Beer company makes pitch to state Legion

The Executive Committee of the Minnesota American Legion in March got an update from a beer company trying to partner with posts in the state. Founding Fathers Brewing Co. executives told the Legion executives that they expect to start making beer by May 1. The company in recent weeks had agreed to a partnership with the national American Legion that would give 50 percent of the profits of Founding Fathers beer sold in Legion posts back to The American Legion.

Bob Stephenson, the head of sales for the brewery, and Phil Knutsen, the CEO, said the exact split between National, Department and the local posts has not yet been determined, but they predicted that if 250 posts in the state serve the beer, $60,000 annually would be donated to The American Legion. Knutsen said contact was being made with the bar managers at the posts, and he encouraged Legionnaires and post officers to request that their posts carry the beer. He compared the company to Newman’s Own, a company that makes high quality products and then turns over the profits to charities.

Stephenson noted that the top 10 selling beers in

Washington Conference

Rochester will host Legion convention

This year’s Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary Conventions will be held in Rochester, home of the world-famous Mayo Clinic.

The conventions will be held July 17-19. The Legion meeting will be at the Mayo Civic Center and the Auxiliary will convene at the Kahler Grand Hotel.

Three hotels have been designated for the convention, and delegates and others must make their own reservations. The Kahler Grand Hotel has rooms for $79, $89, $129 and $299. For reservations, call 1-800-533-1655. The Kahler Inn and Suites has rooms for $89 and reservations can be made at the same number.

The Marriott has a standard room at $129, and very few rooms are still left. The number is 1-877-623-7775.

A registration form is on page 3 of this issue and there is a $15 registration fee per person. That will go up to $18 at the door.

There is complimentary parking in the Kahler Grand and Center Street ramps.

On Wednesday, July 16, there will be registration at Post 92 in Rochester. The post will also host a burger night on

Marshall student is Eagle Scout of Year

Troy Timmerman, a senior at Marshall High School, has been selected as Eagle Scout of the Year by the Minnesota American Legion.

He was eligible for the award through the service of his grandfather, Edward Engelen. Timmerman is in the top 96 percent of his class. He received his Eagle at the end of 2012. His Eagle project was to build eight primitive campsites at Garvin Park. The project included surveying, building eight pic-

Exiting Gallucci: ‘I told them I was a frank person’

Former MDVA Deputy Commissioner Mike Gallucci likes to tell it like it is. He believes the Minnesota Veterans Homes, under his watch, have done well and will continue to improve. He also had some harsh words for the Minnesota Legislature.

Gallucci has left his position in March after a two-year stint for personal reasons, in part to take care of his aging father back in Florida. No replacement has been announced at this time. “We’re really in excellent condition. Before I got here, there was a huge focus on health care, and rightfully so. I think we’ve sustained and exceeded in that area.”

“My challenge was to put a structure into what we do on a daily basis. We are a much more coherent team, we talk to each other as a team, and the employees are empowered to do their job. We allow them to think outside the box and be creative.”

While each of the five state veterans homes has its own identity, he said, an effort has been made to have the 1,100 employees work together. He pointed to a centralized pharmacy that has both benefitted veterans and saved money as an example.

The state is also moving forward, he said, in allowing veterans to use Medicare and Medicaid if they wish to help with expenses. The new nursing facilities at the Minneapolis home will be certified for federal benefits, and a

Continued on Page 3

Continued on Page 1
Eagle Scout

Continued from Page 1

nic tables, installing eight fire rings, and eight site markers.

The project took 241 man hours. Over 35 people helped in the project. The project cost $3,686.

In the community, Timmerman belongs to the Sons of the American Legion, Pheasants Forever, and he was a delegate to Boys State this past year.

At school, he has been in marching band, Business Professionals of America, Pep and Jazz bands, Math team, theater and he is the class treasurer. He is the team captain for Knowledge Bowl and vice president of the National Honor Society.

He is the leader of the trumpet section in the band, he has played taps at the funerals of veterans.

He attends Holy Redeemer Parish and has been a lector, altar server, and trumpet player for special masses.

Timmerman’s goal is to get a degree in chemical engineering and develop fuels and polymers from biomass.

He is a cousin of Jason Timmerman, a Minnesota National Guard Member who was killed in Iraq in 2005.

“Jason is a hero and in my life my goal is to be like him. I want to serve others, be a leader, love our country and have faith in God like he did.”

Minneapolis VA doctor wins national recognition

Timothy J. Wilt, M.D., M.P.H., is the recipient of the 2014 VA Under Secretary’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Health Services Research, which looks at the quality of care and how it is delivered.

Dr. Wilt has conducted research, particularly in the area of screening. For example, his Prostate Cancer Intervention Therapy Observation Trial (PIVOT), published as the lead article in the July 25, 2012 issue of The New England Journal of Medicine, demonstrated the lack of benefit and increased harms associated with radical prostatectomy for many men with localized prostate cancer compared to observation.

Gallucci

Continued from Page 1

process is going on at Silver Bay to make that facility certified. The other homes in Fergus Falls, Luverne and Hastings will follow.

Not far away, the new Adult Day Center at the Minneapolis campus as a huge breakthrough in veterans care.

Gallucci admits things have sometimes been rocky under his watch. “I don’t think it ever is going to be smooth.”

The ongoing relationship with the Minnesota Legislature, he said, “has been one of the biggest challenges.”

“We need the acknowledgement and respect of the Legislature. We need to step out of the past.”

The past includes severe problems at the Minneapolis home that resulted in a series of investigations and led to a commission report in 2007 that called for replacement of much of the home’s aging infrastructure.

Gallucci said that the problems experienced in the last decade at the Minneapolis Home have, for the most part, been fixed. But there are those who don’t know or don’t care to know the improvements we’ve made. And that’s a lack of respect to the employees of the homes and to the entire agency.

He cited the opposition to the funding for Phase III, part of a large plan to replace 300 beds at the Minneapolis facility with state of the art infrastructure. The funding for the final phase of the project was in jeopardy up to the last few hours of the 2013 session, and legislators cited the high cost per room of the $115 million-plus project.

Gallucci was surprised at the opposition since two of the leading lawmakers had served on committees that approved the overall project several years ago.

Gallucci said the Legislature must not just focus on immediate challenges, but also on the long term. “The important questions revolve around a new generation of veterans who will be using state systems for the next 40 or 50 years. We can’t think of just what we’re doing now, but we need to properly position ourselves for the future.”

He said that one legislative plan would be to build “little homes” across the state that would serve 10-12 veterans. “It looks nice on paper, but whose going to oversee them? What will be the ultimate cost?”

Gallucci cited one other recent example where he said he was explaining to a legislative chair that patients at veterans homes only get $90 a month in spending money, an amount fixed in 1997. Gallucci asked that the amount be raised to $125 a month.

“The legislator asked me what they would be spending it on. She wondered if they were going to spend it on beer. We’re talking about 80 cents a day, and she’s wondering if these veterans are going to spend it on beer?”

During his tenure, Gallucci was accused by a former command sergeant major smiled at the last meeting he hired me, and then they presented me to the agency. I’m not a yes man. I’m the guy in the room who will tell you that the baby is ugly. I said that I would judge good work. The first thing I did when I got here was to reimplement the employee service awards. It’s important that we tell employees that they’re important.

What advice does he have for his replacement?

“There are challenges ahead, and one of them is dealing with the knee-jerk Legislature. It doesn’t matter what the issue is: veterans, schools, taxes, the Viking Stadium. Everything is knee-jerk. I don’t believe they think through the entire process.

I would tell my successor that your job is to take care of veterans, make sure you support the employees. Everything after that is negotiable.”

The former Army command sergeant major smiled at the last meeting he hired me, and then they presented me to the agency. I’m not a yes man. I’m the guy in the room who will tell you that the baby is ugly. I said that I would judge good work. The first thing I did when I got here was to reimplement the employee service awards. It’s important that we tell employees that they’re important.

What advice does he have for his replacement?

“There are challenges ahead, and one of them is dealing with the knee-jerk Legislature. It doesn’t matter what the issue is: veterans, schools, taxes, the Viking Stadium. Everything is knee-jerk. I don’t believe they think through the entire process.

I would tell my successor that your job is to take care of veterans, make sure you support the employees. Everything after that is negotiable.”

His last challenge will be telling his successor that “when they hired me, I told them I was a frank person. I was trying to be an honest broker.” He was accused by a former command sergeant major of being “intimidating and adversarial.”

“Do you think they hire people to take care of the veterans? I know or don’t care to know the improvements we’ve made. And that’s a lack of respect to the employees of the homes and to the entire agency.”

No timetable has been set for hiring Gallucci’s replacement.

Summing it up?

“Gallucci said the job of the Veterans Homes is to take care of our living heroes. But the employees are also heroes because they’re taking care of the veterans. Every day they need to do their job better than they did the day before.”

Summing it up?

“Gallucci said the job of the Veterans Homes is to take care of our living heroes. But the employees are also heroes because they’re taking care of the veterans. Every day they need to do their job better than they did the day before.”

Summing it up?

“Gallucci said the job of the Veterans Homes is to take care of our living heroes. But the employees are also heroes because they’re taking care of the veterans. Every day they need to do their job better than they did the day before.”

Summing it up?

“Gallucci said the job of the Veterans Homes is to take care of our living heroes. But the employees are also heroes because they’re taking care of the veterans. Every day they need to do their job better than they did the day before.”

Summing it up?

