Veteran groups push for expanding Vet Centers

Also, Commanders’ Task Force forms its legislative priorities

By Tim Engstrom

Tom Mullon recalls working at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Manhattan early in his career and coordinating a meeting of 100 or so Vietnam veterans with hospital leaders.

One by one, the veterans told stories reflecting “the need for the VA to have counseling proper.”

The answer they get from the director, no kidding, was: “Shut up. You are all a bunch of crybabies.”

Mullon sits on The American Legion’s National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and is a retired director of the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis. He told his story Dec. 16 to employees of Congress representing Minneapolis. He told his story of the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis. He is a veteran of the Iraq War and has found his passion is helping veterans get the health care they deserve.

Jeremy Wolfsteller leads The American Legion Department of Minnesota’s efforts on care and rehabilitation of veterans, and he offices on the fourth level of the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis. He is a veteran of the Iraq War and has found his passion is helping veterans get the health care they deserve.

Despite surgery and recovery, the hardest part is two soldiers who saved his life in a Tal Afar battle never made it back home

Continued on Page 12

Then the Twin Towers fell in New York on Sept. 11.

“My family became concerned that I’d be going to war,” Wolfsteller said.

He entered the Army in February 2002 and went to basic and AIT at Fort Knox. Drill sergeants had adjusted training to prepare recruits for war.

His military occupational specialty was 19D — cavalry scout. Wolfsteller, in June 2003, became part of the 3rd Armored Cav¬alry Regiment at Fort Carson, Colorado.

Cavalry in combat traditionally meant horse-mounted troops. The 3rd had horses at the outbreak of World War II and turned in their trusty steeds in February 1942.

In modern warfare, cavalry units still fulfill many of the strategic purposes of soldiers on horseback but without the horses: scouting, reconnaissance, forward

Continued on Page 7

Teschdahl retires as department adjutant

By Tim Engstrom

On Friday, Dec. 20, Adjutant Randy Teschdahl put on his cowboy hat and coat, shook everyone’s hand and walked down the hall at Department of Minnesota offices in the Veterans Service Building in St. Paul.

He went down the elevator, out the front door and climbed in his pickup.

The former Marine had been with The American Legion staff since 2004. He had been adjutant since October 2009.

Now, Teschdahl, 60, has to face his next and greatest battle: Parkinson’s disease.

Parkinsonian issues come out because of stress, so he is retiring early to get much-needed time off with his wife, Peggy, in Elk River. He called it a medical discharge.

“My plan to do as much hunting and fishing, and other hobbies, as I can,” he said.

People will find him doing his therapies, which are years-long recovery.

Continued on Page 2

Bud Redepenning, past dept. commander, dies

The American Legion Department of Minnesota Past Commander Bud Redepenning succumbed to a long battle with prostate cancer Dec. 13, after being on hospice care for 13 months.

He was 92. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Betty Redepenning, son Darrel, of Fridley, daughters Deb, of Brooklyn Park, and Joline, of Ramsey, and four grandchildren.

The funeral takes place at about when this publication reaches readers: 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 3, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Anoka. There was a visitation one hour before the service.

A celebration of life was at 2 p.m. at Anoka Post 102, including...
Tedsahl worked for the U.S. Postal Service for a year at the Minneaha station doing walking routes. After two dog incidents, the supervisors sent him to do a mounted route in Coon Rapids. He also was dealing with a neck problem from falls during his Marine days, so the work was not enjoyable.

A recruiting buddy, Mike O’Donnell, helped Tedsahl get an office job with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development finding jobs for veterans. Tedsahl worked out of Anoka, and O’Donnell out of Burnsville, and they competed, much like they had done in their recruiting efforts.

Sadly, O’Donnell died from a heart attack.

Tedsahl was a member of St. Francis Post 622, and used the post for his work’s classroom needs. He was involved in officer roles for the post and district while at DEED, and he was membership director when the 10th was leading districts in membership.

He was asked if he would be interested in the department service officer position, working at the VA Medical Center. He was interviewed but not selected. Months later, he was asked to re-interview, and he was not offered about being passed over, so, in April 2004, he got the job. A lot was going on at the VA because of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and Adjutant Kyle Foltz allowed Tedsahl to hire some help. Tedsahl hired Tom Newman. Later Tedsahl arranged for Newman to meet President Obama in Cannon Falls, to tell him firsthand what was happening at the VA.

