Legionnaire
Volume 99, Number 6
For God and Country
June 2017

Legacy Ride reaches for new goal at this summer’s outings
By Al Zdon
So what do you do for an encore after you’ve raised $148,000, the most of any Department in the nation, for the Legacy Scholarship Fund? Well, you shoot for $200,000. The Minnesota American Legion Riders has set that lofty goal for this year, and hope to accomplish it on two Legacy Runs in late July and early August. “Everybody seems to think I need therapy,” said Steve “Sully” Sullivan, the director of the Legacy Runs for the Riders. “But we’re keeping our fingers crossed.” Sullivan is determined that Minnesota will once again take to the stage at the national convention, this year in Reno, and make the biggest contribution of any state toward the Legacy Fund, which provides college scholar-
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Legislature okays Legionville, bridge funding
By Al Zdon
Two major funding bills for veterans passed the Legislature during the recently completed session and were signed by the governor.
One bill will provide $222,000 out of the Legacy Fund for the Legionville School Safety Patrol Camp near Brainerd.
The money will be used to update the dining hall and other aspects of the camp, which is a Minnesota American Legion project. Legionville provides training, in cooperation with the Minnesota State Patrol, for school teachers on school safety patrol techniques.
Legionville is a full-service camp – including canoeing, swimming, outdoor sports — and also instructs campers on other safety procedures and Americanism.
The Legionville portion of the allocation almost disappeared from the final bill, but support from Rep. Bob Dettmer, R-Forest Lake, and other legislators kept it in the final Legacy bill.
The bill also provided $278,000 to develop and build a welcome center at the Veterans Rest Camp at Big Marine Lake.
Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl was a key lobbyist for the Legacy funding.
“Sometimes you have to get their attention and remind them you’re still here and watching through the process,” Tesdahl said. “We are all in this together, and in the end we are all pulling for veterans. As Representative Dettmer said, ‘We speak with one voice.’”
The other major funding bill that was heavily supported by the Minnesota American Legion was $7.85 million to fix the truss bridge at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis.
At present, the truss bridge over Minnehaha Creek on the west side of the property has been closed for several years because of safety concerns. There is only one entrance to the campus – on a two-lane park road.
If there was an emergency, or a need to evacuate, only Continued on Page 6

Peace officer, fire fighter awards announced

Madelia’s Denn is top Legion firefighter
Mark Denn, chief of the Madelia Fire Department, has been chosen the Minnesota American Legion Firefighter of the Year for 2017.
Denn has been a volunteer at the Madelia Fire Department for 18 years and has been the chief since 2011.
Denn was in charge on Feb. 3 this year when a major fire gutted a large portion of downtown Madelia. Under blizzard conditions with winds hitting over 30 miles per hour, Denn calmly led the effort that included eight adjoining fire departments and dozens of firefighters.
His quick and accurate decision-making ability probably saved many other buildings.
Denn is a graduate of Madelia High School and the University of Minnesota, Morris. He is a branch manager of Citizens Bank, LaSalle, a member of Faith Lutheran Church, assistant Madelia High School Football Coach, chairman of the Watonwan County Economic Development Authority and he also farms 500 acres.
He has taken dozens of training courses to improve his fire fighting and leadership skills.
He was nominated by Madelia Post 19 in the Second District. He will be honored at the July state convention.

Watson named top state peace officer
David Watson, a detective for the Lakeville Police Department who has been involved in police work for 24 years, was named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for Minnesota.
Watson is a graduate of Hibbing High School and got his BA and master’s degrees from St. Thomas University.
He is married and a member of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Hibbing, and of the Fraternal Order of Police.
He has been the lead detective in many complex crimes for over 20 years.
Watson has also done a great deal of volunteer work including the “Fire on Ice Golf Tournament,” Star of the North volunteer, a ballistic vest donation program for soldiers in Iraq.
While working part-time with the Metro-Transit Police Department, Watson apprehended one of the ten most wanted offenders in Minneapolis. He sustained wounds that sidelined him for six months. He earned the Legion of Purple Heart for the United States Police Hall of Fame.
He will be honored for his lifetime achievement at the Department of Minnesota Convention in July.
He was nominated by Lakeville Post 44 in the Third District.

June Training session aims at being fast, informative, fun
By Jeff Gay
There have been several questions brought up about the training. I hope that this will help to clear things up for you.
The event begins the evening of Friday June 23rd. At this time there will be registration and turn-in of District iPads and PR kits by District Commanders. A social gathering and an overview of what to expect at the training on Saturday.
Saturday is the main training event. It will be hosted by American Legion Post 255 in Brainerd, MN and begin at 8 a.m. A working lunch will be served at the post and a social and meal will be hosted at Legionville Saturday night by Commander Milton.
Sunday morning will be at Legionville. There will be a recap, question and answer on the training. There will also be Continued on Page 2
Continued from Page 1

ships for the children of those military who died since 9-11. This year’s kickoff event will be in Walker with a celebration from 5-10 p.m. on Thursday, July 27. The next morning at 8 a.m., it will be kickstands up for the first weekend of the ride.

The route includes Park Rapids, Detroit Lakes, Moorhead for lunch, the Minnesota Veterans Home at Fergus Falls, Long Prairie, Sauk Centre and Willmar for the night.

The next morning, Saturday the 29th, the motorcyclists will journey to Spicer-New London to be part of the opening ceremonies, at the Minnesota American Legion Division II Baseball Tournament. The route then takes the riders to Cosmos, Silver Lake, Glencoe, Arlington, New Ulm and Springfield. They will overnight at Jackpot Junction.

On the final day of the first run, they will hit St. James, Mankato for the SAL Detachment Car Show, Cleveland, Montgomery and end up at Owatonna. Sullivan says he hopes to finish up by 1 or 2 in the afternoon.

“Everybody wants to know the exact times we’ll be somewhere, and I understand why, but it’s a run and you just can’t be that accurate.”

The second weekend begins with an overnighter in Onamia at Eddie’s on Thursday, Aug. 3, and on Friday the group will travel to Brainerd, Bovey, Virginia, Two Harbors, Duluth, and Cloquet. The riders will overnight at Black Bear Casino.

On Saturday, they will head out to Pine City, Chisago City, Montreal and Waconia. The final day, Sunday, Aug. 6, they will make stops at Apple City, Foley, Monticello, and then overnight at Chaska. The run will take mainly smaller highways, and Sullivan said the demeanor of the group will be “Minnesota American Legion Family Nice.” Dining is not allowed until kickstands down.

If a rider has a problem, they can take it to Sullivan. “I charge $5 a minute with a five minute maximum for the Complaint Department.” There will also be a “cuss bucket” for those who use less than the King’s English. “I usually just throw $10 in at the beginning of the day, and say, ‘I hope that covers me for a while.’”

Sullivan noted that the Legacy Scholarships had previously been awarded only to fallen post 9-11 service members. As of this year, the scholarships will be available to the children of service members who have a disability rating of 50 percent or more.

This year, over $670,000 in scholarships were awarded, and over $1 million has been awarded since the program began.