“Gallucci said the job of the Veterans Homes is to take care of our living heroes. But the employees are also heroes because they’re taking care of the veterans. Every day they need to do their job better than they did the day before.”

Summing it up?

“Gallucci said the job of the Veterans Homes is to take care of our living heroes. But the employees are also heroes because they’re taking care of the veterans. Every day they need to do their job better than they did the day before.”

Summing it up?

“Gallucci said the job of the Veterans Homes is to take care of our living heroes. But the employees are also heroes because they’re taking care of the veterans. Every day they need to do their job better than they did the day before.”

Summing it up?

“Gallucci said the job of the Veterans Homes is to take care of our living heroes. But the employees are also heroes because they’re taking care of the veterans. Every day they need to do their job better than they did the day before.”

Summing it up?

“Gallucci said the job of the Veterans Homes is to take care of our living heroes. But the employees are also heroes because they’re taking care of the veterans. Every day they need to do their job better than they did the day before.”

Summing it up?

“Gallucci said the job of the Veterans Homes is to take care of our living heroes. But the employees are also heroes because they’re taking care of the veterans. Every day they need to do their job better than they did the day before.”
Beer, Exec
Continued from Page 1

America are all owned by foreign companies. Founding Fathers will be targeting that market, and will produce amber, light and pale beers. The company is in Minnesota, but has access to breweries across the nation.

The company will start with kegs and bottles and will introduce 16 ounce cans in early summer.

In other business:
-- Brain Science Chairman Jim Kellogg, Taopi, said the Minnesota American Legion has been invited into the Trustee Society for the University of Minnesota. The Brain Science Foundation, which has about $2 million in its fund has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the University to maintain the Brain Sciences Chair at the University. The Brain Sciences Center is located at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. Kellogg said the Brain Sciences Center was working on cutting edge research into Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Gulf War Veterans Illness, health aging in women veterans, resilience and in women veterans.
-- A report was read on the progress at Legionville, where a new training center building is being completed. The electrical systems have been installed and the heating and air conditioning systems should be done shortly. Volunteers are needed for putting up the sheet rock and taping in the next few weeks. Contact Wayne Gilbertson or Ray Kruzel for more information.
-- Bill Barbeknecht, Underwood, gave a report on Legionnaire Insurance Trust and USA insurance programs. He said for the last year, $280,000 has been donated by the two companies to the Minnesota American Legion. -- A report on Veterans 4 Veterans was given by Marland Raff, Maple Grove, one of the Department’s representatives on the V4V board. He said that the V4V is seeking legislative approval for changing its bylaws to allow the committee to remove a member with a two-thirds vote. The state commander of the organization the board member came from would then appoint a new member. The V4V has eight members, two each from the Legion, VFW, DAV and Military Order of the Purple Heart.
-- The Strategic Planning Committee report was given by Dan Williams, St. Paul. He said there was an effort being made to work with the Minnesota State High School League to create a week early in the summer where sports camps would not be held so that programs like Boys State and Girls State could be held without losing participants. -- Department Service Officer Tom Newman, Hugo, said his office processes 150-200 veteran inquiries every month.
-- Membership Director Tom Femlund, St. Cloud, said the state has made it all its goals thus far, but is still running about 15% down from last year’s membership’s year’s membership. “We have a lot of hard work to do.”

Rochester Convention
Continued from Page 1

Wednesday at 5 followed by karaoke or a band at 7. The schedule will be the same on Friday, and on Saturday morning at 10 followed by karaoke or a band at 7. Thursday, there will be a light lunch at noon and a band or karaoke at 7. The schedule will be announced later.

An executive committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the convention.

SPEAKING OUT — Past National Commander Dan Ludwig of Red Wing took the floor at the Executive Committee meeting at Richfield Post. He praised the work of the Brain Science Foundation in being honored by the University of Minnesota.

-- Legislative Chair Bob Hart, Stillwater, said it looked like it would be a simple legislative session, “but now we have 30 different veterans issues coming from different directions. It is an election year, and there’s a certain amount of grandstanding going on.” Hart said the Department was opposed to a plan that would tier the admissions to state veteran homes to allow disabled veterans priority. “Make no mistake about it, it’s a grab for federal funds.” -- Public Relations Chair Teresa Ash, St. Paul, said the Department-wide effort to increase the Legion’s use of social media, such as Facebook, has been a great success. Each district this year was given an I-pad to help produce news for district and state Facebook pages.

-- The revocation of a charter for Darfur Post 549 was accepted by the Executive Committee. The Department was still waiting for a process to see if the post can be saved, and a final action will probably be taken at the next committee meeting.
-- Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl, St. Francis, reported that the Convention Corporation is still working on a plan to centralize the Fall Conference into one place, such as St. Cloud or Brainerd. He said the Department may be moving to a new era with districts and not posts hosting conventions and conferences.
-- Tesdahl also reported that an after-parade gathering may be held this year in cooperation with other states who are in the same hotel at the National Convention in Charlotte.
-- Past Department Commander Roger K. Olson, who sits on the National Resolutions Assignment Committee, said Minnesota needs to do a better job in creating and passing resolutions to send to the national convention for consideration. “Apparently everything is great for our veterans in Minnesota. If they’re not, we need to get involved.” Department Commander Mike Ash said, “If we don’t care, we’ll get exactly what we didn’t work for. If we don’t go up there and fight for our rights, we’ll lose everything.”
-- The next Executive Committee meeting will be at the state convention in Rochester.

Minnesota Legion helps find veteran in Arizona

Department Commander Mike Ash led the multi-department effort to find a missing uncle.

It all began when one of Ash’s co-workers at the Minneapolis Schools said that her family had lost track of their Uncle Bud Pederson in Arizona. He was a World War II Navy veteran, and the co-worker wondered if the American Legion could help.

Ash contacted the commander for the Department of Arizona, Judith Besichel, and asked if the Arizona Legion could help. The family knew the uncle was in Tuscon.

A member of a Tuscon post went to a nursing home that he himself and located Uncle Bud.

It turns out that he was in good health and good spirits but lacking certain clothing items.

On a subsequent visit a nurse was brought along. Uncle Bud wasn’t wearing his usual glasses, and the Lions Club was contacted. They agreed to get him new glasses and a hearing aid.

A local eye doctor volunteered to go to the nursing home and do a check up on Uncle Bud.

“I wrote an email to the Department Commander in Arizona and a miracle happened. The only thing missing was Jimmy Stewart,” Ash said.

“I have never been prouder to be a member of the American Legion than I am today,” Ash wrote to the Arizona people who visited and helped Uncle Bud.

“Weith one simple email from Minnesota asking for a visit to a veteran feared forgotten, and the flood gates of kindness opened in Arizona.”

OFFICIAL CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION

A registration fee of $15 for each person attending, whether a delegate, alternare or a guest, must accompany this form. Make this check payable to POST 92 CONVENTION FUND. No credit cards will be accepted.

Registration at the door will be $18.

Mail to:
Bill Born, American Legion Post 92 Office, 403 East Center St. Rochester, MN 55904

Legion Post # ____________________________________________________________
District ____________________________ SAL Sqdn. ____________________________
Name_ ___________________________________________ Auxiliary Unit ____________
Address _________________________________________________________________
City, State____________________ Zip__________________________
Delegate __________________ Alternate __________ Guest ___________
Delegate at Large (Auxiliary) (Please check one of the above.)

If additional pre-registrations accompany this request, this pre-registration form should be photo copied for each person. The $15 registration fee should be enclosed for each person.
March was a busy month. Along with the celebrations for the 95th birthday of the American Legion, the political season also kicked into full gear. I want to thank all the posts that invited me to their American Legion birthday dinners – they were all good times and Legionville came out ahead at a number of them.

I got to test drive the “Be the Hill” in front of the Veterans Affairs Committee to oppose a change on the entrance requirements into Minnesota’s veteran’s homes. Currently, a select committee was formed last year, looked at how other states were using other standards for admitting veterans and recommended a priority system, much like the VA Hospital. The highest group would be those veterans who received a federal per diem, which the state would be able to collect that per diem, thus reducing their budget and helping to balance the state budget on the backs of the veterans. Furthermore, it would place the spouses on the very bottom of the list, effectively removing another spouse from ever entering a veteran’s home. The current system is fair and supports the contention that a veteran is a veteran. Furthermore, it pays the proper respect to spouses, who were often left alone during our deployments or uprooted and placed in foreign locations to provide support for the family.

The two overwhelming issues of opposition have been: the American Legion certainly honors the service and sacrifices that veterans have given. No one would ever question or raise concern if the flag was presented to the families of those who die in combat operations, it is right that one company should control the rights to that flag. This is unlike the POW/MIA flag that is recognized under public law and like the U.S. Flag – neither of which are controlled by one corporate entity. No one ever said there is a problem with the flag being used to honor and Remember the fallen. What made it worse was one of the units was towing a trailer, the Braddock Bridge, which made it a little harder to get through. Patton ordered the racks be taken off before moving on. What made it worse was one of the units was towing a trailer, the Braddock Bridge, which made it a little harder to get through. Patton ordered the racks be taken off before moving on. What was heard, and did not prevail. It is my understanding that a similar resolution met the same result with the families of those who fought and sacrifice.

