



Volume 21 No. 1





## **Veterans Day Flag Parade**

with Worden Post 7407 and the 5th and 6th grade students from Huntley Project Schools.





We support our veterans

## 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.** 

## Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS:
DISTRICT #1 BIGFORK | APR 7
DISTRICT #3 LIVINGSTON | APR 7
DISTRICT #6 BROADUS | APR 7
DISTRICT #5 GLASGOW | APR 8
DISTRICT #2 GREAT FALLS | APR 14
DISTRICT #4 THREE FOLKS | APR 21

JUNE 13-16 | STATE CONVENTION IN KALISPELL
JULY 21-25 | NATIONAL CONVENTION IN KANSAS CITY, MO

## COMMANDER'S REPORT

CHARLES CARROLL

#### **Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans**

Vietnam Veterans Day is a day of remembrance that is here to stay! The Paris Peace Accord involving the end of fighting in Vietnam was signed on either the 29th or the 30th of March in 1973. This occurred because in Vietnam it

was on 29 March 1973 and in the United States it was 30 March 1973.

Today in America opposition to the conflicts and continued American troop presence in Afghanistan and Iraq is fierce, however support and respect for returning military personnel is widespread. While today soldiers often travel in uniform-a uniform that, today, elicits high esteem from the public-Vietnam veterans often trekked in plain clothes to avoid name calling and the like. The Viet Nam peace accord was signed on the 30th of March but remember Viet Nam was on the other side of the International Date Line. Please take a moment to remember our Viet Nam Veterans. On March 30th of 2018 in the United States it will be March 29th in Vietnam. In other words, whatever day you choose is fine with everyone, as long as you make an effort to welcome Home one of our Vietnam Brothers and Sisters. Some other significant March dates are: March 24, Start of the Kosovo Campaign in 1999 and March 31, the end of Operation Restore Hope -Somalia in 1995.

We are rapidly approaching our series

of District meetings. I urge all members to attend a district meeting and see firsthand how other areas of the state do business. We have had a pretty good year but we could do better in terms of membership. Currently we are at 91.37% but this time a year ago we were above 100%. We are 642 members behind where we need to be to achieve 100%, but we also have 395 members who have expiring memberships. We need to emphasize the importance of not only recruiting members but retaining our annual members. We encourage all our Posts to get a retention campaign going. Post Quartermasters can view their roster to see annual members expiring in the next 90 days. There should be no expiring member who doesn't receive a phone call from the Commander or Quartermaster inviting them to a post meeting and talking with them about the importance of renewing their dues. Find out if the member is having problems or perhaps determine why they might be disgruntled or disappointed in their membership. That personal connection is what the VFW is about and its part of what keeps members with us. The strength of our organization lies in the number of our members that we have. Another way of putting it: The greater the number of members we have is directly proportional to our lobby strength in Washington D.C. Folks, our membership rolls are decreasing every year. We need to bolster our membership by a significant number just to remain even. Jack Hawley is our membership chair and he is out constantly recruiting for our organization, but he cannot do it all alone. If everyone would recruit just one member per

COMMANDER, continued on page 8

## SENIOR VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



JOE FLETCHER

First, let express my sincere thanks to all of you for your cards, emails and phone calls a few weeks ago when my mom passed away at the age of 103 years. My family and I will forever be grateful for your outpouring

of thoughts and prayers.

We are rapidly approaching the end of the road for this membership year. I am asking each of us to make a very special effort to meet our goals for this year. If you would like to do a membership drive and would like for me to assist, please ask. I will be happy to come and work side by side with

Recently, again I heard some comments to the effect that to be a member of the VFW one had to have a DD Form 214. This is incorrect. One can be a member of our organization even if they are still on active duty (They will not have a DD Form 214), as long as they meet the eligibility requirements of Section 101, National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

Please reach out to our younger veterans and encourage them to become members of this great organization. I know there are some who do not meet our eligibility requirements; however, there are large numbers of them who have been deployed to war zones and meet our requirements for membership. There are to several Montana Army National Guard Armories around the state, Army Reserve Centers and Montana Air Guard in Great Falls and most of them have been deployed before. Contact their full time Readiness NCO, Unit Administrator and see if you can attend a weekend drill and address them at their morning formation for a few minutes. They are a treasure chest waiting to be opened.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming District Meetings when possible and at our State Convention in Kalispell.

Joe Fletcher State Sr. vice Commander

#### 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

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Ed Viig, Dave Johnson and John Harris
By-Laws Committee: Art Widhalm, Jack Hawley, Joe Murnion

## JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



BOB SCHWEGEL

Greetings,

As we near the end of the membership year we need everyone to redouble our efforts to reach our goals. Particular efforts should be directed at retrieving our expired dues members,

and renewing those that are current but have not yet renewed. I believe we had a great mid-winter Council of Administration meeting. I was especially grateful for National Junior-Vice Commander in Chief "Doc" Schmitz spending his time with us as our National representative. As, those who were at the at the banquet saw, "Doc" was very pleased to be presented his very own cowboy hat making him a true Montana Wrangler (all Depart-

ment JVC's are called Doc's Wranglers).

