Post formed in Mpls. is first in 6 years

Twin Cities TV reporters descend on initial meeting for Post 5222

By Tim Engstrom

MINNEAPOLIS — Under the spotlight of TV crews across the Twin Cities market, The American Legion Department of Minnesota welcomed its first new post in six years.

Patrick M. Novack Post 5222 of The American Legion has 27 charter members, with the youngest at age 27 and the oldest at 83. Teresa Huberty, the post commander, estimates about 85 percent of the new members are veterans of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Novack, a Coon Rapids resident, died with his wife, Mary, in a car crash in May 2004. He was 57. She was 60. They are buried at Fort Snelling.

Novack’s son, Mike, is vice commander of the new post and said his father was awarded the Purple Heart, two Silver Stars and three Bronze Stars over three tours in Vietnam in the Army.

Assistant Adjutant Mike Maxa was at the Nov. 14 charter meeting.

“My goal is to meld our older veterans, our older generation, our older Legionnaires into our younger Legionnaires, our younger veterans, and to show them how we embrace the community, how we embrace our children and youth, the Americanism, national defense,” Maxa told reporter Reg Chapman of WCCO, himself a Gulf War veteran.

Taya Kyle speaks Nov. 13 at the Hutchinson Event Center.

Legionnaire

Chris Kyle widow: ‘This doesn’t end you’

By Tim Engstrom

HUTCHINSON — Life is getting better lesson by lesson for Taya Kyle, widow of U.S. Navy SEAL sniper Chris Kyle, who served four tours in Iraq and survived, only to be murdered in February 2013 helping a veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder.

God, she said, has prepared her)

continued on Page 7

We wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah and a Wonderful New Year.
Below an American Legion emblem, the tablet reads: “100th National Convention of The American Legion: August 28, 29, 30, 2018: This tablet is placed in grateful recognition of The American Legion in awarding the 1st of Veterans Affairs after military honors have been provided to a

**Plaque to note centennial convention**

MINNEAPOLIS — A new American Legion plaque tells pedestrians on the Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis, stopping for a rest at Peavey Plaza, how their city hosted the 100th convention of The American Legion in August 2018. At the base of an arrangement of flagpoles, the marker was installed a few feet away from a 1959 plaque that notes the city hosted the first American Legion convention in 1919.

A half-hour dedication ceremony is slated for Pearl Harbor Day, specifically 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7.

But why Peavey Plaza?

The site that is today Peavey Plaza (restored just last year) and Orchestra Hall in 1919 was the original Minneapolis Auditorium — the location of that first convention.

All the surrounding area needed to do something significant was there,” said Dick Ward of Minneapolis Post 1.

The dedication will feature comments from Department Commander Mark Dvorak, Department Vice Commander Teresa Ash, 5th District Commander Andrew Rose and Post Department Commander Jim Kellogg.

A moment of silence, along with a rifle squad and a bugler, will commemorate the lives lost in the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

The American Legion ordered the plaque from the St. Paul office of Twin City Monument Co., which installed it Saturday, Nov. 9.

The new plaque effort began with former Minnesota Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Jeff Olson, who was aware of the 1959 plaque and often had lunch nearby.

“There would be people sitting on the plaque with their Levi’s,” Olson said. “It was disrespectful.”

He, Ward, Lloyd Ricker and Jim Kellogg all had hands in making the 1959 plaque come to fruition.

**Zdon fondly remembered during retirement party reflecting on his 23-year American Legion career**

By Tim Engstrom

ANOKA — Past National Commander Dan Ludwig’s first impression of Al Zdon came at the 1996 Fall Conference. Zdon, the former editor for the Hibbing Daily Tribune, wore khaki pants and looked a bit haggard.

“I slept in khaki pants for a week that didn’t look that bad,” Ludwig said to laughter in a room of 125 people.

“I thought he was a homeless vet… Never have I been so wrong about a first impression.”

Anoka Post 102 hosted a meal and celebration Friday, Nov. 15, called 23 Years of Storytelling to let Legion family and friends reflect on working with Zdon, who retires Dec. 31 as the American Legion Department of Minnesota’s communications director. The job title includes being the editor of The Minnesota Legionnaire and the secretary for Legion Baseball in Minnesota.

Zdon, 71, wrapped up the evening’s festivities by playing the banjo and singing “Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue” to a round of applause.

Ludwig said Zdon produced the finest state Legion newspaper in the country and commended him for capturing the history of Minnesota veterans.

A particularly poignant comment came from Dr. Rich Dieter of Hibbing: “Al Zdon could get men who were in the wars to talk about it. I want you to know that’s not a skill that’s a calling.”

Department Commander Mark Dvorak said he shared a love of music with Zdon and called him “a class act and a true professional.”

Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl called Zdon “a moral compass” and said everyone knew him. Rudy Boschwitz called Tesdahl to get an item in the Legion’s “bulletin.”

When Tesdahl explained it was a statewide newspaper edited by Zdon, Boschwitz knew Zdon.

“You don’t run into anybody, it seems, who doesn’t know Al Zdon,” Tesdahl said.

Sandie Deutsch, executive secretary for the Auxiliary, told how she dropped her column to keep it in. He was right, she said, because Deutsch received many comments from readers wondering where it went.

Don Walser, the former department judge advocate, said a “survey” revealed the three most important factors to Zdon’s success: department staff members Laura Weber, Jennifer Kelley and Misty Padilla.

“They broke the mold when they made Al Zdon,” said Bill Burbknecht, the state’s representative on the National Executive Committee.

Many others commented, and the celebration included a few not-so-fit-for-print comments and jokes, but it was all in good fun.

Zdon’s wife, Mary, said raising six children was difficult enough but moving them from Hibbing to the Twin Cities was tough. Al loved being the editor and the family loved that community. His career in journalism allowed him to meet people from Walter Mondale to Jimmy Carter and to tour former Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz, Poland.

She said the greatest characteristic about Al is he has so many excellent friends.

Married for 45 years, Al thanked Mary for her support over the years: “She has given me perspective on what is important in life, and you know what, it’s not the Vikings.”