The two overarching issues of opposition have been:

First, every service member, at time of enlistment takes an oath to serve and defend our nation, with our right hand raised before the Stars and Stripes. We all served under that flag, some fought under that flag and, unfortunately, some died under that flag. All veterans are buried under that one flag, Old Glory. Supporters of the Honor and Remember Flag attest that they do not intend to dim that in any way. However, we must legislate a second flag in fact does just that. The second issue is about business. One company owns the copyright to the Honor and Remember flag. The question is as to profit and or gain. If legislation encourages state and federal offices to fly the flag, and encourages that the flag be presented to the families of those who die in combat operations, it is right that one company should control the rights to that flag.

By Mike Ash

Editorial

I am writing regarding the Honor and Remember Flag and House File 68/Senate File 208 in the Minnesota Legislature. This is a very sensitive issue and very emotionally driven. No one is lessening that in any way. We are only asking that logic be used in how this legislation is treated.

The American Legion certainly honors the service and sacrifices that veterans have given. No one would ever question or raise concern if the flag was presented to the families of those who die in combat operations, it is right that one company should control the rights to that flag. This is unlike the POW/MIA flag that is recognized under public law and like the U.S. Flag – neither of which are controlled by one corporate entity. No one ever said there is a problem with the flag being used to honor and Remember the fallen. What made it worse was one of the units was towing a trailer, the Braddock Bridge, which made it a little harder to get through. Patton ordered the racks be taken off before moving on. What made it worse was one of the units was towing a trailer, the Braddock Bridge, which made it a little harder to get through. Patton ordered the racks be taken off before moving on. What was heard, and did not prevail. It is my understanding that a similar resolution met the same result with the families of those who fought and sacrifice.

The two overarching issues of opposition have been:

First, every service member, at time of enlistment takes an oath to serve and defend our nation, with our right hand raised before the Stars and Stripes. We all served under that flag, some fought under that flag and, unfortunately, some died under that flag. All veterans are buried under that one flag, Old Glory. Supporters of the Honor and Remember Flag attest that they do not intend to dim that in any way. However, we must legislate a second flag in fact does just that.

The second issue is about business. One company owns the copyright to the Honor and Remember flag. There is a recommendation that supports one company, no matter how good the product may be, supports the contention that a veteran is a veteran. Furthermore, it pays the proper respect to spouses, who were often left alone during our deployments or uprooted and placed in foreign locations to provide support for the family.

The American Legion certainly honors the service and sacrifices that veterans have given. No one would ever question or raise concern if the flag was presented to the families of those who die in combat operations, it is right that one company should control the rights to that flag. This is unlike the POW/MIA flag that is recognized under public law and like the U.S. Flag – neither of which are controlled by one corporate entity. No one ever said there is a problem with the flag being used to honor and Remember the fallen. What made it worse was one of the units was towing a trailer, the Braddock Bridge, which made it a little harder to get through. Patton ordered the racks be taken off before moving on. What made it worse was one of the units was towing a trailer, the Braddock Bridge, which made it a little harder to get through. Patton ordered the racks be taken off before moving on. What was heard, and did not prevail. It is my understanding that a similar resolution met the same result with the families of those, that have given the last full measure in service.

Furthermore, it would place the spouses on the very bottom of the list, effectively removing another spouse from ever entering a veteran’s home. The current system is fair and supports the contention that a veteran is a veteran. Furthermore, it pays the proper respect to spouses, who were often left alone during our deployments or uprooted and placed in foreign locations to provide support for the family.

The two overarching issues of opposition have been:

First, every service member, at time of enlistment takes an oath to serve and defend our nation, with our right hand raised before the Stars and Stripes. We all served under that flag, some fought under that flag and, unfortunately, some died under that flag. All veterans are buried under that one flag, Old Glory. Supporters of the Honor and Remember Flag attest that they do not intend to dim that in any way. However, we must legislate a second flag in fact does just that.

The second issue is about business. One company owns the copyright to the Honor and Remember flag. There is a recommendation that supports one company, no matter how good the product may be, supports the contention that a veteran is a veteran. Furthermore, it pays the proper respect to spouses, who were often left alone during our deployments or uprooted and placed in foreign locations to provide support for the family.

The American Legion certainly honors the service and sacrifices that veterans have given. No one would ever question or raise concern if the flag was presented to the families of those who die in combat operations, it is right that one company should control the rights to that flag. This is unlike the POW/MIA flag that is recognized under public law and like the U.S. Flag – neither of which are controlled by one corporate entity. No one ever said there is a problem with the flag being used to honor and Remember the fallen. What made it worse was one of the units was towing a trailer, the Braddock Bridge, which made it a little harder to get through. Patton ordered the racks be taken off before moving on. What made it worse was one of the units was towing a trailer, the Braddock Bridge, which made it a little harder to get through. Patton ordered the racks be taken off before moving on. What was heard, and did not prevail. It is my understanding that a similar resolution met the same result with the families of those, that have given the last full measure in service.

The two overarching issues of opposition have been:

First, every service member, at time of enlistment takes an oath to serve and defend our nation, with our right hand raised before the Stars and Stripes. We all served under that flag, some fought under that flag and, unfortunately, some died under that flag. All veterans are buried under that one flag, Old Glory. Supporters of the Honor and Remember Flag attest that they do not intend to dim that in any way. However, we must legislate a second flag in fact does just that.
What’s Happening

Legion Day at Twins
TBS 14th annual American Legion Family Day at the Twins will be held at Target Field on June 7. The game is against the Houston Astros at 1:10 p.m. To purchase tickets, call the Twins at 1-800-3-TWINS, hit “0” to speak to an attendant, and tell them you want the American Legion Day discount. Tickets are $20 in the Skyline View section.

Citizen’s Day
during the Wings game, call Pastor Mike Ash or a member of the VVA Chapters 463 and 1039. The event will feature a social, banquet, dance, auction, and memorial service. For more information contact Virgil at virgil@raushmore.com. Registration is $50.

Second District Convention
The Second District Convention has been changed to June 6-7. It will be held in New Ulm.

Veteran’s photo sought
The last person to leave the Arizona on Dec. 7, 1941, was Elvis Dvorchak of Minnesota. He later died of burns on a hospital ship. Researchers are seeking a photo of Dvorchak. He lived in Park Township in Pine County near Brainerd in 1930. If you have information, call AL Wolter, 320-384-6989.

MACV Standdown
There will be a Standdown at the Fergus Falls Armory on April 24, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with all veterans welcome. The event will include a legal clinic, StandDown Court, meals, clothing, benefit information, claims and services, employment assistance, etc. For more information, call MACV at 218-722-8876.

Military Ball
The 65th annual Military Ball will be held April 12 at the Fertile Building in Spring Grove. It will include dinner, a ceremony, entertainment, displays, photo portraits and more. Cost is $27 per person. For more information, call 507-206-6701 or email: houstonmilitaryball@yahoo.com.

Veterans of Foreign Wars
The 10th annual Military Ball will be held April 12 at the Fertile Building in Spring Grove. It will include dinner, a ceremony, entertainment, displays, photo portraits and more. Cost is $27 per person. For more information, call 507-206-6701 or email: houstonmilitaryball@yahoo.com.

Commander’s Testimonial
The testimonial for Department Commander Mike Ash will be held Saturday, May 22, at the Rosetown Memorial Post. The featured speaker for the evening will be Past National Commander John Melcher. Tickets are $25 per person. For more information, call 507-206-6701 or email: houstonmilitaryball@yahoo.com.

Purple Up
April 15 has been designated as a day for people to show support for military-connected youth by wearing purple. An event will be held that day at the Capitol Rotunda in St. Paul at 9 a.m. Those children attending can sign up to receive a letter from the governor recognizing the sacrifices youth make as being part of a military family.

Sioux Falls Council
The Sioux Falls Health Care System, which serves part of Minnesota, is seeking outpatient veterans who wish to be members of the Veterans Advisory Council. For more information, contact Rachel Scott at 605-336-3230, ext. 6747.

Albert Lea Grand Opening
The new Albert Lea VA Clinic will hold a grand opening event on Friday, April 25, from 1-4 p.m. There will be a program at 1 followed by tours and an open house. It will be held at the Skyline Mall, 1665 West First St. in Albert Lea. It will be the newest BCBO in the state.

Legion Series on TV
TBS 2014 championship game of The American Legion World Series in Shelby, N.C. will be broadcast on ESPN3. Earlier games will be featured on the internet service ESP3N. The tournament format will change to pool play to accommodate the TV coverage.

Riders Seek Hosts
The Minnesota American Legion Riders have done Legacy Runs in the state for the past four years, raising money for the national Legacy Scholarship. Over $90,000 has been raised. For 2014, runs will be held on the weekends of Aug. 1-3 and Aug. 8-10. Posts, units, squadrons and chapters are being sought for hosts during the event. Contact Shawna Davis at shawnawdavina@gmail.com or call 763-560-5941.

Clothesline Project
The St. Cloud VA will hold a Clothesline Project on April 22-24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily in the VA Auditorium of Building 8. Those who have been victim of military sexual trauma, sexual assault or sexual abuse can express their emotions by decorating a shirt. The shirts will then be displayed on a clothesline to be viewed by others. For more information, contact Joy Finkelstein, 320-252-1670, ext. 6398. Free shirts are available.

Palm Sunday Dinner
The 56th annual Palm Sunday Legion Dinner will be held on Sunday, April 13, at the Zumbrota VFW. Tickets are $10 in advance, $11 at the door. Children under 12 and under are $4 at the door. Pre-schoolers eat free. There will be flag drawings. The meal will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m and tickets are available at several area stores. There will be baked ham and roast beef with pie for dessert.

