James W. “Bill” Oxford
National Commander of The American Legion 2019-2020

James W. “Bill” Oxford was elected national commander of the nearly two million-member American Legion on August 29, 2019, in Indianapolis, during the organization’s 101st national convention. He has been a member of the nation’s largest veterans’ organization since 1986.

A native of Lenoir, N.C., Oxford is a paid-up-for-life member and past commander of Post 29 in Lenoir. He served as department (state) commander of The North Carolina American Legion from 2010 to 2011. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Oxford was an aviation electronic technician for the A-6 Intruder and served in Vietnam during his initial enlistment. After being discharged as a sergeant in 1970, Oxford joined the North Carolina National Guard. He subsequently attended officer’s candidate school and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, where he ultimately retired as a colonel after more than 34 years of military service.

Oxford has served at every level of The American Legion. A former mayor and city council of Cajah’s Mountain, N.C., he has worked since he was a high school student, with most of his career choices being in the maintenance and engineering field. He earned a bachelor’s degree in environmental studies and multiple safety and environmental certificates.

Oxford has volunteered as a coach, umpire, referee and administrator in several youth athletic programs, including service as the public address announcer for the Post 29 American Legion baseball team.

An active volunteer with several organizations, Oxford is a member of Masonic Lodge-York Scottish Rite and the North Carolina Army Retiree Council. His theme as national commander of The American Legion is “a foundation for the future,” as the organization enters its second century of service.

Oxford and his wife, Frances, have been married since 1967. They have a son, Charles (married to Deah Reid), and a daughter, Jackie (married to Mike Carr). They also have four grandsons, Isaiah, Micah, Jaggar and Dawson.

The Commander visited Helena for the Fall Conference Oct. 24-27. He visited the VA at Fort Harrison to include the Veteran homeless veterans housing. He also visited with the Adjutant General of the MTARNG MG Matthew Quinn and the Naval Reserve Center.

MT Legion Family at Indianapolis 101st Nat’l Convention Parade

Carroll Senior Nursing major Amelia Schuver of Portland, OR has received a $1,500 Reverend Frank Lawrence Harrington (ANAVICUS) Scholarship for the 2019-2020 academic year. The award is in recognition of academic achievement, leadership potential and spiritual conduct in keeping with the best traditions of The American Legion and Carroll College.

The Reverend Frank L. Harrington Scholarship was established in 1967 by the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, United States Unit, to honor Father Harrington, National Chaplain of The American Legion in 1947-48. Father Harrington was a spiritual leader, teacher and patriot, as shown by his service to Mount St. Charles College (later renamed Carroll College) as dean of men and professor of mathematics. His spiritual leadership and close liaison with Canadian veterans, as members of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, helped develop a close relationship which led to the awarding of honorary life membership in the Canadian group’s United States Unit to members of The American Legion, a unit which flourishes today.

In this issue

American Legion Department of Montana Armed Forces Reserve Center
P.O. Box 6075
Helena, MT 59604-6075

Volume 97, No. 2
November 2019 — January 2020

Non-Profit Org. USA Postage
Pavillion Suite 102
Great Falls, MT 59401

Chaplain’s Corner...3
Cousineau, Roger Hagan, and Jen Dalrymple.

American Legion Baseball team.

National Chaplain of The American Legion in 1947-48. Father Harrington was a spiritual leader, teacher and patriot, as shown by his service to Mount St. Charles College (later renamed Carroll College) as dean of men and professor of mathematics. His spiritual leadership and close liaison with Canadian veterans, as members of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, helped develop a close relationship which led to the awarding of honorary life membership in the Canadian group’s United States Unit to members of The American Legion, a unit which flourishes today.

The American Legion, a unit which flourishes today.

ANAVICUS Fr. Harrington 2019-2020 Scholarship Recipient

Scholarship recipient Amelia Schuver flanked by ANAVICUS members, (l-r): Dick Ellwein, Bill White, Ray Stolp, NEC David Driver, Gary White, Linda Cousineau, Roger Hagan, and Jen Dalrymple.
I really want to wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year before the next publication. I know with all the holidays and hunting season going on we become very busy. But don’t forget the buddy-check program. If you haven’t seen someone from your Post in a long time, give them a call or make a point to swing by and see how they are doing. As some of us get older we tend to slow down and retreat to our comfort homes. I think they would really appreciate hearing from a member or an offer to give a ride or helping hand with those last chores that need to be done before the heart of winter really sets in. You never know you might just hear a story told about a little history of the Post or community that was hidden away in the archives of any program.

It is a privilege to serve as your commander and may God Bless each one during this holiday season.

From the Desk of the Adjutant

GARY WHITE

Memorandum is doing well, as of this writing we are 8th in the nation at 58.27 percent, but that number changes weekly and the time you are reading this we could be at 20th so we can’t rest on our laurels. There is still a long way to go before we reach our membership goal, but I feel very confident we can reach our next two targets. December is the time we start to struggle to make the rest of our targets so please renew now, continue to recruit new members and encourage involvement and attendance at Post meetings. Our next targets are November 14 for 65 percent, and December 11 for 75 percent.

Where do our Department officers and committee members come from? The answer of course is from our membership, but how can you become a committee or committee member? The Commander, Vice Commander, Historian, National Executive Committeeman (NEC) and the Alternate NEC are all elected while the remainder of our committee members are appointed by the Department Commander. Any member in good standing can run for any elected office and all elections take place at the Department Convention. If you would like to be appointed officer or committee member you must make your wishes known to the candidates for Commander and Vice Commander. How do you do that? The most obvious answer is to become active in your Post and District and through your good work be noticed by the current officers, or just ask them.

If we don’t balance the need for continuity with the need for fresh people and ideas on our committees and with our elected officers, we will become stagnant and cease to become effective advocates for our veterans, their families and their communities. I would encourage all interested members to check out the American Legion Basic Training Course, which is an online course found at www.legion.org/alei, and perhaps also look into applying for attendance at the American Legion College, which is a one week in-residence course in Indianapolis at no cost to the attendee.

By December you should already be working many of your youth programs – Shooting Sports targets should be ordered, Post and District Oratory contests should be planned, and dates sent forth (the Department contest is in Helena March 21). Constitutional Essay Programs should be underway (essays are due to Department by March 15). American Legion Boys State Post Chairperson should already be selected, Department notified of their contact information and the schools contacted. Posts should be submitting nominations for Economic, Law Enforcement and Firefighter Awards. As you can see there is a lot more to be working besides membership.