He recalled the support he received from the two Dons — Daniel of the Old Testament and Daniel of the New Testament.

The former, the late Dan Foley of Wabasha, “was perhaps the most extraordinary man I’d ever met in my life.”

Foley, a retired appellate court judge and past national commander, took Zdon under his wing.

The latter, Ludwig of Red Wing, appointed Zdon to a national committee, a rare move for a staffer, and gave Zdon sound advice: “Tell the truth. Take the high road. Remember the cause.”

Zdon spoke of the baseball tournaments, fellow staff members and adjutants Tesdahl and Bill Foltz.

On Tesdahl, Zdon said he had a big heart: “He would rather help a disabled veteran catch a three-pound bass in the Mississippi River than be in an office at the Veterans Service Building.”

What’s Zdon going to do Jan. 1?

“I will wake up and say, ‘Now what?’”

**Did you know?**

Did you know post honor guards in Minnesota can receive a stipend of $30 a day per person by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs after military honors have been provided to a fallen comrade? There is a form available on the MDVA website, and requests for reimbursement are preferred within 15 days of the honors. Just enter “MDVA honor guard form” into Google, and the first result is the form. Be sure the funeral director signs Part 3.

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1. **CELEBRATE NATIVE MINNESOTA**
   Join us for the opening of the new *Our Home: Native Minnesota* exhibit. Explore stories of Dakota and Ojibwe people and enjoy free admission, music, performances, art demos, and games presented by the Native community. Sat, Dec 7, Minnesota History Center, St. Paul. Supported by major sponsor U.S. Bank.

2. **EXPERIENCE A WWI CHRISTMAS**
   Find out how Christmas was celebrated at home during wartime. *A WWI Christmas*, Nov 29 & 30, Dec 1, 6, 7 & 8, Charles Lindbergh House and Museum, Little Falls.

3. **GATHER FOR THE HOLIDAYS**
   Immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, and aromas of Christmas 1875 during *A Victorian Christmas* at the Alexander Ramsey House. Dive into Gilded Age opulence with stories of the Hill family and their servants during a *Christmas Traditions Tour* of the James J. Hill House. Tickets at mnhs.org/holidays.

4. **SHOP & SUPPORT HISTORY**
   Shop MNHS for unique holiday gifts and exciting new books from MNHS Press at the Minnesota History Center or online at mnhs.org/holidays. Each purchase helps preserve our state's history.

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The Three War Stories books include 100 stories of Minnesotans who have gone off to war. The books do not glorify war, but simply honor the young men and women who left their homes, their jobs, their lives to defend their nation. Buy one at a time or get the whole set.

Minnesota Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Larry Herke, second from right, awarded medallions to nine World War II veterans on Sunday, Nov. 10, at the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel during the worship service. With Herke, back row right, is Rev. Kenneth Beale Jr. of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation. Awardees in the back row, from left, are Kenneth Johnson, James McDougall and Warren Fall. In the center row are Harold Gifford and Elmer Eckart. Standing in front are Gerald Schatzlein, Marty Romano and Harlan Widhelm. Seated is Bill Rasmussen.
Mail Call

Piece on Canadian veteran was excellent

Thank you for honoring Boyd Lorenson in the recent Minnesota Legionnaire October 2019 issue. Please offer more of these heroic stories so our grandkids will realize that freedom is not free.

Edward Broom
St. Joseph Post 328

Mail Call

Soviet mourns loss of crusader for veterans

The Legion lost a very good friend recently: Evie Flom. Between the years of 1978 to 1991, Evie Flom handled Veterans Affairs in our office in St. Paul. Over that period she handled thousands of cases. The VA back in those times was more hands-on with — a situation which I hope has gotten better. Evie knew how to handle the VA. She was one tough lady. She really thought highly of veterans and what they meant to our country. They were “my veterans” to Evie, every single one of them.

As I write this note called and wanted my involvement, she got it. She convinced me (and I agreed) that she could get more done if the bureaucrats knew that “the senator” would call and care about them. “You want to hear from Rudy?” was her standard line.

We used to hold a Christmas party for federal bureaucrats located in St. Paul and there are a ton of them. Evie made a point of knowing the people she dealt with and invited all of them to the party each year. If sure I attended if the Senate wasn’t in session.

Evie made the whole thing work. Best of all she was creates a fun person — and easy for veterans to talk to.

Many veterans told me so when I met them throughout the entire state. I suspect the folks at the VA found her tough, to be sure, but on the other hand nice and fun to work with. She really got a lot done. I talked to Loanne Thurne today before I wrote this letter. Loanne was chief of staff of our St. Paul office for more than 10 years.

“Evie went way beyond,” was how Loanne described it and many of you readers who had problems would surely agree.

In life we all strive for a good life for ourselves and our family and to help others also. Evie Flom did all of that and more. She was proud of that, and we were proud of her. Evie and her husband, Harvey, who took such good care of Evie in an extended illness, both were good friends to my Ellen and me, and we — together with many veterans who read this — will miss her.

Evie Flom made the most out of her life by making others feel great. I know that I will miss her and so will your local Posts. Our American Legion Family is making a difference and for what they meant to our country. They were “my veterans” to Evie.

Rudy Boschwit
Minneapolis

Is Fort Snelling mainly a military post or not?

The Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) is continuing with its revitalization plan for Fort Snelling. But instead of the focus being on the military, it is on the indigenous people.

During the 2018-2019 period, MNHS conducted a series of public meetings with the goal of gathering input from a wide range of stakeholders. The meetings focused on the future of the fort, and specifically on the question of whether Fort Snelling should be primarily a military site or a site that also serves other purposes.

During the meetings, attendees were asked to consider the following questions:

- What is the primary focus of Fort Snelling, and how should it be defined?
- How should the fort be managed and operated?
- What are the potential benefits and drawbacks of different approaches to managing the fort?

The results of these meetings have been used to inform the planning for the future of Fort Snelling.

Correction

A story that appeared on Page 16 of the November 2019 issue of The Montana Legionnaire listed 11 bullet point reminders about gambling funds, and part of the eighth bullet point was incorrect. The correct version of the bullet point incorrectly described gambling checking accounts at separate banks as the post accounts, but the fact is, they merely need to be separate bank accounts, not separate banks, according to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board.