Round Tables
The World War II History Round Table at Fort Snelling will feature a presentation on “The D-Day Invasion of Normandy.” The speaker will be Dave Miller, retired colonel in the Army. For more information or to register, call 651-583-9830.

From Bootcamp to Veteran
The 2014 From Bootcamp to Veteran will be held April 26 on a Saturday from 9-5. All military women past and present are invited for a day of celebrating, socializing and education. It will be held at the Minnesota Humanities Center, 947 Ivy Avenue, St. Paul. The event is free and includes refreshments, classes, yoga, Mary Kay facials, wellness training, and lunch with comedian Jason Schommer. For more information or to register go to www.mnhum.org/bootcampaivetorian.aspx.

Fort Snelling Rifle Squad invited to Arlington event
The Ft. Snelling Memorial Rifle Squad has been invited to participate in the 2014 Memorial Day Service at Arlington National Cemetery.

PO Box 42
Apr 2014     Minnesota Legionnaire         Page 5
More delegates sought for Boys State this year

Hundreds of American Legion Posts participate in Boys State each and every year but program leaders would love to see more. Our state Post, membership turn in from 2-3 p.m., program at 3:30 p.m., and they are welcome to attend the week’s final program with performances by the Boys State Band and Chor and a top show speaker.

If a guest has not sponsored a boy he would like to sponsor, come to watch a program firsthand, they are welcome. More details are still to come, but the date will be on Friday, June 20. The plans on attending them and our Conv and Convention at Legionville on June 27-29, 2014 hosted by the 4th and 5th Districts. I encourage all Legionnaires and others eligible to be a “son” to join us. We hope to exceed 11,000 members for 2014 (we ended 2013 with 10,756). We are currently at 5,561, 1/3 of our goal. We only need 1/3 of the seats filled in order to represent the Sons of the American Legion, contact me.

Future Spring Conferences were set for 2015 in Anoka and 2016 in Marshall. The plans on attending them and our Conv and Convention at Legionville on June 27-29, 2014 hosted by the 4th and 5th Districts. I encourage all Legionnaires and others eligible to be a “son” to join us. We hope to exceed 11,000 members for 2014 (we ended 2013 with 10,756). We are currently at 5,561, 1/3 of our goal. We only need 1/3 of the seats filled in order to represent the Sons of the American Legion, contact me.

Our Detachment (state) Spring Conference was held March 14-15, 2014 at Eagle Lake Squadron 617, successes.

By John W. Affolter
Rally in Richfield

Department Commander Mike Ash at first couldn’t get his talking bunny, a gift from Sandy Fredrickson, to talk. But in the end, the bunny spoke to Ash.

Membership Chair Barbara Klehr presented a membership goal gift to Jessie Hoppe who represented Backus Unit 368.

Department President Shirley Frederick showed off her talking bunny.

Vice Commander Micky Ostrum and Department Commander Mike Ash presented certificates and checks to the 10 district commanders, all of whom reached the 90 percent goal for March. The presentation was made on the stage at Richfield Post 435 during the Appreciation Rally.

The two membership gurus, Barbara Klehr and Tom Fernlund, shared the podium at the Appreciation Rally at Richfield Post 435.

Veterans on the Hill

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Shellito spoke at the legislative rally.

Rep. Bob Dettmer, R-Forest Lake, was among a group of legislators who spoke. The governor could not attend the Veterans on the Hill Day.

Sen. David Senjem R-Rochester

Rep. Jerry Newton DFL-Coon Rapids

Rep. Mary Murphy DFL-Duluth

Department Commander Mike Ash, center, was among the crowd of about who attended the annual Veterans on the Hill Day at the Capitol.
Three glider landings and still around at 95 to talk about it

By Al Zdon

The first part of a glider flight, being towed to the landing zone, can be fairly uneventful -- or at least it should be. It's those last two minutes, after the tow rope is dropped, that can be really exciting.

Kermit Swanson, a World War II glider pilot, made three landings in Europe during the war, and each one had its moments of high anxiety. The fact that Swanson was able to stay cool under extreme pressure is evidenced by the fact that at age 95, he is still around to reminisce about it.

Swanson has lived his entire life on the same farm, about six miles south of Dassel in central Minnesota. In fact, the farm has been in the family since his great grandfather, Engval Hegland, a Swedish immigrant, homesteaded the property in the 1850s.

"I mowed the whole front yard, and in August, when the grass is browning out, you can see the foundation of the original log cabin. Imagine homesteading here. It was all woods. It was six miles from town, and there were no roads."

Swanson was born in 1919 and grew up helping his dad on the farm. He graduated from Dassel High School in 1938.

"In 1939, one of my neighbor buddies got caught up in the first draft for the war they had in Meeker County. I was talking this over with my friend, and we decided we should join up while we had some choices."

For Swanson, the choice was aviation. "Ever since I was a kid, I wanted to be in aviation. I remember listening to Lindberg's flight across the Atlantic on our old Chrysler radio."

He joined a local flying club and learned to fly a Piper Cub. He couldn't be a military pilot, though, because he didn't have the requisite two years of college. The next best thing to flying would be to work on airplanes.

"I had a motorcycle and I drove it down to Chanute Field in Illinois. I knew that's where they trained the mechanics for the Air Force."

After months of training in airplane mechanics, he was assigned to Texas where much of the pre-war Army Air Corps was located. But before taking on his new job, he got a furlough to spend time back home. The trouble was that he had this motorcycle.

"I wanted to have it down in Texas, but that meant I had to ride it back to Minnesota in early November. It was already snowing in Illinois that day."

"Pretty soon, it was snowing everywhere. Swanson's journey happened to fall during the great Armistice Day blizzard on Nov. 11, 1940."

"It really got bad as I got close to Minneapolis. There were drifts over the highway, and they had to open them up with shovels. I had on a pilot's flight suit which was sheepskin lined, so I wasn't cold."

Somehow, through the 20 inches of snow, Swanson made it home on his bike. Two weeks later he was at Randolph Field near San Antonio. Later he was transferred to Goodfellow Field in San Angelo in West Texas.

"The winters were terrible there. All there was out there was snow, cactus and rattle snakes."

And blowing sand. The sand played havoc with the instruments in the planes, and after he had worked as a mechanic for some time, he was sent back to Chanute to learn how to fix the instruments in the planes.

"I still had dreams of being a pilot. I joined the flying club in San Angelo and earned my private license. Of course, that didn't mean much to the Air Force."

After the attack on Pearl Harbor in late 1941, the Army changed its standards as it geared up to train thousands of pilots. A soldier could now take an equivalency test for the two years of college, and, if he passed, could get into flight training. Swanson did just that.

"But this is where it gets complicated. I was on the waiting list for flight training at Kelly Field, but they were asking for instrument mechanics to go to North Africa because the sand was ruining their instruments. And they were also asking for glider pilots."

Swanson waited patiently for his turn to come for pilot school, but the list just kept getting longer. He was also told that North Africa had higher priority. In fact, he narrowly avoided the first call for instrument men when the commanding officer put Swanson's and his co-worker's name in a hat. The loser would go to Africa. The other guy lost.

"I never heard from him again. He's probably still sitting in the sand dunes."

As more time went by, it was clear that pilot school wasn't happening. The Army was looking for anybody who could fly to be a glider pilot. "I wanted to fly something that had an engine, but the commander told me I shouldn't wait any longer."

Two weeks later he was in Spencer, Iowa, learning to fly gliders. "You would just go up in a Piper Cub and then cut the engine and make a dead stick landing at a certain spot. We did that for quite a while."

Training moved to New Mexico and involved real gliders. "But I was back to living with rattle snakes again. They trained for both night and day landings, and the night efforts were guided by little kerosene lamps on the ground."

"You got pretty good at it. You'd just kick that last flare over as you landed."

Swanson was assigned to the 84th Troop Carrier Squadron, part of the Ninth Air Force, at Nottinghamshire in January, 1944. Once the gliders were assembled, they did about five more months in training, getting ready for D-Day.

The art of glider attack is fairly simple. Two gliders are connected to a twin-engined C-47 Skytrain with long lengths of cable. The transport plane would head down the runway, dragging the two gliders behind. The gliders would go airborne at about 50 miles per hour or so, reducing the drag on the plane and allowing it to take off.

Each glider had a different length cable so that they would not bang into each other on the journey. If the cables were too long, it would be impossible to sight in on you."

The gliders also came over on ships. They were in large boxes, maybe 40 feet long and 10 feet wide. "I know when we got to England, we lived in a glider box for a while."

Swanson was assigned to the 84th Troop Carrier Squadron, part of the Ninth Air Force, at Nottinghamshire in January, 1944. Once the gliders were assembled, they did about five more months in training, getting ready for D-Day.

The trouble was that pilot school wasn't happening. The Army was looking for anybody who could fly to be a glider pilot. "I wanted to fly something that had an engine, but the commander told me I shouldn't wait any longer."

Two weeks later he was in Spencer, Iowa, learning to fly gliders. "You would just go up in a Piper Cub and then cut the engine and make a dead stick landing at a certain spot. We did that for quite a while."

Training moved to New Mexico and involved real gliders. "But I was back to living with rattle snakes again. They trained for both night and day landings, and the night efforts were guided by little kerosene lamps on the ground."

"You got pretty good at it. You'd just kick that last flare over as you landed."

