



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER
P.O. Box 6075
HELENA, MT 59604-6075

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 66
Great Falls, MT 59403

Volume 95, No. 1

August — October 2017

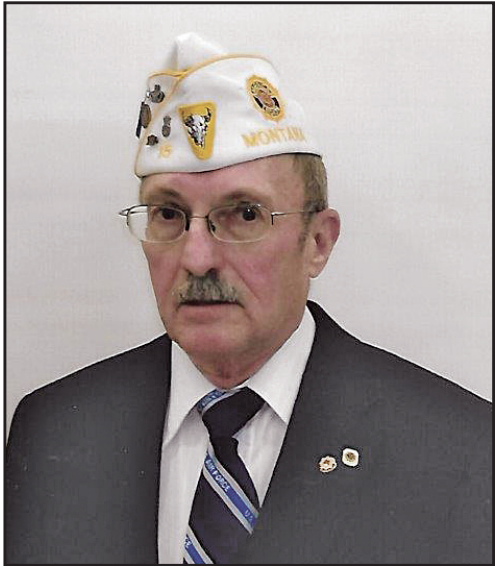
Dobb elected new Commander Department Convention in Billings

The new Department Commander Larry Dobb is a Montana native, born and raised in Butte. After graduating from Butte High School, he attended Montana Tech and the University of Montana. While at the University he completed the four-year Air Force ROTC program and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in June of 1970.

Commander Dobb entered active duty in September and after attending the Security Police Academy (now known as Security Forces) at Lackland AFB, Texas, he reported to his first actual assignment at Beale AFB, a Strategic Air Command base in California. Over the next twelve and half years he served in various Security Police Squadrons and organizations in the Pacific (Osan AB, ROK) and Europe (RAF Bentwaters-Woodbridge UK) and at bases in Alabama (Maxwell AFB), Nebraska (Offutt AFB) and Arizona (Luke AFB). During these years, he held most every position within a base level security police organization from the on duty Shift Commander to Squadron Commander and base Chief of Security Police. He served in a staff assignment as the Director of Security at a Communications Area, a Numbered Air Force level assignment. Three of his assignments included nuclear security missions. While serving as the Operations Officer at Luke AFB he also filled the role of Flight Commander for the units 44 member Air Base Ground Defense Flight. One of approximately 36 such flights scattered across the Air Force for deployment into bare base locations in a base defense or infantry role. He deployed with his flight to three major JCS exercises.

While stationed at RAF Bentwaters, UK he met his wife Janice, who was also an Air Force officer. She remained on active duty until 1991 when she retired at Malmstrom AFB, Montana, with twenty years of service.

Commander Dobb left active duty in 1983 as a Captain and was placed in Reserve status. In 1986 he obtained a position as an IMA (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), a Reservist assigned to the active duty force. In this role he served seven years at Headquarters Air Force Communications Command at Scott AFB, Illinois. After his selection for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel he left the Security Police career field for a new assignment at Malmstrom AFB in Great Falls. Here he again served in an IMA position as a Readiness Officer, with the Base Civil Engineering Squadron. During his time at Malmstrom he had the additional duty of Senior IMA for the Base overseeing the IMA program base wide. He retired from the Air Force Reserve in 1998 with 28 years of service.



Department Commander Dobb

Commander Dobb also had a civilian career with the US Forest Service, an agency he had worked for during the summers while in college. In 1985 he was hired as a Range Technician at the Musselshell Ranger District of the Lewis and Clark National Forest in Harlowton, Montana. Initially a seasonal position within a few years he became a permanent full time employee and remained in this position until his retirement in 2007.

His primary duties dealt with grazing permits on the Musselshell District. He also performed duties such as campground and trail maintenance and held many qualifications within the wildfire organization and served as Forest Protection Officer from 1989 until his retirement.

He is active in Wheatland Post 15 in Harlowton, MT. He has served as the Department Vice Commander and served two terms as Commander of District 9 attaining 100% District goal both years. He first joined the American Legion in 1985 in the Vietnam Era Post 67 in Great Falls. After Post 67 closed, he transferred to Post 105, but began attending Memorial Day and Veterans Day activities, Turkey Shoots and other events at Post 15 to which he transferred in approximately 2005. He has been active in Post 15 since and participates in the Honor Guard, school programs and other activities.

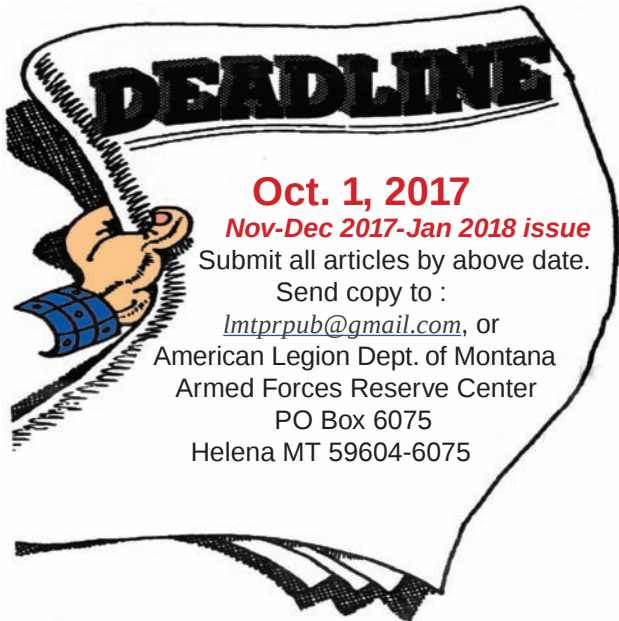
Commander Dobb enjoys hunting and fishing, black powder shooting and attending rendezvous. He is active in the Sun River Valley Historical Society and the Westside United Methodist Church. He has been married to Janice for over forty years. They have a daughter who is married and lives in the Bitterroot Valley and two grandchildren. He belongs to and is a member of the Sons and Daughters of Montana Pioneers and is currently on the Board of Directors. He is also a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1087 in Great Falls, the Reserve Officers Association, the Air Force Security Police (Forces) Association and ANAVICUS.

Important Upcoming Dates

- Aug 2-6 American Legion Class AA Baseball Regional - Missoula
- Aug 10-17..... American Legion Baseball World Series – broadcast on ESPN 3
- Aug 18-24 National Convention Reno, NV
- Sep 4..... Labor Day Holiday
- Sep 9 .. First District Meeting, District 11 Hardin
- Sep 11 Patriot Day
- Sep 13 Renewal Notice Cutoff Date
- Sep 13 50% Membership Target Date
- Sep 15 – 17 National Children & Youth Conference, Indianapolis
- Sep 22-24.... National Americanism Conference
- Oct 8-13 National Fall Meetings, Indianapolis
- Oct 15... Last Dist. Meeting, Dists. 3/8 Cut Bank
- Oct 27-29 Fall Conference, Helena

The American Legion of Montana 2017 Fall District Meetings

- SEP 9 DISTRICT 11 HARDIN
- SEP 10 DISTRICT 10..... MILES CITY
- SEP 16 DISTRICT 9..... JUDITH GAP
- SEP 17..... DISTRICT 7..... LIVINGSTON
- SEP 23 DISTRICT 6..... HELENA
- SEP 24 DISTRICT 5..... DRUMMOND
- SEP 30 DISTRICT 2..... CHINOOK
- OCT 1 DISTRICT 1..... OPHEIM
- OCT 8-13..... FALL NEC/COMMANDER
ADJ MTG, INDIANAPOLIS
- OCT 14 DISTRICT 4 LIBBY
- OCT 15 DISTRICTS 3/8..... CUT BANK
- OCT 27-29.... FALL CONFERENCE .. HELENA



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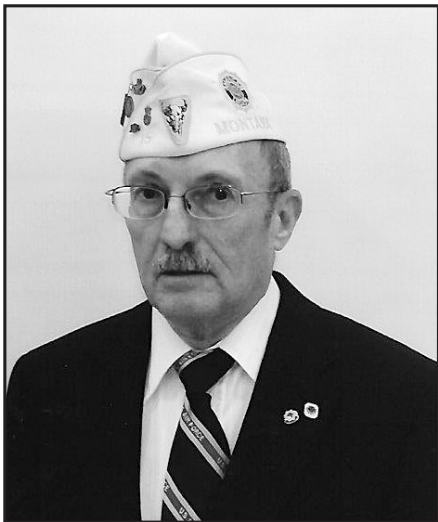
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COMMANDER DOBB

I want to start by thanking everyone who supported me in my run for Department Commander. It is a great honor and I will try hard to do a good job. I only wish my father was still alive to see me assume this position. He was very active in veteran's organizations in Butte, including The American Legion, and I think he would have really enjoyed seeing me become Department Commander.

We did not quite make goal last year, but we did break 98 percent and are currently second in the nation among the 55 Departments. The only Department to make goal so far is Mexico. We did have 70 of our Posts and four Districts make or exceed their goals. All the remaining Districts and most of the remaining Posts were above 90 percent. There were only 27 Posts that did not make it to the 90 percent mark or better. If a few more of them had, we might well have made the Department goal. But last year is past, let's hit the ground running and try as hard in the coming year. I know it can be done.

Last year, National Commander Charles Schmidt challenged every member to sign up one new member. Not three or five, just one and he offered a special certificate to anyone who did so. The results weren't that good. Our 2.1 million members did not sign up very many and a large percentage of the new members were the result of the individuals receiving Gold or Silver Brigade status. Believe me, these people are vital to this organization surviving and I can't say enough good things about them. We seem



Larry Dobb
Department Commander

to get more new members from the Direct Mailing System and online recruiting then from our actual individual Post members signing someone up. I know everyone is not a natural born salesman or recruiter. But please try. If even half our members who usually don't sign anyone up did so we could set new records for membership and our influence on the national scene would be much greater.

I really want everyone to emphasis visibility in your communities. Be seen, whether it's an Honor Guard at a funeral, a Color Guard at a parade, cer-

emonies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. We have some Posts that are very good at this. We do need to blow our own horn so to speak. Really push American Legion Boys State and the Oratorical Program. Do something for our youth. Only about half our Districts participate in the Oratorical competition. Taking on the repair and or maintenance of local Veterans Parks or Memorials is both a service to the community and an excellent opportunity for good publicity.

If someone has a question or concern give me a call 406.452.2716 / Cell 406.899.8885 or send me an email at rgelar@gmail.com. I don't pretend to have all the answers, but I will certainly try to find one for you.

Again, I want to thank all those who have supported me in reaching this position and a special thank you to Andrew Pearson Post 117 in Billings for an outstanding job in hosting the Department Convention. If you didn't attend, you missed a good one. 🍷

VICE COMMANDER KLOSE



Richard Klose
Department Vice Commander

One last "Hell Yeah" to Past Department Commander, Hal Rice for the great job as Department Commander 2016-2017.

Thanks to Department Convention Chairman, George Blackard, Billings Post 117 and Post 117

members for putting together a great Department Convention.

Congratulations to new Department Commander, Larry Dobb and to all Department American Legion Officers, installed into their new positions. A big "thank you" to all who supported me becoming Department Vice Commander. This is a great honor for me to serve you.

By the time you read this you should have received your 2018 Membership Renewal Notices. Hopefully you have already sent in your renewal by mail or on line. Thanks, if you have. If you have not, please do so soon to cut down on the time and costs of sending renewal notices by mail, phone calls and e-mails.

Have a great 2017-18 membership year. Let's all work to increase our membership totals over last year. We did a good job for 2017 let's do even better for 2018! 🍷

From the Desk of the Adjutant

GARY WHITE

Kudos to members of Andrew Pearson Post 117 Billings for the excellent job hosting the 2017 Convention in Billings. The 2018 Convention will be in Great Falls hosted by Post Nos. 3, 341 and 130, followed by the 2019 Centennial Convention in Polson. The 2020 Convention was awarded to Missoula, hosted by Post 101.



Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Department, whether they be at the Post, District, or Department level they will have a busy year before them and they will need every member's support as they go about doing the American Legion's business and representing our members. To outgoing officers, I would like to thank you for your service and dedication to The American Legion, I know it isn't always an easy thing to carry out the duty you swore to uphold, but I trust that you know you did the best you could and you had a positive effect on all you encountered during your tour of duty.

With the start of the new membership year it is time to get to work on new members and renewals, the longer we wait in the membership year the harder it will be to make membership targets and goals. Our first target is the 50 percent target for September 13. All Post Packets with the membership cards and rosters have been distributed either to the Post Adjutants or Commanders or to the new District Commander. If your Post has not yet received your Packet contact your new District commander and make arrangements for delivery.

Of course, with the new membership year comes new membership goals for Posts and Districts. The earlier you make your membership targets and goals, the easier it becomes to focus on programs and building strength in your Posts. Good programs and publicity about what your Post is doing in your community will build membership. Don't be afraid to brag about your accomplishments within your community, to your community.

The first District Meeting is District 11 in Hardin, September 9, I hope to see many of you at the District Meetings, if you have never attended one, let this year be a first for you. Remember any member may attend; the District Meetings are not just for officers.. 🍷

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, September 10, 2017
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Townsend, Montana.

The Broadwater American Legion Post 42 and Auxiliary are hosting a fundraiser to help purchase a new ambulance for Broadwater County.

- Silent Auction
- 50/50 drawing
- Raffle
- Refreshments

Guest Speakers from the Sheriff Department, Search & Rescue, and EMTs.

Please Check Facebook for Updates:
American Legion Post 42 Broadwater County Townsend
Broadwater Unit 42 American Legion Auxiliary

BIG K WINNERS

The \$400 Big K winner for May was Patty Capps Unit 130, Patty's name was drawn by Eddie White of Helena Post 2.

The Big K winners for June were Dave Lake of Helena Post 2 \$400, drawn by Sharon Doig of Townsend Post 42, and the grand prize of \$2000 for the year, presented at Department Convention went to Roger Hancock of Lolo Post 135, Roger's name was drawn by Ray Stolp of Helena Post 2.

The Districts received \$406, Posts \$2346, Units \$629, and the Squadrons \$127.50.

The Big K for 2018 is now open for new memberships and renewals until December 31, 2018. You may purchase as many memberships as you desire until 1000 are sold throughout the Department.

The first drawing for \$400 will be in January 2018.

PUBLISHED BY THE
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER,
P.O. BOX 6075, HELENA, MT 59604-6075
TELEPHONE 324-3989/3990 - TOLL FREE 866-793-1257

E-MAIL: LMTPRPUB@GMAIL.COM
SUBSCRIPTION: \$5.00 PER YEAR.

\$3.00 OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES GOES TO MONTANA LEGIONNAIRE SUBSCRIPTION.
NOW PUBLISHED 4 TIMES PER YEAR
IN THE MONTHS OF:
FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST AND NOVEMBER
COPY DEADLINE IS THE 1ST DAY OF THE MONTH PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

COMMANDER - LARRY DOBB
VICE COMMANDER - RICHARD KLOSE
ADJUTANT - GARY A. WHITE

Anaconda Post 21 Post Everlasting Ceremony

Veterans Swen Wind and John Stevenson on the left and Wells Cahoon, Post 21 Chaplain and Phil Watt, Commander conducting the ceremony. The wreaths located behind them were placed by children of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, DAV, VFW, Marine Corps League-Private Mike Detachment, AOH and LAOH, Eagles Aeries and Auxiliary and the Elks.



The American Legion of Montana Department Officers 2017-2018					
COMMANDER	Larry Dobb 1309 Park Garden Rd. rgelar@gmail.com	Great Falls 59404	452-2716 899-8885	(H) (C)	
VICE COMMANDER	Richard Klose 511 Cottonwood Ave kloserichard@yahoo.com	Laurel 59044	671-1814 628-7806	(C) (H)	
ZONE COMMANDER South Central	Joyce Babcock PO Box 21 donandel@midrivers.com	Custer 59024	856-4824 860-3618	(H) (C)	
ZONE COMMANDER Western	Elmer Palmer 346 Cumberland elmerwpalmer@gmail.com	Lolo 59847	273-0077 239-3604	(H) (C)	
ZONE COMMANDER North Central	Michael Mehegan 215 29TH ST S mimeheg4@aol.com	Great Falls 59405	453-1801 750-0822	(H) (C)	
ZONE COMMANDER Eastern	Michelle Harada 822 3rd Ave N chelly.harada@gmail.com	Wolf Point 59201	653-1415 650-4599	(H) (C)	
N.E.C	Merv Gunderson 407 Helen Dr. mervgunderson@gmail.com	Belgrade 59714	388-6524 209-0490 388-3480	(H) (C) (F)	
ALT. N.E.C.	David Driver 3247 5th Ave. S davidandshirley@hotmail.com	Great Falls 59405	761-0994 564-9705	(H) (C)	
PAST COMMANDER	Peter "Hal" Rice PO Box 354 hredesertstormvet@gmail.com	Geraldine 59446	737-4368 899-4368	(H)	
HISTORIAN	Ray Read 470 Ronda Rd. myfun51@msn.com	Helena 59602	458-9847 235-0290	(H) (C)	
ADJUTANT	Gary White PO Box 6075 Helena Armed Forces Reserve Center - Fort Harrison (physical) amlegmt29@mtlegion.org	Helena 59604	324-3989 558-2015	(O) (F)	
Adjutants Assistant	Erin Carpenter amlegmtsec@gmail.com		324-3990	(O)	
CHAPLAIN	Karen Semple PO Box 7083 karensem1@gmail.com	Helena 59604	443-3376 465-0163	(H) (C)	
SERVICE OFFICER	Kelly Ackerman PO Box 1007 Kelly.ackerman@va.gov	Fort Harrison 59636	495-2080 495-2003	(O) (F)	
PARLIAMENTARIAN	George Blackard 3381 Racquet Drive geoblackard@yahoo.com	Billings 59102	651-4469 855-6781	(H) (C)	
FINANCE OFFICER	Eddy White 5626 Empire Court forever1sg@hotmail.com	Helena 59602	458-6005	(H)	
JUDGE ADVOCATE	Jim Shockley 298 Pistol Lane gooseno4@yahoo.com	Victor 59875	642-3817	(H)	
SERGEANT AT ARMS	John Kougioulis PO Box 906 singinglineman@gmail.com	Townsend 59644	266-5309 459-0286	(H) (C)	
EDUCATION & TRAINING CHAIR	Jeff Holmes PO Box 723 broncojeff7@hotmail.com	Harlowton 59036	350-1347	(C)	

Post Everlasting

Apr - July 2017

☆ ADAMS, CHARLES, 3/20/17 – Vietnam– US Army - 20-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors

☆ ARMSTRONG, ARNOLD, 5/11/17 – WWII – US Army - 8-year member of Post 138, Ronan, Interred with Military Honors

☆ BLINCO, VERNON, 1/18/16- Vietnam- US Army- 4-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors

☆ BRADY, FLOYD, 6/6/17 – Korea – Unknown - 4-year member of Post 13, St Regis, Interred with Military Honors

☆ BROOKS, MICHAEL, 5/9/17 – Vietnam – US Navy - 36-year member of Post 97, Libby, Interred with Military Honors

☆ BROTZEL, LANCE, 5/9/17- Korea- US Marine- 3-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors

☆ BROWN, DENNIS G., 2/13/17- Vietnam- US Army- 5-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors

☆ CARSON, ROBERT, 3/30/17 – Vietnam – US Army - 3-year member of Post 5, Miles City, Interred with Military Honors

☆ COVER, ROBERT, 5/21/17 – Vietnam – US Army - 4-year member of Post 14, Bozeman, Interred with Military Honors

☆ CRENNEN, MARTIN, 3/18/17- Korea- US Navy- 8-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors

☆ DONAHUE, THOMAS, 1/19/16- Lebanon/Grenada- US Coast Guard- 4-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors

☆ GRAHAM, DEAN, 4/26/16- WWII- US Army- 8-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors

☆ GREIBEL, RODNEY, 4/20/17 – Korea – unknown - 40-year member of Post 35, Baker, Interred with Military Honors

☆ GROSSMAN, RAYMOND, 3/5/17- WWII- US Army- 49-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors

☆ GROVES, JAMES, 5/4/17- Vietnam- US Navy- 5-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors

☆ GUARDIPEE, RICHARD, 1/26/17- Vietnam- US Army- 1-year member of Post 41, Army, Interred with Military Honors

☆ HAGEMO, RALPH, 4/17/17- WWII- US Army- 7-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors

☆ HAMP, JOHN, 3/31/17- Vietnam- US Navy- 8-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors

☆ HEDGES, WAYNE, 3/19/17- Korea- US Navy- 25-year member of Post 100, Park City, Interred with Military Honors

☆ HINTZ, WAYNE, 7/7/17, Vietnam, US Army, 45-year member Post 2, Helena, interred with military honors

☆ KERN, ROBERT, 4/12/17- Unknown- Unknown- 20-year member of Post 87, Manhattan, Interred with Military Honors

☆ KNAPSTAD, GARRY, 4/9/17- Vietnam- US Army- 8-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors

☆ LAMBERT, JERRY, 2/2/17- Vietnam- Unknown- 3-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors

☆ LARSON, ROBERT, 2/23/17- WWII- US Navy- 4-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors

☆ LENZ, ROBERT, 3/8/17-Korea- US Army- 35-year member of Post 76, Hobson, Interred with Military Honors

☆ MARSHALL, CLARE, 5/12/17- WWII- Unknown- 50-year member of Post 93, Three Forks, Interred with Military Honors

☆ McGARRY, RICHARD C, 4/1/16- Korea- US Army- 4-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors

☆ MCGUIRE, MAX, 3/6/17 – Korea – Unknown - 24-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors

☆ MCKINNEY, DAN, 5/14/17 – Vietnam – US Army - 25-year member of Post 81, Culbertson, Interred with Military Honors

☆ MEIER, CARL, 3/24/17 – WWII – US Army - 12-year member of Post 20, Dillon, Interred with Military Honors

☆ MEYER, HUGH JAMES, 4/24/17- Korea-US Army - 61-year member of Post 229, Westby, Interred with Military Honors

☆ MEYER, ROY O., 3/29/17- WWII- US Navy- 34-year member of Post 91, Corvallis, Interred with Military Honors

☆ MOCKEL, JOHN “JACK”, 3/15/17- Korea- US Air- 13-year member of Post 42, Townsend, Interred with Military Honors

☆ MULFORD, JOHN, 4/19/17- WWII- US Navy- 13-year member of Post 137, Kalispell, Interred with Military Honors

☆ MUMME, KENNETH C., 4/26/17- WWII- US Marine- 31-year member of Post 89, Sheridan, Interred with Military Honors

☆ NYQUIST, RAYMOND, 2/27/17 – WWII – US Navy - 10-year member of Post 81, Culbertson, Interred with Military Honors

☆ ONSTAD, DUANE, 4/19/17- Korea- US Army- 14-year member of Post 137, Kalispell, Interred with Military Honors

☆ PINGER, CHARLES, 3/18/17- Vietnam- Unknown- 30-year member of Post 15, Harlowton, Interred with Military Honors

☆ POMPPER, LYNWOOD, 5/14/17 – Vietnam – US Marine - 7-year member of Post 23, Livingston, Interred with Military Honors

☆ PRYOR, GLENN G, 5/15/17- Korea- US Air- 1-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors

☆ REISHUS, DONALD, 3/18/17- WWII- US Army- 49-year member of Post 36, Valier, Interred with Military Honors

☆ SECHLER, THOMAS, 12/13/16- Korea- US Navy- 2-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors

☆ SIMPSON, GREG, 1/06/17- Vietnam- US Navy- 8-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors

☆ SMALL, DARRELL L., 1/20/16- Korea- US Air- 62-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors

☆ SOUTH, BILLY, 3/18/17- Era- Unknown- 26-year member of Post 15, Harlowton, Interred with Military Honors

☆ STANDEFER, ROBERT, 7/15/16- WWII- US Army- 55-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors

☆ TAYLOR, CHARLES, 4/9/17- WWII- US Navy- 5-year member of Post 2, Helena, Interred with Military Honors

☆ THORKELSON, DONALD, 3/6/17- Vietnam- US Air- 16-year member of Post 36, Valier, Interred with Military Honors

☆ VINION, STANLEY M., 1/23/17- WWII- US Navy- 26-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors

☆ VOLKMAN, MAURICE, 12/20/16- WWII- US Navy- 8-year member of Post 27, Missoula, Interred with Military Honors

☆ WALTER, GERALD D., 11/29/16- Korea- US Air- 8-year member of Post 119, Billings

☆ WEINREICH, BERYL D., 2/14/17- Korea- US Army- 24-year member of Post 119, Billings, Interred with Military Honors

☆ WOODWORTH, CHARLES, 2/10/17- WWII- US Navy- 27-year member of Post 69, Galata, Interred with Military Honor

Day is done
Gone the sun
From the lakes
From the hills
From the sky
All is well
Safely rest
God is nigh
Fading light
Dims the sight
And a star
Gems the sky
Gleaming bright.
From afar
Drawing nigh
Falls the night
Thanks and praise
For our days
Neath the sun
Neath the stars
Neath the sky
As we go
This we know
God is nigh.

DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA
MEMBERSHIP GOAL ROSTER
2018



	Year end Goal 2018	Year To Date Total	Year End 2017	percent of Goal
DISTRICT #1				
22	WOLF POINT.....	44.....0.....	32.....	0.00%
41	GLASGOW.....	82.....0.....	83.....	0.00%
45	HINSDALE.....	58.....0.....	56.....	0.00%
49	HOMESTEAD.....	10.....0.....	11.....	0.00%
55	POPLAR.....	35.....0.....	32.....	0.00%
56	SCOBAY.....	60.....0.....	50.....	0.00%
58	PLENTYWOOD.....	50.....0.....	43.....	0.00%
61	BROCKTON.....	49.....0.....	31.....	0.00%
81	CULBERTSON.....	95.....0.....	97.....	0.00%
85	BAINVILLE.....	30.....0.....	25.....	0.00%
104	NASHUA.....	14.....0.....	16.....	0.00%
122	OPHEIM.....	35.....0.....	34.....	0.00%
229	WESTBY.....	16.....0.....	16.....	0.00%
	TOTAL.....	578.....0.....	526.....	0.00%

DISTRICT #2				
11	HAVRE.....	129.....	98.....	0.00%
48	CHINOOK.....	47.....	46.....	0.00%
50	BIG SANDY.....	27.....	26.....	0.00%
57	MALTA.....	92.....	95.....	0.00%
67	ROCKY BOY.....	35.....	34.....	0.00%
79	SACO.....	12.....	16.....	0.00%
88	CHESTER.....	39.....	37.....	0.00%
109	TURNER.....	30.....	28.....	0.00%
110	FORT BELKNAP.....	13.....	13.....	0.00%
	TOTAL.....	424.....0.....	393.....	0.00%

DISTRICT #3				
36	VALIER.....	55.....	55.....	0.00%
37	CONRAD.....	59.....	61.....	0.00%
40	CUT BANK.....	63.....	72.....	0.00%
43	SHELBY.....	55.....	46.....	0.00%
69	GALATA.....	37.....	36.....	0.00%
73	SWEETGRASS.....	74.....	74.....	0.00%
127	BROWNING.....	31.....	32.....	0.00%
CN20	CALGARY.....	47.....3.....	50.....	6.38%
	TOTAL.....	421.....3.....	426.....	0.71%

DISTRICT #4				
52	THOMPSON FALLS.....	61.....	58.....	0.00%
72	COLUMBIA FALLS.....	87.....	101.....	0.00%
74	EUREKA.....	46.....	46.....	0.00%
86	BIG FORK.....	65.....	52.....	0.00%
97	LIBBY.....	172.....	172.....	0.00%
106	ST IGNATIUS.....	70.....	79.....	0.00%
108	WHITEFISH.....	66.....	65.....	0.00%
112	POLSON.....	130.....	116.....	0.00%
126	CHARLO.....	14.....	13.....	0.00%
129	PARADISE.....	70.....	60.....	0.00%
137	KALISPELL.....	214.....2.....	213.....	0.93%
138	RONAN.....	55.....2.....	58.....	3.64%
139	TROY.....	20.....	20.....	0.00%
	TOTAL.....	1070.....4.....	1053.....	0.37%

DISTRICT #5				
13	ST REGIS.....	59.....	57.....	0.00%
27	MISSOULA.....	358.....	347.....	0.00%
38	DARBY.....	13.....	14.....	0.00%
47	HAMILTON.....	107.....	117.....	0.00%
63	CONDON.....	45.....	52.....	0.00%
68	MISSOULA.....	36.....	33.....	0.00%
83	CLINTON.....	16.....	15.....	0.00%
91	CORVALLIS.....	119.....	134.....	0.00%
94	STEVENSVILLE.....	220.....	215.....	0.00%
101	MISSOULA.....	53.....	57.....	0.00%
113	ARLEE.....	33.....	32.....	0.00%
124	FRENCHTOWN.....	40.....	39.....	0.00%
125	DRUMMOND.....	57.....	56.....	0.00%
131	ALBERTON.....	49.....	40.....	0.00%
134	FLORENCE.....	48.....	49.....	0.00%
135	LOLO.....	142.....	135.....	0.00%
	TOTAL.....	1,395.....0.....	1,392.....	0.00%

DISTRICT #6				
1	BUTTE.....	193.....	195.....	0.00%
2	HELENA.....	743.....15.....	744.....	2.02%
9	LINCOLN.....	54.....	57.....	0.00%
10	DEER LODGE.....	72.....	58.....	0.00%
20	DILLON.....	185.....	171.....	0.00%
21	ANACONDA.....	245.....	233.....	0.00%
24	WHITEHALL.....	102.....	90.....	0.00%
31	TWIN BRIDGES.....	43.....	46.....	0.00%
33	PHILIPSBURG.....	10.....	10.....	0.00%
42	TOWNSEND.....	117.....	118.....	0.00%
46	BOULDER.....	23.....	32.....	0.00%
89	SHERIDAN.....	63.....	66.....	0.00%
115	BUTTE.....	104.....	87.....	0.00%
	TOTAL.....	1954.....15.....	1907.....	0.77%

AT LARGE				
105	HELENA.....	185.....	0.....134.....	0%

DISTRICT #7				
14	BOZEMAN.....	353.....	354.....	0.00%
19	BIG TIMBER.....	194.....	174.....	0.00%
23	LIVINGSTON.....	169.....	172.....	0.00%
25	WHITE SULPHUR.....	63.....	59.....	0.00%
30	BELGRADE.....	262.....4.....	246.....	1.53%
65	ENNIS.....	35.....	45.....	0.00%
78	W YELLOWSTONE.....	29.....	28.....	0.00%
87	MANHATTAN.....	176.....	176.....	0.00%
93	THREE FORKS.....	42.....	43.....	0.00%
99	BIG SKY.....	55.....	55.....	0.00%
118	GARDINER.....	36.....	36.....	0.00%
	TOTAL.....	1414.....4.....	1388.....	0.28%

DISTRICT #8				
3	GREAT FALLS.....	257.....1.....	256.....	0.39%
6	CHOTEAU.....	102.....	90.....	0.00%
26	FORT BENTON.....	50.....	42.....	0.00%
51	AUGUSTA.....	50.....	41.....	0.00%
64	DUTTON.....	62.....	55.....	0.00%
80	FAIRFIELD.....	33.....	30.....	0.00%
102	GERALDINE.....	114.....	114.....	0.00%
103	POWER.....	32.....	28.....	0.00%
130	VAUGHN.....	48.....	47.....	0.00%
133	CASCADE.....	29.....	32.....	0.00%
341	MALMSTROM.....	154.....	116.....	0.00%
	TOTAL.....	931.....1.....	851.....	0.11%

DISTRICT #9				
15	HARLOWTON.....	103.....	110.....	0.00%
16	LEWISTOWN.....	382.....12.....	465.....	3.14%
18	ROUNDUP.....	62.....	61.....	0.00%
53	STANFORD.....	26.....	20.....	0.00%
62	DENTON.....	23.....	22.....	0.00%
70	JUDITH GAP.....	67.....	66.....	0.00%
76	HOBSON.....	47.....	48.....	0.00%
96	ROY.....	20.....	20.....	0.00%
120	WINIFRED.....	31.....	30.....	0.00%
	TOTAL.....	7761.....12.....	842.....	1.58%

DISTRICT #10				
5	MILES CITY.....	82.....	74.....	0.00%
12	SIDNEY.....	44.....	35.....	0.00%
28	GLENDIVE.....	123.....	102.....	0.00%
29	CIRCLE.....	18.....	17.....	0.00%
32	TERRY.....	101.....	101.....	0.00%
35	BAKER.....	136.....	104.....	0.00%
39	FORSYTH.....	97.....	93.....	0.00%
44	COLSTRIP.....	30.....	30.....	0.00%
60	EKALAKA.....	15.....	12.....	0.00%
77	LAME DEER.....	11.....	12.....	0.00%
114	FAIRVIEW.....	37.....	37.....	0.00%
128	BROADUS.....	13.....	12.....	0.00%
	TOTAL.....	707.....0.....	629.....	0.00%

DISTRICT #11				
4	BILLINGS.....	503.....	481.....	0.00%
8	HARDIN.....	51.....	47.....	0.00%
17	RED LODGE.....	61.....	54.....	0.00%
34	COLUMBUS.....	62.....	58.....	0.00%
71	FROMBERG.....	23.....	18.....	0.00%
84	BELFRY.....	39.....	38.....	0.00%
92	HYSHAM.....	24.....	21.....	0.00%
100	PARK CITY.....	61.....	64.....	0.00%
111	CUSTER.....	59.....7.....	60.....	11.86%
117	BILLINGS.....	122.....	196.....	0.00%
119	BILLINGS HGTS.....	174.....2.....	174.....	1.15%
123	LAUREL.....	108.....	113.....	0.00%
	TOTAL.....	1287.....9.....	1324.....	0.70%

☆ Post or District has reached or surpassed its incentive Goal

2018 INCENTIVE GOAL.....	11,127
2018 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE.....	48
2017 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.....	10865
TOTAL PERCENTAGE.....	0.43%

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____ Evening () _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

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- ☐ No Cost Accident Protection
- ☐ Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+)
- ☐ Homeowners
- ☐ Accident Protection
- ☐ Identity Theft Protection
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- ☐ Medicare Supplement
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TEN LARGEST POSTS

Post.....2.....	HELENA.....	15 MEMBERS
Post.....16.....	LEWISTOWN.....	12 MEMBERS
Post.....111.....	CUSTER.....	7 MEMBERS
Post.....30.....	BELGRADE.....	4 MEMBERS
Post CN20.....	CALGARY.....	3 MEMBERS
Post...119.....	BILLINGS.....	2 MEMBERS
Post...137.....	KALISPELL.....	2 MEMBERS
Post...138.....	RONAN.....	2 MEMBERS
Post.....3.....	GREAT FALLS.....	1 MEMBERS
Post.....?.....	? ?.....	0 MEMBERS