Betty Jass is the chaplain for The American Legion Department of Minnesota.
Mpls. Doctor is Physician of Year

The American Legion’s 2019 Physician of the Year is a Minnesota doctor.

In early November, the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Health Administration, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Minnesota VA Health Care System that Dr. Megan Press, a general psychiatrist at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, notified.

“I cannot think of a finer physician for this distinguished award,” Wolfsteller said in his nomination papers. “She exemplifies the highest level of dedication and compassion that national recognition can motivate these VA employees to remain with the

Battle of the Bulge front and center

The World War II History Roundtable will meet Tuesday, Dec. 10, at the Minnesota History Center in downtown St. Paul. The meeting will be “Rally at the Bulge, the 7th Armored Division Counterattack: 75th Anniversary.” The speaker is Gary Franks, retired U.S. Army, “Loss and Redemption at St. Vith.” He will be joined by veterans of the battle.

The program will be at 7 p.m. and will be held in the auditorium. There is free admission.

The Minnesota VA Medical Center, 1601 University Ave. W., will be open to the public for parking.

Obituary policy

Obituaries of members of the Legion Family will be published in the Minnesota Legionnaire in a monthly column under the heading “Taps.” When the obituaries are brief, the Legionnaire does seek certain information for our readers:

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

The Legionnaire reserves the right to edit all obituaries for style and brevity. Please send to tengstrom@mn legion.org.

Moldan, Joseph C., 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Nov. 15, 2019. He served in Korea as a corporal and also as an explosive ordnance disposal. He was a sergeant in the 14th Infantry Regiment, 25th Division. He was a member of VFW Post 133.

Mullen, Sylvester Christopher, 99, Air Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Nov. 9, 2019. He earned a Silver Star. He was a member of Winona Post 9.

Newbarn, Virgil LeRoy, 87, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Nov. 4, 2019. He was a member of Brownport Post 143.

Notch, Gerald, 81, National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died Oct. 27, 2019. He served for 22 years and retired as a captain. He was a member of Hutchinson Post 9.

Odegard, Alvin, 96, Army veteran of World War II, died Nov. 3, 2019. He was a member of East Grand Forks Post 57.

Peterson, Kenneth W., 95, Army veteran of World War II, died Nov. 19, 2019. He served in both Europe and the Pacific. He was a member of Jackson Post 130.

Prings, Allen D., 70, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 1, 2019. He served on a submarine. He was a member of Chandler Post 338.

Rodmyre, Willard “Bill,” 89, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Nov. 5, 2019. He served in Germany and was a sharpshooter. He was a member of Hector Post 135.

Sasse, Clarence C. “Chuck,” Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, died Oct. 19, 2019. He was a flight engineer stationed in England. He flew many missions over Europe. He was a member of Richfield Post 435.

Schweighurter, James, 82, National Guard veteran of the Vietnam War, died Dec. 19, 2019. He was a member of Redwood Falls Post 38.

Seldon, Fred F., 90, Navy veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 25, 2019. He served for four years in the Pacific. He was a member of Edgerton Post 201.

Stiller, Peter, 81, Navy veteran of the Cold War, died Nov. 19, 2019. He also served for 24 years in the National Guard. He was a member of Little Falls Post 46.

Truax, Carlos, 93, Air Force veteran of World War II and Army veteran of the Korean War, died Oct. 16, 2019. He served in the Pacific. He was a member of Pine City Post 51.

Whitley, Donald W., 90, Army veteran of the Korean War, died Nov. 4, 2019. He was a corporal. He was a member of Glencoe Post 95.

To be sure, this is no meat inside these pieces of memorabilia. Memorable cans of Spam are free

Service-connected disabled veterans now can shop at commissaries on military posts starting in 2020. Disabled veterans pension on Jan. 1 extends access to commissaries, exchanges and Morale, Welfare and Recreation retail facilities for four years. These veterans include disabled veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and approved disabled veterans.

The measure is part of the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act. These new privileges recognize the service, sacrifice and service of these veterans and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and those that care for them,” A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of the
Bikes are away, but let’s remain active

Legion Riders
Paul Hassing

Legion membership chart as of Nov. 20


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Veterans will need a “veteran health identification card” from the federal VA. The Department of Defense said the new “veterans identification card” is not acceptable.

Bridge near done

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and American Legion have worked together to bring back the truss bridge over Minnehaha Creek near the Minneapolis Veterans Home. This work started in late July.

“We are on schedule to complete the project by the end of the year,” said Commissioner Larry Herke.

The effort is a joint project of Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and Minnesota Department of Administration Construction Services.

According to an MDVA news release, the bridge will reopen Dec. 11.

Paul Hassing is the director for the American Legion Department of Minnesota.

Jeremy Zelnik is the Department of Veterans Affairs officer. His email is jzelnik@mdva.mn.gov.

Legionnaires of the Year recipients Tess and Al Davis, center, pose with Fallen Officer Commander Dave Vulcan, left, and, SAL Adjunct Dennis Henkemeier.

Legionnaire of the Year recipients Tess and Al Davis, center, pose with Fallen Officer Commander Dave Vulcan and Legion Commander Mark Dvorak.
Hutchinson Boy Scouts applaud during the introduction of Taya Kyle on Nov. 13 at the Hutchinson Event Center. There were 450 people in attendance.

Taya Kyle describes outrunning her fears

Continued from Page 1

Hutchinson Boy Scouts applaud during the introduction of Taya Kyle on Nov. 13 at the Hutchinson Event Center. There were 450 people in attendance.

Taya Kyle describes outrunning her fears

Continued from Page 1

Hutchinson Post 96 member Shad Ketcher, a Persian Gulf War veteran and financial adviser in Hutchinson, right, helped launch Saluting Community Heroes in the community and hands a Veterans Warrior Award to Van Huberty, a north Minneapolis resident, volunteers her time in south Minneapolis at the VA Medical Center and has come to know many of the veterans in the system.