This year’s $1.3 million was raised for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. Minnesota accounted for over 11 percent of that total.

State convention slated for Mahnomen

Northwestern Minnesota will once again be the destination for this year’s Legion and Auxiliary state convention-goers. The 2017 Department of Minnesota Convention will be held at the Shooting Star Casino Events Center in Mahnomen on July 13-15. The convention is where the elections are held for Department officers including commander, vice commanders, chaplain, historian, sergeant-at-arms and a three-year term on the Board of Publications. The convention will also conduct other business of the state organization such as the passing of resolutions.

An executive committee meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 12, at the casino.

The Gambling Seminar will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 13, in the Bejou Room.

There will be a joint memorial Service at 11:15 a.m. on Thursday.

The parade will be held Friday evening in Mahnomen.

The official hotel for the Legion and Auxiliary is the Shooting Star Casino and Hotel. Those attending the convention make their own reservations by calling 1-800-453-7827 and referencing Block 1738. The room rate is $85 a night. The facility also has an RV park. Those interested should call the same number.

Registration is $15 in advance, and a registration form is on this page of the Legionnaire.

Registration will be $18 at the door.

Bill Eck, convention chairman for host Mahnomen Post 31, said there will be a lunch on the post on Thursday and Friday, and that Ronnie Cash will perform on Thursday.

Continued from Page 1

State convention slated for Mahnomen

The presentation of this information will be in a format that you can compare to previous years to see improvements. It will be fast paced, no-nonsense, fact filled and fun. This ain’t your grandad’s Legion training, this is your training. You just might be surprised…

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 CONVENTION CORPORATION. No credit cards will be accepted.

Registration at the door will be $18.

Mail to: Ron Hendrickson, Box 31, Waubun, MN 56589.
Legion Post #_________________ SAL Sqdn.______ Auxiliary Unit__________
District_________________ Phone________________________
Name__________________________
Address__________________________
City_________________ State_________________ Zip__________
Delegat_________________ Alternate_________________ Guest
Delegat 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.

Please, only one registration blank per person.

Training

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 CONVENTION CORPORATION. No credit cards will be accepted.

Registration at the door will be $18.

Mail to: Ron Hendrickson, Box 31, Waubun, MN 56589.
Legion Post #_________________ SAL Sqdn.______ Auxiliary Unit__________
District_________________ Phone________________________
Name__________________________
Address__________________________
City_________________ State_________________ Zip__________
Delegat_________________ Alternate_________________ Guest
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Endorsements

Mueller endorsed for Department Historian

The First District of The American Legion Department of Minnesota along with Hugh Watson Post 190 American Legion of St. Charles, has endorsed Glenn Mueller for Department Historian for the year 2017-2018. Mueller has been involved with the St Charles Post for over 15 years and has volunteered for a variety of post positions. He has participated in many legion events which include eight national conventions, 10 district conventions, many District Rallies and all post meeting for the past 10 years. He is currently Post 190 Commander and has also held Department 1st and 3rd Vice Commander, Department Chaplin, District Commander, District Vice Commander, District Membership Chairman, District Historian, District Sargeant-at-Arms. He has also been active in the Sons of the American Legion. At the present time, he is the chairman of the Department’s Operation Post Home.

GLENN MUELLER

MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE -- Department Commander Denise Milton records the Memorial Day ad for the Twins Radio Network at Target Field.

MEET

Paul M. Sailer

Author of “I HAD A COMRADE”

AT

Williams Company Store

Ottertail, MN

Saturday, May 13

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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HILL CITY POST 340

HOSTS AUTHOR

PAUL M. SAILER

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9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

(GREAT FATHER’S DAY GIFT!)

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GOVERNOR’S FISHING OPENER -- Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl volunteered to be a guide for the Governor’s Fishing Opener at St. Cloud. Aboard his boat were, from left, St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis, Tesdahl, former Viking Todd Baumann and, in back, Baumann’s son Aiden. All caught fish.
Mail Call

Interesting Reading to the Editor:
I have just finished reading Gregory Burr's account of Penn's "Eyesweeney to History," and Bob Maynard's "Spooks in China." (Legionnaire, May, 2017) What wonderful articles! I thoroughly enjoyed both. Thank you for sharing this interesting reading. And I thank both men for their stories.

Richard Carbon
Litchfield

Personal Accounts to the Editor:
I wanted to write and express my gratitude to you for the personal accounts given by veterans in your publication. I enjoy especially the World War II and World War I life experiences. As a wife of a veteran of the Vietnam Era, I am a member of our Post 151 Auxiliary.

Arlene Anderson

To the Editor:
I have just found another 2014 book "Rescuing a Lost Penny: Eyewitness to History," and Bob Maynard's "Spooks in China." (Legionnaire, May, 2017) What wonderful articles! I thoroughly enjoyed both. Thank you for sharing this interesting reading. And I thank both men for their stories.

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Arlene Anderson
Historic photos sought

The Minnesota American Legion will be publishing its annual calendar with a Centennial theme for 2018. The 100th National Convention will be held in Minneapolis that year.

Historic photos are being requested from posts or Legion Family members, particularly those images that go back to the 1920s, the first decade of the organization.

This is not a photo contest, and those chosen will be selected based on how well they fit the theme of the calendar. Photos must be high resolution and submitted electronically to the Department Headquarters. Photos may be sent to azdon@mnlegion.org.

For more information, contact Affield at 218-368-4221.

Travelling Wall

The AVTT Travelling Vietnam Wall will be on display in Heron from noon on July 20 to 3 p.m. on Sunday July 23.

The display will be in conjunction with the Grant County Fair. It is free for everyone. It will be open and 24 hours a day. The wall is accepted by the Herman Post 378, the Grant Count Fair Association and others.

Say Thanks Day

The Minnesota Military Appreciation Fund is sponsoring a Say Thanks Day on Saturday, Aug. 19, at the Boy Scout Base Camp at Fort Snelling. The day has been held since 2005, and was first planned by Eugene Sit of Sit Investment.

Bailey turns 100

By Tony Potter

BAILEY – He’s often asked what’s his secret to living a long life.

“I just keep breathing,” joked Gordon Bailey.

Bailey kept track of his 100 years old on Tuesday, April 4. He’s also his tribe’s oldest elder in Red Lake, Minn. Longevity is in Bailey’s genes. His maternal grandmother lived to be 106 years old and one of his grandfathers lived to be 95 years old.

“They had to work hard,” he said. “For me, I think a lot of it is because I’ve raised my own garden, which is healthy.”

Bailey was born in Red Lake, Minn., and grew up in Redby, Minn., where he lived for 38 years. The only exception was during the 3 years and 10 months that he served the U.S. Army during World War II. He spent his first 2.5 years of service with a gun company before being stationed in Germany in the European Theater as a master sergeant in charge of battalion maintenance.

“I was selected by the Army,” he said. “I didn’t even know where Pearl Harbor was. I was meeting my future in-laws and it came on the radio that Pearl Harbor was bombed, and a month later I was drafted already.”

From the 1980s until a couple years ago, Bailey would travel to a different state each year to attend reunions to visit those whom he served in the Army with.