It is with deep regret and even greater sadness that I WILL NOT be running for Department Senior-Vice Commander for the coming year. My health has deteriorated rapidly this past year and I do not think I could handle the position in the manner it requires and it would not be fair to all our veterans and our organization. My career with the VFW has been very successful. I have over 30 continuous years of appointed and elected positions at Post, District, Department, and National levels. I will continue to do what I can, when I can and try not to regret the things I can't. This will be my farewell to many of you. You unlucky ones will see me when you least expect it. May GOD bless America and it's veterans and their families.

**Bob Schwegel Jr. Vice Commander** 

## CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



JIM PORTER

My dear Comrades & members of the Auxiliary,

You probably know by now that the Mid-Winter Council of Administration meeting is over, and I will say it was a huge success. Seeing everyone

again was terrific, and the food was very good as well. The Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners were announced. Unfortunately, because of weather & road conditions, the Voice OF Democracy winner could not be there. We did however have the pleasure of listening to the winning Patriot's Pen essay. We also had the pleasure of meeting & talking with the National Junior-Vice Commander, Mr. William "Doc" Schmidt. He is quite a guy and once he started talking, it wasn't long until he had the whole place in stitches. The C of A meeting was very well attended, and if you missed it, believe me, it was your loss.

So now, it is on to the Spring District meetings. I would ask each of you to please try and make your district meeting. Believe me when I tell you, there is a whole lot of work that goes in to putting on a district meeting, not to mention all the leg work as well. Then when it is poorly attended, all that time & work was for naught. It could be that maybe you just don't like meetings; stop by & say "hello" then. I know in District 2 I look forward to seeing faces that I haven't seen in six months or so. If I don't come up to you, I would ask that you come up to me. Just say, I need a prayer. I can do that. I would appreciate doing that for anyone, anyone at all. I know I need all the prayers I can get.

Lastly, I would like to mention again that if there are any sicknesses or deaths in your district or in your post, please let me know so I can get a card in the mail. Take care, and May God Bless each of you & your families 'til we meet again.

Sincerely,

Jim Porter State Chaplain

## VFW Post 1116

VFW Post 1116 received a certificate of appreciation for their donation to Wreaths Across America from the Montana POW/MIA Awareness Assn.

In addition to the Post's donation, Post Sr. Vice Commander Dick Christian also sponsored several wreaths on his own.



Pictured left to right: Bob Moes, Tom Pouliot, Doug Brown (Commander), Dick Christian, Mark Colton, Bob Leaf.

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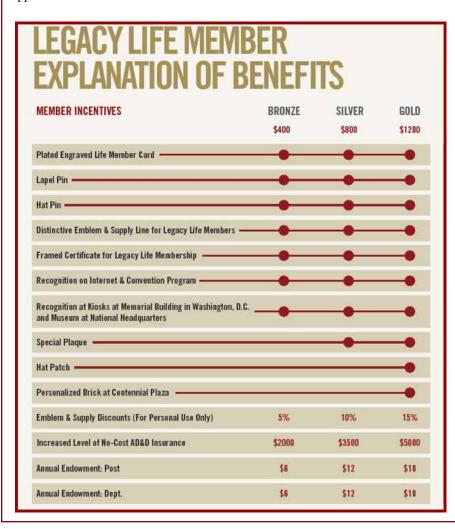


On a chilly Friday, December 8, 2017, family, friends and fellow Vets gathered at the Anaconda Deer Lodge County Courthouse to honor the man and his uniform. Major General William T. McLean, U.S. Army retired is the 20th Veteran to be honored. He served over 30 years in the Army in the Quartermaster Corps and was the 40th Quartermaster General from 1987-1989 at Fort Lee, VA. He and his wife Arlene are pictured here.



## 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 you 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.





Join the VFW Action Corps here:

#### www.vfw.org/weekly

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

#### LEGACY LIFE HONOR ROLL

LEGAC	Y LIFE	<b>HONOR</b> R	COLL
William J. Reneau	Gold Post 209	Roy P. Christenson*	Silver Post 3107
William J. Reneau Dean House	Gold Post 209 Gold Post 276	Lee E. Erickson Kenneth K. Kautz	Silver Post 3107 Silver Post 3107
John G Pearse	Gold Post 276	Thomas R. Mrron	Silver Post 3107
Lawrence Cunningham* Bradley A. Damron	Gold Post 1087 Gold Post 1087	William H. Sugg, Jr. Felice H. Wilson	Silver Post 3107 Silver Post 3107
William A. Darby	Gold Post 1087	Otto J. Otnes	Silver Post 3596
Joe R. Fletcher Jack A. Hawley	Gold Post 1087 Gold Post 1087	Donald R. Kendall Ludwig J. Rigler*	Silver Post 6774 Silver Post 10010
Arthur P. Marshall Jr.	Gold Post 1087	Eric Dunn	Bronze Post 209
Anthony G. Morris Fred D. Nester	Gold Post 1087 Gold Post 1087	Ross A. Beagle Dennis G. Dreyer	Bronze Post 276 Bronze Post 276
William T. Rose	Gold Post 1087	Fred Hamilton	Bronze Post 276
Gerald E. Van Every Thomas A. Pouliot	Gold Post 1087 Gold Post 1116	Kenneth A. Herrmann Samuel L. House	Bronze Post 276 Bronze Post 276
Daniel P. Antonietti*	Gold Post 1448	Robert Sammon	Bronze Post 276
John R. Fish Jr.* Melvin W. Kieninger	Gold Post 1448 Gold Post 1448	Charles F. Davis Harold D. Floyd*	Bronze Post 1087 Bronze Post 1087
Richard M. McLeod	Gold Post 1448	Laureen A. Hawley	Bronze Post 1087
Ronald R. Peterson Carrol D. Koenig	Gold Post 1448 Gold Post 1634	Paul T. Quinn Eugene E. Olson	Bronze Post 1087 Bronze Post 1116
William D. Pirrie III	Gold Post 1723	Michael L. Lawson	Bronze Post 1448
Robert P. Seely James C. Aho	Gold Post 2154 Gold Post 2252	Troy A. McDowall James A. Ussin	Bronze Post 1579 Bronze Post 1634
Kelly W. Kvigne	Gold Post 2252	Kenneth C. Handl	Bronze Post 2154
Duane Barrett* Dale J. Bender	Gold Post 3107 Gold Post 3107	Michael J. Bennett, Jr. Robert Franczek	Bronze Post 2252 Bronze Post 2252
Norman K. Dahl*	Gold Post 3107	William J. Metteer	Bronze Post 2252
Albert Franzen George Kolstad	Gold Post 3107 Gold Post 3107	James L. Amundson Lance A. Bender	Bronze Post 3107 Bronze Post 3107
E.C. Buster Lenoir*	Gold Post 3107	Charles Bradford Jr.	Bronze Post 3107
Russell O. Lenoir Gerald L. Murch	Gold Post 3107 Gold Post 3107	Reid B. Coldwell Michael K. Corey	Bronze Post 3107 Bronze Post 3107
Edwin V. Swanson	Gold Post 3107	Earl Fuhrman*	Bronze Post 3107
Walter E. Watts Arthur J. Widhalm	Gold Post 3107 Gold Post 3107	Floyd R. Hopstad Michael J. Lenoir	Bronze Post 3107 Bronze Post 3107
Wilmer F. Zeller	Gold Post 3107	Byron M. Lindsay	Bronze Post 3107
Kenneth C. Williams* Charles Oelschlager	Gold Post 3177 Gold Post 3596	Gerald F. Myers* Marvin J. Olson	Bronze Post 3107 Bronze Post 3107
James L. Layton	Gold Post 4067	Kenneth E. Page*	Bronze Post 3107
Leslie L. Poland James G. Porter	Gold Post 4099 Gold Post 4669	Steve Page Leon H. Pearce	Bronze Post 3107 Bronze Post 3107
Robert W. Moran*	Gold Post 4725	Harold A. Potter*	Bronze Post 3107
Gary L. Race	Gold Post 4725 Gold Post 5159	Marvin L. Potter*	Bronze Post 3107 Bronze Post 3107
Irwin D. Bangen Orville M. Bjorge	Gold Post 5159 Gold Post 5159	LeRoy R. Stein* Manley L. Tiffany	Bronze Post 3107
John C. Bras	Gold Post 5159 Gold Post 5159	Edwin M. Yohn Adam R. Zamborowski	Bronze Post 3107
Steven L. Buck Hugh R. Butler	Gold Post 5159	Edwin M. Zamborowski	Bronze Post 3107 Bronze Post 3107
Russell J. Carey* Donald A. Carr	Gold Post 5159	Everett E. Crum Jr.	Bronze Post 4099
Roy M. DeLong*	Gold Post 5159 Gold Post 5159	Troy H. Garza Joe M. Halversen*	Bronze Post 4099 Bronze Post 4099
Donald M. Decker	Gold Post 5159	Louie A. Kuylen*	Bronze Post 4099
Larry J. Douglass Lyle T. Fisher	Gold Post 5159 Gold Post 5159	Harold E. Lorenz Eugene N. Ronningen	Bronze Post 4099 Bronze Post 4099
Rachel R. Fisher	Gold Post 5159	Stanley K. Rosaaen	Bronze Post 4099
Randall E. Geise Derwin F. Halvorson Jr.	Gold Post 5159 Gold Post 5159	Lawrence R. Troudt Vernon E. Wilson*	Bronze Post 4099 Bronze Post 4099
Henry F. Hanson	Gold Post 5159	Paul L. Holmgren*	Bronze Post 4762
Lloyd G. Heinselman Victor Holmberg	Gold Post 5159 Gold Post 5159	Alfred J. Adolph Daniel C. Barta	Bronze Post 4925 Bronze Post 4925
Robert L. Jackson II	Gold Post 5159	Jack L. Burger*	Bronze Post 4925
Howell K. Joiner Thomas W. Magera	Gold Post 5159 Gold Post 5159	Loren R. Erbe John G. Leggett	Bronze Post 4925 Bronze Post 4925
Zachary Malinak	Gold Post 5159	Paul R. Meged*	Bronze Post 4925
Alan J. McCoy Daniel M. Oberlander	Gold Post 5159 Gold Post 5159	Douglas H. Parrott Henry A. Plott*	Bronze Post 4925 Bronze Post 4925
Stephen M. Sedladko	Gold Post 5159	Ronold J. Merwin	Bronze Post 6562
Victor J. Stobie Jerry A. Sutton	Gold Post 5159 Gold Post 5159	Will D. Juhl Clifford E. Schleusner*	Bronze Post 6774 Bronze Post 6774
Charles B. Theademan	Gold Post 5159	Robert J. Sutton	Bronze Post 6774
Joel W. Thomas Clifford S. Tolman	Gold Post 5159 Gold Post 5159	Howard J. Aemisegger Terry Beezley	Bronze Post 6786 Bronze Post 6786
James L. Wellington	Gold Post 5159	Stanley A. Burns	Bronze Post 6786
Ted H. Wilburn D. B. Zimmer	Gold Post 5159 Gold Post 5159	James H. Follensbee Leo A. Howe	Bronze Post 6786 Bronze Post 6786
John C. Fay	Gold Post 5652	J. P. Hume*	Bronze Post 6786
Richard L. Osborn John T. Freetly	Gold Post 5748 Gold Post 6774	Patrick L. McKeever John C. Mueller	Bronze Post 6786 Bronze Post 6786
Paul R. Harper	Gold Post 6774	Thomas H. Price	Bronze Post 6786
John C. Lattimer* Russell H. Mobraaten	Gold Post 6774 Gold Post 6774	Francis L. Utter Dale F. Wassmann	Bronze Post 6786 Bronze Post 7311
Francis E. Croucher	Gold Post 6786	Paul E. Coble*	Bronze Post 8292
Robert T. Schwegel Ken R. Utter	Gold Post 6786 Gold Post 6786	Leonard W. Eik Carl J. Graham	Bronze Post 8292 Bronze Post 8292
Gary O. Borland	Gold Post 7311	Zane G. Murfitt	Bronze Post 8292
Charles M. Handley Barton W. Lawson	Gold Post 7311 Gold Post 7311	Charles R. Thompson Edward J. Boucher	Bronze Post 9040 Bronze Post 10010
Edward A. Viig	Gold Post 7311	John R. Buckley*	Bronze Post 10010
Thomas H. Armstrong Carl M. Carver	Gold Post 8292 Gold Post 8292	David F. Johnson LeRoy S. Johnson	Bronze Post 10010 Bronze Post 10010
Terry W. Lambert	Gold Post 8292	Melvin V. Johnson*	Bronze Post 10010
William I. Mackley George F. Fryett, Jr.	Gold Post 8292 Gold Post 9040	Dale A. Person* Robert J. Russ*	Bronze Post 10010 Bronze Post 10010
Elmer D. Bernard	Gold Post 10010	George C. Stump Jr.	Bronze Post 10010 Bronze Post 10010
William R. Bovee* Michael C. Buckley	Gold Post 10010 Gold Post 10010	Roy E. Jordan	Bronze Post 15027
Lyle F. Pedersen	Gold Post 10010 Gold Post 10010	* Deceased	Total 195
Timothy C. Peters  Puthic M. Puttrick Post	Gold Post 10010		