The trip to England was on a French troop ship. "I remember we turned every seven minutes because supposedly the German U-boats needed longer than seven minutes to sight in on you."

The gliders also came over on ships. They were in large boxes, maybe 40 feet long and 10 feet wide. "I know when we got to England, we lived in a glider box for a while."

The trouble was that pilot school wasn't happening. The Army was looking for anybody who could fly to be a glider pilot. "I wanted to fly something that had an engine, but the commander told me I shouldn't wait any longer."

Two weeks later he was in Spencer, Iowa, learning to fly gliders. "You would just go up in a Piper Cub and then cut the engine and make a dead stick landing at a certain spot. We did that for quite a while."

Training moved to New Mexico and involved real gliders. "But I was back to living with rattle snakes again. They trained for both night and day landings, and the night efforts were guided by little kerosene lamps on the ground."

"You got pretty good at it. You'd just kick that last flare over as you landed."

The trip to England was on a French troop ship. "I remember we turned every seven minutes because supposedly the German U-boats needed longer than seven minutes to sight in on you."

The gliders also came over on ships. They were in large boxes, maybe 40 feet long and 10 feet wide. "I know when we got to England, we lived in a glider box for a while."

The trouble was that pilot school wasn't happening. The Army was looking for anybody who could fly to be a glider pilot. "I wanted to fly something that had an engine, but the commander told me I shouldn't wait any longer."

Two weeks later he was in Spencer, Iowa, learning to fly gliders. "You would just go up in a Piper Cub and then cut the engine and make a dead stick landing at a certain spot. We did that for quite a while."

Training moved to New Mexico and involved real gliders. "But I was back to living with rattle snakes again. They trained for both night and day landings, and the night efforts were guided by little kerosene lamps on the ground."

"You got pretty good at it. You'd just kick that last flare over as you landed."

The trip to England was on a French troop ship. "I remember we turned every seven minutes because supposedly the German U-boats needed longer than seven minutes to sight in on you."

The gliders also came over on ships. They were in large boxes, maybe 40 feet long and 10 feet wide. "I know when we got to England, we lived in a glider box for a while."
On June 5, 1944, the pilots and paratroopers gathered at their gliders and waited to take off. It was already dark by the time Eisenhower called it off. The weather was too bad.

The next day, they were ready to go again. “We were hauling for the 82nd Airborne. We wanted to come at it from the backside, so we flew over the Cherbourg Peninsula and headed for our landing spots.”

It should be noted that gliders, which are sometime referred to as “silent wings,” are not silent. “When you’re taking off, you’re right behind the props, right in the exhaust. Later you can ride above the prop wash. We had head phones and ear plugs, but it was still pretty deafening.”

Swanson’s glider was assigned to land on a hunk of ground near St. Mere Eglise. They approached the target at about 1,000 feet and then moved down to 500 feet trying to avoid the German’s big guns. The landing would be about an hour after the rest of the paratroopers had landed in the area.

“Down below you could see absolutely nothing. Even the farm houses had their windows blacked over. It was just plain dark down there.”

Gliders are not overly laden with aviation equipment. In fact, the only instruments they had were an altimeter and a speed indicator. There were no radios. The only communication between the C-47 and the two gliders it was towing was a set of lights on the tail of the tow plane.

An amber light meant all was well. A green light indicated the landing zone was approaching and the glider pilot should get ready to drop the cable. The red light meant the pilot was going to drop his end of the cable no matter what the glider pilot did. There were no return trips.

“We saw the green light which meant the drop zone was maybe a minute or so away. It was an area about five miles across. We assumed the whole area was full of paratroopers who got there an hour earlier.”

The plane and gliders would come in at about 80 or 90 miles an hour. It was the co-pilot’s job to watch the altimeter and the air speed indicator and keep calling out the numbers to me. The instruments were pretty accurate, but you go by round numbers.

“It was just pitch black down there when we released the cable. This is where all the training came in. As a pilot, you’ve got six people’s lives in your hands.”

The co-pilot called out the numbers a few seconds. 450 feet, 70 miles an hour. 350 feet, 70 miles an hour.

During this descent, the glider pilot made a 270 degree turn to the left and ended up crossing his original flight path just before touchdown. The idea was to land into the wind.

Swanson said the only control the pilot had over the air speed was to keep the nose down. If the nose was up, the glider would slow down and could crash.

“I kept looking, looking, looking, but I couldn’t see anything. When you’re down to 35 or 40 feet, you’ve got to pick your place to land pretty quickly.”

And then there was a crash.

In the darkness, the glider hit a tree with its right wing. “It was a pretty big tree, and it knocked the wing off, and sent me kitty-wampus. I was still heading straight, but the glider was turned sideways. We hit the ground, and because we weren’t straight, both wheels were ripped off. But there are skids on the glider and we skidded to a halt.”

Swanson said that if the glider had hit the tree directly, it would have been the end of the road. “The bumper of the Jeep is right against the pilot’s seat. If you hit the tree, then the pilot and co-pilot are between the tree and the Jeep. That’s how a lot of pilots got killed.”

As the glider ground to a rough stop, suddenly there was complete silence. Swanson yelled back to the soldiers to see if they were all right. They were.

“The complete quiet is really something after the ride and the crash. Suddenly, a cow bellowed really loudly right next to us. We had landed in a cow pasture.”

The paratroopers got busy unloading the glider and getting the Jeep and its little trailer off the aircraft and running. Swanson and his co-pilot had little to do and so they went exploring.

“We could hear a vehicle, and then another one, and so we thought there was a road nearby. There was a little light now, and we went from tree to tree toward that road. When we got there, we found that there was a road. All of a sudden, ‘Bang!’ and then a moment later another bang. It was rifle fire.”

Swanson was wearing his clicker or cricket around his neck, a child’s toy meant to help the paratroopers find and identify each other in the dark. “I thought I saw a guy moving in the bushes, and I clicked him. I waited and there was nothing. Finally he clicked back. I waved to him and he came over.”

They asked him what he was firing at, and he said he thought he heard a German in the brush and so he fired.
“When he heard it again, he fired again. When he got to the spot, he found he had killed a cow.”

He didn’t know where anybody else was. They were scattered all over the place. Swanson and the two others went back to the glider and waited for morning.

When they could see, one soldier drove the Jeep down the road while the others walked alongside in the ditch. “We worked our way toward St. Mere Eglise. We could hear the paratroopers having quite a fight up ahead.”

By dawn, the town was captured. It was the site of the famous incident where a paratrooper got hung up on the church steeple, hanging for hours before he was captured. “I walked right under that steeple.”

The pilot and co-pilot made their way to the sea. “At night you just grabbed a parachute and wrapped yourself up in it. There were parachutes everywhere.”

Reaching the Normandy beach, they were able to get a boat ride back to England.

The next jump was at Operation Market Garden, the parachute aid plan to capture a series of bridges in the Netherlands and rush a tank corps into the German heartland.

This jump was during the day, and Swanson had to wait an extra day for his chance. “They had more gliders than they had tow planes. So they went in alphabetical order. By the time they got to the S’s, there were no more C-47s. I had to fly the next day.”

The delay may have been fortunate for Swanson, who said that many of the gliders in the first wave were hit by German defenses. “I lost a lot of friends that day.”

The next day, the Allies came in a circular attack and never crossed over the German lines, but landed behind them. Swanson’s glider came in for a smooth landing, although afterward he counted four bullet holes in his wind-shield.

The interesting thing about being a glider pilot is that just when the fighting begins, your job is done. “They wanted us to get out of there as quickly as possible. They wanted us to be ready for the next mission.”

The pilot and co-pilot were armed with sub-machine guns they called burp guns, but few glider crews had a chance to use them.

Swanson and his co-pilot hitchhiked back to France. “We were supposed to head back to England, but we decided to go see Paris. We figured we had it coming to us since we were over here. We spent five days, which was pretty good. Some of the guys didn’t show up back in England for a month.”

Paris was wonderful, and the recently liberated French treated the Americans well. “You’d go into a bar, put your submachine gun on the counter, and they would ask you if you wanted a beer or a bottle of wine. You never had to pay for anything.”

Next up for Swanson and his fellow troop carriers was Operation Varsity in March, 1945, as the Allies pushed across the Rhine into Germany.

It was another daylight mission. “We were to go across the Rhine, fly about five or seven miles farther and land behind the Germans. We went right at noon, and everything went fine. In fact it was going too good.”

As Swanson’s glider, still in tow, crossed the Rhine, it was hit by German anti-aircraft fire. At 90 miles an hour, the gliders were easy targets.

“I felt the first thud. It hit the back of the glider. I lost my rudder pedals right away, they just went slack. But the rest of the controls seemed to work. The second hit passed through the tail fuselage and ripped out a bunch of fabric.

“The third hit was right under the Jeep and it flattened all the tires. It also hit the gas tank and you could smell the gas.”

The pilot and co-pilot had some protection. A piece of metal was attached under their seats and they wore flak shields.

The fourth hit, though, was right under the co-pilot’s head. “It caught him in the legs pretty bad. I was hit in my right arm and right leg.” The worst damage to Swanson, though, was in his face.

“I got up in the face and just ripped my cheek open. I was bleeding all over the place, all down my shirt. I looked over at the co-pilot and he was out. I was afraid he would lurch over into the wheel, but the shoulder straps held him upright.”

Now all the injured Swanson had to do was land the glider with the rudder pedals right and the left. “It helped me. They seemed to work. I was hit about five miles farther before we were cut loose. The ailerons were okay, and that was awfully lucky. I made a good landing.”

