

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

the

Montana VETERAN



Elk in Yellowstone

Vol. 18 No. 3

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Dec./Jan./Feb./March 2015-16



SALUTE OUR VETERANS

Our VFW Post #2252 truck entry for the 2015 Fourth of July parade. Driving the truck is Jerry Dressler and in the truck is our Post Commander, Lane Kaiser. We have a Kids Carnival immediately following the parade. Every game is FREE and everyone is a WINNER. This event has become very popular with the parents and the kids.



Glacier Park VFW Post #2252 member, Jerry Dressler, driving our truck up Main Street. Flags are placed on Main Street every patriotic holiday by our Post members. These were being placed for the Fourth of July 2015.

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**.

February 15, 2016..... Apr-May-June-July
June 15, 2016 Aug-Sept-Oct-Nov
October 15, 2015..... Dec-Jan-Feb-Mar

Coming Events

JANUARY 30—MID-WINTER MEETING—GREAT FALLS POST 1087
April 2 - 08:00-10:00 a.m. District #3, Worden
April 2 - 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. District #6, Forsyth
April 3 - 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. District #5, Sidney
April 9 - 08:00-10:00 a.m. District #2, Lewiston
April 16 - 08:00-10:00 a.m. District #1, Missoula
April 23 - 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. District #4, E. Helena

COMMANDER'S REPORT



Dear Comrades,
I would like to start by thanking Art Widhalm. His dedication, and hard work for the VFW, and the Department with his guidance for a very successful year, receiving All American State Commander.

Thank You.

As our membership dwindles in our Posts, it's important to try and replace those that we lose. This is the first year that our Life members has dropped below 6,000. Retention of past members is a key factor to your replacements. You have to ask the question. Why are they not renewing their membership? What is the reason they don't attend our meetings? I really don't think they leave because they don't want to support veterans, and I pray that the reason is not the petty jealousies, and the trivial personalities that is driving them away. So our Posts have to work out what they think the problem is.

By now you are all aware, we now have just a VFW Auxiliary, effective August 21, 2015. We can now start to bring men into the VFW Auxiliary membership. This is not a consolidation of Auxiliaries. Every member of the Men's Auxiliary will not automatically transfer to, or are you entitled to transfer into the VFW

Auxiliary. This By-Law change did not eliminate the Men's Auxiliary. I'm sure that each member of the Men's Auxiliary will be asked to join the VFW Auxiliary. Each Men's Auxiliary member if they desire, must make out an application, and show proof of eligibility to join the VFW Auxiliary. I hope to see the Men's Auxiliary form, and have just one VFW Auxiliary. You will then be eligible to attend your State Conventions, and your National Conventions. You will then be able to campaign, and run for a Department office if you so desire. I personally welcome this change to the VFW Auxiliary, this has my full support.

The District Meetings are now over. I'm a bit disappointed that there were only 21 Posts that came to their District Meetings. I know that every District sent out a letter informing everyone of where, what day, and time the District Meeting started. The Posts can not only attend the meeting, but can also get their Inspections out of the way as well. Every letter asked the Posts to bring their books for inspection. I also get the same letters. I think it's pretty bad when more State Officers attend your District Meetings than Posts. The National By-Laws states, it is the responsibility of a Post Commander to represent, or make sure their post is represented at all District and Department meetings. The fall meetings are crucial, because it's Post inspection time. Congratulations District #6 for being 100% in Post attendance.

COMMANDER, continued on page 8

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Comrades,
Well, we just finished up on our District meetings and it was good to see and talk to all my friends in Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4. I'm sorry I missed my friends in 5&6 this time around, but I got a chance to get up to District 1 and see my friends there.

At one of the Districts I attended, I was asked why we have these meetings and my response was that it is a chance for the State officers to get all the information that we get through our travels and correspondence with National Officers out to the members. Things change all the time and we want you to get this information first hand, and we're there to answer any questions and concerns. That's why it is of the utmost importance that each and every post is represented at these meetings. We also just finished the School of Instruction. It was

the most informative school that I have attended so far. I am mystified at why the turnout was so low. I guess it tells me all our Post Commanders, Quartermasters or other Post Officers have all the knowledge needed to run their posts. Please, in the future try to get your new officers and old officers to attend the school of instruction. Believe me in telling you it's not a waste of your time, and there is so much new stuff that especially the quartermasters need to know and learn.

Moving on I would like to talk about the Life Legacy program. Those of you that know me know that the Legacy program is something that's near and dear to my heart. We currently have 123 Life Legacy members, give or take a couple in the whole state, and we have just under 6,000 eligible life members. As a member of the largest combat war organization you should be proud to leave a very small part of your legacy behind at your post for eternity. We all served honorably in the United States services, and the biggest thing that we all have in common is we have all been in a

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



Recently while visiting with some of our Veterans Service Officers I was reminded that not all veterans have placed their important papers in a safe place; accessible to their spouse, significant other or our next of kin. This really compounds problems for those individuals who must make important decisions regarding eligibility for Veteran's death benefits. Please take a few minutes time to locate your DD-214 or discharge papers, your will and any life insurance documentation that you have and put it in a safe place. Make up a list of your requests and provide that as well. One of our members has placed a note on the back of his driver's license that instructs anyone reading it to contact the significant individual listed on it.

As veterans we have a common bond—In the spring of our youth we swore to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. We ran off to countries far and wide and kept the enemy at bay and we didn't leave until it was over, over there. No matter what branch of service or the aspect of our jobs, we had our fellow military buddies "back." When it came time for us to resume our lives as civilians I am pretty sure that none of us forgot the oath we took to "support and defend...", we just do it as part of our daily lives. As a group we need to do more to acknowledge all of our fellow veterans' accomplishments. Talk to them, get their stories and tell them thanks for their service. We must never allow those exceptional stories of valor to be forgotten. Please take a moment to ask them if they would like to join the greatest military service organization; The Veterans of Foreign Wars. You know we are always on the hunt for new members. I have heard the metaphor that the VFW is the gun and the members are the bullets. I'm sure that you can remember your war time efforts and can appreciate "having enough ammunition." Folks we are in a war with the bureaucrats in Washington that are continually trying

to balance the budget on the backs of Veterans and seniors. We can use all of the ammunition that we can get our hands on. Our nation has a propensity for war/conflicts. Look back in history over the last 200+ years and recount all of the wars/conflicts and skirmishes that we have been involved in. I don't believe that observation will change. I am concerned that those kids in the third or fourth grade today won't have anyone standing there to support them in their time of war. We need to plan for the future and our future lies with our kids. We have to nurture them, protect them and instill pride and honor to be successful. Part of protecting them is leaving a society that will ensure that they have the tools and resources to be successful and to return home to be productive citizens.