In October 2009, Foltz retired after 14 years, and Commander Al Davis asked Tedsahl to fill out the rest of the adjutant term. He sought the job full-time, and he kept the role since.

Tedsahl said he is proud he brought younger veterans into the organization, such as Jeremy Wolfsteller into the service officer role. Tedsahl said he showed the organization “you don’t have to be a desk-bound to 24/7 and be productive and good, because there is a dedicated staff.”

He said he enjoyed helping veterans enjoy hunting and fishing again. He also oversaw changes in technology. “When I started, it was Blackberry, and now it is taking action. Communications Director Al Eden, at his retirement party in November, said Tedsahl had the gift of explaining what was needed in succinct terms.

Last January, Tedsahl realized something was “seriously really wrong” with his health. Fairview found two spots during a scan of his neck. They were on his medulla oblongata and his brainstem. He suffered spikes of anxiety and began tests.

He wasn’t happy about some aspects of state politics, at the same time, and has since connected his anger perhaps was more tied to the Parkinson’s than to anything else. He now is 100 percent service-connected with his health, and he learned he could medically retire.

Dec. 20 was his final day in the office, taking vacation until his final official day of Dec. 31.

**WORLD WAR II TOUR**

---

**3-DAY TOUR DEPARTING MAY 21, 2020 INCLUDES:**

- **FRANCE:** first night in Paris, 3 nights in Normandy, visiting Omaha Beach, Pointe du Hoc, cemeteries, villages, Utah Beach & more
- **BELGIUM:** Battle of the Bulge area
- **GERMANY:** Nuremberg, Dachau Concentration Camp, Hitler’s Eagle Nest & more

**Only $3,295 per person.** Includes airfare from Chicago O’Hare, luxury accommodations, a star hotels, all meals, professional WWII guide, escorted by Vi Kanney, Yankton, SD. Tour designed originally by Dr. Brooks Kanney, WWII medical officer who served in Europe.

Call for brochure: 605-665-2596 or e-mail: vi@kanney.org

Tour sponsored by and sold at cost by the Southeast SD Germans from Russia Heritage Society.

---

Minneapolis Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Herke recognizes Department Adjutant Randy Tedsahl for his years of service to veterans and The American Legion. Many leaders acknowledged his efforts in his final months.

---

**The American Legion Department of Minnesota Adjutant Randy Tedsahl, left, receives a folded and encased U.S. flag from Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans President Neal Loidolt on Dec. 12 during Home for the Holidays at Target Field in Minneapolis. The flag was flown over the headquarters of the 24th Infantry Division at Camp Tikrit in Kuwait on Memorial Day 2019. Loidolt recognized Tedsahl for his years of service in the Marine Corps and to the Minnesota veterans community.**

---

“Growing up, I always envi- ored walking, shadowboxing, weight training. As the disease progresses, the body stiffens. ‘The more you move, the longer you are going to be able to move in your life,’” Tedsahl said. “I could do just my job and come home, like my dad.”

His mother struggled with diabetes and died in her 50s, when the boy was 14. His dad remarried and Tedsahl had nine step-siblings. Randy wrestled for the Austin Packers, but he was never all that good. His best year, his senior, was ’80. He figured entering the military was a way to prove himself.

“Even when I was a kid, he was always picked last,” Tesdahl’s older brother, Randy said. “He figured entering the military was a way to prove himself.”

After three years, Tedsahl re-enlisted and went to Okina- wa, Japan. For the first time, he was out in the open. He returned to Minnesota and was the step son of Burnsville, and they competed, much like they had done in their recruiting efforts.

The American Legion Department of Minnesota Adjutant Randy Tedsahl, left, receives a folded and encased U.S. flag from Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans President Neal Loidolt on Dec. 12 during Home for the Holidays at Target Field in Minneapolis. The flag was flown over the headquarters of the 24th Infantry Division at Camp Tikrit in Kuwait on Memorial Day 2019. Loidolt recognized Tedsahl for his years of service in the Marine Corps and to the Minnesota veterans community. Many leaders acknowledged his efforts in his final months.

---

“Growing up, I always envi- ored walking, shadowboxing, weight training. As the disease progresses, the body stiffens. ‘The more you move, the longer you are going to be able to move in your life,’” Tedsahl said. “I could do just my job and come home, like my dad.”

