Three new vets homes get state funding

By Al Zdon

Bills to build new veterans homes in Minnesota have been around the Minnesota Legislature for over a decade. This year was the jack-pot.

The Minnesota Legislature in its omnibus bonding bill put aside $32 million for creating three new veterans homes - in Bemidji, Montevideo and Preston.

(As this issue went to press, the governor signed the bonding bill.)

Each of the proposed homes, with a maximum of 72 beds, will need to clear a number of hurdles to open its doors, but the state funding is a major achievement in the process. It is expected that two-thirds of the funding will have to come from the federal government for the homes.

Each project has until next April to submit an application for the matching federal money. That’s where it gets both complicated and dicey.

Applications for the veterans homes will compete with applications from across the United States. The government has a priority list.

Ben Johnson, the legislative director for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, said, “There are probably 60 or 70 projects on the federal list that would be ahead of any Minnesota project at this time.

Applications that get a Priority 1 designation, the

Continued on Page 5

Bog wins opening round, but volunteers fight back and grudging progress is made

A small group of volunteers gathered at 7 a.m. in the beach pavilion at Legionville Camp on a Wednesday in mid-May.

They were neighbors, tow truck operators, boat owners, and heavy equipment operators.

Their job was to move the massive floating bog that had nestled in at the camp’s swimming beach on North Long Lake, north of Brainerd.

At eight o’clock that night, the handful of volunteers still remaining wearily climbed in their trucks and cars and went home.

It was bog 1, volunteers 0.

The project to move the bog was coordinated by the North Long Lake Property Owners Association, led by Bill Schmidt. The Department of Natural Resources was providing expertise, the sheriff’s department provided security, and The American Legion was doing what it could.

The first plan of the day was basic: Have boats with high powered engines pull the bog while a crane and two smaller tractors pushed the bog with homemade “battering ram” devices.

Most of the boats were there as a volunteer effort from The American Legion in Minnesota. The Department of Natural Resources provided six or seven or more video cameras stared back at you. All day long, drones flew overhead and helicopters whooshed by again and again.

The bog had broken away from the Legionville Camp last fall and roamed around the lake for a time before settling back in at Legionville. The trouble was, the bog was now located about a quarter mile from where it started and was blocking the camp’s swimming beach.

Before anything could be done last year, the lake froze over leaving the authorities with a whole winter to think about it.

Plenty of work was done in the off-season. Logs were chained together and were placed on the shoreward side of the bog, so that when the boats pulled, the bog would stay

Continued on Page 7

Fireworks expected at 100th annual state convention in July

The 100th annual convention of the Minnesota American Legion in Rochester will have a special Friday night.

The annual parade will be held at 7 p.m. from Silver Lake Park to the Mayo Civic Center.

Following the parade, there will be picnic and barbecue with a cash bar, and music from the Ninth District Band, the Turkey River All Stars and Booker Mini.

At dusk, there will be fireworks over the Zumbro River.

All parade participants, military organizations, and friends and family are welcome for this celebration.

Participation in the parade is encouraged. For more information, contact aprilhomepmp@hotmail.com.

The 100th Convention will be held Thursday through Saturday, July 19-21 in Rochester.

The convention is the annual business meeting of the Minnesota American Legion, and the delegates will consider resolutions and elect officers.

The 100th annual Department of Minnesota Convention will be hosted by Rochester Post 92.
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Fireworks at state convention
An official registration form is below.

The Auxiliary will hold its 99th convention on the same days. The Auxiliary functions will be held at the Kahler Grand Hotel.

The Legion sessions will be held at the Mayo Civic Center. The official hotels for the convention are the Kahler Grand, the Kahler Inn and Suites, and the Marriott. Those attending should make their own reservations. Post 92 will provide shuttles, bands at the posts Wednesday through Saturday. Registration will be at the post Wednesday night.

Legion scholarships listed

The 2018 Minnesota American Legion Foundation Scholarships have been awarded.

Tanner Garity, Rochester, will attend Iowa State University. He was sponsored by Elysia Post 551.

Kendra Djonne, Marietta, will attend Lake Area Technical Institute and was sponsored by Marietta Post 156.

Sarita Hook, Tracy, will attend Minnesota State University and was sponsored by Tracy Post 173.

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DeLong endorsed for Department historian

Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435 and 5th District American Legion have endorsed Dennis DeLong for the position of Minnesota Department Historian 2018-2019.

Memorial Scholarships out

Winners of the 2018 American Legion Memorial Scholarships include:

- Jerret Merschman, Bagley, University of N. Dakota
- William Jon Buckovich III, Chisholm, Lake Superior College
- Grace Hall, Cannon Falls, Luther College
- Clare Kasten, Eitzen, Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Brooklyn Mickelson, St. James, Iowa Lakes Community College
- Jamie Schumacher, Eden Valley, Alexandria Technical Community College

DeLong has served as 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Executive Board Member, Finance Officer, Property and Finance Member and Holding Corporation Member at Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435.

At the District level he has served as District Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, 3rd Vice Commander, Adjutant, Employment Committee Chair, Finance Committee, and Constitution & Bylaws Chairman.

At the Department level he has served as Department Vice Commander (4th & 5th District), Department Historian twice, Sergeant-At-Arms and Foundation Board Member.

Outstanding officers chosen by Legion

Spicer Post 545 has endorsed Richard Wog for Department Vice Commander 2nd and 7th District for 2018-19.

Richard volunteered for the draft in 1959 and was honorably discharged in 1965. He enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard in May 1973 and served until October 2001 when he retired as a Command Sergeant Major.

He has been a member of the American Legion Spicer Post 545 for 42 years. He served as an officer of all the chairs and served as Commander for three consecutive years (2008 through 2011) and is currently serving on the Executive Committee.

Wog also served as Seventh District Sergeant at Arms, Area C Vice Commander, Vice Commander at Large, Membership Director, District Commander in 2011 and 2012, Department Chaplain 2013 – 2014 and 2016-2017. He is currently serving as National Security Foreign Relations and served four years on the Strategic Planning Committee. He was appointed to the National Americanism Council and attended the National Chaplain Conference.

He is a member of Calvary Lutheran Church where he is a volunteer usher and lector, taught Sunday school for 5 years and has served on the pastoral search committee.

Wog is retired from Henry’s Foods where he has been employed as a sales representative for the past 49 years. He has been married to his wife Cheryl for 59 years and they have four sons, 13 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

DeLong endorsed for state vice commander

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Department Convention to be held in Lino Lakes this summer.