“There are a few of us left that we don’t have reunions anymore,” he said.

Bailey has also traveled to Germany to visit three people who he saved as kids during the war, and one of them has even traveled to Kewatin to visit him. During the war, the kids’ home was being robbed and destroyed so they took to the streets for help where they met Bailey.

“He finally lets us do more of his lawn mowing and snow throwing,” he said. “Even though he sneaks out with his snow blower,”

Bailey even managed to tend a garden on his own last summer.

“It’s going well,” he said of living at home. “My granddaughters stop by for breakfast every morning to check on me, which is really nice.”

The day includes a 5K run, a one-mile walk, a parachute exhibition, military displays, music, climbing walls, a kid’s carnival, and the Marine Recon challenge. For more information or to register for the walk or run, go to thankmn-troops.org.

Flag Dedication Ceremony

The Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis will also have a Flag Dedication Ceremony at the home’s Circle of Honor on Wednesday, June 14, at 10:30 a.m. The circle is at the main entrance to Building 19, 5101 Minnehaha Ave. S.

There will be a button ceremony following the ceremony. RSVP to Sandy Larson at 612-548-5993.

Support the Troops Golf

The annual Support the Troops Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, June 17, at the Ponds Golf Course in St. Francis. It will be a four-person scramble, with an 11 a.m. shotgun start. The cost is $90 per golfer and includes the cart, green fees, dinner and a gift bag. All money goes to support local veterans.

For more information or to register, contact Nicole Giese at 763-795-6235.

Auxiliary grants

The American Legion Auxiliary will award up to 30 grants totaling $5,000 to each American Legion Family event or organization working with the Auxiliary to conduct Sept. 11 Day of Service remembrance activities.

Grant applications must include a list of items to be purchased up to $250 in money or services for the projects. Might include reintegreation projects, employment projects, higher education projects, and others. Deadline for application is June 30.

For more information, call 202-861-1351.

M1 Garand Maintenance

An M1 Garand Operation and Maintenance Manual is available for veterans service organizations that use the rifle for ceremonial purposes. A website has also been created to offer information on the upkeep of the rifle and use of the blank cartridges.

Organizations including Legion Posts can go to www.m1garandtraining.com.

SAL Convention

The Sons of the American Legion Campout and Convention is planed for the Minnesota State School Patrol Camp. Arrival will be no earlier than 4 p.m. on Friday, with registration beginning at 5. Check out is no later than noon on Sunday. Cost is $20 per person pre-registration, $25 at the door.

The finance and executive committees will meet Friday night, and the convention will convene at 9 a.m. on Saturday. Election of officers, the convention and bylaws, judging of reports and other business will take place.

Participants are encouraged to pre-register because there is another event being held at the camp that weekend. Deadline for reservations is June 10.

For more information, email: saladm@gmail.com.

MACV legal clinics

The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans is sponsoring several Drop-in Legal Clinics in the coming weeks. The clinics will offer free legal assistance on housing, employment, benefits, debt collection, expungement, family law, child support. For more information, call MACV at 651-771-1941.

The clinics will include:

- June 13 -- Minneapolis VA Medical Center, Flag Atrium, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free parking.
- June 15 -- Anoka County Government Center, Room 108, Bemidji, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- June 23 -- Hibbing Memorial Building, Serviceman’s Quarters, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- June 29 -- Redwood County Government Center, Redwood Falls, 8 a.m. to noon.

The AVTT will offer information on the upkeep of the rifle and use of the blank cartridges.
having one narrow entryway to the veterans home could have been a serious safety problem. This building was not originally included in this year’s bonding bill.

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Legislative Director Doug Johnson explained about the veterans projects getting funds. Another success story, he said, was getting staff funding for the new State Veterans Cemetery at Duluth. The construction of the cemetery was funded by the federal government with the understanding that the state will staff the cemetery.

The Legislature approved $500,000 for each of the next two years to finish a memorial in Waseca. The veteran’s home in Waseca is still in the planning stages. The other two are at Camp Ripley and Preston.

Other bills that passed the 2017 session, in a list compiled by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce of Commerce, include:

- MDVA Agency Funding: About $150 million per FY2018-19 biennium was appropriated to the agency for operating expenses, Veterans Services division and the Veterans Health Care Division.
- MN GI Bill Changes: Beneficiaries can use the money for tuition and fees, room and board, tuition and fees for first and second degrees and professional education. This will allow increased flexibility for users.
- Veterans Defense Project: One-time $500,000 grant through the Minnesota Humanities Center. This money must be used to support, through education and outreach, Veterans who are involved with the criminal justice system.
- Medal of Honor Memorial: $250,000 to aid in building and the design of the memorial.
- Veterans who are representing a veteran in a claim appeal must provide a form telling the veteran that the same service is available for free from government claims representatives. Attorneys who advertise their services must put such a disclaimer in their ads.
- Surviving spouses can qualify for the deceased veteran’s exclusion for up to 8 years as long as they meet some additional criteria.
- Veteran to Agriculture: $250,000 funds a pilot program beginning this fall.
- If you have any questions about this State of MN benefit, please contact your local County Veterans Service Office, MDVA, or the Department Service Officer. jwolffsteller@mnhceion.org.

Greeting Minnesota Legion Family,

This will be short as I will leave room for Steve (Sully) Sullivan, Legacy Ride Chairman, to say a few words in the story on the front page. I have received a large number of invitations for District Conventions and Memorial Day festivities. Thank you to all and I wish I could make it around to each and everyone of them. As you know only Superman can accomplish a feat of that magnitude, so I will attempt to do it in the level time will allow. It is awesome that some of you place videos of your events on the American Legion Facebook page. We would like to thank all of the Riders who attended Commander Denise’s testimonial up in Mahnomen. Your presence with Uncle Sam holding the American flag was great. Thanks to all of you who covered this event to give me the visuals for this article. I know you all have fair winds and following seas.

This, also, is my last article as your Detachment Commander. My last two years have gone by very fast, with many challenges, meeting many new friends, maybe doing well over the many goals National puts out, but more importantly, seeing the growth of the Sons within the state with the new squadrions which have been started and are doing very well with the great support from the posts that chartered them. I want to thank all your posts for seeing a need for a squadron and how they and its members have answered the call.

With that said, I want to thank all those who have helped me in my role. From the Minnesota Sons of the American Legion website: mnsal.org. 2017 Legionnaire is not mailed to the Sons, therefore, they miss out on this article. I ask that you share this newspaper with your veterans as well as your friends and family. As a dual member, I encourage all to keep in touch the last month. We are an important part of The American Legion.

By Chuck Stone, Department Director

American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone, Department Director

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By Chuck Stone, Department Director
To the Post Commanders,

This Post Commander submits the following proposed Rules for the Convention to be held at Mahnomen, Minnesota, July 13, 14, 15, 2017.

The following modifications, Roberts's Rules of Order, revised, be adopted for this Convention:

1) That the rules of Order be as follows:

(a) That the Speaker of the Convention be recognized by the Delegate and must announce the vote of the Delegation by Delegates, without debate or discussion.
(b) That the House of Delegates be limited to five (5) minutes. There will be no seconding speeches permitted.
(c) That the departmental meetings shall be limited to three (3) minutes and no more.