“That’s where I met half of our post," Huberty said.

Many of the new post members reside in apartment complexes nearby the hospital. That made the Cardinal Restaurant & Bar easy to access along the Blue Line commuter rail that lines Hiawatha Avenue.

Huberty simply asked them to join.

“You have got to go in and let them know what the Legion is about, and that we are there for them,” Huberty said. “They have an opportunity to get involved so they can feel like they are a family member — somewhere they belong.”

Huberty served in the U.S. Army from 1983 to 1999 and was in the Gulf War of the early 1990s. She had a civilian career in warehouse management. She grew up in Ham Lake.

“I want to feel like what I’m doing matters to somebody,” she said.

Department Vice Commander Teresa Ash, who emceed the ceremony, said, “With 85 percent of the founding members being Iraq/Afghanistan veterans, we see a bright and long-lasting future for this post.”

The last New Legion post in Minnesota was 3H Post 1975 in St. Paul, starting in May 2013. The establishment of a new post garnered TV coverage from WCCO-4, KSTP-5 and KMPX-9 in morning and evening broadcasts. Visit the “news” area of mnlegion.org to find hyperlinks to three of the segments.

The American Legion Department of Minnesota hired a public relations firm, Snow-Globe Communications, in October to help raise the profile of the organization throughout the state. Snow-Globe assisted department staff and post officers in reaching television media.

5222 was namesake’s badge number.

Continued from Page 1

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**VIETNAM WAR**

**7 years and 4 months in captivity**

At monthly roundtable, David Wheat of Duluth recalls being shot down, captured and tortured.

By Tim Engstrom

**ST. PAUL — David Wheat was shot down over North Vietnam on Oct. 17, 1965. He was taken prisoner by the North Vietnamese government and released on Feb. 12, 1973.**

That’s seven years and four months as a prisoner of war.

**David Wheat, in the States in 1964, in an orange flight suit.**

**David Wheat holds a tap-code alphabet at Concordia on Nov. 18. The POW tap code did not have the letter K because C made the same sound.**

**At monthly roundtable, David Wheat of Duluth recalls being shot down, captured and tortured.**

**Wheat grew up in Duluth and, as a boy, always enjoyed airplanes. He graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth in 1963, then applied and was accepted to the Naval Aviation Officer Candidate program in Pensacola, Florida. After 16 weeks of training, he was assigned to Fighter Squadron 41 of the USS Independence, which was the first East Coast carrier to set sail for Vietnam, going south of Africa and through the Philippines before reaching Yankee Station.**

**From the squadron, Wheat was among those that flew the F-4 Phantom pilot and Lt. j.g. David Wheat as his RIO were part of an air attack of F-4 Phantoms on the Thai Nguyen bridge north of Hanoi, which had surface-to-air missiles.**

**Wheat was shot down on Oct. 17, 1965. “That’s when you know something is drastically wrong,” Wheat said.**

**David Wheat holds a tap-code alphabet at Concordia on Nov. 18. The POW tap code did not have the letter K because C made the same sound.**

Explosion.

Ejection.

Wheat landed on a hillside.

That’s when you know something is drastically wrong,” Wheat said.

In a prisoner camp, communication was good because it allowed more interaction to memorize names and clarify names, like Bill Butler and Phil Butler were separate guys, Wheat said.

"You are thinking and hoping, but you don’t know," Wheat said. "You still are behind bars." Wheat paced his cell — "like these guys do it at the zoo" — to stay fit, but, considering his ration, didn’t overexert himself, he said.

**POWs rejoice as they become former POWs when a C-141 Starlifter takes off from Vietnam on Feb. 12, 1973. David Wheat is circled.**

Finally, prisoners were brought to large cells in Hanoi and placed in rooms in sequential order, other than the sick and injured. Wheat was 43rd out of 660. Does this mean they will be released?

"You are thinking and hoping, but you don’t know," Wheat said. "You still are behind bars." Wheat, at this point a lieutenant commander, was on the second C-141 to take prisoners home. He went to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines, then Great Lakes Naval Hospital in Illinois.

**The Hanoi Hilton in 1971.**

**Wheat remains close with his family.**

**Wheat, in the States in 1964, in an orange flight suit.**

**In fact, a sailor, Doug Hegdahl, was released in 1969, and he provided U.S. officials with 256 names he had memorized, including Wheat’s, as well as the conditions of the camp and mistreatment of prisoners.**

**Prisoners, Wheat said, were fed twice a day. In the fall, the camps served pumpkin soup, usually with rice, sometimes French bread, and only water to drink.**

When new prisoners came to the camp, it was a way to learn news about the war effort and America. In 1969, conditions improved a bit, and the Vietnamese allowed care packages, and the prisoners learned of the moon landing from a picture of Neil Armstrong on a sugar packet.

**More men in larger rooms was good because it allowed more interaction to memorize names and clarify names, like Bill Butler and Phil Butler were separate guys, Wheat said.**

"Two prisoners escaped, he said, and they made it two blocks. One was never seen again. The other returned but probably was in solitary the remaining time, he said.

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"You are thinking and hoping, but you don’t know," Wheat said. "You still are behind bars." Wheat, at this point a lieutenant commander, was on the second C-141 to take prisoners home. He went to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines, then Great Lakes Naval Hospital in Illinois.

Mayer, who was from Washington state, was believed to be dead in his parachute and buried in Vietnam without records. Wheat remains close with his family.
ON THE AIR

Department Commander Mark Dvorak and Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller appear on “Minnesota Military Radio” with Host Tom Lyons. They discussed The American Legion’s upcoming year and how the Legion can help veterans.

