Denise H. Rohan, National Commander, 2017-2018

Denise Rohan (pronounced ROW en) was elected national commander of the 2-million-member American Legion on August 24, 2017 in Reno, Nev., during the 99th national convention of the nation’s largest veterans organization. She is the first woman to be elected to the top position of The American Legion.

Born in McGregor, Iowa, Denise (Hulbert) Rohan lived in Elkader, Iowa, until leaving for U.S. Army basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala. in 1974. She served on active-duty as a stock control & accounting specialist and repair parts specialist course instructor at Fort Lee, Va., until her honorable discharge in August 1976.

Rohan has served The American Legion since 1984. While commander of Post 333 in Sun Prairie, Wis., she established Sons of The American Legion Squadron 333 and chartered Boy Scout Troop 333. She has also served as the department (state) commander of the Wisconsin American Legion.

Rohan served the Family Readiness Group as a civilian volunteer with the Wisconsin Army National Guard’s 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and 1-105th Cavalry Squadron. She also served with the 115th Fighter Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard Airman and Family Readiness Program. Her theme as national commander is “Family First” and her fundraising project will provide temporary financial assistance to needy children of veterans and training for American Legion service officers.

As this issue of the Legionnaire goes to press, National Commander Rohan is embarking on her tour through Montana with stops in the state. She begins by visiting the Fort Harrison Museum followed by a pasta buffet dinner at Broadwater Post 42, Townsend. After returning to Helena, the next morning she will be meeting with various Montana National Guard individuals at Fort Harrison and with the VA Director and Veterans Service Officer before attending the Fall Montana Department Conference. After the entire meet and greets, speeches and meetings, she’ll be geared up for the evening Department Commander’s reception hosted by Helena Post 2 and be geared up for the evening Department Commander’s reception hosted by Helena Post 2 and a short trip out to Clancy for dinner at the Legal Tender. Saturday begins anew with the Past Department Commander’s breakfast and a second round at the Department Conference to include joining the Auxiliary session. Her evening will commence at the cocktail hour, transitioning as the keynote speaker during the combined Legion Family Banquet and continue until she is properly Montana tuckered out. Thankfully Sunday begins with a more somber God and Country Service and a beautiful drive over the mountains to Anaconda Post 21 for lunch. Afterwards she will be treated to an awe-inspiring tour of the Berkeley Pit in Butte on her way back to Helena for dinner and surely much needed rest and relaxation. Her departure Monday will undoubtedly be tough; Montanans have a way of embracing an everlasting love of God and Country on all who visit here and the experiences are not readily forgotten.

Important
Upcoming Dates

Oct 27-29 ...Fall Conference, Helena; Nat’l Commander in attendance – Fort Harrison & Jorgensen’s
Nov 5 ...Daylight Savings Time Ends
Nov 11 ...65% Target Date
Nov 11 ...2018 Cash Calendar slips due
Nov 23 ...Thanksgiving
Dec 7 ...Pearl Harbor Day
Dec 13 ...75% Target Date
Dec 31 ...2018 Big K Due
Dec 31 ...2018 Cash Calendar Slips Due
Jan 1 ...Cut-off for Articles for Feb/April issue of MT Legionnaire
Jan 1 ...1st Big K Drawing
Jan 5 ...Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Awards Due to Department
Jan 5 ...Firefighter of the Year Awards Due to Department
Jan 18 ...80% Target Date
Feb 1 ...Boys State Letters Due

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The American Legion of Montana

The American Legion of Montana has contracted with Publishing Concepts (PCO), a trusted partner, to create this special member publication.

Watch for postcards and emails from PCO with instructions to update your information so you can stay connected! Don’t miss out on the opportunity to be included.

www.publishingconcepts.com

The American Legion of Montana Member Directory Project is about to begin.

The American Legion of Montana has contracted with Publishing Concepts (PCO), a trusted partner, to create this special member publication.

Watch for postcards and emails from PCO with instructions to update your information so you can stay connected! Don’t miss out on the opportunity to be included.

www.publishingconcepts.com
Thank you everyone for our great start on this membership year. The Department reached the 50 percent target well in advance of the scheduled date. Ennis Post 65 made goal barely two months into the membership year. I received a personal phone call from the National Vice Commander for the Western Region Paula Stephenson to congratulate Montana for our efforts to date. I thanked her, but emphasized that it was the officers and members at the Post level that made it happen. Over half of our Posts have already surpassed the next two targets. Outstanding! However, we do have about 30 Posts that have fallen behind and will need to make an extra effort to catch up. We (the Department) came so close to making goal last year. I really think we can do it this year.

Those that attended National Convention (there were 49 individuals from Montana that attended when the entire American Legion Family is included) had a wonderful time. Because of the Departments success last year, we had nearly included) had a wonderful time. Because of the when the entire American Legion Family is close to making goal last year. I really think we can effort to catch up. We (the Department) came so close to making goal last year. I really think we can do it this year.

We are at the time of year when many of our awards and deadlines for some of our programs are due. None of these awards or programs can be complete without the involvement and input of our Post members. I would ask that you sometime take an active part in the selection process of our awards. Our Economic Commission Awards consist of nine different awards:

1. Employer of Veterans Award
   a. Small sized employer
   b. Large sized employer
2. Employer of Older Workers Award
3. Employer of Older Workers Award
4. Homeless Veteran Outreach Award
5. Employment Services Award
   a. Disabled Veterans Outreach Personnel (DVOP)
   b. Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER)
6. Employment Service Local Office
7. Employment Local Office
8. Employment Local Office
9. Employment Local Office

Please contact Department Headquarters for more information or nomination forms.

Other awards that need attention now are the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, Eagle Scout of Year, VA Employee of the Year, VA Physician of the Year and VA Healthcare Provider of the Year. Nominations forms are available from Department Headquarters.

For Posts that have Junior Shooting Sports Programs (JSSP) you should be ordering your target due. None of these awards or programs can be complete without the involvement and input of our Post members. I would ask that you sometime take an active part in the selection process of our awards. Our Economic Commission Awards consist of nine different awards:

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For Posts that have Junior Shooting Sports Programs (JSSP) you should be ordering your target sets now for the National Contest, all requests for targets must be postmarked by January 15th, and all targets must be shot and mailed to National with a postmark no later than 1 February 2018.
Fort Harrison VA Cemetery

Gents a Trim

by Jen Dalrymple

Volunteers from around the state gathered in the rain at Fort Henry Harrison's State Cemetery with joyful spirit, safety gear, and tree trimming and planting equipment to participate in the annual “Saluting Branches” Arborists United for Veteran Remembrance; an industry-wide Arboriculture initiative to express appreciation and gratitude for the sacrifices and initiative to express appreciation and gratitude for the sacrifices and services our military forces have provided for our nation.

This year professional tree care specialists and volunteers from as far away as Miles City and Libby participated in giving the VA ground's and Cemetery’s trees a nice pruning, taking out dead-wood, removing dead trees and planting ten new saplings around the columbarium. Legionnaires and other fellow veterans were counted among the 40+ volunteers who took a weekday to come out and spruce up one of our final resting places for Veterans and their family members. Thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers and businesses that gave of themselves to make this a very successful event. For information on next year’s Saluting Branches events, visit https://www.salutingbranches.org.

