

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

the Montana VETERAN

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Apr./May/June/July 2016



Antelope



Blue Ribbon for 4047

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4047 and Auxiliary of Fort Benton won the Blue Ribbon for Best Interpretation of Summer Celebration Theme this past summer. The float was created by members of the Post and Auxiliary, Piloted by Post Commander Marvin Brodock, Navigated by his grandchildren and manned by Auxiliary President Tamee Havrilla (Left) and Post Service Officer Marty Havrilla.(Right) who are seen throwing treats to children who lined the parade route.

The theme was Footprints through Time, so the float included Combat footwear from Cavalry Boots to Leggings, combat boots, jungle boots and more recent desert footwear. Along the side of the float were signs naming of all of the armed conflicts that Americans have served in since the Spanish American War, and the top of the float depicted various terrain, field grave markers and of course all of the Armed Forces service flags.



**read more of 4047 activities on page 7*

This is a picture of VFW Post 7407 Honor Guard leading the Huntley Project School 6th Grade with their flags down Main Street in Worden, Montana. Also in the Parade were the School Band, Vol Fire Department, and Vol Ambulance Service. Note that the Post Hall sign is visible on the marchers left.



Deadlines

All articles and pictures have to be into Department Headquarters on or before the following dates for the next three issues of **The Montana Veteran**.

- June 15, 2016 Aug-Sept-Oct-Nov
- October 15, 2016 Dec-Jan-Feb-Mar
- February 15, 2017 Apr-May-June-July

Coming Events

- JUNE 15-18 | STATE CONVENTION IN HELENA**
- JULY 23-27 | NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CHARLOTTE, NC**

COMMANDER'S REPORT



DEAN W. HOUSE

My Fellow Comrades,
Well, Mid-Winter is now over. I thought that the C of A meeting was very productive. Our VOD winner Anna Snell, and the Patriots Pin winner Allison Miller both had very moving essays. I would like

to thank all of my chairman for their hard work. I would like to thank Post 1087 and Jack Hawley for a very successful Mid-Winter C of A. A personal thanks to the 1087 kitchen staff for a fantastic lunch, and Banquet.

Membership is still a problem. We are behind setting at 89.88%, we are about 309 members behind last year's total. Let's keep up our recruiting efforts. Retention is your key factor for successful recruitment.

District Meetings will be soon starting in April. I'll see you all there. Commanders make sure your Post is properly represented at the District Meetings. District elections will also be held.

Bob, Tim, and I will be heading to Washington D.C. at the end of February for the Legislative Conference, and the VOD and Patriots Pin Award ceremony. I'm looking forward to escorting our VOD winner Anna Snell down the aisle at the

National awards ceremony.

The Montana VA treatment programs Veterans Choice Card, Fee Basis, ARCH, and Health Net. The specific issues, is that none of them either individually or in combination are working as envisioned. Due to the fact, the lack of providers willing to participate, lack of coordination of the VA, and program administrators, and failure of the VA to pay in a timely manner. The last I heard was that the pay to the providers is back-logged in the neighborhood of about \$3.5 million dollars in Montana alone. I seriously think the VA needs to do-away with these Programs. The VA needs to get rid of the corporations that is heading these programs, and get back to the basics of taking care of our veterans through the VA itself. It can be done, with a little common sense, with the authority to fire anyone who isn't doing their job, and save billions of dollars in the meantime.

Sound like we are going to have a great State Convention in Helena, I'm looking forward to it. It will be a busy one. We need to revise our redistricting proposal. Moving Livingstone, Roundup, and Harlowton into District# 3, and Lewistown into District# 2. There will be several resolutions to be voted on also. I hope to see everyone during our Spring District Meetings.

Dean W. House
State Commander

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



JACK HAWLEY

Comrades,
I know that you hear this all the time but I must throw it out there again. We as a group of active veterans really have to push our membership into renewing their membership and reaching out to veterans that were

members and bring them back get with Tim Peters, or myself and we can give you lists of prior members, members at large and members that have relocated from another state to here in Montana. If every veteran renewed their membership the State of Montana would be 100% right now and our Commander would be a step closer to being All American Commander. There is no reason why the State of Montana can't be in the top five States every year, the only thing we're missing is team work a couple of people can't do it themselves it takes all of us working together. I know that we have members who will not pay their annual

dues until the month comes up that they joined in. You need to tell them that if they pay their dues on July 1st every year they're still a member in good standings from that day until their original date the next year. My other program that I wish to address is the Life Legacy Membership. We now have over 130 members that generate in access of \$1,500 a year to the State coffers and also to the various posts. These funds do not stop they continue on coming in after we veterans have passed on. Unlike the monies we receive for our Life Members every year stops as soon as we have passed away. Do you realize that for every Legacy Life Member you have in your post you get a minimum of \$6 per member and maximum of \$18 depending on the level of Legacy Life Membership their at and on top of that if they are still alive you get monies from them being Life Members. You do the math if your post is ailing for lack of funds get some of your Life Members to leave a part of their Legacy to the post and become Legacy Life Members it costs as low as \$400 for a Bronze, add \$400 for a total of \$800 and become a Silver, then add one more \$400 for a total of \$1,200 and

SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 8

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Where Do My
Dues Go?

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Ray Lutz, Joe Murnion, Charles Carroll		

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



CHARLES CARROLL

Starting in April we will be nominating and electing Post Officers additionally we will be having our spring District meetings to do the same. It is important for all Posts to be represented at the District meetings and again at all State meetings. I urge all of you to get more proactive in running the VFW from the Post level through the Department level. We are the second largest Veteran's Service Organization in the United States. It takes a lot of individuals to run this organization and we sure could use more of your input. Please consider getting more involved in YOUR organization. These meetings are important for folks to get together and govern our organization.

Another topic that you hear a lot about is recruiting and retention. The bottom line is that we need every one of our VFW members to remain active. The more numbers that we have the bigger the clout we have in all things Veteran related in Washington D.C. When our National Commander in Chief says to Congress that "I have nearly two million combat veterans who feel strongly about this issue..." he gets listened to. We can have a huge impact and we need everyone one of you to make it happen. Last summer during our State Convention we mourned the loss of 252 VFW members who passed on to their final resting place during the last year. That means we need 252 new members just to be close to even. Please help us to recruit as many new members as we possibly can. If each VFW member recruited just one new member in 2016 we will have surpassed all goals.