KALY FM 101.7 (Minneapolis): Saturdays at 1 a.m.
KMHL AM 1400 (Marshall): Saturdays at 10 a.m.
KVGO FM 104.3 (Preston): Sundays at 7:30 a.m.
KQCL FM 95.9 (Faribault): Sundays at 7 a.m.
WKLX FM 95.9 (Forest Lake): Saturdays at 7 a.m.
KLQP FM 92.1 (Madison): Saturdays at 6 p.m.
KVBR AM 1340 (Brainerd): Saturdays at 9 a.m.
KNUJ AM 860 (New Ulm): Sundays at 5 p.m.
WCMP AM 1350 (Pine City): Saturdays at 9 a.m., Sundays at 6 p.m.
KGZS FM 89.1 (Fond Du Lac): Sundays at 11 a.m., Mondays at 6 p.m.
KROC AM 1340 (Rochester): Sundays at 7 a.m.
KDDG-FM 105.5 (Albany): Saturdays at 7 a.m.
WDSM AM 710 (Duluth/Superior): Sundays at 9 a.m.
KQAD (Luverne): Saturdays at 9 a.m.
KATE AM 1450 (Albert Lea): Sundays at noon.
KWLM FM 96.3 (Willmar): Saturdays at 6 p.m.
KWLM AM 1340 (Willmar): Saturdays at 6 p.m.
KDMA AM 1460 (Montevideo): Sundays at noon.
KDWA FM 97.7 (Hastings): Sundays at 8 a.m.
KTKL AM 1130 (Twin Cities): Sundays at 7 a.m.
KLCI FM 106.1 (Ramsey): Saturdays at 6:30 a.m.
KTLF AM 960 (Little Falls): Sundays at noon.
WYRQ 92.1 (Little Falls): Sundays at 7 a.m.
KTLK AM 1130 (Twin Cities): Sundays at 7 a.m.
"Minnesota Military Radio" is heard across the state:

CO-Host Doug Wortham listens to Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller share his story of being shot in Iraq and the long recovery and how veterans can use his expertise of the VA medical system to get help. A podcast is available at minnesotamilitaryradio.com.
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the like, and Sabinish wanted to drill locally. Austin is only 20 miles away from Albert Lea.

He arrived in Austin, and in September 2005 he volunteered to deploy to Iraq with the 134th Brigade Support Battalion, which was part of the 34th Infantry Division. He spent six months in Fort Polk, Louisiana, then arriving in the Sandbox on the last day of March 2005.

In being the Quartermaster Corps in the post-9/11 military wasn’t like soldiering in World War II.

“I never really did my MOS besides go to school,” Sabinish said.

Gillaspy provided a room of the Board of Directors office was on hand at the Fall Conference in October, and she shared with their communities.

A certain type of “gift in kind” transfer involves up-armored Humvees, so much of the shrapnel had gone above their upgraded-armored Humvees, but with the gunner being in a turret at the top of the truck, he was hit worst among the four people in the Humvee.

They deployed to headquarter, and one piece of shrapnel hit the microphone in front of Sabinish’s mouth, saving his teeth.

“I was trying to communicate, and she thought, well, they thought I was dead because they noticed blood, and I wasn’t talking back, not reading my headset was hit.”

He started to realize he was bleeding profusely from his right arm. Soldiers from other vehicles noticed the bomb’s triggers off in the desert to the left and right of the Humvee, Sabinish, despite bleeding and a concussion, climbed back in the turret.

“Everybody in the vehicle said I was pale as a ghost, and I had been in Iraq so long that you kind of get a little tan going,” he said, “so I guess I was pretty pale from all the blood loss.”

They got him out of the vehicle and gave him medical attention. They put an Israeli tourniquet — a trauma bandage — on him, yet he continued to bleed. About 10 or 15 minutes later, a medevac helicopter flew him to Tallil Airbase.

Emelia Pesta, the driver, was left with a slight concussion. Mike Peterson had a bit of ricochet shrapnel in the face.

When the 134th got to Iraq, it had Humvees from the first generation, War, some with holes in the body.

And then a couple months before we left the Sandbox, they had, new, up-armored Humvees, but he probably saved my life,” he said.

Sabinish credited his body gear for stopping shrapnel from hitting his heart.

At Tallil, they gave him morphine, and the old city of Ur, and he was near Tallil Airbase in Iraq near An Nasiriyah.

That meant Sabinish would play a secondary role. He was 25.

Fragmentation EFP while on a patrol around An Nasiriyah. He was 25.

“the roadside bombs were general to the injuries in a call to his family. He would cause further nerve damage. He still has nerves that never fully healed, and the scar tissue causes arthritis in his elbow.

From the Tallil hospital, he downplayed the injuries in a call to his mother and sister back in Albert Lea.

Guy Gillaspy, left, speaks as a guest on Minnesota Military Radio in December 2018. Host Tom Lyons is on the right. The show airs at 7 a.m. Sundays on Twin Cities News Talk AM 1130 and on stations across the state.

What are the ways to get investigated by the Attorney General’s Office?

MAHNOMEN — Assistant Attorney General Sarah Gillaspy of the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office was on hand at the Fall Conference in October, and she shared how Minnesota’s nonprofit corporations get to investigated:

• Misuse of nonprofit assets. 
• Unauthorized transactions. 
• An absent or detached board of directors. 
• “Founder’s syndrome.” 

Sarah Gillaspy provided a room of American Legion members with legal practices for their posts. She said nonprofits aren’t required to have bylaws but bylaws show sound oversight. She recommends bylaws be a “breathing, living document” that provide procedures and operations. Different types of nonprofit corporations are expected to keep records for six years, and she said any member or director can inspect the records at any time. Not in the middle of the night, but, of course, “a reasonable time.”

Ryan Sabinish, second from right, smiles for a photo on Feb. 22, 2007, in Iraq. Behind him is a desert Humvee with a gunner turret. A month later, Sabinish was injured by a roadside bomb.

He joined The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans when he got home in 2007. In 2012-13, he became a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart chapter in Rochester, whose area included Austin and Albert Lea. He became an officer for four years and in 2018-19 was the commander.

There are 12 chapters and 1,400 members across the state. Sabinish, Korean War paratrooper Paul Overgard and other Purple Heart recipients, in 2017, helped Freeborn County become the first Purple Heart County in Minnesota. The idea was introduced by The American Legion Riders in Albert Lea and brought to the county commissioners.

Thanks to a grant from the Support Our Troops license plates, Freeborn County posted “Purple Heart County” signs along entryways.