Remember time is running out on participating in the Big K drawing for the 2020 member year. The last day you may join to be eligible for all drawings is December 31, 2019. The second early-bird drawing of $200 and the first $400 drawing will take place on January 2, 2020. The Department Headquarters will be closed for Veterans Day November 11, Thanksgiving Holiday Nov. 28 – 29, and Christmas December 23 – 25. I wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday season!


Published by the American Legion Department of Montana Armored Forces Reserve Center P.O. Box 6075, Helena, MT 59604-6075 Telephone 406-324-3989/3990 TOLL FREE 866-793-1225 E-MAIL info@mt.legion.org SUBSCRIPTION: $5.00 per year. $3.99 an annual membership dues goes to Montana Legionnaire subscription. Now enrolling for 4 week summer term in the months of: February, May, August and November COPY DEADLINE is the 1st day of the month PRIOR TO PUBLICATION. Commander - Jeff Nelson Vice Commander - George Blackard Adjutant - Gary A. White
**Memorial On Highways**

A memorial within the highway right-of-way is not allowed except for the site of a fatal crash, again approved highway safety program whereupon a Fatality Marker program is placed. This is an alternative is The American Legion Highway Safety Marker program. Under the Adopt-A-Highway Program, MDT and The American Legion Department of Transportation (MDT) acknowledge the need some people feel to express themselves in this way, the placement of private memorials within a roadway’s right-of-way is not allowed under state standards.

There are a few allowable uses of roadways and rights-of-way. Some uses require prior approval through permits, others are allowed by statute or by agreement with MDT.

Two acceptable alternatives to a private memorial are the Adopt-A-Highway program and The American Legion Highway Fatality Marker program.

Under the Adopt-A-Highway Program, MDT allows friends and family to adopt a two-mile-long highway segment with signage that notes the highway has been adopted in memory of a loved one. The sign is installed by the state in compliance with federal and state standards. Those who adopt a highway are required to clean their adopted roadway at least two times a year. MDT will loan you safety vests and give you large trash bags for your cleanup efforts.

Another acceptable alternative is The American Legion Highway Fatality Marker program. This is an approved highway safety program whereupon a marker is placed at the site of a fatal crash, again in compliance with state and federal standards. A conflict exists between MDT and The American Legion allows these red and white painted but undecorated markers and identifies the rules for their installation and annual maintenance.

No one wants to see a subsequent tragedy result from a previous incident. For safety’s sake, statutes require only items which perform a specific highway function to be allowed within a highway right-of-way.

The American Legion strongly encourages grieving parties who wish to place a marker near the site of the fatal crash, again through their local American Legion Post to have it placed correctly. Such markers must remain undecorated.

**Post Everlasting**

**July/August 2019**

- BACON, GARNET H., 9/1/19 – WWII – US Army – 6-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- BIZJAK, FRANK, 8/12/2019 – Vietnam – US Navy – 45-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- DUNEMAN, ARNOLD, 8/12/2019 – Unknown – 53-year member of Post 35, Baker, Interred with Military Honors
- ELMORE, DAVID, 6/6/2019 – Vietnam – Unknown – 5-year member of Post 16, Lewistown, Interred with Military Honors
- MADSEN, DAN, 8/26/2019 – Korea – US Army – 12-year member of Post 138, Ronan, Interred with Military Honors
- MAGER, LEONARD, 8/20/2019 – WWII – US Army – 5-year member of Post 15, Harlowton, Interred with Military Honors
- NORDMEYER, HOWARD, 9/7/2019 – Korea – US Air Force – 43-year member of Post 81, Cuberston, Interred with Military Honors

**Montana State Veterans Cemetery**

Appreciates Your Support

**By: Tony Phillips, Montana Veterans Affairs Division Administrative Support**

Donations were made to the Montana State Veterans Cemeteries in memory of veterans Ruddy Reilly, Steve Stolp and Kenneth Tritz in the months of August and September 2019. It is through kind gestures like these that our veterans and their families are afforded a memorable and dignified resting place; one they justly deserve.

If you would like to donate in memory of a veteran you can find donation envelopes at The American Legion Post 2, the Montana State Veterans Cemeteries or the Montana Veterans Affairs Division.

You can also mail donations in memory of a veteran to:

Montana Veterans Affairs Division
PO Box 5715
Helena, MT 59604
Please contact (406) 324-3742 with any questions you may have about donations.
The following excerpt is from the recently released 2019 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report from the US Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.

45,390 American adults died from suicide in 2017, including 6,139 U.S. Veterans. Our nation is understandably grieving with each suicide, prompting our collective and tireless pursuit of evidence-based clinical interventions and expansion of community prevention strategies to reach each Veteran. VA offers through this report a renewed and determined call to unrelentingly address suicide in our Veteran population and our society, as suicide has no single cause and the tragedy of suicide affects all Americans. Findings in this report reflect the most current national data (available through 2017) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report.

Veteran Status

It is important to consider Veteran suicide in the context of suicide mortality among all U.S. adults. Also, in reporting on Veteran suicide, we focus on former service members who most closely meet the official definition of Veteran status that is used by VA and other federal agencies (see endnote regarding Title 38). For this report, a Veteran is defined as someone who had been activated for federal military service and was not currently serving at the time of death. For purpose of this report, Veterans were defined as persons who had been activated for federal military service and were not currently serving and had not discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable. https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/comp/D-USC-38.html. For purpose of this report, Veterans were defined as persons who had been activated for federal military service and were not currently serving at the time of death.

Key results include the following:

- The number of Veteran suicides exceeded 6,000 each year from 2008 to 2017.
- Among U.S. adults, the average number of suicides per day rose from 88.6 in 2005 to 124.4 in 2017. These numbers included 15.9 Veteran suicides per day in 2015 and 16.8 in 2017.
- In 2017, the suicide rate for Veterans was 1.5 times the rate for non-Veteran adults, after adjusting for population differences in age and sex.
- Firearms were the method of suicide in 70.7% of male Veteran suicide deaths and 43.2% of female Veteran suicide deaths in 2017.
- In addition to the aforementioned Veteran suicides, there were 283 suicides among never federally activated former National Guard and Reserve members in 2017, an average 2.5 suicide deaths per day.

Suicide prevention is a national priority and VA is dedicated to this mission. While the data in this report extends only through 2017, since that time VA has continued to work actively in partnership with the White House, Congress, Veterans Health Administration networks, and federal and community partners to address the issue of Veteran suicide. The most recent and notable manifestation of this comprehensive approach to Veteran suicide prevention is the President’s Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End the National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS), mandated by an executive order signed by the President in March 2019. A cabinet-level task force has been launched to develop a national roadmap for suicide prevention, which will include proposals and plans addressing integration and collaboration across sectors, a national research strategy, and a cohesive implementation strategy.

