Raymond J. Nydegger, Department Commander 1975-76

Raymond J. Nydegger, Department Commander 1975-76 of Melstone, a 65-year member of Townsend Post 42 passed away on August 18, 2020. Ray served in the US Navy aboard the AE4 USS MT Baker, an ammunition ship, during the Korean War.

Ray held all elected offices of the Post and District; additionally, he held many of the appointed offices in both the Post and District. At the Department level he served as the Membership Chairman and Department Vice Commander prior to being elected Department Commander. After serving as Department Commander Ray served as the SAL Advisor from 1979 – 1985.

Montana Guardsmen Earn the Title of Best Warrior

Fort Harrison, Mont. 9/24/20 – Specialist Jeffrey Lohman and Sgt. Ciera Balch won the Montana Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition (BWC) this past weekend. Lohman won Soldier of the Year and Balch won Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year.

Lohman, a Knoxville, Texas, native, joined the Montana Army National Guard in 2019. He is a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Specialist with the 631st Chemical Company based in Missoula, Montana. Lohman received special recognition for being the first in the state to earn the maximum 600 points on the new Army Combat Fitness Test.

“It was an honor and a privilege to get to be the first 600,” Lohman said. “But more than that, I feel like I’ve matured into a better NCO for the competition, I have matured into a better NCO and have met some amazing and knowledgeable people to help me along the way.”

Seven Soldiers from units across Montana competed in the annual four-day competition held at Fort Harrison for the title of Best Warrior. The competition included the ACFT, an interview board, a stress shoot, hand grenade course and other events meant to test a Soldier’s physical endurance and mental capability.

“I believe that every unit, every platoon, every single Soldier should engage themselves in a competition like the Best Warrior Competition,” Balch said.

Lohman and Balch will go on to compete in the Regional Best Warrior Competition in spring of 2021 at a location yet to be determined. The winner of the regional competition will go on the national competition.
We are just finishing up our Fall District Meetings and the participation was a lot better than expected. We had Posts that showed up at meet- ings that had been years ago. You might wonder, how I know that some of you tried to get on-line to participate in the zoom calls but were not able to. The District Com- manders have much of the information that was disseminated, if there are questions out there that you would like answered, our headquarters staff and service officers can certainly help you.

There are continuously new members joining The American Legion through direct solicitation. I recommend every adjutant or commander check the myLegion.org website each week to see if someone has joined in your area. Too many times we see that someone has been sitting in the 105 holding Post and never transferred. If there is no phone number or email, just send a letter asking them about the interest in being a Legion Post. We know their dues support the programs in your community? If you have never attempted to use the myLegion.org website, ask your District Commander or call our head- quarters staff and they will assist you in getting started. It is a great way to get your members involved in your Post. In the last couple of years, we have transferred at least 20 new members into our Post. And be sure when the members are transferred that every attempt is made to welcome them to your Post.

As we enter into the holiday season, start planning. Those activities to include visits to the local nursing homes and assisted living centers to spend some time with veterans that are residents there. I am sure a box of cookies or even a pair of socks you would mean an awful lot to them. If you have an Auxiliary Unit, SAL squadron, or Legion Riders, do something as a Legion family in these projects rather than separately. The rewards spent visiting with home bound veterans cannot be counted. The stories and memories are priceless.

I just want to wish everyone all the best during the Christmas season and into the New Year. We can all pray that the curve for the Coronavirus will just around the corner and we can put 2020 behind us.

I was told my last article was rather long-winded. I will do my best to make this one longer! Just kidding.

Inspire, Train, Learn, I am asking this of every single Legionnaire out there. Be well informed with your message of The American Legion, whether you are talking to a recruit or addressing the membership at a meeting. Let your example be your Post, and to promote good attendance, be it a meeting or organizing programs. Leadership needs to be attentive, knowledgeable, and available. Training is always important. There is an old saying “you need to train for the job you want” in this ever-changing organization we need to “Train for the job we have.” I encourage every single member to register at MyLegion.org and take The American Legion Basic Training Course. It is a wealth of information, its free to all Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion mem- bers, its constantly updated and a good refresher for those who have already taken the course. By next year’s Department Convention, I am asking all 11 District Commanders and anyone else who is interested to attend the Montana Legion College held the day prior to convention. And don’t forget Legion Riders all working in tandem as an American Legion Family to be our most successful. Thank you, stay safe, and happy holidays.

For contact information go to www.mtlegion.org Department Directory.

From the Desk of the Adjutant

Gary White

There are consis- tent three major requests for assistance received by my office – membership, issues involving Post Organization and By-Laws and IRS issues. I will not address membership because this is normally covered by the Command and Vice Commander’s articles.

The two remaining issues are very frustrating because most of the issues could be resolved. Post Adjutants were following National and Department guidelines and attending District Meetings to stay up to date. Many times, the problems arose because a previous Adjutant had not asked questions or was never given the proper records when they assumed the position.

The most common problem with the Post Constitu- tion is the Post no longer has any record of their Constitution and By-Laws. The State Head- quarters has very few Posts Constitutions on file despite repeated requests for them. The first thing a Post (and District) does when they run into problems is to look at the Department looking for a copy so they can resolve an issue within their Post. If the Post has a copy and they regularly review and distribute to Post officers and members, 95% of Post problems could be resolved. Many times, the Department Judge Advocate has been asked for assistance in resolving conflicts in a Post, conflicts which the Post Constitu- tion would resolve if followed, only to be told there is no Constitution. Please check with your Post Adjutant and see if your Post Constitution is available. Post Adjutants please contact Department Headquarters and let them know if your Post’s Constitution is on file, if not, and no one in the Post can find one, it is time to write a new one for your Post, and have it adopted by the Post. The Department Headquarters has electronic copies of Constitutions so if a Post is needed additional As The American Legion Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies has a printed copy available on page 98 of the 2020 copy or online at www.legion.org.

The IRS issues are the easiest to prevent, but the hardest to repair. If the Post files your annual form 990, most can print it out, but occasionally, your Post will not have problems with the IRS. Where the problems begin is when a Post uses the wrong EIN number, does not file timely 990 reports or changes officers. I would like to take a habit of Post meetings to have the Finance Officer or Post Adjutant report on the completion of these reports and have it recorded in Post minutes.

December Posts should have already started working many of Legion youth programs – Shooting Sports targets should be ordered, Post and District Oratory contests should be planned and dates set for; the Department contest is in Helena March 6, 2021. The Constitutional Essay Programs should be under way (essays are due by Department by March 15). American Legion Boys State Post Chairman should already be selected, and Department notified of their contact information and the schools con- tacted. Posts should already be submitting nominations for Economic, Law Enforcement and Firefighter Awards. This is the year we should be making an extra effort to recognize first responders; it would be wonderful if every Post nominates a Post Law Enforced American Legion Firefighter for recognition.