Editor’s Notes

By way of introduction for those that have not heard of me, I am Jen Dalrymple current Commander of Broadwater Post 42, Townsend and your new Montana Legionnaire editor. I am honored to bring this paper to you as it holds many exciting and interesting events that our Posts and members are hosting or participating in around our state and nation. You will see a slightly different focus than issues past. Our National Commander, Denise Rohan, has stressed the importance of American Legion (Family) name recognition, credit for what our members are doing and our impact throughout our communities. In this regard, I have taken liberties to alter this edition could not be used because of poor quality or incompatible formatting.

I want to get your stories and photos out there but I NEED YOUR HELP to do so. When you send me, or Gary White, an article and photo, please, please be sure to send the photo as a separate .JPG attachment to your email. DO NOT try to format it with text additions or captions, as in a .PDF file. We do not have the necessary software to disaggregate a PDF and typically the photo is very pixilated (low resolution) and will not be clear enough to use. Just add the caption verbiage in the email text and attach the best quality, highest resolution photo you can. That way, we will all be able to see and share your story.

I look forward to receiving many more examples of the activities you and your Post/District are hosting or participating in, so if you have any questions or concerns about a submittal, please feel free to contact me at the email or phone number above.

Many thanks and I hope you truly enjoy your Legionnaire.

Post Everlasting

July/August/September 2017

3 BENUSA, REDWOLD, 7/16/17 – WWII – unknown – 18-year member of Post 93, Three Forks
3 BLOCK, DAN, 2/5/16 – Vietnam – US Marine - 11-year member of Post 15, Butte
3 BUCKINGHAM, DALE G., 6/28/17 – Korea – US Navy - 2-year member of Post 20, Dillon
3 BURT, MIKE, VIETNAM – US Air Force – 3-year member of Post 21, Anaconda
3 BYRNE, TOM, 3/27/17 – WWII – US Army – 53-year member of Post 52, Deer Lodge
3 CAMPBELL, JAMES, 4/12/17 – WWII – US Army - 32-year member of Post 94, Stevensville
3 CLEMENT, GLEN N. DOO – Korea – US Army – 9-year member of Post 14, Bozeman
3 CROWE, ROBERT, 7/31/17 – WWII – US Army – 26-year member of Post 61, Miles City
3 DEWOLF, WILLIAM, 1/3/17 – WWII – US Navy – 32-year member of Post 2, Helena
3 DEZEILL, WALTER, 5/17/17 – Korea – US Army – 3-year member of Post 47, Hamilton
3 ELHARD, WAYNE, 7/13/17 – Vietnam – unknown – 6-year member of Post 56, Scobey
3 ELLIOT, ROGER/7/27/17 – WWII – US Army – 5-year member of Post 2, Helena
3 ENGLISH, BERT REAY, 9/1/17 – Vietnam – US Air – 26-year member of Post 2, Helena
3 FROST, CHARLES, 2/16/17 – Korea – US Marine – 28-year member of Post 41, Glasgow
3 GOOD-BIRD, GEDD H. 4/18/17 – Korea – US Army – 10-year member of Post 61, Brockton
3 GOOSEY, DENNIS, 3/23/17 – US Navy – 18-year member of Post 19, Big Timber
3 GRUBER, ROBERT, 7/19/17 – WWII – US Navy – 7-year member of Post 97, Libby
3 HAMANN, DUWAYNE, 6/16/17 – Vietnam – US Army – 39-year member of Post 97, Libby
3 HANCOCK, SHIRLEY, 6/26/17 – WWII – US Army – 37-year member of Post 89, Sheridan
3 HANSHA, ROBERT, 4/17/17 – Vietnam – Unknown – 55-year member of Post 34, Columbus
3 JOHNSTON, ELVIN, 4/12/17 – WWII – US Army – 9-year member of Post 109, Turner
3 JOHNSON, THOMAS, 6/15/17 – WWII – US Navy - 25-year member of Post 37, Conrad
3 KOVACICH, DONALD, 8/10/17 – Vietnam – Unknown – 3-year member of Post 16, Lewistown
3 LUJAN, MIGUEL, 7/12/17 – WWII – US Army – 8-year member of Post 21, Anaconda
3 MEYERS, HUGH, 4/24/17 – Korea – US Army – 61-year member of Post 229, Paradise
3 MITCHELL, DEREK, 4/21/17 – Korea – US Air – 26-year member of Post 47, Hamilton
3 MOE, SKULASON, 6/18/17 – Korea – US Army – 12-year member of Post 106, Whitetail
3 OLSON, CLARENCE, 4/2/17 – WWII – US Army – 72-year member of Post 109, Turner
3 OLSON, GLEN, 3/10/17 – WWII – US Army – 72-year member of Post 109, Turner
3 PAVLAK, PAUL, 6/25/17 – Korea – US Air - 6-year member of Post 16, Lewistown
3 PERSIN, DALE, 8/25/17 – Vietnam – US Navy – 7-year member of Post 97, Helena
3 PINGER, CHARLES, 3/21/17 – Vietnam – unknown – 31-year member of Post 15, Hardlawn
3 ROBERTSON, HARVEY, 5/9/16 – Korea – US Marine – 5-year member of Post 115, Butte
3 ROGERS, GEORGE, 8/10/17 – Vietnam – US Marine - 11-year member of Post 115, Billings
3 ROSENBERG, FRANK, 4/12/17 – WWII – US Army – 73-year member of Post 15, Harlotown
3 SALVO, JOE, 7/27/77 – Unknown – 63-year member of Post 20, Dillon
3 SANNICKS, PAULA, 8/17/17 – Vietnam – US Air – 5-year member of Post CN20, Calgary
3 SOUTH, BILLY G., 3/15/2017 – WWII – unknown – 27-year member of Post 60, Harlotown
3 SULLIVAN, LARRY, 7/10/17 – Korea – US Army - 56-year member of Post 42, Townsend
3 SWANEY, JAMES, 7/13/17 – Vietnam – US Army – 30-year member of Post 118, Gardiner
3 THOMPSON, GALE, 7/13/17 – Korea – unknown – 43-year member of Post 93, Three Forks
3 TURNER, KENNETH, 8/3/17 – WWII – US Army – 71-year member of Post 76, Hobson
3 WIEDERRICH, ALVIN, 6/7/17 – WWII – US Air – 64-year member of Post 12, Sidney
3 WOOD, CHARLES, 8/28/17 – WWII – US Air – 7-year member of Post CN20, Calgary

Photos courtesy of Trudy Southwick

From the lakes
Gems the sky
And a star
All is well
Day is done
Safely rest
From the sky
Neath the sun
Fading light
Neath the stars
Glimmering bright.
From the hills
Drawing night
Neath the sun
Neath the stars
As we go.