During John F. Kennedy's campaign for President, someone asked him what he thought his legacy might be, and he replied, "any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think that I can respond with a great deal of pride and satisfaction, I served in the United States Navy." As we go about this season of giving and resolutions, let us combine them and resolve to give more of ourselves to help others especially children and Veterans causes. Every post in the state could use more individuals helping at every level. We have some awesome people in every post that put their heart and soul into fostering patriotism and camaraderie. Please take a moment to express your gratitude to these wonderful assets to our future.

I would like to rephrase that quote from President Kennedy and bring it into the 21st century: Any man or woman who may be asked in this century what they did to make their life worthwhile, I think that they can respond with a great deal of pride and satisfaction, I served in the UNITED STATES MILITARY. I urge you to be proud of your military accomplishments and stand with us to help protect the Veterans of America. God Bless You, God Bless America and please thank a Veteran for the privilege to say so.

**Charles Carroll
Jr. Vice Commander**

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CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



Dear Comrades and Sisters,

Well, by now the District meetings are over, and we are preparing for the Mid-Winter in Great Falls. The District 2 meeting in Great Falls at Post 1087 was a real success. I think I can speak for the Department Commander, as well as all those that attended the Dist. 2 meeting, when I say, "WELL DONE" Commander Greg Knapstad & Post 1087. We welcomed Lewistown in to our district. I believe they will definitely be a real addition to our district.

Now on to other matters at hand. As you all may know, the fatality numbers on the highways in Montana are way up there, and they are trying to figure out why. I believe that part of the reason is because a lot of our young people do not or are not using seatbelts. I was one that used to believe that it was my choice whether or not to buckle up. In the last 10 years or so, I have gotten in to the habit, and now I feel almost naked if the vehicle I am riding in is moving and my seatbelt is not fastened. If you will notice, I said "almost naked". The point I am trying

to make is, please, advise your children and grandchildren, as well as all of you veterans & your family, to please buckle their seatbelts for safety sake. It can happen in the blink of an eye.

The next item that I would like to mention is, "MEMBERSHIP". Wouldn't it be terrific if we could get Commander House up to 100% by December? Comrades, we are losing our membership at an alarming rate, and we need to sign up a lot of new members. When signing up any new members, just politely ask if they would consider a "life payment plan." Besides that, once they become life members, then they would also be eligible to leave a legacy for their post, department, and the national as well. With all the extra benefits you receive from a "Legacy Life," it is a win-win situation.

Well Comrades, I have run out of things to talk about. I know, many of you that know me will say, "that can't be." Well, it is, I will just remind each of you once again, if you have any sicknesses, anyone in the hospital, or any deaths in your post, please let me know. I will get an appropriate card on the way ASAP.

Thanks much to each of you. God Bless & Take Care.

**Jim Porter
State Chaplain**

Veterans and Military Support Programs

What is "Veterans and Military Support Programs"? It consists of the following programs: Unmet Needs, Operation Uplink, VFW's "Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarship" and Military Assistance Program.

All too often, deployments mean incredible financial and emotional hardships for military members and their family. The VFW's Veterans and Military Support Programs are here to offer the support and assistance needed to endure these hardships.

The VFW Unmet Needs program provides up to \$5,000 in financial assistance to service members and their family who face unexpected financial difficulties as a result of military service. The program assists with the costs associated with basic needs and does not require repayment. Qualified applicants must have served on active duty within the past 72 months. Grants can be used for but are not limited to: mortgage and rent payments, home and auto repairs, insurance or utilities, food and clothing. Ineligible expenses include, but not limited to: credit cards—personal, military or store; loans—personal, student or payday; bank fees; legal or educational expenses; cable, internet or secondary phone; IRS or military debt, or debt owed to a friend/family member; bills due to excessive use or mismanagement. Unmet needs also stands ready to assist military families who are victims of natural disasters with grants of \$300-\$500.

Operation Uplink connects military members and hospitalized/nursing home veterans with their loved ones, free of charge.

The VFW's "Sports Clips Help a Hero" program provides service members with financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive debt. Scholarships of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to eligible applicants. Applications are accepted January 1-April 30 for fall semester and August 1–November 15 for spring semester. Applicants can receive assistance for each semester but must apply each time. Applications and additional information can be found on-line at HelpAHero@vfw.org.

The Military Assistance Program (MAP) is the outstretched hand between the VFW and the local military, offering support to military members, their unit and their family during all phases of deployment. Through local VFW channels, MAP sponsors morale-boosting events such as homecoming celebrations, send-offs and other special events. VFW and Auxiliaries adopt hundreds of military units around the world. They develop supportive, ongoing relationships with the unit and their families to help deliver the vast network of resources the VFW has available for the military community.

More information about these programs can be found online at uplink@vfw.org, unmetneeds@vfw.org, HelpAHero@vfw.org, and map@vfw.org. You can also contact Montana Program Chairman, Art Widhalm at 406-524-3761 or email chiefhunter2u@yahoo.com.

WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

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	Harold D. Floyd	Bronze Post 1087
Lawrence Cunningham*	Gold Post 1087	Melvin W. Kieninger	Bronze Post 1448
Bradley A. Damron	Gold Post 1087	Ronald R. McLeod	Bronze Post 1448
Jack A. Hawley	Gold Post 1087	Troy A. McDowall	Bronze Post 1579
Anthony G. Morris	Gold Post 1087	James A. Ussin	Bronze Post 1634
Arthur P. Marshall, Jr.	Gold Post 1087	Kenneth C. Handl	Bronze Post 2154
William M. Rose	Gold Post 1087	Michael J. Bennett, Jr	Bronze Post 2252
Gerald E. Van Every	Gold Post 1087	Robert Franczek	Bronze Post 2252
Thomas A. Pouliot	Gold Post 1116	William J. Metteer	Bronze Post 2252
Daniel P. Antonietti	Gold Post 1448	James L. Amundson	Bronze Post 3107
John R. Fish Jr.	Gold Post 1448	Lance A. Bender	Bronze Post 3107
Ronald R. Peterson	Gold Post 1448	Charles Bradford Jr.	Bronze Post 3107
William D. Pirrie III	Gold Post 1723	Reid B. Coldwell	Bronze Post 3107
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Norman K. Dahl*	Gold Post 3107	Floyd R. Hopstad	Bronze Post 3107
Albert Franzen	Gold Post 3107	Byron M. Lindsay	Bronze Post 3107
George Kolstad	Gold Post 3107	Gerald F. Myers*	Bronze Post 3107
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Gary L. Race	Gold Post 4725	Felice H. Wilson	Bronze Post 3107
John C. Fay	Gold Post 5652	Edwin M. Yohn	Bronze Post 3107
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Robert T. Schwegel	Gold Post 6786	Leslie L. Poland	Bronze Post 4099
Ken R. Utter	Gold Post 6786	Eugene N. Ronningen	Bronze Post 4099
Gary O. Borland	Gold Post 7311	Stanley K. Rosaen	Bronze Post 4099
Charles M. Handley	Gold Post 7311	Lawrence R. Troutd	Bronze Post 4099
John T. Freetly	Gold Post 7407	Vernon E. Wilson*	Bronze Post 4099
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William I. Mackley	Gold Post 8292	Daniel C. Barta	Bronze Post 4925
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Lee E. Erickson	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	Paul E. Coble	Bronze Post 8292
Dennis G. Dreyer	Bronze Post 276	Thomas H. Armstrong	Bronze Post 8292
Dean House	Bronze Post 276	John R. Buckley	Bronze Post 10010
Kenneth A. Herrmann	Bronze Post 276	LeRoy S. Johnson	Bronze Post 10010
Robert Sammon	Bronze Post 276	Melvin V. Johnson*	Bronze Post 10010
Laureen A. Hawley	Bronze Post 1087	Dale A. Person	Bronze Post 10010
Paul T. Quinn	Bronze Post 1087	Robert J. Russ*	Bronze Post 10010
Gerald E. Van Every	Bronze Post 1087		* Deceased

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Graveside Services to be Allowed for Veterans



I am the State Legislative Chairman of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, a position I have held for fifteen years. In addition, I retired from the National Veterans Legislative Committee of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, after having served as a member for thirteen years.

Upon completion of the 64th Montana State Legislative Assembly, there were twenty-three Introduced Bills and nine Unintroduced Bills for the session. Of these, sixteen passed, highlighted by House Bill 211, introduced by Representative Kirk Wagoner, which requires a POW/MIA flag to be placed at certain times and places; and Senate Joint Resolution 6, introduced by Senator Cliff Larsen, which

recognizes military service of all Montanans.

Most important was the article which appeared in the *Independent Record* on June 12, 2015: "Graveside Services to be Allowed for Veterans." As a WWII Veteran and Legislative Chairman, I speak on behalf of myself in expressing my gratitude to Governor Steve Bullock for this remarkable decision. I applaud and thank Governor Bullock for this action, which all Veterans will never forget.

Daniel P. Antonietti, VFW



OPT-OUT!

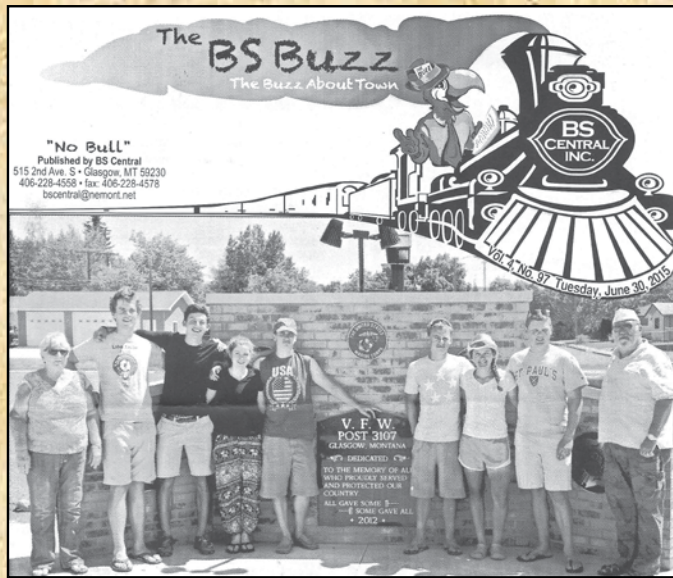
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e-Edition

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



Denise Tiffany, at left, and her husband LeRoy, at right, joined up Monday with the St. Paul High School students (from left): Webster Thompson, Reid Noch, Gabby Spurzem, Jacob Witt, Oliver Van Everen, Jade Thomas and Jamie Marshman. Not pictured is Mary Elmore DeMott. They had the day off to spend time in Glasgow.

SPS Ride for Veterans 2015: The Adventure Is Well Underway!

In what might almost be called a tradition, eight St. Paul's School students are pedaling across both a summer and a country in support of Ride 2 Recovery. Their journey from the Pacific to the Atlantic, ventured successfully by SPS cyclists in 2011 and 2013, offers the team 50 days of hard-fought vistas across the northern portion of the U.S.

While the immediate goal is surviving sequential saddle days, Rocky Mountain ridge lines, and the formidable headwinds of the Great Plains, the larger objective is to raise money to support a unique but bike-related veteran's rehabilitation program.

Since 2008, Ride 2 Recovery has been exploring and promoting cycling as an alternative method of therapy for PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury. Cycling helps the healing process of our wounded heroes by offering both individualized physical goals and the much-needed emotional support of an active community to help everyone succeed. The diversity of the therapy options is limited only by the inclusion of a bicycle somewhere in the process.

SPS Cyclists 2015 undertakes the epic journey beneath beautiful and spacious skies, from sea to shining sea, climbing purple mountains majesty above fruited plains, to crown our American heroes with brotherhood.

They have now put over 1,100 miles on their bicycles. The Washington Pass was one of the more difficult parts of the ride, while Rudyard to Dodson was actually their toughest day to date.

"Straight into a grinding headwind," said Jade Thomas, not to mention the 97° heat. "It was brutal."

They'd like you to saddle up and clip into the pedals as they crest the hills and race headlong into the valleys, and you can do all of this and more from the comfort of your own kitchen table. Check them out at <https://www.facebook.com/SPSCyclists2013>


Your donations help to heal our heroes and SPSCyclists do all the legwork. Join them as they continue their venture across the land we enjoy more freely because of their sacrifice.

Hi- I'm Jamie. To be honest, I never really thought about devoting my summer to riding across the country until this past summer. I have grown up watching my dad participate in the Pan-Mass Challenge and various other rides. When I heard about this opportunity earlier this year, I became fixated on completing the ride. I have always been interested in exploring our beautiful country and there's no better way to do this than on a bike. I know that this will be a challenge for all of us, and I know we will all grow closer as a group while riding for our veterans.