Our organization has been "doing more for Veterans" for over 100 years and we must continue to manifest that responsibility with our younger folks. In 10 years our 4th and 5th graders (you know the ones sitting in classrooms throughout the State) will be the ones taking up the call of duty and marching off to protect American citizens from harm throughout the world. In just 10 short years these young citizens will be the ones defining for all the world to see, that America is still the most powerful nation on earth and a force to be reckoned. These are our kids and grandkids and we need

to be there for them. Who is going to be there when they return home? We need to recruit more and especially younger folks into the VFW, which can man the ranks at home, to welcome these warriors with what they need upon their return. Another thing that we must demand is to have Congress fully fund the efforts of war. They can find money to send our young folks into harms' way but find it difficult to adequately fund all elements of their reintegration with society. So what I am advocating is that before they send our troops into action they fund the backside of this equation too. In short, health care, education, jobs, etc. must be fully funded before they let our troops go into harm's way.

I heard someone say that the only good thing that came out of the sequestration process is that with the Government shut down, the politicians couldn't screw anything up. Kind of a poignant thought isn't it? It certainly rings true given the political climate and discord among the ranks of our Congressional members. We publish the contact information for all of our Congressional members in our State Newsletter. Do you ever pick up the phone and make that call to have a conversation with these folks? How many letters have you written? If you have something that really sticks in your craw how about getting several of your fellow VFW members together and make a visit to their local offices. Let them know that you expect results and not more rhetoric. Here are just a few issues facing Veterans: being homeless, suicide, meaningful employment and having adequate medical care. I challenge each member to look at these issues and pick one or more areas where you can help. We are all combat veterans and as you know, no one understands the issues that we deal with better than someone who has walked the walk. Remember these issues are not exclusive to the younger veteran; they affect Veterans of all ages and regardless of where they served or what theater of war. As a team we can make a difference because the future of this organization lies with the next generation that answers the call of duty and given the nature of things, they will be our kids and grandkids.

Thanks for all that you do for Veterans and especially to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. God Bless you and God Bless America.

Charles Carroll, Jr. Vice Commander

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CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



JIM PORTER

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members;

Well, the holidays are over, and on to the Mid-Winter and the Spring District meetings. Annie & I, as well as all of the Department officers, hope & pray that each of you & your families, had a very happy & holy Christmas. We also hope that all of you have a very safe & prosperous 2016. I would just like to mention a couple of things to all of you. First, whenever you are in your vehicle, PLEASE buckle your seatbelt, and if you have passengers with you, insist that they buckle up as well. It can happen in the blink of an eye. The second thing is, when you are walking, especially with all the ice there is around, PLEASE be careful. Many of us either have reached that "golden age" and if not, you will sooner than you think. I cannot speak about any of you, but speaking about myself, I realize that my balance is not what it used to be, and I

know that if I fall, the chances are pretty good that I am going to break something. I also know that as a person gets older, one does not heal as fast as you used to.

I know this article is going to be kind of short, and I know that some of you probably jump for joy about that. I would like to remind you all once again about MEMBERSHIP. Talk VFW, always have an application blank with you. If a veteran tells you he or she would like to join, sign them up on the spot. Don't put off getting the application to them later. If you do, you have just lost another prospective member of the VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS. One more thing, and this is for all of you that are life members already. Please consider signing on as a LEGACY LIFE MEMBER. Believe me, it is a "win-win" situation for your post, department, and national. Lastly, if there are any deaths, sicknesses, or accidents in or around your post of members or family, please let me know so I can get an appropriate card on the way. Have a terrific Spring. You all take care and May God Bless each of you & your families.

Jim Porter, State Chaplain

HELP A HERO Scholarship Program

What is Help A Hero scholarship Program? It is a program where veterans, active duty, National Guard and Reserve students can apply for a scholarship funded by Sports Clips. For those of you who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, they were the largest contributor for the free phone calls to family members back home. The only service requirement for applying is to be an E-5 or below and have completed basic training and Advanced Individual Training. Each scholarship will provide recipients with up to \$5,000 to apply toward their education at an accredited post-secondary institution, including universities, colleges, trade schools and apprenticeships. While the program is funded by Sports Clips' Help A Hero campaign, the VFW manages the scholarship program. The scholarships will be administered directly to the schools.

Application is easy, go online to VFW.org. Go to the Assistance page and click on College Scholarships. There you

will find a program overview, a helpful "frequently asked questions" guide and a link to the application. Please note that applications will only be accepted online using the form on VFW.org. No e-mail, FAX or U.S. Mail will be accepted.

In January, 133 students and over \$563,000 was awarded to students for the spring semester. Only one student from Montana received a scholarship for the spring semester. Applications are being accepted until April 30th for the fall semester. This is a chance too good to miss and you can apply and receive a scholarship for each semester.

Our job as VFW members and Posts is to get the word out to all of our active military and veterans who are attending college or even thinking about it. This may be the thing they need to further their education and a better way of life. For questions, contact Art Widhalm, Veterans & Military Support Chairman by phone 406-524-3761/406-942-0668 or e-mail chiefhunter2u@yahoo.com.

Thank You Friends

Thank you to the members of the VFW and Auxiliary for the many cards and kind words following the death of my father, George Pouliot. Your kindness and thoughtfulness will be remembered.

Tom Pouliot, Past State Commander
90-91/C-I-C 98-99

What is a Legacy Life Member?

A Legacy Life member is another level of the VFW life membership program. It is intended to give our life members a way to leave a lasting legacy to the VFW. Future generations will know you not only for the sacrifices you made as a veteran but for the contributions you made as a member. **That's a legacy to be proud of.** When you become a Legacy Life Member, you are helping us strengthen the VFW where "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS". There are 3 prestigious levels of Legacy Life Membership are available, (Gold, Silver, or Bronze). Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life Members. Once your Legacy Life Membership begins, an annual endowment in your name will be made to your Post, Department, and the organization. You will feel confident knowing your contributions to our organization are helping not only today's veterans but the veterans of tomorrow. Future generations will know and remember you for the sacrifices you've made during your time in uniform in addition to the contributions you've made as a VFW Legacy Life Member. You will always be a member of your Post even after you're gone. Now Legacy Life memberships can be purchased for deceased life members, this is a great way to honor our past life members and keep them on the rolls of your post. If you are a life member and are interested in this program simply contact your Department Headquarters at (406)324-3992 for an application.