Words by Francis Parkman, 1869

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<tr>
<th>Post</th>
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## DISTRICT STANDINGS

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## TEN LARGEST POSTS

- **HELENA** | Posts: 466 | Members: 363 |
- **BILLINGS** | Posts: 288 | Members: 177 |
- **BOZEMAN** | Posts: 229 | Members: 150 |
- **MISSOULA** | Posts: 214 | Members: 136 |
- **BILLINGS** | Posts: 162 | Members: 103 |
- **ANACONDA** | Posts: 149 | Members: 99 |
- **BELGRADE** | Posts: 138 | Members: 132 |
- **HELENA** | Posts: 137 | Members: 132 |
- **STEVENSVILLE** | Posts: 132 | Members: 132 |

## DISTRICT GOALS

- **Squadron Goal 2018**: To Date
- **Goal**: 1046 Posts | 466 Members

## 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 to the group buying power of millions of Legionnaires like you, we have negotiated with leading insurance companies to bring you the best rates and coverage that the insurance industry needs to see to succeed. Even if you are over 65, you can still benefit from these savings, and increasing rates. It's easy, just choose what you need from the Legionnaire Insurance Trust's full range of plans designed by District and tailored to the needs of Legionnaires and their families.

[Legion.org](http://www.legion.org/renew)

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[Legion.org](http://www.legion.org/renew)

## MONTANA LEGIONNAIRES — NOVEMBER 2017 — JANUARY 2018
One year after enactment

- Additional authorized transfer of unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to dependents upon death of originally designated dependents.

- Monthly stipend for certain members of Reserve component individuals receiving Post-9/11 GI Bill.

- VA High Technology Pilot Program (*180 days after Aug. 1, 2018).

- Duration of education assistance under Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance Program (DEA) (from 45 to 36 months of entitlement).

- Limitation on use of reporting fees payable to educational institutions and sponsors of programs of apprenticeship.

- Training requirements for School Certifying Officials as condition of GI Bill approval.

- Provision of information regarding Veteran entitlement to educational assistance.

- Eligibility of Reserve Component members for Post-9/11 GI Bill (12304a and 12304b of title 10).

- Increase in amounts of educational assistance payable under DEA.

- Additional benefits for pursuit of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs.

- Consolidation of certain eligibility tiers under Post-9/11 GI Bill.

For additional information on this, and other VA Education programs, please visit www.va.gov. In Montana, we have 23 accredited service officers in offices across the state. We can also assist you with questions specific to your area.

MT Legionnaires Attend 54th Annual Nat’l Membership Workshop

At the July 27-29 Workshop we were privileged to hear speak the then current National Commander Charles Schmidt of Oregon, incoming National Commander Denise Rohan of Virginia, LTC Nick D. Callaway, USAF Commander of the 364th Recruiting Squadron in Sacramento, CA and several others. All of us had different blocks of instruction, we all felt we had learned something and the whole trip was a valuable experience. (Our only complaint was we didn’t have enough time in the day to talk to each other.)

Thank you for your service to our great Country!
The “holiday season” is almost here. Posts will once again be hosting holiday parties as the Legion Family gathers to celebrate together. Good deeds to us, or we think we can’t help. We are family and we do not have a holiday, we have a season. The “holiday season” is almost here. Posts will once again be hosting holiday parties as the Legion Family gathers to celebrate together. Good deeds to us, or we think we can’t help. We are family and we do not have a holiday, we have a season. The “holiday season” is almost here. Posts will once again be hosting holiday parties as the Legion Family gathers to celebrate together. Good deeds to us, or we think we can’t help. We are family and we do not have a holiday, we have a season. The “holiday season” is almost here. Posts will once again be hosting holiday parties as the Legion Family gathers to celebrate together. Good deeds to us, or we think we can’t help. We are family and we do not have a holiday, we have a season.

### Chaplain’s Corner

#### Holiday Thoughts

The “holiday season” is almost here. Posts will once again be hosting holiday parties as the Legion Family gathers to celebrate together. Good deeds to us, or we think we can’t help. We are family and we do not have a holiday, we have a season.

### The American Legion History Guidance

As the elected Department Historian, I have the privilege and opportunity to travel to most of the 2016 Fall and 2017 Spring District meetings, as well as attending the 2016 Fall Conference and special events, such as the 2017 Montana Department National Oratorical Contest. I also attended the Montana Department Centennial Annual Convention in Billings, the 99th Annual National Convention in Reno, Nevada and currently the 2017 Fall District meeting schedule.

I find throughout Montana that The American Legion is doing what they have done best for 99+ years. They are supporting the Veterans and their families as best they can, utilizing the Four Pillars of The American Legion National Program: Supporting the many facets of Veterans Affairs, a Strong National Defense, viable Americanism programs and our Nation’s most precious resource, Children and Youth.

I was able to travel the State, meeting with many seasoned, as well as newer, younger veterans who populate the 129 American Legion Posts, mostly in rural environments, with all the challenges that manifest themselves in the Frontier State of Montana. I thank all who made my visits so memorable. I also wish to thank all those who helped me with the Operation Ruptured Duck program. This program is still active and I am in the process of filling requests by various Posts.

As an American Legionnaire and an American Legion family member, I am tasked to provide the following guidance and information directing commitment to the duties and responsibilities of the elected position of Department Historian, especially in further developing of The American Legion Centennial 1919-2019.

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

**Reference is made to:**
- Letter, dated July 31, 2015, from The American Legion National 100th Anniversary Observance Committee announcing the updated 5 year plan for The American Legion Centennial 1919-2019.
- The American Legion’s Centennial Celebration Workbook.
- The American Legion’s Legacy Vision brochure.
- The American Legion’s Post 9/11 Veterans Booklet

**Dear American Legion,**

Elmer Johnston was drafted into the Army from Great Falls, MT on July 14, 1917. By September 22 of 1918 World War I. He was shipped to France as part of the Western Expedition Forces under the command of General George Pershing. He was assigned in France to be a truck driver and was part of a group of trucks to haul ammunition to the front lines. Their “truck train” would move night and day almost day after day – so it was “night work” for him for two years – coming home in late 1919.

He told many stories of the fierce fighting in trenches, mustard gas and different battles. Their ship docked at Brest France in 1918. He saw Paris, the wine country in South France, the French Riviera. Their truck train was used to give our Algiers light lemon and oranges for the troops to prevent scurvy. He said, “he’d never forget the smell of the lavender fields and the grape vineyards in Southern France.” The smell was beautiful but by 1919 he was happy to come home to the “good old U.S.”

- Written by Elmer Johnston’s daughter, Luella Johnston Keiper

5. Resolution No. 31, Spring 2011, National Executive Committee
6. The American Legion 2015 Officer’s guide and Manual of Ceremonies
7. The World War One Centennial 100 Cities/100 Memorials Grant program
8. NEC Resolution No. 10 The American Legion Memorial Project

The Department of Montana Executive Committee has established a Department Centennial Committee in accordance with the request of the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee and the Department Historian has been designated the Department Centennial Chairman.