Both Boehme and Finke are invited to the 2018 Department Convention to receive their awards.

3. Visit soon!

4. Use your discount

Veterans and active military always get a discount on general admission to MNHS historic sites and museums. Visit soon!
Okay as of a week ago on May 16th the infamous “Bog of Legionville” won the first round and remained unmoved. The great crew with big boats failed to evict the bog from the beach area where it took up residence last fall. It was cut into several smaller pieces, and the crew returned on May 24 and 25 to move the smaller chunks. They were at it when I returned from the disabled veterans fishing trip at the Veterans on the Lake Camp. There were a number of other ideas offered, but to say those ideas would have woke the neighborhood in the next county would be fairly accurate. But stay tuned Legionnaires, this isn’t over yet.

As of this edition Districts 1 & 3 have completed their Convention. My congratulations for a great year go to Les Shuace of the First, and Gene Lefeld of the Third District. Well done to both for their year of service to the Department of Minnesota, but they and you have one remaining task. That being to reach goal for your Districts. How about it posts?

Congratulations to Gary Miller (1st) & to Cara Tappanner (3rd) on their elections to District Commander. You of these Districts elected them, now it’s your duty to mentor them for a few months so they are better prepared to handle the office you’ve elected them to. Share your knowledge.

By Mike Schaffer

MAIL CALL

Come to Boys State
To the Editor:

Minnesota American Legion Boys’ State meets June 10
16 at St. John’s University. You are welcome to stop by
during the week to observe the various activities that are
ongoing. Friday night’s concert and Honored Guests night
is an outstanding wrap-up of the week. Follow the week in
picture and check out our website www.mnbystate.org. As always, thank you for your
support.

Neil Kruse
Spring Lake Park

American Legion Riders

By Chuck Stone

Department Director

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

By Ron Quade

Fargo Claims Division

Your American Legion Claim Divisions has a wide
variety of services available to all four corners of the
state. In a previous segment you were introduced to the Fort
Snelling Claims Division, this month you will learn more
about Fargo Claims Office and what they can provide to
our veterans and their families.

Like in St. Paul, the Fargo Claims Division develops
claims and appeals while personally representing our
veterans, and American Legion represents each of the
county’s veterans. We will be accepting claims on behalf of
our veterans, we ask the public to provide us with the
evidence and verify the claim. This is to ensure Fargo
Claims Division provides the veteran with a “once
and done” service to the veteran and his family.

We work closely with our veterans and their families,
County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO), Fargo VA
Medical Center (VAMC) and Regional Office (R0). Each
year we facilitate Spring Training for CVSOs along with
multiple training events throughout the year on a quarterly
basis. Between those quarterly training events we also
attend multiple veteran events (Stand Downs, Vet Expo’s
etc.). We have two Native American Reservations within
Northwest Minnesota, White Earth and Red Lake, which
are covered by our Tribal Veteran Service Officer whose
office is in the White Earth Tribal Veterans Building in
Mahnomen.

The Fargo VAMC covers 17 counties in NW Minnesota
while some of these counties also have 15 counties for claims purposes. Along with claims development and representing veterans
and their families for appeals, we also work with veterans using the Fargo VA Medical Center (VAMC) and Regional Office (R0),
advocating for services from the hospital.

Special services now include a Women Veterans Program
and Gold Star Families program. Both programs provide
guidance along with our involvement services throughout the
state in a town near you. Please check out our events in
2018 as part of our service to our veterans.

Fargo is an excellent AL Claims Division providing spe-
cialty service to the great State of Minnesota. Please
contact your local County Veteran Service Office to discuss
or contact us at 701-231-5330 for more information.

I look forward to bringing you more information about
the Claims Divisions directly from the Supervisors and
members who are on the ground working hard for you every
day.

Mail Call

Come to Boys State

By Ralph Schneekloth

Greetings, Minnesota American Legion family members
and friends, glad you chose to read this month. I would
like to start by addressing the ALR: Keep up the
good works you all do and continue serving. Thank you.
Also on those lines, keep your eyes open for motorcycles,
their, everywhere, have a safe riding season.

A big part of my focus this past year has been on the
value of the family and team, along with supporting
veterans and their dependents. We have not placed the
“look at me” game. It is our responsibil-
ity as a veteran to show those around us what’s our response? Do we, as an organization, a group,
a family, have the responsibility to be successful? I fervently believe that we do. We also have good people, each gifted
and each with special talents serving in our various commit-
tees. Are we, the ‘leadership’ utilizing and advocating for
these different groups to be utilized to each fill their niches
so that our response is to move forward on multi levels and
be successful. If we are, it needs tweaking.

The Eagles Healing Nest has been around for 5+ years. I see them as fulfilling vital roles in the unmet needs category
of service. There are currently two “Nests,” one in Sauk Centre, and one in Winooski, with more planned as I under-
stand. Thank you to Seventh District Commander Richard
Wog for your support and to the several American Legion Posts and Riders Chapters who are actively helping, your
works and deeds are much appreciated and more important-
antly your hearts are in the right place. They are currently help-
ing 104 veterans with more on waiting lists. My
understanding is that the Department itself is not able to
offer support, but is encouraging individual posts to help
with the need. I remind all Chapters, American Legion
Veterans Affairs and rehabilitation, so it dovetails nicely.

I recently attended a funeral for a friend, Gene. He was
eulogized very well, highly spoken of. A common theme
was “He brought such passion to everything” and you will
find that passion as that is contagious, which is good.
A charismatic leader is an uncommon and successful
as veterans, as those still serving, we are a mutual
support network.

We believe that we can no longer afford the “business as
usual” concept of conducting our years, the same plan,
exectuted the same way annually, only changes being a kitchy
name and different names doesn’t work, and has not
worked for many years. I read once a statement saying:
“Don’t cling to a mistake, even if you spent a lot of time
making it.” We will be successful, but only if our
hearts and spirits are united. We call it the “walk the
talk” concept, the same as in a family. We need
unity as in a family. We talk the talk, we need more unity on
the walk. We need to understand we are all in this together,
and we utilize the entire team on the field, nothing will
change except our ranks will continue to thin out. We are
not going to be able to stop this, we will need to
understand we are all in this together, that there are the
great things, not as individuals, but as a part of the team,
the family called “The American Legion Family.” I’m in
praying that we are successful and continue to serve.