LEGACY LIFE MEMBER EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS

MEMBER INCENTIVES	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
	\$400	\$800	\$1200
Plated Engraved Life Member Card	●	●	●
Lapel Pin	●	●	●
Hat Pin	●	●	●
Distinctive Emblem & Supply Line for Legacy Life Members	●	●	●
Framed Certificate for Legacy Life Membership	●	●	●
Recognition on Internet & Convention Program	●	●	●
Recognition at Kiosks at Memorial Building in Washington, D.C. and Museum at National Headquarters	●	●	●
Special Plaque	●	●	●
Hat Patch	●	●	●
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza	●	●	●
Emblem & Supply Discounts (For Personal Use Only)	5%	10%	15%
Increased Level of No-Cost AD&D Insurance	\$2000	\$3500	\$5000
Annual Endowment: Post	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment: Dept.	\$6	\$12	\$18

LEGACY LIFE HONOR ROLL

Kelly W. Kvigne	Gold Post 276	Ronald R. McLeod	Bronze Post 1448
Lawrence Cunningham*	Gold Post 1087	Troy A. McDowall	Bronze Post 1579
Bradley A. Damron	Gold Post 1087	James A. Ussin	Bronze Post 1634
Jack A. Hawley	Gold Post 1087	Kenneth C. Handl	Bronze Post 2154
Arthur P. Marshall Jr.	Gold Post 1087	Michael J. Bennett, Jr	Bronze Post 2252
Anthony G. Morris	Gold Post 1087	Robert Franczek	Bronze Post 2252
William M. Rose	Gold Post 1087	William J. Metteer	Bronze Post 2252
Gerald E. Van Every	Gold Post 1087	James L. Amundson	Bronze Post 3107
Thomas A. Pouliot	Gold Post 1116	Lance A. Bender	Bronze Post 3107
Daniel P. Antonietti	Gold Post 1448	Charles Bradford Jr.	Bronze Post 3107
John R. Fish Jr.*	Gold Post 1448	Reid B. Coldwell	Bronze Post 3107
Ronald R. Peterson	Gold Post 1448	Michael K. Corey	Bronze Post 3107
William D. Pirrie III	Gold Post 1723	Earl Fuhrman*	Bronze Post 3107
James C. Aho	Gold Post 2252	Floyd R. Hopstad	Bronze Post 3107
Duane Barrett*	Gold Post 3107	Byron M. Lindsay	Bronze Post 3107
Norman K. Dahl*	Gold Post 3107	Gerald F. Myers*	Bronze Post 3107
Albert Franzen	Gold Post 3107	Marvin J. Olson	Bronze Post 3107
George Kolstad	Gold Post 3107	Steve Page	Bronze Post 3107
E.C. Buster Lenoir*	Gold Post 3107	Kenneth E. Page*	Bronze Post 3107
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Robert T. Schwegel	Gold Post 6786	Lawrence R. Troutdt	Bronze Post 4099
Ken R. Utter	Gold Post 6786	Vernon E. Wilson*	Bronze Post 4099
Gary O. Borland	Gold Post 7311	Paul L. Holmgren*	Bronze Post 4762
Charles M. Handley	Gold Post 7311	Alfred J. Adolph	Bronze Post 4925
John T. Freetly	Gold Post 7407	Daniel C. Barta	Bronze Post 4925
Terry W. Lambert	Gold Post 8292	Jack L. Burger	Bronze Post 4925
William I. Mackley	Gold Post 8292	Loren R. Erbe	Bronze Post 4925
George F. Fryett, Jr	Gold Post 9040	Harry Kowalczyk	Bronze Post 4925
Elmer D. Bernard	Gold Post 10010	John G. Leggett	Bronze Post 4925
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Michael C. Buckley	Gold Post 10010	Douglas H. Parrott	Bronze Post 4925
Lyle F. Pedersen	Gold Post 10010	Henry A. Plott	Bronze Post 4925
Timothy C. Peters	Gold Post 10010	Will D. Juhl	Bronze Post 6774
Ruthie M. Buttrick-Best	Gold Post 15027	Donald R. Kendall	Bronze Post 6774
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Lee E. Erickson	Silver Post 3107	Leo A. Howe	Bronze Post 6786
Kenneth K. Kautz	Silver Post 3107	J. P. Hume*	Bronze Post 6786
Otto J. Otnes	Silver Post 3596	Francis L. Utter	Bronze Post 6786
Ludwig J. Rigler	Silver Post 10010	Thomas H. Armstrong	Bronze Post 8292
Dennis G. Dreyer	Bronze Post 276	Paul E. Coble	Bronze Post 8292
Dean House	Bronze Post 276	Edward J. Boucher	Bronze Post 10010
Kenneth A. Herrmann	Bronze Post 276	John R. Buckley	Bronze Post 10010
Robert Sammon	Bronze Post 276	LeRoy S. Johnson	Bronze Post 10010
Laureen A. Hawley	Bronze Post 1087	Melvin V. Johnson*	Bronze Post 10010
Paul T. Quinn	Bronze Post 1087	Dale A. Person	Bronze Post 10010
Harold D. Floyd	Bronze Post 1087	Robert J. Russ*	Bronze Post 10010
Michael L. Lawson	Bronze Post 1448	* Deceased	Total 130

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Huntley Project VFW Post 7404 holds a Flag Retirement Ceremony with the assistance of the local Scouting Unit.



**WE
SUPPORT
OUR
TROOPS**

OPT-OUT!

Opt-Out of the home mailing of the *Montana Veteran*. If you received this USPS delivery of the paper, your request to stop receiving the *Montana Veteran* by mail is not in our on-site database.

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e-Edition

Same format as our printed edition.

You can view the current issue and other back issues of the *Montana Veteran* on our website at mtvfw.org

MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE GRAND SCRATCH

JUNE 15, 2016

AT VFW POST 10010 E. HELENA, MT

Registration Fee: \$15.00

Name(s)	Pup Tent #	Office

Make Checks Payable to: MOC 10

Mail to:
VFW Post 10010
P.O. Box 1982
E. Helena, MT 59635

Convention Hotel Accommodations

Registration Deadline: 28 May 2016

Best Western
Helena Great Northern Hotel
835 Great Northern Blvd.
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 457-5500 Fax (406) 457-5570

We are Looking Forward to seeing all of you at the Grand Scratch!!!

Your Hosts:
Sleeping Giant Pup Tent 10
Dale Person, Sean Squirrel
Tim Peters, CCDB

Department of Montana
Veterans of Foreign Wars

94th State Convention Booklet June 15-18, 2016

Program Ad Price List:

*Price of Set-up Fee for business artwork if required last column

Ad Type	Dimensions	Color	Price
Full Page Ad	8" tall x 5" wide	Color	\$250.00
Full Page Ad	8" tall x 5" wide	Black & White	\$100.00
3/4 Page Ad	5 1/2" tall x 5" wide	Color	\$175.00
3/4 Page Ad	5 1/2" tall x 5" wide	Black & White	\$75.00
1/2 Page Ad	3 3/4" tall x 5" wide	Color	\$125.00
1/2 Page Ad	3 3/4" tall x 5" wide	Black & White	\$50.00
1/4 Page Ad	1 5/8" tall x 5" wide	Color	\$75.00
1/4 Page Ad	1 5/8" tall x 5" wide	Black & White	\$35.00

Artwork:

Camera ready, or if business needs artwork to advertise for space provided. Please send pictures in jpg or gif format. (Graphics need to be in high resolution.)