In addition, the Department authorized a three person 100th Centennial Committee whose members are Joyce Babcock (Custer Post 5), Michael Shepard (Post 72, Columbia Falls) and Lowell Long (Blaine Post 48, Chinook). The Committee’s task is to engage the Montana Posts in meaningful participation concerning the Centennial. As Chairman, I encourage all Posts to implement The American Legion’s Legacy Vision for The American Legion Centennial 1919-2019. Resolution No. 31, states, “The American Legion wishes to call to the attention of the American People the record of achievements that have been accomplished by The American Legion during the 100 years since its founding, to emphasize the impact the organization has had upon the American society, and the extent of its contributions in national security and the welfare of military veterans, their families and their communities. The American Legion wishes to set forth the objectives and the aims that will motivate its programs and activities for the future and to illustrate the contribution made to the future of the country as intended by these programs.”

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

a. Establish a web site presence through The American Legion Centennial Program.

b. Invite the community to your events, actively participate in the community and document activities.

c. Write a post history and participate in the One Year History program.

d. Be visible in all American Legion activities; wear your hat.

All documents referenced above are available on the National American Legion website www legion.org/centennial. If your Post/Auxiliary/Sons of The American Legion have access to the internet, you can accomplish The American Legion Centennial Challenge. Remember to look to your strengths, leverage them and your local community for ideas and support.

I am asking all Montana Posts to establish their Local Legacy-Your Post’s History. National Headquarters has developed a webpage that will allow each participating Post its own place online where...

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**More Guidance next page**

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**2018 POOL (ZONE) & STATE DEPARTMENT ORATORICAL**

**Sunday, March 11, 2018**

9:00 am (Students must arrive by 8:00 am)

Great Falls, Montana

National Oratorical Program

April 13-15 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

One high school student from the Department Oratorical program will represent Montana.

For further information, contact:

Jeff Holmes, Chairman

email: bnpnnwjeff@hotmail.com or
text: (406) 350-1347

Reference information at <http://www. legion.org/oratorical/about>
As the District 1 Commander of The American Legion, I would like to thank you all for your interest and investment into YOUR Northeast Montana Veterans Memorial Park.

It has been a lengthy project and there is always room for more improvement which continues on a daily basis. Your involvement with this ongoing project is deeply appreciated.

I hope that you are as proud as I am of the dedication to the Montana State Veterans Memorial which took place on Memorial Day 2018. The cornerstone was unveiled with a ceremony that included a color guard, bagpipe band, and a guest speaker. The display is located next to the Veteran's Wall of Honor and has been received with much importance.

Thank You

Legion Family Memorial Bench
August 16, 2017

The solid granite Montana District 1 American Legion Family Bench, featuring 13 honorable Posts, was set in place at the Northeast Montana Veterans Memorial Park in Fort Peck on Wednesday, August 16, 2017.

Children & Youth Conference

The American Legion held their annual Children and Youth Conference in Indianapolis 15-17 September 2017. Attending the conference was Department Chair of Children and Youth, Sharon Doig, who has held this position for the last four years and District 10 Commander Clancee Collins. Additional members of The American Legion Family were from Alaska and the lower states.

South Central Zone Successful

By Joyce Barrock

South Central Zone has been very successful in remaining in top numbers of membership. By the September percentage deadline, all three District Commanders had attained 50 percent or higher in their membership which gives them a good 'jump' toward reaching the next goal – 100 percent. We are all looking forward to attaining the 100 percent goal affording us the members we need to assist with activities in The American Legion programs. Fall District meetings were an enjoyable and learning experience. With some new District Commanders and a new Zone Commander, there were some interesting moments from the podium but we got through the meetings and got the Fall business completed in short order. Sometimes speeches may have been a bit 'too short' but all those in attendance enjoyed the meetings. We are always learning new things and new ways of proceeding, so come join us at Spring District meeting and see what is happening throughout your District.

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Finally Home: WWII POW Gruber honored

by Jan Anderson, Editor

When Pvt. William Gruber finally came home to Montana Saturday, nearly 75 years after dying in a World War II Japanese prisoner of war camp, his return was greeted with respect and solemnity by hundreds.

A man at the Helena cathedral was heavily attended. As the lengthy motorcade, accompanied by the Patriot Guard Riders of Montana on motorcycles, made its way south about forty miles, citizens gathered on every overpass and along the side of the road to pay their respects.

The engine from the Montana City, Clancy and Jefferson City volunteer fire departments each gathered along Interstate 15 in their areas. In some places, community members placed an American flag on the interstate overpasses and stood in a show of respect.

The story of the struggle to get the remains returned played out over the last two years in the Monitor, ending with the joyous news the family had awaited for decades.

Gruber’s tale included surviving the Bataan Death March and defying Japanese orders while a prisoner to repair their broken trucks.

At Clancy, where Gruber is still a common name, five firefighters routinely answer calls from a fire house named in honor of a long-time firefighter who served not only a last name but also a first name with his relative, the remaining soldier. Fellow fire fighters showed respect to both William and Barbara.

At Jefferson City, five firefighters lead the interstation to greet the procession. Fire Chief Bud Solaita said, “This was an honor for us in Jefferson City to be involved in our organizations in person to pay respect to one who served our country to the fullest.”

One of the department’s newest fire fighters, 18-year-old Levi Veislur, is a great-great-nephew of Pvt. Gruber. A part of the department for two months, Veislur joined his fellow firefighters in standing for Gruber.

See FINALLY HOME, p. 9

Finally Home: after 75 years, from p. 8

with flags and saluting the passing procession.

When the procession reached Boulder, they drove down a Main Street lined with American flags and POW-MIA flags. At the church and cemetery, in the Boulder Valley, Pvt. Gruber’s final resting place, American flags line the drive.

In the cemetery, representatives of the Boulder American Legion post were joined by other veterans in honoring the fallen soldier. An honor flight passed overhead to mark the occasion. The Lewis & Clark Veterans Council presented a rifle salute, shooting three times into the air.

Ceremonies included by the American Legion color guard, Boy Scout Troop 112 from Jordan, Horace Mann High School band and the Helena High School band.

The Bronze Star and Purple Heart earned by Pvt. William Gruber were finally presented to his family in a ceremony in Helena Saturday morning. The Bronze Star honors meritorious service and the Purple Heart goes to those wounded or killed in the line of duty. The family had been assured more than 35 years ago the medals would be coming soon.

Barney Gruber, a WWII Marine veteran who participated in reenacting last June, carries a yellow rose to place at the burial spot for his brother. Below, he and Franklin Gruber, the only two remaining brothers of the returning soldier, sit side by side at the service. There were six Gruber brothers, five of whom served in the military.

A three-gun salute is fired off by members of the Lewis & Clark Veterans Council. The council stood with their rifles throughout Saturday’s interment. It is a service they provide at military honors throughout the area.

Finally Home provided in entirety by Boulder Monitor Editor Jan Anderson.
Dear Ladies of Montana American Legion Auxiliary,

The holiday season is upon us and it is hard to believe that it is this time of year. I hope you are helping to celebrate Veterans Day. In this coming season, are you planning to help someone in your community? One of our national goals is to be kind. With the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s season, I hope we remember to be kind in all that we do.

In being kind, we all need reminders from time to time to help. So in that spirit, I hope you will remember to help Stacy Bear by sending in essays for the Americanism Essay contest. Remember to help Mechelle Holmes by sending in scholarship applicants. Remember to help Leah Ellwein by reading, updating (if necessary) and submitting your Unit/District Constitution and Bylaws. And remember to help people in your communities through Community Service projects.