The co-pilot took off the rudder pedals right back to the four paratroopers in the Jeep to see if they could get out the door. Sometimes when a glider is hit, it twists the frame and the door won’t open. But the door worked. I asked them to come up fast and help me with the co-pilot.”

The men got the co-pilot to the ground and Swanson freed the rudder pedals from the cockpit. “We went about five miles farther before we were cut loose. The ailerons were okay, and that was awfully lucky. I made a good landing.”

Bandages had to be applied to the four paratroopers in the Jeep to steady them. They then gave the Jeep a green light and got in the glider to land. “Swanson and the two others fetched the first aid kit from the cockpit. Several tourniquets were applied. Several tourniquets stopped the bleeding to the co-pilot’s legs, and Swanson administered a syringe of morphine to the co-pilot’s thigh.

“He started to come to almost right away. I learned later that when the body goes into shock, the blood flow to the head is cut off. When you administer the morphine, the body relaxes and the people tend to come back to life.”

With the co-pilot stabilized, the four paratroopers took a look at Swanson and saw his bloody leg and arm and the blood streaming from his cheek. One of them said, “It looks like you need a shot too.” “So they gave me some mor-phine.”

Medics were finally able to tape up Swanson’s cheek so tight that it just bleeding. They had to use tape. “You can’t put a tourniquet on someone’s head. Once they patched me up, I was okay.”

He earned a Purple Heart and three Air Medals during his three flights.

The war in Europe ended a few weeks later and Swanson was shipped back to the United States for some furlough time. He had orders to Santa Ana, California, to wait to be shipped to the Philippines to get ready for the invasion of Japan. He was at Santa Ana when the war ended.

“He needed to get home, and he heard of a salvage yard nearby. I went over there and it was just airplanes as far as you could see. You could buy anyone of them for $500.”

Swanson picked out a Ryan P-22 trainer to fly home.

“I got up to Portland and visited my sister, but then I had to figure out how to get over the mountains. I didn’t know how far I could go on a tank of gas. I had no radio, no lights, and I’d never flown over mountains before.”

Swanson took off from Spokane. “I had some road maps but no aviation maps. I was just following the roads, but then when they got into the mountains they all started doubling back. I knew I didn’t have enough gas for that, so I just headed out on my own. When I landed in Butte, I had a couple of gallons left in the tank.”

He sold the plane for $3,000 and later went back to the salvage yard and bought another plane, a Stearman trainer for $500, came home and sold it for $2,000. He joined the local flying club in Hutchinson, but after a few years, his flying career was over.

He farmed and raised chickens, only retiring a few years ago. He and his wife, Aileen, have been married for 67 years and have two children, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Except for the war, he has never left the farm he grew up on. He built his own house on the property in the 60s. Recently he was interviewed extensively by a crew from National Public Television for the Nova series. The show is expected to be aired in May.
Greetings from the First District. Well I think Spring is finally coming. It has taken its sweet time getting here but I think we are finally turning the corner.

We have to knock on doors, make in-person visits and make telephone calls to Members who haven’t paid their dues for this year. The District is down to the last 7,48% of memberships to make our national goal. These last memberships will require hard work and dedication of all members of the 1st District Team to make our goal. Take a minute to step up to the challenge and make the National Goal.

Remember that Commander Mike wants 100% of the Posts on Nationals computers as of April 10th. Make sure you fill it out and mail it back today. Thank you.

I got a memo from our Department Membership Director for all you do for the American Legion. Premier Race. Thank you to all the posts’ membership chairman for all you do for the American Legion. Thank you to all the posts that have contributed to my expenses. I’ll keep the name anonymous for those still planning to donate. So all of us must go out and work a little harder, and we will make our goal. It’s time to step up to the challenge and make the American Legion proud.

Look forward to seeing you at the 1st District Convention at the Crowne Plaza on April 26th in Montevideo and all posts should be at least 95% but I can see many posts at 100% or better. New members are always needed and wanted, so keep your eyes and耳朵 open and get ready for that guy or gal waiting to be asked to be a member of The American Legion.

My testimonial is coming up April on 12th in Redwood Falls. The Second District will be a joint testimonial with District Commander Eugene Olswold. Full details may be found on Facebook under MN Second District.

The Second District is seeking interested veterans to be Vice Commanders for the coming year. Get your endorsement from your post and send it to the District Adjutant as soon as possible. Post officer elections for the coming year are in May. We are all proud and supportive of our current armed forces on active duty who have said Yes to protect our Country. Take a lesson from these members when you are asked to hold an office in the American Legion. Thank you to all the veterans on active duty who have said Yes to protect our Country. Take a lesson from these members when you are asked to hold an office in the American Legion.

Well I am sure like many of you we are praying spring has finally arrived. A winter to remember. But with spring comes many important things for the American Legion. I hope your Post celebrated the 95th Legion Birthday in March. Now the reports have arrived and need your attention. The Consolidated Reports should be at every Post and please take a few minutes right now and fill them out. Thank you. March was a busy month with activities in the district and department. At the Appreciation Rally, we came in second but so close to first we can see it. Let’s get out there and give the full push and help Jim help Steve put the 6th district in first were we belong. We can do it with just a little effort. Next rally is Legion Riders Membership Rally in Montevideo and I know you all will put us in 1st on membership. Thank you for your efforts.

Thank you to all the officers for the coming year. Commander, president and S&L commander testimonial in Park Rapids. Please get your reservations in early and I hope you can attend and have a great time. We can use your donations toward our Joint District Project of the Veterans Art Project at the Committal Hall Lobby at the MN State Veterans Cemetery near Little Falls. Any donations will be greatly appreciated. The US Army painting is up and the US Navy painting will be unveiled on May 26th. A great project that the three of us decided we wanted to support this year. I thank those that have donated and for those still planning to donate Thank you as well in advance.

Greetings from the mighty 7th district. I got a memo from our Department Membership Chairman Tom Fernlund saying that we need approximate 728 members to reach the 95% goal before April 15th. But if we get 168 members per district this goal can be made. So all of us must go out and work a little harder, and we will make our goal. We are reaching out to our members to make goal and a lot more within the ten and under range. We still have time to get this done also. We just found out for the state that Marshall Post 113 had the Eagle Scout of the Year award. I’ll keep the name out for now, but this young man is a very outstanding person. Wait until you meet him and than you will know what I mean.

Just a reminder that our 7th district convention is on 7 June in Marshall. Marshall post will be sending out more on a later date. I hope everyone had a great St. Pat’s day and that the little guy didn’t get the best of you. Now that Easter is coming soon from my family to yours have a blessed and safe holiday.

Legionnaires of the Great Eighth. The next goal may be hard to achieve. The District is in 10th place in the Department. We must do a better job. Vice commanders, contact the posts in your area and help them make goal. Have them send out cards or letters to get them to pay their dues. Thank you to all the participants that brough cards.

The Two Harbors Bake Off Rally went well. Although there wasn’t very many memberships turned in, we had a tremendous Bake Off. Thank you to all that brought goodies.

In closing, Membership is our most important program. Vice commanders, keep up the good work and get those memberships in.

Minnesota National 2015 cards and rosters will be printed from the information mailed to each Post Commander and Post Adjutant as well. Login to MN Second Distric Newsletter - The Flash. Convention dates again are May 30 & 31.

According to the calendar, Spring has been here for almost two months now. That means no more winter driving and it is time to go out and knock on doors and get those few remaining renewals in the posts that are needed to make goal. In the Second District, there are many posts that have five or less renewals to make goal. The Spring Round-Up Rally on April 26th in Montevideo and all posts should be at least 95% but I can see many posts at 100% or better. New members are always needed and wanted, so keep your eyes and ears open and get ready for that guy or gal waiting to be asked to be a member of The American Legion.

My testimonial is coming up April on 12th in Redwood Falls. The Second District will be a joint testimonial with District Commander Eugene Olswold. Full details may be found on Facebook under MN Second District.

The Second District is seeking interested veterans to be Vice Commanders for the coming year. Get your endorsement from your post and send it to the District Adjutant as soon as possible. Post officer elections for the coming year are in May. We are all proud and supportive of our current armed forces on active duty who have said Yes to protect our Country. Take a lesson from these members when someone in the Legion asks you to hold an office in the Post. By doing so, you are saying Yes to those veterans. Be sure to let your post nominating committee know if you are interested.

Mark your calendars for June 7th for the District Convention in Princeton. All officers are required to be delegate from your post. As a delegate, you are exercising your right to vote for the Officers you want to serve you in the District for the coming year.

The Department Appreciation Rally, held at Richfield Post 45 was well attended by the Third District. We had a good membership turn-in and are still in first place for the Premier Race. Thank you to all the posts’ membership chairman for all you do for the American Legion.

Thank you to all the posts that have contributed to my project, the Armed Forces Service Center (AFSC). The next month, or so, the AFSC will be processing approximately 8,000 troops coming from the airport around the country on their way to Camp Ripley. Please consider a donation to this project. Checks should be made out to 3rd District Commanders Project - AFSC.

Faribault Post 43 will be hosting the Third District Convention on April 11th. All officers are required to present their report at the general session on Saturday, May 17th. A copy of the report should be sent or e-mailed to Adrian Zimmerman, by the third of the month. Adrian has time to put together the convention Book of Reports.