Mail copy to: Dept. of Montana VFW, P.O. Box 4789, Ft. Harrison, MT 59636

Or email artwork to montanavfw@gmail.com must be in jpg or gif format.

Make checks payable to: VFW Post 10010

Deadline for Orders is May 1, 2016.

Department of Montana
Veterans of Foreign Wars

94th STATE CONVENTION JUNE 15-18, 2016 - HELENA, MT REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION FEE \$40 PER PERSON

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
OFFICE/TITLE _____
POST OR AUXILIARY MEMBER _____

Pre-registration Deadline: May 15, 2016

Mail Registration form and checks to:
VFW Post 10010
P.O. Box 1982
E. Helena, MT 59635

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: VFW Post 10010

Convention Hotel Accommodations

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2016

Best Western
Helena Great Northern Hotel
835 Great Northern Blvd.
Helena, MT 59601
Ph (406) 457-5500 Fx (406) 457-5570

ROOMS
Double Queen—\$135
King—\$145
King Feature—\$155

Ask for VFW convention discount when making reservations.



MONTANA VFW RAFFLE



Grand Prize 2015 Honda Pioneer 500 UTV

Seller of the Grand Prize Ticket wins \$500

Early Bird Drawing on 30 Jan 2016 for \$500
Grand Prize Drawing to be held on 17 June, 2016

Tickets only \$10 each or 3 for \$20

Mid-Winter Meeting

Post 1087, Great Falls hosted a great Mid-Winter meeting in January. The meeting was attended by more than 80 VFW and Auxiliary members and was a huge success. The National Rep was Adjutant General John Hamilton who helped with the awards banquet and provided the attendees with his insightful message.

We honored our VOD winner Anna Snell, sponsored by Post 12113 Thompson Falls and Patriot's Pen winner Allison Miller, sponsored by Post 276 Whitefish.

The attendees praised the banquet meal as one of the best Mid-Winter meals they've had in more than 10 years. We would like to thank Post 1087 for the great meal.



Voice of Democracy State Winner

This year's Voice of Democracy state winner Anna Snell won \$2,000 in the National VOD competition held in Washington D.C. on February 29th. Present to cheer her on was Commander Dean House, Tom Pouliot, Bob Schwegel and Tim Peters. We give a loud congratulations to Anna for her essay.



(L-R)- Tom Pouliot, Anna Snell and Dean House

VFW Auxiliary Presents EVMS With New Flag

On February 12, 2016, Cory-Dullum VFW #10010 Auxiliary President Carol McMaster, Sr. Vice Jean Boucher and Treasurer Lucille Stump presented a new 5' x 8' American Flag to Mrs. Staci Dawes, who accepted the Flag on behalf of the East Valley Middle School (EVMS). Historian Donna Schroder took the picture.



WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

—BLUE RIBBON FOR 4047, from page 1

Recap of 2015 4047 and Auxiliary Events

Hosted District 2 Meeting
 Summer Celebration Parade
 County Fair Bingo
 Halloween Treats to Vets in the Hospital
 Veterans Day Dinner (free meal for over 90 veterans & family members)
 Flag Retirement Ceremony for 5th Grade Class education
 Santa Mall
 Christmas Gift Boxes to Vets in the Hospital and the Bluffs
 Cancer and Scholarship fund raising including a gun drawing.
 14 Monday Night Bingos with over \$2,100.00 in cash and prizes awarded to the players.
 Distribution of ten flags to the Hospital, Church and other organizations.

Honor Guard Events
 Six Grave side Military Honors Ceremonies
 Memorial Day Ceremonies
 Veterans Day Ceremonies

VFW Auxiliary Awards Buddy Poppy Coloring Contest Winners



The VFW #10010 Auxiliary President Carol McMaster, Sr. Vice Jean Boucher, Treasurer Lucille Stump and Historian Donna Schroder awarded prizes to the Buddy Poppy Coloring Contest Winners at the Awards Ceremonies at Eastgate School on February 5, 2016 and then at Radley School on February 12. The Room Winners are as follows:



Kindergarten:

Navaeh Anderson, Luke Hurley, Tavarus Fleming, Mia Smith, Nalyssa Jerome, Caeddyn Kralicek, Mariah Roger and Kaleb Price.



1st Grade:

Ben Smith, Avery Peterson, Ellie Silvonen, Isaiah Kalous, Mabel Bruno, Jaiden Rothenbuhler and Abby Bishop.



2nd Grade:

Damien Roberts, Brayden Morrison, Caleb Baker, Peyton Lorenz, Charleigh Keeland, Zyan Phillips and Elliot Ophus.

Elliot Ophus (at left) also won 2nd Place for 2nd Grade at VFW Department of Montana and was presented with his artwork framed and additional prizes for his achievement.

“Make a Difference Day”

The VFW Auxiliary 5652 of Ronan chose the Mission Valley Animal Shelter this year for the “Make a Difference Day” which is recognized on October 24th. A group of someone that makes a difference for the good in our community is recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation and is given a gift of \$100.

Jill Simpson is the director of the animal shelter and gives many hours in caring for the dogs and cats brought into their facility. We thank Jill and her staff.



Pictured from left: Jill Simpson, Director of MVAS, Jessie Merwin, Margaret Fay, President, Helen Sorenson and Peggy Cote-Smith of the VFW Auxiliary.



Become a Veterans' Advocate

Join the VFW Action Corps here:

www.vfw.org/weekly

and receive the Washington Weekly e-newsletter and All VFW Action Alerts.

WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

—SR. VICE COMMANDER, from page 2

become a Gold Legacy Life Member. It's a bit of a commitment, but in your heart you will feel so very good that you have given the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post ??? a small piece of your Legacy and your name will always be a part of your Post. All right time to get off the soap opera and move on. I'm really looking forward to traveling around to the different Districts and taking with my friends. I don't know where I will be the first weekend when Districts 3, 5, and 6 have their meetings but because of the location I will be at two different District Meetings. I hope everyone that can takes some time and come to the State Convention in Helena Montana 15th thru the 18th of June. My brother and his wife are traveling 3,000 miles to be here, you live here so you should be able to make it. For those of you that like to travel and get away for a while you need to come to Charlotte North Carolina to the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention in all the years

I have been going to the convention I always leave with more knowledge about our programs and our mission then when I got there. We are all a part of the finest Veterans Organization in the World. We have all been in an area of conflict and wore our uniforms proudly. What we have we earned and I'm not going to let some bureaucrat in Washington think that every time they need to make cuts it's all right to cut from the Veterans. This is why I harp so much on membership our voice is only as strong as the amount of people behind that voice we are only strong in numbers. If anyone needs some help you can call me, e-mail me, or write me. Phone # 899-3973, or 731-6003
413 Deerfield Ct Great Falls MT 59405.

