U study tracks hunger

By Al Zdon

A new study by the University of Minnesota and the Minneapolis VA has found that a high percentage of returning Afghanistan and Iraq war veterans have problems in getting enough food.

The study showed that 27 percent of those veterans don’t have consistent access to sufficient food. The national average in the United States is 14.5 percent.

“We have fought two very expensive wars over a decade. It’s unconscionable that a sizable percentage of these war veterans have food insecurity,” said Dr. Rachel Widome, who led the study at the University.

It’s a bit of a hidden problem. Nobody wants to talk about not having enough to eat. It’s embarrassing in America.

Widome, an assistant professor in the School of Public Health, said the study originated a couple of years ago when researchers were talking informally to returning veterans, and finding that many of them made references to simply not having enough food.

“There hadn’t been any research or reporting done on this aspect at all,” said Widome. “We wanted to see if this went beyond just the anecdotes.”

The results showed that better than one in four returning veterans reported food insecurity in the past year, and 12 percent of the total reported very low food security, meaning there were multiple instances of not having enough food.

The survey showed a strong correlation between low food security and other increased levels of health concerns in younger veterans such as smoking, binge drinking and generally poor health.

Widome said the study was not done on a timeline, and so it’s difficult to say which problem has led to another problem. “We don’t know what came first, but we can see how it all fits together.”

There was also a strong correlation in the marriage status of those who had no food problems and those who did. Sixty-three percent of those who did not have food security issues were married or partnered, while 42 percent of those with low food security were married, and only 29 percent of those with very low food security were married or partnered.

There was a similar correlation between employment and food security.

Widome said there are several local and national food programs that could help veterans with low food security. She said the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program helped veterans with consistent access to sufficient food.

Eric Shinseki, Secretary of the federal Veterans Administration, resigned in late May under pressure from Congress and veterans groups.

The American Legion was the first major voice of veterans to call for Shinseki to step aside.

The Legion’s National Commander Dan Dellinger said Shinseki needed to quit following the revelation of a secret list at the Phoenix VA Hospital that hid actually waiting times for veterans.

A cable news story said that as many as 40 veterans died while waiting for health care at Phoenix.

Shinseki was replaced by Sloan Gibson as acting Secretary. Gibson, former head of the USO, has been Shinseki’s deputy for the past three months.

The American Legion also sent a “System Worth Saving” team to Phoenix to conduct a town meeting, and to interview staff at the hospital to determine the root of the problems there.

The team was headed by Tom Mullon of Eagan, the chairman of the Legion’s VA Secretary resigns under pressure.

State Legislature winds up 2014 session

For veterans, the 2014 Minnesota legislative session was chock full of smaller accomplishments rather than the big blockbusters of prior years.

The 2013 session had finished off with major funding for the final phase at the Minnesota Veterans Home at Minneapolis.

In this session, just completed in May, there were no major bonding victories, but dozens of bills that will help groups of veterans here and there.

“We weren’t asking for a lot, and we didn’t get a lot,” said Mike McElhiney, legislative director for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

“They called this the ‘inesession,’ and they wanted agencies to trim back and look at outdated laws. But the MDVA didn’t have much of that.”

In the end, though, McElhiney said there were maybe 50 bills that dealt with veterans in one way or another, and many of them succeeded.

Two notable bills that did not succeed were a measure by Rep. Jerry Newton, DFL-Coon Rapids, that would have created a priority list for entrance into the Minnesota Veterans Homes. The bill would have given precedence to disabled veterans, Purple Heart recipients and others, and would have put spouses of veterans at the bottom of the list.

The Minnesota American Legion opposed the bill, saying that all veterans and spouses should be treated equally.

Another bill that failed to get passage was the Honor and Remember Flag. State buildings would have been recommended to fly the flag at certain times of the years. Again, the Legion and other service organizations opposed the bill saying, among other arguments, that the U.S. Flag already served to honor and remember deceased veterans.

Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl agreed with McElhiney on the character of the session. “There were a lot of little things -- nothing really big, nothing earth-shaking.”

Tesdahl said the tier system for the veterans homes and the Honor and Remember flag were two key issues. “What
Continued from Page 1

Hanson only spoke Norwegian at home, and so school was hard until he made the adjustment.

In the 1930s, Hanson tried to follow in his father’s footsteps as a carpenter, but work was so short that he took part in both the WPA and CCC programs. Although the pay was meager, and most of that was sent home to his family, he said it was a great time of his life because of the companionship.

Hanson never married, and has lived alone most of his life. He drove his Ford sedan out west in 1942, hoping to find work in the booming defense industry, but nobody would hire him because he was of draft age.

So instead he joined the Navy and trained at San Diego. He became a gunner’s mate, and was assigned to the merchant fleet. His travels took him all over the world as he followed the convoys of Allied ships. He sailed both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. On one passage, both the ship behind and the one in front were torpedoed and sunk. He became ill with sand fever, and while he was recovering at a hospital in the Caribbean, his ship was also sunk. He moved to Blue Earth from Baudette several years ago, and decided to join the Legion when the VFW post in Blue Earth was no longer there. (Thanks to A.B. Russ for information in this story.)

Hanson is shown in two different pictures working for the Civilian Conservation Corps in northern Minnesota.

Rochester Convention

Continued from Page 1

Suites has rooms for $89 and reservations can be made at the same number.

A registration form is on page 2 of this issue and made at the same number. 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.

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 post will also host a burger 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 Wednesday at 5 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 the same on Friday, and on Saturday there will be the new commander’s and new president’s receptions followed by the close of the conventions. There will be shuttle service throughout the week from the post to the hotels and convention sites.

The hospitality rooms on Friday night will be at the Windsor Hall in the base ment level of the Kahler hotels. A parade route for Friday night has not yet been determined but the parade will feature competition for color guards, drill teams and patriotic floats.

The Auxiliary special guest will be National Northwest Division Vice President Pat Stieranka of Cloquet.

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

**OFFICIAL CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION**

A registration fee of $15 for each person attending, whether a delegate, alternate 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 # SAL Sqdn. Auxiliary Unit

District Name

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.
Mullon leads task force

Continued from Page 1

will be released soon. “We usually look at a variety of factors, the budget, the recruitment, the facilities. At Phoenix, we had to focus on schedul-
ing. Mullon, who had done about 45 or 50 site visits representing The American Legion, said the daylong visit at the hospital was pre-
ceded, as all System Worth Saving visits, by a town hall meeting. The tenor of that meet-
ing was strongly anti-VA, Mullon said. (Excerpts from that meeting can be watched on the Legion website: www.legion.org.)

Mullon said officials at the VA Medical Center denied there was a secret waiting list as many reports and whistle blowers have indicated. “As the Legion, we have never been able to find their records. We have no sub-
poena power. That’s some-
thing the inspector general will have to sort out.”

Mullon said the claim that 40 had died while wait-
ing for care also needs to be examined with better infor-
mation than the task force had access to.

Veterans bills passed

Continued from Page 1

we did that most was important was keeping at bay some things that were not completely thought out.”

Tesdahl said it would be nice if state legislators consult-
ed with the veterans service groups in a similar way to how federal lawmakers do.

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“Just call us on the phone. Ask those whom the law is going to affect. Come to the table with us.”