Together, we can all make a difference.

If you would like more information contact https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov or to read the full report go to https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2019/2019_National_Veteran_Suicide_Prevention_Annual_Report_508.pdf

(Section 101(2) of Title 38, United States Code defines “Veteran” for purposes of the title to mean “a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.” https://www.ssa.gov/OPP_Home/comp/D-USC-38.html. For purpose of this report, Veterans were defined as persons who had been activated for federal military service and were not currently serving at the time of death.)

St. Ignatius Post 106 & Unit 106 Legion birthday parade float

The James R. W. McCarthy Post 106 and Auxiliary Unit 106 of St. Ignatius celebrated The American Legion 100th Birthday with a float in the Good Old Days Parade in St. Ignatius on July 20, 2019.

Park City Post 100 Leads homecoming parade

The three girls in front sang the National anthem.

Dalbey receives Legion Baseball Scholarship

American Legion $1000 Class A baseball scholarship winner for the State is Keyan Dalbey from Poison (entr). State Commander Jeff Nelson presented the award. Coach for the Mission Valley Mariners Tim Rausch is on the left. There was only one scholarship given out to the Class A teams in the State of Montana. Keyan explained his leadership on and off the field and was instrumental in the Mariners successful season this year.

Saco MT Small Community Big Impact

On August 31, 2019, Saco MT held a parade during their annual Saco Fun Days which runs for three consecutive fun-filled days. People from Saco and all around the region showed up for the event and The American Legion had great representation with members from Saco, Hinsdale, Malta, Billings, Glasgow and Chinoook including, Zone Commander Lowell Long and Dept. Vice Commander George Blackard.

After the parade, which featured Veterans and family members carrying flags and pictures of their Veteran loved ones, a free lunch was served followed by a talent competition during which people showed off their talents through song and dance all to patriotic themed music. This year’s theme “Celebrating Heroes of The Highline” and the fundraising aspect were thought of and organized by the hard-working ladies from the Saco Chamber of Commerce with the majority of their fundraisers benefitting The American Legion. This event was a great show of small-town pride, cooperation, patriotism and hard work. The people of Saco and the surrounding areas should take great pride in what they accomplished and their great example of love for community, state and nation.
**Department of Montana Service Officer, KATE HAHN, DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER**

By way of a short introduction, I recently replaced Tim Ingraham as the State of Montana American Legion Service Officer. I am humbled and honored to continue my service to my fellow veterans. Originally from Connecticut, I was a resident of Vermont when I enlisted in the USAF. My career field was in Law Enforcement as a Bomb Dog Handler and I served two tours in Saudi Arabia and 10 years in the Air Force. I moved to Montana two years after separating from the service, met my husband (5th generation Montanan) in June 2000, and started working for the Montana Veterans Affairs Division in November 2014, where I continue to serve my Brothers and Sisters in Arms as a Veteran Service Officer.

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is processing claims for eligible Blue Water Navy (BWN) Veterans who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1965. Claims decisions, based on Public Law 116-23, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, will go into effect January 1, 2020. Blue Water Navy Veterans are encouraged to submit their claims with a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) for conditions which are considered presumptive to the exposure of herbicides while serving in the coastal waterways of Vietnam. Records submitted to a VSO must contain evidence of their exposure to herbicides, including: service on a Navy ship during the dates shown above, deck logs showing the location of their ship within the 12 nautical miles seaward of the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, a current diagnosis of a presumptive condition, medical records (government or non-government) showing treatment for a presumptive condition, and/or any residuals of the condition that may be diagnosed secondarily to the diagnosed presumptive condition. Surviving spouses are also encouraged to file claims for Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) by submitting records addressed above and a death certificate showing the veteran’s death attributed to a presumptive condition from exposure to herbicides. Contact your Service Organizations or a VSO by phone (see numbers below), or to make an appointment to answer your questions or file a claim.

Listed below are the 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) 755-3174
- Lewistown………………………… (406) 522-2301
- Miles City………………………… (406) 232-1203
- Missoula…………………………… (406) 542-2501

Thank you for your service to our great Country!

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**District 11 at Billings Montana Fair**

**BY GEORGE BLACKARD, DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER**

The Breakfast Exchange Club in Billings sponsors one day every year at Montana Fair at which Veterans and a guest receive free entry to the fair and the rodeo. This year, District 11 Commander April Lish, Sue Davidson and Department Commander Alex Vogel organized an American Legion tent just inside the main gate which was staffed by he and members of Post 4, Post 117 and Post 123 including Commander Christina Bochy, Jim Lish, and members of Post 4, Post 117 and Post 123.

April Lish, Sue Davidson and Department Commander Alex Vogel organized an American Legion tent just inside the main gate which was staffed by he and members of Post 4, Post 117 and Post 123 including Commander Christina Bochy, Jim Lish, and other members of Post 117.

The tent contained information about the American Legion, Legion programs and VA benefits and claims. Also at the booth was a representative of Volunteers of America who was on hand to discuss their programs dealing with Veteran homelessness and employment search assistance.

**Carrying on Old Traditions & Creating New Ones**

**BY GEORGE BLACKARD, DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER**

When Andrew Pearson Post 117 of Billings and A.C. Buckner Post 111 of Custer recently merged, the Post 111 members loved their Post. In an effort to make the new members feel welcome and to recognize their many years of hard work and dedication to American Legion programs and their community, it was decided that Post 117 would continue some of the things Post 111 has been doing for many years.

The combined Post will continue the annual Memorial Day service in Custer and continue to provide scholarships to students at Huntly Project School.

Alfred C. Buckner was a Second Lieutenant from Custer, MT who served as a glider pilot in Europe during WWII. A memorial stands at Greenham Commons in central London, England and every December 12th the Royal British Legion performs a ceremony in memory of Lt. Buckner and the 34 American Airmen who died there while on a training exercise December 12, 1944.

**Post 135 Legionnaire of the Year Award**

Post Commander, Alex Vogel of Chief Joseph Post 135 proudly presented Heather McDonald, Post Adjutant, with a Legionnaire of the Year Award at the annual meeting on November 17. “Your commitment to adjutant duties has been exemplary. You continue to bring fresh, new ideas to the Post which has breathed life back into our mission. You are always available when needed. We are very fortunate to have you as a member of our Post, District and Department of Montana.” Heath received the plaque along with a gift certificate to Lolo Steak House.

