildfires. This fall, in addition to the emergency, during the massive California wildfires, this fall, in addition to the daily horrific death toll, news stories of miraculous survival frequently focused on burned wildfires. Homes during a disaster or emergency. During the massive California wildfires, this fall, in addition to the daily horrific death toll, news stories of miraculous survival frequently focused on burned wildfires.

If you have pets, it is a given that you love them. So, it follows that it makes sense to prepare them for emergencies. As the FEMA Pet Preparedness brochure says, “Get Ready Now.” Please don’t wait.

1. Create a Pet Emergency Supply Kit: food, water, medicines, first aid kit for animals, collar with ID tags, harness, leash, crate or other pet carrier and sanitation needs are vital. Dogs use the great outdoors for their bathroom; however, birds, cats, lizards and others do not. Prepare for their sanitation needs. Be sure to have a picture of you and your pet together in case you’re separated; so you have proof your pet is your companion – not someone else’s. Finally, be sure to put some familiar items in your kit – bedding and toys help reduce your pet’s stress during an evacuation.

2. Create a Plan: What will you do in an emergency? How will you go? Create a plan to get away by more than one route. Don’t wait for an “official” evacuation notice – often, with the unpredictable nature of disasters, it can arrive too late to get out safely. Leave as soon as possible. Many died in the California wildfires due to traffic jams out of their neighborhoods not allowing them to escape. How will you get your pets together and transport them? This is especially important in the case of large animals such as horses. If you go to a public shelter, your pets will not be allowed in. Consider pre-arranging with family or friends to take you and your pets in during an emergency. Other options include hotels that take pets or a boarding facility for your pets. Find out before the emergency if any of these are viable options for you.

Also, develop a buddy system – plan with neighbors to evacuate yours or their pets if one of you is not home when the emergency occurs. Explain your evacuation plans and designate specific locations, one closer to home and one farther away where you can meet in an emergency.

Additionally, talk to your veterinarian about items to include in your emergency first aid kit. If you pet is microchipped, keep your emergency contact information up to date to improve the chances of being reunited if you get separated.

3. Stay informed: some of the emergency preparation you do for the unexpected, such as assembling an emergency supply kit for yourself and your family and pets is based on the type of emergency. It’s vital to stay informed about what might happen and the types of emergencies likely to affect your area as well as emergency plans established by your local and state government. Go to Ready.gov to learn more.

Why you be well?

Boys & Girls State Delegates speak at Post 15

Gunner Eoff, Tayllee Borsong, and Alia Hiner, the Boy and Girl State delegates for Harlowton American Legion Post 15, were the guest speakers at the Post’s Veterans Dinner. Commander Richard Hackett is on the right.

S

ervice is not defined by the uniform you wear. For many military veterans, taking off the uniforms of our Armed Forces does not remove their desire to serve their country. Team Rubicon members serve because there are communities in need and members have the ability to help. As some veterans transition from military to civilian life, it can be difficult to regain the purpose, community, and identity that is apparent in the military. Continued service through disaster response allows many veterans to regain that sense of mission focus, that feeling of being a part of something larger than oneself.

At our core, Team Rubicon is about neighbors helping neighbors. When crisis strikes our communities, we come together to help others on their darkest day.

Why do we serve? Because it’s what we do. Team Rubicon is BUILT TO SERVE.

Team Rubicon unites the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders to rapidly deploy emergency response teams. Team Rubicon’s primary mission is providing disaster relief to those affected by natural disasters, be they domestic or international. By pairing the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders, medical professionals, and technology solutions, Team Rubicon aims to provide the greatest service and impact possible.

Through continued service, Team Rubicon seeks to provide our veterans with three things they lose after leaving the military: a purpose, gained through disaster relief; community, built by serving others; and identity, from recognizing the impact one individual can make. Coupled with leadership development and other opportunities, Team Rubicon looks to help veterans transition from military to civilian life.

SERVICE above self is the driving force behind all of Team Rubicon’s operational activity. Our actions are characterized by the constant pursuit to prevent or alleviate human suffering and restore human dignity – we help people on their worst day.

Roughly 70% of Team Rubicon volunteers are military veterans. Many of the skills gained in the military – things like emergency medicine, small-unit leadership, logistics, emergency environments – translate well to disaster response. However, military service does not define a Team Rubicon member, nor is it required. Many of our volunteers are pulled from the civil service sector. Firefighters, medical professionals, law enforcement officers, teachers, and mental health providers are among the diverse careers held by TR volunteers.