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 2021-member year. The January early bird drawing of $200 will take place on January 4, 2021, and the first monthly $400 drawing will take place on January 11, 2021.

I wish all a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas; have a Happy Holiday season.
December 7, 1941 – “A day that shall live in infamy.” We may see it marked on the calendar and pause to reflect on what terrible things happened that day when Japan attacked our forces stationed at Pearl Harbor. How did it happen?

Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto conceived the Pearl Harbor attack and Captain Minori Nakamura directed it. Two things inspired Yamamoto’s Pearl Harbor idea: a prophetic book of fiction and an historic attack. The book was The Great Pacific War, written in 1925 by Hector Bywater, a British naval authority. It was a Tom Clancy-style realistic account of a clash between the United States and Japan that was already in progress. The Chinese Convention of 1907, but the message was already in progress.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor began at 7:55 that morning. The cryptologist gave the message to her superior who said he would get back to her on Monday, December 8. On Sunday, December 7, a radar operator on Oahu saw a large group of airplanes on his screen heading in a northerly direction. The entire attack took only one hour and 11 destroyers. The attack killed 2,403 U.S. service personnel and destroyed or damaged 19 U.S. Navy ships, including 8 battleships. The three aircraft carriers of the U.S. Pacific fleet were on maneuvers. The Japanese were unable to locate them and were forced to return home with the U.S. carrier fleet intact. The battleship USS Arizona remains sunken in Pearl Harbor with its crew onboard. Half of the dead at Pearl Harbor were on the Arizona. A United States flag flies above the sunken battleship, which serves as a memorial to all Americans who died in the attack.

When Admiral Yamamoto learned that his forces had not destroyed the U.S. aircraft carriers or completely destroyed the U.S. fleet, he feared that the United States, with its enormous industrial potential, would soon recover and fight back. The United States did recover—and quicker than Yamamoto could have imagined. After only six months, the U.S. carrier fleet dealt a decisive blow to Yamamoto’s navy in June 1942 at the Battle of Midway, sinking four Japanese aircraft carriers. After this U.S. victory came the start of the U.S. island-hopping campaign and the eventual defeat of the Japanese Empire in August 1945. (Many thanks to the National WWII Museum for these facts.)

How do we Legionnaires in Montana mark that day in our communities? Does your Post do anything?

Last year our National Chaplain, Ed Harris, Jr., issued a challenge to Department Chaplains to hold a Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony. Working with American Legion Riders Chapter 2, local Boy Scouts, Troops, Lewis and Clark Post No. 2, the Lewis and Clark Veterans Council, Resurrection Cemetery, and the US Naval Reserve Unit Fort Harrison, a public ceremony was held outdoors in Helena last year. We got great local media coverage, too.

With COVID restrictions looming over us, an indoor ceremony of any kind will most likely preclude having an audience attend. May I suggest you work with a local cemetery that has a US Flag flying to organize a ceremony for your community? I encourage you to collaborate with other veteran service organizations if possible, to bring your community together to remember Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

Please email me at chaplains@americanlegion.org if you’d like a copy of the ceremony script we used last year so you can modify it or use it to create your own ceremony. Fifteen Montana Legionnaires lost their lives at Pearl Harbor. Many were declared Missing in Action. Let us remember and never forget their sacrifice.

— Join us for

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 7, 2021

It is a time of reflection and remembrance for all Americans who have lost their lives in service to our country. We honor the brave men and women who gave their lives for our freedom and we remember the sacrifices of their families.

Thank you to our members and supporters for making this event possible.

— Jeff & Chris Nelson

Memorials


Thank you…

As commander for the Department of Montana, I and my family would like to thank all of you that have sent letters and condolences on the passing of my father. We were just overwhelmed with the showing of your thoughtfulness and prayers during his death. Thanks does not begin to say the words that we all felt. Montana Legion Family is truly a family and not just a phrase we talk about. My father was a proud Legionnaire that flew to Washington on the honor flight, travelled with me to district meetings, and was a big mentor to so many. Our family will miss him dearly. Thank you everyone for thinking of our family.

Jeff & Chris Nelson

Page 3

Montana Legionnaire — November 2020 – January 2021

Post Everlasting

July / August / September 2020

- APPLEY, ROBERT, 8/20/2020 – Vietnam – US Army – 18-year member of Post 69, Galata, Interred with Military Honors
- BENNETT, RONALD, 4/19/2020 – Korea – US Air Force – 6-year member of Post 341, Great Falls, Interred with Military Honors
- BROOKS, RICHARD, 01/20/2020 – Vietnam – US Army – 18-year member of Post 69, Galata, Interred with Military Honors
- COOPER, SYLVESTER ‘BUTCH’ A., 7/30/2020 – Vietnam – Unknown – 5-year member of Post 81, Cuberston, Interred with Military Honors
- CRONK, JOHN, 8/30/2020 – Korea – US Army – 34-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors
- FRIEZ, BERNARD, 9/21/2020 – US Army – 18-year member of Post 21, Anaconda, Interred with Military Honors
- GURTNER, JOHN R, 05/2020 – WWII – US Army – 18-year member of Post 47, Corvallis, Interred with Military Honors
- LOHMANN, THOMAS, 7/20/2020 – Korea – US Navy – 40-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors
- LUCAS, JAMES, 9/5/2020 – WWII – Unknown – 69-year member of Post 5, Miles City, Interred with Military Honors
- MILLER, DOUGLAS, 12/05/2019 – Vietnam – US Air Force – 9-year member of Post 341, Great Falls, Interred with Military Honors
- NEWBURKY, FRANK, 8/10/2020 – Korea – US Navy – 16-year member of Post 108, Whitefish, Interred with Military Honors
- STACEY, HAROLD, 05/06/2020 – WWII – US Army – 40-year member of Post 341, Malmstrom, Interred with Military Honors
- STACY, HAROLD, 05/06/2020 – WWII – US Army – 40-year member of Post 341, Malmstrom, Interred with Military Honors
- TINTON, RICHARD, 6/26/2020 – WWII – US Navy – 53-year member of Post 135, location, Interred with Military Honors
- TILLO, RICHARD, 6/26/2020 – WWII – US Navy – 53-year member of Post 135, location, Interred with Military Honors
- WILCOX, RALPH, 7/14/2020 – WWII – US Army – 60-year member of Post 93, location, Interred with Military Honors

Day is done

Gone the sun

From the lakes

From the sky

All we see

Safely rest

God is nigh

Fading light

Dims the sight

And star

Gleaming bright.