2) That the roll be taken without objection.
3) That the roll be taken at the beginning of the meeting.
4) That all resolutions, with the exception of those prepared by the Convention Corporation, must be presented in writing and signed by the author thereof, not later than 9:00 A.M. the first day of the Convention, to the Department Adjutant who shall refer them to the Resolutions Assignment Committee for action. No resolution shall be accepted that has not been cleared by the Convention Legislative Committee.
5) That each District may vote its voting strength times the number of its Delegates-at-Large.

6) Resolutions by number, unless requested by a Delegate to set a Resolution aside for separate consideration.

7) No person, not duly accredited, shall participate directly or indirectly in debate on any subject before the Convention, but any person, not duly accredited, may speak during the Convention except the Chief Executive of the Convention.

8) That no Delegate be permitted on the Convention Floor unless certified by the Delegate's Post as Delegate or Alternate.

9) That the published program be approved by this Convention.

10) No person or Delegate shall act by proxy for any Post. No Petition addressed to the Convention Corporation shall be registered and accepted by the Delegate or Alternate be present on the Convention Floor.

11) That the roll be taken by acclamation, except when a Roll Call is demanded by the Chair. The roll shall be taken at least three Delegations; and for elections which shall be as follows:

(a) That the departmental officers, NEC positions, and that the Member of the Board of Publications shall be written ballot unless in the event of Vice Commanders, there are but five candidates.

(b) That the election of candidates for other positions shall be by District as set forth in Rule 14 below. Candidates receiving the highest number of votes in each round of voting shall be elected to the positions.

(c) That the cumulative voting shall not be allowed.

(d) The printed ballot shall include the names of all candidates who have notified the Department Office of their candidacy at least 30 days prior to the first day of the Convention.

(e) If a written ballot contest has been certified, the ballots shall be opened and the total election results shall be presented without undue delay.

(f) That the Rules Committee submits the following proposed Rules for the 99th Annual Department Convention:

**Rules for the 2017 Department Convention submitted**
Outdoor Activities

At the Turkey Hunt at Camp Ripley, Tom Schottenbauer and Roland Hanson show off the tail of tom turkey.

Past Department Commander Jim Kellogg surprised Milton with a gift.

Milton greeted the attendees.

Hubby Dennis, Past Department Commander, had a smooch for his bride.

Photos by Michelle Leonard and Ralph Schneekloth

Testimonial

The testimonial dinner for Department Commander Denise Milton was held at Shooting Star Casino. Milton greeted the well wishers with the speaker, Past National Commander John Brieden, on the left, and husband Dennis at right.

Past Department Commander Jim Kellogg surprised Milton with a gift.

Milton greeted the attendees.
Legion at the Twins

Memorial Day

Department Commander Denise Milton brings a wreath to the front at the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Memorial Day at Elk River Post 112 featured a polka band and singer.

Bill Magistad sang patriotic and folk songs at the Memorial Day program at the Vietnam Memorial at the Capitol. The event is put on by Anoka County Chapter 470 of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Commander Milton spoke at the Memorial Day program at the Minnesota Veterans Home at Minneapolis. Rep. Bob Dettmer also spoke.

World War II veteran and Past Fifth District Commander Wayne Glanton was the official American Flag raiser for the game.

Chanhassen Post 580 Adjutant Teri Hlavka was the official Twins Territory flag raiser at the game. The Twins put her picture on the big screen in center field.

After delivering a strike to the plate for the first pitch of the ballgame, Commander Denise Milton was greeted by TC Bear. American Legion Family Day at the Twins was held in May.
Escape from the Nazis

By Al Zdon

When Paul Thompson was a prisoner of war in Stalag 11A in Germany during World War II, he decided to relieve the tedium of the camp by visiting the French compound in the camp. The French prisoners worked at a nearby factory, and so their food and conditions were much better than that of the regular Allied prisoners in the camp. The problem was that to get to the French compound, Thompson had to scale a 12-foot barbed wire fence that was illuminated by searchlights and covered by machine guns. Thompson, who had started college at age 15, did a study of the fence. He was able to time the searchlight sweeps, make a mad dash for the fence and then scamper over it in the few seconds that darkness ruled. It also meant cutting up his hands pretty badly.

He got along well with the French, and was able to trade for many items during his occasional forays over the wire. He quit making those daring visits, though, the day the German guards brought dogs into the French compound to catch the American visitors. He got away, but a fellow German didn’t.

Paul G. Thompson was born in Aurora, Illinois, but grew up on the south side of Chicago. “It was the low rent district,” he recalled.

His father was a clerk for a railroad, and the family owned a house on the corner. “It was an interesting neighborhood. We called it the ‘valley’ because any way out of it was up.”

Thompson said there were a dozen nationalities in the neighborhood, “and they were all hard-working, respectable people. Although, it wasn’t unusual to see the paddy wagon coming down the street.”

The O’Learys lived in one neighboring house. “Mrs. O’Leary was a great, big red-headed woman, and Mr. O’Leary was a leprechaun right out of central casting. One day, Mr. O’Leary came flying out of the house and Mrs. O’Leary was right behind him with a meat cleaver in her hand.

“She threw the cleaver, and barely missed her husband. The cleaver ended up in our yard. My dad picked it up, and after that he used it to chop the kindling for the fire. Like I say, it was an interesting place.”

Thompson was advanced two grades in his public schooling and began high school at Calumet High School nearby. “I was always the youngest and smallest kid in the class. Those were not advantages in public high school. I had to learn to defend myself.”

He was also a bookworm and loved learning, which was somewhat unusual among his peers. Part of his interest in being a scholar came from his father. “All the other radios in the neighborhood would be turned to the ball game, but my father, when we got a radio, would listen to the Metropolitan Opera.”

When the chance to take a competitive exam to get into the high school at the University of Chicago, Thompson jumped at the chance. He did well on the exam, but got letter saying thank you, but they had no openings. “That was a black day in my life.” But a week later, another letter came saying they had made an error, and Thompson had won a scholarship. “That was a bright day.”

Thompson took a street car to high school after that, graduated two years later, and then started college at the University of Chicago at age 15. “It was wonderful. The learning was fostered and encouraged. I just loved it.”

In early 1943, with the war raging in Europe and in the Pacific, Thompson was in his third year of college and about to turn 18 in a couple of months. “I knew I’d be drafted. Plus, my nation was at war and I didn’t want to be left out.”

The University of Chicago at that time had a policy of requiring very rigorous year-end exams for classes. Getting credit for a class depended on passing that final exam.

“I went down to the recruiter and he told me that if I enlisted, he would delay calling me up until June so I could take those final exams and not waste a whole year of college.”

His student job at that time was working in an experimental laboratory at the university that was studying the brain. One of Thompson’s duties was to paste the electrodes to the patient’s head so the brain could be evaluated by an electroencephalograph. It was cutting edge technology.