The only prerequisite required for volunteering with Team Rubicon is a commitment to service. As a Greyshirt, you will be responsible for providing immediate and impactful aid to communities affected by disaster. If you are willing to raise your hand to help those in need, we’re ready to get you in a grey shirt. Disaster relief requires a breadth of skillsets and experience. Team Rubicon offers various training tracks – from chainsaw operation to heavy equipment to disaster technology – to our members. If you consider yourself “unskilled” don’t worry, we’ll train you up.

To get started, visit Team Rubicon’s website at https://teamrubiconusa.org and “Let’s get to work!”

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT CASH CALENDAR 2019

TO PLACE A BUSINESS AD (Color Ad $27 available)$100
• Ads are approximately 2” x 1 1/2” in color
• Receive a free 2020 calendar with the purchase of an AD
• 1,200 calendars will be sold
• Send a business card with payment to:
The American Legion of Montana
PO Box 6075
Helena, MT 59602

TO BUY A 2019 CALENDAR $20

Forces not to pass

Your name goes into the following drawings when you buy a calendar:

• 248 daily drawings of $20
• 50 Saturday drawings of $50
• 5 Holiday drawings of $500
• 5 Branch Birthday drawings of $100
• 3 Legion Birthday drawings of $75
• 4 Holiday drawings of $75
• 1 Veterans Day drawing of $500
• 1 New Year’s Day drawing of $250

If your name is drawn it is put back in the pool for a total of 317 chances to win!!

The American Legion | Department Headquarters | PO Box 6075 | Helena, MT 59604 | amlegmt29@mtlegion.org
Laurel Post 123 Veterans Day ceremony with the VFW that was held at Fort Benton's park beside one of the few WWI Doughboy statues in MT. A wreath was placed at the memorial and at the Navy memorial behind the WWI Doughboy. Participating in Veterans Day ceremony with the VFW was a Post member, and a surprise gift was given to the Post member. Following the presentations there was a free chili dinner for all.

Townsend Post 42 held their Annual Veterans Day program open to veterans, their families, Legion family and the community. There was a good turnout thanks to our speaker Montana Army National Guard Lieutenant Colonel Ashley Ragen of Townsend. Chase Ragen, a Post member, and a surprise gift was given to the Post member. Following the presentations there was a free chili dinner for all.

Gallivan Valley Celebrates Veterans Day
Veterans Day Services were held at 11 am, 11 November 2018, at the Veterans Memorial Wall in the Sunset Hills Cemetery in Bozeman along with the ground breaking for the new Veterans Cemetery adjacent to the Wall. Troy Downing, Iraq Veteran and Flight Engineer, was the guest speaker and yes, it snowed the whole time and yet there was a good crowd. So far, Post 41 has raised over $66,000 for construction along with the City of Bozeman’s $88,000 and construction has started i.e., grading, leveling, etc. The years of Galatian County are still raising money for the construction of the Veterans Columbarium and we have families holding on to their loved ones’ remains (including Mevin Gunderson’s) so they can be buried there. Many thanks to our ROTC helpers who assisted with the setup of the sound system in the snow at Sunset Hills Cemetery for our 11 am. Services.

Boulder Post 46 2018 Veterans Day Ceremony Dan Brown, American Legion Post 46 President & Service Officer
The National Honor Society (NHS) Chapter at Jefferson High School in Boulder hosted a Veteran’s Day Ceremony on 12 November in the school’s gymnasium. The local community was invited to join the school body in recognizing and honoring local Veterans. Over 20 Veterans were present and seated in the front rows; a place of honor and importance. A Color Guard comprised of members from the local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts presented the National, American Legion Post 46, and Townsend Post 42 colors. Kaela McCord, a Post member, and a surprise gift was given to the Post member. Following the presentations there was a free chili dinner for all.

Fort Benton Post 26 Veterans Day in Fort Benton was cold and snowed the whole time but it was heart-warming to see most of the community gather at the park in front of the WWI Doughboy Memorial. A wreath was placed at the memorial and at the Navy memorial behind the WWI Doughboy. Participating in Veterans Day ceremony with the VFW was a Post member, and a surprise gift was given to the Post member. Following the presentations there was a free chili dinner for all.

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**President**

Terry Kemp

*Dear Ladies of The American Legion Auxiliary,*

Well, the holidays are behind us. I hope that all of you had a great holiday season. I know that I did. I look forward to hearing from you as to what things you were able to do to help veterans have a better holiday. We have a lot of things coming up in the next few months. One event is the 100th birthday of the American Legion. You need to be thinking about how your District is planning on celebrating this. I will be sending out information on what is being planned at different levels of our organization. Please let me know what you are planning.