These four committees remind me that we also need to be patriotic. How are we showing our patriotism? Are we flying our national flag? When the Pledge of Allegiance is said, do we stand at attend and cover our heart? Do we remember that when the National Anthem is played or sung we cover our hearts? (As civilians we cover our hearts; as military in uniform or former military, they salute.)

Before our busy holiday season, were you at Fall Conference? If you were, you got to see the first woman who is National Commander, Denise Rohan. Her theme is year is: Family First. She was the first woman who is National Commander, Denise Rohan. Her theme is: Family First. She was

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May 30 - Memorial Day
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November 11 - Veteran’s Day
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December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day
June 14 - Flag Day
December 25 - Christmas

Honor. What does that mean? Do we honor the things we cherish as much as we should? According to some definitions of honor it is to esteem or to regard with great respect. If we want to show Americanism then what are some things we should honor?

We should honor our flag. We should honor our veterans, our leaders, our elders, our youth, our programs of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, and we should honor each other. We can honor our flag by being knowledgeable of flag history and etiquette, by knowing the proper disposal methods for our worn flags, and by promoting the observation of patriotic holidays. Some dates to fly your flag include the following:

• January 1 – New Year’s Day
• July 4 - Independence Day
• February 12 - Lincoln’s Birthday
• August 14 – V-J Day
• February 22 – Washington’s Birthday
• September, 1st Monday - Labor Day
• April 13 - Jefferson Day
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We can honor our youth by promoting increased participation in patriotic activities such the Americanism Essay Contest. This year’s theme is “What can I personally do to promote Americanism in my school or community?” Have the essay winners present their essays at a meeting and honor them. In addition, we can honor the Legion and Auxiliary by being involved and supporting each other’s activities and contests, by attending meetings and conventions, by signing up to be an officer or chairman, and be being informed.

Last but not least, we should honor each other. We need to be kind to each other and offer support when needed. We can help teach our youth about honor in part by the way we treat each other. We can also support anti-bullying projects in the schools. Honor. It is a great way to live. It is a great legacy to leave.

Rohan. Her theme is year is: Family First. She


Missoula in the National Convention Parade in Reno, Nevada

SUBMITTED BY LEAH ELLWEIN, LEWIS & CLARK UNIT 2
Front L to R: Sandra Runkel, Incoming Department President Kathy Long, Duzzie Stolp

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Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Karen SuSaG, Department Chairman

“Rosie” wants all to get busy and plan activities during the upcoming season to assist our veterans to have wonderful holidays. Remember your donations to the Christmas Gift Shops at the four VA facilities. Auxiliary members in the past have been very generous, please continue!

Not everyone can send items so, please send monetary contributions through our Department Treasure to get the funds where they need to be. Be sure and include the form with boxes you send listing the items, their value and the name and address of the unit. Mark on the donation form where you want your money to go. Donated items can include gifts for men, women and children. Sweatshirts, sweat pants, sock, white t-shirts go over well. Keep in mind donated items must be new. Please no perfume or cologne!

Don’t overlook the homeless in your community. Work with other organizations to coordinate a coat drive, serve a holiday dinner at your Post Homer, Christmas Party for the children or a gift giving program. Donate to the food pantry, send “care packages” to an active service person.

Be sure and keep track of the volunteer hours and expenses to report on the mid-year report in December. Please share with me a positive impacted story that has our mission in mind on both the mid-year report and year-end reports.

Park City Unit 100

ALA Unit 100 Junior Riley Henckel ready for the Homecoming Parade with her 8th grade classmates on their float.

Meagher County Unit 25

AL Alternative Junior Riley Henckel ready for the Homecoming Parade with her 8th grade classmates on their float.

Stevensville Unit 94...supporting Wild Fire Firefighters

Unit 94 Auxiliary Senior members with Junior members, Quincy and Gwinn Meacham, made fresh homemade chocolate chip cookies on August 13th for the helicopter crews based here in Stevensville.

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Summer News from Missoula Unit 27

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 27 was busy this summer. Members assisted with the “Heroes at Home” barbeque held at Fort Missoula. As the new school year approached, the Unit donated four backpacks filled with school supplies to DeSmet School. Along with the back to school donation, a donation of $25 was given to Military and Cannies.

Unit member Senta Sandberg created a blog for the Unit and will do monthly updates to it. For the start of the new year the Unit elected a new President, Senta Sandberg, and her idea of hosting a “Meet & Greet” at the Post to try to gain new members. For the Unit’s efforts, a new member was gained!

Park City Unit 100

ALA Unit 100 Junior Riley Henckel ready for the Homecoming Parade with her 8th grade classmates on their float.

Meagher County Unit 25

Submitte D by Joanne cummings, unit 25

Submitte D by Jean Bosson

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Submitte D by Jean Bosson
Now that fire season has settled down, it’s easy to focus our attention on disasters happening elsewhere in the country and world. It’s difficult to imagine the magnitude of damage from hurricanes to the posts and members’ homes in Puerto Rico, Florida and Texas and what it is going to take for them to recover. And then, there’s Mexico City. Yes, there are even Legion Posts in Mexico. There is no warning for an earthquake. How many American Legion members lost their homes there?

If you haven’t already done so, please, get online or send a check to donate to the National Emergency Fund (NEF). Through your donations to the NEF our great organization is able to reach a helping hand with a grant to posts and members in need during this very difficult time in their lives. One never knows, someday YOU may need that NEF assistance and one day you’ll be very grateful for all The American Legion members who donated to the NEF to help you.

What have you actually done to be ready to evacuate in case of a disaster? There isn’t always a warning as in the case of hurricanes down south (think about it, where do people in Puerto Rico have to evacuate to?) or to say nothing of tornadoes or wildfires. Then, there’s the threat of an earthquake. Do you have a 72-hour kit to grab when you evacuate?

Members of Corvallis Post 91 observed National Preparedness Month in September by educating their members on creating a 72-hour kit. They invited Harry Lee, from Bug Out Montana, a local business that provides preparedness education and supplies to civilians. Two 72-hour kits were even awarded as door prizes! As if that weren’t enough, following Harry’s presentation, showing them what goes into a kit, their American Legion Amateur Radio Club, KG7SPL, then gave a power point presentation on the club, emergency volunteers and training.

Both presentations were open to the public. To quote their blog, “After last winter’s snow and this summer’s fires it is always good to think about what if? We are hoping to help our members and the public think through these situations and find some individual solutions.” They get it! I couldn’t have said it any better myself. Kudos to Corvallis Post 91!

If you haven’t got your preparedness kit put together, go to Ready.gov and click on Build a Kit to get started. Most of the items can be found around your house. Putting them together in a kit will save valuable minutes if you need to evacuate quickly.

On a bright note, following our terrible fire season, new resources are now available through the Governor’s Office for Posts whose businesses were negatively affected by the recent wildfires and awful smoke. To quote from their website: “If you were negatively affected by the recent wildfires you need to take action!” The Governor’s Office for Posts whose businesses were negatively affected by the recent wildfires and awful smoke.