2015 cards and rosters will be printed from the information mailed to each Post Commander and Post Adjutant as well. Login to MN Second District Newsletter - The Flash. Convention dates again are May 30 & 31.

Greetings from the mighty 7th district. I got a memo from our Department Membership Chairman Tom Fernlund saying that we need approximate 728 members to reach the 95% goal before April 15th. But if we get 168 members per district this goal can be made. So all of us must go out and work a little harder, and we will make our goal. We are reaching out to our members to make goal and a lot more within the ten and under range. We still have time to get this done also. We just found out for the state that Marshall Post 113 had the Eagle Scout of the Year award. I’ll keep the name out for now, but this young man is a very outstanding person. Wait until you meet him and than you will know what I mean.

Just a reminder that our 7th district convention is on 7 June in Marshall. Marshall post will be sending out more on April 2014 Minnesota Legionnaire Page 11 a later date. I hope everyone had a great St. Pat’s day and that the little guy didn’t get the best of you. Now that Easter is coming soon from my family to yours have a blessed and safe holiday.

Legionnaires of the Great Eighth. The next goal may be hard to achieve. The District is in 10th place in the Department. We must do a better job. Vice commanders, contact the posts in your area and help them make goal. Have them send out cards or letters to get them to pay their dues. Thank you to all the participants that brough cards.

The Two Harbors Bake Off Rally went well. Although there wasn’t very many memberships turned in, we had a tremendous Bake Off. Thank you to all that brought goodies.

In closing, Membership is our most important program. Vice commanders, keep up the good work and get those memberships in.

I got a memo from our Department Membership Chairman Tom Fernlund saying that we need approximate 728 members to reach the 95% goal before April 15th. But if we get 168 members per district this goal can be made. So all of us must go out and work a little harder, and we will make our goal. We are reaching out to our members to make goal and a lot more within the ten and under range. We still have time to get this done also. We just found out for the state that Marshall Post 113 had the Eagle Scout of the Year award. I’ll keep the name out for now, but this young man is a very outstanding person. Wait until you meet him and than you will know what I mean.

Just a reminder that our 7th district convention is on 7 June in Marshall. Marshall post will be sending out more on a later date. I hope everyone had a great St. Pat’s day and that the little guy didn’t get the best of you. Now that Easter is coming soon from my family to yours have a blessed and safe holiday.
Every year, hundreds of Legionnaires from across the country gather in Washington D.C. to lobby for veterans issues. This year, a delegation of about 35 Minnesotans made contact with each of the 10 state members of Congress.

Before heading up Capitol Hill to visit with the representatives and senators, the delegation took part in the Commander’s Call at the Washington Hilton.

“We’re not going to the Hill to complain,” National Commander Dan Dellinger told the gathering. “We work every day to solve veterans’ problems, but we expect the Congress to do the same.”

Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., ponders an issue raised by the Minnesota delegation at the Washington Conference.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, urged the Legionnaires to be strong in lobbying for veterans issues. “If you don’t speak up, then who will? You walked in their shoes, you speak their language, you know what they need.”

He said there must be advanced funding for the VA medical system so that politics does not hinder its ability to perform well. “And if VA excels fail at a job, they should not receive a bonus. Working at the VA is a privilege and not a right, and we should fire senior executives who do not perform.”

“End the VA claims backlog.”

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, said the Legion should oppose the depth of the military cuts planned by Congress.
American Legion

INCOME STATEMENT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

Department Income
Department Dues Income $676,285
Less: MN Legionnaire Portion (253,051)
Revenue Enhancement Program 145,736
Grants 15,250
Investment Income 102,693
Lit. Insurance - (Royalties) 225,159
Donations / Contributions 2,778
In-Kind Rent 70,394
Miscellaneous Income 15,384
Total Department Income: $1,191,628

STATEMENT OF BUDGET EXPENSE

Headquarters Exp. Budgeted Disbursed
Administration Salaries $272,000 $270,139
FICA Expense $20,808 $20,130
FUTA Expense $400 $229
SUTA Expense $900 $787
Group Health & Life Ins $49,595 $42,399
Employee’s Ret. Fund $27,900 $7,048
Unbudgeted $0 $1,500
Audit Expense $8,100 $8,186
Investment Mgmt. Fees $4,400 $5,400
Furniture & Fixtures $1,000 $1,000
General Office Exp. $54,000 $55,284
Elec., Eqp., Mnt. & Mod. $46,152 $13,568
Depreciation Expense $0 $28,817

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Total Liabilities $118,588 $117,452
Temporarily Restricted 377,498 376,284
Unrestricted 756,107 753,930

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted 1,871,064 1,871,064
Temporarily Restricted 377,498 358,050
Total Net Assets 2,242,947 2,229,984

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT, REVENUES, AND EXPENSES

2012 Unrestricted Temporarily Restricted Total 2011 Unrestricted Temporarily Restricted Total

Revenues

Membership, Dues, and Assessments $329,430 $329,430 $752,529 $752,529
Program Activities 210,453 210,453 219,195 219,195
Contributions 5,780 2,189

Expenses

Special Budget $516,959 $593,812
Rearm Expense Salaries $107,800 $106,869
FICA Expense $8,250 $8,071
FUTA Expense $450 $410
Group Health Ins. $24,525 $21,799
Employee Ret. Fund $11,280 $10,057
General Office Exp. $5,000 $4,695
Total Rearm Expense: $167,505 $152,027

Committer Expense

Americanism $5,500 $5,060
Blood Program $250 $186
Chaplain’s Fund $1,518
Children & Ythh. Cmm. $2,500 $4,050
Commander’s Budget $31,500 $31,500
Convention Corporation $4,500 $1,229
Dpt. Conv. Corp. $3,600 $4,106
Dpt. HQ Conv. & Conf. $25,000 $21,754
Department Treasurer $3,500 $3,500

Programs

Total Programs $320,920 $296,451

Change in Net Assets $204,146

Total Unrestricted Revenue $987,482

Total Unrestricted Expense $987,482

Total Net Assets $987,482

CONFERENCE AND SPECIAL MEETINGS
Department Convention $41,330 $262,425
Convention Corporation (23) 800
National Convention 7,400 15,905
Fall Conference 6,765 18,199
Executive Committee 6,919 12,800
Special Meetings 4,063 6,993
Total Conferences and Special Meetings $96,583 $91,112

Auxiliary

STATMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS MODIFIED CASH BASIS

JULY 31, 2013 AND 2012

Assets

Accounts Payable $30,888 $4,463
Cash - Held for Dist. $42,154 -
Accounts Receivable $567 537
Investments 2,207,432 2,132,229
Fixed Assets at Cost, Net of Accumulated Depreciation 19,619 21,699

Total Assets $329,430 $329,430

Other

Other 60,272 60,272

Total Assets $329,430 $329,430

Liabilities

Accounts Payable $30,888 $4,463
Cash - Held for Dist. $42,154 -

Total Liabilities $30,888 $4,463

Net Assets

Unrestricted $987,482 $987,482
Temporarily Restricted 752,529 752,529
Total Net Assets $1,739,989 $1,739,989

Reports

2014 - Minnesota Legionnaire Page 13
Hello, dear members,

I hope you have enjoyed reading the Program of the Month article each month on our Department Chairman. April is a busy month. It is Children’s Month and Youth Month. Remember to lead by example as children tend to do as we do. Our Department Junior Conference is April 11-12th at Hopkins. Please consider sponsoring one of these girls. If your Unit finds that your candidate is not able to bring in June. Your American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State was due on March 31 has gone by that you still can’t register. Units may send as many girls as they choose to from the same high school. Your American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State citizens attend a public, charter, parochial, private or home school in Minnesota or be a resident of Minnesota. Reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. We are still taking reservations and would like each Unit to participate. American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State is limited to 445 citizens. The 2014 session will be held June 15 – 20th at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. The enrollment card, information sheet, pledge and order form for a Capitol Day polo shirt are due into the Department office no later than May 1st. Your American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State citizens is not con- sidered registered until these items are received. Each American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State citizen who is completely registered will receive a mailing from the Department with a copy of all of the necessary information she needs concerning items to brand and invite your community to attend. Let them know we are the Auxiliary had no turn-ins at this rally. Let’s do it. We do have poppies available for any Unit that wishes to order more. The Department does not carry the Poppy cans you cannot locate an order form just write your order on a plain piece of paper and send it along with your check to the Department office. We have poppies available for any Unit that wishes to order more. The Department does not carry the Poppy cans you cannot locate an order form just write your order on a plain piece of paper and send it along with your check to the Department office. We have poppies available for any Unit that wishes to order more. The Department does not carry the Poppy cans you cannot locate an order form just write your order on a plain piece of paper and send it along with your check to the Department office. We have poppies available for any Unit that wishes to order more. The Department does not carry the Poppy cans you cannot locate an order form just write your order on a plain piece of paper and send it along with your check to the Department office. We have poppies available for any Unit that wishes to order more. The Department does not carry the Poppy cans you cannot locate an order form just write your order on a plain piece of paper and send it along with your check to the Department office.

**45TH DEPARTMENT CONVENTION WILL BE HOSTED IN ROCHESTER**

Our 95th annual Department Convention will be held July 17 - 19 at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester, hosted by Minnesota’s 95th Department. The Auxiliary Chairman and committee members for all of them are doing to ensure a successful convention.

Hope to see you there.