Among those measures that did pass:

• A time extension was granted to surviving spouses of veterans to claim a property tax benefit for totally disabled veterans from five to eight years.
• National Guard pay will now be exempt from income taxes, just like all other active duty military pay.
• Expedited licensing for veterans and spouses for certain occupations. It will apply to veterans leaving the service for up to two years. There will also be temporary licenses available while their permanent licenses are being processed. For military policemen, there will be easier to qualify for state testing to become a peace officer.
• $700,000 was allocated to conduct housing needs studies around the state to seek information on various types of veterans needs and how the state can deal with it.
• All honorably discharged veterans will be able to get resident tuition rates at public universities and colleges, regardless of their resident status. This was already in effect at many Minnesota colleges, but it is now written into law.
• In the bonding bill, the state veterans homes will get $2 million for repairs and maintenance, and another $700,000 to repair a leaky deep tunnel at the Minneapolis Veterans Home.
• The Hmong-Lao veterans got $450,000 to construct a memorial at the state Capitol grounds to honor veterans of that in Laos who were allied to American forces.
• Money was also allocated for veteran memorials in North St. Paul and Edina and for renovation of the Brooklyn Park VA hospital.
• There will be license plates to recognize women vet-
erans, and a motorcycle license plate to honor combat wounded veterans.
• Veterans-owned small businesses can now register at the state level for state preference on contracts, rather than at the federal level. Mullon notes that this was one of the Commander’s Task Force initiatives this year. “Funding to make this an efficient process will need to be sought in the next budget year.”
• A Camp Ripley Veterans State Trail was given $1.7 million. It will link to the Sioux Line and Crow Wing trails.
• A $25,000 grant to the Let’s Go Fishing of Minnesota will be partially used for programs that affect veterans.
• $25,000 was granted to Stearns County for group res-
ed care.

Mullon said any shift to privatization will likely cost more. The VA has a good record of cost-effec-
tive care, including the abil-
ity to seek competition in drug prices.

“A lot if you think you’ve got waiting lists at the VA, the private sector also has lists for jobs.”

Mullon said studies have shown the VA to be the best hospital system in the United States. “That’s why we call it a System Worth Saving. The Legion has fought for years to protect the VA system. We should-

n’t quit now.”

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Mail Call

Watchdog Role

To the Editor:

In probably the worst scandal in Veterans Affairs since Warren G. Harding was President, we now see veterans being cheated out of timely health care and some even dying as a result. In 1921 President Harding created the Veterans Bureau, (the predecessor to the Veterans Administration) and appointed a decorated WWI veteran, Charles R. Forbes as its first Director. Forbes promptly began ripping off the Bureau and selling everything that was loose for his own benefit. As long as I lived in south Minneapolis, I used to go with my son, Mark, to visit the old VA Hospital in Minneapolis and sit on the porch. We observed the red flag and call for the ouster of Forbes, and a cleansing of the VA leadership creating secret lists to skew the numbers in the VA leadership’s favor at VA meetings. Forbes promptly began ripping off the VA as its first Director. Forbes needed a basic understanding of our country’s military heroes.

John Torma, Secretary for the 67th Annual Minnesota Legionnaire

By Mike Ash

The Testimonials and District Conventions are in full swing – this signals a change of the guard, but not the message we need to remember. Veterans who have served us well are leaving our service, and the credit for our veterans who served in World War II are well known today as it has ever been at any time during its history. The American Legion is as important, necessary, and relevant today as it has ever been at any time during its history. We must continue our outstanding work helping our veterans receive the benefits they earned by service to our country.

To the Editor:

I love reading the articles in the Legionnaire. The articles are great for anyone who wants to learn more about our military history. I have learned a lot from the articles. They are well written and are a part of personal accounts of those who served who will soon be gone. Thanks for doing such a great job in sharing historical stories of our veterans.

Dave Wright

to the Editor:

I am a lifetime member of the Legion and a Marine Corps veteran from the Korean era plus the Vietnam era. Not only I, but I guess, a large group of Legion member will be highly upset by the letter to the editor this past month called “Brewery Affiliation.” Who is this person who is trying to turn the Legion into an old ladies’ tea shop? Also, why did you publish such garbage?

The Legion would lose a large number of present and future members and also lose a lot of revenue.

Virginia Beach, Va.

By Mike Ash

2. It should be obvious to anyone paying attention that the VA needs to be reformed. It needs to be punished and made to make restitution of any bonus obtained fraudulently, and sent to prison if it is warranted.

A couple of things are apparent: 1. The VA needs to be changed. If no other reason than the fact that someone found guilty should be punished and made to make restitution of any bonus obtained fraudulently, and sent to prison if it is warranted. The resignation of Dr. Robert Petzel was meaningless. All bonus’s should be eliminated immediately, and permanently. It is an insult to all veterans for government employees to get a bonus for serving those who have “borne the battle”.

Also, why did you publish such garbage? Did you realize the Legion does things not just for veterans and associate members from all branches of service, and professional. Please feel free at anytime to contact me for further information or any need of help you may have. We just celebrated our 90th birthday. It is so much history about that great day. Some even say it was July 4th. In 1776, July 4th fell on a Sunday, but it was celebrated on Monday, July 5th. That showed me that our God and what Sunday stood for was more important to them at that time. Some things have changed, have they not?

The Ten Commandments are what we are to live by. God gave them to Moses not just for his people, but for all people to live by. Each commandment pertains to how we are to live our lives. I have to say, there are times I go back to my childhood and remember the Ten Commandments and try again. But not just for the rain. Anybody that watches the news knows of some of the troubles that are taking place in the world. Each of us needs to include people in those troubled areas in our prayers.

Cheryl and I had the honor of attending our grandson’s induction into the Order of Honor Eagle Scout. The ceremony was at his church. I learned so much about the Boy Scouts that I didn’t know. I have always had the greatest respect for their organization and how they stand for. When the speaker introduced Travis, everyone was standing and applauding. We did the same with a smile and a hug. A big thank you to all of the scouts; they are a big part of the four pillars.

I was asked how I like being Department Chaplain and if it would change. I said I loved it and I would do it again in a heartbeat.

The American Legion

Great memories

By Mike Ash

July 4th is Independence Day for the United States of America. There is so much history about that great day. Some even say it was July 2nd. John Adams wrote a letter to his wife Abigail saying, “The second day of July 1776 will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I’m apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemo- rated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty.” July 4th was celebrated with a grand parade, with shows, games, gun, bells, bonfires, and with illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from sea to shining sea. “The second day of July 1776 will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I’m apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemo- rated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty.” July 4th was celebrated with a grand parade, with shows, games, gun, bells, bonfires, and with illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from sea to shining sea.

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I was asked how I like being Department Chaplain and if it would change. I said I loved it and I would do it again in a heartbeat.
Legal Clinics
A series of legal clinics for veterans has been set up by the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans. The clinics will provide counseling on child support, employment, benefits, expungement, debt collection and wills. The clinic will feature attorneys, MACV staff, county veterans service officers, and others.

The clinics include:
- Tuesday, June 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis in the Flag Atrium Balcony Room. Parking is free.
- Thursday, June 19, at the Anoka County Government Center, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 24, at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center, Auditorium Building 8, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Thursday, June 26, at the Fillmore County Office Building in Preston, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Korean War Veterans
A free book on the contribution of Korean War veterans is available. For those veterans in Minnesota, please send a check for $5.60 to cover the cost of mailing, to Ed Valle, 1410 Foster St., River Falls, WI, 54022.

The U study looks at vets and food
Program (SNAP) offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture was one source along with local food shelves and state programs. “The picture is that it’s important to work on ways to help the veteran overall. It has to do with employment, lower wages, and just having enough resources to insure a steady food supply.”

The survey polled 1,200 men and 800 women who had had at least one day of outpatient care at a VA facility. The response rate was about 52 percent, considered very high for a mail survey.

“We’re not sure why it was so high, but we think it’s maybe because it was returning veterans who might be more conscientious. And because it was done in Minnesota where you might have that Minnesota personality. We were very pleased with the response rate.”