His mother struggled with diabetes and died in her 50s, when the boy was 14. His dad remarried and Tedsahl had nine step-siblings. Randy wrestled for the Austin Packers, but he was never all that good. His best year, his senior, was ’80. He figured entering the military was a way to prove himself.

“Even when I was a kid, he was always picked last,” Tesdahl’s older brother, Randy said. “He figured entering the military was a way to prove himself.”

After three years, Tedsahl re-enlisted and went to Okina- wa, Japan. For the first time, he was out in the open. He returned to Minnesota and was the step son of Burnsville, and they competed, much like they had done in their recruiting efforts.

The American Legion Department of Minnesota Adjutant Randy Tedsahl, left, receives a folded and encased U.S. flag from Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans President Neal Loidolt on Dec. 12 during Home for the Holidays at Target Field in Minneapolis. The flag was flown over the headquarters of the 24th Infantry Division at Camp Tikrit in Kuwait on Memorial Day 2019. Loidolt recognized Tedsahl for his years of service in the Marine Corps and to the Minnesota veterans community. Many leaders acknowledged his efforts in his final months.

---

“Growing up, I always envi- ored walking, shadowboxing, weight training. As the disease progresses, the body stiffens. ‘The more you move, the longer you are going to be able to move in your life,’” Tedsahl said. “I could do just my job and come home, like my dad.”

His mother struggled with diabetes and died in her 50s, when the boy was 14. His dad remarried and Tedsahl had nine step-siblings. Randy wrestled for the Austin Packers, but he was never all that good. His best year, his senior, was ’80. He figured entering the military was a way to prove himself.

“Even when I was a kid, he was always picked last,” Tesdahl’s older brother, Randy said. “He figured entering the military was a way to prove himself.”

After three years, Tedsahl re-enlisted and went to Okina- wa, Japan. For the first time, he was out in the open. He returned to Minnesota and was the step son of Burnsville, and they competed, much like they had done in their recruiting efforts.

The American Legion Department of Minnesota Adjutant Randy Tedsahl, left, receives a folded and encased U.S. flag from Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans President Neal Loidolt on Dec. 12 during Home for the Holidays at Target Field in Minneapolis. The flag was flown over the headquarters of the 24th Infantry Division at Camp Tikrit in Kuwait on Memorial Day 2019. Loidolt recognized Tedsahl for his years of service in the Marine Corps and to the Minnesota veterans community. Many leaders acknowledged his efforts in his final months.
ATTEND WWII ROUND TABLE
Hear presentations on topics in World War II history.
Upcoming: Evolution of the Russian Army (Jan 14) and The Battle of Manila (Feb 11).
Minnesota History Center, St. Paul.

GO BEHIND THE HEADLINES
History Forum: American Populism’s Rise, Fall & Legacy with Kevin Gaines, Jan 25, Minnesota History Center, St. Paul.

PLAN YOUR VISIT OR PURCHASE ONLINE • MNHS.ORG • 1-844-MNSTORY
Mail Call

**Look who was right there under their noses**

The following is something I found in the paper worth repeating:

I’m the guy who asked to join your organization. I’m the guy who paid his dues to. I’m the guy who stood up in front of you and promised to be faithful and loyal. I’m the guy who came to your meetings and no one paid any attention to me. I’m the guy who stood up in front of you and promised to be faithful and loyal. I’m the guy who came to your meetings and no one paid any attention to me. I’m the guy who stood up in front of you and promised to be faithful and loyal.

I hoped very much that someone would have asked me to take part in a fundraising project or something, but no one saw my efforts when I volunteered.

I missed a few meetings after joining because I was sick and couldn’t be there. No one asked me at the next meeting where I had been.

I guess it didn’t matter very much to others whether I was there or not.

The next meeting, I decided to stay home and watch TV.

The following meeting, I attended, but no one asked me if I was for the last meeting.

You might say I’m a good guy or a “good family man” who holds a responsible job and loves his community and country.

I know who you are, and I’m the guy who never came back.

It amuses me how the heads of organizations and the members discuss why the organization is not growing.

It amuses me to think that they spend so much time looking for new members when they were there all the time.

All they need to do was make me feel needed, wanted and welcome.