The American Legion Post 404 in Alden, in turn, worked with Sabinish and MOPV to become a Purple Heart City, much like many other cities in Minnesota are becoming.

Ceremonies bring together the service organizations to honor “Purple Heart veterans who didn’t make it home and the ones who did make it home,” he said.

He’s learned about marketing along the way, contacting the media and becoming involved in recruiting younger veterans to join MOPV and other veterans groups.

Here are his tips for recruiting young veterans:

• Hold fundraisers to pay for memberships.
• Provide activities where people can bring families.
• Do sports tournaments, game competitions and shared experiences, like watching the Vikings.
• Meet during convenient times, not when younger members are at work.
• Makes sure meetings are laid-back and not lengthy.
• “Getting involved with your veterans community is good,” Sabinish said.

After all, he said, you never know where it might lead. He got to visit Israel — twice — because he volunteers with Heroes to Heroes.

Sabinish has two daughters, Ryleigh, 9, and Stellah, 4.

Ryan Sabinish, left, speaks as a guest on Minnesota Military Radio in December 2018. Host Tom Lyons is on the right. The show airs at 7 a.m. Sundays on Twin Cities News Talk AM 1130 and on stations across the state.

What are the ways to get investigated by the Attorney General’s Office?

Ryan Sabinish said state law calls on board members to discharge duties in good faith, in a manner he or she believes is in the best interest of the nonprofit and with the care “an ordinarily prudent person” would use in the same situation.

Nonprofit corporations are expected to keep records for six years, and she said any member or director can inspect the records at any time. Not in the middle of the night, but, of course, “a reasonable time.”

Sarah Gillaspy
STILLWATER — It was the third year for a concert with proceeds to benefit homeless veterans, but it was the first year with the moniker Turkey Jam.

Held Saturday, Nov. 2, Turkey Jam featured musicians from various bands, usually not playing with their bands, and instead playing with other musicians.

Succinctly put, a jam.

“It’s all about the language of music,” said Randy Ralston, who organized the music.

MACV President Neal Loidolt said Turkey Jam raised $30,000 for the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans. It was sponsored by American Legion Post 48 of Stillwater, and it featured a silent auction, pulled-pork meal and various beverages.

Legionnaires sought donations, sold tickets and helped set up, along with various members of the general public.

Post 48 Commander Craig Fritsche said it was good exposure for the local post and it was for a good cause. All proceeds went to fighting homelessness among veterans.

The Stillwater post is without an auxiliary, but the post and auxiliary in nearby Bayport contributed to making Turkey Jam happen, Fritsche said.

Also, Stillwater resident Donna Mae Glass, volunteers noted, solicited a great many businesses to contribute to the silent auction.

Loidolt said many people come to MACV with ideas for fundraisers, but they want the nonprofit to handle the logistics, for which they lack the time and resources.

Kevin Tholen, a resident of the St. Croix Valley area, is an exception. He is retired from 3M and wanted to do something to help homeless veterans. He stayed at his project, doing the logistics and cobbling it together, Loidolt said. He brought the Stillwater community together, encouraging people to give and to attend.

And he’s not a veteran.

The first two years, the effort was more of a fundraising campaign, rather than a singular event. Turkey Jam, people said at the show, is a name that sticks.
PARTY LIKE IT’S 1919

A get-together called the 3rd District 1919 Party was held Nov. 2 at Apple Valley Post 1776.

WOODSBURY — On Nov. 18, Woodbury American Legion Post 501 and Woodbury Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9024 donated 10 flat-screen televisions to the Hastings Veterans Home just in time for the holidays.

Sue Register, Hastings Veterans Home volunteer services coordinator, was thrilled with the donation and excited to be able to support bigger televisions in the home.

“They will fill a real need for our veterans, and we are thankful for the support of the Woodbury American Legion and VFW,” she said.

VFW Post 9024 Commander Paul Lindahl presented the home with a Vietnam War Wall Memorial print by Lee Teter titled “Reflections.” Additionally, District 4 VFW Auxiliary President Cynthia Fritsche presented a check for $400 to the home for van operations.

Minnesota currently has five veterans homes in Minneapolis, Fergus Falls, Luverne, Silver Bay and Hastings. The Hastings campus was established in 1978 and has 179 domiciliary beds in private and semi-private rooms. The home provides a wide variety of services for veterans suffering from chemical dependency, mental health illnesses, dual disorders and the debilitating effects of aging.

Check out Facebook page of Woodbury Post 501.

From left are Post 501 Vice Commander Robert Dolan, Legion/VFW member Russ Bentley, VFW Post 9024 Commander Paul Lindahl, Legion Post 501 Commander Tom Grezek, Legion/VFW member Bob Fritsche, District 4 VFW Auxiliary President Cynthia Fritsche and Sue Register, volunteer services coordinator at the Hastings Veterans Home.

MINNEAPOLIS — The annual meeting of the Brain Science Foundation was held at the Richfield American Legion Post 579, presenting a three-star service banner to Richard Stark of Kellogg. Stark’s sons, Christopher, Daniel and Thomas, are serving in the military. ‘It’s an honor, because I wasn’t in the military,’ Stark said. ‘It’s an honor that my kids are.’

Groble also presented a two-star service banner to Tami Sawyer of Plainview, whose sons Justin and Ryan are in the military.

GOOD APPLES

Thirty-three volunteers from Apple Valley Post 1776 delivered 4,600 apples to Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan School District facilities.

Zachary E. Zeidler, second from left, receives a $2,000 scholarship check for his work on brain science research.

Maya Zhe Wang, second from left, receives a $2,000 scholarship check for her work on brain science research.

From left are Brain Science Foundation Secretary Rosemary Niesen, Vice President Robert Locker, Chairman Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos, Dr. Lisa James and President Gary H. Olson.

$30,000 funds research on anthrax, vets

By Gary H. Olson

MINNEAPOLIS — The annual meeting of the Brain Science Foundation was held at the Richfield American Legion Post 579 at 7 p.m. Oct. 14. Amanda Sykorá, CPA, with Clifton Larson LLP presented the financial report. Michael Danielson with Wells Fargo discussed the investment report. Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos, chairman of the Brain Science Center, and Dr. Lisa James each presented an update on the research that has been done and plans for the future.