We need to focus on the goal this year which is fostering Goodwill. We are to be the Ambassadors of Goodwill in our communities and in our state. Our National President Kathy Dungan will be giving out an award to five deserving members who exhibit Goodwill and promote the Auxiliary. There will be one award for youth division.

Let us not forget that our National President’s focus this year is on women veterans. I think that sometimes we tend to think of veterans as only being men, but there are over two million women veterans nationwide. We need to find out about the ones in our area and see what we can do to help them. This falls in line with membership as well. Women veterans are eligible to be dual members of both the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. All of you know how important membership is and you are doing a great job.

The next few months we need to focus on Americanism, Community Service, and Children and youth. These all go hand in hand with the theme of fostering Goodwill. Try to get out in your schools and work with the students. Remember I talked about bullying in the schools. Now is a good time to address this in the school system. See if maybe they would let you do a small program about what the American Legion Auxiliary is all about. You could do a flag etiquette presentation and talk about Americanism. As always, I want to thank each one of you for all you do in your communities to help veterans. All of you promote Goodwill every time you thank a veteran for their service. Keep up the good work ladies. You are what make The American Legion Auxiliary great.

**Secretary**

Jamie DeBates

*Happy New Year*

*Department of Montana*

The sun is shining through my window as I write this, and I find myself squinting. What a great way to begin a new year with my favorite people. I hope you saw the Rose Parade with the American Legion family so proudly represented. We’re out there and people really do identify with us. So where are those renewals? Montana is dragging again this year. We’re great at signing new members up but we’re definitely lagging behind in the renewals. Sound the New Year’s horns and get them coming.

Remember now that the calendar has changed, all members not paid current will be receiving a renewal notice in the mail. Benefits are impacted if they are delinquent so don’t sit on them. Furthermore, the new membership year’s materials print in early April so if you want them to be printed correctly, the information needs to be here and not sitting on your desk.

Once again, I’d like to remind you that we are a big organization. We are diverse, and we don’t always agree on issues. But we share the common thread of passion for our Veterans. Don’t be rude to each other; look the other way and work beyond your differences. I still receive some pretty terse communication at Department. If you’re talking to me that way, and your numbers are down, I have a feeling you’re not welcoming your members at your meetings. Remember President Terry’s theme? Above and Beyond to Serving Our Veterans. Are you? It’s a new year. Let’s make a resolution to soften the approach.

**Quilt Raffle**

Tickets for this handmade patriotic quilt will be for sale at District meetings & at Convention to support veterans in the World War II. Tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20.

**American Legion Auxiliary**

**Girls State**

Welcome to the 71st year of Montana’s American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program!

Thank you up front for your assistance in preparing for this year’s ALA Girls State Session to be held Sunday, June 9 thru Saturday, June 15, at Carroll College in Helena.

Delegates to ALA Girls State are selected from girls who have completed their junior year of high school, have an interest in government and current events, show strong leadership potential, and have high moral character. The girls who are elected by the delegates as Senators and Governor will receive $500 in scholarship and the Lieutenant Governor, $300 courtesy of the Department of Montana ALA. In addition, delegates have an opportunity to apply for the National American Legion Samsung Scholarship on-line at [www.legion.org/scholarships/Samsung](https://www.legion.org/scholarships/Samsung). Paper applications will not be accepted but a copy must be brought to the ALA GS session for judging.

The delegate fee remains $300 and we have availability for approximately 275 delegates at Carroll College. Units are not required to fill the number of delegate opportunities available to them, but if a Unit does not intend to fill the allotted number, please let the Registrar know so as soon as possible as there will be Units who would like additional delegates. If your Unit would like to have extra delegates, or if you have HOME-SCHOoled girls let the Registrar know so that we can maximize attendance and share the experience with as many girls as possible. Please DO NOT reallocate your delegate quota to another school or Unit without contacting the Registrar first as vacancies are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

**More Girls State page next**
All Members

Excited

Equally

Remembering to

Install

Constitution, Flag Etiquette, Patriotism

And

Never forget our Veterans and the

Incredible

Sacrifices

Made for us and the USA!

What if... you or your Unit can come up with!

Submit them in any format at with your Ameri-

canism Essays for a nice prize for your Unit.

Also remember:

Mid-Year Reports are due in December

• Americanism Essay this year is “How can we

address and prevent veteran homelessness in our

communities.” and is due to me by April 1.

I think the students will come up with some

really great essays and ideas!

• All MT Americanism Essays must be judged

and 1st place winners sent to NW Division by

April 15.

• Please, please, please remember to fill out the

cover sheet completely and put your essay.

• If schools will not participate then go to your

local clubs (4H, FFA, Scouts, homeschoolers,

etc.)