In all, two hundred Veterans registered for the drawing, two current members renewed, four new members were signed up on the spot including one veteran who had not been eligible for membership but was made eligible under the new Legion Act approved recently by Congress and signed by the President. The team now has close to two hundred eligible Veterans to follow up with. Congratulations to District 11 Commander Floyd for putting on a great event!
### DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER 2020

#### Yearly To Date Comparison

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#### Sons of the American Legion September 12, 2019

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### Go Ahead – Relax!

**Let the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Program handle ALL your insurance needs.

Don’t waste your time shopping for insurance – the best deals are right here.**

**Thanks for the group buying power of millions of Legionnaires like you, we’ve received over 12,000 commitments by Leg. members and their families to our new Legionnaire Insurance Trust.**

**Our program provides Leg. members and their families:**

- Cancer Care
- Medicare Supplement
- Worksite Disability

**Sign up for the comprehensive, economical, easy to understand and best value program for Legionnaires and their families.**

**Post or District has reached or surpassed its incentive Goa**

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**Send your completed coupon to:**...
Fatality Markers – Motorists Warning

Normally American Legion Post 52 in Thompson Falls works on the white fatality markers along the roads and highways once a year and that was mid-May. However, Jim Kelly, the man in charge of The American Legion Highway Fatality Marker Program said that a handful of the markers along Highway 200 in Sanders County were not the right specifications and asked the Thompson Falls Post 52 members to replace them. Last week, Post 52 Commander Bill Beck of Plains spent nearly two hours on the road for a 10-minute job of replacing one of the markers and replaced two more a week later. While at the job sites, Beck also gave the new markers a fresh coat of paint. He has been involved in the program with Post 52 for about four years.

Post 52 is responsible for about 55 markers from Panorama Road northwest of Plains to the Idaho border along Highway 200, about 50 miles, and up Prospect Creek, Highway 471, to the Idaho border, just over 20 miles. The marker at White Pine that Beck replaced was the correct height and overall size, but the individual white metal marker slabs were only 2½ inches wide and are supposed to be 4 inches. In addition, the red post was a metal fence post and not as sturdy as the post that is supposed to hold the marker, said Beck, who last week also replaced two markers about six miles west of Plains that are typically under the jurisdiction of Post 129 in Paradise. The Paradise Post and Post 106 in St. Ignatius normally cover an additional 40 markers in Sanders County.

The American Legion Highway Fatality Marker Program started in 1953 by a Missoula Legion Post and is a volunteer program of which most of the Legion Posts in Montana participate. According to Kelly there are more than 2,500 markers throughout Montana with the majority erected following a highway fatality at or near the spot of the crash. But two years ago Kelly placed a marker west of Thompson Falls for a father and son who both perished in the mid-1960s and had been overlooked until the family notified the Legion.

“The markers are not meant to be a memorial to the person who died there; they are supposed to show where a person or persons died at that site to remind drivers to be safe,” said Beck, who said they periodically remove flowers and other paraphernalia from the markers. “The idea is for the markers to be highly visible from the highway to motorists and if it is covered with matter, it defeats the purpose of being a safety reminder,” said Kelly.

Fatality Marker Ceremony

Submitted by Michael Perkins

Butte Post 115 Fatality Marker Chair Art Childs addresses a group of mourners following the placement of a fatality marker. The SAL member standing to his left is Mike Metcalf (Art’s grandson).

Post 2 Legion Family Ribbons

Submitted by Glen Sharbono

Family ribbons were presented at Anaconda Post 21 by Department Commander Jeff Nelson at District 6 meeting to Lewis & Clark Legion Family representatives: SAL Squadron 2, Eddy Wilson, Post 2 Past Commander Justin Carpenter, ALA Unit 2 Secretary-Treasurer Leah Ellwein.

Ronan Post 138 and Auxiliary Unit 138

Post & Unit 138 sent four to The American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State

Miles City Post 5 Nursing Scholarship Presentation

Carl D. Freeman (left) was presented the Custer Post 5 $1,500 Nursing Scholarship by Post Commander Bob Prahl on September 4th, at Miles Community College.

Townsend Post 42 embarks on ambitious fundraiser to repair Legion Hall

Submitted by Jan Duquette, Commander

Last year’s winter was no friend to our late 1880’s Legion Hall building – 18 inches of snow in one day in Townsend has not happened in forever. Ice dams and severe leakage on the rear of the Hall caused significant damage to the stage, walls, kitchen, subflooring, original movie theater sound board and drop ceiling tiles. The Post had been saving money for the past ten years to tear down and rebuild the rear additions which include the kitchen, drink storage area and equipment shed, two of which had flat roofs contributing to the snow melt episode. Well, Mother Nature just helped us along faster than we had planned. Finding ourselves in a conundrum, the members decided that we might as well mitigate the water to prevent molding and proceed with the rebuild now with whatever leftover insurance money we had, our savings and initiated fundraisers. This required all hands on deck to raise the almost $60,000 more that was needed as rapidly as possible through local foundation grants, charitable contributions, Post raffles, personal donations, appeals through the media and anywhere else we could think of. The response has been very positive and we are a bit over halfway to our minimum construction goal. A BIG THANK YOU to all those organizations, Posts, Legion Family members and others who have stepped up to send us what they could. We had donations from as far away as Maryland - how grateful we are! Hopefully the demolition and construction of the rear of the building will begin this month and we look forward to working through the winter to refurbish the interior and welcome spring with a newly renovated, climate sealed community Legion Hall.

Our 8th Annual Surf n Surf fundraiser dinner will be held at the Broadwater County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, 4-7:30pm on Saturday, Nov. 9. Come on down and celebrate our Happy 100th Birthday for Post 42 - chartered November 1919!
Montanans descend upon 101st National Convention in Indianapolis

The weather was delightful during The American Legion's 101st National Convention August 23-29 and 56 Montanans travelled in for the celebration. Bands, motorcycles, floats and marching delegates filled the streets of downtown Indianapolis as The American Legion kicked off the Convention with the annual parade. The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion held concurrent and sometimes combined events with the main Legion caucus. There were plenty of activities for all to enjoy at both the Convention and throughout the city, from baseball and football games to the "Brickyard" motor speedway, monuments and motorcycle rallies.

Notable speakers included Vice President of the United State Michael Pence, Secretary of the US Department of Veterans Affairs - Robert Wilkie, Chairman of the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee - Theodore Roosevelt IV, Chairwoman of the Women in Military Service Memorial Foundation - Major General Jan Edmunds and of course The American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad, Auxiliary National President Kathy Dungan and Past National Sons Commander Greg Gibbs.