The survey was published in the journal Public Health Nutrition this past month. It was done by Widome and Minneapolis VA Health Care System researchers Agnes Jensen, Dr. Steven Fu, and Ann Bangert.

There were also correlations that were not found in the survey. For instance, it didn’t seem to matter how many deployments a veteran had served, and having a service-connected disability did not affect food security needs. The study emphasized that a living wage was often a key for veterans. “Future work should focus on connecting veterans with employment that can provide a livable wage and food assistance for veterans in need,” the final report said.

Widome said, “We hope this research prompts discussion on how to help veterans currently struggling to access food.”

Moving Wall
The Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall will be at Veterans Memorial Park in Cleveland, Minn., from Thursday, July 24 to Monday, July 28. There will be a welcoming ceremony on Saturday, July 26, at 10 a.m.

All Airborne Days
The 19th annual All Airborne Days will be held at the Minnesota Air National Guard Contact Club at Fort Snelling on Aug. 21, Saturday, from noon to 6 p.m.

Support the Troops Golf
The annual Support the Troops Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, June 21, at the Pond’s Golf Course in St. Francis. The tourney will raise money for Pets Loyal 2 Vets. It will begin at 10 a.m. with a shotgun start. Registration begins at 8 a.m. It’s a four-person scramble format and the sign up deadline is June 14. Contact Nicole at 763-795-6235. The $95 per person fee includes the golf, cart, dinner and gift bag. There will be a raffle and silent auction.

Rep. Nolan Forums
Rep. Rick Nolan, D-Minn., will be hosting a series of forums relating to veterans issues. The upcoming schedule includes:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Morrison County Government Center</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Crow Wing County Land Services Building</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>Chisago County Government Center</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>Servicemen’s Quarters in the Hibbing Memorial Building</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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Hangar Dance
The Rochester Veterans Round Table will host a hangar dance on Saturday, June 21, at Hangar C, General Aviation, Rochester International Airport.

Veterans 4 Veterans helps buy ADC bus
The Minnesota Veterans 4 Veterans recently approved a grant for $20,000 to assist in the purchase of a $66,000 bus that will serve the Adult Day Center at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis. Funding also came from the Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota Foundation. The bus will transport veterans who use the center from their home to the center and back.

Category | Food Security Level | High/Marginal | Low | Very Low |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall Nationally</td>
<td>85.5%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post 9-11 Veterans</td>
<td>62.8%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>72.1%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>74.1%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marital Status</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Married/Partnered</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Divorced/Separated</td>
<td>Using Tobacco</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Binge Drinking</td>
<td>50.7%</td>
<td>60.1%</td>
<td>58.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours of Sleep</td>
<td>6.7 hours</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair or Poor Health</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
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The University of Minnesota/Minneapolis VA study on access to food for veterans revealed some new information. Nationally, about 14.5 percent of Americans report low or very low food security levels. For veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, that figure is about 27 percent. The study also showed strong correlations between food security and other areas of life including marriage status, tobacco use, drinking, hours of sleep and general poor health and food security.

U study looks at vets and food
Continued from Page 1

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“We’re not sure why it was so high, but we think it’s maybe because it was returning veterans who might be more conscientious. And because it was done in Minnesota where you might have that Minnesota personality. We were very pleased with the response rate.”

The survey was published in the journal Public Health Nutrition this past month. It was done by Widome and Minneapolis VA Health Care System researchers Agnes Jensen, Dr. Steven Fu, and Ann Bangert.

There were also correlations that were not found in the survey. For instance, it didn’t seem to matter how many deployments a veteran had served, and having a service-connected disability did not affect food security needs. The study emphasized that a living wage was often a key for veterans. “Future work should focus on connecting veterans with employment that can provide a livable wage and food assistance for veterans in need,” the final report said.

Widome said, “We hope this research prompts discussion on how to help veterans currently struggling to access food.”

Veterans 4 Veterans helps buy ADC bus
The Minnesota Veterans 4 Veterans recently approved a grant for $20,000 to assist in the purchase of a $66,000 bus that will serve the Adult Day Center at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis. Funding also came from the Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota Foundation. The bus will transport veterans who use the center from their home to the center and back.

Category | Food Security Level | High/Marginal | Low | Very Low |
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On December 16, 86, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 2, 2014. She served on the USS Vogelsang and the USS Boise in the Atlantic. He later served in the National Guard. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Simon, Harold, 91, Army veteran of World War II, died May 1, 2014. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Brock, William, 93, Army veteran of World War II, died April 25, 2014. He served as a tank commander in Korea. He was a member of Wheaton Post 84.

Jorgenson, Domen, 86, Navy veteran of World War II, died April 8, 2014. He served on the USS Vogelsang and the USS Boise in the Atlantic. He later served in the National Guard. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Simmon, Harold, 91, Army veteran of World War II, died April 25, 2014. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Driver, David, 86, Navy veteran of World War II, died April 24, 2014. He flew 34 missions over Europe and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was a member of Paynesville Post 271.

River Falls Post 117.

World War II, died May 25, 2014. He earned a Purple Heart and the Bronze Star in Korea. He was a member of Lakefield Post 4.

Wagner, Ray C., 86, Army veteran of World War II, died April 24, 2014. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Bernard, John, 90, Army veteran of World War II, died April 8, 2014. He served on the USS Vogelsang and the USS Boise in the Atlantic. He later served in the National Guard. He was a member of New Ulm Post 132.

Davis, John, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died April 7, 2014. He served in North Africa and Europe and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was a member of Paynesville Post 271.

Koelewyn, Frank, 86, Navy veteran of World War II, died April 20, 2014. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Dorsch, John George, 80, Army veteran of World War II, died April 28, 2014. He served at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. He was a member of Challenger Post 521.

Nykamp, Henry J., 80, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 18, 2014. He was a mechanic in Germany. He was a member of Edgerton Post 42.

Kocelewsky, Frank, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 26, 2014. He was stationed at Eielson Air Force Base. He was a member of Edgerton Post 42.

Schaef, Roger, 86, Army veteran of World War II, died April 5, 2014. He was a member of Paynesville Post 271.

80, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 15, 2014. He was a member of Paynesville Post 271.

Duke, Harvey, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 26, 2014. He served in the Signal Corps. He was a member of Gaylord Post 433.

Olson, Earl L., 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 10, 2014. He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Ogilvie, Roger P., 83, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 4, 2014. He was a member of Blue Earth Post 89.

Berg, Edgar H., 90, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 4, 2014. He was a member of Pequot Lakes Post 4.

Stumpf, Leo E., 83, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 7, 2014. He was a member of Pequot Lakes Post 4.

Lubinski, Roman R., 83, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 2, 2014. He served for 25 years, including duty on submarines and the battleship Oklahoma. He retired as an officer, having risen to the rank of captain. He was a past post commander of Winona Post 9.

Katzner, Albin, 75, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 7, 2014. He was a member of Rapidan Post 212.

LeRoy, 80, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 29, 2014. He was a sergeant in the 70th Armored Field Artillery. He was a member of White Bear Lake Post 168.

Olsen, Chester, 89, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died April 17, 2014. He was a member of Litchfield Post 104.

Birkemeier, Richard E., 80, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 18, 2014. He was a member of Litchfield Post 101.

Momsen, JoAnn, 87, wife of former Department Adjutant and National Adjutant Frank Momsen, died May 6, 2014.

Maus, Leroy E., 96, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 10, 2014. He was a pharmacist’s mate. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Drescher, Marvin A., 89, Army veteran of World War II, died May 10, 2014. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Bryson, L. Richard, 83, Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 9, 2014. He served in the medical lab of a MASH unit. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Uve, Keith D., 86, Navy veteran of World War II, died May 8, 2014. He served on Guam. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Thiessen, Merlyn N., 90, Marine Corps veteran of World War II, died May 7, 2014. He fought at Tarawa, Saipan and Tinian. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Gustafson, Dennis E., 94, Army veteran of World War II, died May 6, 2014. He was a member of Pequot Lakes Post 49.