The Minnesota Legionnaire

By the time you are reading this, Memorial Day will be
55155-2000. (USPS No. 013-679.) (ISSN No. 1644270)
Coast Guard Reunion

The 6th annual All Coast Guard Reunion will be held Sept. 15 at the Hopkins VFW. It will start at 11 a.m. with lunch at noon. The program following will be Coast Guard members talking about their service. For more information contact Chris Kalogerson, 952-935-9065.

Fagen Memorial Airshow

The annual Ray Fagen Memorial Airshow will be held June 16, gates open at 11 a.m. with the airshow at 3. There will be performances by the Aerobatic Aeroshell Team, Greg Shetlan Airshows, Yankoun Airshows, and an evening concert by Jamey Johnson. Over 40 warbirds will be on display. Admission is Adults, $20; 10-17, $10 and under 10, free. For more information go to rayfagenmemorialairshow.com.

Ash Retirement

A retirement event will be held at Post 112. Commander Mike Ash on Saturday, June 30, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Rosetown Auditorium, 700 County Rd. C West. Roseville. For more information contact mikeash202@gmail.com.

Veterans Career Fair

A Veterans Career Fair will be held Wednesday, July 18, from 2-6 p.m. at the Alexandria Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center. Over 150 employers will be on site. There will also be providers of services to veterans. For more information contact mng.gov/deed/events/veterans.jsp.

Family Day at Twins

The 18th annual Legion Family Day at the Twins will be held Friday, July 13, 7:10 p.m. at Target Field. The Twins will be playing the Tampa Bay Rays.

Operation Zero

Operation Zero’s second Run and Celebration will be held Saturday, July 21, from Doc’s in Sturgeon Lake. Registration of $15 per person begins at 1 p.m., with kickstands up at 2, party at Doc’s about 6, music at 8. There will be a costume contest, dinner, live music, and a raffle. For more information contact Commander Mike Schafer will throw on the first pitch.

Spring Swing Hangar Dance

The Spring Swing Big Band Hangar Dance will be held Saturday, June 9, at Fleming Field in South St. Paul. Doors will open at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7, dancing at 8, and costume contest. Tickets are $14.50 each online or $17 at the door. Roseville Big Band will provide the music. For more info, go to cafmn.org.

AFROTIC Fund Raiser

The Duluth Wisted-Zenith City Post 28, will host an Air Force of Contingent Day fund raiser on Saturday, July 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will be held at St. Croix River Post 112. A donation of $10 is suggested, tickets available at the club. Food provided by the club and entertainment by Gina Lee and Charlie and Wannkees.

Hockey Hall of Fame

Robert Biel, 89, Army veteran of World War II, died May 25, 2018. He served as a gunner aboard a B-17 bomber that crashed in England. His plane was shot down on his 20th mission and he was one of two survivors. Biel was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and 11 other medals. He was a member of Marshall Post 113.

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Legislature approves funding for three new veterans homes

Continued from Page 1

On June 20, 2018, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it had awarded $46 million in grants to three states to fund the construction of new veterans homes. The grants are part of the VA’s effort to improve veterans’ access to care by providing better housing options.

The grants were awarded to the states of Minnesota, Montana, and West Virginia. Minnesota received $12.4 million, Montana received $10.2 million, and West Virginia received $110 million. The grants will be used to fund the construction and development of new veterans homes in each state.

Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota said in a statement, “This is a critical investment in the well-being of our veterans, who have served our country with distinction and honor.”

Secretary Robert Wilkie, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, said, “These grants are a step forward in ensuring that veterans have access to the care they need and deserve.”

The grants are part of the VA’s ongoing effort to improve veterans’ access to care. The VA has announced several initiatives in recent years to improve veterans’ access to care, including the creation of the VA’s Husky Care Program and the VA’s Community Care Program.

The Husky Care Program provides veterans with access to health care in their local communities, while the Community Care Program allows veterans to receive care from community providers.

The funding for the new veterans homes will be used to construct new facilities that will provide high-quality care for veterans. The facilities will be designed to meet the needs of veterans, and will be equipped with the latest technology and facilities.

The grants are part of the VA’s ongoing effort to improve veterans’ access to care, and will help to ensure that veterans have access to the care they need and deserve.
Two boats push and two pull a pie-piece shaped hunk of bog, but it got hung up on the right side. More smaller sections will be cut and moved. (WCCO TV photograph)

Cutting it down to size

Department of Natural Resources official Kevin Martini slides into the water.

Lake Owners Property Association head Bill Schmidt and Adjutant Randy Tesdahl talk over strategy while perched in a deer stand overlooking the action.

Volunteers try to push a 200 foot section of PVC pipe under the bog. A rope in the pipe then could be used to pull a cable under the bog and then dragged back through, cutting the bog in half.

Mark Seavey, a journalist from the National American Legion, was sent to cover the story of the volunteers. He spent most of the afternoon up to his armpits, wading into the project. He spent most of the afternoon up to his armpits, wading into the project. He spent most of the afternoon up to his armpits, wading into the project. He spent most of the afternoon up to his armpits, wading into the project.

Boats from Evinrude tried mightily to move the bog, but in vain.

Volunteers try to push a 200 foot section of PVC pipe under the bog. A rope in the pipe then could be used to pull a cable under the bog and then dragged back through, cutting the bog in half.

Plan C was a particularly interesting piece of ingenuity. It was decided to try and push PVC pipe under the bog. Inside the pipe was a rope, and if the pipe reached the other side, the rope could be used to haul a cable under the bog. That cable could be used to haul a larger cable, and the larger cable could be pulled through the bog.

But the intrepid crew still had one more major effort left in them. Plan E was to push another PVC pipe under the bog, about midway down the right side, and to cut the half in half.

This time when the white pipe jammed under the bog, there was no fixing it. The pipe broke and the day’s effort was called off. The volunteers had been at it for 13 hours. As one of them treded wearily up the hill he said, “All we can do is all we can do.”

As the volunteers walked into the pavilion at 8 a.m., someone noted that one of them was smiling. He responded, “Yeah, because I took three Ibuprofen on the way over.”

As this issue of the Legionnaire went to press, it was expected that a special laudatory note about the tow truck volunteers from Peterson Towing. Nobody worked harder, with the possible exception of Mark Seavey, in trying to muscle the ropes, chains, and cables in and around the bog.