Email is jack.Hawley.1@us.af.mil. I will hopefully see everyone at the District meetings or for sure at the State Convention.

Jack Hawley
State Sr. Vice Commander

Budget

- End budget sequestration
- Adjust budget caps to reflect the growing demand on DOD and VA services.
- Provide sufficient funding for all VA budget accounts.

Health Care

- Expand timely access to direct VA health care through appropriate staffing models for each health care specialty, patient density thresholds for each VA medical facility, and a modular capital infrastructure that enables the VA to adjust to changes in the veteran population.
- Reform and improve the VA's Care in the Community process to ensure veterans have the choice to receive timely and seamless access to high-quality care in their communities when VA health care is not readily available. However, the VA must remain the guarantor and coordinator of health care for all enrolled veterans.
- Consolidate all current non-VA care models into a single model.
- Modernize the VA's scheduling system to ensure the VA's scheduling process is seamless, veteran centric, and not susceptible to data manipulation.
- Expand the current caregiver benefits to those who care for severely injured, ill, and wounded veterans of all eras.
- Strengthen VA and DOD mental health programs to ensure service members and veterans who suffer from mental health conditions have access to robust mental health care services.
- Expand women's health care services to all VA medical centers to ensure the growing number of women veterans have access to gender-specific services.
- Authorize the VA to receive reimbursement for non-service connected health care provided to Medicare beneficiaries.
- Ensure veterans who were exposed to toxic substances receive care and benefits for all associated health conditions.
- Increase funding for VA research on the effects of Traumatic Brain Injury, how combat related injuries affect men and women veterans, and whether descendants of veterans who were exposed to toxic substances suffer from adverse health conditions associated with such exposures.

Compensation & Benefits

- Fully fund the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) so that they can sustain the necessary workforce and IT systems to ensure claims are completed in an accurate and timely manner.
- Hold VBA accountable for the backlog of all claims and appeals, not just the compensation and pension claims that they define as their “workload.”
- Ensure that the VA exercise its authority to accept private medical evidence when processing disability compensation claims.
- Provide veterans the option to receive more timely appeal decisions by instituting the Fully Developed Appeals initiative.
- Demand that the VA reverse its current policy that prevents veterans from submitting informal claims for benefits.
- Insist that the VA improve its notification letter so veterans can understand the evidence used in making their rating decision.

Transition Assistance

- Conduct discharge reviews for veterans who suffer from PTSD/TBI and who were discharged under Other Than Honorable conditions.
- Congress must properly fund homeless veterans programs to ensure the VA can reach its goal of ending veteran homelessness.
- Improve Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment by removing the 12-year delaminating period and tracking veterans' employment placement for at least 12 months post job placement.
- Ensure the Transition Assistance Program curricula meets the needs of service members and all veterans at all phases of the transition process.

Education & Employment

- Protect the integrity and future sustainability of veterans' education benefits.
- Invest in developing small business opportunities for veterans.
- Ensure service members receive civilian credentials or academic credit for the professional training they receive during service.
- Insist that the federal government meets its veteran hiring and contracting obligation.

Defense/Homeland Security

- Fully support U.S. troops and their mission to prosecute the war on terrorism, as well as to protect our nation's citizens and interests around the world.
- Halt the development and/or proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- Fully fund and deploy a U.S. missile defense system.
- Secure America's borders.

Military Quality of Life

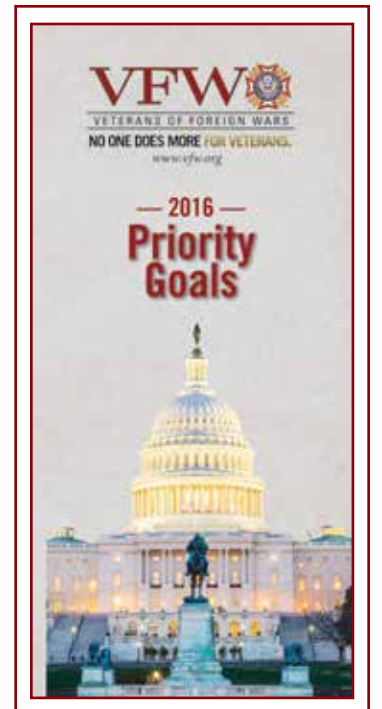
- Ensure DOD maintains a quality and comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone to a quality all-volunteer force.
- Preserve the integrity of TRICARE to ensure service members and their families have timely access to high-quality health care.
- Protect service members and their family members' on-base quality of life programs.
- Pass full concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability compensation.
- Eliminate the SBP/DIC offset for surviving military retiree spouses.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Pass meaningful accountability legislation.
- Develop standardized staffing models and hiring practices throughout the VA.
- Design Performance Measures that capture VA employees' quality of work not just quantity.

POW/MIA

- Achieve the fullest possible accounting of U.S. military personnel missing from all wars.
- Ensure Congress fully funds the POW/MIA Accounting mission.
- Insist the U.S. government keeps POW/MIA recovery a national priority.