• Remember to thank the people who assist and

remember to get our name, The American Legion

Auxiliary, and theirs in any media outlets you can!

VAVS Gift Shop

Sherry Runkel, VAVS Fort Harrison, Gift Shop Chairman

This year’s shop was a busy place for two days.

Thanks to all our 20 volunteers who gave 114

hours! These are the members of The American

Legion Auxiliary, The American Legion, and

some folks with no affiliation to our organization

at all, who just wanted to help. It was a pleasure

to have Department President Terry Kemp come

for both days of the shop with her help.

The 2018 Gift Shop was a huge success! Ten

Units donated boxes of gifts and cookies; over

1,000 items valued at $5,400. Twenty-two Units and

Posts sent cash donations which we used to shop for

needed items and postage. Some Veterans and their

families were gifted with items helping them to have a

Christmas. Our other children stayed home with

our family and friends. Our son, Kevin, who is

stationed in Sacramento, was able to come

home for a few days, so were very thankful for

that! Our daughter, Roberta and her family in

Wyoming couldn’t come home this year but she

welcomed her sister, Sheila and her daughter,

Brooke, to come stay with them until they find their

new home, so their house was very busy this

Christmas. Our other children stayed home with

their families, but we did call or FaceTime with them,

sometimes I am thankful for technology!

I pray that you all are starting out the new

year with a smile on your face, love in your

heart, and know how blessed you have me all

in my life! Please, whenever you can stop into

a VA center, maybe if you can take a plate

of cookies, or a can of coffee to them. Or just

go in and shake a Veterans hand and tell them

“hello,” you maybe brightening their day more

than you know, don’t be afraid to go ABOVE

AND BEYOND! Remember ladies we need to do

what we can to take care of our Veterans, if

not for them we would not have a purpose.

Ladies, I would like to leave you with this prayer:

Lord, as we work in our great organization,

help us look beyond the outward

appearances to the person underneath.

Teach us to love and accept them.

Forgive our critical thoughts and harsh

words, replace our impatience with Your

Love and forgiveness.

Open our eyes to the needs of the world and

fill our hearts with love. Make us sensitive to the

issues of poverty; racial, sexual and age

discrimination; war and peace; pollution and

environment.

O God, help us to recognize and grasp the

opportunities for service that each one of us

might make a difference.

Let us reach out and touch someone with a

helping hand. Help us to never lose sight of

Your continual guidance in our lives as we

work for our fellowman. AMEN

Thank you all for what you do!

Dianne Ostermiller

recognized by Gallatin Post 14

On November 13, 2018, Gallatin Post 14 Com-

mander Len Albright presented Gallatin Unit 14 Vice

President Dianne Ostermiller, a Certificate of

Appreciation for all the work that she does on the

Memorial Day Parade. Dianne is a valued member of

Unit 14 VFA and always there to help with any event

that we have. We were very proud to see her get this
certificate.

She definitely earned it.
The Membership Challenge

BY DON BEST, FERGUS POST 16 COMMANDER

Gaining new members and retaining current members are a major challenge for American Legion Posts in small communities. Fergus Post 16 now uses the following procedures and as a result, we have gained substantial growth and retention in our membership.

First, we developed an informational letter that describes The American Legion as the largest and most respected organization of veterans in America. The letter names not only our Post but the Sons of the American Legion Squadron and The American Legion Auxiliary. We list activities and services of the organization as this provides members and potential members with a sense of what we are doing in our local Post and community. A list can include Memorial Day services, flag disposal on Flag Day, Veterans Day events, honor guard and firing party for funerals and other functions, DAV van support, the Highway Fatality Marker program, Boys/Girls State, Legion baseball and/or other projects in which your Post is involved. This letter is also an opportunity to let potential members know about your Post home or club and the services it offers to its members. For example, at Post 16 we have installed a computer that members can use to go online, with assistance if desired, to access VA information and benefits.

Second, potential members can be located in a number of ways through basic legwork and general conversation. Resources to reference include newspaper articles such as Veterans Day editions, automobile license plates and local archives. Ask everyone you come in contact with whether he or she is a veteran or know someone who is. Many future members have simply not been asked. Do your due diligence and research to be fully informed about the eligibility requirements before starting to contact potential members. There are a number of eligible veterans who do not think they qualify because of confusion between the policies of the Legion and those of other veterans’ organizations. Carry a copy of the eligibility rules when working on membership and contact your Department with questions that arise.

Compile membership packets to give to potential members. We suggest including the following items:

1. The Post’s informational letter/pamphlet
2. The American Legion membership application
3. The Legion Care Accidental Death Benefit form
4. A list of money-saving discounts and programs for members of The American Legion
5. A calendar of upcoming events for your Post

As a final note, always keep a membership packet on hand. You may be surprised by who is qualified and interested in becoming a member.