The next morning, the volunteer crew was considerably smaller, and only one boat was available for pulling. But the spirit of this band of brothers was still high.

As the volunteers walked into the pavilion at 8 a.m., someone noted that one of them was smiling. He responded, “Yeah, because I took three Ibuprofen on the way over.”

Schmidt, the indefatigable project boss, rallied the troops with a baseball metaphor. “We’re in the bottom of the fifth, and the bog is winning one to nothing. But there’s a lot of game left.”

Plan F was quickly devised by the workers. It was decided to haul four short sections of I-beams to the far side of the bog and then connect them to the heavy cable and drag them though the bog, again trying to cut the right half in half.

By this time, a full film crew from the National American Legion had arrived and were capturing this latest endeavor for posterity.

With the heavy I-beams in place, the huge winch started pulling across the bog. The plan was for the I-beams to drag on the bottom, keeping the cable down and in a position to cut the bog.

What happened, though, was that the I-beams were pulling a fairly large mass of bog with them, and about halfway through the bog the mass proved to be too much for the winch, and that was that.

Later in the afternoon, the guys were able to pull the cable through, and the mighty bog was now in three pieces, none of which looked very movable, but still progress was being made.

The next week, Legionville purchased a 24-inch chain saw, and a process was begun of cutting the bog into smaller pie-shaped pieces.

An effort by the few boats available was able to move one of the pieces about 60 feet out, but before it could be dragged into the open water, it snagged on another section of bog.

As this issue of the Legionnaire went to press, it was expected that a larger group of boats would be assembled and they would try to move the smaller pieces away from the beach.
Osmundson was one of the best tuba players in America.

He grew up in Norway, went to France as an American soldier in World War I, helped organize the Eveleth American Legion Post, played in the band for the Greatest Show on Earth, and later played in the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus Band, and made their Hall of Fame.

Eventually, the Third Infantry was federalized, and Osmundson became part of the 34th Division, the 125th Field Artillery. He was sent to Oklahoma and later to Camp Cody, New Mexico, for training, and again was part of the band.

The 34th, comprised of National Guard members from the Dakotas, Minnesota and Iowa, became known as the Sandstorm Division because of its desert training facility at Camp Cody. Its logo was a red steer in front of a black Spanish water jug.

In World War II, the 34th became the Red Bull Division with the same logo.

One of the benefits for immigrants joining the Army was that they automatically earned their citizenship. He was granted his naturalization papers on June 24, 1917, while the field artillery training was at Luna County, New Mexico.

The 700-man strong 125th FA sailed for France in September, 1918, and had just disembarked and begun training in Clermont when the war ended. “Somehow the Kaiser must have heard of it (the 34th Division). We had not been in France very long… and we were almost sure we were going up shortly when Wilhelm spread the news that Minnesota had arrived and Germany went under,” Osmundson told the Eveleth newspaper.

Despite its short tenure in France, the 125th FA was the only unit in the 34th Division to earn a battle streamer.

The division came home in January of 1919 and was demobilized at Fort Dodge, Iowa. His records indicate he had damage to his teeth and it was service-connected. He got out as a musician, second class.

Osmundson had met a buddy in the service, and he returned with him to Cloquet, possibly because it was a major railroad center. A short time later, though, the residence he and his friend lived in burned to the ground, destroying all of their possessions.

Osmundson moved back to Eveleth and became an active member of the community working as a scout master, and an instructor for the local drum and bugle corps. He organized the municipal band, and it soon became one of most highly regarded in the area.

He also became the adjutant of the fledgling American Legion post, and was known as the “head pusher” of the organization in Eveleth. He was also commander of the local VFW post.

By 1920, the Eveleth band was competing in contests across Minnesota, and a performance at the Minnesota State Fair that year elevated its reputation to the point where it was selected to play for Warren G. Harding, who had just been elected president.

Osmundson left railroad work and went back to being a baker. At the Range Maid Bakery in Eveleth, he met his future wife, Frances Postudenske, a relationship that would take several years to come to a happy conclusion.

His cooking skills improved so much around this time that he was considered a master chef, and often was the chief cook for major events in the community. He and Frances had to meet secretly for he was a Lutheran and she was a Catholic, and Frances’ parents would not approve of the relationship.

Osmundson decided in 1924 that he would pursue his musical career on a bigger stage, but before leaving he asked Frances to marry him. She said yes but her parents said no, and that was that.

He joined the Mackenzie Highlander Vaudeville Band and stayed with them for a year, mainly touring the central states.

By Al Zdon

Ozzie Osmundson was one of the best tuba players ever in America.

He moved to Fillmore, N.D. in 1914 and he got a job as a baker in New York City and he stayed there for two years. Next he got a job in a bakery in Chicago where he made friends with a family from North Dakota.

His musical prowess got him assigned to headquarters and the unit’s band.

And then he joined the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus Band, comprised of some of the best musicians in the country. About this time, he purchased an $800 tuba, one of the largest and most expensive you could buy.

It was strenuous work, and the living conditions were strict. Osmundson told friends that besides being the “Greatest Show on Earth,” it was also the “Most Moral Show on Earth.” The employees of the band had to sign a contract that forbid drinking, gambling, women and other
indications of moral laxness. The work was hard and often the band played eight straight hours a day. But the pay was good, and circus employees got to see much of America. The circus traveled for eight months a year, from coast to coast, entertaining millions of Americans. The circus' winter quarters were in Sarasota, Florida.

Ozzie and his huge tuba became a fan favorite, and he stuck with the band for six years before settling down in Lexington, Virginia, to work for the Virginia Military Institute. All this time, he kept in contact with Frances, and when he got off the road, he again asked her to marry him. This time, her parents gave their consent, and on Aug. 30, 1931, they were married in the Catholic Church. He was a quartermaster for the military school, and the couple survived on $90 a month during the Depression. Ozzie also played tuba in the institute’s band and he occasionally gave lessons.

While in Lexington, he helped organize the Shenandoah Valley Post of The American Legion and served as the post’s commander. During his whole life, Osmundson was politically active, and a strong supporter of the Democratic Party. While at VMI, he invited his friend John T. Bernard to speak at the school to the students.