From afar

As we go

Neath the sun

Neath the stars

Near the sea

As we go

This we know

God is nigh.
The Non-Service Connected Pension and Death (Widow’s) Pension programs are for Veterans or the Surviving Spouse/Helpless Child of a Veteran, who served during a time of war and who may meet the criteria, based on income and net worth, to receive this award. Individuals may qualify for an increased rate of NSC pension when their disabilities leave them housebound or in need of Aid & Attendance, *You have a permanent and total NSC disability.*

- You were discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, AND
- You served at least 90 days of active duty* with at least one day during a time of war, AND
- Your countable, annual household, income is below the Maximum Annual Pension Rate (MAPR), AND
- You meet the net worth limitations, AND
- You are age 65 and older.
- You have a permanent and total NSC disability.
- You are receiving Social Security disability benefits.
- If your annual household income is greater than the MAPR, VA will determine your eligibility for NSC/WP by reducing your income using out of pocket medical expenses, which include: Medicare Part B, supplemental insurance, Prescription Drug Plan, Nursing Care Facility Expenses, Assisted Living expenses, etc.

The application process is complex for these claims. To file a claim for Non-Service Connected Pension or Death (Widow’s) Pension, please contact your local Veteran Service Officer (VSO) to schedule an appointment. Your local VSO has received extensive training to assist you with your claims and the claims process.

MVAD/AL offices throughout the state:

- Belgrade ................................................................................. (406) 388-4601
- Billings ................................................................................. (406) 248-8579
- Butte ..................................................................................... (406) 533-0910
- Great Falls ............................................................................ (406) 452-2265
- Havre ..................................................................................... (406) 265-4225
- Helena .................................................................................. (406) 495-2080/2081/2082
- Kalispell ................................................................................. (406) 755-3795
- Lewistown ............................................................................. (406) 538-3174
- Miles City ............................................................................... (406) 232-1203
- Missoula ................................................................................. (406) 542-2501

Thank you for your service! Here are some things you can look forward to:

- Jumbo VA loan amounts available
- No monthly mortgage insurance
- Up-front mortgage insurance, Veterans with VA related disability are exempt
- Minimum credit requirements apply
- Montana Conforming VA loan limit now $484,350 plus the VA funding fee.

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Thank you for your service! Here are some things you can look forward to:

- No money down purchase financing
- Lending in all 50 states
- Up-front mortgage insurance, Veterans with VA related disability are exempt
- Montana Conforming VA loan limit now $484,350 plus the VA funding fee.
- No monthly mortgage insurance
- Minimum credit requirements apply
- Jumbo VA loan amounts available

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Candle Safety

Each year, as the days shorten and the dark hours of night increase, families across Montana experience a very preventable disaster: a house fire caused by improperly burning candles as they celebrate the holiday season. Follow these 10 Commandments of Candle Safety in mind when you are thinking of lighting a Wick or two (or more, depending upon your customs).

1. Thou shalt not leave the candle unattended. This may seem obvious; however, don't be tempted to ignore it. Research by the National Fire Protection Association shows that 11 percent of home candle fires happen when no one is keeping an eye on yours.

2. Thou shalt keep candles away from small children and pets. Keep your candle well out of reach on a stable surface. Instead, place your candle on a sturdy piece of heat-resistant furniture.

3. Thou shalt not place candles on any unstable surface. Place your candle on a sturdy piece of heat-resistant furniture.

4. Thou shalt keep thy candle far, far away from other flammable materials. This one is huge when you consider that 58 percent of home candle fires happen when some form of combustible material is too close to the candle's flame.

5. Thou shalt trim the Wick so it is ¼-inch at all times. Long or warped wicks are more likely to burn unevenly, drip or flare up. You can purchase candle Wick trimmers specifically designed to promote cleaner, safer candle burning.

6. Thou shalt read the manufacturer’s recommendations on burn time and proper use. Each candle is unique, so read the sticker instructions on yours. No sticker? Then seriously reconsider purchasing or using that candle. If it doesn’t meet labeling standards, it probably doesn’t meet other important fire safety standards.

7. Thou shalt not burn a candle to the very end of its life. Burning your candle all the way down is a fire hazard. Instead, toss it when there are two inches of wax left in a freestanding candle or ¼-inch in a container candle.

8. Thou shalt use a candle snuffer to extinguish a candle. In addition to adding an element of hearkening back to the days of yesteryear to your candle burning, a snuffer prevents hot wax from splattering.

9. Thou shalt place thy candle in a proper candle-holder. Is your candleholder heat-resistant, sturdy, and able to catch drips? If not, it is time to invest in something new before you light it.

10. Thou shalt extinguish a candle with a high or flickering flame. This is a definite fire hazard! Extinguish the flame, let the candle cool, trim the Wick and inspect your home for any drafts before relighting.

If all this makes you wary of burning candles, consider flameless candles. Today’s models look surprisingly real. Plus, some let you control the flicker speed with a remote control and have timers that you can set for daily use.

Whether you opt for a real candle or not, make sure you and your family take the proper precautions when lighting candles for your holiday festivities. May you have a joyous and safe holiday season! May you be well.

Auxiliary youth member part of first female class to earn Eagle Scout

The American Legion | Oct. 1, 2020

Hailey Carpenter’s younger sister, Ashley, handed her a flyer that set in motion an idea that would change her life. Hailey realized that she could accomplish more, depending upon your customs.

The Capital High School senior met the challenge and is now part of the inaugural class of females nationwide and in the history of Montana Boy Scouts to earn the prestigious Eagle Scout rank.

Through this journey to Eagle Scout rank “I’ve learned that I’m capable of doing a whole lot more than I thought I could before,” said Hailey, an American Legion Auxiliary member of Unit 2 in Helena. “When I started this I thought it would be almost impossible to achieve my Eagle in a year and a half. I’ve learned that I can do anything I want as long as I’m willing to sit down and give it the commitment necessary.”

Boy Scouts of America, now called Scouts BSA, opened Scouting to girls ages 11 to 17 as of Feb. 1, 2019. Hailey read articles about this never-before opportunity prior to the February date and joined a Venturing Crew “to prepare going into Boy Scouts.”

She knew achieving Eagle Scout rank by accruing 21 merit badges and completing a community service project in a condensed timeline would be a difficult task.

But, “I knew I just had to sit down and do whatever I could whenever I could and essentially work constantly on completing different merit badges and making sure I had all of my rank requirements done.”

Her father, Justin Carpenter, a member and past commander of American Legion Post 2, said he wasn’t surprised with his daughter’s decision she laid out ahead of herself. “She’s very tenacious in her abilities and when she sets her sights on something she goes after it.”