Georgopoulos requested a donation of $30,000 to support a special research project on “The Effects of Anthrax Vaccine on Veterans.” It was approved under new business.

The current officers: Gary H. Olson, president; Robert Locker, vice president and Rosemary Niesen, secretary, were re-elected to serve for 2019-2020.

On Oct. 30, a lecture was held at the University of Minnesota Medical School Mayo Memorial Auditorium at 4 p.m. at the Minneapolis campus.

Awards were presented to graduate students working on research for the Brain Science Center. This was followed by the presentation of the $30,000 check to fund the research project on the effects of “Anthrax Vaccine on Veterans.” Dr. Harry T. Orr then gave a lecture on “A Minnesota Journey: Spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 1 (SCA1) from Discovery to Therapeutic Trials.”

Dinner followed at Christos Greek Restaurant in Minneapolis.
Greetings from the 3rd District.

It seems as though the end is near, as I begin to finish my article for the Legionnaire, it is time to start thinking about the next year and what we will do.

Where does the time go?

I was looking through some of my notes and found a quote by President John F. Kennedy: “Ask not what you can do for your country.”

This quote reminds me of the time that I am spending with the 3rd District American Legion. The time I have spent with them this past year has been truly amazing. They are a group of people who are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of our community.

The District website is up and running at www.3rddistrict.org. I encourage everyone in the district to check it out. Adjutants and membership chairs should be sure to look at the LegionLog to find updates about upcoming events.

The CDs are available at Cub Foods, Target, and Walmart. They are also available at the post where I was in the Air Force. They are a great way to support our veterans and their families.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season and I look forward to working with you in the new year.

Thank you for your support and dedication to the American Legion.

Sincerely,

Dale Wellik
3rd District Commander

Greetings from the 4th District.

I recently spent time at another meeting of Northeast Minnesota Women Veterans in Virginia and it was a great experience. I have been working with the Virginia Women Veterans in the past and it is great to see the progress they have made.

Boys and Girls State, etc., and invited me to work with them to bring in the Legion, Auxiliary and Sons.

Thank you for your support and dedication to the American Legion.

Sincerely,

Anna Koskinen
4th District Commander

Greetings from the 5th District.

I recently spent time at another meeting of Northeast Minnesota Women Veterans in Virginia and it was a great experience. I have been working with the Virginia Women Veterans in the past and it is great to see the progress they have made.

I would like to continue to work with you and your family to support the American Legion.

Sincerely,

Andrew Rose Sr.
5th District Commander
Changes made to preamble and to member eligibility

There have been a couple of very important changes to both our membership eligibility and also the Preamble to our Constitution.

Please note that per the IRS, our membership can go back only two places, daughter, granddaughter. You can no longer sign up your great-granddaughter or further back. Remember that if you have a great-granddaughter or great-great-granddaughter attending as a member, they are just fine. As long as their dues are kept current they are and will remain members.

The American Legion has changed the Preamble to the Constitution and the American Legion Auxiliary is following suit. Following is the change:

To uphold and defend the constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars.

Please change your documents to reflect the new wording.

Getting close on membership

Our big push is to get everyone off the proverbial goose egg. We only have 12 Units not having turned in membership for all the published photos of our zany costumes and faces during our membership skits.

On a personal level, I’ll also be attending AI Olson’s retirement dinner in November at Anoka Post 102. A nice crowd of AI’s family, American Legion Family members, AI’s former high school classmates and individuals from his early years were present to “toast and roast” AI. He then gave a wonderful job of recording in words and photographs the ongoing history of the Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary. We’ll forgive him for all the published photos of our zany costumes and faces during our membership skits.

Reserve a spot at Girls State

Information needed to reserve a place for your Girls State citizen(s) for the 2020 session of the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State will be included in the January/February Unit mailing. Please make sure and go through all the information. After the Department Office receives your reservation form and your registration check of $300 per girl, a packet will be sent to the Unit. It is up to each Unit sponsoring the citizens to get together with them and go through all of the material.

The packet will be sent to the person who signs the registration form. The registration materials must be returned to the department office on or before May 1. If you have any questions, please contact the Department Office.

This year the Girls State week will be June 14-20 at Bethel University in the St. Paul suburb of Arden Hills.

Poppy poster contest

Please encourage your schools to partici- pate in the Poppy Poster Contest. There are classes for all grades. All of the rules will be in the January/February Unit Mailing included in the Trophy and Awards package. All of this information is also on our website mmala.org.

This is a great way to teach our youth all about the Poppy, our Memorial Flower. Being the sponsor of the contest we must get into our schools and promote this wonderful contest. We have many very talented children in our schools. In the past few years entries have been dwindling. Make an effort to boost this great program.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

The Department staff, Sandie, Jan and Jocelyn, want to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This has been an outstanding year here. We are so happy to help you all with your needs and thank you for everything you do for us.

Here is a reminder of the Gift Shop dates:

- Fargo VAMC Dec. 2
- Minneapolis VAMC Dec. 3 & 4
- Sioux Falls VAMC Dec. 2 & 3
- St. Cloud VAMC Dec. 4
- Fergus Falls VA Home Dec. 9
- Hastings VA Home Dec. 10
- Luverne VA Home Dec. 12
- Minneapolis VA Home Dec. 4 & 5
- Silver Bay VA Home Dec. 12

The Bruno American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit 563 held a Veterans Day poster contest with the East Central School sixth-grade class. There were three classes with a first, second and third place for each class. First received $25, second $15 and third $10.

Picture here are all the winners along with Post 563 Commander Derrell Jensen, First Vice Al Holland, Unit 563 President Sandy Holland and Unit 563 Treasurer Jan Jensen.
Secretary’s Notes
Sandie Deutsch

It seems at this time of the year I sit and reflect on my life’s path. Twenty years ago I would have never thought of working for the American Legion Auxiliary. I didn’t even know a corporate office existed. I had never written a resume before this position came about or had a formal interview. I thought I would just give it a shot as a practice run and look where it got me.