New Lieutenants in Bozeman

Six Army ROTC cadets were sworn in and commissioned as Lieutenants at MSU Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018, at 4 pm. In the reception line, Post 14 Adjutant Randy Kemp presented each with a gift followed by Post 14 Commander Len Albright presenting a coin to each, and District 7 Commander Jim Howe with a handshake and congratulations. Second Lieutenant Robert Eaton, Second Lieutenant Kenton Evans, Second Lieutenant Luke Hamann, Second Lieutenant Troy Merriman, Second Lieutenant Jenna Schaack, and Second Lieutenant Helena Tupper.

Women Veterans Coordinator

BY KIM KAY MCCARTY MARTIN

Last year’s Women Veterans Recognition lunches were challenging. With a group of dedicated women veterans, we visited 6 WWII women veterans for their service and present them with the WWII Service Medal in 2018. I would like to recognize those who spent their time helping me last year. Without their dedication and time it would have been an impossible year. Thank you, Dorothy Goodwin, Carol Gruwell, Clara Santopietro, Sue Davidson, Heather McDonald, Linda Johnson, Rummi Smith, and Victoria Seck.

I think the concept of Women Veterans Recognition lunches is not understood very well, so after talking with the women from the women’s recognition committee on 30 September, we have decided to change the way we are recognizing women veterans. We are going to be holding two forums; May 11, 2019, in Missoula and June 8, 2019, in Billings. It will actually take more time and effort on the committee’s behalf but we are hoping the outcome will be as fruitful as the first year was successful.

We will be recognizing WWII and Korean Women Veterans. If anyone knows of an ailing female WWII veteran, please let me know before they pass away so we can make special arrangements to honor them and thank them for their service if they cannot be present for these forums.

I started a group text for women veterans on my phone to share upcoming events that are held in Montana for women veterans. I’ve shared three events already to over 30 women in regards to fishing and holistic opportunities which have been well received. It will only be used as a way to quickly pass on information with basic event details and contact information as sometimes I learn or hear about the event at the last minute. Otherwise, I will continue using the Women Vets of MT American Legion Facebook page to circulate upcoming events.

If I can be of any assistance, please call me at 701-260-2833 or email at IDIDinND@hotmail.com

Malmstrom Post 341 Gets Into The Christmas Spirit

SUBMITTED BY KIM KAY MCCARTY MARTIN, ADJUTANT

On the 30th of November, Post 341 hosted a Meet and Greet where members were able to get answers to any questions they had about their VA benefits, the Community Care Program and American Legion membership. They also had the opportunity to enroll online for their free Legionnaire Accident and Dismemberment Insurance.

Vice-Commander David Riddle and Veteran Service officer Charlie Dodd were instrumental in clean-up while Commander Carol Gruwell and Adj. Kim Kay c. McCarty Martin addressed questions.

Two other Post members made the spaghetti sauce for the spaghetti dinner. Those Post members that attended had a good time.

For the past 4 years, members of Post 341 bought tree permits to chop down trees themselves near Monarch. The Christmas trees were then given to needy vet families in Great Falls.

Post 341 members Carol Gruwell and PD Lou Santopietro (pictured above) distributed Christmas presents to 24 veterans in the Missouri Manor nursing home in Great Falls. The Post had visited all the veterans to ask what they wanted and were able to purchase their wish list. Every third Friday Post members have coffee and cake with the residents and each Christmas we try to show the veterans residing there that they are not forgotten.

Post 341 members Dave Riddle, PD Lou Santopietro, and Carol Gruwell also donated their time to ring the bells for The Salvation Army. The shifts are split for 2-hour increments for the whole day which this year was December 22, 2018. Not picture are members Charlie Dodd, Jennifer Kaufman, and Dave Sheryak (Dave dressed up as Ebenezer Scrooge) who also help out ringing the bells.

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REMEMBERING OUR LEGACY: Montana’s Experience in World War One

By Raymond K. Read, Museum Curator/Director

Part Two (2) of the Montana Story in World War One taken from Montana In The Wars, compiled by Charles K. Shure for The American Legion and Auxiliary of Montana, Copyright 1977. [Part 1 was in the previous edition of the Montana Legionnaire November-January 1999.]