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If you’ve never heard of the Governor’s Office for Posts, I might add that it is our own one-stop portal consolidates information about various state agencies to provide financial assistance such as grants and loans, while others provide technical assistance such as business counseling. Users who would like assistance working through the various options may call 1-406-841-2770 for live assistance during regular business hours. Staff are available to help individuals identify which programs may be the most applicable to them based on their specific circumstances. Many Montana Posts run a club business in their building. I’m certain some of them may have been affected by the unhealthy smoke levels. This resource is for you.

If you have any questions about disaster preparedness, you’re always welcome to email me at karensem1@gmail.com for more information.

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**Post 100 leads Parks City Homecoming Parade**

Post Commander Denny Harper, Vice Commander Ralph Mitchell, District Commander Jim Bussen, and Legislator Gary Schauk. The driver is Post Adjutant Mike Alexander.

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**Billings Post 117 Hosts Crew of USS Billings**

Eight crew members of the USS Billings LCS-15 spent five days in Billings, five days that they are not likely to forget. The crew led by Commander Nate Rowan looked especially sharp and squared away and they would have been great representatives of the U.S. Navy on any given day, at any event. The crew members were extremely professional and well-spoken and I have no doubt there are at least a few youngsters at local schools who are now considering the Navy for their future because of them.

The crew attended a Billings City Council meeting, a Yellowstone County Commissioner’s meeting and visited the newest school in Billings, Ben Steele Middle School. They toured local historic places including Pompey’s Pillar, Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, and the new Yellowstone Kelly Interpretive Site.

Billings City Councilman Ryan Sullivan was tasked with setting the agenda for the crew and he asked if Post 117 would like to pitch in and welcome the crew to Billings. Andrew Pearson Post 117 hosted a cook out for the crew at Veterans Park which included the usual fare along with some elk burgers provided by Immediate Past Commander Mitch Howe. I was busy cooking but I’m pretty sure that Cmdr. Rowan had at least two and Chief Jones must have had three and then Chief immediately started negotiations on getting elk meat sent to the ship.

There were approximately one hundred people in attendance including Dept. Vice Commander Richard Klose, Zone Commander Michelle Harada, Ship Sponsor Sharla Tester, and Senator Jon Tester. Post 117 Commander Jim Lish presented the crew with a specially designed plaque and three books for the ships library including two books from fellow Legislator Gordon Ewell and one titled Montana Vigilantes. An excellent time was had by all and yes, all eight of the crew members present are now members of Andrew Pearson Post 117. We welcome our newest comrades and look forward to our relationship with the crew of the USS Billings. We also look forward to providing them support and even elk meat, any time we can.
Wreaths Across America, mark your calendar—invite your friends!

December 16, 2017 (3rd Saturday in December), is the National Wreaths Across America Day. Wreaths Across America™ is a national non-profit organization formed as an extension of the Arkansas Wreath Wreath Project. Each stand holds 20 wreaths and they need to be delivered to Fort Harrison cemetery, Fort Harrison center circle. A local Boy Scout is building ten additional wreath stands for his Eagle Project. Each stand holds 20 wreaths and they need your help delivering them to the cemetery by November 30th.

The cutoff date for sponsorships is just around the corner, so share this opportunity to honor our American military heroes—one wreath at a time. It’s important we make the effort to acknowledge their service. If you have any questions about sponsorship opportunities or the Association, please contact: Linda Juvik, Location & Fundraising Group Coordinator Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association (MT0010P) PO Box 7639, Helena MT 59604 donation@pt14.org 406.442.0493

Please make checks payable to Wreaths Across America and send to this address: Wreaths Across America™ PO Box 44062 Columbia Falls ME 04603

Checks must be received in Maine by November 27, 2017 to have them count towards the 2017 event. Include both the Location ID: MTSVCH — Montana State Veterans Cemetery Fort Harrison (so wreaths will be delivered to Fort Harrison), and the Local fundraising group ID – MT0010P – Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association Proceeds from funds raised by the Association will be dedicated to statewide veterans’ charitable causes. If you have any questions about sponsorship opportunities or the Association, please contact: Linda Juvik, Location & Fundraising Group Coordinator Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association (MT0010P) PO Box 7639, Helena MT 59604 donation@pt14.org 406.442.0493

Livingston Post 23

New members of the Sons of the American Legion and The Legion Riders are making a big difference in the activities of Park Post 23. These members are stepping up to help with the cooking and cleanup for the Steel Horse Stampede, participating in the Honor Guard, parades, and other Legion activities.

Of special note, the Park Post 23 Legion Riders travelled to Sheridan Wyoming to await the arrival of a Ford 150 Pickup that had been outfitted for handichooper veterans. The vehicle was delivered to the Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association in Livingston.

In addition, the Legion Riders hosted a successful Annual Wreath Sale in early November.

Townsend Post 42 Post 42 hosted a 9-11 and Bengazi Remembrance Ceremony on the street in front of the Legion Hall. Bud Siefert, Post 42’s Chaplain, gave an invocation; Sheriff Brian Goodkin, Fire Chief Josh Waldo, and Bozeman Police Chief Steve Crawford all spoke at the event followed by a message from Len Albright (Post 14, 1st Vice). Special Olympian Larry Kiff sang the National Anthem and “God Bless America” followed by the 3-round volley by Post 42’s Honor Guard and member George Tate playing Taps. The event displayed appreciation for all the first responders on this Patriots Day (at 9:03 am).

Bozeman Post 14 Hosts 9-11 and Bengazi Remembrance Ceremony by Len Albright

Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association & Ride to Remember

The Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association was established by a group of Montana-based veterans dedicated to the memory of the more than 82,000 POW/MIA personnel yet primarily focusing on those missing from Montana. This is our main effort and is highlighted by the annual motorcycle ride, Montana Ride To Remember. Open to all, it is 183 easy miles from Helena to West Yellowstone. With unlimited passion and drive, members work on details for months ahead of the complimentary barbeque on Friday evening and the Saturday morning opening ceremony at Lewis and Clark Veterans Memorial, located in Helena’s Memorial Park.

For your awareness, each POW/MIA flag displayed along US 287 east of Helena on certain U.S. and Veteran related holidays is embroidered with the name, branch of service and conflict of a Montana Missing-in-Action/serviceman. During the closing ceremony following the 2016 ride in West Yellowstone, the association retired the flag of Army Sgt. 1st Class Alan L. Boyer, missing since March 8, 1968 from the Vietnam War but now interred back home.

This labor of love was rewarded again this year, when the Association presented more retired POW/MIA flags at the end of the ride. With peace of mind, the wait for the family members of two more MIA’s had ended. The remains of their loved ones had been identified and returned for burial with full military honors. It was an honor to retire the two flags this year and say “Welcome Home” to U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class, Harold P. Haugland, who went MIA on December 2, 1950, during the Korean War, and to U.S. Air Force Captain Robert E. Holton, MIA since Jan. 29, 1969, during the Vietnam War.