Jury, Earl W., 89, Army veteran of World War II, died May 5, 2014. He was a member of Albert Lea Post 56.

Marshik, Virgil, 84, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 24, 2014. He was a member of Hillman Post 602.

Kronvold, Vernon Paul, 86, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 24, 2014. He was a member of Wheaton Post 80.

DURBIN KEENEY

DURBIN M. KEENEY, Jr., 65, Duluth, a longtime advocate for veterans, died April 13, 2014.

Keeny was an Air Force veteran who served in Vietnam. He founded the northern chapter of Minnesota Veterans Council for Veterans in 1998. He was also active in the Northland Combat Veterans of America, and he was a past commander of Duluth Post 71 of The American Legion.

He was involved in dozens of veterans projects in the Duluth area including a Vietnam veterans memorial, and a Dignity Thru Build Memorial with Tuskegee Airmen Airman Joe Gomez, and Vietnam War prisoner David Wheat. He retired from MACV in 2011, but his work for veterans never stopped.

“he was passionately devoted to helping others, especially his fellow veterans,” Duluth Mayor Don Ness said. “He, and his vast contributions to our community will always be remembered.”

Sons of The American Legion

By John W. Affolter

Sons of the American Legion Commander John W. Affolter suffered a stroke this past month. He is recovering and in good spirits. Cards and notes can be sent to John Affolter, Ecuemn Patshouse Living, Room 3502, 718 Mound Avenue, Mankato, MN 56001.
through the barbed wire and mines. A key to the operation was to get the men off the beach and into the hills and valleys beyond. “If you stayed on the beach, you were a target. If you got off the beach, you were a hunter.”

The officer in charge of the 16th Infantry Regiment, Gen. George Taylor, roamed the beach telling his men, “There are two kinds of people on the beach. The dead and those about to die.”

By late morning, the beach was fairly secure, and by mid-afternoon, the leading elements were heading up the draws going inland. “By the end of the day, there was not a front line as such, but a series of perimeters.”

Why did the invasion succeed? “I think it was the combat experience,” McManus said. “There were a lot of flaws in the plan, but in the end there was enough leadership to triumph over adversity.”

Two combat veterans joined McManus on the panel. Jerry Nauss was with the First Signal Company of the First Infantry Division. Bill Tiede was an anti-aircraft gunner with the 459th AAA Battalion, which was attached to the 29th Infantry Division.

Nauss went overseas as a replacement, not assigned to any one unit. As D-Day approached, the tension began to build. “I was delivering mail to the 18th Infantry of the First Division. I knew something was happening.” And, he was issued French francs a few days before the invasion. “I kind of knew where we were going.”

Nauss went ashore on D-Day plus 6. “The front door opened, and we headed out in shoulder and chest deep water. I could see a lot of dark spots in the sand on the beach. We went right up the bluff! It was all marked off. It was a clear path.”

One of his most vivid memories was seeing a German spotter plane shot down and the pilot bail out. “They were shooting at the guy as he was coming down, finally they did collapse his parachute and down he went.” Welcome to war.

Nauss still was not assigned to a specific unit. “They lined up all the replacements and then they counted down by twos. If you were a ‘1’ you went to the First Division and if you were a ‘2’ you went to the Second Division. That was clever, wasn’t it?”

Nauss was a ‘1’ and he headed inland on a truck, which promptly stopped at a bar in a French village. “I had my first taste of calvados (a French apple brandy).”

He said he was fairly well treated by the grizzled veterans of the Big Red One, but he did overhear a sergeant telling a corporal, “Don’t tell the kid anything.”

Bill Tiede recalls training for the invasion during practice landings at Slapton Sands in southern England. “That beach was supposedly the same as the beach at Normandy, but it wasn’t.”

Before going ashore, the men had to waterproof their vehicles so they could navigate the water at the landings. They put pipes leading up from the exhaust and the air intake, and smeared Cosmoline all over the rest of the engine to waterproof it.

Tiede landed on D-Day plus 4. As the door of the LST opened onto the beach, Tiede recalls thinking, “What am I getting into?” Once ashore, there was no artillery, “But I could hear small arms fire in the distance.”

“We had a dry landing, and I remember we weren’t in a hurry. The engineers had cut a road up through the Vierville draw, but we had to wait. They said they had to clear the Germans out of the place where they wanted us to set up our guns.”

## Big Red One helped lead assault on D-Day

The First Infantry Division, the “Big Red One,” was one of America’s toughest fighting units in World War II. Because of the division’s experience in amphibious assaults on both North Africa and Sicily, it was chosen, along with the 29th Division, to lead the assault on Omaha Beach during the D-Day landings.

But it wasn’t just the division’s experience, said historian and author John McManus at the May World War II History Round Table at Fort Snelling. It was their attitude.

“The Big Red One had a distinct personality. They had the reputation at the senior levels as a go-to outfit. But they were also known as a hard drinking, fighting, temperamental, and proud division. And they were suspicious of outsiders.” McManus said that some members of the division took it so far that they didn’t believe they had to take orders from officers outside the division.

The First ID had gone through some trauma in 1943 when its longtime commander, Gen. Terry Allen, and his second in command, Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., were relieved of duty by Gen. Omar Bradley. Allen was instantly popular with the troops, for his brash, aggressive, discipline-free attitude was emulated by his men.

“They considered the U.S. Army as the First Division and 10 million replacements.”

Allen was replaced by a by-the-book disciplinarian Gen. Clarence Huebner. “He was the direct opposite of Allen. He felt the division needed more discipline and he was a stickler for orders. The troops thought he was a mean-spirited old guy.”

Huebner believed in training and more training, and he personally led the troops on the obstacle course and at the firing range. His nickname became, “the coach.”

McManus said Huebner’s theory of leadership was, “You can start as an SOB and become a good guy. But you can’t start as a good guy and then become an SOB.”

By the spring of 1944, as the division got ready for the invasion of France, Huebner had earned the grudging respect of his proud division.

Under Huebner’s emphasis on detail, every position in the Higgins Boat landing craft was assigned. The lieutenant was in front as the leader. Follow me. The top NCO was in the back of the boat pushing the men off the boat and leading them to the beach.

The First Division was assigned to the left side of Omaha Beach, a two-mile stretch that was guarded by 500 heavily-armed and well entrenched Germans. “There wasn’t a lot of German manpower, but it was a quality outfit.”

The American bombardment of the beach had little effect on the defenses. There were three “draws,” leading from the beach – valleys that led inland. They would be the most heavily defended.

The strict timetable for the landing soon gave way to mass confusion as landings were delayed and then arrived at the wrong place. A plan to have “swimming tanks,” equipped with flotation devices, failed badly in the rough seas, and 27 of the 32 launched sank in the waves. Many of the troops and wounded and dead, it was hard for the tanks to maneuver on the beach.

The individual soldiers had a bad time also. “Most of them were seasick from being on the ships all night. They put pipes leading up from the exhaust and the air intake, and smeared Cosmoline all over the rest of the engine to waterproof it. They put pipes leading up from the exhaust and the air intake, and smeared Cosmoline all over the rest of the engine to waterproof it. Some units took 45 percent casualties in the first hour of the assault.

McManus told stories about many individual efforts to save lives and give moral support. One of his most vivid memories was seeing a German sharpshooter to take aim on him. But he, in true First Division tradition, assaulted his sergeant.