Jamie Marshman - Danien, CT

Salutations, I'm Webster and I'm from New York City. Being from the big city, I'm not used to the open road and large fields to be encountered when trekking across the country. My brother was one of the cyclists in the past, and he inspired me to do this trip and follow in his footsteps - or bike tracks. From his trip, I also learned a lot about Ride 2 Recovery, a charity whose mission that this trip is going to be difficult, I believe it will be an unforgettable experience, helping veterans through our work. As so famously stated by Freddie Mercury, "Bicycle, bicycle, bicycle! I want to ride my bicycle, bicycle, bicycle!"



Webster Thompson - New York, NY

Hey- I'm Jacob - I've grown up and lived in Massachusetts my entire life before coming to St. Paul's School. Until about two years ago, biking was simply a means to get somewhere without having to ask for a ride. This all changed when I started riding in the annual Pan-Mass Challenge. This ride is a 192 mile, 2 day bike ride to raise money for cancer. This past summer was my second year riding, and I've raised upwards of \$8,000 for cancer between my two rides. When I heard about the SPS Cyclists team, I knew this was something I wanted to do. I'm really excited about the ride and the group, and to ride for our veterans.



Jacob Witt - Boxborough, MA

Hi I'm Gabby. Growing up in Montana, biking and all sorts of other outdoor activities were always part of my daily life. However, biking across the country was not something I had ever considered doing until I came to SPS. When I saw how awesome this trip was for the last group that went, I knew that this was something that I wanted to do. I know this will be difficult, but I am excited to overcome these challenges with our group for a great cause.



Gabby Spurzem - Missoula, MT

Hi- I'm Oliver. I am from Whitefish, Montana. Since a young age, I have always loved spending time outdoors, either playing sports or going for a hike. I can hardly fathom what biking across the country will entail, but I am excited and ready for whatever will be thrown at us. I always like to remember at a whopping 5' 8", "It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog."




Oliver Van Everen - Whitefish, MT

Hi I'm Jade - I'm 17 years old. I am from Missoula, Montana. Making the journey across the country on something that isn't powered by gas has been a dream for me since the tyke days, so I am beyond excited to shape my summer around this journey. My obsession with cycling developed with the participation in several triathlons back home each summer. My valiant bicycle's name is Thor, and he's one heck of a loyal prince. Fun fact about me: I'm obsessed with socks.



Jade Thomas - Missoula, MT

I grew up loving cross country running, but never thought I would have the chance to actually go across country. Being able to bike from coast to coast with seven of my closest friends, while helping veterans is an life changing opportunity that I cannot wait to experience.



Reid Noch - Naples, FL

Hi I'm Mary Elmore. Growing up in Alabama, where snow is all but nonexistent and knowing how to ski is relatively useless in the "winter," I learned how to ride a bike at a young age, evolving from my tiny pink princess bike to the road bike with pink bar tape that I've named Princess. This epic journey is an amazing opportunity for us to "learn the contours of a country best," as Ernest Hemingway once said, since we will "have to sweat up the hills and coast down them." Better still is the chance to show appreciation for our veterans and the work that Ride 2 Recovery does for those who've done so much for us. I look forward to the road ahead.



Mary Elmore DeMott - Montgomery, AL

Submitted by: Mary Sugg, Post 3107 Auxiliary Secretary

"Every Veteran Counts 2020" Tim Borland Runs for Jr. Vice Commander in Chief 2020



Tim is a candidate for the VFW Western Conference's nomination for National Jr. Vice Commander in Chief Select in July 2019. Tim earned his eligibility to join the VFW during his long 28 Year career in the U.S. Army, retiring as a First Sergeant at Ft. Huachuca in Sierra Vista, Arizona with deployments to Korea and Iraq. If selected, Tim will then advance to National Jr. Vice Commander in Chief in 2020-21 and then Commander in Chief in 2022-23. Tim has demonstrated his ability to lead and is not afraid to take on any task in front of him. He's a huge advocate for Veterans Affairs and marches on Capitol Hill every year during our Legislative Conferences in D.C.

He's a Triple Crown winner and has been recruiting over 100 members each year for 12 consecutive years. He was our Western Conference Chairman in 2013-14 and is now filling the role as National Council Member from Arizona since 2012.

Tim's passion and loyalty for this organization is overwhelming as he continues to travel all over the Nation promoting the VFW and encouraging younger members from Iraq and Afghanistan to join. He provides them assistance and guidance when needed and listens to their concerns. Tim cares for the veterans making his drive to become Chief as strong, honest and motivational. He truly believes that no veteran should be left behind. His passion truly shows his care for each and every veteran who has ever served, is serving or will serve this great nation. If you would like to help Tim in his quest to become VFW National Commander in Chief, then please contact him at 520-678-9180 and join his team.

At this time donations are being accepted to help alleviate travel expenses. If you would like to donate, please feel free to do so by either visiting his website at www.everyveterancounts2020.org or make checks out to "Every Veteran Counts 2020" and earmark the check "Tim Borland's Campaign" and send it to: Department of Montana, ATTN: Quartermaster, 1956 Mt. Majo Street, Ft. Harrison, MT 59636.



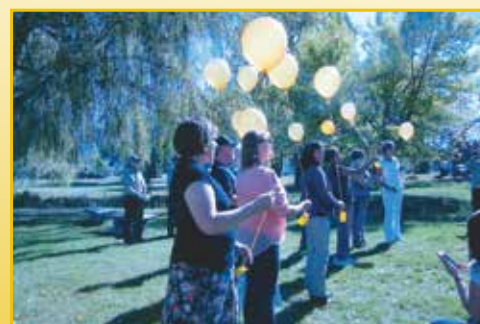
On September 4, 2015, family and fellow veterans gathered at the Anaconda Deer Lodge Court House. The occasion was to honor and display retired Army and MTARNG veteran 1SG Donald Kelley Sr. and his uniform, which will be displayed for the next three months. Don's uniform and biography are the 11th to be so honored. The Anaconda American Legion Honor Guard provided the colors.



From left: Daughter Colleen, Don, Don Jr., and daughter Sharon.
Photo by Anaconda Leader journalist, James Rosien

Post 5652 hosts Gold Star Mothers Ceremony

On September 27, 2015, the VFW Post 5652 and Auxiliary hosted the Gold Star Mothers ceremony held in the Ronan City Park by the Gold Star Mothers Memorial. Pictured are family members holding balloons representing loved ones lost in a war. After the names were read, balloons were released. The cake and luncheon were in honor of the Gold Star families.