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Gold Post 15027

THE MONTANA VETERAN 4 SPRING/SUMMER 2018

Ruthie M. Buttrick-Best

## 2017 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation

Congressman Greg Gianforte announces Frank Stoltz of Miles City as recipient of the 2017 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation. Frank received his award at a ceremony in Miles City in February.



Congressman Greg Gianforte, Frank Stoltz, State Commander Charles Carroll



Center: Greg Gianforte and Frank Stoltz

# Montana VFW Henry Rifle Raffle **Monthly Gun Raffle** October to June 2018 **2 Henry VFW Tribute Rifles** 10 Henry Rifles and a Pistol And 1 Gun Safe 1 Per Month, 2 in Jan and 2 in June And 1 Gun Safe in June Tickets \$10 each or 3 for \$20 See Your Local VFW for Tickets

**Good Luck!** 

# Henry Rifle Raffle Distribution List

#### **WINNERS SO FAR:**

VVIIVILLI	3 30 IAII.		
OCTOBER	Henry Golden Boy	Cal .22	FRITZ - ILLINOIS
NOVEMBER	Henry Golden Boy	Cal .22	PENNY KUNDA - HELENA
DECEMBER	Henry Golden Boy	Cal .22	RYAN RONKE - GT FALLS
JANUARY	Henry Big Boy	Cal .44 Mag	MONTFORD BORLAUG - GILLFORD
JANUARY	Henry VFW Tribute Edition	Cal .22	B.J. LAWRENCE
FEBRUARY	Henry Military Service Tribute	Cal .22	JOE WELTER
MARCH	Henry Big Boy	Cal .44 Mag	
APRIL	Henry Brass Octagon Barrel	Cal .30-30	
MAY	Smith & Wesson, SD9VE	Cal 9MM Pistol	
JUNE	Gun Safe		
JUNE	Henry VFW Montana Edition	Cal .22	
JUNE	Henry H010B Brass	Cal .45-70	