DISTRICT STANDINGS

DISTRICT.....	PERCENTAGE.....	COMMANDER.....
9.....	1.58%.....	Demorise Allen
6.....	0.77%.....	Josh Clement
3.....	0.71%.....	Charlie Coutts
11.....	0.70%.....	Jim Bossen
4.....	0.37%.....	Glen Sharbono
7.....	0.28%.....	Randy Kemp
8.....	0.11%.....	Kim Kay McCarty Martin
5.....	0.00%.....	Greg Marose
10.....	0.00%.....	Clancee Collins
2.....	0.00%.....	Lowell Long
1.....	0.00%.....	Joe Yeoman

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
July 5, 2017

SQUADRON..... GOAL 2018..... TO DATE

WOLF POINT #22.....	10.....	0
GLASGOW #41.....	10.....	0
PLENTYWOOD #58.....	10.....	0
CULBERTSON #81.....	23.....	0
NASHUA #104.....	10.....	0
HAVRE #11.....	16.....	0
CHINOOK #48.....	19.....	0
MALTA #57.....	10.....	0
GALATA #69.....	42.....	0
LIBBY #97.....	10.....	0
POLSON #112.....	10.....	0
MISSOULA #27.....	17.....	0
HAMILTON #47.....	10.....	0
CONDON #63.....	10.....	0
CORVALLIS #91.....	10.....	0
STEVENSVILLE #94.....	21.....	0
LOLO #135.....	34.....	0
BUTTE #1.....	29.....	0
HELENA #2.....	76.....	0
ANACONDA #21.....	33.....	0
TOWNSEND #42.....	18.....	0
BUTTE #115.....	19.....	0
BOZEMAN #14.....	51.....	0
BIG TIMBER #19.....	22.....	0
BELGRADE #30.....	64.....	0
LIVINGSTON #23.....	10.....	0
MANHATTAN #87.....	27.....	0
BIG SKY #99.....	12.....	0
GREAT FALLS #3.....	16.....	0
CHOTEAU #6.....	16.....	0
GERALDINE #102.....	53.....	0
VAUGHN #130.....	17.....	0
HARLOWTON #15.....	22.....	0
LEWISTOWN #16.....	128.....	0
MILES CITY #5.....	11.....	0
BAKER #35.....	34.....	0
FORSYTH #39.....	45.....	0
BILLINGS #4.....	27.....	0
BELFRY #84.....	23.....	0
BILLINGS #117.....	10.....	0
CUSTER #111.....	11.....	0
LAUREL #123.....	10.....	0
HQS POST #9999.....	0.....	0
TOTALS.....	1046.....	0
☆ SQUADRON GOAL MET		



Service Officer, Department of Montana



SERVICE OFFICER KELLY ACKERMAN

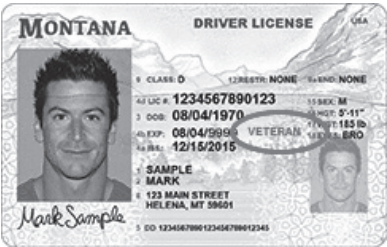
As a reminder, there is a program available to Montana veterans which went into effect January 2, 2014, and it’s the opportunity to have “VETERAN” placed on his/her state driver’s license or ID card (yes, ID cards are available!). As you know, many businesses throughout the state offer “veteran discounts;” unfortunately, unless the veteran is retired military or enrolled in the VA healthcare system, there is no readily available or accepted “proof” that the person has veteran status. Now, a veteran – who has been **authenticated as having veteran status**, as defined by federal statute/regulations – can have “VETERAN” prominently placed on his/her Montana driver’s license.

This program is a joint collaboration between the Montana Veterans Affairs Division (MVAD) and the Department of Justice’s Motor Vehicle Division (DoJMVD); with MVAD’s responsibility being to authenticate an applicant’s veteran status. This is critical because, as we all know, there is increasing fraud being perpetrated by people altering DD Form 214s and manufacturing

bogus military documents. Because there is a financial impact to businesses providing veteran discounts and – just as importantly – the inherent pride of a person having attained veteran status, all applicants requesting “VETERAN” on his/her driver’s license **MUST first** be authenticated by MVAD veterans service officers, who are located throughout the state.

Authentication consists of the veterans service officer reviewing the applicant’s military documents and subsequently inputting the veteran’s data (as needed by DoJMVD) into a protected website – which is accessed by DoJMVD staff when the veteran appears at the driver’s licensing office to complete the process. **Also provided by the veterans service officer to the applicant is a “proof of authentication” letter.** VERY IMPORTANT: Also required is a DoJMVD form (piece of cake) which requests the addition of “VETERAN” to the person’s driver’s license. This form is attained through DoJMVD’s website; and when completed, is provided to DoJMVD staff at a driver’s licensing office.

Once you are at the driver’s licensing office, DoJMVD staff will access the protected website to verify that your name is there (which means you are “authenticated”). However, in the event the website is “down,” the authentication letter provided by the veterans service officer can serve as proof of veteran status (but you need to have it with you!).



If a person is adding “VETERAN” during his/her normally scheduled driver’s license renewal, there should be no additional charge. However, if “VETERAN” is added prior to renewal, there will be a charge anticipated between \$11-\$13. This is paid at the DoJMVD driver’s licensing station and covers that agency’s administrative costs.

If you have any questions, contact any of MVAD’s veterans service offices; but also, be sure to access the DoJMVD website to attain the form requesting the “VETERAN” addition to a driver’s license. The website is <https://dojmt.gov/driving/driver-licensing/#veterandesignation>, and for forms, <https://dojmt.gov/driving/forms/#driverlicensing>.

In Montana, we have 23 accredited service officers in 10 offices across the state. We can also assist you with questions specific to your area.

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

Thank you for your service
to our great Country!

Three Forks student elected governor at Montana Boys State

HELENA – Kyle Stone, a student at Three Forks High School, was elected as governor today (June 8) at the 70th session of American Legion Montana Boys State held in Helena.



Kyle Stone (Gov.) left, and Macager McAllister (Lieutenant Gov.) right.

Stone and running mate Macager McAllister, a soon-to-be-senior from Shelby, were selected by a resounding majority of their peers at the session. They will preside over the Boys State legislature when it meets at the Capitol building in Helena on Thursday.

Stone, the son of Dale and Melissa Stone, and McAllister, the son of Shannon and Darcy McAllister, both said the best part of the weeklong experience has been “the people I got to meet” and “the relationships that we built here.” They said getting together with other future leaders in Montana with wide spectrum of viewpoints has been an eye-opening and beneficial experience. About 150 high school juniors from across the state attended the session this year.

The full slate of statewide elected officials at Montana Boys State this week are:

- **Governor:** Kyle Stone, Three Forks
- **Lt. Governor:** Macager McAllister, Shelby
- **Secretary of State:** Jackson Maloney, Butte
- **Attorney General:** Ian Caltabiano, Whitefish
- **Auditor:** Liam McCollum, Laurel
- **Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Jacob Stewart, Laurel
- **Clerk of the Supreme Court:** Erik Casagrande, Butte
- **Chief Justice of the Supreme Court:** Austin Amestoy, Laurel
- **Associate Justice 1:** James Unzaga, Billings West
- **Associate Justice 2:** Kenyon Fretwell, Kalispell (Flathead High)
- **Associate Justice 3:** Gregory Fulbright, Lewistown
- **Associate Justice 4:** Lane Buus, Ennis
- **Associate Justice 5:** Zachary Tonnerre, Missoula (Sentinel High)
- **Associate Justice 6:** Sam Severson, Manhattan



- **Public Service Commission:** Kale Larson, Conrad; Kayden Holds-the-Enemy, Hardin; Lance Nichols, Missoula (Sentinel); Eric Reed, Harlowton; Sam Baltz, Columbia Falls.

American Legion Montana Boys State is a weeklong experience that educates and motivates a group of Montana high school juniors so that each may become a citizen leader dedicated to service, respect and Americanism. Together, delegates from around Montana form a mythical “51st” state where they elect their own local, county and state representatives.

Activities at Montana Boys State include city and county meetings, court proceedings, legislative sessions, athletics, music, and career seminars, among many others. All expenses associated with attending American Legion Montana Boys State are donated by a sponsoring American Legion Post, a local business, or a community-based organization.

To learn more, contact Director Greg Pohle at directoralmtnbs@gmail.com.

Post 72 sends two to Boys State

Columbia Falls American Legion Freedom Post 72 Commander Michael Shepard presents two CF High School Juniors, Sam Baltz and Jacob Hohman with their paid up registrations and spending monies to attend The American Legion Boys State at Carroll College the first week of June. The Post raised monies to do this via their Spring Spaghetti feed, and is result of the response by the Columbia Falls area support.



Post 72 Commander Michael Shepard presents Sam Baltz and Jacob Hohman with monies to attend The American Legion Boys State.

American Legion meetings are held at Columbia Falls City Hall every 2nd Monday night at 7PM sharp. All Veterans are welcome. Any questions, call Commander Michael Shepard 406.250.9806

Chaplain's
Corner



KAREN SEMPLE, DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

“Teach Us to Number Our Days...” Psalm 90:2

“...the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” JOB 1:20

This year’s Department Convention in Billings gave many opportunities for meeting and working with Legion members from throughout the State of Montana, conducting needed Department business and for pause. Several members many were used to greeting and working with at Convention were not with us.

During the memorial service on Sunday, the last day of Convention, we read aloud the 560 names of Legionnaires in the Department of Montana who passed away just since the 2016 Convention. Only one year, yet 560 Legion members now reside in Post Everlasting. Very sobering.

“Teach us to number our days...” PSALM 90:12

The Psalmist teaches us to pay attention to each day we’re given – to use the time wisely. With all that’s going on around us, we can easily forget we’re souls inhabiting bodies on this Earth. By God’s design our lifespan is limited. And, for the vast majority of us, we don’t know when our time is going to be up. Accidents can change our lives in an instant. What starts out as a short trip or vacation can end tragically through an accident that’s no fault of our own. More than a few of the 560 members whose names we read came down with a terminal illness – that gave some, at most, a relatively brief window of time to prepare themselves and their families the best they could before they died. I have yet to hear someone tell me a terminal illness is on their ‘bucket list’ of something they wish to experience just so that they can prepare for death once they have an idea of when their time is going to be up.

In the meantime, as the clock of life ticks, how are you using the days of life you’ve been given? We’re given each new day to do something meaningful.

We begin each Legion meeting reciting the preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion. “For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes...” From the Officer’s Guide and Manual of Ceremonies: “The American Legion recognizes the influence of Almighty God in all worthwhile endeavors and declares the allegiance of Legionnaires to both God and nation.”

What are you doing to nourish and strengthen your eternal soul? How are you recognizing “the influence of Almighty God” in your life and in all your worthwhile endeavors?

After several more inspirational declarations, the preamble concludes with: “...To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.” Again, from the Officer’s Guide and Manual of Ceremonies: “This is the most important ideal expressed in our preamble. We can salute The American Legion today as an unparalleled force in these United States for social betterment. American Legion concepts and its ideal of devotion to mutual helpfulness warmed the entire social climate of America...”

Hands-on mutual helpfulness can take a variety of forms and shapes: American Legion Baseball, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or other community youth programs, helping veterans, whether at a VA facility or a veteran you know, public service, actively serving as an officer or on a committee in your post, volunteering in your community. Or, just reaching out to help a neighbor or stranger in need.

As we number our days, let us not forget we have a mission to be lights of helpfulness in our communities. Even the smallest act of kindness can make a dramatic life-changing difference from another person’s perspective.

May you be inspired to help someone today and every day, and may you be well.

Fire Fighter of the Year, Audrey Ulman



Audrey Ulman from the Manhattan Volunteer Fire Department was selected as the Montana Fire Fighter of the Year; Audrey was nominated by Manhattan Post 87 and selected by the National Security Committee as the winner. Audrey was presented with a plaque at the Department convention in Billings.