TAPS

Montana VFW comrades who have transferred to Post Everlasting

Post	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Post	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
209	John	A	Duncan	3596	Donald	E	Brown
276	Delbert	R	Storkson	3596	William	E	Laursen
497	Dale	E	Anderson	3997	Chester	P	Eveland
497	James	W	Stotts	3997	Rodney	P	Fraser
1087	Jack	A	Broiher	4042	Marvin	A	Baker
1087	Roy	E	Cottor	4042	Ray	J	Etzler
1087	Elmer	B	Emig	4042	James	W	Jensen
1087	Marvin	L	McDonald	4042	Robert	L	Martin
1116	George	D	Pouliot	4042	Gerald	B	Teeples
1116	William		Sternhagen	4042	Jacob	A	Wonsbecker
1125	Kenneth	P	Baisch	4047	Omar	O	Swett
1125	Clarence		Glaser	4109	Charles	A	Froyd
1125	Donald	J	Shearer	4603	Howard	K	Scott
1148	Thomas	P	McIntee	4603	Gary	D	Zimmerman
1551	Wilbur		Erbe	4669	Fred	D	Fjeld
1579	Newman	R	Hall	4762	Paul	L	Holmgren
1634	Dale	D	Smith	4813	Melvin	V	Cooper
1876	Carl		Drescher	5652	Philip	L	Maxwell
1876	Allen	J	Green	6697	Ronald	L	Bailey
1876	James	J	Zenahlik	6697	Dean	H	Lagerstrom
2252	Harold	L	Freese	6774	Roy	F	Calhoun
2252	Cyrus	B	Hutchison	6774	Harold	A	Ellingson
2252	Glenn	E	Koski	6774	Darin	K	Evans
2252	Steve		Middlesworth	6786	Franklin	N	Gamblin
2252	Robert	E	Rales	7311	Harold	F	Owens
2252	Bob	J	Soderstrom	7621	Lynn	R	Montgomery
2252	Donavon	F	Working	7655	George	T	Vanderwalker
2986	Robert	J	Johnson	8869	William	A	Grothaus
3107	William	J	Brooks	8952	Marcus	J	Bergman
3107	Lawren	A	Frost	10010	William	R	Etheridge
3107	John	C	Saubak	10010	James	P	Gregory



Flying the American Flag at Half-Staff

When should the flag be flown at half-staff?



An easy way to remember when to fly the United States flag at half-staff is to consider when the whole nation is in mourning. These periods of mourning are proclaimed either by the president of the United States, for national remembrance, or the governor of a state or territory, for local remembrance, in the event of a death of a member or former members of the federal, state or territorial government of judiciary. The heads of department and agencies of the federal government may also order that

the flag be flown at half-staff on buildings, grounds and naval vessels under their jurisdiction.

On Memorial Day the flag should be flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon only, then raised briskly to the top of the staff until sunset, in honor of the nation's battle heroes.

In the early days of our country, no regulations existed for flying the flag at half-staff and, as a result, there were many conflicting policies. But on March 1, 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower issued a proclamation on the proper times.

The flag should fly at half-staff for 30 days at all federal buildings, grounds, and naval vessels throughout the United States and its territories and possessions after the death of the president or a former president. It is to fly 10 days at half-staff after the death of the vice president, the chief justice or a retired chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, or the speaker of the House of Representatives. For an associate justice of the Supreme Court, a member of the Cabinet, a former vice president, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, or the minority leader of the House of Representatives the flag is to be displayed at half-staff from the day of death until interment.

The flag is to be flown at half-staff at all federal buildings, grounds and naval vessels in the Washington, D.C. area on the day and day after the death of a United States senator, representative, territorial delegate, or the resident commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. It should also be flown at half-staff on all federal facilities in the state, congressional district, territory, or commonwealth of these officials.

Upon the death of the governor of a state, territory or possession, the flag should be flown at half-staff on all federal facilities in that governor's state, territory or possession from the day of death until interment.

The president may order the flag to be flown at half-staff to mark the death of other officials, former officials, or foreign dignitaries. In addition to these occasions, the president may order half-staff display of the flag after other tragic events.

The flag should be briskly run up to the top of the staff before being lowered slowly to the half-staff position.

The Story of Taps

The 24-note melancholy bugle call known as "taps" is thought to be a revision of a French bugle signal, called "tattoo," that notified soldiers to cease an evening's drinking and return to their garrisons. It was sounded an hour before the final bugle call to end the day by extinguishing fires and lights. The last five measures of the tattoo resemble taps.

The word "taps" is an alteration of the obsolete word "taptoo," derived from the Dutch "taptoe." Taptoe was the command—"Tap toe!" — to shut ("toe to") the "tap" of a keg.

The revision that gave us present-day taps was made during America's Civil War by Union Gen. Daniel Adams Butterfield, heading a brigade camped at Harrison Landing, Va., near Richmond. Up to that time, the U.S. Army's infantry call to end the day was the French final call, "L'Extinction des feux." Gen. Butterfield decided the "lights out" music was too formal to signal the day's end. One day in July 1862 he recalled the tattoo music and hummed a version of it to an aide, who wrote it down in music. Butterfield then asked the brigade bugler, Oliver W. Norton, to play the notes and, after listening, lengthened and shortened them while keeping his original melody.

He ordered Norton to play this new call at the end of each day thereafter, instead of the regulation call. The music was heard and appreciated by other brigades, who asked for copies and adopted this bugle call. It was even adopted by Confederate buglers.

This music was made the official Army bugle call after the war, but not given the name "taps" until 1874.

The first time taps was played at a military funeral may also have been in Virginia soon after Butterfield composed it. Union Capt. John Tidball, head of an artillery battery, ordered it played for the burial of a cannoner killed in action. Not wanted to reveal the battery's position in the woods to the enemy nearby, Tidball substituted taps for the traditional three rifle volleys fired over the grave. Taps was played at the funeral of the Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson 10 months after it was composed. Army infantry regulations by 1891 required taps to be played at military funeral ceremonies.

Taps now is played by the military at burial and memorial services, to accompany the lowering of the flag and to signal the "lights out" command at day's end.



Department Service Officer

Here in Montana, we work diligently to keep up with the new processes of doing business with the VA. Our investment into a paperless claims management system has paid off! Our agency has been invited to participate as a pilot site utilizing a new paperless claims submission program called Digit to Digit (D2D).

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) currently receives a large number of Veteran and Survivor claims and evidence is submitted and managed by our agency as the Veteran Service Organization acting on behalf of Veterans by way of a Power of Attorney (POA) relationship. Currently, all of the claims and evidence we manage is sent as paper submissions to VA via fax. To better manage the claims, last year we partnered with a software vendor to implement Vetraspec, a claims management system.

D2D is a data delivery service built to enable accredited service organizations to electronically submit data and related attachments from its claim management system to VA systems using a standardized and centralized method. It will reduce the time to submit VA claims and eliminate costs associated with filing paper claims by establishing secure and direct data transfers between the VA and accredited organizations.

The time savings will be tremendous! What used to take weeks, from submission by our organization to receipt by VA, will soon be immediate. We anticipate beginning this process in early January 2016. If you have never filed for VA benefits in the past, I encourage you to contact one of our Service Officers about beginning the process.

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

Listed below are the MVAD/VFW 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) 495-2080/2082
Kalispell.....	(406) 755-3795
Lewistown.....	(406) 538-3174
Miles City.....	(406) 232-1203
Missoula.....	(406) 542-2501

Thank you for your service to our great country!

Daniel Arnold
Department Service Officer



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 12, 2016

VA Celebrates 70 Years of Partnering with Medical Schools

WASHINGTON – Caring for the nation's Veterans is a shared honor and a shared responsibility, which is why the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) this year is celebrating the 70th anniversary of its partnership with the nation's medical and health professional schools.