# **11 Guns in All and a Gun Safe**

## **Good Luck!**

ALL DRAWINGS
WILL BE HELD ON
THE LAST FRIDAY
OF THE MONTH

SPRING/SUMMER 2018 5 THE MONTANA VETERAN



## Post 7407 Visits Post Life Members for the Holiday Season

On 12 Dec 2017, Huntley Project Post 7407 visited Post members who are staying in Billings nursing homes. Post member Corry Mordeaux and Auxiliary member Boots Mordeaux took bags of cookies to Post Life Members Jack Alles, Adam Hill and George Knox to help add cheer to the holiday season. All three men seemed to appreciate the visit. Unfortunately, on 15 Dec Post Member George Knox passed away.







# Top 10 Reasons for Your Post to Have an Auxiliary

- 10. Offers valuable assistance for meal and event preparation.
- 9. Assists with "Buddy" Poppy drives.
- 8. Opens the door to potential members.
- 7. Assists in recruiting and retaining members to strengthen the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- 6. Provides events and volunteer opportunities for veterans' family members.
- 5. Boosts the Post's visibility in the community by being involved in more local activities and events.
- 4. Increases Program participation and helps spread the word on scholarship and youth programs.
- 3. Presents an opportunity to serve more veterans, active-duty military and their families.
- 2. Increases the number of advocates to fight for veterans' rights and benefits.
- 1. Positively reinforces the values and beliefs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

• Does it cost the Post anything?

The VFW Auxiliary Charter Kit fee is \$40.00, but its new members will pay for that. It should not cost the Post anything to start an Auxiliary.

• How long does it take to start?

From the time your Post votes to have an Auxiliary, it could take anywhere from six (6) weeks to four (4) months to get an Auxiliary up and running.

Hint: It takes less time for an Auxiliary to start helping your Post if there are already interested potential members before you vote!

#### Ready to Add an Auxiliary to your Post?

- Announce to Post members that you will be voting on having an Auxiliary and that the vote will take place at a specific meeting.
- If Post members vote YES by a two-thirds (2/3) majority, let the Department President know.
- The Department President will then assign an Auxiliary Organizer who will work on obtaining the required number of charter members (15) and filling out necessary paperwork.

#### Still have questions?

Contact VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters at 816.561.8655 or info@vfwauxiliary.org.



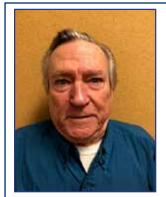


QUARTERMASTER MICHAEL

STONE, VFW POST 4042, BIGFORK,
MT, PRESENTED THE DISTRICT

1 TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR

2017 AWARD TO STORMY TAYLOR
OF BIGFORK HIGH SCHOOL ON
MARCH 6, 2018. STORMY IS THE
HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES/
GOVERNMENT TEACHER.



## **EARL WHEELER**

## CANDIDATE FOR STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER

#### **VFW ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

ALL-STATE AND ALL-AMERICAN QUARTERMASTER AT POST AND DISTRICT LEVELS 2017.

MEMBER OF DEPARTMENT BUDGET COMMITTEE FROM 2016 to 2018.

DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY SUPPORT 2016 – 2018.

CURRENT COMMANDER FOR POST 1087.

CURRENT SURGEON FOR DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** President of Great Falls Voyagers Baseball Booster Club 1999 – 2016.

Member of Neighborhood Council 2010 - 2017.

Member of Citizens Advisory Board to the Chief of Police Great Falls 2010 – 2017.

#### YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED.



# Virginia "Rose" Arnold Candidate for Department of Montana Junior Vice Commander

I am a beneficial member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars that has goals to help our leadership team make efficient and necessary advancements in all of our local VFW Posts, Districts and the Department of Montana. I am a family oriented candidate bringing today's VFW into tomorrow with new leadership, membership and retention ideas to make our Posts more approachable by today's Veterans and their families. I am hopeful that your vote will be for me at the 2018 Department Convention.



Darci L. Davison, Music Teacher at Huntley Project Schools was presented the Department of Montana VFW Teacher of the Year award. VFW Life member Mark Wandle of Post 7407 made the presentation along with Mr. Coy, Junior High Principal. Mr. Wandle is the Huntley Project Schools Superintendent. The date of the all school assembly was 22 Feb 18 at the school complex.





#### LIFE MEMBER RICHARD M. BELL CELEBRATES HIS 100TH BIRTHDA'

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4042 in Bigfork, MT celebrated Life Member Richard M. Bell's 100th birthday party on March 1, 2018. Richard served in the European Theater of War during WWII in the US Army. VFW Post 4042 Commander Ed Byrne presented Richard a certificate on his 100th Birthday.







year, then our membership woes would be significantly reduced. I am sure that everyone knows of at least one veteran who may be eligible for VFW membership. Please extend an invitation to him/her to join. If we all did this then in no time our annual recruiting goals would be surpassed. Perhaps we should adapt a new battle cry: "I got my one"! Let's work on it together. Please recruit at least one new member this year. There are a number of posts who have achieved their membership goals and continue to recruit new members. Thank You.