— **Author Unknown**

**Did you know a veteran is a veteran a veteran?**

In the past few years, since I became involved in The American Legion, I have gained a new perspective on things. I have become aware of things that I didn’t know before.

At virtually every event I attend, whether it be a rally, a convention or a conference, there seems to be a discussion about how to make the organization more attractive to younger people.

I have observed a few things. Consequently, I have been asked to write about what I have observed and what I think needs to be done.

I believe that the organization needs to make changes at every level of the organization to make it more family friendly and welcoming to younger people.

I believe that we need to do more than make changes at the organization. We need to do more than make changes at the post level. We need to make changes at the national level.

I believe that it doesn’t matter if we go out and recruit 10,000 new members. They will vote with their feet.

**Paul Edwards**

commander 6th District Brainerd

**First published in 1920 as the Hennepin County Legionnaire, the Minnesota Legionnaire is now in its 99th year of publication. It is published monthly by The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, Room 300A, 20 W. 12th St. St. Paul, MN 55155-2000. Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. The Legionnaire is a member of the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the national American Legion Press Association.**

**Subscription: $10 for non-members. Members receive the Legionnaire as part of their dues.**

**Phone: 651-291-1800, 866-259-9163**

**Fax: 651-291-1057**

**Email: tengstrom@mnlegion.org**

**Web: mnlegion.org**

**Editor: Director of Communications**

**Mark Dvorak**

commander 6th District Brainerd

**New Year’s resolutions, past and present**

By **Betty Jass**

Well, they say it’s that time of the year again when we review our past year’s goals and decide on something personal to improve upon during the next.

Many people look at losing the weight they put on during the holidays; others may want to save money for a future vacation, and others still may want to save more money for a future retirement.

I have observed a few things. Consequently, I have been asked to write about what I have observed and what I think needs to be done.

I believe that the organization needs to make changes at every level of the organization to make it more family friendly and welcoming to younger people.

I believe that it doesn’t matter if we go out and recruit 10,000 new members. They will vote with their feet.

**Paul Edwards**

commander 6th District Brainerd

**First published in 1920 as the Hennepin County Legionnaire, the Minnesota Legionnaire is now in its 99th year of publication. It is published monthly by The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, Room 300A, 20 W. 12th St. St. Paul, MN 55155-2000. Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. The Legionnaire is a member of the Minnesota Newspaper Association and the American Legion Press Association.**

**Subscription: $10 for non-members. Members receive the Legionnaire as part of their dues.**

**Phone: 651-291-1800, 866-259-9163**

**Fax: 651-291-1057**

**Email: tengstrom@mnlegion.org**

**Web: mnlegion.org**

**Editor: Director of Communications**

**Mark Dvorak**

commander 6th District Brainerd

**New Year’s resolutions, past and present**

By **Betty Jass**

Well, they say it’s that time of the year again when we review our past year’s goals and decide on something personal to improve upon during the next.

Many people look at losing the weight they put on during the holidays; others may want to save money for a future vacation, and others still may want to save more money for a future retirement.

I have observed a few things. Consequently, I have been asked to write about what I have observed and what I think needs to be done.

I believe that the organization needs to make changes at every level of the organization to make it more family friendly and welcoming to younger people.

I believe that it doesn’t matter if we go out and recruit 10,000 new members. They will vote with their feet.

**Paul Edwards**

commander 6th District Brainerd

**New Year’s resolutions, past and present**

By **Betty Jass**

Well, they say it’s that time of the year again when we review our past year’s goals and decide on something personal to improve upon during the next.

Many people look at losing the weight they put on during the holidays; others may want to save money for a future vacation, and others still may want to save more money for a future retirement.

I have observed a few things. Consequently, I have been asked to write about what I have observed and what I think needs to be done.

I believe that the organization needs to make changes at every level of the organization to make it more family friendly and welcoming to younger people.

I believe that it doesn’t matter if we go out and recruit 10,000 new members. They will vote with their feet.

**Paul Edwards**

commander 6th District Brainerd

**New Year’s resolutions, past and present**

By **Betty Jass**

Well, they say it’s that time of the year again when we review our past year’s goals and decide on something personal to improve upon during the next.

Many people look at losing the weight they put on during the holidays; others may want to save money for a future vacation, and others still may want to save more money for a future retirement.

I have observed a few things. Consequently, I have been asked to write about what I have observed and what I think needs to be done.