(Photo right) Department National Security Chairman Randall Brown and then Department Commander Hal Rice present the 2017 Firefighter of the Year Award to Audrey Ulman of the Manhattan Volunteer Fire Department.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year 2017 Timothy Hornung, US Marshall

Tim Hornung from the United States Marshalls Service was selected as the Montana Law Enforcement Officer of the Year; Tim was nominated by Andrew Pearson Post 117, Billings and selected by the National Security Committee as the winner. Hornung was presented with a plaque at the Department convention in Billings.



(Right photo) Department National Security Chairman Randall Brown and newly elected Department Commander Larry Dobb present the 2017 MT Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to Tim Hornung of the United States Marshals Service.



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THERE IS NO COST TO YOU

- Coverage has been arranged on your behalf by Your American Legion Department.

GUARANTEED ACCEPTANCE

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- Your coverage will become effective the date your Enrollment is received by the Administrator.

YOUR COVERAGE IS IMPORTANT

We want you to know too, LegionCare is now available to all members of the Legion Family including the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion members 18 years and older. The Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been working hard with Securian* to provide benefits to your family and we look forward to continuing to serve veterans’ insurance needs.

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Broad stripes and bright stars

BY MACKENZIE REISS, EDITOR | BIG TIMBER PIONEER | 06/01/2017
HTTP://BIGTIMBERPIONEER.NET

Hundreds of flags cover tables and chairs in Art Sell’s den, enlivening the room with their bevy of bright colors.

He gingerly picks one up and runs it over the long arm of a fabric steamer, letting the warm air soften its wrinkles.

He repeats the motion, over and over until he’s got a pile of 10 star spangled banners ready to be



Art Sell steams one of over 600 gravesite flags that were displayed on Memorial Day in his Big Timber home the afternoon of May 30. Sell also came up with the idea to place larger, casket flags along the road leading into Mountain View Cemetery on Memorial Day

bound and stored until next year’s Memorial Day.

After a few minutes work, he takes a seat.

I’m 87 years old, he says, and relaxes into a chair for a short respite.

One hundred eighty flags done, another 470 to go.

As a child, Sell can remember seeing these smaller red, white and blue banners on grave sites of those who’d served. Now he has a hand in preserving that tradition, too.

He’s also brought another one to life.

Sell is the mastermind behind the procession of large flags that line both sides of the road that leads into Mountain View Cemetery.

They’re casket flags, each of which once adorned the final resting place of a fallen soldier, and one way or another, found their way into [The] American Legion Post No. 19.

Sell said the flags were usually presented to a family member after a service member’s funeral, but many surviving relatives were uncertain what to do with the honorable banner.



“They would come up and say, ‘What do we do with this flag afterwards?’” Sell recalled. “So I thought well, let’s give it a try. ... maybe these big flags would work.”

He’d seen a less extensive display of large flags elsewhere, took the idea, and ran with it.

At this year’s Memorial Day service, 93 flags were setup to greet visitors to the cemetery and another 19 were posted around the Legion. Each one was embroidered with the service member’s name in the lower left corner.

It made for an imposing site — rows of flags flapping in the wind, guiding visitors to the flag-pole on the east side of the graveyard where the Memorial Day service is held each year.

“I love the way the cemetery looks with all the flags... it’s just overwhelming,” said attendee, Stoney Esp.

“Coming up this driveway and seeing these flags is just beyond words,” Audrene Kunda added.

But there’s more than meets the eye to this patriotic display.

The Legion [Post 19] has at least 100 more flags in storage than can be displayed in any given year.

“We have so many flags now, we rotate them and everybody’s flag only comes up every second to third year, usually,” Sell said.

The Saturday morning before Memorial Day, a crew of volunteers assembled at the Legion at 6 a.m. From there they loaded up flags, both large and small, and headed to the cemetery to place them.

Among them were Legion members, veterans and civilians — all just looking to do some good in honor of fallen service members..



Art Sell assists in flag raising at Big Timber Memorial Day ceremony.

Ready Preparedness Month

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

KAREN SEMPLE, DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATOR

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM). Established in the shadow of 9/11, it’s sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), within the Department of Homeland Security. NPM encourages all Americans to take actions to be prepared for disasters and emergencies in their businesses, homes, schools and communities. And, yes, even in your Post. You can learn more at Ready.gov.

One thing your Post can do in September is to host a “Preparedness Party” – invite Legion Family members and Veterans in your community to bring their family members. You can invite a qualified guest speaker to teach a short interactive class on some aspect of personal/family preparedness. (Local Disaster and Emergency Service Coordinators, fire departments or Red Cross love these opportunities to speak!)

Perhaps the American Legion Auxiliary can bring treats to serve those attending.

You can contact the Governor’s Office of Community Service (406-444-9077 or email: serve@mt.gov) to get free Preparedness Party items and information to give away to all attendees. You can also contact local businesses for door prizes related to personal preparedness: flashlights, emergency water, emergency food, emergency pet supplies, etc. Remember to get the word out well ahead of time.

Won’t you consider hosting a Post Preparedness Party this September? It’s not too late to make it happen!

If you do, please take some photos and document your event. Please send them to the Governor’s Office of Community Service and to me (karensem1@gmail.com). It’s entirely up to you as to exactly what you do to encourage preparedness in your Post and community. Please do something! When disasters or emergencies strike, there’s no time to gather necessary medications, paperwork or supplies if you need to evacuate.

What about your pets? Do you have at least three days (preferably more) emergency food and water set aside for them?

Now is the time to take that CPR or first aid class you’ve been meaning to take. Now is the time to gather and set aside supplies for yourself and family. Now is the time to develop a family communication plan in case phone service isn’t available – where will you meet? Now is the time to reach out and help a disabled neighbor to prepare.

Ninety-five percent of all immediate response in any disaster or emergency is conducted by bystanders or the victims, themselves.

Are you prepared?... *May you be well.*

Tester’s Bill to Address Massive Appeals Backlog Heads to Senate Floor Committee Passes Bipartisan Legislation to Speed Up Veterans’ Disability Appeals

(U.S. SENATE | 06/28/2017) — The Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee today passed Ranking Member Jon Tester’s legislation to streamline the lengthy process that veterans undergo when appealing their disability ratings from the VA.

A veteran’s disability rating determines what VA services and benefits he or she can receive.

Tester’s bipartisan Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act will let veterans choose the disability appeal option that works best without being forced to start the process over when introducing new evidence.

The backlog of pending appeals has grown to more than 470,000 nationwide. Tester’s bill will allow the VA to better address the massive backlog while helping to prevent future delays and backlogs by streamlining the appeal process.

“This bipartisan bill will cut government red tape and provide certainty for veterans in Montana and across America who are waiting for answers from the VA,” said Tester. “This bill gives the VA the flexibility and resources to process claims in a faster and more accurate way and allows veterans to customize their appeals process.”

The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act will give veterans three options: they can appeal their existing claim to a higher-level office, appeal at the same office with new information, or appeal directly to the Board of Veterans’ Appeals.

Tester’s bill also holds the VA accountable by requiring a comprehensive implementation plan for the new appeals process. In addition, Tester’s bill increases transparency by requiring

the VA to publish on its website performance outcomes relating to the new appeals process.

21,784 veterans in Montana receive disability compensation benefits from the VA, with an average degree of disability of 44.75 percent.

Tester has been a leading advocate in Congress to reform the appeals process and last year secured funding for the VA to hire an additional 300 claims processors to tackle the appeals backlog. In January, Tester successfully pressed the VA to exempt those claims processors from the federal hiring freeze.

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA

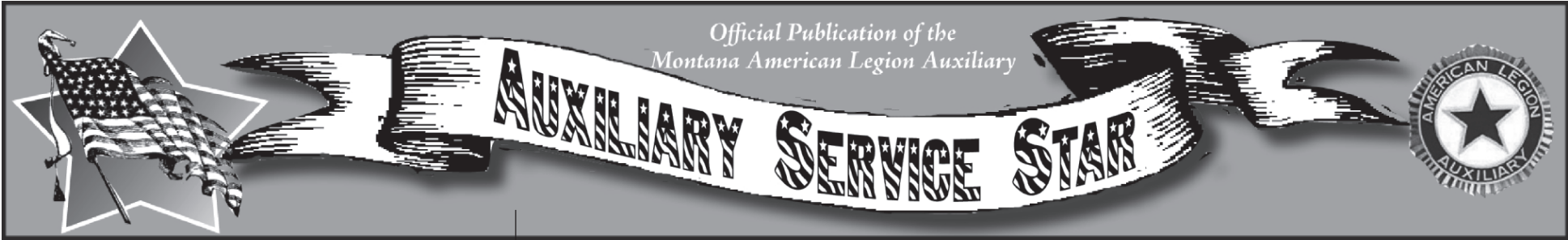
JON TESTER





Convention Memories Billings 2017





President

KATHRYN LONG

Dear Ladies of Montana American Legion Auxiliary,

This past June in Billings I was elected as your Department President. As your president I am happy to lead our organization into the future so we can help our veterans more. Since we are an organization of “For God and Country” let us put God into our thoughts and minds as we serve our veterans.



Kathryn Long

With putting God into our service let us see if we can be kinder, more patient and more forgiving. If you need a guide as to what I mean you can look at *I Corinthians 13*, specially verses 4 through 7.

In the next year, we need to recruit new members and renew old members. One topic that was discussed at Department Leadership National Conference was the fact that when we sign up a new members 45 percent of them will drop out after three years for different reasons. One is, we do not get them involved. Another is the negative feelings they get at meetings. We as an organization have to do something about this to stop our members from going out the back door. One email I received just lately made the suggestion of making a personal phone call to encourage members to renew. Maybe they just forgot.

Fall Conference will be here before we know it. The dates for Fall Conference are October 28 and 29. If you can only come one day of the conference please plan on coming the day of the 28th. At this time I am not planning on any chairmen giving a report as they should send out their Programs Action Plan at the District Meetings and you do not need a repeat of the information in the Plan. I will be talking with our Department Secretary/Treasurer to make the final plans on what we will be doing at Fall Conference based on the information that is coming down from National.

I am looking forward to serving you as your Department President this year. I am also looking forward to meeting many of you as I travel around to the District meetings this fall.☺

For God and Country

Raffle Winners

(ANNOUNCED AT DEPARTMENT CONVENTION, BILLINGS)

1st place \$1000

Edith Juvick

Billings Unit 117

2nd place \$500

Linda Lewis

Opheim Unit 122

3rd place Golf Bag

Scott Robinson

Malta, MT

Secretary

JAIMIE DeBATES

Hit the ground running at full speed with the beginning of the new membership year upon us. I pray you’re following – or better yet – leading the way for me too! Conventions are wrapped up and we should all be experiencing the childlike excitement of Christmas. Great new things appeared on our horizons from our Department Convention through to the National Convention in Reno. So let’s get busy. Support your new officers as they face new tasks and issues; support your new chairman as they engage the programs for the coming year. It was voted upon at Department Convention that if you require your Programs Action Plan prior to the District meeting in your area, or prior to Fall Conference, you may request it be mailed at your expense. Don’t get to antsy though because I can’t get it to you before the chairman get theirs to me. While you were enjoying Labor Day weekend your Department Chairman were trying to write a plan that will work for us all, here in Montana. Your patience is appreciated.



Jamie DeBates

1st District meetings are District 11 & 10, Sept. 9 & 10... please join us

And our first set of District meetings begin September 9-10 in District 11 (Hardin) and 10 (Miles City). Join us!! We travel a long way for these meetings.

Now – regarding the District meetings. I was told I release too much information from my office, therefore you don’t feel you need to attend. I assure you that couldn’t be further from the truth. The Department officers always speak in the mornings so the District can conduct their own business in the afternoon. Please join us? So much effort, time and expense goes into the planning and production of these. *They’re just good for the soul...*

Your big brown packet of information was delivered at convention, or by now mailed to you. If you haven’t remitted for the postage please do so immediately. *SHARE THE INFORMATION AT YOUR NEXT MEETING!* Nothing in there is secret. Every brochure and pamphlet available is in there. Your membership materials of course are also included but I’m hearing there is a bit of confusion about who gets that envelope. Your membership cards and roster are the most critical, but the forms have All Changed. So *THROW OUT THE OLD STOCK* – everything except new member applications is different. I don’t want to return time sensitive membership transmittals because you haven’t used the updated (\$\$\$) forms. Thanks for your immediate attention on this one, it’s very important. As always if you want something special delivered during your district meeting speak up so I can get orders placed should I not have it in stock. On a final note, thank you to the young women who stepped up to help lead this organization. It’s a new day for The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Montana and I hope you will all treat them with the respect and dignity we’ve afforded you when you did these offices.