Since 1946, VA has worked with academic institutions to provide high quality, state-of-the-art health care to America's Veterans and to train new health professionals to meet the rapidly evolving health care needs within VA and the nation.

"We are extremely proud of the long-standing, close relationships built over the past 70 years among VA and academic institutions across the country," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "These partnerships strengthen VA's healthcare system, and provide high quality training for the nation's healthcare workforce. We cannot do what we do without them."

The partnership between VA and academic affiliates dates back to the end of World War II. Following the allied victory, VA faced the imminent arrival of over 100,000 new patients and was confronted with a severe lack of resources as it had only 98 mostly rural hospitals offering fewer than 84,000 beds and 1,000 physicians. To meet this challenge, VA created a landmark partnership with U.S. medical schools to establish a dynamic, talented workforce of students, physician residents, and faculty who provide world class care to Veterans while providing training to generations of future physicians that has evolved to include more than forty health care professions over the decades.

"Through this historic collaboration, VA has become the largest single provider of medical training in the country, where more than 40,000 residents and 20,000 medical students receive clinical training each year," said Darrell G. Kirch, President and CEO of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

"VA benefits enormously from its relationship with its partners in the medical academic community. We are able to do the work we do because of this synergistic relationship," said VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. David Shulkin. "We have the benefit of the top medical professionals being produced by leading academic institutions. In turn, the medical community and patients around the country benefit from VA innovations – innovations such as the implantable cardiac pacemaker; the nicotine patch to help smokers quit; liver transplants and electronic medical records. We are both proud and grateful for these relationships."

Today, VA conducts the largest education and training programs for health professionals in the United States. VA has affiliations with more than 1,800 educational institutions; more than 70 percent of all doctors in the U.S. have received training in the VA healthcare system. VA invests \$900 million annually to provide clinical education and training programs to more than 120,000 interns, residents, fellows and students in more than 40 clinical health professions. Among them are over 10,000 graduate medical education (GME) positions training more than 40,000 physicians in training annually.

For more information about VA's Office of Academic Affiliations, visit www.va.gov/OAA. To learn more about the 70th anniversary of VA's partnership with medical schools, visit www.va.gov/OAA/OAA_70th_Anniversary.asp and www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/category/postname/academic-affiliations/.

For more information about the AAMC's relationship with VA, visit <https://www.aamc.org/initiatives/vahealthcare>.

Veteran Service Offices

Helena Armed Forces Reserve Center
1956 Mt. Majo • PO Box 5715 • Helena, Montana 59604
Phone (406) 324-3740 • Fax (406) 324-3745

Administration Offices

FOSTER, Joe -Administer Phone (406) 324-3741 jofoster@mt.gov
HALL, Lee Ann -Budget Analyst Phone (406) 324-3740 lehall@mt.gov
RYCHALSKI, -Admin. Support/Benefit Tech Phone (406) 324-3743 jrychalski@mt.gov

Cemetery Offices Fax (406) 324-3745

HALL, Tom -Cemetery Program Manager Phone (406) 324-3742 Cell (406) 202-0530 thall@mt.gov
HOLMLUND, Kurt -Cemetery Sexton Fax (406) 232-2019 Cell (406) 951-1325 kholmlund@mt.gov
AASVED, Curt -Cemetery Sexton Fax (406) 543-2360 Cell (406) 396-8009 caasved@mt.gov
Phone (406) 721-2995

Veteran Service Offices (Office Locations and Counties)

BELGRADE

Mahn, Janine -Service Officer II
mvadbzmn@gwestoffice.net
Edwards, Eavl -Service Officer I
eedwards@mt.gov
350 Airport Road
Belgrade, MT 59714
Phone (406)-388-4601
Cell (406) 539-1948
Fax (406) 388-4602
COUNTIES: GALLATIN, PARK,
S. MADISON, SWEET GRASS, GOLDEN VALLEY

BILLINGS

Heald, Cheryl -Regional VSO
cheald@mt.gov
Gaffri, Jay -Service Officer I
jgaffri@mt.gov
Bushnell, Stena -Service Officer II
sbushnell@mt.gov
Berge, Lindsay -Service Officer I
2795 Enterprise Ave.
Billings, MT 59102
Phone (406) 656-0584
Phone (406) 248-8579
Phone (406) 259-5419
Fax (406) 656-0617
Cell (406) 425-1429
COUNTIES: BIG HORN, CARBON, STILLWATER,
TREASURE, YELLOWSTONE, MUSSELLSHELL,
GARFIELD

BUTTE

Williamson, David -Service Officer II
davidwilliamson@mt.gov
600 Gilman Ave.
Butte, MT 59701
Phone (406) 533-0910
Fax (406) 494-1273
Cell (406) 560-4189
COUNTIES: BEAVERHEAD, DEER LODGE,
GRANITE, JEFFERSON,
N. MADISON, POWELL, SILVERBOW

GREAT FALLS

Arnold, Dan -Service Officer II
danarnold@mt.gov
Brunken, Kari -Service Officer I
kbrunken@mt.gov
Hering, Candice -Service Officer I
chering@mt.gov
600 Central Plaza #300
Great Falls, MT 59401
Phone (406) 452-2265
Cell (406) 750-9951
Fax (406) 453-5871
COUNTIES: CASCADE, CHOUTEAU, PONDERA,
TETON

HAVRE

Loendorf, Judy -Regional VSO
jloendorf@mt.gov
Mulonet, Steve -Service Officer I
smulonet@mt.gov
232 1st St. W.
Havre, MT 59501
Toll Free 1-877-265-VETS (8387)
Phone (406) 265-4225
Cell (406) 390-2756
Fax (406) 265-2666
COUNTIES: LIBERTY, BLAINE, GLACIER, HILL,
PHILLIPS, TOOLE, VALLEY

HELENA

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PO Box 1007
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Phone (406) 495-2080
Phone (406) 495-2081
Phone (406) 495-2082
Phone (406) 495-2083
Fax (406) 495-2003
COUNTIES: LEWIS & CLARK, BROADWATER,
JEFFERSON

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WHEATLAND, FERGUS, JUDITH BASIN,
PETROLEUM

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COUNTIES: CARTER, CUSTER, DAWSON, FALLON,
POWDER, PRAIRIE, WIBAUX, McCONE, RICHLAND,
SHERIDAN, DANIELS, ROOSEVELT, ROSEBUD

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Cell (406) 560-4781
COUNTIES: LAKE, MINERAL, MISSOULA,
RAVALLI, SANDERS