Engineers used explosives and other tools to clear a path to the beach. Once ashore they were confronted with 400 to 600 yards of open beach that was being hammered by a withering German fire. Many tried to reach a low embankment called “draws going inland. ‘By the end of the day, there was not a front line as such, but a series of perimeters.’

Why did the invasion succeed? ‘I think it was the combat experience,’ McManus said. ‘There were a lot of flaws in the plan, but in the end there was enough leadership to triumph over adversity.’

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## World War II Round Table at Fort Snelling

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Legionville readies for new campers

The exterior of the education center is nearly done, but much work remains inside.

Air ventilation pipes wait to be installed in the large room of the new education center. The pipes cannot be hung until the taping and painting is done. Volunteers are needed to tape, sand and paint the interior of the building. When sessions at Legionville Camp, on North Long Lake near Brainerd, begin in June, the large room will not be in use. Classrooms in the building, however, will be used.

Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl measures out some tape in one of the interior spaces at Legionville’s new education center. If you would like to volunteer, contact Camp Director Roy Kruger at 218-829-3094.

Outdoor stuff for state veterans

Assistant Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller tries his luck at Veterans on the Lake Fishing Trip for Disabled Veterans.

Hank Ebert shows off his prize at the Disabled Vets Turkey Hunt at Camp Ripley.

Dick and Jerry show off their catch at Ely.

Mark Courts and his fishing truck and boat are shown at Ely along with Adjutant Randy Tesdahl, DSO Tom Newman and ADSO Jeremy Wolfsteller.

Department Commander Mike Ash is interviewed for The Outdoor Report.
Commander Mike Ash, cat lover, received some edible Kitty Litter at his testimonial from Gene Olswold.

Commander Ash’s Testimonial

Since the Blue Collar Comedy Team was out of town, the Blue Capper Comedy Team took their place, roasting Commander Ash at his testimonial at the Rosetown Post 542. From left are Tom Conway, Larry Ryan and Mark Mitzuk.

Commander Ash received a carved granite momento from his team of officers. It was presented by Membership Director Tom Fernlund.

Dignitaries brought greetings for the commander. From left: SAL Detachment Commander John W. Affolter; Honorary Junior President Kaitlin Fernlund; NECman Ray DeZurik; Auxiliary President Shirley Frederick.

Amanda England, Mike’s daughter, placed the POW/MIA flag at the empty table.

And when it was all over, there was still one hug left for the exhausted commander -- with wife Teresa.

Featured Speaker Don Pankake brought his special kind of humor to the evening.
Al Lieberman grew up in North Dakota. He joined the Army Air Corps and learned to fly the P-47 Thunderbolt, America’s workhorse fighter. He got through 74 missions and always had the feeling that someone or something was looking out for him — including the time a German 88 blew a hole in his wing but failed to explode.

He was assigned to Rankin Field near Tulear, California. It had been operated by Tex Rankin, a famous barnstormer, and it was like a private flying school. “I loved the Stearman. It was one heck of a plane. I could do anything in that plane you could dream of. I was the first one in my class to solo.”

One potential problem Lieberman had to solve was the fact that if he rode in the back seat of a car, he always got carsick. “But I never got sick when I was flying.”

He got his wings on March 12, 1944, after advanced training in the AT-6 Stearman at Luke Field in Phoenix. He was assigned to the 362nd Fighter Group, the 379th Fighter Squadron. The pilots were flown on a transport to England, and they settled in at a base near Shrewsbury. They were flying the P-47 Thunderbolts, one of the two main fighter aircraft used by the Army, and considered a
Lieberman and two other pilots were sent to Paris one day to pick up three airplanes. "They told me if I wanted to buy anything in Paris, I should bring along a couple of cartons of cigarettes and a bunch of candy bars."

When they got to the base at the edge of Paris, the three Thunderbolts were waiting for them. "But as luck would have it, we we fired up those three planes none of us were quite satisfied with how they sounded. So we had to stay over on the base that night."

"In high school I'd had a camera and I really enjoyed photography. As I was walking through Paris that day, I came across a little shop that had cameras in the window. I fell in love with this little 35mm."

Lieberman and the shop owner dickered over the price of the camera. "When I left, I had the camera, but he had all my cigarettes and candy. He also threw in 20 rolls of Kodak film, high speed black and white."

For the rest of the war, Lieberman took pictures of himself and his friends. The film was developed by the Army shop that developed the gun camera pictures. He still has over a hundred of the images.

The Thunderbolt was a sturdy, powerful and reliable fighter. The pilots began doing missions following the D-Day landings. The group was assigned to provide close combat support to Patton's Third Army, and the unit used many bases across France and into Germany as the war continued for the next year.

"We kept moving. Patton was moving like crazy. They would show us a map with a bomb line every morning. Supposedly our people were inside that line. But once Patton broke through that line, he would floorboard it and he wouldn't stop."

"The American tanks had panels with different colors they could put on tops of the tanks, sort of a color of the day. It warned us away from our own tanks."

The P-47s were armed with two thousand-pound bombs, one under each wing, and a 500-pound bomb attached to the underside of the fighter. It also had eight 50 caliber machine guns mounted on the wings. "We also could carry napalm, frag clusters and anti-personnel bombs. The anti-personnel bombs were like a grass mower, they would get anybody in the area."

The aircraft could fly above 20,000 feet, but it wasn’t easy on the pilots. "We had an oxygen mask, but the cockpit wasn’t pressurized. We’d be sucking pure oxygen. We’d keep the mask on anyway, even at lower altitudes, because that’s where our microphone was."

Lieberman was flying a combat sweep one day when the plane lurched. "It was boom, bang, and the T-bolt was really rocked. But it was still flying. I looked out at the wing, and there was a gaping hole, a really big hole."

Lieberman guesses that it was an 88 German artillery round that didn’t explode. "It just came right through. If it had exploded, the whole plane would have blown up. Again, I think someone was looking out for me."

On April 5, 1945, Second Lieutenant Al Lieberman was coming back from an armed reconnaissance mission over Worbits, Germany. "We got jumped on by a bunch of German 190s. I got on the tail of one and followed him down from about 8,000 feet. I’d give him a little burst here and a little burst there. Maybe I did that three times, when there was a little plume of flame. He crashed. I don’t know if he bought the farm or if he bailed out."

"Another German fighter was being attacked when I came back up. Three of our guys took runs at him. I was the fourth one. It was just reflexes. We didn’t have enough experience in dog fights to really know what we were doing. But I let him have it from a little further back."

The plane went down, and several of Lieberman’s fellow pilots congratulated him. In the end, though, Lieberman only got credit for one aerial victory that day, his only one.
of the war, because it was difficult to determine who had really gotten the second Focke-Wulf fighter. “I told them to let one of the other guys have it.”

But missing credit on the second plane didn’t bother Lieberman. He was so happy with his first kill that he might have even done a barrel roll over the airfield as he came into land.

Lieberman recalled that a colonel in his squadron got credit for a kill probably no one else in the Ninth Air Force could claim. He sank a cruiser near the port of Brest soon after the invasion. “On his plane were painted two swastikas, for the planes he shot down, and a cruiser.”

Lieberman participated in the breakthrough from Normandy, and his squadron helped defend the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, the last bridge standing over the Rhine as the U.S. forces moved into Germany.

As the war ground to a close in May, Lieberman and another pilot were given some time off, and they took advantage by going to the French resort area at Cannes. “Bob Swafford and I got 10 days R&R. We were in a room on the second or third floor of this hotel that overlooked the Mediterranean. It was a nice outfit. We were there when the Germans finally threw in the towel. We had a big time party.”

Back with the squadron at a base in Germany, though, there was the sobering reality that the squadron would be sent to the Pacific to fight the Japanese. And, in fact, much of the air group did get on ships bound for the Panama Canal.