Instead of joining a Scouting troop, Hailey chose to be a Lone Scout. As the name implies, she had to look to leaders in her life for guidance and mentorship in fulfilling the requirements of Eagle rank. Those leaders included her father along with other Post 2 and Sons of The American Legion members who signed up to be merit badge counselors to help Hailey on her Eagle Scout journey.

“I learned so much more about all of The American Legion members that had been a part of Scouts when they were younger, or had children in Scouts, or they just supported the Scouting program,” Hailey said. “I really loved bonding with the veterans throughout my time as a Scout.”

Volunteers of Legion Family members, parents Justin and Erin, and 12-year-old sister Ashley helped Hailey complete her Eagle Scout community service project. They built a 12-by-12 sports shed for the East Helena High School girls softball team.

“It’s been awesome to know that not only the veterans, but the Sons and the Auxiliary members as well have all been right there behind her 100 percent,” Justin said.

Justin added that it hasn’t just been the route of earning Eagle Scout rank that has both Hailey and Ashley involved with American Legion Post 2. The sisters have helped Post 2 with Memorial Day ceremonies, highway cleanup and “just other events that we hold these girls are always right in the thick of things.” Hailey too has spent hundreds of hours volunteering at the local VA hospital prior to joining Scouts. However, it has “been great to watch my two girls bond and grow closer together as they work their way through the (Scout) ranks” as Ashley too is in the process of meeting Eagle Scout requirements.

Erin, the officer managing the American Legion Department of Montana’s youth program, agrees that through Scouting “it’s been rewarding to see their bond and awareness of their own abilities and their leadership grow.” She shared that Ashley used to be “shy and timid but now she is the first one to stand up and lead the way.” And that while Hailey has “always been outspoken now has a bigger confidence about her when she needs to lead.”

With both of his daughters in Scouting, Justin said he hopes that “it shows girls who may be a little timid that they can do it, to go ahead and jump into it and to start to challenge themselves and to learn as much as they can through those merit badges. What I like about (Scouting) is the specific merit badges that the girls get to earn about your own community, state and nation which is right there in line with The American Legion and its Americanism pillar.”

Hailey exceeded the 21 merit badge requirement – earning 36 – and was approved for the rank of Eagle Scout by the Scouts board of review on Sept. 13. Now, her plans are to continue helping her sister achieve Eagle rank and get a girls Scout troop started. “I would be taking on a mentoring position with the girls and teaching them leadership skills and different things that would have been helpful to me and my sister when we started,” Hailey said. Then following high school graduation in May 2021, Hailey plans to attend college and pursue a career in nursing. “Through my time in Scouts and the different first aid badges, it’s shown me my passion for helping others.”
DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER
2021

POST 2
HeLENA .......................... 516 Members
POST 4 .................................. 274 Members
POST 14 ................................ 227 Members
POST 27 ................................ 216 Members
POST 16 .................................. 211 Members
POST 3 .................................. 151 Members
POST 8 .................................. 151 Members
POST 97 .................................. 134 Members
POST 94 .................................. 130 Members
POST 119 .................................. 130 Members

DISTRICT STANDINGS
DISTRICT ................................ PERCENTAGE ................................ COMMANDER
5 .................................. 64.20% .......................... Dorothy Goodwin
3 .................................. 63.46% ................................ Dusty Bailey
7 .................................. 60.47% ................................ Bill Cummins
4 .................................. 59.69% .................................. Dusty Bailey
10 .................................. 58.77% .................................. Bruce Luhren
6 .................................. 56.75% .................................. Larry Ollis
1 .................................. 55.70% .............................. Vincent Schmeckel
9 .................................. 55.70% .................................. Joe Yoeaman

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
July 7, 2021

SQUADRON ................................ GOAL 2021 ................................ TO DATE
#46 ........................................... 46 .......... 60
#58 ........................................... 58 .......... 60
#89 ........................................... 89 .......... 80
#117 ......................................... 117 ..... 120
#148 ......................................... 148 ..... 170
#176 ......................................... 176 ..... 220
#191 ......................................... 191 ..... 120
#201 ......................................... 201 ..... 130
#243 ......................................... 243 ..... 260
#254 ......................................... 254 ..... 260
#286 ......................................... 286 ..... 260
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#350 ......................................... 350 ..... 260
#361 ......................................... 361 ..... 260
#372 ......................................... 372 ..... 260
#383 ......................................... 383 ..... 260

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http://www.legion.org/renew

[Image: Thank you, 100% Member 2021]
father-son relationship that goes beyond

anything that I could describe. His name is Sidney Walton and he is a 101-year-old WWII veteran. What Sidney has done and is currently accomplishing is what novels are written about. With his son Paul, Sidney has been on a tour across the country promoting their NO REGRETS TOUR. So far, they have travelled to 31 states and will continue until they visit all 50 and the District of Columbia. Along their journey they have met every governor and countless veterans along the way. They have had a meeting with President Trump in the Oval Office and at the Normandy Memorial Service in France this past year. Sidney was asked to toss the coin at last year’s Super Bowl between San Francisco and Kansas City.

When asked about his military service during WWII, Sidney related a story about going through training to be sent to Europe. During his training he broke an ankle and was held back; the remainder of his unit was shipped off and became part of the Battle of the Bulge. He never heard from any of them again. He said it was a lucky break. He was eventually sent to India to serve his country there during the war.

Vice Commander Glen Sharbino and I met Sidney and his son Paul in the lobby of the Marriott Hotel in downtown Missoula. It was the scene of continuous greetings from people wishing him well on his journey. Glen and I then joined Paul and Sidney for breakfast at the Catalyst Café across the street where we were treated to a complimentary meal on the house by the Café. Being 101 years old and in a wheelchair requires certain maneuvering and we ate outside at a table in the fresh air. Sidney’s son, Paul, has basically put his life on hold to take care of his father for the past several years. Paul is an assistant caretaker 24 hours a day. 365 days a year taking care of his father. Their journey has taken them to almost all corners of the country. Their next stop was Idaho. One final note that I might add: In all his travels around the country and visiting many Legionnaires along the way, no one ever asked Sidney about joining the American Legion. He has found a home with the state of Montana as our newest honorary member.

We wish Sidney and Paul all the best in their journey to visit all 50 states and hope to see them return to Montana someday soon.

Vice Commander Glen Sharbino, Sidney Walton, and Commander Jeff Nelson. Poster for the NO REGRETS TOUR by Sidney Walton.