“That same day that I enlisted, I went to work and my boss said to me, ‘Oh, by the way, the work you’re doing is war-sensitive and I can get you a deferment.’ I’ve often wondered if he had said that the day before how my life would have changed.”

As it was, the Army being the Army, Thompson was called up on May 5 and had to skip his exams and watch that year’s worth of study go for no credit.

He was given one choice, though. “They said I could go to basic training and become a rifleman, or I could go as a civilian under Army orders to train as a radar repairman. That took about 30 milliseconds of determination.”

Radar school was in Ashland, Wisconsin. “It was a good place with a lot of interesting guys. It was where I learned to be a soldier on the Siegfried Line on the border between Germany and Belgium. It was supposedly a safe spot on the front line for the green 106th Division. But a few days later, the German Army came crashing across the perimeter, and the Battle of the Bulge had begun.

Paul Thompson went through several Army programs and trainings before finding himself a soldier on the Siegfried Line on the border between Germany and Belgium. It was supposedly a safe spot on the front line for the green 106th Division. But a few days later, the German Army came crashing across the perimeter, and the Battle of the Bulge had begun.
that math could be useful. I could design and build a radio using mathematics, and it would work. It was great stuff, and it was probably why I always stayed in engineering.

In November of 1943, though, the Army shut down the radar school. “I was disappointed, of course, but it may have saved my life. As the years went by, all those guys who graduated from the school and went on to become radar repairmen had major health issues. The radar was not well shielded in those days, and all those guys got cancer or other bad diseases.”

Thompson found himself in basic training at Fort Benning. It was another exposure for Thompson to the variety of American life. “I think my generation, or at least me, was terribly naive. I never knew people could be so different. There were people from Texas and Montana and Appalachia. It was a revelation.”

Another major shock was going camping with the Army. “You’d get out in the boodocks, and it was totally dark. You couldn’t see your own hand. I’d always lived in the city, and there were always lights. I couldn’t understand complete darkness.”

It was at Fort Benning that Thompson began a romance that has lasted his entire life. “There was a girl who lived across the channel. It was choppy. At one point I was sitting near Cheltenham in England. “We embarked in green swells of water. I was amazed.”

“Then the guys who were sleeping came up on deck. They would spend 12 hours up on deck and then go grab a bunk for 12 hours, then settle into the master bedroom. The guy with the M-1 got sent back, and I got his rifle, and I got a couple of spare blankets. My roommate was something of a scrounger, and he had a metal trunk filled with food. We would keep it under the bunk.”

“While the lieutenant could hear that M-1, and he came and took it away from me. He gave it to a sniper who was sitting in a bunker.”

“During the war, it was Stalag 11A, where Thompson spent most of his POW time. He was assigned as a rifleman in the 424th Infantry Regiment, part of the 106th, and he soon convinced his sergeant that with his radar training, he should be assigned to the regiment’s signal corps.”

“Then he was assigned to Camp Miles Standish in Massachusetts and Thompson and his comrades went aboard the SS Wakefield, a converted luxury liner, for their trip to the United States. They were double loaded so we’d spend 12 hours up on deck and then go grab a bunk for 12 hours, while the guys who were sleeping came up on deck. We were a fast ship so we didn’t have an escort. I had never seen the sea. I’d stand on deck and watch those great, green swells of water. I was amazed.”

“During the war, it was Stalag 11A, where Thompson spent most of his POW time.”
Thompson did his best 200-yard dash for a vehicle. “I left the house heading for an armored car. All I had was a belt, and the German had more than half of it on. I dodged his sights with a burp gun. There was just a cloud of bullets snapping all around me. It doesn’t do any good to duck from that at all. I could feel the bullet going out, but I didn’t feel it when it came back in. I figured if you dodged, you were probably dodging right into one. I threw my grenades, but I don’t think they did much good.

I crawled into the armored car and the driver was yelling at me how to load the 37 millimeter cannon. I had just shoved a shell into it, when the Germans were all around us. We were just sitting there.

Thompson paused in his account of the surrender. “I just want to say something about our officers. We had first a French captain who was a boy, and a world war two tank commander. There was a little German guy holding a pistol on me and he was shaking. I think he thought I was going to attack him with that knife.

“We were put in a pig sty. It was then that I looked down at my trousers. I had a bullet hole in the material by each leg above the knee. But I didn’t get a scratch from either bullet.”

Surrendering is not fun. “We had been awake for about 30 hours, and we were dead tired. We were demoralized.”

Thompson’s first encounter of the surrender demoralized him even more. “We saw my buddy’s metal today. His leg was cut off above the knee. But I didn’t get a scratch from either bullet.”

Aboard the train, Thompson made a friend whose name was Carlton Schilcher from New Hampshire. “He was a butcher and he prepared the meat. I flagged down a supply truck and got some ‘meals for men’ packages. We had rolled out and white bread. It was glorious.”

After a couple more days of enjoying their freedom, Schilcher and Thompson thought it would be a good idea to go home, and so they flagged down a truck heading the right direction. They made it to the town of Hildesheim. “The army there sent me in one direction and Schilcher in the other. We never saw each other again.”

Thompson and the others watched in horror as the SS sent women and children as well as men who had also escaped and spent five days with them to the camp. “We saw my buddy’s metal today. His leg was cut off above the knee. But I didn’t get a scratch from either bullet.”

The first week of April, as the war came closer to an end, the Americans were interrogated at Gerelstein. “I got up and over the fence, but they saw Larry. They stopped us.”

They were taken to a farm near the front. “We were interrogated by barbed wire on the ground, and then a 12-foot barbed wire fence, highly guarded.”

They were sent to a “arbeit commando” group, or work team. “We were working on the railroad. We were under the control of an older German soldier who was a local man. Just before the work group got to his town, the town was bombarded by the Americans. “When we got there, his house was destroyed and his family was all killed. He didn’t even get out. It was our fault. We were the enemy. That was so sad.”

On April 11, the work party was camped out in section of woods. “We had seen around the camp. The Germans finally figured out what was going on.”

The Americans were interrogated at Gerelstein. “I got up and over the fence, but they saw Larry. They shot him. They killed him. It demonstrated to me how foolish I was.”

Thompson was questioned by an officer who spoke perfect English. As they got further and further from their captors, they were taken to Gerelstein, deeper into Germany. “That’s where we were diverted. They took our helmets, overcoats, wrist watches and anything in our pockets. We were stripped down to our underwear. The men were under the control of an older German soldier who was a local man. Just before the work group got to his town, the town was bombarded by the Americans. “When we got there, his house was destroyed and his family was all killed. He didn’t even get out. It was our fault. We were the enemy. That was so sad.”

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Thompson posed in front of his house in Chicago when he was home on leave.

Thompson described a German field jacket and a Serbian baracks cap. “My buddy had on a French overcoat. The men in the Jeep just looked at us, and then they just burst out laughing. One of them said, ‘You guys are the sorriest looking soldiers I’ve ever seen.’

The Army, though, had a war to win and the two escapes were left on their own as the American troops advanced. They turned up with a small group of British soldiers who had also escaped and spent five days with them.