Post 209 A presentation of medals

Commander of VFW Post 209 Jack Reneau talks to U.S. Senator Jon Tester and American Legion Post 27 Commander Bill Applegate during a presentation of medals to a family of a fallen Vietnam veteran. Jack regularly attends special ceremonies and events representing the VFW and talking to military personnel and retirees about becoming a member of the VFW.



Photo by Susan Reneau

Post 3107 gets shipments ready for our unit in Afghanistan

Members and Auxiliary of VFW Post 3107 pictured packing boxes to be shipped to our unit 484th Military Police Company in Afghanistan. Candy was donated by local Albertsons, Reynolds Food Store and Western Drug for this project. Auxiliary members Mona Amundson, Mary Potter, Joan Nelson, Deb Heitman, Sherrell Wilson, Mary Sugg, Shirley Nelson & Patty Ramsey baked bars & dehydrated fruit to add to the pounds of beef jerky supplied by State Jr. Vice Commander Art Widhalm.



Pictured above are Mary Sugg, Phil & Sherrell Wilson and Art Widhalm. Patty Ramsey, photographer, also joined in preparing the boxes for shipping.

Big Sky Gas Partners with Montana VFW

Allowing North Western Energy Customers to Save Big!



Helena, MT - Big Sky Gas*, the new, locally owned natural gas supplier in Montana is excited to announce they have created a partnership with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of Montana.

What does this partnership mean for Montana consumers? It will allow Big Sky Gas to pay the VFW of Montana \$0.01 cent per therm used by its members. The average household in Montana uses 115 therms per month. Taking this into account, if 2000 members sign up, \$1.15 will be donated from each household per month to the VFW. This equates to \$27,600 per year directly benefitting Veterans of Foreign War in our communities. Make the switch to Big Sky Gas today and save money, contribute to a good cause, and receive great service all in one.

On average consumers whom have switched to Big Sky Gas save up to 15.9 % on their annual natural gas utility supply bill. How are we able to provide you a discount on your energy bill? We buy large blocks of energy on the wholesale

market and utilize a low operational overhead in turn passing on the savings to you, the consumer. With the money saved, we hope you the consumer will infiltrate those dollars back into the communities we all call home.

Want to make the switch? In order to switch to Big Sky Gas simply visit our website at www.bigskygas.com, call 406.443.4412 or contact Bill Houston, Senior Broker, at 406.431.8175.

What will you need when you call? You will need your current Northwestern Energy account number, gas meter number and service address off of your current Northwestern Energy bill. It's quick, easy and free! Make the switch to Big Sky Gas today!

Make the **SWITCH** to Big Sky Gas today!

Call: 406.443.4412

Website: bigskygas.com

Contact: Bill Houston, Sr. Broker
406.431.8175

**Big Sky Gas is a Helena based company; the first of its kind, offering consumers a choice for their natural gas supplier.*

Picnic at Post 3107

Although the day dawned rainy and windy, it didn't stop the members of Post 3107 from having a great time serving their adopted Guard unit, Det 1, 484th Military Police Company, with a super picnic indoors style. VFW members came to meet and greet the thirty-two National Guard members with friendship and food.



WORLD WAR II TOURS

France • Luxembourg • Belgium • Germany

June 2-14 • August 11-23, 2016

Paris • Normandy Landing Beaches • Reims • General Patton's Grave
Battle of the Bulge • Remagen Bridge • Nuremberg • Dachau Memorial
Eagle's Nest in Berchtesgaden • Munich

VIETNAM TOUR

March 13-23, 2016

Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) • My Tho • Cu Chi Tunnels
Mekong Delta • Nha Trang • Cam Ranh AF Base • Hue
Chu La • Hoi An • Da Nang • Quang Tri • A Shau Valley
Halong Bay Cruise • Hanoi • DMZ • US Military Bases



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4th of July Patriotic Coloring Contest

The Ronan VFW Auxiliary sponsored a 4th of July Patriotic Coloring Contest. The winners were presented with certificates and cash prizes. McDonalds gave ice cream coupons for about 55 participants.



Pictured are: Jonathan Erickson, age 7, 3rd Place; Mala Christopher, age 7, 1st Place; Margaret Fay, Auxiliary President holding pictures for Dashaundre Steele, age 9, 3rd Place; Anna Danielson, age 12, 2nd Place; Alex Loughlin, age 12, 1st Place and holding a picture for Gaije Lindquist, age 6, 2nd Place.

VFW Presents East Helena Postmaster With New Flag

On August 24, 2015 members of the Cory-Dullum VFW 10010 presented a new 5' x 8' American Flag to the East Helena Postmaster, Donald Knight.



Pictured are: Post members Mike Buckley and Ed Boucher. Auxiliary members: Auxiliary President Carol McMaster, Sr. Vice Jean Boucher, Treasurer Lucille Stump, Ashley Strandberg and Donna Schroder (taking the picture).



Become a Veterans' Advocate

Join the VFW Action Corps here:

www.vfw.org/weekly

and received the Washington Weekly e-newsletter and All VFW Action Alerts

VA Awards Local Grants to Prevent and End Homelessness

Flexible Grants Are Helping Achieve Lower Rates of Veteran Homelessness, Community By Community

WASHINGTON – Thousands of very low-income Veteran families around the nation, who are permanently housed or transitioning to permanent housing, will continue to have access to crucial services with the renewal of approximately \$300 million in grants under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program.

SSVF renewal funding, which supports outreach, case management and other flexible assistance to prevent Veteran homelessness or rapidly re-house Veterans who become homeless, went to 286 non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. A list of grantees is located at www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp.

“SSVF grants empower our local partners to provide short-term-focused interventions that promote housing stability among the most economically vulnerable Veterans and their families,” said Department of Veterans Affairs’ Secretary Robert A. McDonald. “Whether they need rental or child care assistance, transportation vouchers or another type of support, SSVF grantees offer Veterans the mix of services they need to gain housing and stay housed.”

SSVF grantees typically serve Veterans with incomes below 30 percent of the area median income. Grantees must follow the housing first approach, which centers on permanently housing homeless Veterans quickly without preconditions and providing supportive services as needed. Additional SSVF requirements are that grantees engage in outreach to find and serve Veterans in need, provide Veterans with case management and assist them in obtaining VA and other public benefits.

For Montana, the Volunteers of American Northern Rockies was awarded a total of \$721,140.00 in grants to support services in the following counties; Yellowstone, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, Bighorn, Carbon and Lewis & Clark.