“Let your kids be kids – right down to the skinned knees. That’s how they learn.”☺

Fall Conference Corporate Call

(SEPTEMBER 1, 2017) The Annual Fall Conference and Executive Board Meeting of The Montana American Legion Auxiliary will be held on October 27 – 29, 2017 At Jorgenson's Holiday Inn & Suites, Helena, MT 59601.

The Department of Montana, American Legion Auxiliary, is a corporation and therefore shall meet once a year as a Board of Directors. Members of the Executive Board are: President, President Elect, Second Vice President, Historian, Chaplain, NEC and the eleven District Presidents. The Department Secretary shall be the Secretary/Treasurer of the Corporation.

This Meeting Is Called to Conduct Business and To Hear Reports of The Department Officers and The Standing Committees.

The Following Are Called to Report:

Kathryn Long..... President
Terry Kemp.....1st Vice President
Daisy Henckel 2nd Vice President
Christine Nelson..... Historian
Ashley Holmes Chaplain
Jeanette Bossen N.E.C.
Jennifer Herman..... Alt N.E.C.

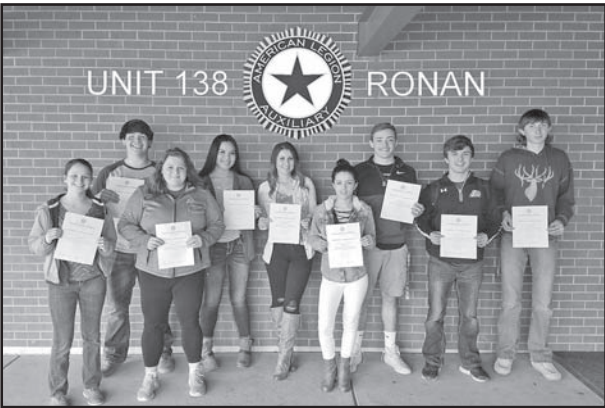
Standing Committee Members:

Stacy Bear.....Americanism
Jamie DeBates..... Auxiliary Emergency Fund
Karen Susag..... Cavalcade of Memories
Jeanette Bossen Children & Youth
Daisy Henckel Community Service
Leah Ellwein Constitution & Bylaws
Michelle Kandel..... Service Star Editor
Mechelle Holmes Education
Fran Allen Finance
(vacant) Girls State
Daisy Henckel Junior Activities
Fran Allen Leadership
Ashley Holmes Legislative
Terry Kemp..... Membership
Jeanette Bossen National Security
Shirley Miller..... Past Presidents' Parley
Dixie Parsons Poppy
Michelle Kandel.....Public Relations
Karen Susag..... VA & R Field Service
Juanita Hallas.....VA Field Service – Columbia Falls
Sandy Runkel..... VAVS – Fort Harrison
Esther Helmida..... VA Field Service – Miles City
Lani Caron..... Credentials Committee
Dixie Parsons Resolutions Committee
Jeanette Bossen Distinguished Guests
Shirley Miller..... Distinguished Guests
Jennifer Herman..... Distinguished Guests

District Presidents:

District #1 Dana McColly
District #2 Carolyn Schmoeckel
District #3 (Secretary) Barbara Monroe
District #4 Mary Beth Strokland
District #5 Cheryl Hanson
District #6 Reba Johnson
District #7 Terry Kemp
District #8 Monica Rice
District #9 Mechelle Holmes
District #10 Esther Helmila
District #11..... Cora Marks

Ronan Unit 138



(l-r) Savannah Duell, Coleman Taylor, Marissa Mock, Kianna Finely,Brooklyn Olson, Teagan Gray, Brendon Blood, Hunter Peterson and Braden Barber.

An Americanism contest on “How does learning about government and our America help you become a future guardian of the liberties of our country.” Students of Mrs. Hibbs-Cheff's English class of Juniors along with the guidance of Marilyn Dolezal of Unit 138 wrote essays. The essays were judged by the Auxiliary membership and Marissa Mock was declared the winner. All contestants received a certificate of appreciation and Marissa also received \$25.

Parting words from former Dept. President Jeanette L. Bossen

Just a note to let you all know that my year was exciting to say the least. I had fun traveling to new places and meeting new people. I will tell you I even know where the Canadian border is and was scared that I would be stuck there. Missed my turn, but loved the scenery on the way.

I know we have been busy all over the state with lots of help for our Veterans, their families and helping all the children. You all do great work and I hope you stay with it and keep helping in any way that you can.



Outgoing Department President Jeanette Bossen and her daughter, Incoming 2nd Vice President Daisy Henckel at Department of Montana Convention in Billings 2017. SUBMITTED BY BONNIE OWEN, UNIT 100 PARK CITY

Let’s remember what we are in this GREAT ORGANIZATION for and help each other by being kind and helpful in any way we can. It takes cooperation from each and every one of you to keep this Department going strong. Working together we can become more strong and successful in whatever we plan to do. Juniors need to see that we can work together and have fun while doing it. Show them the way so that they may continue with what we are doing for our Veteran’s and their families. They are our future and what they see is what they will grow to do.

Let’s all play in the sand box together and forgive the mistakes that come up and get on with what we are here to do!

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

God Bless Every One of You!

Quilt Raffle Winner

On Saturday, June 24, 2017, Commander Bill Cummins of American Legion Post 25, Unit 25 President Vera Sickich, Unit 25 Vice President Yvonne Kostelecky, and Unit 25 Secretary/Treasurer Joanne Cummins, attended the 99th American Legion State Convention in Billings, MT at the Red Lion Convention Center. The Quilt designed by Teresa Teague was raffled and the winning ticket drawn. The winners were Demorise and Fran Allen of Garneill/Judith Gap, Montana.



PHOTO BY JOANNE CUMMINS UNIT 25 WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

Meagher County Unit 25 wins Poppy Contest

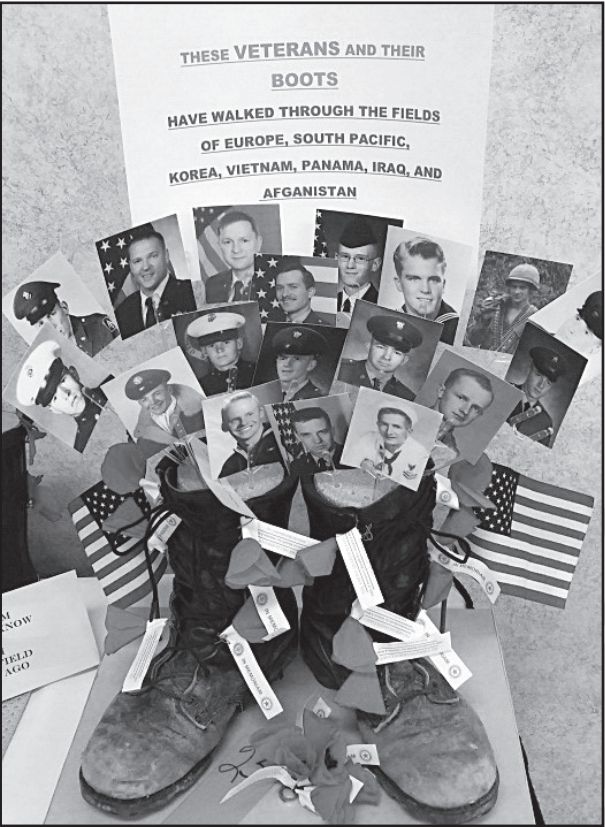


PHOTO BY JOANNE CUMMINS UNIT #25 WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

At the 99th Annual Montana American Legion State Convention, The American Legion Auxiliary held a Poppy Contest decorating a boot/boots. The rule was to utilize six poppies per boot. Meagher County Unit 25 won 1st Place with their entry of two 'well used' combat boots mounted on a board placed at attention with the poppies attached at the eyelets. Pictures of Post 25 veterans were inserted in the tops of the boots and a sign stating that “These Veterans and their Boots walked through the fields of Europe, South Pacific, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Iraq and Afghanistan.”

Why I'm not a member?

No one asked!

District 9 at Convention 2017

(l-r) Demorise Allen, Fran Allen, Ashley Holmes, Mechelle Holmes, Jeff Holmes, Janice Dobb, and new AL Commander Larry Dobb.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MECHELLE HOLMES DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT

Unit 14, Bozeman Memorial Day Parade



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY AIMEE HANSON

Butte-Silver Bow Post & Unit 1 receiving Poppy donations



PHOTO BY MARGIE SCHENK, UNIT 1 BUTTE-SILVER BOW.

Martha and Pat Sweeney of Butte-Silver Bow Post & Unit 1 receiving Poppy donations at their local Safeway store. This is an annual event held over Mother’s Day weekend for Unit 1 with Post 1 assisting. The money received is used to support our Veterans and their families in our area.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

CHAIRMAN KAREN SUSAG, 2017 -2018

Rosy the Riveter will be working this year as we start a new Auxiliary year. Reporting a year of volunteer hours is from May 1 to April 30. Begin tracking your hours from the time our year starts till the end when Unit reports are sent into Department. It is much easier to jot hours and money spent as soon as we do them rather than say “I’ll remember to do that later.”

Please contact me if you need a copy of the tracking forms. Also, when donating items to the VA be sure to furnish a form of what is donated and who to send the acknowledgements to. This goes for both hospitals and clinics.

Keep up the good work for our Veterans! I know we can do a better job of reporting our time and \$\$\$ in 2018!



2017 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION RAFFLES & DRAWINGS

4-Wheeler Drawing

First Place – Kawasaki 4-Wheeler with trailer – Pat Melton, Missoula sold by Bill Applegate, Missoula Post 27

Second Place – 10-man Tent and Sleeping Bags – Larry Hauge, Columbus, sold by Jim Bossen, Park City Post 100

Third Place - \$500 – Kathy Majdic, Rock Springs, WY, sold by Bill Applegate, Missoula Post 27

Membership Drawing

\$50 to George Blackard, Billings Post 117, name drawn by Ray Stolp SAL Squadron 2 Helena

\$50 to Jim Lish, Billings Post 117, name drawn by Bill White American Legion Post 2, Helena

\$50 to George Blackard, Billings Post 117, name drawn by Erin Carpenter, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2, Helena.

2017 Big K Grand Prize \$2000 to Roger Hancock of Lolo Post 135, drawn by Ray Stolp, Post 2 Helena.

Hands Across the Border

Submitted by Doug Haggan, FODPAL Secretary, Past National Vice Commander, Past Department of France Commander

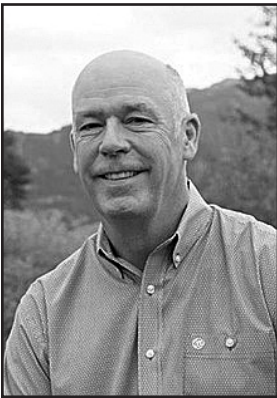


National Commander Schmidt shaking Hands Across the Border with Past Department of Montana Commander and Past FODPAL President Jim Grosset.

U.S. CONGRESSMAN

Greg Gianforte

REPRESENTING THE STATE OF MONTANA



Veterans Convention in Billings

On June 15, I had the distinct honor and privilege to address attendees of a veteran’s convention in Billings. It was my first official speech since being elected to Congress.