Recently I had the opportunity to attend an award ceremony in Miles City. Two of our fellow VFW members received a Congressional Commendation with the awards being presented by our House of Representatives member Greg Gianforte, and many state level dignitaries. It was a pleasure to witness these veterans receiving this special level of recognition but I was in awe with many of their accomplishments that were listed on their commendations. Folks, we truly have a significant bunch of genuine hero's among us, and we should seek out and thank them for their special contributions to our American way of life.

By the time that this goes to press your team of state officers will have been in Washington D.C. on a mission to "Storm the Hill". We will be letting Congress know just how big of a lobby effort goes on with the members of our organization. Part of this trip is also to witness the final rounds of the National Voice of Democracy contest and meet with the winners. I am truly amazed at our young folks. Too often our high school kids get

a bum rap. We are blessed here in Montana with having so many wholesome and caring young citizens. That is what makes witnessing the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy events so rewarding: To witness firsthand, the next generation making their way into adult hood. I encourage you, especially at the Post level, to get involved in mentoring and nurturing our young citizens while assisting them on the right path toward their rightful place as America's leaders. Our young folks are our only truly renewable resource. If we nurture them, show them what honesty and integrity are and help them become young adults then as a society we will be successful. A few years ago the cliché of the day was "It takes a village to raise a child", but this statement is filled with truths. Society as a whole makes the largest contribution to the success of our following generations. Let's all be mentors helping to raise the next generation of mentors, keeping America great.

If your membership is about to expire please renew as soon as possible. Don't wait until the last minute and please consider going to life membership. In only a couple of years your membership will have paid for its self. As always if I can be of service just give me a call or send an email to bubblehd99@gmail.com. Thank you for your service and your continued service to our veterans. Please keep our deployed troops in your thoughts and prayers. God Bless you and God Bless America.

Charles Carroll State Commander

## Color Guard presenting the Colors at Ronan football game



L-R: Don Hall, VFW 5652; Jerry Fisher, American Legion 138; Chuck Lorum, VFW 5652; Dale Morgan, VFW 5652; Glen Sherbano, American Legion 138



L-R: Chuck Lorum, VFW 5652; Melain Quakenbush VFW 5652; Rick Jannson, VFW 5652; Glen Sharbono, American Legion 138; Dale Morgan, VFW 5652; Jack Fay, American Legion 138; Dan Hall, VFW 5652.



President Kim Stein, Auxiliary 6774 Billings, Past City Commissioner of Billings, MT (A great supporter of Veterans)



L-R: Kim Stein, Auxiliary President 6774, Janella Rose, sister of brother MIA. Bill Arnold (POW), Bob Sutton 6774 Commander.

# God Bless America



Post	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Post	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
173	Phillip	L	Thievin	3107	William	E	Weeks
173	James .	D	Wilcoxon	3177	Gary	Α	Colley
276	Daron	K	Lime	3596	Russel	L	Best
497	Lee	G	Blevins	3596	Robert	L	Burrese
497	Floyd	E	Gould	3648	Sidney	W	Miller
497	James	F	Sande	4018	Vernon		Nielsen
497	Richard	D	Winchell	4047	Herbert	E	Briese
1087	Richard	0	Amdahl	4047	Guy	W	Miser
1087	Leo	J	Bartley	4047	Charles	E	Stovall
1087	Ralph	N	Betts	4067	Harry	K	Stine
1087	Clifford	D	Campbell	4099	Louie	Α	Kuylen
1087	Warren	Α	Davis	4099	Theodore	L	Lessman
1087	Patrick	М	Parce	4099	Gene	V	Peterson
1087	Paul	W	Walker	4669	Lee	V	Dunn
1125	James		Lang	4744	Kenneth		Shelhamer
1448	Phillip	L	Lyons	4813	John	Н	Geer
1548	Robert	R	Gruber	4925	Donald	Α	Stoner
1548	Dean	Ë	Steele	5514	Cecil	E	Foote
1551	Harold	Ē	Jerrel	5652	Steven	C	Larson
1579	Michael	- R	Bauer	6238	R	N	Grunhuvd
1579	Earl	 F	Clark	6774	William	L.	Arnold
1579	Raymond	N	Frette	6774	Robert	K	Соор
1579	Harvey	R	Glover	6774	Claude	 J	Curry
1579	William	 Α	Helm	6774	Maurice	Ü	Deverill
1579 1579	Kenneth	Ŵ	Hom	6774	Morris	Ä	Geisick
1579	James	W	Kessler	6774	Francis	Ŵ	Grove
1579	Stewart	D	Kinch	6786	Jerry	 P	Rempel
1579	Myron	Ь	Lindberg	7407	Jerry	A	Burns
1579	Dwight	E	Livengood	7407	George	Ë	Knox
1579 1579		F L	Mace	7407	Harold	J	Miller Jr
	Ray Pierre	L		7655	Kay	D	Naylor Naylor
1579 1570		<b>-</b>	Mangen	7655	Clare	ь	Robertson
1579 1579	Warren	E R	Ronning Scheid	7886	Raymond	J	Shawver
1579 1579	Elmer	n W		7886	Jay	E	Twitchell
	James	vv	Seekins Stanton	8292	Robert	R	Saurer
1579	Dennis	L		8292		n T	Wood
1579	Bruce	G	Whitmarsh	9040	Larry Lila		Hight
1579	Alvin	L	Young	9040	Don	J W	-
1634	Klemens	J	Johnson			VV	Mitchell
2154	Harold	J	Bell	10010	Henry	L I	Baldwin
2154	Delbert	D.	Hudson	10010	Ludwig	J V	Rigler
2154	Carl	D	Nickelson	15027	W	K	Frantz
2252	Fredrick		Busch	15027	Glen	G	Knopp
2252	Alfred	L	Lillie	15027	Robert	J	Kraft
2252	Gene	L	Skramstad	15027	William	D	Simonson
3107	Harold	М	Brown	15027	Francis		Vaughan