Lieberman took a ship back to New York, though, with the intention of having a furlough in Minnesota. “I had just flown 74 missions, and on the liberty ship on the way back, I had a birthday. I turned 21.”

After his time at home, Lieberman did not rejoin his squadron, though. Instead he was sent to Texas to become a flight instructor, and he was there when the war ended.

He remembers one more mission before he got out. “We were in a dry county in Texas, and the people in charge said I could take an AT-6 home for a visit if I stopped and picked up a case of bourbon.”

By this time, Lieberman’s parents had moved to Minneapolis. “I told them I’d let them know when to come and pick me up at Holman Field in St. Paul. So I circled their house two or three times, and I kept adjusting the pitch on the propeller. It must have sounded like the airplane was coming through their house.”

“It worked, because when I got to the airport, they were there waiting for me.”

The trip back featured Lieberman in the front seat and a case of very good bourbon strapped into the back seat.

The entire squadron came out of “The Pilot’s Hole” at another base so Lieberman could take their picture.

The squadron usually stayed in tents, and it was someone’s duty to dig a hole as a bomb shelter.

Ah, the life of Lieberman. The young officer, not yet 21, lounges on his bunkbed with his favorite pinups on the wall behind him. Also on the wall was his nickname, “Lieby.”
Greetings from the 1st District. By the time this article is published, the 1st District Convention will be completed and Area 2 Vice Commander Myron Erich will have been elected 1st District Commander, and he and his team will have been installed. I want to wish the best of luck to Myron and his new leadership team on their upcoming year.

Now, there is still business that needs to be completed before the end of the current Legion year. Post Consolidated Reports are due to Department by June 1st. As of May 10th, 19 Posts have turned them in - 33.3 % that we have 1st place trailing the 10th District. Each Post does at least one event that can be listed on this report. If you have questions on how to fill out this report, please contact me or District Adjutant Wayne for assistance.

Post Blood reports are due to Chairman Jess. They were due on May 1st - if you haven’t got them in and sent in do so as soon as possible.

Posts also send in updated and fully completed Post Officers. The Department has 2 conventions your post elections. Notice the change to where Post mailings will be sent. Read the form carefully and fill it out completely!

District Officer/District Committee Chairman Changeover will be held in Stewartville on June 9th at 7 p.m.

Lastly make sure all unpaid members have been contacted. We still have time to turn in Membership for this year.

I had the opportunity to be the speaker at Hanska for its Memorial Day services and enjoy the wonderful food. Our next meeting for the Department will be in July at Rochester.

Each family would bring something to cook and eat. In fact, this was the origin of the phrase “pot luck”, because no one knew what it was going to be. Just keep it in mind, and you will be able to make a good choice.

After the Civil War, families would gather at the burial ground to remember their dead. They would bring food and drinks and distance to reunite. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, referred to as “May Days”, were an opportunity for people who were separated by war to reconnect. These occasions, refere...
LISTENING POST

News from around the State

COMMANDER ON RADIO -- Department Commander Mike Ash tapes his Memorial Day message for the Minnesota Twins Radio Network. Assisting was Mark Genosky of the Twins radio staff. The message was aired 10 times over Memorial weekend.

FORT SNELLING RIFLE SQUAD HONORED -- A group of volunteers from the Fort Snelling Rifle Squad traveled to Washington D.C. and participated in the Memorial Day activities at Arlington. The squad, one of the oldest of its kind in the nation, celebrates its 35th anniversary this month.


BACKUS WELCOME HOME -- Lynne "Hot Lips" Gagnon won second prize in the Backus Post 358 Welcome Back Snowbirds event.

APPLE VALLEY HONOR -- Apple Valley Post 1776 honored Howard Blix for 60 years of membership. From left are Commander Bob Nelson, Blix and Gene Moon.

REDWOOD FALLS OLD TIMERS -- Redwood Falls Post 38 honored those members with 50 and 60 years of membership. Standing are Commander Jeff Olson and Adjutant Jim Mertens. Sitting are Ray Gelinne, Paul Pryor, Gerald Larson, Ernest Teeri, Robert Nolting.

BAGLEY FAMILY -- Bagley Post 16 member Karen Surdez presents a 60 year certificate to her grandfather, Ralph Ellis.

RIDE FOR THE TROOPS -- A group of motorcycles gathered at Bemidji for the 9th annual Ride for the Troops. The event was held in memory of Ken Donaghue.

KENSINGTON MEMBER HONORED -- Kensington Post 268 honored Lawrence Christensen, seated, with a certificate for 60 years membership. From left: Dick Staples, Ralph Gunderson, Jim Anderson, Ted Pederson, Gary Johnson standing.
BACKUS MEMORIAL DAY -- Backus Post 368 marked Memorial Day at Evergreen Cemetery. Auxiliary President Jean Dawson tolled the bell for the deceased.

ST. ANSGAR HOLIDAY EVENT -- Liz Strofus, Faribault, right, led the discussion in the World War II group at the annual St. Ansgar Christmas Party.

FT. SNELLING MEMORIAL DAY -- Department Commander Mike Ash stepped from his limo ride introduction at the Memorial Day Service at Ft. Snelling.

ASHES HELP WITH WREATH -- Commander Mike and Teresa Ash helped present the Navy wreath at the Fort Snelling Cemetery Memorial Day event.

REDWOOD FALLS TOP LEGIONNAIRE -- Redwood Falls Post 38 Commander Jeff Olson honored Paul DeBlieck as Legionnaire of the Year.

NORTH END SCHOLARSHIP -- St. Paul North End Post 474 awarded a scholarship to Kamerin Grams. From left: Robin Picray, Grams, Larry Johns, Dennis Kirchgatter.

WOODBURY DONATES FLAGS -- The Woodbury Post 501 and Woodbury VFW 9024 donated new flags for all classrooms at Valley Crossing Community School. From left: Bruce Nettleton, Bob Halter, School Principal Julie Hartman, Bob Fritsche and Post Commander Tom Grezek.

MORA HONORS MEMBERS -- 60 year members were honored by Mora Post 201 recently. From left, sitting: Clark Loken, James McCarty, Gorden Hein, Robert Graham. Standing: Emmit Oien, Donovan Vandriel.

NEW ULM HONORS LONG TIMERS -- Long time members of New Ulm Post 132 were honored on the Legion Birthday. From left: John Gohr, Post Commander Dave Borchert, Allen Affolter, Isidor Faerber, Duane Bohne, Joseph Moldan, Sylvester Mallak, Second District Commander Gene Olswold.
## Auxiliary All Events

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**TOTAL** $522.00

## Auxiliary Singles

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**TOTAL $1718.00**

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**TOTAL $1358.00**

## Legion Team

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**TOTAL $9,953.00**

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**TOTAL $4,050.00**
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<td>TOM BURNS</td>
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SINGLES WINNER -- Jackie Lagoon of Mahtomedi Post 507 was the Auxiliary singles winner, rolling a 743 on the last weekend of the tournament.

BAYPORT CONTINGENT -- Bayport Post 491 brings 10 teams the first week of every tournament.

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS -- Cold Spring Unit 455 won the Auxiliary team title at the Minnesota American Legion Bowling Tournament held at Moorhead this year. From left are Cindy Geoford, Dolores Schroeder, Doreen Lemke, Norma Tranm.

ARNDT FAMILY -- Todd, Robby, Scot and Robert Arndt have been bowling for years in the state tourney.

Springfield, Cold Spring top bowlers

This year’s Bowling Tournament, hosted by the Moorhead American Legion Post 21 at the Sunset Lanes, did not draw as many bowlers as last year. We are down by 40%, and that is a considerable number of bowlers. This also takes the prize payouts down. The weather was not a factor. The first week-end was the worst and everyone that made it to Moorhead.