Osmundson and Bernard knew each other from serving in the 125th Field Artillery, and after the war they both came home to Eveleth. Bernard was elected to Congress from the Eighth District and began serving his one term in 1937. Bernard had achieved some notoriety as the only Congressman to vote against the arms embargo against Spain in the Spanish Civil War. He also was singled out for his close ties to the Communist Party. Osmundson’s invitation must have raised some eyebrows, but not long afterward, the U.S. entered the war and the Soviet Union was our ally.

Between 1931 and 1940, Ozzie and Florence had two boys, Martin and Robert, and two girls, Betty and Margaret. When the U.S. entered World War II, Osmundson contemplated his future. He was angry that Germany had occupied his home country of Norway. On June 27, 1942, about six months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he went down to the Navy Yard at Washington D.C. and tried to enlist. He told the Navy he’d like to work in a military store, and that he was a musician. He also noted that he spoke Norwegian, Swedish and Danish and had many contacts in Norway. Though he had Gen. Kilbourne, the superintendent of VMI, as a reference, the Navy turned him down. Osmundson was 49 years old at the time.

Kilbourne wrote in his recommendation, “I have always found him attentive and courteous, and while his work has not been closely observed by me, I have never heard an adverse comment. I consider him a man of excellent character and reliable.”

During the war, Osmundson served as air raid warden at the institute. He decided to leave VMI in 1947 and return to Eveleth with his family. Again, he stepped right in and became involved in the community, again playing with the municipal band. He was employed by the Oliver Mining Company in the drill shop.

When the city was about to get a new radio station, a contest was held to choose the call letters and Osmundson won with the suggestion of WEVE, the same call letters the station uses today.

On December 22, 1956, he went to work but suffered a mild heart attack. He was taken to the doctor, but the doctor misdiagnosed what was happening and sent Osmundson back to work. He had a second heart attack and died at the Eveleth Hospital. He was 64.

Before his death, the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus enshrined Osmundson in their Hall of Fame in Sarasota, and lauded him as one of the finest tuba players in the world.

Possibly home on leave, Osmundson at center posed with two members of the Eveleth Band.

The 125th Field Artillery Band, part of the 34th Division, had their picture taken in France. Osmundson is in the back row at the right with the big horn.

Osmundson came home as sergeant in the 125th Field Artillery.

With his giant $800 tuba, Osmundson was a sensation in the Ringling Brothers show band.

A local dance band, the Ragadaur Band played across the Iron Range. Osmundson is in back.

The 125th FA band trained in New Mexico along with the rest of the 34th Division in 1918. Osmundson is in the back row, on the left.
Richfield Post site of Legion film project

An actress goes over the script as the cameras are adjusted at Richfield Post 435 in May. The production will be shown at the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis in August. Richfield's giant Legion logo was used as a backdrop.

Minnesota Sons of the American Legion News
By Shawn Davis

Have we failed?

I met with members of Ashby Squadron 357 a few weeks ago. As I was driving home, the question came to mind, are we failing? We, as an organization, keep doing things to benefit veterans, their families and our community. We talk about improving, and growing, and doing better. Are we doing good, but accept that what was good last year, we reach good as part of the journey. But the journey is how we define greatness, or set as our goal. So no, we have not failed.

Sons of The American Legion

Membership.
The Detachment Executive Committee approved the goal of 12,000 new members this year. And audacious plan, but one appropriate for the fact that the national convention will be here in Minnesota this year. Last year (2017) we reached 11,450. But we are setting an even larger goal to surpass last year's result, or even make our target? That is up to us in the Squadrons (with the support of your Post). Last year (2017) we reached 11,450. We currently (as of May 15th) stand at 10,953. That’s 417 shy of where we ended last year and 1,047 behind our goal. Can we reach or surpass last years total, or even make our target? That is up to you in the Squadrons (with the support of your Post). Membership and renewals are local. That is what drives membership. It is what you do, how you act, and how you communicate that brings in and keeps members. And when I look at where we were last year around this time we only had 10,662. So we are ahead of where we were but behind on where we want to be.

Education.
This is harder to quantify. We had an excellent Fall Conference, and I think those that attended, learned. Spring Conference was also educational and we got some work done as well. I have received phone calls from members and squadron officers and tried to help and educate them throughout the year. It is like the old adage, “Give a man a fish, and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he will eat for a lifetime.” The more we educate our members, the longer they will be members and able to share the knowledge of our great organization. But we have so many that don’t know, that they do not know. We need to keep up the education of the membership, to assist in the recruitment of new members, to develop the leaders of tomorrow, and help sustain our organization into the future.

Communication.
If you are reading this in the Legionnaire, then you are seeing the fruits of our work in improving communication. We have a larger presence in the newspaper, to share more of what we have done, and will be doing. We have communicated tools available through Facebook and the website (mnsal.org). Districts - did you know there is a page for each of you on our website to list your officers and contact information? A calendar for your events as well. If you are interested in learning more, contact myself for more information. Forms are available online. Yet we still rely on communications. Paper mail still works, and it is what is needed for some.

National Convention in Minneapolis.
Throughout the convention, you will see change. You see, to strive for greatness, means we accept that we did good, but accept that what was good last year, is not good enough this year. And so we need to journey on, pushing on towards greatness. So no, we have not failed. But the journey continues, and we have a ways to go before we can claim success. This is what enabled Minnesota Legionnaires to answer the call for “all hands on deck” for troops.
Greetings from the First District:
The 2017-2018 Legion year is almost at an end. Membership continues to trickle in. We need to buckle down and prepare for our Veterans and their families, our Community's, State, & Nation! I’m proud to be a part of this great Veteran Organization. Congratulations to all of the newly elected Post Officers! I know that you all will put forth every effort to make it another very successful year! I have had the Honor of installing new Officers for different Posts that have asked me to if available!

In meeting with & presenting awards to posts & their members it makes me so proud of all of you. Continued service awards, awards that support Children & Youth, post's involvement with blood drives & their personal donations, one which from the 2nd District just received a 20 Gallons of Blood in a January, is remarkable. Community Service Awards, Handing out Scholarships, Plaques & Medallions to Legacy Fund Contributors from the ALR, recognition to our 25th District Hit and Run fund and our Memorial Fund, the American Legion is an organization that has been a privilege serving as its Commander the year has learned so much by attending Camp Ripley, Fall Conference and Department rallies. It is a great opportunity to brainstorm and learn more about the programs and their purposes and meet so many people from other Districts.