## **VFW Store** 1-Stop Shopping









www.vfwstore.org

1-800-821-2606

Your purchase supports veterans, military service members and their families.

## **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 20510 Washington Phone: (202)224-2651

The Honorable Representative Greg Gianforte

1419 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515

Washington Phone: (202)225-3211

## **VA Briefing at Mid-Winter Meeting**

At our Mid-Winter meeting we started off with a briefing by Todd Dunlap, patient advocate from the VA Hospital in FT. Harrison. He briefed us on some of the issues that confront the VA in FT Harrison, the first being very bad leadership. They have lost 81 nurses and over 20 doctors in the last two years. All of the VA employees held a teleconference with our Senators and Congressman with no leadership involved. The biggest cause of this exodus is the hostile working environment brought on by the leadership at FT Harrison. This makes working conditions unbearable. Since we have the ranking Senator on the Veterans Affairs committee, this will be addressed with the Secretary of the VA. I hope this is fixed sooner rather than later.

Next he stated that we no longer have the "Choice" program in Montana. All appointments outside the VA are handled by two VA employees at FT Harrison. The biggest problem was that they inherited 15,000 patients waiting for outside appointments. It will take some time for them to catch up but they are making progress while handling new ones coming in. The new program is called "Care in the Community" and the phone #406-447-7400. Please be patient when calling as they are in catch-up mode. You could possibly be on hold for up to an hour.

Someone asked about bills being sent to veterans because the Choice people didn't pay. He said to have the bills sent to the VA "network authorization VA lab payment" and contact the office at 888-795-0773. The VA will pay immediately.

This information was well worth the trip to Great Falls for the Mid-Winter meeting. Please get the information out to your members and help lower their frustration level.

## **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 use 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) 495-2080/2081/2082/2083
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** 

#### **Veteran Service Offices**

**Helena Armed Forces Reserve Center** 1956 Mt. Majo • PO Box 5715 • Helena, Montana 59604 Phone (406) 324-3740 • Fax (406) 226-7459

#### **Administration Offices**

FOSTER, Joe -Administer Phone (406) 324-3741 jofoster@mt.gov HALL, Lee Ann -Budget Analyst Fax (406) 226-7459 Phone (406) 324-3740 lehall@mt.gov RYCHALSKI, -Admin. Support/Beneft Tech Phone (406) 324-3743 jrychalski@mt.gov

#### **Cemetery Offices**

HALL, Tom -Cemetery Program Manager

Phone (406) 324-3742

Cell (406) 202-0530 thall@mt.gov

 $\underline{kholmlund@mt.gov}$ 

caasved@mt.gov

WIGERT, Shawn -Groundskeeper

Cell (406) 202-1297

HOLMLUND, Kurt -Cemetery Sexton

Fax (406) 232-2019 Cell (406) 951-1325 Cell (406) 396-8009

AASVED, Curt -Cemetery Sexton Fax (406) 543-2360

PAUL, Brady - Groundskeeper Phone (406) 543-2360

#### **Veteran Service Offices** (Locations and Counties)

#### BELGRADE

Mahn, Janine -Service Officer II

jmahn@mt.gov

Edmonds, Earl -Service Officer I

eedmonds@mt.gov 350 Airport Road Belgrade, MT 59714

Phone (406) 388-4601

Fax (406) 388-4602 **COUNTIES: GALLATIN, PARK,** S. MADISON, SWEET GRASS

#### **BILLINGS**

Heald, Cheryl -Regional VSO

cheald@mt.gov Berge, Lindsay -Service Officer I

lberge@mt.gov

Love, Amanda -Service Officer I alove@mt.gov

Keehn, Shane -Service Officer I

skeehn@mt.gov Vacant -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

COUNTIES: BIG HORN, CARBON, STILLWATER,

TREASURE, YELLOWSTONE, MUSSELLSHELL, GARFIELD

#### **BUTTE**

Muhammad, Saajid -Service Officer II

smuhammad@mt.gov 600 Gilman Ave.