I think that, the distance drive, and the location of the event has a lot to do with it. The Board will have to take a look at these factors as we pick the locations each year.

We had approximately 500 bowlers this year, 110 Legion teams and 14 Auxiliary teams. We all had a great time, the host post did a great job entertaining everyone, and the bowling alley personnel were great also. Thank you to all that made all this happen.

The Legion winners were Springfield Post 257 in the Team Event. Doubles-Springfield Post 257, Kurt Kratz and Bob Reiner; Singles --Gary Holtz of Litchfield Post 104. The Auxiliary Winners were: Singles, Jackie Lagoon of Mahtomedi Post 507, Doubles, Kelly Miller and Naomi Christopherson, North Branch Post 85, Team -- Cold Spring Post 455.

The 2015 Tournament will be hosted by the Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172 and the lanes will be the New Brunswick Zone Lanes on Brooklyn Blvd. in Brooklyn Park.

Thank you again for a great year and see you all in 2015. Secretary John W. Torma.

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DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Has your Unit elected its delegates and alternates to the 2014 Department Convention? The Convention will be held July 17 - 19 at the Kahler Grand Hotel hosted by the Rochester Post and Unit #92 with members of the 1st Division for a scholarship of $5,000.00. She was not selected as a National winner and will receive a $1,000.00 scholarship. She was competing with six other Departments in the NW Division for a scholarship of $5,000.00. Heitman was competing with six other Departments in the NW Division for a scholarship of $5,000.00. $3,500.00, $3,000.00 or $2,000.00 scholarship. She was awarded 3rd place and the $2,000.00 scholarship. Poppy hats. The totals to date for 2014, the Department office has shipped out 334,000 small poppies, 10,284 large poppies, and 452 fancy poppy posters. Thanks to all who are supporting this project. The wonderful news is that out of 449 active units 399 ordered poppies this year.

2014 DUDES NOTICES

We have been advised by our National organization the first dues notices for the 2015 membership dues will be sent out no later than September 15. All Senior members will be sent their first notice by Monday, September 15th. The first notice will include this information in your Unit via your Unit newsletter or at your next meeting. Remember that members can pay their Unit dues before that date, they do NOT have to wait for the notice from National.

2015 MEMBERSHIP

While we are still in search of our members who have not yet renewed for the current year thoughts are already turning to the 2015 membership year. The 2015 cards will be sent out in the Unit’s 2014-2015 Membership Chairman as soon as possible following our Department Convention, provided we have received your Unit’s 2014-2015 officers’ list in the department office. Please remember that all members can still pay their 2014 dues to retain their years of service.

2014-2015 OFFICERS’ LIST

We are in need of the Unit officers’ list for 2014-2015 from each Unit. Each Unit is sent two (2) copies of the list in the May mailing. Please return one copy to the department office; the duplicate copy is for your District President-Elect. All lists should be in no later than July 15th. So far I have received 84 out of 449 Officer’s lists. The form is posted on our website - you can fill it out and email it to the Department Office immediately.

Please be certain to check all addresses before sending in your list. The Department mailing list is compiled from what you send in for your Unit. Also, if you prefer items be sent by Buses have been arranged for in several Districts. We have been advised by our National organization the first dues notices for the 2015 membership dues will be sent out no later than September 15. All Senior members will be sent their first notice by Monday, September 15th. The first notice will include this information in your Unit via your Unit newsletter or at your next meeting. Remember that members can pay their Unit dues before that date, they do NOT have to wait for the notice from National.

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Please be certain to check all addresses before sending in your list. The Department mailing list is compiled from what you send in for your Unit. Also, if you prefer items be sent by email, please make sure and fill out the email address area.

The 2015 membership cards and supplies will be sent to your Unit’s 2015 Membership Chairman following the Department Convention, provided we have received your officers’ list.

When you receive your membership packets, please read the “Minnesota Guide to Membership” that will be included. The guide will explain the correct procedure for handling your Unit’s 2015 membership.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP ENTRIES

Our Department Education Chairman, Louise Kleibohr, is pleased to announce the following Department winners were entered into Divisional competition for National scholarships. If selected for the National President’s Scholarship, the Spirit of Youth for Junior Members Scholarship or the Non-Traditional Students Scholarship, they will receive a National scholarship. If not a National winner, they will receive a $1,000.00 scholarship from the Department.

Children of Woman’s Auxiliary National President’s Scholarship - Elizabeth Heitman of Lake City. Heitman was competing with six other Departments in the NW Division for a $3,500.00, $3,000.00 or $2,000.00 scholarship. She was awarded 3rd place and the $2,000.00 scholarship. Spirit of Youth for Junior Members Scholarship – Arianna Karsky, a member of the Wheeler Unit #80. She was awarded a $2,000.00 scholarship. Spirit of Youth for Junior Members Scholarship – Arianna Karsky, a member of the Wheeler Unit #80. She was not selected as a National winner and will receive a $1,000.00 scholarship from the Department of Minnesota.

POPPY CONTESTS

Our Department Poppy Chairman, Sharon Barnes, is holding two Poppy contests at the Department Convention. They are: 1) Patriotic Coloring Book (to be 6 pages in length) and 2) A Poppy Hat. Please read the Trophy and Awards booklet for rules. There will be a People’s Choice Award, vote by donation with all proceeds going to the President’s Project Fund.

Everyone get your heads together and come up with some great entries. Any/all members may enter either/both of the contests. There is no limit as to the number of entries from a Unit. Enjoy. Have fun. Be creative. The Junior Conference had a very large amount of entries for all of its contests that were fabulous. Let’s see what the Senior’s can do. All entries must be at the Department Convention by 9 a.m. on Thursday, July 17. Tables will be set up in the Display Area for your entries. Winners will be announced at the Department Convention. I am looking forward to seeing many, many beautiful hats.

CHARLOTTE WILL HOST NATIONAL CONVENTION

Charlotte, North Carolina is the site for our annual American Legion Auxiliary National Convention, August 22 - 28th.

Delegates and alternates to the Convention are elected at each District Convention. Your District’s representation is based on your District’s total membership.

If you are elected a delegate or alternate, you will receive a convention mailing from the Department the latter part of June, which will contain the particulars.

If you are elected a delegate or alternate and find you are not able to attend, please notify the department office immediately.

The President’s Column

By Shirley Frederick

June 14th is Flag Day. Fly your flag proudly.

Our Minnesota Girls State will be held June 15-20 at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. Make plans to have your Girls State girls come and talk at one of your meetings about her experience there. Then make plans with your school for the 2015 session. Our enrollment is up this year from last and we are excited about that.

The 68th session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State will convene on Sunday, June 15th, at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. Some 380 young women will participate by learning about Minnesota government by actually running a government.

Every American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State citizens will receive a packet of information. If your girls have questions, please contact the department office.

Please Office immediately. If your candidate has decided she can not attend, please notify the Department Office. Do keep in touch with your American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State citizen to answer any questions she may have prior to her departure on June 15th. All American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State citizens are to be at the University of St. Thomas prior to the opening session on Sunday, June 15th.

Buses have been arranged for in several Districts. Check your District bulletin or contact your District Girls State Chairman for details.

Thank you to all the Units for making this program possible for the girls who will be attending. We are all looking forward to an exciting week. The Committee has worked very hard making very positive changes to the program.

2014 POPPY NEWS

The totals to date for 2014, the Department office has shipped out 334,000 small poppies, 10,284 large poppies and 452 fancy poppy posters. Thanks to all of you supporting this project. The wonderful news is that out of 449 active units 399 ordered poppies this year.
Auxiliary Bulletin
Continued from Preceding Page
Non-Traditional Student Scholarship—Larissa Wykle, member of Unit #143 Brownston, was competing with six other Departments in the NW Division for a $2,000.00 scholarship. She was not selected as a National winner and will receive a $1,000.00 scholarship from the Department of Minnesota.