Thompson and the others watched in horror as the SS sent women and children as well as men who had also escaped and spent five days with them to the camp. “We saw my buddy’s metal today. His leg was cut off above the knee. But I didn’t get a scratch from either bullet.”

After a few more stops, the Americans arrived at the train station in Munich. “We just couldn’t believe it. There were 148 men who went overseas in the recon."
DEPARTMENT WINS NATIONAL PLAQUE -- The Legionnaire Insurance Trust presented the Department of Minnesota with a plaque honoring the state for the best promotion of LIT programs this past year. Adjutant Randy Tesdahl accepted the plaque from Department LIT Chairman Bill Barbknecht.

VETS HOME MINNEAPOLIS -- The Minnesota Veterans Home at Minneapolis recently celebrated its Fishing Opener. The family of Harry Ostendorf presented a check to Muskies Inc. to sponsor next year’s Fishing Opener.

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PRESTON CEREMONY -- Memorial Day was observed at the new Minnesota Veterans Cemetery at Preston.

TYLER HELPS OUT -- The Life Fit Training Center at Tyler did exercises and raised money for the Minnesota Veterans Home at Luverne on Memorial Day. Tyler Post 185 provided matching funds, as did Southwest Family Chiropractic.

BACKUS MEMORIAL DAY -- Rev. Judy Reitz Gustafson, pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Hackensack, spoke of harmony at the Backus Post 366 Memorial Day Service.

DASSEL HONORS KERMIT -- Dassel Post 364 recently honored Kermit Swanson with a certificate for 70 years membership. From left; Brad Swanson, Joanie Swanson, David Pearson, Beverly Pearson, Kermit, Aileen Swanson, and Legion members Dale Hultgren, George Schwinghammer, Chuck Ailie.

Membership Chart
As of May 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>2017 Goal</th>
<th>2017 Total</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Percent of Goal</th>
<th>Same Date '16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9,380</td>
<td>9,322</td>
<td>Allen Kilmer, 95, was honored by Osseo-Maple Grove Post 172 at the annual Birthday Dinner. He is the longest living continuous member of the post. From left, NECman Marland Ronning, Doug Town, Kilmer, Post Commander Tom Olson.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>7,572</td>
<td>7,488</td>
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<td>11,912</td>
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<td>2,572</td>
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<td>2,657</td>
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<td>6,619</td>
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<td>4,377</td>
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<td>6,950</td>
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<td>At-large</td>
<td>1,953</td>
<td>2,710</td>
<td>Doug Town, Kilmer, Post Commander Tom Olson.</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Totals</td>
<td>77,000</td>
<td>77,202</td>
<td>Doug Town, Kilmer, Post Commander Tom Olson.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Danielson, David, 88, Marine veteran of the Korean War, died May 14, 2017. He was a member of New London Post 205.

Black, Richard, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 18, 2017. He managed a mess hall and earned three service stars. He was a member of New London Post 537.

Allen, Larry J., 71, veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 23, 2017. He was a member of Caledonia Post 191.

Heaney, Harold, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 25, 2017. He was a member of Caledonia Post 191.

Posch, Leonard J., 96, Army veteran of World War II, died May 19, 2017. He served in Tunisia and Italy. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Beckman, Arthur E., 86, Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, died May 7, 2017. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Whiteford, Patrick L., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 14, 2017. He was a member of Mora Post 201.

Dahl, Alvin E., 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 14, 2017. He laid cable for communications in Germany. He was a member of Middle River Post 444.

Nelson, Donald Nels, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 21, 2017. He was a member of Middle River Post 444.

Notsch, Ralph J., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 12, 2017. He was a member of St. Joseph Post 328.

Buland, Maynard G., 86, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died May 5, 2017. He served in the battleship Missouri (BB-63). He was a member of Willmar Post 167.

Boehm, Carl A., 91, Army veteran of World War II, died April 18, 2017. He was a Jeep and truck driver in Japan.

Stensrud, Dan, 94, Army veteran of World War II, died April 23, 2017. He was a member of Willow Post 157.

Holthaus, George J., 86, Army veteran of World War II, died April 13, 2017. He served on the battleship USS New Jersey (BB-62). He was a member of Claremont Post 226.

Brosseau, Lynn, 88, Air Force veteran of World War II, died April 22, 2017. He was a member of Cloquet Post 206.

Larson, Daniel, 87, Army veteran of World War II, died April 22, 2017. He served in Africa and Europe and earned a Bronze Star. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Notsch, Ralph J., 88, Navy veteran of World War II, died April 19, 2017. He served as a medic attached to the Marine Corps and served in the Southwest Pacific. He was a member of Willow Post 206.

Schoen, Gary Dean, 71, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 26, 2017. He was a member of Willow Post 206.

Robinson, Richard Luverne, 95, Navy veteran of World War II, died April 19, 2017. He served as a medic attached to the Marine Corps and served in the Southwest Pacific. He was a member of Willow Post 206.

Schoenheit, Lester C., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 27, 2017. He was a member of Chandler Post 328.

Flor, Dr. Albert G., 96, Army veteran of World War II, died April 23, 2017. He was a dentist at many Army posts. He was a past commander of New Richland Post 75.

Heaney, Harold, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 30, 2017. He served in the Seventh Division, 32nd Infantry. He was a member of Windom Post 206.

Magnuson, Allen “Bud”, 89, Army veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 30, 2017. He served in the Seventh Division, 32nd Infantry. He was a member of Cloquet Post 206.

Foster, Lois, 68, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died April 18, 2017. She was a member of Zimmerman Post 560.

Eiden, James, 85, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 24, 2017. He served as a first sergeant in the 9th Infantry Division. He was a member of Apple Valley Post 1776.

Zobawa, John, 87, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died April 24, 2017. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Thorson, Howard C., 88, Coast Guard and Army veteran of World War II, died April 24, 2017. He was a member of Hackensack Post 202.

Fitzgibbons, John T., 82, Army veteran of the Korean War, died April 22, 2017. He was a member of Cloquet Post 206.

Hereid, Clifton, 92, veteran of World War II, died April 13, 2017. He served in the 8th Infantry Division and was a member of Apple Valley Post 202.

Schmidt, Avit E., 80, Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, died May 22, 2017. He also served in the Minnesota National Guard. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Clark, Wayne Albert, 88, Navy Reserve veteran of the Korean War, died May 21, 2017. He served on a naval supply ship and was a radio operator at sea. He served two years as a commander of Lakefield Post 4.

Straus, Vernis C., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 26, 2017. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Moe, Osmund, 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 22, 2017. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 157.

Zimmer, Albert, 98, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died May 23, 2017. He was in the 315th Bomb Wing at Guam. He was a member of St. Joseph Post 328.

Bird, Royce D., 83, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died June 1, 2017. He was a member of Kewatin Post 452.

Grabuski, Henry, 92, Army veteran of World War II, died May 26, 2017. He was a member of Sauk Rapids Post 25.

Ekstrom, Virgil E., 88, Army veteran of the Korean War, died May 30, 2017. He was a member of Red Wing Post 196.