Let us always remember. It’s important to have hope and continue the work that highlights awareness of American POW/MIA’s. The Association extends an invitation for you to Save-the-Date: August 18, 2018 (3rd Saturday in August), for the 5th Annual Montana Ride To Remember. This event hopes to see you cheering and waving American flags along US 287, the POW/MIA Memorial Highway, from Helena to West Yellowstone. If you have any questions about Montana Ride To Remember or the association, please contact: Linda Juvik, Member Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association PO Box 7639, Helena MT 59604 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization Info@mtpowmiaassociation.org Read more. Find us on Facebook: http://facebook.com/mtpowmiaremembear

Post 14 Hosts Navy Week by Len Albright

Admiral Mike Holland was the guest speaker for the Navy Week breakfast hosted by Post 41. Other guests in attendance: former Mayor Jeff Krauss.

1st table facing is Mike Holland, 2nd table left facing: Jim Korh, Svc. Officer, next to Korh is former mayor Jeff Krauss, Rick Gale, Post PR Liaison (standing).

Post 14 Hosts Navy Week by Len Albright
Butte Post 1 Legion Rider Update

by H. Fox

Post 1 and its Legion Riders have had a good year. Two Legion Riders traveled on their bike to the Western Region ROMP in San Luis Obispo, CA in June, and five Legion Riders participated in MIA Captain Robert Holton’s welcome home escort. Veterans were honored on Evil Kneivel Days celebrations in July and Legion Riders participated in the bike parade around Butte, with Post 1 Riders leading the parade carrying the American flag, the Montana flag and service banners. One of the Posts’ Riders hosted a passenger, WWII Submariner and AL Life member, Phil Lyons.

Legion Rider Bill Hitchens with WWII Veteran Phil Lyons in the Evil Kneivel Days Bike Parade.

Post 1 Legion Riders Jeanette Knoell & Roger Knoell leading Evil Kneivel Days Bike Parade.

Andrew Pearson Post 117 Warrior Run

by GEORGE BLAACKARD

Post 117 hosted their fourth annual Warrior Run fundraiser atop the rims in Billings on Sunday, August 20, 2017. The annual run is one of two major fundraisers the Post holds every year to raise money for veterans’ assistance and Legion programs.

Approximately two hundred people participated in the run, ages five to over seventy. The event includes a 5K walk/run on a paved trail that just about anyone can participate in and the eight and half mile Warrior Run which is largely a trail run with steep inclines and uneven terrain. Along the course volunteers including the Young Marines, Boy Scouts, and U.S. Naval Sea Cadets cheer on and encourage the runners.

One of the traditions that has really taken on deep meaning is the placing of ribbons on a mast at the halfway mark. Each runner is given a ribbon at the start of the race that they then write the name of a loved one on and carry the ribbon through the run until they reach the mast whereupon they tack their ribbon to it. Each year the mast is saved and brought back to the run.

Instead of the traditional t-shirt, the committee opted to give buffs (headwear) to all the runners at the beginning of the run and as each one crossed the finished line, Warrior Run Committee Chairman Jessie Iversen, placed a single commemorative dog tag around that person’s neck. In addition, each age group winner received a commemorative challenge coin.

This year we were honored to have Mr. & Mrs. Ron Sebastian and their daughter Amanda who came all the way from Iowa to participate in the run. Ron is a Viet Nam Veteran with a courageous story and inspiring attitude. He was a Navy Seabee who was severely wounded after volunteering for a true suicide mission in Viet Nam. His legs were so badly damaged that he nearly lost them both yet today he is able to participate in the Warrior Run. He was a true inspiration to us all.

Many thanks to run organizers, SAL member Russ Palmer, who is looking forward to opportunities in the future.

White Sulphur Springs Post 25

by Scott Turner, Corvallis Post 91 Commander

Saturday 8 July, 2017 was the 150th anniversary of the Montana Militia. The 190th Chemical Reconnaissance Detachment (CRD) conducted airborne parachuting exercises to commemorate the anniversary of the Montana Militia. The day was a special day not only for the Montana National Guard, but also for a father and son. CW2 Scott Turner, who is currently in the Utah National Guard with 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, and Commander of Corvallis Post 91 was able to participate in the jump with his oldest son, SGT Patrick Turner, a member of the 190th CRD and the Montana National Guard. This was their first opportunity for the father and son team to jump together. CW2 Scott Turner, a current static line jumpmaster, was the “jumping” jumpmaster for the first lift, first pass of jumpers. The number two jumper, just behind his dad, was Pat rick. The static line jump was made from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter from a drop altitude of 1,500 feet above ground level. The jump was a success and all jumpers from the stick exited the aircraft, had good canopy control, and landed safely within the Marshall drop-zone on Fort Harrison. The father and son team were able to complete two jumps that day and are looking forward to opportunities in the future.

Father/Son Team Jump

by John Augwin, Cdr. Post 27, the Mavericks sponsor.

Luther Sage Kelly was born in July of 1849 and for the next 75 years led a life full of adventure to the family and excitement. At fifteen years of age he lied about his age to join the Union Army at the tail end of the American Civil War, served during the Indian Wars and the Philippine-American War. He was a soldier, hunter, scout, and adventurer almost his entire life. Kelly was buried atop the rimsrock overlooking Billings in 1929. For decades his grave site, marked only by a concrete slab, was ignored but the Billings Chamber of Commerce with the help of many private and corporate donations including from Post 117, has changed that. The new Yellowstone Kelly Interpretive Site held its grand opening on September 28th. Andrew Pearson Post 117 donated the lighted flagpole that will stand in the middle of the site and they were there to help open the site with a flag raising ceremony. The Post 117 Warrior Run incorporated the Yellowstone Kelly Site into the event and this year members of the Post raised the first flag on the new pole for that event. This first flag was given to members of the Kelly family at the official opening.

DEPT. BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIPS

Missoula Post 27

Ryan McHugh of the Missoula Mavericks was awarded the Department Baseball Scholarship for The American Legion Department of Montana on August 2, 2017. Winners of this award receive $500. The award was presented by John Augwin, Cdr. Post 27, the Mavericks sponsor. John was accompanied by Dist. 5 Cdr. Greg Marrose and Western Zone Cdr. Elmer Palmer. Patts and Laurie McHugh watched their son accept the award.

Each certified Department Baseball scholarship winner shall be considered for The American Legion All-Academic Team sponsored by Diamond Sports, annually.

Eight players selected by a scholarship selection committee at The American Legion World Series will receive an additional $2,500 scholarship.

A ninth player, selected as the most outstanding player by the All-Academic Team, will be awarded an additional $5,000 scholarship.

All-Academic Team winners will retain their $500 scholarship from their Department.

Scholarship recipients will be eligible to receive their scholarships immediately upon graduation from an accredited high school. Scholarship winners must utilize the total award within eight years of their graduation date, excluding active military time.

Ryan is currently a student at Montana State University on Bozeman, Montana.

Laurel Post 123

Carson Hoke received a $1000 Baseball Scholarship from The American Legion Department of Montana.

First Flag to be presented at event of Luther Sage “Yellowstone” Kelly.


First Flag to be presented at event of Luther Sage “Yellowstone” Kelly.

Trump Signs Testers 7th Bill into Law

Senator's Bipartisan Bill Will Prevent Crucial Veterans Benefits From Expiring

(U.S. Senate | 10/03/2017) – President Donald Trump has signed into law U.S. Senator Jon Tester’s bipartisan bill to fund and prevent a wide range of critical veterans’ benefits from expiring.