Butte, MT 59701

Phone (406) 533-0910

Fax (406) 494-1273

**COUNTIES: BEAVERHEAD, DEER LODGE,** GRANITE, S. 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 Fax (406) 453-5871

COUNTIES: CASCADE, CHOUTEAU,

PONDERA, TETON

Loendorf, Judy -Regional VSO

iloendorf@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

Fax (406) 265-2666

**COUNTIES: LIBERTY, BLAINE, GLACIER,** 

HILL, PHILLIPS, TOOLE, VALLEY

Ackerman, Kelly -Senior VSO

kelly.ackerman@va.gov

Ingraham, Tim -VSO II

timothy.ingraham@va.gov Baranyai, Krystelle -VSO I

krystelle.baranyai@va.gov

Veterans Service Center Bldg. 3633 Veterans Drive, Rm. 110E

PO Box 1007

Ft. Harrison, MT 59636

Phone (406) 495-2080 Phone (406) 495-2081

Phone (406) 495-2082

Phone (406) 495-2083

Fax (406) 495-2003

**COUNTIES:** LEWIS & CLARK, BROADWATER,

#### KALISPELL

Keeler, Ryan -Regional VSO

rkeeler@mt.gov

Collins, Carolyn -Service Officer I carolcollins@mt.gov

Zipp, Bryan -Service Officer I

bzipp@mt.gov 2989 Highway 93 North

Kalispell, MT 59901-9801

Phone (406) 755-3795

Fax (406) 755-1039

**COUNTIES: FLATHEAD, LINCOLN, LAKE** 

#### LEWISTOWN

Foster, Sue -Service Officer II

suefoster@mt.gov

505 W. Main, Ste. 217

Lewistown, MT 59457

Phone (406) 538-3174 Fax (406) 538-3186

COUNTIES: GOLDEN VALLEY, MEAGHER,

WHEATLAND, FERGUS, JUDITH BASIN, PETROLEUM

#### **MILES CITY**

Olson, Keith -Service Officer II keitholson@mt.gov

VA Primary Care Clinic

210 S. Winchester

Miles City, MT 59301

Phone (406) 232-1203 Fax (406) 233-1217

**COUNTIES: CARTER, CUSTER, DAWSON,** 

FALLON, POWDER RIVER, PRAIRIE, WIBAUX, McCone, Richland, Sheridan, Daniels,

ROOSEVELT, ROSEBUD

#### **MISSOULA**

Hahn, Kate -Service Officer II khahn@mt.gov

Cornelius, Peter -Service Officer I

pcornelius@mt.gov

Hale, Steve -Service Officer I shale@mt.gov

1911 Tower Street

Missoula, MT 59804

Phone (406) 542-2501 Fax (406) 543-2360

COUNTIES: MINERAL, MISSOULA, RAVALLI,

SANDERS

#### **SEASONAL EMPLOYEES**

Lantz, Jesse -Groundskeeper Missoula Veterans Cemetery Helena Veterans Cemetery

#### **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

#### **GREAT FALLS POST 1087**

Meeting 2nd Thursday each month 6:00 p.m. Chicken & Steak Dinner – 3rd Sunday Breakfast Every Sunday – 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

#### 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

#### BIGFORK POST 4042 AND AUXILIARY

VFW Meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month/same time Auxiliary Meeting 1st Wednesday of the month Steak Night – 3rd Wednesday of the month

#### 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

#### 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

#### PLAINS POST 3596

Post Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesdays Auxiliary Meetings 2nd & 4th Mondays Club – Bowling Alley – Banquet Hall You Are Always Welcome

#### **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

#### **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

#### **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

#### **KALISPELL POST 2252**

Post Meets 1st Tuesday 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

#### **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.

#### **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

#### 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.

#### **BILLINGS HEIGHTS POST 6774**

Post Meeting 2nd Wednesday - 6:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting 2nd Thursday - 6:00 p.m. Canteen Open Daily

#### **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

#### **LEWISTOWN POST 1703**

Post Meeting 3rd Monday – 7:00 p.m. Basement – American Legion Club

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

#### 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.

## Option #2 Central Scheduling

(Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)

#### 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

#### 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

## 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

#### PONY VFW POST 3831 AND MOC PUP TENT #24

Post Meetings 2nd Saturday 1:00 p.m. at Pony Bar Members and Guests Welcome

#### **BOZEMAN POST 903**

121 W. Main
(406) 577-2155
Meeting 3rd Saturday at 10:00 a.m.
Club House Open 12 Noon - 11 p.m. daily
Members and Guests Welcome

#### **MISSOULA POST 209**

Post Meeting 2nd Wednesday – 7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting 2nd Tuesday – 2:00 p.m.

#### **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.

## e-Edition

Same format as our printed edition.
You can view current editions as well as back issues of the Montana Veteran on our website at mtvfw.org

The Montana Veteran

Department of Montana VFW

c/o Tim Peters

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Fort Harrison, MT 59636

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