Correction


Obituary policy for Submissions

Updated: February 2006

Obituaries of members of the Legion Family will be published in the Minnesota Legionnaire in a monthly column under the heading “Taps.”

Obituaries must be recent, within the last two months prior to the publication of the new edition of the Legionnaire. For example, the February edition would only contain obituaries from January and December.

While the obituaries are brief, the Legionnaire does seek certain information for our readers:

1. Complete name of deceased.
2. Residence.
3. Branch of service and war or wars the veteran served in.
4. Exact date of death.
5. Additional information about the veteran’s service background including unit, type of service, place of service, medals, etc.
6. The post, unit or squadron the deceased belonged to.
7. Additional information about Legion service including officer posts held.

The Legionnaire reserves the right to edit all obituaries for style and brevity.

Legion slams VA budget

WASHINGTON – National Commander Charles E. Schmidt of The American Legion expressed extreme disappointment with the Trump administration’s 2018 budget for Department of Veterans Affairs.

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Legion slams VA budget

WASHINGTON – National Commander Charles E. Schmidt of The American Legion expressed extreme disappointment with the Trump administration’s 2018 budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“The administration’s budget for the VA would effectively reduce or eliminating disability payments from veterans who are the most in need,” Schmidt said. “This is absolutely unacceptable to us.”

The budget would stop higher disability payments to veterans once they become minimally eligible for Social Security Disability, a strategy that is directed at the Individual Unemployability program, which is available to those who cannot work and receive the maximum disability compensation from Social Security. The VA would receive $5 billion over the next five years to help veterans benefits slashed by nearly two-thirds in some instances.

Another disturbing provision caps working age unemployment benefits for veterans at age 35. Such working age veterans are often members of Congress continue to work past 70. “This plan breaks faith with veterans,” Schmidt added. “Moreover, it’s a clear example of how the Trump administration would target veterans who spent decades of their lives serving and defending the Constitution of the United States. We are also alarmed by the cannibalization of services needed for the Choice program. It is a ‘stealth’ privatization attempt with The American Legion fully opposes.”
June 2017 Minnesota Legionnaire Page 15

District Commanders

SECOND DISTRICT
Mark Coney
Commander

Greetings from the Fighting Fifth. Here we are in June already and the year is almost over. I hope everyone attended a service somewhere on Memorial Day to honor our fallen Veterans. Our District had its Testimonial Dinner on April 15th at Post #1. It was a great celebration rewarding leadership and hard work. Always keep your hard work and keep up the good work. I am happy to be a member of our great organization.

FIFTH DISTRICT
Ray Eiden
Commander

Congratulations 6th District on winning the Premier Membership Race. The Premier Race is the series of Department membership contests which result in one District being the annual winner. It takes all the Posts in the District working together to make the achievement - Great Job.

SIXTH DISTRICT
Vernonica Fernlund
Commander

Greetings to all members of the Fabulous Fourth. We are still in 9th place in the Department membership race. It is refreshing to see communities take time to remember our lost brothers and sisters rather than seeing Memorial Day as a day for great sales at the Mall or to be the official first day of the summer travel season. A special thank you to Mountain Lake for giving me the opportunity to speak.

THIRD DISTRICT
Mike Maxa
Commander

By the time you read this your new Third District Commander Eugene Leifeld will have been elected your Commander for the coming year. I wish Gene the best of luck and I know he will have a successful year. I also want to wish his newly elected officers a great successful year as well.

FOURTH DISTRICT
Randy Bastyr
Commander

Greetings to all members of the Fabulous Fourth. We are still in 9th place in the Department membership race. It may be too late to reach our 100% goal this year, but that doesn’t mean we stop recruiting new members or getting our current members to renew. We just need to contact our unpaid members and get them to send in their dues. Also, ask everyone you meet if they are a member. If not, ask them to join.

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NEW YORK, NY — Today, the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), announced the recipients of the 2017 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner and Retired Major General Larry Shellito of Woodbury, Minnesota along with U.S. Senator Al Franken, CEO of PepsiCo Indra Nooyi, TV host and journalist Fareed Zakaria, are amongst the one-hundred distinguished and diverse Americans including: seven Presidents of the United States, Nobel Prize recipient Elie Wiesel; Generals Norma Schwarzkopf and Colin Powell; Justice Sandra Day O'Connor; Secretaries of State Madeline Albright, Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton; Bob Hope; Muhammad Ali; Frank Sinatra; Rosa Parks; Mike Wallace and stories, but we’re all united in this country together,” said U.S. Senator Al Franken.

Not only is the award itself incredibly prestigious, but the recognition that comes with it.
Girls State returns to Bethel for 71st annual session

The 71st session of American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State will convene on Sunday, June 11th, at the Bethel University, St. Paul. Some 360 young women will participate by learning about Minnesota government by actually running a government. The counselors and staff are looking forward to returning to Bethel this year.

Thank you to all the units for making this program possible for those young women who will be attending. We are all looking forward to the coming week. The Committee has worked very hard making very positive changes to the program. Make sure and stay in touch with the citizens you have sponsored so you can report next year in your Annual Reports.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Has your Unit elected its delegates and alternates to the 2017 Department Convention? The Convention is coming up very fast and will be held July 13-15 at the Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomen. Information on housing and registration is found in this issue of the Minnesota Legionnaire.

Only two delegate and two alternate cards were sent to each Unit in the May Unit mailing. If your Unit needs additional delegate and alternate cards for the Department Convention, please contact the department office. Please note: The Department will not be sending those delegate/alternate cards for districts outside of your district.

District caucuses will start at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 13, with the Convention being called to order at 9:00 a.m. All Auxiliary functions will be held in the Richwood Pinebend Room. Following is an abbreviated schedule of events for this year’s Convention. A more complete schedule will be in the next issue of the Legionnaire.

Wednesday July 12 - Executive Committee Meeting at 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 13 - Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. - District Caucuses Meet at 8:00 a.m. - Convention begins at 9:00 a.m. - Memorial Service at 11:15 a.m. Entertainment in the evening by Billy Underwood, one of our Veterans from St. Cloud.
Friday, July 14 - Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. - Convention Call to Order at 9:00 a.m. - Saturday, July 15 - Registration opens at 7:00 a.m. - Convention Call to Order at 9:00 a.m. - Announcement of Election Results at 10:00 a.m. along with installation of new Officers.

NATIONAL PRESIDENTS TOUR

Just a reminder that our National President Mary Davis will be on a mini-tour of parts of Minnesota the week of June 12 – 14. Please see the schedule of stops at the bottom of this page. Let’s make Minnesota proud and support our National President.

POPPY CONTESTS

Don’t forget to get on creating your entries for our Poppy contest. Department Poppy Chairman, Karla Orr, is holding two poppy contests this year: Department Convention and American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Committee. They are: 1) Table Centerpiece 2) Tri-fold Educational Board on Poppies. Please read the Trophy and Awards booklet for rules. There will be a People's Choice Award, votes by donation with all proceeds going to the President's Project Fund.