Shirley Frederick
Auxiliary Bulletin
Continued from Preceding Page

Three principles guide the Children and Youth Program

By Jodi Meckle
Children and Youth Chairman

April is the month we shine the spotlight on “Children…Our Most Precious Resource” by focusing our efforts on the Children & Youth program. There are three guiding principles: 1) To strengthen the family unit against the forces of today’s complex society, 2) To extend support to organizations and facilities providing services for children, and 3) To maintain a well-rounded program that meets the needs of today’s young people. You don’t need to do this alone. Combine your efforts with Sons of the American Legion members, American Legion members, and other Auxiliary program chairmen such as Junior Activities, Education, and Community Service. Also collaborate with your local Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and National Guard Family Readiness groups.

Look for outstanding kids who deserve to receive the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award. Fill out the form and send it in! Make a big deal out of it! Recognize them at a meeting and get their picture in the newspaper.

Coming up on May 8 is “National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day.” You can find a wealth of free information, brochure, and posters at www.samhsa.gov. Some topics include substance abuse, suicide prevention, bullying, and military family issues.

May 27-June 2 is “National Family Week.” This week aims to celebrate family life, encourage families to spend more time together, and highlight the important role families play in society. Perhaps an end of school party would be a fun activity for your Unit to host.

Always remember that we are here to assist you in any way we can — call anytime and we will find your answers.

Auxiliary Membership

as of Mar. 26, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>3-26 Total</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>5,085</td>
<td>89.56</td>
<td>5,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>4,984</td>
<td>91.40</td>
<td>5,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>4,321</td>
<td>88.85</td>
<td>4,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>87.62</td>
<td>840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth</td>
<td>935</td>
<td>89.47</td>
<td>1,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixth</td>
<td>6,085</td>
<td>89.59</td>
<td>6,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>90.28</td>
<td>953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth</td>
<td>1,698</td>
<td>88.35</td>
<td>1,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninth</td>
<td>4,414</td>
<td>91.54</td>
<td>4,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenth</td>
<td>5,210</td>
<td>90.25</td>
<td>5,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depart.</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>89.76</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>37,610</td>
<td>90.01</td>
<td>41,784</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Auxiliary

Fellow Vets—
Are you thinking of buying or selling a home, cabin or farm?

Call us first: Duane Schroeder (612-749-5636) or Otto Schmidts (612-716-8000), we’re Veterans and Realtors©

We exclusively represent the RE/MAX® Veterans First Program offering the best Real Estate rebates available to veterans, plus we support military charities.

RE/MAX® Results
S201 Eden Avenue #100, Eden, MN 55436

Independent Rural Living
Senior apartments for elderly and those with disabilities.
Safe, convenient, comfortable, and affordable rural living in Southeast Minnesota.

Also available:
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Services
- Housing with Services, Nursing Home, Subsidized Rent, Homemaker services

Contact: Samantha 507-864-7714 or for www.goodshep-rushford.org

SANDIE’S JOTTINGS

As Department Secretary, I thought I would take up a little space with real exciting news from our Department Office. As you are aware, besides myself there is Cathy Radil, Department Treasurer and Jan Lauby, Department Receptionist. Jan has been a true blessing to us here in the office.

I have been receiving many comments regarding the new Annual Report format and I do appreciate all of the comments even though there haven’t been may positive ones. I have been passing on all of the comments to the Executive Committee. The new format was voted on by the Convention body at last year’s Department Convention.

I have also received many comments regarding the new Annual Report format and I do appreciate all of the comments even though there haven’t been many positive ones. I will be passing on all of the comments to the Executive Committee.

Three ways we can - call anytime and we will find your answers.

I am already looking at next winter — that is almost a sin.

National Convention, Junior Fun Weekend - holey moley, I

Girls State, Annual Reports Due, New Membership

Leadership Conference, Memorial Day, ALA Minnesota

hectic around here - Junior Conference, National

and we would enjoy meeting you.

dues are going.  The coffee is always on.  This is your office

for a visit.  See where we work, what we do and where your

made.

your organization and it is up to you to get the changes

and if passed, send it to your District Convention.  This is

ferently, please have your Unit draft a resolution, vote on it

Convention Body at last year’s Department Convention.

Comments even though there haven’t been may positive ones.  I

Annual Report format and I do appreciate all of the com-

office.

Radil, Department Treasurer and Jan Lauby, Department

Office.  As you are aware, besides myself there is Cathy

information, brochure, and posters at www.samhsa.gov.

Some topics include substance abuse, suicide prevention, bullying, and military family issues.

May 27-June 2 is “National Family Week.” This week aims to celebrate family life, encourage families to spend more time together, and highlight the important role families play in society.

Perhaps an end of school party would be a fun activity for your Unit to host.

Always remember that we are here to assist you in any way we can — call anytime and we will find your answers.

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

TESTIMONIAL DINNER

Saturday, May 31, 2014 at Northern Lights Casino, Walter, MN

Menu to be served:

Honey & Thyme Glazed Pork Loin & Broasted Chicken
With Parsley Buttered Red Potatoes, Glazed Baby Carrots,
Toasted Salad, and Dessert

Cost per person $22.00 if reserved by May 17, 2014
($25.00 after May 17th)

A block of rooms are reserved for this event. Please contact the Casino to reserve a room at 1-866-452-4683.

Social hour begins at 5:30 PM. Dinner at 6:30 PM.

Program will follow.

Dinner and Room Reservations are due by May 17, 2014

(After that date, prices subject to change)

Make checks payable to: ALA Unit 202
send with form to ALA Unit 202, Box Sauer, P.O. Box 414, Hackett, MN 56452

NAME: ___________________________

PHONE NUMBER: ____________

POST/UNIT/SQUADRON: __________

NUMBER ATTENDING: __________

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: __________
World War II History Round Table
The Normandy breakout -- why it worked

The Allied landings in Normandy, on D-Day and the following days, are the subject of countless books, movies and historical treatments. Little has been written about how the invasion bogged down over the next few weeks in the French hedgerow country, or about the final breakout known as Operation Cobra.

And, said historian James Carafano at the March World War II Round Table meeting at Fort Snelling, not all of what has been written about the breakout is accurate.

Carafano, a director at the Heritage Foundation and a military scholar who has taught at West Point, took six years to research and write a book about the breakout. "It was a labor of love. My goal was to read every damn piece of paper ever written about it."

"After D-Day, was something of a "detective story," he said, involving six American divisions over three days. "I wondered how much history is left to write, but I found out there was so much more story left to tell."

Carafano told the audience at the Fort Snelling History Center that there are four things, four myths about the breakout, "I would have known if I hadn't done that research."

The first concerns Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley, the commander of the First Army, and often known as the "GI General." "It was an image he carefully cultivated," Carafano said.

Bradley planned Operation Cobra. The Americans were pinned down in the French countryside, hindered by the small plots of land each surrounded by a berm and a thick hedge which made progress slow and deadly. Often after U.S. troops had captured a square of land through tenacious fighting, the land would be recaptured that night by German reserves.

"Bradley's plan was known as a double envelopment," where you contain the fortifications in front of you while reserves and all their communications. The bombing was an act of genius, but it didn't take out the front line."

The second myth would be that the bombing destroyed the German front line and allowed the double envelopment to work. "What it really did was wipe out all the German reserves and all their communications. The bombing was incredible. "The ground was rolling, the sound was deafening. It was an incessant display of unbelievable fire power.""

In addition to 111 U.S. troops, the bombing also killed Gen. Lesley McNair, a Minnesota native who was the high-ranking member of the military killed in the war. McNair was the chief of staff of the Eighth Army during World War II, and often known as the "GI General." "If you've got a name like Lightning Joe, you've got to be a winner."

Carafano said that without reserves, the Germans were pinned down in the French countryside, hindered by the small plots of land each surrounded by a berm and a thick hedge which made progress slow and deadly. Often after U.S. troops had captured a square of land through tenacious fighting, the land would be recaptured that night by German reserves.

"Bradley's plan was known as a double envelopment," where you contain the fortifications in front of you while reserves and all their communications. The bombing was an act of genius, but it didn't take out the front line."

The second myth would be that the bombing destroyed the German front line and allowed the double envelopment to work. "What it really did was wipe out all the German reserves and all their communications. The bombing was incredible. "The ground was rolling, the sound was deafening. It was an incessant display of unbelievable fire power.""

In addition to 111 U.S. troops, the bombing also killed Gen. Lesley McNair, a Minnesota native who was the high-ranking member of the military killed in the war. McNair was the chief of staff of the Eighth Army during World War II, and often known as the "GI General." "If you've got a name like Lightning Joe, you've got to be a winner."

Carafano said the bombing was incredible. "The ground was rolling, the sound was deafening. It was an incessant display of unbelievable fire power.""

In addition to 111 U.S. troops, the bombing also killed Gen. Lesley McNair, a Minnesota native who was the high-ranking member of the military killed in the war. McNair was the chief of staff of the Eighth Army during World War II, and often known as the "GI General." "If you've got a name like Lightning Joe, you've got to be a winner."

Carafano said the bombing was incredible. "The ground was rolling, the sound was deafening. It was an incessant display of unbelievable fire power.""

In addition to 111 U.S. troops, the bombing also killed Gen. Lesley McNair, a Minnesota native who was the high-ranking member of the military killed in the war. McNair was the chief of staff of the Eighth Army during World War II, and often known as the "GI General." "If you've got a name like Lightning Joe, you've got to be a winner."

Carafano said the bombing was incredible. "The ground was rolling, the sound was deafening. It was an incessant display of unbelievable fire power.""