Sequestration, Budget, Veterans Top VFW Legislative Agenda

'Sequestration is the most significant threat to military readiness and national security of the 21st Century'

WASHINGTON — More than 70 members of the national legislative committee of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States met with their members of Congress in September to end sequestration, to pass a new budget, and to ensure that a nation that creates veterans properly takes care of them when they return home.

“Sequestration is the most significant threat to military readiness and national security of the 21st century,” exclaimed VFW National Commander John A. Biedrzycki Jr., “and despite almost universal congressional opposition to it, no member of the House or Senate has yet introduced any legislation to end it, which makes zero sense to veterans, service members or their families. The return of mandatory sequestration in fiscal year 2016 has to be dealt with by a Congress that created it,” he said, “just as Congress must continue to properly care and treat generations of wounded, ill and injured veterans that our government created.”

Along with sequestration, the VFW national commander is very concerned that Congress has yet to pass any funding bills for the government’s new fiscal year, which started Oct. 1, which could trigger another government shutdown similar to last year. “Congress must fund the government and remove the forced sequester provision of the Budget Control Act to ensure that the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs and other agencies that support veterans have the resources needed to defend our nation and to care for those who do the defending,” said Biedrzycki.

Also high on the week’s VFW legislative agenda was ensuring the effective implementation of the Veterans Choice Act to ease access to care issues by VA and non-VA providers, employee accountability, the claims backlog, and eliminating the one-percent Cost-of-Living Adjustment penalty, which jeopardizes the success of every proposal to modernize the current military retirement system.

VFW legislative committee members also delivered advance copies of the organization’s latest report regarding veterans’ options, preferences and expectations when seeking health care. Entitled “Our Care,” the nationwide survey of 1,847 members revealed that where veterans choose to receive their care depends on the number of options they have available, but with all factors being equal, they prefer to use the VA because the continuity and continuum of care they receive is unmatched anywhere in the private sector. Read more about “Our Care” at http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/VFW_in_DC/VFWOurCareReport2015.pdf.

Thank You Friends

Thank you for all the cards, letters, and phone calls following my heart attack. A stent was put in and I am ALIVE AND WELL!! Thank you for your care and concern.

Tom Pouliot
90-91 Department Commander

—COMMANDER, from page 2

School of instruction went very well this year in Great Falls, we had several that attended. Both day were very informative. Thank You Dan Arnold and Tim Peters for an outstanding job. There were several new agenda's that were covered especially with the Service Office. Tim covered several items also that the Posts are required to do. I would have liked to have seen more Posts attend School of Instruction. Not only the Commanders, and Quartermasters should attend, but both the Jr. and Sr. Commanders should also attend. That would prepare you, and you would at least have an Idea what you need to know and what your responsibility is when you become Commander. Or if you have to stand in for your Commander.

I would like to thank Tim Peters for all of his years of service to the Department of Montana as our Quartermaster/Adjutant. With his guidance, we were able to get out of debt in 2 1/2 years. With

his dedication to the Posts, Districts, and Department he will be greatly missed. He has an opportunity to work in Kansas City at our National Headquarters. Good luck Tim in your new position at National.

Welcome Bob Schwegel, as our assistant Quartermaster/Adjutant. This is our 4th time we've asked Bob to come out of retirement. He gladly accepted to again help the Department. He is now starting his training as of 9/14/15. There will be an opening for election at the State Convention in June for Quartermaster/Adjutant, with the understanding that our Headquarters is on the base at Fort Harrison. Whoever wants to take on this position must move to, or very close to Helena. This is a very business oriented position. If anyone is interested in this position, please contact Tim Peters. Thank you Comrades, let's keep up on our recruiting.

Dean House
State Commander

—SR. VICE COMMANDER, from page 2

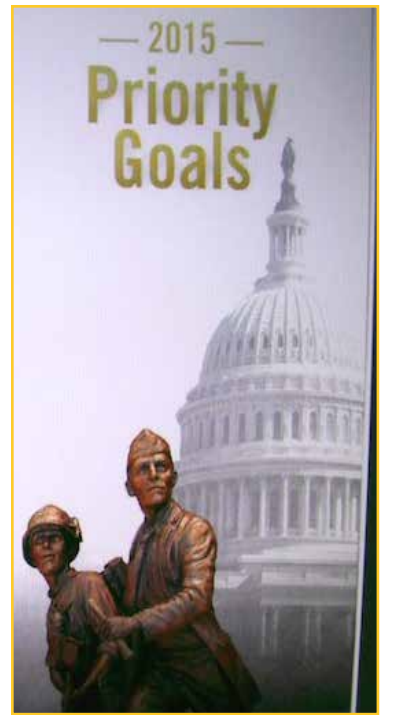
combat zone that made us eligible to be a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Every September the VFW post that you belong to receives money for each life member that is a member of the post. Once the life member is deceased, the payment for that life member stops. So a program was developed so the post can continue to receive money after the life member is deceased. That program is the Life Legacy program.

The program has three levels and they are Bronze, Silver, and Gold. The cost for these three levels is \$400 per level. Because you are now a Life Legacy member, your post receives an additional \$6, \$12, or \$18 every year. This extra money can be something you can budget because it never stops even after your

gone. That's why it's called Life Legacy; you are leaving a piece of your legacy to the post and our future leaders. Tell your wife, husband, girlfriend, or boyfriend that a gift of a Life Legacy membership is what you want for Christmas, birthday, father's day, or mother's day.

In closing, just a few words on membership. Every one of you can bring in new members and get past members to renew their membership—it's a team effort. We need to grow as large as possible so that our voice is heard loud and clear at the capital. We earned the benefits we receive and the last thing we need is for some bureaucrat to take them from us.

Jack Hawley
State Sr. Vice Commander



Budget

- Ensure proper funding so VA can provide timely health care and benefits delivery.
- Pass full Advance Appropriations for all of VA to ensure future budget battles have no impact on the delivery of benefits to veterans.
- End budget sequestration and ensure defense-funding supports Quality of Life programs for service members and families, training and readiness, troop end strength and equipment needs.

VA Health Care

- Ensure that VA capacity meets the demand for care by properly funding infrastructure and maintaining adequate staffing levels.
- All non-VA care must be high quality, and delivered in a well-coordinated, timely manner.
- Fully update antiquated VA scheduling software and fully implement an appointment making policy that focuses on veterans' needs and is not susceptible to data manipulation.
- Provide sufficient funding for updates to VA's VistA health care treatment record system.
- Continue to expand the use of telehealth services, especially in rural areas.
- Authorize VA to receive reimbursement for care provided to Medicare eligible veterans.
- Address the national crisis of suicide among service members and veterans by ensuring proper funding for DOD and VA suicide prevention programs and mental health treatment.
- Extend VA caregiver benefits to those who care for severely injured veterans of all eras.
- Increase research into women's health care needs and the diseases and treatments of toxic exposure.
- Ensure VA has appropriate resources to adequately care for and reintegrate our homeless veterans' population.