The Famous “Powder River” Regiment

In September 1917, a large draft of Montana men was sent to Camp Lewis near Tacoma, Wash., before the camp was completed. The first contingent of five percent of the draftees arrived at American Lake, Wash., September 8, 1917. The second and much larger group arrived at Camp Lewis on September 21. Larger consignments followed and they were all soon training, many still in their civilian clothes since there were not enough uniforms to go around. The companies and battalions were soon filled and after nine months of intensive training up to and including regiments and brigades, the division left the camp on its way to Europe and glory.

The 362nd Infantry Regiment, made of mostly Montana men and known as “Powder River Gang,” left Camp Lewis on June 23, 1918, on the 7,000-mile trip to the trenches to fight with the American Expeditionary Force in France. The regiment stopped at Camp Merritt, N.Y., where medical examinations were taken, and new equipment issued, then on to Camp Mills, N.Y. The regiment sailed on the USS Maryland from Liverpool, England, July 17. It went to the Knotty Ash Rest Camp and then to another British rest camp near Southampton from which point the Montana troops were taken to La Havre France and arrived July 20, 1918.

The 362nd was entrained at La Havre in crowded 40 and 8 boxcars. The Regiment had its first casualties on its first of several train trips in France when another train plowed into the back of its train, killing 22 men and injuring 63. Thus the men of the regiment saw their first blood, wounds, and death that would become commonplace in the weeks to come.

For further training in war tactics, the regiment was stationed around Montigny Le Roi, in Haute Marne. Here the men were given intensive training in the use of weapons, marksmanship, gas protection, etc., which would mean a matter of life and death and success in battles to come. On September 10, 1918, the regiment entrained again to the usual uncomfortable boxcars to Houllaincourt and on September 11, the 3,000 man regiment was reduced to the 362nd Infantry, a 1,800 man Mihiel offensive. The regiment was in reserve with the 91st Division, but did come under enemy artillery fire on September 19. The men heard and saw the horrors of war and were indoctrinated for the big battle to come.

The American success at St. Mihiel was complete; but a few casualties occurred while 150 square miles of territory was captured together with 80,000 prisoners. The entire American losses were 300 dead and 1,200 wounded. After the St. Mihiel offensive the 362nd Regiment was immediately taken to the Argonne sector in French trucks and were within a short distance of the front lines most of the way. They endured their baptism of fire from German artillery during this period. The troops were ordered forward before the front lines and early on the morning of September 26, 1918, went “over the top” after a tremendous American Artillery bombardment and remained in the battle lines until October 12. They were committed to the grand adventure of wounded and dead. America had entered the greatest offensive of the War.

After an hour and a half of slow advance through the woods and facing the strong German objective to take on the wide American front which was defended by the finest troops the Germans had, the Americans were engaged by German machine-gun fire. The Montana National Guard Armies regiments swept through the tough woods and steep ravines disposing of German machine-gun nests and snipers as they went but the enemy mounted to counter. Despite caring for the casualties a large number of prisoners were also rounded up.

On leaving the Chéremis Woods, the German artillery began to stomp and many Americans and their German prisoners soon became casualties. The regiment continued to advance and casualties mounted but the German infantry was not. The Americans only encountered artillery, machine gunners and snipers.

Pushing its way relentlessly, the Montana regiment forged slowly ahead fighting all day crumbling one enemy defense after another, brushing aside machine-gun nests, uncovering snipers, for all of which it paid a considerable toll in dead and wounded. Late afternoon found the regiment facing Epinonville around a large area over which sang machine-gun fire from nests in the woods ahead. These were attacked and soon the Germans withdrew.

That night the Germans came back into Epinonville in strength and morning found the same task of forcing them out again. In the action, American artillery fell short among the fighting Americans who hurled a tire and cannon confusion. Led by its gallant Colonel John Henry “Gatling Gun” Parker, the regiment braved both enemy and American fire and gained the reverse slope before Epinonville. Finally the night the regiment emerged out of the town, but they paid heavily at Epinonville.

That night the Germans harassed the Americans with heavy artillery fire including gas shells and high explosives. It was also the night the Germans brought their crack reserves, the Prussian Guards, to try to stem the American advance. At seven o’clock the morning of September 28, the 362nd attacked

More Powder River pg 14

ADJUTANT:

continued from pg. 2

The Adjutants will also have to be working on reports to submit the elections of new officers, reporting of top recruiters, nominations for awards for supporting Scoutings, best newsletter, etc. You do not have to wait for the forms to be sent to you; in most cases the forms and the deadlines are found at: www.mtleorgenion.org

As you can see the Adjutants will be very busy with numerous other endeavors besides taking minutes at meetings and processing membership, please give your Adjutants all the assistance you can, so they will be able to make all the reporting deadlines.