These last eight-plus years have been the most memorable years I have had in my professional life. The people I have met are simply the best in the world, and I feel I have made many, many lifetime friends. Our family will be complete next May (according to my son) with a new grandbaby coming out of state travel. This position requires some weekend meeting and out of town travel. It seems at this time of the year I sit and reflect on my life’s path. Twenty years ago I would have never thought of working for the American Legion Auxiliary. I didn’t even know a corporate office existed. I had never written a resume before this position came about or had a formal interview. I thought I would just give it a shot as a practice run and look where it got me.

These last eight-plus years have been the most memorable years I have had in my professional life. The people I have met are simply the best in the world, and I feel I have made many, many lifetime friends. Our family will be complete next May (according to my son) with a new grandbaby coming along (it’s a boy!), and we couldn’t be happier.

Again, back to reflecting — there is one person who has had a tremendous impact on the way I treat people since I have been with the organization, and my goal out goes to Karen Thygeson this month. That woman has taught me to treat everyone with respect and kindness and never lose your smile. I have asked her many times — how do you keep smiling, even when things aren’t going so good, and she always answers with the biggest smile and somehow I know the answer. All of my love and prayers to you, dear sister, Karen.

Hats off to Al Zdon. What a retirement party! We had such a great time and whoever knew Al could sing so well. All of my love and best wishes go to Al and Mary — may they start their new journey with travel and memorable times with their loved ones.

From Shorty and myself we want to wish you a very merry, blessed Christmas and a happy, prosperous New Year. Make sure and remember those less fortunate, especially this time of year.

Upcoming notable dates
Dec. 7 – Pearl Harbor Rally – Rosetown Post 542 (Roseville)
Dec. 10 – Articles For the January/February Unit Mailing
Dec. 24 & 25 – Department Office Closed for Christmas
Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 – Department Office Closed for Christmas

Sandie Deutsch is the executive secretary for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota.
**Western Caribbean**
March 12 - 21, 2020

- Roundtrip Delta Flights
- All transfers to and from the airport, hotel and pier
- Pre-cruise night in Memphis
- 1 pre-cruise night in Ft. Lauderdale
- 7 day Cruise on the SKY PRINCESS®
- All meals and entertainment onboard the SKY PRINCESS®
- Guided Trolley Tour of Savannah with Hop-On/Hop-Off
- Guided tours of St. Simons Island and Jekyll Islands
- Harbor Cruise in Charleston
- Luggage handling
- $1,599.00 per person double occupancy

**Rhine River Cruise**
June 17 - 27, 2020

- Roundtrip Delta Flights
- 2 nights accommodations at The Charles Hotel
- 7 nights southbound cruise on the Rhine
- All meals and entertainment onboard the Rhine
- All transfers to and from the airport, hotel and ship
- 16 nights accommodations
- Luggage handling on the ship
- $6,899.00 per person double occupancy

**Route 66**
June 19 - 26, 2020

- Deluxe motorcoach transportation
- 7 nights accommodations
- 15 Meals: 7 breakfast, 5 lunches, 3 dinners
- Route 66 Hall of Fame Museum
- Lincoln Home National Historic Site
- Meramec Caverns
- Will Rogers Memorial
- National weather Center
- Luggage handling
- $2,199.00 per person double occupancy

**Arizona Getaway**
March 13-29, 2020

- Roundtrip Delta Flights
- 2 nights accommodations at Superior hotels
- 7 night southbound cruise on the Vista
- All meals and entertainment onboard the Vista
- 16 nights accommodations
- Luggage handling on the ship
- $1,899.00 per person double occupancy

**Savannah & Charleston**
April 18 - 26, 2020

- Full day tour of Charleston
- 16 Meals: 8 breakfasts, 6 dinners
- 14 Meals: 8 breakfasts, 6 dinners
- 4 Twin Spring Training Game tickets
- Edison Ford Estates
- Anheuser Busch Brewery Tour
- Louisviile Slugger and Coca Cola Museums
- Wild Horse Saloon
- Luggage handling
- $1,969.00 per person double occupancy

**Miami & Key West**
Feb. 21 - March 2, 2020

- Deluxe motorcoach transportation
- 10 nights accommodations
- 17 Meals: 10 breakfasts, 7 dinners
- A CRUISE by Celebrity homes on Biscayne Bay
- Coral Castle
- Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens
- A visit to Island City of Key West
- Luggage handling
- $1,899.00 per person double occupancy

**MN Twins Training Camp**
March 4 - 14, 2020

- Deluxe motorcoach transportation
- 10 nights accommodations
- 16 Meals: 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 5 dinners
- 14 Meals: 8 breakfasts, 6 dinners
- Guided Trolley Tour of Savannah with Hop-On/Hop-Off
- Guided tours of St Simons Island and Jekyll Islands
- Harbor Cruise in Charleston
- Luggage handling
- $1,969.00 per person double occupancy

**I BUY AND COLLECT MILITARY ITEMS**

- I collect and buy military items from WW II, Korea, Vietnam, (I have not started my collection on Southeast Asia yet). I collect Army, USAF, USN, USMC patches, pins, pictures and souvenirs from all periods. CALL JOE, 612-801-4673 AFTER 6 PM

**Attention Veterans!**
This is your northern Minnesota resort. Barrie-five and open 12 months a year. Gateway to the BWCA. Roundtrip Delta Flights.

**Buy and Collect Military Items**

- I collect any and all military items from WW II, Korea, Vietnam, Southeast Asia. I collect Army, USAF, USN, USMC patches, pins, pictures and souvenirs from all periods.

**Get ready for BUDDY CHECKS**

As members of The American Legion, we watch out for each other. One way is through regular Buddy Checks. This year, on the week of The American Legion’s birthday, March 15, gather a team to call on veterans or former members of The American Legion.

Help them renew or rejoin the organization, ask them if they need any help or assistance in life, and invite them to an upcoming Legion or veterans-based event. Get them involved among the local veterans. Make them feel welcome. Listen to their input. Make sure to swap contact information. And to thank them for their time.