Many Montana members renewed old friendships and made new acquaintances as they worked through legislative issues, proposed charter changes, elected new officers and conducted other business to come before the Legion Family masses. Speaking of masses, the Sunday non-denominational Patriotic Memorial Service was made all the more special with the Indianapolis Women's Chorus and the Meek Sisters belting out songs of praise and patriotism.

Though we did not come away with as many awards as last year, Montana's Legion Family still continues to uphold the legacy of our American Legion every day out in our communities taking care of Veterans - a Foundation for the Future 100 years. Welcome home and Happy Holidays!
Hello Everyone! I would say Ladies, but we now have at least two gentlemen that have joined the ranks of our Auxiliary, Congratulations and welcome! Gary White is our first male member and Larry Dobb is our second. There may be a third in the works. National Convention changed the rules and now the spouse of a female veteran can join the Auxiliary, and she does not need to join the Legion for this to happen. There were new changes from the Legion Act, and you will learn all about them at Fall Conference.

Fall Conference! It was held at the Jorgenson Inn in Helena on October 24-27. We had activities planned for Friday night through Saturday. Friday night we had a fun get together to make pillowcases for veterans, or you could make poppies. I asked that everyone be sure and wear RED shirts: RED – Remember Everyone Deployed. As well to bring a snack to share and your own beverage.

Jamie, Chris and I brought our machines and toppers others brought their own along also to make things go faster. Again, the main goal was to be together, be constructive and do it for our veterans, and have fun.

If you want to work on this on your own here is some information for a pillowcase, or a pair even better, it would take a total of 5/8 yard for the header, 2 strips of 1 1/2" x 40" for accent strip, 1 5/8 yards of main pillowcase material. Remember that is for a pair, so half it for one. Main body for one is 26 x 40".

Saturday we were visited by the National Commander during our morning meeting and for the Commander’s Banquet Saturday night. As a surprise, we dressed up and wore Fascinators (small English style hats) for the dinner. We also celebrated the Auxiliary’s 100th Birthday that night. Everyone was asked to bring their Constitution and Bylaws to the meeting because of all the changes to be made and Jennifer Herman walked us all through the changes and so changes could be taken care of. Now, don’t forget to vote in the changes at your Unit. Celebrate the Auxiliary and its 100th birthday, celebrate our veterans, and celebrate each other! Auxiliary’s actual birthday is November 10th. Celebrate and make sure to document it for history.

This month is Veterans Day, so plan something to honor our veterans. It is also Thanksgiving, and I am thankful for each one of you, and all of our Legion Family. December is the Christmas holidays and I hope you will have a fantastic and blessed Christmas. Share the love and the season. Taking care of the business of our veterans and our members.

Why I’m not a member?

No one asked!

ALA Blue Star Flags available to families with someone in military service

No one asked!

Promised in the last issue, your goals were released in early August. I still feel it’s like putting a band-aid on a breached levy, but whatever it takes to motivate is worth a try. In short, it’s where your Unit ended (paid totals) plus one. Some Units received a couple more because of their history of continually making goal combined with the fact we surrendered two Unit charters and those members still need to count. You complained loudly and our national leaders listened. Now it’s time to show them what we can do in Montana.

I delivered the Programs Action Plans to each District during the meetings. Please share that information with your Units. Everybody does something that can be counted and REPORTED. The forms are in the action plan along with hordes of extra information. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS need to be given to the schools. Find that person in your Unit that has a connection with your local high schools and knock on that open door. Fall Conference information will be in the next issue. Our new President Sue lined up her workshops. In response to the complaints about nothing to do on Friday night, we hosted a couple special workshops. We sewed pillowcases for Fort Harrison, and had a group making poppies. President Sue and I supplied kits; if you wanted to sew you had to bring your sewing machine. They provided everything else.

Monetary donations are being taken for the home-less veteran housing project. They are overloaded with items requiring storage – for which they have none. Until further notice, please just send donations to me so you get credit, and I’ll forward to the project’s fund on your behalf.

Bond payments are due; poppy orders should be placed.

District 4 celebrates Children & Youth

District 4 Children and Youth Banquet is held the first Monday in October to honor the youths who participate in the Legion Family programs throughout the year. The cake was hosted by Legion District 4 to honor the 100 years of The American Legion Auxiliary.
Hello, Ladies and Happy early winter!! Our executive committee has set the budget for next session and we’re rapidly gearing up for the June session; grant applications, sponsorships, guest speakers, activities and more are in the works.

Please put June 14-20 on your calendars and save the date to come on down to Helena to see what we’re all about. Along with the need for more counselors to stay with the girls at the college, we could use daytime activity escorts to give the full-time counselors a break. There’s the mock trial, moot court, legislative events, trips to visit veterans at the VA hospital, military museum excursions, taekwondo and aikido self-defense classes, suicide awareness seminars, making poppies activity and much more. If you would like to volunteer your time during the day as an activity escort please call me at 406.949.3660 and we will gladly welcome you for whatever time you can give us.

In addition, you should be receiving your ALA Girls State packets from your District Presidents as I handed them out at the Fall Conference and again, if you have any questions, concerns or time to share with the girls, please feel free to give me a call.

**First spouse joins ALA**

Congratulations Lewis & Clark Auxiliary Unit 2 on signing up the first MALE member of The American Legion Auxiliary!

Gary is eligible through his (deceased) first wife. As you all know, Gary has served The American Legion for many years as the Department Adjutant and will soon be retiring. His wife, Rose, is also a member of Unit 2, along with their granddaughter Lyla Kent.

That my friends - is THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY front and center.

Join me in welcoming Gary to our ranks.

**Letter from the editor**

Greetings to the Membership of The American Legion Auxiliary,

It has come time to do some housekeeping when it comes to submitting photos for publication. We want the photos; however, I need your help with giving information with your photo submissions. Please when emailing photos send as e-mail attachments – PLEASE, in JPG format. When you are shooting with your cell phone please check your resolution. Set the resolution higher as it helps with the quality when it comes to printing.

• Please, when you send your photos do captions to your photos as follows:
  • Submitted by <name>, Unit # <City>
  • Photo# - caption, etc.
• I do not know what is going on in your photo, but you do, and the more details the better.
• Don’t spend time setting up photos and captions in a Word document, each time a photo is copied/pasted to edit it loses integrity
• Do Not embed (insert) photos in the body of an e-mail (if embedded in an e-mail the photo has to be copied/pasted into Word, then copied/pasted into photo editor)
• By just attaching your photos to the email with captions and submitter information makes the job of your editor slightly easier.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out.