VA Compensation & Benefits

- Provide oversight and the resources necessary to hire, train, and sustain a workforce and IT system sufficient to provide accurate and timely decision ratings to those claiming benefits or appealing decisions from VA.
- Approve a presumption of service connection for the conditions associated with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).
- Provide the survivors of veterans who were in receipt of or entitled to receive VA compensation at the time of death for a service-connected disability rated totally disabling are eligible for Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC).
- Appropriate the resources required to meet the burial needs of all veterans who have served their country so honorably and faithfully.
- Pass a Fully Developed Appeals legislation that will allow veterans who wish to appeal but do not.

Transition Assistance

- Provide oversight for development and implementation of a comprehensive interoperable electronic medical and service record that is easily accessible for veterans, DoD and VA.
- Ensure the Transition Assistance Program is relevant to meet the needs of service members and all veterans at all phases of the transition process.

Education & Employment

- Ensure that military-trained professionals receive the proper licenses, credentials or academic credit to allow them to transition into similar civilian careers after military service.
- Protect the integrity of earned educational benefits like the Post-9/11 GI Bill and military tuition assistance. Work to improve federal programs designed to help veterans find and retain quality post-military careers.
- Hold the federal government accountable for its obligation to hire veterans and do business with veteran entrepreneurs.

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, while continuing to develop and deploy a ballistic missile defense system to protect the U.S. and our allies.
- Secure America's borders from all threats, foreign and domestic, and identify and deport illegal aliens who commit crimes.

Military Quality of Life

- Ensure DoD maintains a quality and comprehensive benefits and retirement package, so the service branches can continue to recruit and retain the highest quality service members.
- Protect Quality of Life programs for active duty and Reserve Component service members and their families.
- Support full concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability compensation without offset, and regardless of the rating percentage.
- Back efforts to lower the Reserve Component retirement pay age to 55.
- Eliminate the SBP/DIC offset.

POW/MIA

- Achieve the fullest possible accounting of U.S. military personnel missing from all wars.
- Ensure the U.S. government keeps the POW/MIA issue elevated as a national priority.
- Monitor the reorganization of the POW/MIA accounting mission.



— 2015 —
Priority Goals

Washington Office
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Tel. (202)543-2239
Fax (202)543-0961

National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, Mo 64111
Tel. (816)756-3390
Fax (816)968-1199

TAPS

Montana VFW comrades who have transferred to Post Everlasting

Post	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Post	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
173	Richard		Lannon	2252	Raymond	K	Toole
209	William	F	Creighton	2252	Jess		Wrightson
209	Orvis	N	Fitts	2252	Christopher	P	Yevich
209	William	C	Greely	2484	Allan	E	Gage
209	Glenn	S	Lamb	2484	Joseph	W	Krall
209	William	P	Muchmore	2986	Daniel	R	Dolph
209	Gerald	H	Mueller	2986	Leo	L	Schroeder
209	John	H	Thomas	3107	Warren	H	Gamas
209	Paul	E	Willig	3107	Donald	L	Paro
276	Gilbert	I	Burk	3177	Victor		Hergett
276	Fred	A	Little	3596	Joseph		Caligiuri
276	Bryce	D	Rasar	3997	Kenneth		Wolfe
276	A	P	Waggoner	3997	Carl	O	Wood
497	M	F	Clancey	4042	Joseph	M	Seery
497	Noel	R	Davidson	4042	Jacob	A	Wonsbecker
497	James	L	Staples	4047	Omar	O	Swett
689	Donald	A	Boshart	4067	Eldon		Barnard
689	Donald	E	Dahl	4099	Ed	R	Banta
689	Martin	A	Ellis	4099	Walter	O	Berg
689	Lyle	E	Gillette Jr	4099	Edgar	C	LaRue
689	Solomon	K	Meyer	4099	Samuel	A	Ritter
689	Elmer	E	Nagy	4109	Kenneth		Mc Dermott
689	Henry	H	Sinerius	4603	Robert	A	Hunt
903	Roger	B	Hougen	4620	Hobert		Richmond
903	Jess		Stovall	4725	James	J	Kane
903	Gardner	C	Waite	4813	Richard	J	Ehli
1087	Lester	O	Eck	4813	Glenn	F	Waller
1087	Harold	C	Funk	5159	Harold	J	Murray
1087	Larry E	L	Guthrie	5159	George	W	Tripp
1087	Eddy	A	Hakola	5514	Ernest	R	Woodman
1087	Raymond	R	Heusel	5748	Fernando		Maisterra
1087	Michael	S	Mizenko	6238	Paul	A	Toomey
1087	Thomas	E	Morton	6774	Robert	L	Guckeen
1087	Ralph	J	Ragland	6774	James	F	Nagel
1087	Charles	J	Saksa	6774	Lorne	J	Richardson
1087	Donald		Salonen	6774	Carl	L	Thaut
1087	Donald	R	Schrammeck	6774	John	M	Tomich
1087	Les		Slonaker	6774	Zane	D	Wing
1087	Thomas	M	Stephan	6774	Ronald	O	Worden
1087	Henry	F	Thies	6786	Fred	M	Bock
1087	Glen	M	Wynne	6786	Blackie	E	Bullock
1116	Tim		Babcock	6786	William	J	Cook
1116	Lloyd	G	Dickey	6786	Ned	L	Decker
1116	A	D	Ferris	6786	Albert	A	Schwegel
1116	Jack		Hallowell	7311	Clifford	A	Bare
1116	Vern		Harris	7311	Darwin	K	Decker
1116	Frank	E	Peterson	7311	Mark	A	Johnson
1116	William		Whyte	7621	Ervin	A	Matthis
1116	Jack	L	Young	7621	O	W	Townsend
1125	Norman	E	Beeler	7655	L	R	Bokma
1430	Eloy	C	De Baca	7885	William	M	Brence
1430	Ellsworth	T	Nobles	7885	Harvey	A	Coons
1430	Robert	F	Palach	7885	Raymond	L	Stewart
1507	Martin	H	Hannum	7886	Robert	G	Buffington
1548	Jon	D	Reynolds	7886	James	R	Gibson
1551	Jack	W	Pedersen	7886	Alden	F	Rice
1579	Don	J	Kornemann	7886	Arthur	C	Guith
1579	Arvid	C	Ronning	8952	Aloysius	A	Kimmet
1595	Wally		Schumacher	10010	Albert	J	Cadeau
1634	Glenn	A	Gardner	10010	George	M	De Wolf
1634	Harfield		Hole	10010	Dorrie	L	Hagan
1634	Thomas	W	Kersich	10010	Kenneth	M	Larson
1634	Cyril	A	Mueller	10010	Allen	R	Mc Broom
1634	Julius		Pfannenstiel	10010	Frank		Rousseau
1634	Ellis		Shriver	10010	Joe	A	Stipcich
1634	Homer	W	Skinner	10010	Thomas	F	Tillman
1703	Fred	J	Goettel	15027	Vernon	D	Baker
1723	James	H	Kuhn	15027	Robert	B	Cartwright
1876	Walter	H	Brooks	15027	Robert	J	Casey
2252	Lawrence	A	Barthel	15027	Walter	B	Collins
2252	George	R	Dachs	15027	Jesse	G	Evans
2252	Beryle	W	Dunn	15027	Basil		Everin
2252	Mary	E	Felder	15027	Donald	W	Fraser
2252	Brandon	J	Fette	15027	Selden	S	Frisbee
2252	Charles	J	Goettsch	15027	Charles	F	Herodes
2252	Arnold	M	Grob	15027	Alvin		Long
2252	Morris	M	Mathiason	15027	Robert	J	Mathis
2252	Wallace	E	Mc Calloch	15027	James	R	Portra
2252	Harold	R	Mohn	15027	Robert	J	Sherman
2252	Edward	L	Puchalski	15027	Paul		Stahl
2252	Herbert	H	Russell	15027	Joseph	B	Weaver
2252	Larry	D	Sanders	15027	Clifford	V	Wilson
2252	Jeffrey	A	Simmons	15027	M	D	Winger
2252	Kenneth	G	Storie				