I believe that the organization needs to make changes at every level of the organization to make it more family friendly and welcoming to younger people.

I believe that it doesn’t matter if we go out and recruit 10,000 new members. They will vote with their feet.

**Paul Edwards**

commander 6th District Brainerd

**New Year’s resolutions, past and present**

By **Betty Jass**

Well, they say it’s that time of the year again when we review our past year’s goals and decide on something personal to improve upon during the next.

Many people look at losing the weight they put on during the holidays; others may want to save money for a future vacation, and others still may want to save more money for a future retirement.

I have observed a few things. Consequently, I have been asked to write about what I have observed and what I think needs to be done.

I believe that the organization needs to make changes at every level of the organization to make it more family friendly and welcoming to younger people.

I believe that it doesn’t matter if we go out and recruit 10,000 new members. They will vote with their feet.

**Paul Edwards**

commander 6th District Brainerd

**New Year’s resolutions, past and present**

By **Betty Jass**

Well, they say it’s that time of the year again when we review our past year’s goals and decide on something personal to improve upon during the next.

Many people look at losing the weight they put on during the holidays; others may want to save money for a future vacation, and others still may want to save more money for a future retirement.

I have observed a few things. Consequently, I have been asked to write about what I have observed and what I think needs to be done.

I believe that the organization needs to make changes at every level of the organization to make it more family friendly and welcoming to younger people.

I believe that it doesn’t matter if we go out and recruit 10,000 new members. They will vote with their feet.
Obituaries

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

Please send to tengstrom@mnlegion.org or in the mail to the Department of Minnesota.

What's happening?

Memorial fund benefits 3 killed

ST. CLOUD — A memorial fund has been set up for the three National Guard soldiers from Company C of the 2-211th from Minnesota who died in a plane crash on Saturday, Dec. 7. The families of the fallen soldiers have set up the Yellow Ribbon Memorial Fund. The funds will be used to support the families of fallen soldiers.

Memorial Legal Clinic slated around state

ST. PAUL — Free legal clinics for low-income veterans will be held in January, sponsored by the Minnesota American Legion. The clinics offer information on housing, employment, benefits, debt collection, and family law including child support. For more information call 651-200-4750. The clinics are:
- Tuesday, Jan. 7, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the American Legion Post 9 in Albert Lea.
- Tuesday, Jan. 14, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at VA Medical Center Flag Atrium in Minneapolis.
- Tuesday, Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Cloud VA, Auditorium, Building 8.

Ice fishing fun planned for Feb. 1

ST. PAUL — Arcade-Phalen Post 577 American Legion Riders will be sponsoring an Ice Fishing Event at the Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake. The event will be held at 1 p.m. Bring your gear and prizes for the three largest fish in both the adult and 16-and-under classes Pre-registration can be made at $15 per person. Park your vehicle at Eventnique, search for veterans and families ice fishing event. There will be a silent auction starting at 2:30 p.m. For more information call 763-271-2191.

Continued on Page 7
Mpls. housing authority opts to make spouse and child of a veteran homeless.

I attended an appeal at the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Tuesday, Dec. 3, on veteran homelessness brought about by the death of a combat veteran and his fiancée. The first signs that the hearing was going to be heard were the number of the caseworkers who were brought in to take the story of the former homeless and clear: There are now 78 cases to be heard, and over 100 people in the hallway, and it’s an emotional story to hear. Joe not owned his mistake.

The message the veteran community is hearing is loud and clear: There are now 78 communities in 30 states that have ended veteran homelessness. Minneapolis and St. Paul are not on that list. Why? Because of the new policy.

The end of the hearing, I walked over to the register, put Minnesota Commanders’ Task Force and the body of MPHDA’s decision to make a family a veteran homeless. The decision of the CTF is to send a letter signed by all of the congressionally chartered veteran service organizations objecting strongly to MPHDA’s decision to make a family of a veteran homeless.

Action by the CTF to ensure this never happens again to a veteran’s family is good and necessary; if you want to take action, please contact me.

To the Readers:

I said goodbye at the Fall Conference, and I said goodbye to the Auxiliary, and I said goodbye at the Minneapolis Commanders’ Task Force and the body of MPHDA’s decision to make a family a veteran homeless. The decision of the CTF is to send a letter signed by all of the congressionally chartered veteran service organizations objecting strongly to MPHDA’s decision to make a family of a veteran homeless.