Thank you, Michelle Kandel
Public Relations Chairman, Service Star Editor
Columbia Falls Post 72 Centennial History

As we approach our 100th, Department Historian Ray Read asked me to do this write up. Not many Posts have direct connections with the group that formed The American Legion, but I personally do. Being a native Pennsylvanian, my family was involved via my maternal grandfather with WW1 and the 29th Division. One of its Captains was a man, named J. Frank Graff, a very well to do farmer near my hometown in Western Pa. He was very instrumental in Company K, of the 112th Regiment of the 29th, and Company K was made up of volunteers from Armstrong County. This same Co K had a pivotal role at Gettysburg in the Civil War, so carried that legacy into WW1. In a key battle in the Argonne Forest in Oct 1918, future Judge J. Frank Graff, then a Captain, took command of the entire regiment during a German counter offensive. His direct actions turned the tide of that battle, and a clear victory was had. Because of this, he made friends with our Teddy Roosevelt. Promoted to Major, Graff was invited to Paris with more than 100 other officers to write our organization’s constitution in the first caucus held in Paris. On March 13, 1919, Major Graff was the Master of Ceremonies when the Post he organized wrote the Charter for, Post 122 of Kittanning, Pa on their 50th Anniversary. Post 122 showed 208 members, of which 20 were Vietnam Vets. Judge Graff was personally known to me as he hosted talks about Americanism, law and Service to our Country. A huge turnout was had upon his death, after he served on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Pictured is my maternal grandfather, Hyatt Lafayette Hawk, recovering from a gas attack, in Paris.

Twin Bridges Post 31—Special Color Guard

Madison County had its annual fair August 7-11, 2019. This year’s event included a special group of individuals, the “United States National Commanding Generals Mounted Color Guard,” from Fort Riley, Kansas. This active duty Army color guard consisted of 12 team members, horses and a mule-drawn wagon. Each team member dressed in period uniforms from the 1800’s cavalry when performing and demonstrating their skills of horsemanship wielding a saber and revolver while mounted and at the gallop. Over the three days, they performed three cavalry demonstrations and presented the colors at the rodeo, led the parade as the Mounted Color Guard and combined with local Veterans for the fair closing ceremony. The crowd was in awe during all of the teams’ performances and would enjoy hosting them in the future. The local Veterans, with great pleasure, helped support the team in any way necessary as we know what it means to be on the road and away from family for periods of time. It amazes me still how quickly the comradery develops between military members past and present. There is a strong sense of pride that comes for periods of time. It amazes me still how quickly the comradery develops between military members past and present. There is a strong sense of pride that comes with working with such outstanding individuals as the Color Guard. These men and woman, in the military they are all simply soldiers, were always ready to talk to anyone and tell their story or to simply listen to yours. To me it felt natural to sit down with the senior enlisted member, 1st Sergeant Dale Siebert, or “Top” as his soldiers know him, short for Top Soldier, and shoot the breeze about things going on in the current military ranks and to also drum back and talk about our experiences while in the service. There is an instant feel of “esprit de corps” and yes, even a feeling of being part of a family when military units mesh together to accomplish any mission.

On August 11th, the last day of the fair, with sabers drawn and the American Flag fluttering in the wind, the National Color Guard honored our community by leading the Madison County Fair Parade. It was a beautiful sight to behold, their show of precision as cavalry and their horses as they guided us up Twin Bridges main street and back. Then at 1pm we combined the National Color Guard and our local American Legion Post 31 Color Guard and performed a fair closing ceremony. Army Major (Ret) Jerry Redfield commanded this joint unit formation to retire the fairgrounds flag while taps were played. Upon securing the flag, with dignity and military bearing, two members of the national team performed the “Thirteen Folds Of The Flag” ceremony. This ceremony is extremely touching as it explains why each fold is performed and when complete the flag is presented to the Commander of the formation with a slow salute retiring the flag. Again, while being part of this formation I felt that sense of family and every individual taking part, young or old, gave their best to ensure the mission was accomplished in a professional manner.

The local Veterans would like to thank you, the National Color Guard, for attending our county fair and look forward to a repeat performance in the future. Thanks for providing us with new memories and something else to talk about as some of our stories are getting pretty old.

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11 things you need to know about the LEGION Act

BY THE AMERICAN LEGION

With President Trump’s signature on the LEGION Act, the extension of the ongoing declared period of war was extended back to Dec. 7, 1941. The congressionally approved act is a way to honor thousands of veterans who were killed or wounded on duty during periods not previously considered a time of war.

“Finally Congress has acknowledged the service and sacrifice of at least 1,600 veterans who died or were wounded in previously undeclared periods of war,” said U.S. Rep. Jerry “Bo” Bud Redfield, a commander of the Brockman American Legion Post 31 from Twin Bridges and the American Legion National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett. “This new law honors the memories of those veterans while allowing other veterans from those previously undeclared eras to receive all The American Legion benefits they have earned through their service.”

The LEGION Act - Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act — also redefines The American Legion’s membership eligibility dates. The eligibility now spans from Dec. 7, 1941, until a time when the U.S. is no longer at war, as determined by Congress.

Here are answers to 11 key questions about the new law and what it means for The American Legion:

**Question: How does this change the eligibility requirements for The American Legion?**

**Answer:** The only change is that Congress has reduced the number of eligibility periods from seven to two. They are April 6, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918 and Dec. 7, 1941 to present day. No other eligibility criteria are changed.

**Question: What’s the impact on veterans who previously were not eligible for American Legion membership?**

**Answer:** Veterans who were honorably discharged but whose service did not fall into the previous defined war eras may now join The American Legion immediately. To do so, eligible members may sign up at www.legion.org/join.

**Post 31 cleans up Historic Cemetery**

On numerous occasions, members from Dan Brockman American Legion Post 31 of Twin Bridges went to the historic Rochester Ghost Town Cemetery and cleared sagebrush/tall grass from all the graves. It has been a long-term project of Rochester Cemetery.

First, Bill inspired several Post 31 members to locate and maintain Post finances. Jim Paull was awarded a Legion Distinguished Initial 100 Years Service Award for their continual unselfish contribution as the Past Adjutant.

Post 31 of Twin Bridges went to the historic Rochester Ghost Town Cemetery and cleared sagebrush/tall grass from all the graves. It has been a long-term project of Rochester Cemetery.

First, Bill inspired several Post 31 members to locate and clear the graves of the five veterans identified as being interred at Rochester cemetery. Next, placement of white posts at the head of each veteran’s graves along with war service medals and American Flags on each post. Finally, clearing the remaining Rochester Cemetery graves of sagebrush and weeds, many graves were entirely overgrown with sagebrush.