I would like to thank all the Legionnaires who have generously donated to the address label program in the past. As you do not know by now, it is that time of the year again where the Department sends out address labels to solicit donations for American Legion programs. Although, I am sure there are members who tire of getting solicitations through the mail, this program is the second largest source of revenue for the American Legion. Montana. Without these funds it would be next to impossible to do what we do around the state. This program is also a great tool to keep our members addresses current. Without this program we would have additional mailing costs to those who are deceased or who have moved. When you receive your address labels please send the top portion with your address and member number back to Department, whether you donate or not. If you do not send this portion back and you don’t donate, you’ll receive a second mailing, so please send it back so we don’t have to pay for additional mailings. Additionally, if you do not want to receive certain kinds of mail, notify Department Headquarters (toll free 866-793-1257) and we can stop the mail you don’t want.

American Legion Boys State packets will be mailed this month to the Post Chairman that the Department has on file. If your Post does not receive an American Legion Boys State packet it was sent to the high school in your community. The fee for this year remains the same at $301.00 and the registrations and fees are due by 15 May. Please advise any interested boys to obtain a copy of their parent’s or grandfather’s discharge so they will have time to compete for the Samsung Scholarship. They must have a copy of the discharge document to submit an application.
and gained the reverse slope on a ridge about two miles from the little town of Gesnes. It was here on September 29, 1918, the 362nd Regiment was to suffer its heaviest losses.

**THE BLOODY ATTACK ON GESNES**

The advance on Gesnes started at 7 o'clock the morning of September 29 and the regiment pushed through the Bois de Cierges Woods. There was heavy artillery fire from the north and the south and two kilometers ahead lay the town of Gesnes. The woods and terrain were greatly favorable to the enemy. Almost every foot of ground was under enemy observation. To advance meant annihilation.

The American objective in the bloody Argonne offensive. After preparing against possible counterattacks, soon after nightfall the regiment received orders to withdraw to the same line it held before the attack.

No one can describe the feelings of the men when they received the order and realized what it meant: The ground which they had taken at such a terrible cost was to be given up and the blood of their comrades had been shed in vain. Each man felt bitterly that he had participated in a veritable “Charge of the Light Brigade”: heroic, but futile.

The withdrawal was accomplished, although some of the outposts did not rejoin the Regiment until the next morning.

As the men fell back in the darkness they gathered up most of the wounded. The night was black and cold and rain that was half sleet fell at fitful intervals. The moaning cries of the wounded seemed to come from everywhere out of the darkness. Here and there a message was passed among the dead and wounded like a lost child, rendered so by the terrible shock and horror of the carnage. How unutterably wounded like a lost child, rendered so by the terrible

On December 1st, I had the great honor of meeting Senator Jon Tester at the Great Falls Post 3. Senator Tester is a U.S. Senator representing the state of Montana. Senator Tester is a strong advocate for veterans affairs and has been a vocal supporter of the VA Mission Act, which he helped to pass into law.

**Troop 1206 Eagle Court of Honor**


**Harlowton Post 15**

**Sen Tester to Continue Leadership on Veterans’ Affairs Committee**

Senator Vows to Hold VA Accountable, Support Service Men and Women

(U.S. Senate) – U.S. Senator Jon Tester announced today he will continue fulfilling his commitment to America’s veterans by retaining his position as Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee in the 116th Congress.

Tester has represented Montana on the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee since 2007 and became Ranking Member in 2016.

“It’s no secret there are challenges at the VA. But there are opportunities too,” Tester said. “When I came to the Senate I made it my mission to make sure our nation’s service men and women are supported in every way, and I’m honored to continue this important work on behalf of the heroes who risked their lives to defend us.”

Tester has spent his time in Congress fighting relentlessly to hold the VA accountable, and has worked closely with members on both sides of the aisle to secure major victories for our nation’s veterans. During his first term as Ranking Member, Tester got 11 veterans bills signed into law, including the landmark VA MISSION Act, the VA Accountability & Whistleblower Protection Act, and the Veterans Education Assistance Act.

Tester also used his position on the committee to secure critical funding last March to construct the Southwest Montana Veterans’ Home in Butte.

**Take a Veteran to School program awards Post 3 $1,000**

Fall 2018-Great Falls Post 3 Commander Barney Cooper and Mary Roehr, Director – Government Affairs, Charter /Spectrum Communications Helena.

**Steve Daines**

United States Senator for Montana

On December 1st, I had the great honor of spending a few hours with forward deployed soldiers from the Montana National Guard near Kabul, Afghanistan. I am grateful for their efforts to keep the American people safe from radical Islamic terrorism, which remains an active threat. I was pleased to share a small taste of home, and a few stories from the recent Brawl of the Wild.