2017 POPPY NEWS

The totals to date for 2017 are as follows: The Department office has slipped out 317,000 small poppies and 7,044 large poppies. Thanks to all Units for supporting this project. The wonderful news is that out of 439 active units 382 ordered poppies this year.

2018 DUES NOTICES

We have been advised by our National organization the first dues notices for the 2018 membership dues will be sent out no later than September 15. All Senior members will receive this first notice. If National Headquarters has an email on file for you, the first notice will be sent via email and those who do not will be mailed a notice in your Unit via your Unit newsletter or at your next meeting. Remember that members can pay their Unit dues before that time, they do not have to wait for the notice from National.

2018 MEMBERSHIP

Though we are still in search of our members who have not yet renewed for the current year thoughts are already turning to the 2018 membership year. We are handling membership the same as last year for two reasons, the first being that you will get your membership packets earlier this year and the second is to save on costs for the Department. All Unit Membership packets will be available at the Department Convention in Mahnomen. Pick them up in the Auxiliary office. If your packet isn’t picked up there, they will be given to the District Membership Chairman at August workshop on August 12. It will be up to those Chairman to get the packets to your Unit. Please remember that all members can still pay their 2017 dues to retain their years of service. Let’s make another big push to get those renewals turned in.

Monday, June 12, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Cost/Deadline</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids Unit 60</td>
<td>5:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Color Guard</td>
<td>218-326-0410</td>
<td>$12.00/6/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>828 1st Ave. NE</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Social</td>
<td>218-259-4711</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Duluth Unit 71</td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>218-628-1495</td>
<td>$8.00/6/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>581-14 Grand Ave</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:usmphms@aol.com">usmphms@aol.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Branch Unit 85</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Social</td>
<td>651-674-8164</td>
<td>$15.00/6/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6439 Elm St.</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gaa@mnlegaltoday.com">gaa@mnlegaltoday.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Membership forms and dues must be paid by June 30 in order to participate at the National Auxiliary Convention.

For membership updates and information call or email:

Mary Smith, MN Auxiliary Membership
651-209-3941
mariasmit@mnlegaltoday.com

Prepaid Reservations should be sent to:
Beverly Otterness, 38844 Grand Ave, North Branch, MN 55056

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Make checks payable to ALA Unit 85</td>
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Wednesday, June 14, 2017

<table>
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<th>Event</th>
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<th>Cost/Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wayzata Unit #18</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Social</td>
<td>763-473-3257</td>
<td>$11.00/6/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>949 Wayzata Blvd E</td>
<td>12:00 noon</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td><a href="mailto:judy.statin@outlook.com">judy.statin@outlook.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$6.00/6/2017</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo Unit 270</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Social</td>
<td>218-672-2818</td>
<td>$13.00/6/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10.00/6/2017</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>304 10th Ave So.</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP ENTRIES
Our Department Education Chairman, Diane Hayes, is pleased to announce the following Department winners were entered into Divisional competition for National scholarships. If selected the Northwestern Division winner 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 Veterans, National President’s Scholarship – Aliea Lange of Eagle Lake. Aliea is competing with six other Departments in the NW Division for a $5,000 scholarship. Spirit of Youth for Junior Members Scholarship – Jules Efta, a member of the Argyle Unit 353. Jules is competing with six other Departments in the NW Division for a scholarship of $5,000.

Non-Traditional Student Scholarship – Ashly Willis, member of Waite Park Unit 428, is competing with six other Departments in the NW Division for a $2,000.00 scholarship. We have been informed that Ashly Willis was awarded a $2,000.00 scholarship by National Education Chairman Ronning, Department Past Presidents Parley Chairman is Norma Tramm. Our congratulations go out to you Ashly.

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY
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. Chris Ronning, Department Past Presidents Parley Chairman is pleased to announce that five scholarships were awarded this year. The recipients are: Aliea Lange of Eagle Lake, Ashly Willis of Waite Park, Bailey Scanlan of Houston, Jacquelynn Reinhardt of Montgomery and Debra Oelkers of Hayfield.

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

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
Diane Hayes, Education Chairman has awarded eight scholarships this month as part of the Minnesota Scholarship program. Each scholarship is in the amount of $1,000.00. The following is a list of the recipients: Audrey Stilin of Chisago, Brad Bekkes of Monticello, Isaac Lillehaug of Clinton, Kaysie Allen of Caledonia, Ciera McCarty of Mahtomedi, Isaac Hertling of Springfield, Isaac Lillehaug of Clinton, Kaysie Allen of Caledonia, Ciera McCarty of Mahtomedi, Isaac Hertling of Springfield.

Future winners will become the candidates for the Departmental Parley Scholarship. Each winner will receive $2,500.00. The recipients will be announced in the May Auxiliary Bulletin. To be eligible, students must be junior or senior in high school, be a member of the Auxiliary and have a minimum 3.00 GPA. All information and deadlines are now on our website. Please visit www.minnesotalegion.org for more information.

ADDITIONAL WINNERS
Following are the winners for the Poppy Jewelry/Accessory contest. They were missed in last month’s column.

Class I: 1st place: Sylvia Dunaway - Forest Lake Unit 225 - District 3. 2nd place: Kaylee Bauer - Westport Unit 638 - District 7.

Class II: 1st place: Alivia Corbet - Forest Lake Unit 225 - District 3. 2nd place: Kimberly Johnson - Westport Unit 638 - District 7. 3rd place: Elizabeth Spoden - Kimball Unit 261 - District 6. 2nd place: Johanna Weier - Stewartville Unit 164 - District 1.

SECRETARY SANDIE’S CORNER
So the first part of my news is an ad for all members of the Auxiliary. I found another fundraiser for the Department thanks to my buddy Secretary from Wisconsin Bonnie. Much of the Auxiliary clothing is quite expensive to purchase so we are offering an American Legion Auxiliary emblem with a magnet that you can attach to any piece of clothing. You can take it off and put it on another jacket or blouse anytime – what a great way to show off our emblem. Explain to people who we are and what we do. We are offering these through the Department Office for $5 each. These do include the emblem and magnet. We would like to see if there is interest in this endeavor before investing in the project, so get us your thoughts. Either call or use the contact on our website if this is something you would like. They will be available at the Department Convention if there is an interest.

On the real important stuff – as you should know by now (as I have shouted it around the world) that Shorty and I are very proud and happy grandparent to Elizabeth Mary Deutsch who was born on May 24. By the time you read this we will have been to Texas to meet this precious gift. There is nothing better than grandchildren. The Deutsch’s hit another milestone – one of us is a real Senior Citizen. Happy Birthday to my best friend in the whole world. In other words, it’s ‘me’. The Department Office has been pretty crazy trying to get everything set for Girls State, work on Department Convention and also facilitate the National President’s Tour. There is never a dull moment around here. Please try and get to Mahnomen for Department Convention. It really is a fun time to meet fellow members and the entire American Legion Family. This year we will have a special treat as Billy Underwood, a Veteran from St. Cloud will be entertaining us on Thursday night. Come and show President Carol your support for the wonderful year she has provided us.
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Loan Officer
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mkraus@mulhomeoans.com

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