Tester’s VA Expiring Authorities Act ensures rural veterans who use transportation assistance to travel to and from medical appointments will be able to utilize those services through 2019. Tester’s law also continues a successful pilot program that compensates veterans who travel to the Kalispell Vet Center for mental health care.

“Rural, disabled and homeless Montana veterans rely on these initiatives every day,” said Tester, Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee. “By making sure that veterans can get to their doctor appointments on time and get back on their feet, we are making good on the promises we have made to our veterans and their families.”

The VA Expiring Authorities Act includes:

- The Caregiver Support Program, which provides critical housing, counseling and career training to homeless or at-risk veterans.
- Provisions from Tester’s Deborah Sampson Act, which provide more opportunities for women veterans to seek readjustment counseling.

### How to Submit Articles or Photos?

**Deadline:** October 1, 2017

**Preferences:**
- No formatting such as, multiple space and multiple tabs to line up text
- Set one tab (publisher will format to line up paragraphs)
- PLEASE, do not use multiple spaces as All formatting has to be removed before being inserted
- Modern formatting is single-space between sentences (after the period)
- Provide Post/Unit number as well as Post/Unit number
- Post, Unit & Department are capitalized
- If it is better for articles/stories are written in third-person – That can be done. But all facts come from actual people, of course. There really should never be any “we did this” or “I think that” written in the body of a good news story – imagine someone else is telling the story at any time.
- Acronyms. Always keep new members informed and familiar with programs. For example: Veteran’s Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS). The first time an acronym is used in an article use full title followed with acronym in parenthesis, then following first use 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
- DONOT use 12pt PDF format.
- If you want credit for an article or photo(s), 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 it down to 1.2 megapixels for printing 4x6 with desired output resolution of 300 dpi
- Cell phone photos are many times too poor quality so takes time to do...
- 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:
  - Photos caption which includes Post/ Unit / Name, City along with the names of those in the photo and Post/Unit they are company members of
- Don’t spend time setting up photos and captions in a Word document File...
  - Each time a photo is copied/pasted to edit it loses integrity. Send as an e-mail attachment
  - Do not embed (import) photos in 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**

- Submitting a copy of an article via e-mail is best (rather than fax/copies 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 new organization

**Corrections**

- To previously-sent articles
  - Send an e-mail with the correction 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.
  - Send Articles, Photos w/Captions to: intgrpub@gmail.com
- Early Submissions Greatly Appreciated!

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**Our 1,000 Club**

Would you like six opportunities to win $500, one to win $500 and one to win $1,800? Join the Big K (1000) Club and be one of the 1000 members eligible to win. Membership is just 325 a year and is open to all Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members over 18 years of age.

This is a fund raiser for Posts, Units, Squadrions, Districts and Department; proceeds will be used to strengthen and increase programs such as Oratory, Government Survey Scholarship, Baseball and American Legion Boys State programs as well as member programs.

If you are interested in joining contact your Post Adjutant or Department Headquarters. Membership closes December 31, 2019 with the first of 6 monthly drawings for $400 beginning January 2019, $500 on the Legion birthday and $1,800 at Department Convention.

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Columbia Falls Post 72 receives Flag from Tester

Columbia Falls American Legion Freedom Post 72 being honored by Sen. Jon Tester with a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol building. Sen. Tester thanked now Past Commander Shepard for his building the Post to current levels, and assisting efforts to move all veterans’ concerns forward. Flag was awarded during the Senator’s visit to Columbia Bill during the Outdoor Program on August 22. Chad Campbell was a great help in acquiring the flag for Post display.

Steve Daines
United States Senator for Montana

**UPDATE:**

Improving G.I. Bill Benefits for Student Veterans

Legislation I championed in the U.S. Senate to improve post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits and keep our commitments to student veterans was signed into law on August 16, 2017. By removing time restrictions for use of the G.I. Bill, the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act allows future eligible recipients to use their G.I. benefits for their entire lives. It was an honor to advance higher education opportunities for our nation’s veterans. When these men and women return home, it is critically important that we give them the additional skills and education they need to join the workforce.

**Veterans Affairs Secretary Shulkin Visits Montana**

VA Secretary David Shulkin was in Montana on August 21st. It was great to get him in front of Montana VA leadership as well as the veterans who turned out for our town hall meeting in Helena. They gave the VA Secretary a lot of insight into the work that still remains to make the VA work better for Montana veterans. The Secretary shared the great news that he is changing the department’s grant program that left veterans in rural states behind and underserved. With our efforts we will see the VA facility in Missoula substantially increase in size and the odds of a VA facility in Butte are looking better and better. I will continue working with Secretary Shulkin to advance quality healthcare and service for our veterans.

U.S. Senate Passes Defense Bill to Support a Strong National Defense

On September 18th, the Senate passed the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by an overwhelming margin of 89-8. This legislation provides essential authorities for our military to have the tools necessary to defend against the threats from a rogue regime in North Korea. We continue the campaign to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, and deter Russian aggression in Eastern Europe. For Montana, the NDAA continues to make progress on sustaining and modernizing our Intermontal Ballistic Missile (ICBM) inventory, speeding up replacement of the helicopters used to secure our ICBM sites, and updating our Montana Air National Guard C-130s. President Trump and Congress are making it clear that the strength of our military and the commitment to taking care of our veterans are top national priorities and I am honored to be part of this effort.
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
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

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
Monday thru Saturday
Open at 10 a.m.
Sunday - Open at Noon
all meetings 2nd
Thursday each month

Dan R. Stewart
Fine Firearms for 31 Years
Wholesale Prices to All Legion,
Auxiliary & SAL Members
(406) 889-9720
Member Post #74
Eureka, MT

Montana Legionnaires!
Visit the Montana Military Museum
At historic Fort Harrison
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For more information write to:
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P.O. Box 125
Fort Harrison, Montana 59636-0125
myfun51@msn.com • 406-324-3550

We Salute Our Servicemen & Women
Welcome To
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We invite all veterans to stop
in and support YOUR club.
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Sons of The
American Legion
Detachment Of Montana
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT
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or (406) 324-3990
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Band & Violin Repair
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or (406) 324-3990
or (406) 324-3990
Or Write to P.O. Box 6075,
Helena, MT 59604

This Space Available
Silver Bow Post #1
and Auxiliary
American Legion of Montana
Welcome
Meetings
Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 6 p.m. (406) 586-8400
Direct. Times Vary • 406-324-3990
Legion Hall across the street from Ramada Copper King

This Space Available
Liberty County
American Legion
Post #88
Welcome to our Post Meeting
Every 1st Wednesday at 7 p.m.
Liberty Co. Community &
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618 East Adams
Chester, Montana

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

American Legion
Gallatin Post #14
Striving for Legitown USA
225 East Main Street
Bozeman, MT 59715
Open daily
Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 a.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. to Midnight

American Legion
Gallatin Post #14
Striving for Legitown USA
225 East Main Street
Bozeman, MT 59715
Americanism
Youth
Defense
Veterans
406·586·8400

3 inch ads: $110 per year
2 inch ads: $85 per year