To the veterans assembled in Billings and to all veterans throughout Montana and the United States, I make a solemn pledge: I will work with Congress and the Trump administration to ensure we honor our commitments to our veterans, and I will continue being a strong voice to bring greater accountability to the VA.

The most humbling and rewarding experience of my time at the convention was when I presented pins to Vietnam veterans and personally welcomed each one of them back home.

Director of Veteran and Military Affairs Named

Mike Waters recently joined my staff to serve as Director of Veteran and Military Affairs. Mike will be my eyes and ears on the ground as we work to ensure our veterans are taken care of. Mike is uniquely qualified for the role.

Mike grew up in Richey and went on to earn his bachelors degree from Montana State. Mike later received a masters degree in National Security and Strategic Studies at the U.S. Naval War College.

Mike successfully flew 21 combat missions supporting Operation Enduring Freedom as part of the Global War on Terrorism. Mike went on to teach at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs and at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

Veterans Advisory Board to Be Named

In addition to having a director of veterans and military affairs on my staff, we will also name a veterans advisory board. The board will meet several times a year and will ensure that the voice of Montana veterans is heard. I will rely on the board to let me know what’s working with the VA, what isn’t, and what sort of reforms we should pursue to make it more effective and accountable to the people it serves.

I remain grateful to you for your selfless service to our nation and for the sacrifices you and your families have made. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Please reach out to me anytime if I may be of service to you.

4th of July, War, and the American Spirit

BY CHRISTOPHER KELLY

Looking back at the vital role of the American military to independence

As we pause to celebrate the anniversary of our nation’s independence, it seems appropriate to consider the vital role played by the American military in the creation and growth of our nation and its impact on our world.

We are not a militaristic nation, but we are a nation that is deeply proud of our military. We also are not a perfect people. We have made many mistakes. We have not always lived up to our noble ideals. It is important to remember what happened at Wounded Knee, My Lai, and Abu Ghraib. But we must also remember the amazing things the U.S military has done for our world.

It all began in Massachusetts with “the shot heard round the world” on Concord’s Old North Bridge. On April 19, 1775, British soldiers marched from Boston to Lexington and Concord to seize a cache of arms. They were confronted on the Lexington Green by citizen soldiers who were farmers, merchants, and tradesmen. Liberty was not a gift of the English crown; she had to be taken by force with an armed rebellion.

Later that year, American forces invaded British Canada. My own ancestor, James Van Rensselaer, was a citizen soldier in the siege of Quebec, and his commanding officer was Benedict Arnold.

The American Revolution is often portrayed in rosy hues due to its remoteness and patriotic outcome. It was, in fact, a horrendously bloody conflict. Recent scholarship has placed the total number of Americans killed in the American Revolution at around 25,000. The total U.S. population of the thirteen colonies in 1775 was 2.4 million. Thus, more than 1 percent of the population was killed over the course of the nearly eight-and-half-year war. Nearly 5 percent of the soldiers in the Continental Army were of African descent.

We fought Britain again in the War of 1812. The White House was burned, but Major General Andrew Jackson rallied a diverse band of soldiers that included African Americans, Native Americans, and even pirates to win the Battle of New Orleans - the final major battle of that war, which allowed the U.S. to keep the territory acquired through the Louisiana Purchase.

In 1846, President Polk launched a war against Mexico. This was and remains a controversial chapter in American history. Congressman Abraham Lincoln opposed the war. Henry David Thoreau refused to pay taxes to support the war, and was briefly jailed. Even Ulysses Grant, who fought in the war, condemned its prosecution in his memoirs. But without the Mexican-American War, the states of California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and New Mexico would never have been added to the Union. Without the Mexican-American War, the United States might never have become a coast-to-coast superpower.

Without that American superpower, the twin scourges of the twentieth century, fascism and communism, might never have been defeated.

Imagine for a moment a counterfactual history in which Polk did not fight the Mexican-American War. How would World War II, for example, have been different? The Japanese would never have sunk the Arizona at Pearl Harbor to start the war, because Arizona would have belonged to Mexico. It is unlikely that American power, lacking California, would have even stretched to the Hawaiian Islands. Without Polk’s war, an American naval base at Pearl Harbor would likely never have been built. The atomic bomb would never have been dropped on Hiroshima to finish the war, as it could not have been tested at the Trinity site in New Mexico.

Just over a hundred years ago, in 1917, President Wilson led us into the “war to end all wars” in which the American Expeditionary Force turned the tide of battle against the Central Powers. American citizen soldiers (including my great-uncle Jack Wells, who served in the 27th Infantry Division) were shipped “over there,” ultimately helping to alter the course of history. By 1918, the German Kaiser was forced to abdicate his throne

In 1941, following the Pearl Harbor attack, Americans would again be called on to make an indelible mark on the world through fighting on foreign shores, this time against Hitler and Imperial Japan. Just over 72 years ago, American soldiers liberated Nazi concentration camps like Buchenwald and Dachau, thereby helping to end the Holocaust. Without American invasions

More WAR next page

Post 137, Kalispell

While most white markers are singles, sadly, Post 137’s 2017 white marker cleanup included the pictured triple. Post 137 has 119 white markers in its area of responsibility with four more being added next week. Pictured are Ron Bauer and Lee Hesper.



Belgrade Post 30 helps a fellow Vet

BY KEN McMILLON, POST 30 BELGRADE

In early May, three members of Belgrade Post 30 went to Ron Snell's house (Post 30 member) to finish his porch that needed some serious work done on it. As the photo shows, it had no hand rails or rails on the steps. Members David Sparkman, Jim Bratsky and Hank Adams went over on two different days and completed the job and got the porch safe to use again. During the winter, it was unsafe to use. Thanks to these Legionaries, it is usable again.



Ron Snell on left, David Sparkman, Hank Adams, Jim Bratsky not pictured.

Hardin Post 8

Senator Steve Daines with members of Hardin Post 8 at Memorial Day Ceremony at the Little Bighorn Battlefield.



WAR continued from pg. 12

at places like the beaches of Omaha and Anzio, the world would undoubtedly be a darker place.

Since World War II, American forces have remained engaged with Europe, garrisoning the nations of former adversaries during the Cold War. NATO, the most successful alliance in history, was founded, and the Cold War was won without a shot being fired.

Today we face the threat of global terror networks that have perpetrated horrors in, among other places, Manchester and London in the United Kingdom, and Orlando, Florida, in the United States. We confront ISIS in the Middle East. North Korea's Kim Jung Un continues to develop weapons that could be capable of striking our homeland. And Putin's Russia rearms at home and attempts to disrupt electoral processes in the West.

Our adversaries and allies alike must know that Americans do not love war for war's sake. To do so is the definition of fascism. We are, and always have been reluctant warriors. But, we are a nation that is deeply attached to liberty and independence. When provoked, we know how to fight, and we will persevere until victory and an enduring peace is won.

Thanks to the courage and sacrifice of those American patriots who have served in our military in the past and those that serve today, we are able to celebrate the 4th of July and to continue to confront the challenges that face us around the world.

Christopher Kelly is the co-author of *America Invades: How We've Invaded or Been Militarily Involved with Almost Every Country on Earth* (www.americainvades.com) and *Italy Invades: How Italians Conquered the World* (www.italyinvades.com). He edited *An Adventure in 1914* (www.anadventurein1914.com). *America Invaded: A State by State Guide to Fighting on American Soil* will be published in 2017 (www.americainvaded.com).

Memorial Day Activities across Montana
Helena Post 2



Dick Juvik and Karen Semple, Post 2 members (left of wreath); and Marine Corps MSG Charmaine Lindgren, and Bill Woon on the right, at Memorial day activities at Memorial Park Helena.

Laurel Post 123

Jim Bossen District 11 Commander and Park City Post 100 member (l) enjoys his ride on the Laurel Post 123 Independence Day Parade float with Phil Decke and other members of Laurel Post 123.



Ravalli Post 47

On Saturday, May 27, Ravalli Post 47 with Auxiliary, Boy Scout Troop 1976, and Heritage Girls Unit 1811 placed poppies on 1,129 white wooden crosses. The crosses were placed at the graves of the veterans at the Hamilton Riverview Cemetery. We also assisted the local Veterans of Foreign War in placing an American Flag at each of the veteran grave sites.



Dorothy Rummel, Auxiliary Member far right, with Heritage Girls putting poppies on crosses. The Boy Scouts then helped count the crosses out.



Post 47 Chaplain Nancy Dezell placing crosses and flags out at Hamilton Riverside Cemetery.

Memorial Day started out at the Doughboy, in front of the Hamilton Historical Museum at 0800 hours. Commander Gregory Marose, Sr. opened the ceremony with a prayer by Nancy Dezell, Post Chaplain, and a few words remembering those veterans who gave their lives for us. Wreaths were placed by Post 47 Auxiliary and the Marine Corps League Auxiliary. The Marine

Anaconda Post 21

Members of Anaconda Post 21 and veterans of Anaconda placed over 700 American flags on Veterans graves at Lower Hill, Upper Hill, Mount Carmel, Mount Olivette and New Hill Cemeteries in Anaconda before Memorial Day.



Anaconda Post 21 Memorial Day Program was conducted at the Washoe Theatre in Anaconda with American Legion Post 21 posting the Colors. On the stage were the Commanders of the DAV, Marine Corps League-Private Mike Detachment and the VFW. Major Brian Hansen, (Retired) was Keynote speaker. Orders of the Day were given by Barry DeChaine, Post 21 and the Gettysburg Address was read by Major Hansen. Anaconda High School Seniors, Hailey Rasmussen and Michaela Cortwright sang the National Anthem and led the assembly in "God Bless America."



Anaconda Post 21 Commander, Phil Watt (left) as he introduces Major Hansen.



Post 47 Color Guard at Doughboy Memorial in front of the Ravalli Historical Museum. The Marine Corp League Rifle Detail is behind for the gun salute at the end of the ceremony.

Corps League fired a three round volley salute to our fallen brothers and sisters, followed by Taps by Ruth Cook, Post Service Officer.

The service was completed at the Doughboy and moved to the Main Street Bridge over the Bitterroot River. Paul Rosenberg, Post Treasurer and Navy Veteran, had the ship's bell tolled, wreath tossed into the river, rifle salute, and taps played for those lost at sea (Navy, Coast Guard and Maritime Sailors).

The Service was completed at the Civil War Memorial in Hamilton Riverview Cemetery. Dorothy Rummel, Post 47 Auxiliary, spoke. Marine Corps League gave the rifle salute and Ruth played Taps. This concluded our service in Hamilton.

Ravalli Post 47 Color Guard and a few members then went and marched in the Corvallis Memorial Day Parade put on by Corvallis Post 91.

Historian

Ray Read, Department Historian

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

Reference is made to:

1. Letter, dated July 31, 2015, from the American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee announcing the updated 5-year plan for the American Legion Centennial 1919-2019.
2. The American legion's Centennial Celebration Workbook
3. The American Legion's Legacy Vision brochure
4. The American Legion's Post 9/11 Veterans Booklet
5. Resolution No. 31, Spring 2011, National Executive Committee
6. The American Legion 2015 Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies
7. The World War One Centennial 100 Cities/100 Memorials Grant program
8. NEC Resolution No. 10 The American Legion Memorial Project

The Department of Montana, The American Legion, Executive Committee, has established a Department Centennial Committee in accordance with the request of the 100th Anniversary Observance Committee

And the Department Historian has been designated the Department Centennial Chairman.

In addition, the Department authorized a three-person 100th Centennial Committee. At this time, the members are Joyce Babcock (Custer Post 5), Michael Shepard (Post 72, Columbia Falls) Lowell Long, (Blaine Post 48, Chinook). The Committee's task is to engage the Montana American Legion Posts in meaningful participation concerning the American Legion Centennial.

I encourage all American Legion Posts to implement The American Legion's Legacy Vision for the American Legion Centennial 1919-2019. Resolution No. 31, states,

"The American Legion wishes to call to the attention of the American People the record of achievements that have been accomplished by The American Legion during the 100 years since its founding, to emphasize the impact the organization has had upon the American society, and the extent of its contributions in national security and the welfare of military veterans, their families and their communities..."