The first Sunday of the month, our district meets at the Redwood VFW, 1st and 3rd, Lyons is great about serving up coffee and cookies. The visit is always welcome and are so appreciative of the visit. However, we feel it is important to them to know we are here to help them.

Anticipations for the upcoming year:

THIRD DISTRICT
Eugene Leified
Commander

It’s that time of the year to remember those that have served our great country. Let us remember those Military men and women who are deploying and receiving orders to report to their duty stations. The American Legion is there for the soldiers and their families.

Tell them we took the 3rd District has gone fast this year. I appreciated the support from all posts. The fiscal year is will soon come to an end. Please get involved with your District Commander, we need your support as the 2018 Membership is 94.68% thanks to all for your work and dedication. We need to contact our posts and continue with the membership.

Remember it all starts at the post level with Commanders and post officers. The blue cap legionnaires’ and Veterans are the American Legion. The blue cap keep the membership programs and other programs alive on the post level. Membership has been a challenge this year but we need to continue to strive to be successful with the many programs of The American Legion. Remember our veterans, ask a veteran to join. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Fourth District:
Lance Stunkel
Commander

Greetings from the Fourth District.
As of June 23, our membership at 93.06%, we are only 1.63 percentage points out of 1st Place, let’s keep the pressure on. Next month make it less than a point. Please reach out to your Vice Commanders and Membership Director Mickey or myself; we are all here to help out, let’s work hard to find new members, most importantly retain our existing members.

Post Commanders, Adjutants and Officers – please complete the CRR report for your Post and send them in, right now. We need five umbrella CRR reports – 27.8% – outstanding, for our convention, I am thankful for the help you have given me and for your hard work.

Post Commanders, your tasks are: getting out CPR, finding new members and retaining our existing members. We need to contact our posts and continue with the membership.

Greetings to All from the 5th District.
The year is going fast and our programs are ongoing. We will have a new Commander elected at our District Convention in Virginia, Minnesota on June 2nd. Call or send a note if you are coming.

As your 5th District Commander, I haven’t been able to travel due to health problems that set in on my right foot and leg. My inability to drive other than short distances has slowed me down. It started at the School Patrol Rally last October. I have had circulation in my leg and foot has been a problem. I had leg surgery to improve the circulation and it is getting better. The doctor said it will take time. I certainly wish that I could have visited the District Posts as I had intended, but that was not to be. I anticipate problems in attending coming state meetings in the next several months because of this health issue. My Adjutant and I will have Legion members to help to cover the meetings.

Our programs are going very well. There are no words to express our gratitude to the Legion members of District 8 who work tirelessly to promote and implement these programs. Thank you.

Greetings from the Roaring Ninth,
I’m working on this article five days early as I will have the Memorial Service this weekend as well as my Wife (Karen) to be volunteer/escorts on the next Honor Flight (May 20 & 21) to Washington DC for our heroes from WWII, Korea & Vietnam. The Honor Flight has been my District project for the past years and I’m looking for a few more Veterans and thank them for their service, while they get the royal treatment.

I believe that everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day with family & friends and hopefully everyone was able to attend a Memorial Day service. I was able to attend the Memorial Day Service in the morning in Hawley and then in Moorhead in the afternoon.

I would like to thank everyone for all your hard work on member- ship. As we move into our last month of the year this is always an ongoing process. But I’m happy to say that we will land- ed in 1st place and the Dept membership report just came down. I hope you all hold the membership if you are able to and let’s try ever very slightly lead (0.3% separate the top 3 Districts). Also 30 out 64 Posts have reached their goal.

Greetings from the roaring Ninth District.
Greetings from the Ninth District.
Greetings from the Ninth District.
Greetings from the Ninth District.
Greetings from the Ninth District.
Greetings from the Ninth District.
Greetings from the Ninth District.
Greetings from the Ninth District.
The policies imposed on the losers by the winners after the war, and the policies imposed on the winners by the victors...

When World War II ended, the Allies were faced against a new reality – a world divided by ideology. The Marshall Plan was created to help Europe rebuild, and it was a symbol of how the world could come together in times of crisis.

The plan worked. “It was a social stabilizer that allowed us to live together.”

The geo-political boundaries that were formed lasted for almost 50 years. The families that were separated by the Iron Curtain and the Soviet alliances still hoped for a better future.

The policies imposed on the losers by the winners after the war, and the policies imposed on the winners by the victors...
LISTENING POST

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

FIRST DISTRICT PRESIDENT’S PROJECT -- A pancake breakfast fundraiser was held at Plainview Post 179 to raise money for First District President Cheryl Newman’s project, the greenhouse at the Hastings Veterans Home. From left: Dan Smith, Scott Ihrke, Newman and Andru Peters.

HINCKLEY FLAG DROP BOX -- Hinckley Post 388 recently installed a flag dropbox in front of the post quarters. All materials and labor were donated locally. Citizens can drop old flags in the box for proper disposal. From left: Commander John Rostberg, Ernie Vatine of Nils Mfg. and Al Wolter, project coordinator.

ARCADE-PHALEN DONATIONS -- Arcade-Phalen Riders Chapter 577 donated to the Veterans Campground at Big Marine Lake. From left: John Weiss of the Riders, Camp Manager Ken Larson and Bob Leslie of the Riders. The money was the proceeds from the All Veterans Fishing Tournament and Silent Auction.

FLENSBURG HONOR -- Roderick “Butch” Fietek receives his 50-year award from Flensburg Post 136 Commander David Stavish. Fietek joined the post after his tour in Vietnam, 1966-67 with the 4th Infantry Division.

CORRECTION -- BAUDETTE CENTENARIAN -- Lloyd Dawley, 100 years old, receives his membership award from Baudette Post 217. The person in the photo incorrectly identified in the April issue was Gerald Anderson.

NORTH ST. PAUL HONOREE -- Bob Holmstrom recently received an OSS Congressional Gold Medal for his work in the Office of Strategic Services during World War II. His daughter, Jenny Nelson, president of North St. Paul Unit 39, accompanied her father to Washington for the presentation.

PAYNESVILLE MEMORIAL -- Paynesville Post 271 has been working on a memorial plan since 2010, and it was dedicated last year. Boy Scout Brockton Vavra did an Eagle Scout project to sell pavers, and the project has provided most of the donations. The memorial is just off Highway 23.

GRAND RAPIDS OLD TIMER S -- Grand Rapids Post 60 recently presented membership certificates to, from left: James German, John Anthony and D. Edward Ames for lifetime membership.