Malta Post 57 hosts RadioThon for Memorial Monument

A radiothon was held on KMMR-FM Malta on July 23, 2020, to raise funds to purchase the last Memorial Monument to be placed in Veterans Memorial Park, 1st St. Malta. Monuments already in place are World War I, World War II, Korean War, Viet Nam War and Desert Storm. The radiothon was hosted by American Legion Post 57 and Sons of The American Legion Squadron 57, Commander Vincent Schmoeckle, Post 57 and Commander Charlie Stevens, Squadron 57 were in attendance. Answering the telephones were: Ken Wiederrick, Jay Southwick, Ken Ruzicka, (American Legion) and Michelle Stevens and Carolyn Schmoeckle, (American Legion Auxiliary). Pledges received totaled over $7,000. The final monument will address “Global War on Terrorism.” A formal dedication is hopefully going to happen on Veteran’s Day, 2020.

No Charge for Fatality Markers

American Legion Fatality Marker Program

Apparently someone, not necessarily in the Legion, indicated the Legion was charging for Fatality Markers. WRONG!

In the event you get such an inquiry the correct answer is, “I do not charge Posts for delineator support posts or for the White Markers; nor do we charge individuals or families for installing a Fatality Marker.”

If a family inquires as to the acceptance of a “donation,” my practice is to clarify, “There is no charge for the placement of a Marker.” If they continue, my response is, “It must be a free-will donation on your part, made out to The American Legion.”

REQUEST FOR CONTACT INFORMATION

With the change in a few leaderships, we may encounter a change in the individuals who handle American Legion Fatality Markers for your Post. We request each Post submit contact information (name, address, phone, email) to who we should contact regarding Fatality Markers. While assumption is the mother of all mistakes, if you provide an email address, we assume you receive and will read/answer regular email messages. I extensively use email due to my hearing impairment...I have some trouble hearing on the phone. This request serves several purposes: (1) we avoid sending a mailing through your District Commanders (2) we avoid sending mailings to 3-5 person contacts; and (3) I know which Posts are actively participating in the program.

We have been plenty busy this week with multiple fatalities and finishing up the season with a couple of late installations and a little routine maintenance. I wish to thank each of you for your continued service to your communities and to the Fatality Marker Program. You are a GREAT crew to work with!
Bozeman Post 14 Patriot Day

Laurel Post 123 Cmdr Ray Southworth
MCs 09/11 ceremony

41st National POW-MIA Recognition Day
Commemorated September 18, 2020

Montana has 53 Personnel listed as Prisoners of War or Missing in Action from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Cold War. Veterans, military personnel, and the general public were invited to participate in the 41st annual National Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Recognition Day at the Lewis and Clark County Veterans Memorial, Memorial Park in Helena September 18, 2020. Volunteers read the 53 names of Montana POW-MIAs.

This event was supported by the Fort William Henry Harrison Museum Foundation & Montana Military Museum, The American Legion Post 2 (Lewis & Clark) Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2158, and the Lewis & Clark County Veterans Memorial Foundation, and veterans at large.

Have questions or want to volunteer call Ray Read at 406-235-0290 or e-mail: myfun51@msn.com
Hello Auxiliary Members! Fall is here and we are moving into the holiday season already.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and all your family! This is a time for remembering all we are blessed with. I know I am blessed for having you all as members of our Legion Family and friends.

I have been to all the District meetings and was so blessed to see many of you. I was also blessed to see all of those who did our Zoom meetings with. Great to see you and talk to you even if it was not in person. I want to thank all the Districts that worked so hard to hold their meetings and make sure we were Covid compliant. I know it took extra time and work and I thank you. I was also blessed by the gifts from your Units and Districts.

Thank you so much!

As I write this, we are planning on the Fall Conference in Helena. With all the rising numbers of Covid they are threatening to put some restrictions back in place so I truly hope we will be able to have the conference as planned. I certainly do not want to put anyone in danger, but I hope after all the planning we will still be allowed to have it. By the time you read this we will all know whether it happened or not.

I was just told this past week that the official opening of the SW Veterans Home in Butte is being pushed further out. The only good thing is that we will have more time to complete the Quilts of Valor for our precious veterans. I will keep you informed as soon as I am notified what is happening.

As I have written about in a couple of my monthly meetings, along those lines, when the Legion has their meeting, put the collection jar out for them to put in their change also. It quickly adds up, I am being told.

November is also Veteran’s Day. I know we cannot go all out like we usually do for celebrating our Veterans, but there are still things we can do. How about collecting cards made by your grade school children and do a home delivery with a card and commercially wrapped cookie or some type of goodie. That way even if they do not go out because of Covid, they are still remembered.

Take special care to wear your mask and put on some gloves when you deliver them. Find out at your local nursing home how many veterans there are and take something to them and the staff can hand them out. Just a couple ideas.

November is Membership month. It is a great time to ask your Unit members to pay their dues, so you don’t have to worry about them over the holidays. The first of the reminders from National has been sent and received and the second one should be coming out a little delayed to February, I believe.

VP Chris Nelson has more on that (see next page). December is VA&R month (Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation). This month we celebrate our veterans and their families by having the Christmas Store. Because of the Covid, we know that the Columbia Falls has had some that tested positive for Covid, so they are asking for monetary donations only. The money goes to Jamie at Department and she can transfer it directly to the Columbia Falls account. They will be purchasing the gifts and make sure they are held in quarantine for a while to make sure they are safe for the veterans to have. I am sure all our sites would appreciate the same thing. Christmas is the season for giving – safe giving.

For those that are helping to sew our Quilts of Valor, I thank you so much. If you did not receive the instructions on how to make them, each of your Unit Presidents received them so ask them to send it to you. We have to make 60 for the year.

We have been blessed with so many quilt shops giving a great discount on material, or making a quilt to donate to us, or offering to quilt them for us. Throughout my travels during September and October, there are not too many quilt shops I have not been in and greatly reduced their inventory of patriotic material. When I told them what we were doing with all the material, I also asked if they would help us. I was not turned down at a single one I asked. In case I missed the quilt shop in your town, please go there and talk to them. Making a purchase wouldn’t hurt. You never know until you ask.

Blessings to each one of you and your families. This year we might not get to celebrate the way we usually do with our friends and family, but when you do get together please, please be safe. Wear your masks, wash your hands often keep a safe distance as best as possible. We love every one of you and do not want any of you to become infected. We already have some of our members sick and we ask you to keep them in prayers. I will always pray for you and your families, and our American Legion Family every day. Looking forward to 2021.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year! Remember Jesus is the reason for the season.

Taking care of the business of our Veterans and our members.