PARLEY SCHOLARSHIP
Through the Department’s Past Presidents Parley program up to ten $1,000.00 scholarships can be awarded each year to members of the Auxiliary here in Minnesota. Marie Goode, Department Past Presidents Parley Chairman is pleased to announce that five scholarships were awarded this year. The recipients are: Andrea Reinschmidt of Plainview, Britney Richers of Laverne, Jamie Scherer of Paynesville, Taylor Siew and Andrew Schoswie of Plainview. There were 6 applicants for the Past Presidents Parley Health Care Scholarships.

Congratulations to each of you as you pursue a career in a health care field.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
Louise Kleebnare Education Chairman has awarded eight scholarships for the Department of Minnesota Scholarship program. Each scholarship is in the amount of $1,000.00. The following is a list of the recipients: Travis Wehner of Browner, Kristen Carver of Rice, Austin Otto of Maplewood, Mark Geerdes of Northome, Cameron Hunt of South Haven, Sarah Nelson of Sauk Centre, Allison Krueger of Dalbo and Tamara Frank of Redwood Falls. There were 108 applicants for the Department Scholarship Congratulations to all winners and we wish you the best in your educational futures!

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST
The following were selected by Department Chairman Jean Walker as the 2013-2014 Americanism Essay winners. Thank you to the many children who took the time to submit their entries.

Class I, 1st Place, Margaret Dolan, Tracy Unit 173; 2nd Place, Haiden Berries, Elk River Unit 112; 3rd Place, Aisha Lightheater Blooming Prairie Unit 52.

Class II, 1st Place, Brooke Fredrickson, Middle River Unit 444; 2nd Place, Kennedy Hill, Morris Unit 29; 3rd Place, Jacob Siedschlaw, Elk River Unit 112.

Class III, 1st Place, Carson Anderson, Hayfield Unit 330; 2nd Place, Charles Morgan, Hayfield Unit 330; 3rd Place, Ryan Rissus, Hayfield Unit 330.

Class IV, 1st Place, Claudia Williams, Backus Unit 368; 2nd Place, Payton Hanson, Middle River Unit 444; 3rd Place, Donavan Phoenix, Hayfield Unit 330.

Class V, 1st Place, Kristin Liepold, Heron Lake Unit 224; 2nd Place, Sara Gilmore, Hayfield Unit 330; 3rd Place, Jessica Foster, Hayfield Unit 330.

BAYPORT UNIT 491
Every year Post 491 sponsors a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for all who gave their time during the year. At this event a Legionnaire of the Year, a S.A.L of the Year and an Auxiliary Person of the Year is chosen. The Auxiliary member selected was Mandy Johnson. Mandy has been a member of the Auxiliary since 1984. She is very active in the Bayport Unit as well as her community. She was very surprised and very deserving. The dinner is usually catered by Mandy and her husband, however this year the Post decided to have it catered, and that worked out perfectly, because Mandy wasn’t in the kitchen when she got her award. Congratulations Mandy from all of us in the Department of Minnesota.

SECRETARY SANDIE’S CORNER
I must take a moment to thank my wonderful Unit 79 President Marilyn for pointing out the “only mistake” I have made this year. In last month’s Legionnaire I wrote that the National Convention was in Charleston, South Carolina. Well first, Charleston is in South Carolina and the National Convention is in Charlotte, North Carolina. What would I do without these wonderful ladies that help me out. I am hoping that we will have a big turnout for National Convention. Every member should go at least once to see our American Legion Family at work.

Don’t forget Department Convention in Rochester. It is a time to get together, come up with new ideas and most importantly, honor our Department President Shirley Frederick who has done a fantastic job representing our Department this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the office staff that I work with every day. Cathy Radil and Jan Lauby are the most hard working duo I know. We have been working countless hours getting ready for Girls State, sorting and compiling Annual Reports, entering data for the upcoming year. These two ladies just get the job done and we actually have a good time doing it. We are here for all of the members. If there is any help you need feel free to contact us at any time. Hopefully the weather will finally turn to summer, it seems to make moods get better when that happens.

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SPRING GALA — President Shirley Frederick attended the Spring Gala at Wayzata American Legion Auxiliary Unit #118. She is pictured with Jeannie Jessen, President of Unit 118.

Auxiliary Membership as of April 9, 2014

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• Guided Tours of Montreal and Hippodrome
• Visit to Montmorency Falls
• Tour of the St. Anne De Ogunquit Shrine
• Olympic Park, experience Montreal’s "Biodome" and the Montreal Tower
• Visit to the Underground City

Pacific Coach $1,439.00
For further details please contact:

Mexican Coastal Cruise
November 15-22, 2014
Los Angeles, Ensenada, Cabo San Lucio, Puerto Vallarta
Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Director, Larry Abey
• Round trip flights from Minneapolis to Los Angeles
• 5 Night Cruise on the Crown Princess
• All meals and entertainment while aboard the "Crown Princess"
• All transfers to and from the airport and ship
• Cruzes Gracielas
• Luggage handling on the ship

Pacific Coach $1,699.00
For further details please contact:

Holiday Branson
November 17-21, 2014
Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Director, Larry Abey
• Round trip flights from Minneapolis to Branson
• Round trip flights from Branson to Los Angeles
• 7 Nights accommodations
• 6 Meals
• Branson’s Trail of Lights
• 6 Shows: Dolly O’Dell’s, Peepshow’s Country Jubilee, Branson West, Hughes Brothers, Showboat Branson Belle, Granby’s Showroom
• World War II Museum
• And much more!

Pacific Coach $725.00
For further details please contact:

Historic New England & The Canadian Maritime Cruise
September 22-October 4, 2014
Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Director, Sean Barber
• Flights from Minneapolis to New York, return from Montreal to Minneapolis
• 10 night cruise on the Ruby Princess
• Visit the ports of Newport, RI, Boston, MA, Portland, ME, St. John, New Brunswick, Halifax and Sydney, Nova Scotia, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island and Quebec City, Quebec
• All meals and entertainment white wine, beer and soft drinks
• All transfers to and from the pier
• Cruise gratuities

Pacific Coach $2,099.00
For further details please contact:

Southern California Wine Country
October 1-5, 2014
Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
• 6 Nights accommodations in Temecula, CA
• Wine tasting in Santa Barbara Valley, Napa Valley and San Francisco
• Visit to Olive Oil Ranch tour and Old Town
• Wine and dinner at winery
• Optional hot air balloon ride

Pacific Coach $2,099.00
For further details please contact:

New York City
November 5-9, 2014
Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Director, Larry Abey
• 4 Nights accommodations
• 4 Sightseeing Tours: Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, 9/11 Memorial, Obelisk City Hall - The Rockefeller Christmas Spectacular
• The Broadway performance, "ALADDIN"
• Radio City Music Hall - "The Rockettes"
• Marble Church Museum of Fine Art - "The Met"
• Luncheon Cruise on the Hudson River
• 3 Night Cruise on the Hudson River
• Manhattan Island City Tour
• 11/12 Memorial
• Harbor Cruise with Lunch

Pacific Coach $2,099.00
For further details please contact:

Tropical Costa Rica
March 14-22, 2015
Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Director, Jenny Gilbertson
• Round trip flights from Minneapolis to San Jose, Costa Rica
• 8 Nights accommodations
• 14 Meals
• Luggage handling
• Rainforest Beach
• Monteverde Cloud Forest
• Last Minute Crater and Casino
• Hanging Bridges Walking Tour
• Cruise Brava River boat Trip
• Doku Coffee Route

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