HIRING AMERICA TV SHOW HITS RECORD NUMBER OF STATIONS IN SYNDICATION:

NEARLY 200 ACROSS THE NATION CARRY THE WEEKLY PROGRAM HELPING VETERANS FIND WORK

Series is Produced With the Support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States

New York—Oct. 20th, 2015—It continues to gain momentum!!

Hiring America—the nation’s only television program devoted to helping veterans leaving the military find good jobs—is now being carried by 195 TV stations nationwide ... the largest number in its two-year history. And it’s able to do it via the production support of the VFW.

“We’re really proud to be providing vital information and advice on employment, careers, new job opportunities, interviewing techniques and tips to the men and women of the armed forces,” said Bill Deutch, executive producer and creator. “And our audience keeps growing as vets, their families, friends, well-wishers and potential employers follow the show,” he lamented. “But we couldn’t do it without the help of friends like the VFW.”

With major cuts in U.S. military having been in place over the past few years—and with the downsizing of military personnel—literally thousands of career veterans have been asked to make the transition from the armed services to civilian life. And there are more to come.

They will be looking to parlay their military experience into civilian jobs—and the conversion more often than not isn’t easy. But there is something very different out there via Hiring America—and it’s available to just about all of them.

“The VFW is once again delighted to support Hiring America in its mission of helping our veterans prepare for and find good jobs,” related Adjutant General John

E. Hamilton. “And it’s wonderful to see the increased interest among television outlets—and viewers—across the nation in recognizing the practical needs of our military personnel as they prepare for life outside the military. We believe the show—and its content—reflect the strengths and goals of our organization.”

Again hosted by television news reporter Gigi Stone—whose credentials include Good Morning America and ABC News—the 30-minute programs cover a wide spectrum of guests—those with expertise and knowledge in career counseling and guidance;

CEOs and other business executives with real world experience and success stories; and former veterans and military personnel in the news.

The show is the brainchild of entrepreneur Bill Deutch who also serves as executive producer. He has committed the last five years of his life to bringing the concept from a dream to reality. “I can’t think of any more worthwhile endeavor than supporting and helping the men and women of our military,” he said. “I’m also very grateful to the VFW and the rest of our sponsors for making a second season of **Hiring America** possible.”

“At the end of the day,” Deutch lamented, “If we help make the transition easier for just one veteran—make it possible for him or her to succeed in civilian life—**Hiring America** will have done its job.”



Montana VFW would like to take this opportunity to extend our best wishes to all of our members and their families during the upcoming holiday season.



Please take a moment to think of our troops so far from home and send them a wish and a prayer for their safety.

Many of our comrades are without family or friends - if there is anything you can do for them, do not hesitate to reach out. Veterans Helping Veterans.



Wishing all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas. Stay safe, happy and healthy.

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

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RYCHALSKI, -Admin. Support/Benefit Tech Phone (406) 324-3743 jrychalski@mt.gov

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AASVED, Curt -Cemetery Sexton Fax (406) 543-2360 Cell (406) 396-8009 caasved@mt.gov
Phone (406) 721-2995

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Phone (406) 656-0584
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Phone (406) 259-5419
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TREASURE, YELLOWSTONE, MUSSELLSHELL,
GARFIELD

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Fax (406) 494-1273
Cell (406) 560-4189
COUNTIES: BEAVERHEAD, DEER LODGE,
GRANITE, JEFFERSON,
N. MADISON, POWELL, SILVERBOW

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Cell (406) 390-2756
Fax (406) 265-2666
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PHILLIPS, TOOLE, VALLEY

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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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Cell (406) 437-2620
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WHEATLAND, FERGUS, JUDITH BASIN,
PETROLEUM

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Cell (406) 431-3684
Fax (406) 233-1217
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POWDER, PRAIRIE, WIBAUX, MCCONE, RICHLAND,
SHERIDAN, DANIELS, ROOSEVELT, ROSEBUD

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Fax (406) 543-2360
Cell (406) 529-1312
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.</p> <p>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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The little "cog" keeping the "Big Wheels" in line on Capitol Hill!

Bob Schwegel, Montana's member on the VFW National Legislative Committee met with Senators Jon Tester, Steve Daines, and Representative Ryan Zinke during the Fall Legislative Conference in September to discuss the VFW National Representative priority goals and Montana specific issues concerning veterans and their dependents. The priority goals are listed elsewhere in this issue.



Bob,
Thank you for your
service!
Jon Tester

Go Montana!
Bob —
All the best!
Steve Daines

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



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