<p>WHITEFISH POST 276 Meeting 1st Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Post and Auxiliary Club Room open 9:00 a.m. to ? 7 days a week</p>	<p>BLACK EAGLE POST 4669 Post Meetings – 4th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Club open daily at 12:00 p.m. Mon-Sat Lounge – Banquet Hall – Meeting Room Bowling Center, 2332 Smelter Ave. 453-4736</p>	<p>DAN ARNOLD DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday 406-452-2265 600 Central Plaza, Suite 300 • Great Falls, MT 59401</p>
<p>GREAT FALLS POST 1087 Meeting 2nd Thursday each month 7:00 p.m. Chicken & Steak Dinner – 1st & 3rd Sunday Breakfast – 2nd and 4th Sunday</p>	<p>POLSON POST 2986 Post & Auxiliary Meeting 3rd Monday 7:00 p.m. Club open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. 5th and Main in Polson</p>	<p>PONY VFW POST 3831 AND MOC PUP TENT #24 Post Meetings 2nd Saturday 1:00 p.m. at Pony Bar Members and Guests Welcome</p>
<p>LIBBY POST 1548 Meetings 1st Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Bingo every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Club open daily at 12:00 Noon to 2:00 a.m. 7 days a week</p>	<p>KALISPELL POST 2252 Post Meets 1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Men's Auxiliary meets 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Breakfast available for purchase. 3rd Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Lounge open 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Daily Come in and enjoy Flathead Camaraderie</p>	<p>BOZEMAN POST 903 2005 N. Rouse Meeting 3rd Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Club House 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. daily Members and Guests Welcome</p>
<p>BIGFORK POST 4042 AND AUXILIARY VFW Meeting 1st Tuesday of the month Auxiliary Meeting 1st Wednesday of the month Steak Night – 3rd Wednesday of the month</p>	<p>EUREKA POST 6786 Post Meeting 1st Tuesday – 7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting 1st Tuesday – 1:30 p.m. Club open 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.</p>	<p>MISSOULA POST 209 Post Meeting 2nd Wednesday – 7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting 2nd Tuesday – 2:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Visit the Montana Military Museum At historic Fort Harrison, just west of Helena. Telling Montana's Military History and Recognizing Montanans For Their Service! For more information write to: Fort William Henry Harrison Museum Foundation & Montana Military Museum ATTN: Museum Director/Curator P.O. Box 125, Fort Harrison, MT 59636-0125 E-mail: myfun51@msn.com – 406-324-3550</p>	<p>EAST HELENA POST 10010 Post Meeting, 1st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meetings, 3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m. (April-Sept.) 2:00 p.m. (Oct.-March) Club Open from 11:00 a.m. to ? Stop By and Enjoy Our Smoke Free Club</p>	<p>TROY VFW POST 5514 Post Meeting, 2nd Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. Auxiliary Meeting, 1st Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Jr. Girls Meeting, 4th Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>GLASGOW POST 3107 AND AUXILIARY 1222 Highway 2 West Meeting 2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Canteen open 2:00 p.m. to ?, Mon-Sat</p>	<p>PLENTYWOOD POST 4018 AND VETERAN'S CLUB Post Meeting 1st Tuesday – 7:00 p.m. American Legion Post 58 Meeting 2nd Monday – 8:00 p.m. Club Hours 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.</p>	<p>A Cabin on the Kootenai River NW Montana – Hwy 2 – mm10 Troy, Montana</p> <p>Vacation cabin nestled in the trees. Available mid-April to mid-October. Dock available, bring your boat. (Catch a Trophy-Blue-Ribbon Trout) Boat Launch nearby. Float the river, swim, fish or watch the floaters & Outfitters drift by. Close to Kootenai Falls. Fire Pit & BBQ – Pets with special permission. \$100 deposit at time of booking. 3 RV sites also available.</p> <p>Call Dan at (520)425-6281 or (406)295-4164 or Email him at CabinOnTheRiver@aol.com or sigflo@aol.com</p>
<p>PLAINS POST 3596 Post Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesdays Auxiliary Meetings 2nd & 4th Mondays Club – Bowling Alley – Banquet Hall You Are Always Welcome</p>	<p>BILLINGS HEIGHTS POST 6774 Post Meeting 2nd Wednesday - 6:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting 2nd Thursday - 6:00 p.m. Mens Auxiliary Meeting 1st Monday - 6:00 p.m. Canteen Open Daily</p>	
<p>SIDNEY POST 4099 Meeting 2nd Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Club open daily 10:00 a.m. to Midnight Closed Sunday Phone: 433-9982</p>	<p>BILLINGS POST 1634 4242 State Ave. Post Meeting 1st Monday at 7 p.m. Kitchen Open Tuesday-Sunday Canteen Open 10:00 a.m. - Close</p>	
	<p>LEWISTOWN POST 1703 Post Meeting 3rd Monday – 7:00 p.m. Basement – American Legion Club</p>	

VA Montana Health Care System
TOLL-FREE NUMBER
1-877-468-8387 (M-F: 8:00-4:30)

<p>Option #1 Pharmacy (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) 1. Refill 2. Renewal 3. Anticoag 4. Staff **Refill Option is available 24 hours.</p>	<p>Option #2 Central Scheduling (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>Option #3 Mental Health (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) 1. Appointments 2. Crisis Nurse 3. Staff **If crisis nurse is needed after 4:30 p.m., call 406-442-6410</p>	<p>Option #4 VA Clinics (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) 1. Missoula, KalisPELL, Cut Bank 2. Great Falls, Lewistown, Havre 3. Fort Harrison, Anaconda, Bozeman 4. Billings, Miles City, Glendive</p>
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Pearl Harbor Survivor Honored

Monday, December 7, 2015

Family, friends and Vets gathered to honor USN Vet and Pearl Harbor Survivor Charles Dowd at the Anaconda Deer Lodge County Court House. Charles' uniform and bio are the 12th to be so honored in the Uniform Display Case and will be there for the next three months. County Commissioner Connie Ternes-Daniel was the keynote speaker and DAV Commander Mike Burt presided. The Anaconda American Legion Post 21 provided the Colors. *Photo by Anaconda Leader Reporter James Rosien*



Pictured with Charles is his soul mate, Clara Pierson.

Senators and Representatives Contact Information

The Honorable Senator Jon Tester
311 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
Washington Phone (202)224-2644

The Honorable Senator Steve Daines
320 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC
Washington Phone: (202)224-2651

The Honorable Representative Ryan Zinke
113 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Washington Phone (202)225-3211



Men's Auxiliary Post #2252 held a gun raffle and the winner was drawn last month.

Raffle proceeds go towards their High School Scholarship fund.

Congratulations Jason Simmons.

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