On 13 August, while the finishing touches were being accomplished around the cemetery a plaque naming and identifying each interred Veteran’s war service was dedicated. Rochester Veterans include one Mexican American War and four Civil War Veterans (2 Grand Army of the Republic and 2 Confederate States Army). Present for the dedication were Shannon Gilbert from the Dillon BLM office, along with another associate from the BLM and five members from the local Veterans including our team leader Bill Gibson, Commander Jerry Redfield, and three other members. The cemetery’s Veterans had not been receiving military honors on Memorial Day memorials, but because of Bill and Marsha Gibson’s efforts, this will change in the years to come.

On the day of the plaque dedication, local veterans and the BLM offices agreed this historic cemetery would stay clear of sagebrush and the interned Veterans will always receive military honors on Memorial Day. Sadly, Marsha did not see this project come to fruition as she passed away last year. Bill, thank you for inspiring this project and your dedicated efforts to identify and recognize the Veterans of Rochester Cemetery.

**Twin Bridges Post 31—Celebrates 100th Anniversary**

Post 31 of Twin Bridges celebrated its 100th anniversary on August 2, 2019, with a banquet, cake and awards presented to three deserving members. The banquet and cake were provided by Twin’s Women of the World and member Ed Hayes. Several Post members and their families attended the event and enjoyed many great conversations. Later while eating cake, Commander Redfield presented some awards. Jim Paull was awarded a Legion Meritorious Service Award and giving a gift certificate to a local restaurant honoring his contribution as the Past Adjutant.

Ed Hayes was awarded a Legion Commendation Certificate and gift certificate for his efforts volunteering for different events and is looking forward to creating a 2nd outstanding 100-year legacy. Thank you “Women for Veterans” for all your hard work and thank you local Veterans for all your countless hours of community volunteerism.

Jim Paull was awarded a Legion Meritorious Service Award and maintaining Post finances. And lastly, Bill Gibson was given a 25 Year Continuous Membership Certificate honoring his long service to the Post and our community.

Ed Hayes was awarded a Legion Commendation Certificate and gift certificate for his efforts volunteering for different events.

Ed Hayes was awarded a Legion Commendation Certificate and gift certificate for his efforts volunteering for different events.

**Question: How does this affect the eligibility for membership?**

**Answer:** The American Legion’s membershipeligibility criteria will change along with that of The American Legion. Any son or grandson of a living American Legion member will be able to join the SAL program. Sons and grandchildren of deceased veterans are also eligible. For example, a son of a veteran who served between 1985 and 1988 previously would not have been eligible. With the extension of the war period, that veteran would immediately be eligible for The American Legion and the son would be able to join SAL.

**Question: How does this affect the eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary?**

**Answer:** This follows the same concept as the SAL, as noted previously. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is currently open to grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and adopted female descendants of eligible veterans. (Recently opened to male members - Fall 2019)

**Question: How does this change the membership eligibility for departments, districts and posts?**

**Answer:** This change opens up American Legion membership to thousands more veterans who likely live in your communities. They may become members immediately.

**Question: The current membership applications don’t address the eligibility change. How do we process those members?**

**Answer:** New membership materials have been developed and distributed as quickly as possible. If you do not have the new materials, it is recommended that prospective members from a previously undocumented war era write “Other Conflicts” in the eligibility date section and send it in to their department with the appropriate due dates.

**Question: What steps should departments, districts and posts focus on?**

**Answer:** A good first step would be to review all recruiting materials to look for eligibility dates. Information on electronic media (websites, social media channels, etc.) should be changed immediately. It is up to departments to decide on the best way to handle printed materials, while updated ones are being produced.

**Question: How does this change the Paid Up For Life program?**

**Answer:** There are no changes to the PUF program, though the newly eligible members would be able to become PUFs. To learn more about the program, visit https://www.legion.org/PUF.

**Question: Who can I contact for more information about this change as it applies to membership and recruiting?**

**Answer:** Contact the National Membership Division. Visit the below web page to find the representative in your state. https://www.legion.org/membership/contacts.

**Question: How does this change the American Legion’s founding fathers believed, “a veteran is a veteran,” an axiom that has been true throughout the organization’s more than century of service. Some veterans were ineligible to join because of the war eras that were defined by Congress. The recent bill passage and President’s signature changed that.**

**Question: How does this differentiate The American Legion from AMVETS?**

**Answer:** The American Legion’s eligibility criteria states that veterans must have served during “wartime.” When Congress decides the U.S. is no longer at war, The American Legion’s membership eligibility period will close, while AMVETS will still be open to members who served.

**Question: How does this affect the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)?**

**Answer:** The Sons’ eligibility criteria will change along with that of The American Legion. Any son or grandson of a living American Legion member will be able to join the SAL program. Sons and grandchildren of deceased veterans are also eligible. For example, a son of a veteran who served between 1985 and 1988 previously would not have been eligible. With the extension of the war period, that veteran would immediately be eligible for The American Legion and the son would be able to join SAL.

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Red Lodge Post 17 Veterans Celebrate 100th birthday

Historic command: Schlosser becomes ERDC's first female commander

by John Suratt | The Vicksburg Post (8/9/2019)

History was made Friday at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center with the installation of ERDC’s 11th and first female commander, Col. Teresa Schlosser, during a change of command ceremony. [Schlosser is a member of Helena Post 2]

Schlosser replaces Col. Ivan Beckman, who is retiring from the Army after 30 years of service. Schlosser is the 11th and first female commander of ERDC. Schlosser shares something with Beckman and Col. William Lennox — the only woman in the room and I’m very used to being the first woman in the room.”

Schlosser wants to keep ERDC’s involvement in the Vicksburg Warren School District science, technology, engineering and math programs, and hopes she can serve as a role model for girls to get involved in STEM.

“I think the Army gives women more opportunities than any other profession,” she said. “I’m often the only woman in the room and I’m very used to being the first woman in the room.”

Schlosser is staffed (for) two years. Other district commands are the only 06 (colonel level) command in the Corps that are involved in STEM.

Sen. Jon Tester is continuing his push to honor a Great Falls Vietnam veteran who died during the sinking of the USS Frank E. Evans 50 years ago. Tester joined a bipartisan, bicameral group of members urging the Senate Armed Services Committee and House Armed Services Committee to include the USS Frank E. Evans Act in this year’s National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

“Young sailors like William Fields made the ultimate sacrifice 50 years ago protecting the freedoms we enjoy today,” said Tester, Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee. “Now, it is time to honor these sailors on behalf of an eternally grateful nation. We must properly commemorate Seaman Apprentice Fields and other Vietnam War heroes like him, by ensuring their names are never forgotten.”