The American Legion wishes to set forth the objectives and the aims that will motivate its programs and activities during the years ahead and to illustrate the contribution made to the future of country as intended by these programs."

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

1. All documents referenced above are available on the National American Legion website. Go to www.legion.org/centennial and follow the prompts. If your Post/Auxiliary/Sons of the American Legion have access to the internet you can accomplish the American Legion Centennial Challenge. Remember, look to your strengths and leverage them. Also look to your local community for ideas and support.
2. I am asking all Montana Department American Legion Posts to establish their Local Legacy-Your Post's History. National Headquarters has developed a webpage that will allow each participating Post its own place online where photos, text and videos can be Posted and shared. So, whether your Post was established in 1919 to just few years ago you have the opportunity to tell your story in your community and throughout the American Legion.

I emphasize again that the all aspects of The American Legion Centennial Program are available on the National website www.legion.org/centennial.

In less than 400 days The American Legion will celebrate its 100th National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and in little more than 700 days The American Legion 100th Birthday will happen, March 15-17, 2019, and then The American Legion Centennial will culminate its year the 101st Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana August 2019. Montana's contributions to The American Legion Legacy deserves to placed on the national record.



It is a goal of the Montana Department to update its historical record by incorporating the current written record of the past 98 years in creating a Centennial History. With your cooperation and participation that can happen.

During the 2017 99th Montana Department Convention a Centennial Convention Committee was appointed to conduct a review of Department progress and make a report to the Convention Delegates. The following is a summary of that report:

Committee members were: Ray Read, Department Centennial Chair and members Jim Carlisle, Mark Gangstad, Merv Kosteleyky, Janice Dobb, Robert "Bob" Beals and Daniel Nardinger. Ray Read chaired the Convention Committee and Janice Dobb served as the secretary/recorder

The Committee reviewed the elements of the Centennial program and discussed the following areas:

1. Centennial Website located at www.legion.org is accessible by the American Legion family and may be also accessed through www.mtlegion.org. Twenty-One Posts have taken advantage of the Post History portal located www.legion.org/centennial. This leaves 110 to complete this connection. The department goal is to have 100 percent of The American Legion Posts of the Department of Montana utilizing this tool. Less than 24 months to accomplish. It may well require a dedicated team of legionnaires to get this accomplished
2. The Convention Committee discussed the importance of the Department of Montana and the recording of the same for current and future members of the American Legion family. The history is accumulative and incorporates the Post activities as well as the American Legion Auxiliary Units, the Sons of American Legion Squadrons and the Juniors of the American Legion Auxiliary. The goal is to record the story of Montana Department from its chartering in 1919 to the end of the Centennial period in 2019 and beyond. This story can utilize all forms of media, written, voice and via social media.
3. Review of the 100 Memorial/100 Cities Program and the availability of grants by the Pritzker Military Museum in coordination with The American Legion Centennial Committee. The grant application process ends on July 10, 2017. Each state could receive a grant to restore a World War One monument or memorial after review of the Grant application to National Committee. Montana Department is aware of one application for a state WW I monument.
4. The American legion's National Executive Committee Resolution #10, establishing a program to identify all military monuments, cemeteries or other sites located throughout the Stat in order to place them on a national database managed currently by the Centennial Committee. This identification process is done at Post level or below. The tenets of the program and forms are available on www.legion.org.
5. The challenges of providing information on the Centennial program on a timely basis. Utilizing the available communications links of the Department Executive Committee, District Commanders and Post commanders will remain key to the Department's success. This also requires a commitment of time and talent to this project. The goal is to move the Department into its second century with a viable program record to Posterity its achievements.

The following items were identified but require further discussion:

- a. Publishing a Department of Montana Centennial History incorporating previous histories and adding approximately 20 years of new material. The purpose of this book is to provide copies to all communities and interested persons and was done in the previous two histories.
- b. Creation of a Department of Montana Centennial Coin as a part of the National Centennial Coin program. In addition, creating Montana Department wearing apparel, patches and commemoratives.
- c. Creating American Legion traveling displays to tell the Story.

All the above will require a development of a budget and identification of sources of fundings.

Person or Posts may contact the following for more information:

Department of Montana
The American Legion
ATTN: Centennial Committee
P.O. Box 6075
Helena, Montana 59620

Or Raymond K. Read, Post 2, Lewis Clark Post, Department Historian myfun51@msn.com 406-458-9847/ 406-235-0290.

Laurel Post 123 Color Guard

Laurel Legion color guard at Memorial Day ceremony at Laurel city cemetery. Ray Southworth, Max Long, Ron Wrye, and Terry Fox



The Laurel American Legion Post 123 Color Guard for the Laurel dodgers baseball team.



Laurel Post 123 Color Guard getting ready to lead the Laurel July 4th Parade; Rod Ledridge, Norm Popiel, Cliff Slater and Ray Southworth.



Steve Daines

United States Senator for Montana



Earlier this summer, I had the distinct pleasure of joining The American Legion of Montana for the 99th Annual Convention. It was great to be with so many Montanans whose participation in The American Legion represents their commitment to our country and our communities.

As the son of a U.S. Marine, I was raised to respect Montana’s rich legacy of service and our nation’s service men and women. As you know, Montana is home to more veterans per capita than any other state.

While the threats facing our nation continue to grow, our American men and women in uniform remain as important as ever. And one day soon, these American heroes will join the ranks of our nation’s esteemed veterans. We must do all we can to support them in their transition to civilian life and ensure quality access to the services they deserve.

That’s why I was so pleased to support the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, which President Donald Trump signed into law on the same day as the 99th Annual Convention. This law will allow the Secretary of the VA to fire bad employees and ensure appropriate due process protections for whistleblowers. There’s no excuse for the horror stories I’ve heard about the treatment of our veterans – and this law will allow us to fire those bad employees who aren’t serving our veterans the way they deserve to be served.

Respecting our nation’s military is a Montana value – and respecting the flag under which they serve is an important part of that respect. Recently, I introduced an amendment to the United States Constitution to allow Congress to ban flag burning. The American flag has been a symbol of hope and freedom for centuries, and ought to be respected. It must be set apart as a protected symbol worthy of honor. I was honored to introduce this amendment in the United States Senate.

Thank you for all you do to support our veterans. As Congress continues to debate issues that are important to Montanans, you can be sure that I will keep the views of The American Legion in mind.

Fort Benton salutes ‘Spirit of the American Doughboy’

More than 60 people gathered on the 4th of July to rededicate the “Spirit of the American Doughboy” World War I memorial statue, just more than a century after the United States joined the fight.

The American Legion Post 26 raised money to repair the statue erected in 1923, the River Press reported.

The statue was designed to be active, representing the “vim and determination which our Doughboy carried ‘over the top’ with him” in the trenches of the war. More than 70 Chouteau County residents died in the war.

Seventh grader Logan Maxwell wore an authentic World War I uniform to the ceremony, while his sister wore her National Guard uniform.



This bronze sculpture depicts the WWI doughboy is advancing through the stumps and barbed wire of No Man’s Land, holding a hand grenade aloft. A plaque dedicates it to the “Valiant sons of Chouteau County” who died in WWI.

Fort Owen Post 94 Stevensville Community Outreach

American Legion Fort Owen Post 94 has been busy with community outreach projects this spring and summer. Post 94 members, along with members of Boy Scout Troop 1117, sponsored by Post 94, reconditioned and repainted the “welcoming” signs on Highway 93. The four mammoth wooden signs had suffered from exposure to the weather and had become unreadable.

On the 4th of July, the Post provided a Color Guard to “post the colors” and open the community PIGnic sponsored by the Stevensville Civic Club. Color Guard Commander Bill Jette also read an article about “Old Glory.”

The Post has also made a financial contribution to the local North Valley Library to help support their office operations (bottom photo).



Commander Chuck Burgmeier and Jerry Esmay presenting a check to Denise Ard, Stevensville Library Director.

BIG 1,000 CLUB

Would you like six opportunities to win \$400, one to win \$600 and one to win \$2,000? Join the Big K (1000) Club and be one of the 1000 members eligible to win. Membership is just \$25 a year and is open to all Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members over 18 years of age. This is a fund raiser for Posts, Units, Squadrons, Districts and Department; proceeds will be used to strengthen and increase programs such as Oratory, Government Survey Scholarship, Baseball and American Legion Boys State as well as membership programs. If you are interested in joining contact your Post Adjutant or Department Headquarters. Membership closes December 31, 2018 with the first of 6 monthly drawings for \$400 beginning January 2018, \$600 on the Legion Birthday and \$2,000 at Department Convention.

BIG 1,000 CLUB

Submit completed form with \$25 Membership Fee TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

Name: _____

Post/Unit/Squadron: _____

ID Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

How to Submit Articles or Photos?

Deadline: October 1, 2017

Preferences:

- Text** – No formatting such as, **multiple space and multiple tabs to line up text**
- Set one tab (publisher will format to line up paragraphs and columns) PLEASE do not use multiple spaces as *All formatting has to be removed before placing into paper.*
- Modern formatting is single-space between sentences (after the period)
- Provide Post City as well as Post/Unit number
- Post, Unit & Department are capitalized
- It is better if articles/stories are written in third person – unless you’re talking about quotes from actual people, of course. There really should never be any “we did this” or “I/we think that” written in the body of a good news story – imagine someone else is telling your story at all times, as though the journalist is telling the reader about someone or something else.
- Acronyms.** Always keep new members informed and familiar with programs. For example: *Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)*. The first time an acronym is used in an article use full title followed with acronym in parenthesis, then following first use, use the acronym.
- Please keep articles to approximately 600 words per article.
- If you are using information in your article from another source be sure to use quotation marks and give credit to the author and/or publication you are taking the information from otherwise this is plagiarizing which has serious legal repercussions.
- DO NOT submit articles in PDF format.
- If you want credit for an article or photo(s), please make sure you let us know.
- Photos** – send as e-mail attachments – **PLEASE!!**
- JPG format, as an attachment**
- Default setting on a digital camera is usually set very high. Set to 1200 x 1725 pixels which is ideal for printing 4x6 with desired output resolution of 300 dpi.
- Cell phone photos are many times too poor quality so take your time taking the photo.**
If the photo is blurry, too far away, tops of heads cut off, shows just the backs of heads we cannot make it look better for you. Send photos in medium resolution.
- Captions should be noted in the e-mail:**
Photo# caption which includes Post/ Unit #, Name, City along with the names of those in the photo and what Post/Unit they are members of.
- Don't spend time setting up photos and captions in a Word document – PLEASE**
Each time a photo is copied/pasted to edit it loses integrity. Send as an e-mail attachment.
- Do Not embed (insert) photos in an e-mail (use attach)**
See above (if embedded in an e-mail the photo has to be copied/pasted into Word, then copied/pasted into photo editor). Send as an e-mail attachment.
- News articles**
- Sending a hyperlink to an article via e-mail is best (rather than hard-copy to scan)
Helps ensure article can be found (sometimes older articles are archived and cannot be found) and also to give proper credit to the author and newspaper to avoid plagiarizing.
- Corrections** to previously-sent articles
- Send an e-mail with the corrections only
Most times the article has already been formatted and grammar-edited, and inserting the correction saves a lot of time in redoing. Edit and spellcheck your work before you send it the first time.
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American Legion of Montana



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DINNER: THIRD WEDNESDAY @ 6:30 P.M.
LEGION HALL IS ACROSS THE STREET FROM RAMADA COPPER KING

**Liberty County
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Post #88**

*Welcome to our Post Meeting
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618 East Adams
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*Sunday - Open at Noon
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For more information write to:
ATTN: Museum Director/Curator
P.O. Box 125
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myfun51@msn.com • 406-324-3550

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**Sons Of The
American Legion**

Detachment Of Montana



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