Deceased Members

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<th>July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020</th>
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American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Montana Fundraiser

“Dimes and Time”

Our goal is to raise enough dimes to stretch 100 miles for our programs to help veterans, and for each Auxiliary Unit to spend 100 hours in personal time to better the lives of our veterans and their families.

This is to take place November 2019—May 2020 in honor of our American Legion Auxiliary 100th Birthday celebration.

Thank you for your donation!
**Butte Post 1 & Auxiliary Unit 1 hosts District 6 Fall Meeting**

On September 12, The American Legion Post 1 and Auxiliary hosted the District 6 Fall Meeting at the Post hall in Butte. Pictured are Auxiliary members from Butte getting ready to serve cake at the luncheon.

**Left to right: Helen Denton, Jeanette Knoell, Margie Schenk and Anne Newton.**

submitted by Margie Schenk, Member Unit 1 Butte

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**ALA Girls State Update**

**Happy Fall, I think? Our ALA Girls State session is planning for June 13-19, 2021, at Carroll College, Helena MT and we are hoping to be able to accommodate those juniors (now seniors) who could not go last summer. We will be discussing this option at the Fall Conference discussions.**

Thank you for supporting this important growth opportunity for our Montana girls.

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**Helena Unit 2 helps Ft. Harrison food service**

**Chair: Jennifer Lewis, Member Unit 2**

VA employee, (and Lewis and Clark Unit 2 member) Amy Claridge, accepts 40 meal tickets from Unit 2 for veterans in need. In April, the VA stopped providing meals to veterans in need who travel to Fort Harrison on VTS (Veterans Transportation Service) vans from other cities in Montana. VA Volunteer Services appealed to VSOs (Veteran Service Organizations) in March to help fill the need.

Unit 2 is the first VSO to provide meals, The funds were raised through donations in memory of USAF Veteran Dallas Hiatt, who loved eating at the canteen at Fort Harrison.

---

**Membership 1st Vice President**

**Christine Nelson**

Our National Auxiliary Executive Committee held a conference call with Division VPs recently and announced the following changes to 2021 Membership Awards:

1. **Recruit/Rejoin 5:** IST deadline has been moved from February to December 14, 2020.
2. **10 X10 Award:** Valid for recruiting NEW SENIOR members only. Reward for recruiting 10 will be a special gift selected by the National Membership Chairman.
3. There will be no drawing for a chance to win $1,000 to travel to National Convention. The winner of the 2020 Recruit 10 drawing will receive her reward to attend the 2021 National Convention in Phoenix.
4. **Caring & Sharing Award:** Reward of $25 cash has been changed to a $25 gift certificate to Emblem Sales.
5. All other awards have had dates changed to reflect the 2021 calendar year.

The NEC voted to change the date of the second membership renewal notice. It will be February 1, 2021. So many members renew in December, the national organization will save money by mailing fewer renewals and have fewer upset members calling National or our Department secretary.

We have had in place a first-year free membership for new Female Veteran members. At the National level it has been discontinued starting with the 2021 membership year. Whether the Department of Montana will offer a fee waiver will be decided soon.

Other reminders…

- **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS:** if any of the following is missing on the application form, it will need to be sent back to the Unit to complete and will slow down that person becoming registered at Department and National as a member.

1. Signature of new member
2. Legion membership card number of eligible veteran
3. Legion member name – post & city & state (middle initials really help for very common names)
4. Relationship to veteran’s box checked
5. Deceased or living checked
6. Birthdates are mandatory for Junior members and highly recommended for Senior members
7. Signature of verification of eligibility from AMERICAN LEGION POST OFFICER, not an ALA officer
8. Units should keep in touch with new members by a call, email or card to let them know how much their membership means to the Unit and veterans.
9. I encourage members to take the ALA Academy Courses on the website. There is a lot of great material there to help us work all our programs including membership.
10. Do you go on the Member website? You can share ALA ideas and information. Just don’t put anything POLITICAL on there.
11. When a member is transferring to another Unit, she can pay her dues to either Unit.
12. Chapter 8 of the Department Operations Guide has been updated. We are awaiting National Headquarters to release it.
Department Vice Commander Glen Sharbono, on the left, presents the St Regis Post 13 Shooting Sports Team their awards for finishing 2nd Place in the National Shooting Sports Team competition for 2020.

The Gallatin Valley Sharpshooters Shooting Sports Team sponsored by Manhattan Post 87 receives their award for finishing 2nd Place in the National Shooting Sports Competition in the Precision Category from Department Shooting Sports Chairman Larry Dobb, with Department Commander Jeff Nelson looking on.

**2020 Class A American Legion Baseball Champs**

Congratulations to the 2020 Class A Baseball Champions, the Billings Bluejays and the runners up, the Lewistown Redbirds (pictured below).

**Montana National Guard to Conduct Purple Heart Hunt on Fort Harrison**

The Montana National Guard will again this year be providing an opportunity for up to five Purple Heart recipients to hunt mule deer on the training area at Fort William Henry Harrison. The hunt is in accordance with regulations associated with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Hunting District 388. Being a Purple Heart recipient is the only requirement to be eligible for this program.

The available dates for the 2020 hunt will be conducted from November 9-15. One hunter will be allowed each day. No party hunting will be permitted. This year hunters are not required to possess a permit to hunt from a vehicle.

“Reservations are on a first come basis and open on October 1. Reservations can be made by phone to Fort Harrison Range Control at 406-324-3694,” said Capt. Shawn Madsen, Fort Harrison’s range control officer.

Hunters must follow all FWP deer hunting regulations for hunting district 388, a weapon restricted area. The only firearms that may be used are muzzleloaders, handguns with a barrel shorter than 10 ½ inches, and shotguns. Archery is also allowed in the weapons restricted area.

“The Montana Purple Heart Deer Hunt is a way for us to thank those veterans who have given so much to our state and nation,” said Maj. Gen. Matthew Quinn, the Adjutant General for Montana. “I encourage everyone who is eligible to make a reservation to participate.”

**Polson Post 112 gets a new home**

Post 112 Commander and Auxiliary member Dorothy Goodwin, joined by fellow Legionnaires at the signing of the purchase of the new Post 112 building.

**Montana Shooting Sports Teams bring home Awards**

The Gallatin Valley Sharpshooters Shooting Sports Team sponsored by Manhattan Post 87 receives their award for finishing 2nd Place in the National Shooting Sports Competition in the Precision Category from Department Shooting Sports Chairman Larry Dobb, with Department Commander Jeff Nelson looking on.