WABASHA COUNTY PROJECT -- The Wabasha County Council helped convince the Wabasha County Board to have a reserved space for Purple Heart recipients. From left: County Commissioner Brian Goihl, Purple Heart Commander Jim Noll, Wabasha Council Commander Andru Peters, and CVSO Nathan Pelz.
Greetings all American Legion Auxiliary sisters and all.

This month’s letter first and foremost has to start with my sincere appreciations for all those that attended my testimonial. Your attendance, gifts and most of all, your never ending support and smiling faces for me this year have been so very much appreciated. I love you all as family. Those sending cards and unable to attend, I felt your support also and appreciate just as much your contributions and thoughts.

Since my testimonial it has been a busy time. Other Testimonials, Memorial Services, and of course, the latest Memorial Day Service at Fort Snelling and the Minneapolis Veterans Home. All remarkable services for remarkable individuals that have given so much for us. Thank you.

My personal life is busy right now as my very first grandchild graduates. Wow unbelievable but, as we all have said they are our future, so this is the progression of life. Thank you and congratulations to all the 2018 graduates of whichever path of education you have completed. I am confident most of you reading this are AL Family members. Please keep up that membership as your eligibility made your life style and the freedoms you live each and every day possible. Always remember to thank your Veteran.

Until next month, be safe, be kind, and pray for our Veterans, Troops Deployed, Their Families and Yourself.

God’s blessings to all.

Rep needed for St. Cloud VACHS

The Department of the Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary is in need of a Hospital Home Rep to work at the St. Cloud VAHCS. Our organization is a very important part of the St. Cloud VA Hospital and our current representative Jan Benson is retiring from the position after many years of service. If you are interested in this volunteer position, please contact Sandie Deutsch at the Department Office, 651-224-7634 for more information.

May 23, 2018, Auxiliary Membership

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Don’t forget to get going on creating your entries for our Poppy contests. Department Poppy Chairman Sharon Thiemecke, is holding two Poppy contests at the Department Convention. They are: 1) Table Centerpiece 2) Poppy Wreath. 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. We all look forward to the beautiful entries and we can never have too many - get your ideas put to reality and bring your creations.

2018 POPPY NEWS

The totals to date for 2018 are as follows: the Department office has shipped out 298,100 small poppies and 6816 large poppies. Thanks to all Units for supporting this project. The wonderful news is that out of 437 active units 371 ordered poppies this year.

To all of our members, please remember who put our poppies together – our very own Veterans, many of whom are disabled. When you order poppies and get them delivered to your Unit, please check them over before your distribution day and if you are dissatisfied with them, call the Department Office – we will take care of your issues. Don’t go through Social Media and post negative posts. We are a strong, positive organization and must stay true to our mission.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minnesota is the site for our annual American Legion Auxiliary National Convention, August 5th – 8th. Delegates and alternates to the Convention are elected at each District Convention. Your District’s representation is based upon 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, giving you all the particulars.

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

2018-2019 OFFICERS’ LIST

We are in need of the Unit officers’ list for 2018-2019 from every Unit. Each Unit was sent two (2) copies of the list in the May mailing. Please return one copy to the Department Office – the second copy is for your District President-Elect. All lists should be in no later than June 15th. We are still waiting on many lists – if your officers are changing, please at least give us a call and we will just copy last year’s form for you. Right now Julie is waiting on 205 Officers Lists and still waiting on 54 Dues for 2019. Please help her out and get those in.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Through the Department’s Past Presidents Parley program (10-14), District Poppy Chairman Sharon Thiemecke is pleased to announce that five scholarships were awarded this year:

Jocelyn Dubbels – Dilworth, MN
Alexandra Benning – Browerville, MN
Brianna Blanchard – Pine River, MN
Elia Henderson – Detroit Lakes, MN
Alexandra Rud – Clara City, MN
Olivia Hanninen – Frazee, MN
MacKenzie Weiss – Westbrook, MN

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

MORE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Mary French, 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:

Jocelyn Dubbels – Dilworth, MN
Alexandra Benning – Browerville, MN
Brianna Blanchard – Pine River, MN
Elia Henderson – Detroit Lakes, MN
Alexandra Rud – Clara City, MN
Olivia Hanninen – Frazee, MN
MacKenzie Weiss – Westbrook, MN
Brianna Penfield – St. Cloud, MN

Congratulations to all winners and to all of those you applied. We wish you the best in your educational futures. All entrants who do not receive a scholarship will be notified in the very near future. Minnesota didn’t have any winners with National Scholarships this year.

SECRETARY SANDIE’S CORNER

I have taken a little flack in the past for making this a “personal” column but I do have thick skin so I have to brag a bit. I am attaching a picture for my 10-year-old grand daughter Claire Kubers who was the Montgomery Unit 79 Little Miss Poppy this year. She helps at many functions the Unit puts on, she distributes poppies and code in our American Legion Post 79. By the time you read this Sherry and I will be back at work after spending a short weekend with our families in Texas. Baby Elizabeth is now one and we couldn’t miss the birthday celebration.

Also, the staff Sherry has at the Montgomery American Legion Post 79 are to be applauded – they planned and pulled off a birthday party for Shorty after the annual Memorial Day Service held at the Post. I had absolutely nothing to do with it (for the record). Thanks to all Legionary Members.
Auxiliary Bulletin

Continued from Preceding Page

Family members and friends who stopped in with birthday wishes. Again, for the record, if you need funeral home hot-dish for anything, call Julie here at the office and get her recipe, it was delicious.

We are diligently working on Girls State, Annual Impact Numbers, Department Convention, National Convention and already working on our next Auxiliary year. Gosh darn, time goes by so fast – it’s hard to keep up. With summer finally here, please be safe and enjoy the great weather. Remember to always thank our veterans.

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By Karla Minnick

Final Greetings from 7th District

To the great State of Minnesota Legion Family I want to thank you for letting me get the chance to be a part of your lives. I have not only grown in my Auxiliary Family, but with personal growth. When I began it scared the bejesus out of me to speak in front of a crowd, it still does, but not as bad.

Spike and I have had a wonderful time traveling and getting to know this beautiful state and gratitude for our loved ones, that gives us the opportunity to roam freely.