On Wednesday, December 12th, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and I led a bipartisan push to override a bureaucratic rule that has denied our Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans a presumption of exposure to Agent Orange for too long. From 1962 to 1971, the U.S. government sprayed nearly 20 million gallons of herbicide in Vietnam. Any reasonable person would conclude that run-off drained into the territo- rial waters. I will continue to fight for parity for all of our Vietnam Veterans. Throughout 2018, the USS Montana Committee tirelessly advocated for the Virginia Class fast attack submarine that will soon bear our state’s name. On Friday, December 21st, I honored their accomplishments in the Congressional Record.

**Senator Daines in Afghanistan**
How to Submit Articles or Photos?

Deadline: April 1, 2019

Prefered:

1. No formatting such as: multiple space and multiple tabs to line up text
   • Set tab (publisher will format to line up paragraphs and columns) PLEASE do not use multiple spaces as all formatting has to be removed before pasting into paper.
   • Modern formatting is one-space between sentences (after the period)
   • Provide Post City as well as Post/Unit number
   • Post, Unit, Dept. and Department are capitalized
   • It is better if articles/stories are written in third person – unless you’re talking about quotes from actual people, of course. There really should never be any “we did this” or “I think we did this” written in the body of a good news story – imagine someone else is telling your story at all times, as though the journalist is telling the reader about someone or something else.
   • Acronyms: Always keep new members informed and familiar with programs. For example: Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services (VAVS). The first time an acronym is used in an article use full title followed with acronym in parenthesis, then following first use the acronym.
   • Please keep articles to approximately 600 words per article.
   • If you are using information in your article from another source be sure to use quotation marks and give credit to the author and/or publication you are taking the information from otherwise this is plagiarizing which has serious legal repercussions.
   • The first time an acronym is used in an article use full title followed with acronym in parenthesis, then following first use the acronym.
   • DO NOT submit articles in PDF format.
   • If you want credit for an article or photos, please make sure you let us know.

Photos:

• Send as e-mail attachments – PLEASE!
• JPG format, as an attachment
• Default setting on a Digital camera is usually set very high. Set to 1200 x 1725 pixels which is ideal for printing 4x6 with desired output resolution of 300 dpi.
• Cell phone photos are many times too poor quality so take your time taking the photo. If the photo is blurry, too far away, tops of heads cut off, shores just the backs of heads we cannot make it look better for you. Send photos in medium resolution.
• Captions should be noted in the e-mail:
• Photo first caption which includes Post Unit #: Name City along with the names of those in the photo and what Post Unit they are members of.
• Don’t spend time setting up photos and captions in a Word document – PLEASE!
• Each time a photo is copied/pasted to edit it leaves integrity. Send as an e-mail attachment.
• Do not embed (insert) photos in an e-mail (use attach)
• See above (if embedded in an e-mail the photo has to be copied/pasted into Word, then copied/pasted into photo editor). Send as an e-mail attachment.

News articles

• Send an e-mail to an article via e-mail is best (rather than hard-copy to scan)
• Helps ensure article can be found (sometimes older articles are archived and cannot be found) and also to give proper credit to the author and newspaper to avoid plagiarizing.

Corrections to previously-sent articles

• Send an e-mail with the corrections only
• Most times the article has already been formatted and grammar-edited, and inserting the correction saves a lot of time in redoing Edit and spellcheck your work before you send it the first time.

ByLine… always include the submitter names for articles.

Send Articles, Photos with Captions to: intrepublish@gmail.com

Early Submits Really Appreciated!
Liberty County American Legion
Post #88
Welcome to our Post Meeting
Every 1st Wednesday at 7 p.m.
Liberty Co. Community & Senior Center
618 East Adams Chester, Montana
(406) 453-9822

American Legion
Post #3
Meets the 3rd Monday at 7 PM
September thru May
at the Elks Lodge
500 1st Ave South
Great Falls MT
(406) 453-9822

AMERICAN LEGION POST #4
OPEN DAILY AT 2:00 PM
HOTTEST MACHINES IN TOWN
1540 BROADWATER AVE.
BILLINGS, MT

AMERICAN LEGION Post #2
3095 Villard Ave.
Helena, MT
Open at 10 a.m.
7 Days a Week
Legion Meets 2nd Thursday
SAL Meets 3rd Thursday

Montana Legionnaires!
Visit the Montana Military Museum
At historic Fort Harrison,
Just west of Helena.
Fort William Henry Harrison Museum
Foundation & Montana Military Museum
For more information write to:
ATTN: Museum Director/Curator
P.O. Box 125
Fort Harrison, Montana 59636-0125
(406) 324-9589

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