**Superintendent Arntzen and Billings American Legion Honor Patriot Day by Supporting ‘Stars and Stripes in Every Classroom’**

HELENA | Sep 9, 2020 — Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen joined the Billings American Legion Post 117 for their annual Patriot Day ceremony on the Yellowstone County Courthouse lawn beginning at noon on Friday, September 11th. Following the annual ceremony at around 12:15 p.m., Superintendent Arntzen and Americanism Chairman for Post 117 George Blackard unveiled the ‘Stars and Stripes in Every Classroom’ initiative. The initiative is a partnership between the Office of Public Instruction and Post 117 to raise funds for American flags in schools.

“As we look ahead to this coming Patriot Day, I want to thank the men and women who have served our country,” Superintendent Arntzen said. “We must honor our veterans by having strong civics education programs in schools to educate the next generation about the rights and responsibilities that we enjoy as Americans thanks to our servicemen and women. One way to encourage this is by proudly displaying the stars and stripes in every classroom.”

State law requires flags in every school classroom, but only if schools can afford them or have them donated.

“American Legion Post 117 is proud to join our State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, in getting U.S. Flags back in classrooms all across Montana. On June 14th, 1923 The American Legion brought over 60 civic organizations together to write the U.S. Flag Code and now, nearly one hundred years later, we are excited to rededicate ourselves to honoring the symbol of our Nation and sharing our respect for our Flag with the children of Montana. This is a project that Legion Posts across the state can join in on and together we can promote Americanism and support the children and youth of Montana,” said Chairman Blackard.
Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day): “I Deem this a full reply of the unconditional surrender of Japan.” President Truman

September 2, 2020

WHEREAS, Montana’s 163rd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Division, the Jung leers, was called to active duty on September 16, 1940 for one year of training and further extension of service of 6 months for those Americans who been called up in 1940, and
WHEREAS, December 7, 1941 the United States came under attack by Japanese Forces at Pearl Harbor and extension of service of 6 months for those Americans who been called up in 1940, and
WHEREAS, over 75,000 Montanans were a part of that force, and
WHEREAS, the 163rd Infantry Regiment served with distinction at Apate, Wake and Bloody Bay, the Southern Philippines Campaign 1944, winning battles at Zamaonga, Sanga Sanga Island, and the Battle of Jolo and the key village of Calapan against Japanese Imperial Forces, stop only because of the cessation of hostilities due to the dropping of the Atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and finally became the occupation force on the Japanese mainland, and
WHEREAS the 163rd was demolished in Japan, January 3, 1946, sent home after over five years of active duty, and
WHEREAS, the First Special Service force a joint US-Canadian special operations unit was secretively formed at William Henry Harrison near Helena, Montana in April-July 1942, to organize and train for conduct mission known as Operation Ploug, going on the serve in both the Pacific theater and the European theater, with battle credits of the Aleutians, Naples – Foggia, Rome – Arno, Southern France, the Rhineland and Southern France, being inactivated December 1944 without losing a battle and with battle casualties equivalent to 137% of its strength, and
WHEREAS, Camp Rimini War Dog Reception and Training Center was established in late 1942, west of Helena where it trained as a part of the effort to disrupt the Axis, power, unit members established a dog kennel to acquire themselves in places along Great Circle military air routes as search and rescue, providing specialized transport in remote area of the Northern Hemisphere such as New Found land and in Europe during winter operations as providing transport of war materiel to our American forces, and
WHEREAS, the Army Air Force organized and trained bomber and fighter units in such locations as Great Falls, Lewistown, and Cutbank from 1941-1945, and
WHEREAS, the 77th Ferrying Command, Air Transport Command was formed at Great Falls (Gore Hill) Great Falls International Airport and at East Base (now Mainstrom ABF), Montana to carry out the mission of providing aircraft and critical supplies to our allies over the Great Circle military air routes as part of Global War Air Operations of World War II, and
WHEREAS, Fort Missoula became a World War II Italian detention camp, housing Italian sailors who had been caught up in the War 1942-43 with the result being a well disciplined and truthful U.S. Government program of various training and education that went on to emigrate to the United States, and
WHEREAS specialized units such the all Black, segregated 555th Parachute Battalion, known as the Triple Nickels trained in Montana at Missoula and fought forest fires throughout Montana and the Northwest, and
WHEREAS, the people of Montana supported the World War II efforts in many ways on the Home Front, providing food, and other strategic supplies and minerals, meeting or ordering the quotes for the eight war bond Drives, and
WHEREAS, Montana’s support, fought, died and wounded in millions of World War II’s, as Joseph Howard Kinsey wrote, of the more than 15 million men and women in the US Armed Forces during, “World War II, Montana had the record of oversubscribing first in eight World War II saving bond drives.”

Therefore, I, James W. Duffy, President of Montana Military Museum located at Fort William Henry Harrison Montana, do hereby recognize Montana’s World War II generation, veterans and families, and all those who have served in active duty, fought a wrong and restore peace through strength from 1940-1945, expending time, talent and sacrifice in support of freedom and

In furtherance, on this September 2, 2020, I support the Spirit of 40 originally July 10, 2010 by an act of the U.S. Congress and , the recognition of year 2020 as the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War II in Western Theater and on this 75th year of Victory Day Japan occurring on August 15, 1945 with the surrender Japanese Forces and the signing of surrender documents on September 2, 1945 on the USS Missouri.

And furthermore, we recognize and appreciate the establishment and sustenance of the Montana’s most viable military veterans groups now identified by Tom Brokaw as the Greatest Generation, Montana had the largest number of veterans in remote area of the Northern Hemisphere such as Montana’s death rate in World War II was only exceeded by those in World War I, Montanans were quick to enlist and support the War efforts in many ways on the Home Front, providing food, and other strategic supplies and minerals, meeting or ordering the quotes for the eight war bond Drives, and
WHEREAS, Montana claimed the distinction of oversubscribing in eight World War II savings bond drives.

These poems need homes: Honoring Vietnam veterans

These Poems Need Homes: Honoring Vietnam Veterans

"None left behind..."