Seaman Apprentice William Fields died when the ship was just outside the conflict boundary zone, Fields and his 73 crewmates were not initially added to the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. The bipartisan bill would add the names of these sailors, also known as the “Lost 74,” to the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Fields was born in Great Falls, where his father served in the U.S. Air Force. He reported aboard the ship just 17 days before the ship sank. He was 19 years old.

Eleanor Guerrero, Carbon County News, Senior Reporter

Fall Conference, information to take back to each
district. Also be handing each District Commander at the
Fall District Meetings a Facebook page for supporting my efforts. I will
be more than happy to help. Just message me for more information or
needs assistance in any way.

Gianforte recognizes Melissa Kloiber

by Jen Dalrymple, Post 42 Commander

Hi everyone, I hope you are all having a good
day. I went to most of the Fall District Meetings this
year and had a wonderful time talking with those
at the meetings including some of the
cancelled women veterans that attended.

First, I want to congratulate Melissa Kloiber
on receiving a Congressional Citation from
Representative Gianforte for her
support of the community after her Air Force ser-
vice at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, MT. She has a developed a device called Angel Arms that helps her daughter and other handi-
capped children with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA).

Second, I want to reiterate what I was talking about at the Fall District meetings. This last May
was the last of the Women Veteran Luncheons/ Forums that will be taking place. Due to the lack
of participation of women veterans, it was neither
a cost- or time-efficient to host these, though there was
good information being shared and friendly camaraderie among us. In the future, something
like this may take place again if the conditions are better. I do have information to give to women
considering continuing to get to the meetings. In this aspect, I do have a Facebook page set up for sharing. It is...

Women Veterans in MT American Legion. I post
information and sometimes encouraging mes-
ages on the Facebook page. Anyone who wants
more information or needs assistance in any way,
I would be more than happy to help. Just message
me on the Facebook page and I will respond back.

I want to thank those already liking/following the
Facebook page for supporting my efforts. I will
also be handing each District Commander at the
Fall Conference, information to take back to each
of their Posts. Feel free to contact me at phone/text
701-260-2833 or email IDIDnNDe@hotmail.com

Boys State Citizen Samuel Fullbright Receives runners-
up 2019 National Samsung Scholarship of $5,000
AS ANNOUNCED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION | OCT 17 2019

More than 4,660 rising high school seniors who participated in a 2019 American Legion Boys State and
Auxiliary Girls State program applied for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship to receive up to $10,000
for higher education. The 98 scholarship recipients were
selected by The American Legion’s Committee on Youth
Education Oct. 14 during the Legion’s Fall Meetings in
Indianapolis.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship awarded
10 national scholarships with $10,000, 10 runners-up with
$5,000, and 78 department finalists each receive $1,250 for undergraduate study.

The recipients earned the award based on several
criteria, including participation in American Legion Boys
State or Auxiliary Girls State and being a direct descen-
dant of a wartime veteran eligible for American Legion membership.

There were 156 applicants who earned an extra bonus point for being a member of or related to someone in the American Legion Family.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is avail-
able for high school juniors who participate in the cur-
current session of Boys State or Girls State and are an adopt
descendants (or legally adopted children) of wartime veterans eligible for American Legion membership.

The Samsung scholarship supports undergraduate studies
(e.g., room and board, tuition and books), and each applicant is selected according to his or her involvement
in school and community activities, academic record and financial need.

For more information about the scholarship, visit www.
legion.org/scholarships/samsung

Melissa Kloiber

LG-15B-11610217-1.jpg

Don Jones awarding the Dept. of Montana AL
SAMSUNG to Samuel Fullbright.

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How to Submit Articles or Photos?

Deadline: January 2, 2020

always include a short copy in every Email Subject Line

Text – No formatting such as, multiple space and multiple tabs to line up text
• Set one tab (publisher will format to line up paragraphs and columns) PLEASE do
not use multiples tabs for All formatting to be removed before placing into paper
• Modern formatting is single-space between sentences (after the period)
• Please provide Cover title as well as Post/Unit number
• Post, Unit & Department are all capitalized
• It is better if articles/photographs are written in third person – unless you’re talking about quotes
• Always keep new members informed and familiar with programs. For example:
Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS). The first time an acronym is used in an article
use the full name followed with acronym. Photos with words, than following first use the acronym.

Please keep articles to approximately 600 words per article.
• If you are using information in your photographs please be sure to use quotation marks and
give credit to the author and/or publication you are taking the information from otherwise
it plagiarizes which has severe legal repercussions.

DO NOT submit articles in PDF format.

If you want credit for an article or photo(s), please make sure you let us know.

Photos must be sent as an e-mail attachments or a JPG format as an attachment
• JPG format, as an attachment
• Default setting on a digital camera is usually set very high. Set to 1200 x 1700 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
so they focus
• If the photo is blurry, too far away, tops of heads cut off, shows 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:
• Caption photo 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 do not send a Word document each time a photo is copied/pasted to add classless/integrity. Send as an e-mail attachment.
• Do Not embed (insert) photos in an email (use attachments)
• Send e-mail attachments

News articles:
• Sending a submission 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 to give proper credit to the author and newspaper to avoid plagiarizing.
• Connections to previously-sent articles
• Send e-mail attachments

Most times the article has already been formatted and grammar-edited, and inserting the
connection saves a lot of time in redoing. Edit and spellcheck your work before you
send it the first time.

ByLine…

Early Submittals Greatly Appreciated!
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
PO Box 125
Fort Harrison, Montana 59636-0125
myfun51@msn.com • 406-324-3550

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

Sons Of The American Legion
Detachment of Montana
For More Information About Membership Call:
(406) 324-3989
or (406) 324-3990
or write to P.O. Box 6075
Helena, MT 59604

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) 453-8822

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

Silver Bow Post #1 and Auxiliary
American Legion of Montana
Welcome Meeting
1st & 3rd Wednesday Every Month—7:00 PM
Dinner: 3rd Wednesday—6:00 PM
New Legion Hall—3201 Wynne Avenue
Butte MT

Silver Bow Post #1
American Legion of Montana
Welcome Meeting
1st & 3rd Wednesday Every Month—7:00 PM
Dinner: 3rd Wednesday—6:00 PM
New Legion Hall—3201 Wynne Avenue
Butte MT

American Legion
Gallatin Post #14
Serving for Legiontown USA
225 East Main Street
Bozeman, MT 59715
Open daily
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