A happening that I hold dearly this past year is:

There was one question that had always pulled at my curiosity, and it was one that involved our beloved heroes that we call a Soldier. I had heard stories that these men and women while in battle wore their boots for months. How could they do this? So to honor Veterans Day, I put on my workbooks and challenged myself to 72 hours in those boots. I made it 32 hours and it was 2 more days till the pain and feeling came back to my legs and feet. I have not worn those boots since, and after discussing this with veterans how they survived the boot ordeal, it was said, “there were more important things to worry about, for instance “staying alive.” And with that thanking God, Our Country, and these brave Men and Women for the greatest gift given, Our Freedoms, strengthen me to do all I can.

God Bless You All

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By Vicki Bibeau

Sixth District has had a good year

It has been one incredible year for our Veterans and our communities throughout the 6th District and Department. Our Unit Annual Reports are outstanding, Thank you to all the 6th District Units who are accountable to our programs and our organization. We worked on all our programs!

Thank you for your generous donations towards our project of “Covering our Veterans” with “Goodwill ON Earth”. We have reached our goal of $10,000. New Winter coats were delivered to the St. Cloud VA with a special “Thank You Card” inside each pocket from our Auxiliary members. The Colored Pocket T-shirts to our Veterans all 5 MN Veteran Homes will be delivered this summer. This project was made possible by the 6th District Units, Posts and personal donations and will cover 1,000 veterans this year.

Membership goals stayed in 1st and 2nd place all year, everyone worked hard with the team leaders and Chairman Sharon. We had two District Leadership Trainings and hosted a Department Training, turn out was great, information abundant and new friends were made. We had many new Chairman this year and they did an outstanding job in their programs.

Legionville is in the 6th District and Commander Ken’s project is to provide dehumidifiers for the dorms at the resort. Be sure to put the second weekend of September on your calendar for the Legionville Camporee, open to everyone! Bingo, dancing, singing, games, campfires, plenty of food, membership rally on Saturday and a fantastic time with the American Legion Family.

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By Karla Minnick

Boot experiment taught of sacrifice

To the great State of Minnesota Legion Family I want to thank you for letting me get the chance to be a part of your lives. I have not only grown in my Auxiliary Family, but with personal growth. When I began it scared the bejesus out of me to speak in front of a crowd, it still does, but not as bad.

Spike and I have had a wonderful time traveling and getting to know this beautiful state and gratitude for our loved ones, that gives us the opportunity to roam freely.

A happening that I hold dearly this past year is:

There was one question that had always pulled at my curiosity, and it was one that involved our beloved heroes that we call a Soldier. I had heard stories that these men and women while in battle wore their boots for months. How could they do this? So to honor Veterans Day, I put on my workbooks and challenged myself to 72 hours in those boots. I made it 32 hours and it was 2 more days till the pain and feeling came back to my legs and feet. I have not worn those boots since, and after discussing this with veterans how they survived the boot ordeal, it was said, “there were more important things to worry about, for instance “staying alive.” And with that thanking God, Our Country, and these brave Men and Women for the greatest gift given, Our Freedoms, strengthen me to do all I can.

God Bless You All

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HELP WANTED

Legionville Camp General Manager

The Camp GM will be responsible for the overall operations and maintenance of the camp.

Resumes can be sent to:

The American Legion
Department of Minnesota
Room 300A
20 West 12th Street
St. Paul, MN 55155-2000

Attn: Legionville Board
Smoky Mountains
October 22-29, 2019

Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
• Deluxe motor coach transportation
• 7 nights accommodations & 11 meals
• Hollywood Theme Park
• Flood Walls of Paducah
• All day guided tour of Smoky Mountain National Park
• Shows: Grand Ole Opry, Country Temptations, Smoky Mountain Opry
• Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

$1,499.00 per person double occupancy

Montreal, Quebec & Ottawa
September 29-October 10, 2018

Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
• Deluxe motor coach transportation
• 11 nights accommodations & 15 meals
• Rock ‘N Roll Hall of Fame
• Niagara Falls with Discovery Pass
• Guided tours of historic Montreal, Quebec and Ottawa, Canada
• Canadian Museum of Science & Industry
• Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

$1,980.00 per person double occupancy

Northern Rocky Mountains
September 5-17, 2018

Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
• Deluxe motor coach transportation
• 12 nights accommodations including 7 nights at Mountain Lodges
• 20 Meals: 12 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
• Admissions to all National Parks
• Mount Rushmores National Memorial
• Scenic cruise on Lake McDonald in Glacier Park
• International Space Station Ride Experience
• Scenic byways and highways
• Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

$2,199.00 per person double occupancy

Heart of Alaska
July 12-19, 2018

Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Larry Alvey
• Roundtrip Delta flights between Minneapolis and Anchorage
• 13 Meals (including an Alaska Salmon Bake)
• Infrared wildlife viewers
• Scenic tour of the George C. Marshall Museum
• Riverboat Discovery Cruise
• Glacier & Ice Caves
• Sted Dog Demonstration
• Prince William Sound Cruise

$3,269.00 Per Person Double occupancy

Mackinac Island, Door County & Apostle Islands
July 8-15, 2018

Tour Includes:
• 4 Seasons Tour Manager, Cindy Meany
• Deluxe motor coach transportation
• 7 nights accommodations
• Guided tours of Door County & Mackinac Island
• Shipwreck Museum & Lighthouse tour
• Pictured Rock Cruise, Northern Sky Theater
• Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
• Luggage handling for 1 suitcase per person

$3,479.00 Per Person Double occupancy

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Legislature
Continued from Page 6

new $3 million heating system at the Silver Bay home. One more major project for veterans got through the Legislature’s infrastructure bill – include: The lawmakers directed the Minnesota Housing Finance Authority to use its bonding authority for a major renovation at Upper Fort Snelling.

The project is expected to total about $100 million to renovate 26 old buildings at the Upper Post into 176 units of housing for veterans. The drawback to the plan is that it would cost about $600,000 to create each unit, about twice what it would cost to build a new house in the Twin Cities. But proponents said the high cost was partially due to the fact that the plan would restore historical buildings. The federal tax credits could be used. The Fort Snelling apartments that would be created would result in veterans at about $1,000 per month. Other measures that were approved in this session – not attached to the bonding bill – include: A provision to allow veterans to indicate their veteran’s status on applications for state agency appointments. The information could then be used in choosing the appointees. -- Designated June 29 as General John Vessey Day in Minnesota.

Also available: Housing Services, Nursing Home Subsidized Homemaker services

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