Drafted at eighteen,
I was still wet behind the ears.
Foreign land fought from home,
killing, dying were my fears.
I shook my dad’s hand
and gave a goodbye kiss to mom,
and when I returned,
in a place called Vietnam.
I went to basic training
and learned to shoot a gun.
I met some boyies
who had never even shot.
We found much in common,
though all from different places.
We laughed at being scared,
for our hairless faces.
We griped about the few
while welcomed each meal and bath,
Selling daze
that no more would we take.
We graduated Basic
right to jungle patrol.
We were now a unit,
death’s bell made its eerie toll.
Named for the Lunar New Year,
The Tet Offensive struck.
"Bird country" and "donkey"
died in the mud and the muck.
So began the register
of our unit’s losses.
One of us had broken arms and legs,
broken and bruised.
Some of us never told
the war stories held inside,
but always prouder asked why we hadn’t died.
In 1962 D.C. unveiled "The Wall.
They named it the Vietnam Vets Memorial
that honored them all.
Last week a letter came,
my unit was meeting there.
The Wall is a manifestation of two of us who gathered to share.
We touched our brother’s names
amidst a sea of others,
your names that we’d never hear others ask us to show us as a "new boot".
I listened to Chaplain
as he concluded with prayer. Emotions welled inside me with tears welling until we’re blind.
Some asking if it’s fair.
Emotions welled inside me
while each day new and old members
as did hometown crosses.
Arlington headstones stacked up over fifty thousand lives were chopped.
but not before we graduated Basic.
We carried them out.
all died on the same day.
We graduated Basic
right to jungle patrol.
We were now a unit,
death’s bell made its eerie toll.
Named for the Lunar New Year,
The Tet Offensive struck.
"Bird country" and "donkey"
died in the mud and the muck.
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Emotions welled inside me
while each day new and old members
as did hometown crosses.
Arlington headstones stacked up over fifty thousand lives were chopped.
but not before
I eventually came home.
while each day new and old members
as did hometown crosses.
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Postmortem Memoir from Beloved Helena Teacher Reflects on the Nature of War


Helena, MT: Sweetgrass Books and the family of Robert E. Jewell, particularly his daughters Holly and Sheri, and life long friend Tom Gannon are honored to announce the release of Bleeding Spirits: A Combat Soldier’s Memoir of the Vietnam War, 1968-1969. Compiled at the end of Jewell’s life in 2017 and 2018, Bleeding Spirits is a clear-eyed recounting of his experience during the deadliest year of armed conflict in Vietnam and a rumination on how PTSD shaped and reshaped his life after his discharge from the Army. Bob began the writings that would eventually become Bleeding Spirits during in-patient treatment for PTSD—a courageous effort to help himself come to terms with how Vietnam changed him. The book is a window into the workings of war and its warriors and an inspirational story of the struggle and beauty involved in the search for a sense of peace.

“Our country has an invaluable window into the realities of war and an on-the-ground perspective of what our military soldiers were asked to endure by our country. To list a few: the terror of fatal combat danger (not only for one’s own body, but for those of loved ones and comrades), the agony of physical injuries at all,” he wrote. “The atrocities that they witnessed, during a warzone, had severe consequences. Many will be fighting emotional battles for the rest of their lives.”

I recently had the honor and privilege of conducting the commitment service for one of our members, Alan Rainey. Alan was a Navy veteran and took up writing “cowboy poetry” to express his deepest feelings in his later years. As a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, he participated in the creation of the Montana Heritage Center as a part of the Helena VFW Post 1. Now, the realization of Alan’s dream is before us.

In memory of Alan Rainey

Submitted by Carol Ann Giudice Sipple

I recently had the honor and privilege of conducting the commitment service for one of our members, Alan Rainey. Alan was a Navy veteran and took up writing “cowboy poetry” to express his deepest feelings in his later years. As a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, he participated in the creation of the Montana Heritage Center as a part of the Helena VFW Post 1. Now, the realization of Alan’s dream is before us.

In memory of Alan Rainey

As they went forth
Their minds were clear, their bodies whole
When they came back, some had
Shining anguish, deep, within their soul.

Even though, lives were in peril,
Events still haunted their core.
Even though, they are in pieces,
Many have misgivings galore.

With memories, rank and vivid
They go through life, in a war zone,
Even they now know what dreams
Of those who fought bravely, at their end.
For what, their actions, may have wrought.

Remember; consequences are not always seen
Some, breaking any time line of judgment
Can never be justified or sanctified
Even, when, perpetrated in some foreign land.

Consequences

---

As the years went on, they came back, some had
Shining anguish, deep, within their soul.
Even though, lives were in peril,
Events still haunted their core.
Even though, they are in pieces,
Many have misgivings galore.

With memories, rank and vivid
They go through life, in a war zone,
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Some, breaking any time line of judgment
Can never be justified or sanctified
Even, when, perpetrated in some foreign land.

Consequences

---

So when you see a Veteran
With extremities without or blind
Behind them attributes and blank eyes
There just may be a war, waging, in their mind.

To meet our foes was their charge,
They went forth, of their own volition.
Without hope, without a friend,
And we must not shirk our mission
To solace their spirit.
Yes, they are true heroes
And to this calling we all must give.

ALAN RAINNEY, 1938-2020
MAY HIS MEMORY BE A BLESSING
FOR MANY, MANY YEARS TO COME

CHAYLAN ANN SIPPLE
**Attention**

Nutter Shore Museum

- If you have loaned, or believe to have loaned, any items to the Nutter - Shore American Legion Room of the Montana Historical Society Museum in Helena please contact Department Headquarters at 406-324-3989 or toll free at 866-793-1257, or by email at amlegmt29@mtlegion.org.
- If you know of someone who has loaned items and you know the whereabouts of that individual contact Department Headquarters.
- If you are the heir of someone you believe to have loaned items, then also contact Department Headquarters.

---

**BIG 1,000 CLUB**

Would you like six opportunities to win $400, 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 $52 a year and is open to all Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members over 18 years of age. This is a fundraiser 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, as well as membership programs.

If you are interested in joining contact your Post Adjutant or Department Headquarters. Membership closes December 31, 2020 with the first of 6 monthly drawings for $400 beginning January 2021, $500 on the Legion Birthday and $1,800 at Department Convention.

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**How to Submit Articles & Photos?**

**Deadline:** JAN. 1, 2021  
(always include Post & City in 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 multiple spaces as All formatting has to be removed before placing into paper.
- Modern formatting is single-space between sentences (after the period)
- Use quotation marks and give credit to the author and/or publication you are taking the information from otherwise it is plagiarism which has serious 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.
- Send photos in medium resolution. If the photo is blurry, too far away, tops of heads cut off, shows just the backs of heads we cannot make it better for you. Send photos in medium resolution.
- Do not embed (insert) photos in an e-mail (use attachments) – send as e-mail attachment.
- 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 full title followed with acronym in parenthesis, then following first use, the acronym.
- Please keep articles to approximately 600 words per article.
- If you are interested in joining contact your Post Adjutant or Department Headquarters. Membership closes December 31, 2020 with the first of 6 monthly drawings for $400 beginning January 2021, $500 on the Legion Birthday and $1,800 at Department Convention.

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**BIG 1,000 CLUB**

Submit completed form with $25 membership fee to American Legion Dept of Montana Annual Reserve-Center 869 W. Terrace Helena, MT 59604-6075.

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