The first signs that the hearing was going to be heard were the number of the caseworkers who were brought in to take the story of the former homeless and clear: There are now 78 cases to be heard, and over 100 people in the hallway, and it’s an emotional story to hear. Joe not owned his mistake.

The message the veteran community is hearing is loud and clear: There are now 78 communities in 30 states that have ended veteran homelessness. Minneapolis and St. Paul are not on that list. Why? Because of the new policy.

At the end of the hearing, I walked over to the register, put Minnesota Commanders’ Task Force and the body of MPHDA’s decision to make a family a veteran homeless. The decision of the CTF is to send a letter signed by all of the congressionally chartered veteran service organizations objecting strongly to MPHDA’s decision to make a family of a veteran homeless.

Action by the CTF to ensure this never happens again to a veteran’s family is good and necessary; if you want to take action, please contact me.

Legion membership chart as of Dec. 18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>2020 Goal</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>2019 Total</th>
<th>2019 Posts</th>
<th>Posts</th>
<th>Weeks Posts</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>% Of Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District 1</td>
<td>8,149</td>
<td>6,126</td>
<td>6,039</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>85.84%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 2</td>
<td>6,497</td>
<td>6,215</td>
<td>5,502</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>84.73%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>15,021</td>
<td>9,012</td>
<td>9,433</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>84.58%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 4</td>
<td>2,136</td>
<td>2,136</td>
<td>1,803</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>84.41%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 5</td>
<td>2,316</td>
<td>2,183</td>
<td>1,803</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>79.79%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 6</td>
<td>10,891</td>
<td>10,820</td>
<td>9,168</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>84.18%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 7</td>
<td>5,778</td>
<td>5,702</td>
<td>4,947</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>75.32%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 8</td>
<td>3,788</td>
<td>3,748</td>
<td>3,101</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>81.86%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 9</td>
<td>6,129</td>
<td>5,166</td>
<td>5,166</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>81.86%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 10</td>
<td>9,108</td>
<td>9,054</td>
<td>6,764</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>84.15%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 11</td>
<td>3,655</td>
<td>1,897</td>
<td>1,630</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>84.40%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 69,893 67,193 57,192 1,375 556 82.30% 0

Dear Members:

Happy New Year, and happy holidays to you all. I hope everyone had a good Christmas and is now looking forward to a great New Year. This past year has been challenging for all of us, and I want to take this opportunity to start the year by thanking you all for your kind support and hard work.

I am excited to see what we can achieve together in the coming year. Let’s continue to work hard and make a positive difference in the lives of our members and the community.

Thank you for everything you do. Together, we can make a difference.

Al Zdon

Guest Column

Tommy Johnson

Holidays are rough for military families.

Greetings American Legion Family.

I hope everyone had a great time over the holidays. As of this writing, they haven’t happened yet, but I know I will have a great time.

I know that because I get to spend the holidays with loved ones. Whether it’s family, friends or Legion family or all of those wrapped into one, I will have a good time. I’m truly blessed to have the friends and family that I do, and it’s time that I do a better job at showing it to them.

This is a great time of year (other than the snow and cold, and I can’t ride my bike) for a lot of us, but I can certainly complain about the cold as I walk to my car and drive to my heated house. There are many veterans and families who have to brave the cold with no place to go. I know many of you do a lot to help those in need. I think the Legion family can do more. We’ve removed our military branch, why not our whole branch? The holidays can be a very rough period for military families. We have a lot of Riders, and Legion family that are doing great things to try and make it a little less stressful. I think we can do more.

I want to thank everyone who helped out with and attended the Pearl Harbor Day Membership Rally. I think we had a very good turnout. Not everything went perfect, but it is what it is. We’ve always had to fight to win.

Love to all of you.

Paul Hassing is the director of the American Legion Riders for the Department of Minnesota.
**Continued from Page 1**

security, flank moves, bastion enemy lines. The terms “shock troops” and “cavalry” have been interchangeable. Cavalry can move with tanks, armored personnel carriers, Humvees or other trucks and even helicopters. You see mechanized cav, armored cav and air cav. To be flexible, they often operate without additional support from other forces.

Wolfsteller said the commander of the 3rd asked top brass that his regiment enter the Iraq War. “Unfortunately, he got what he requested.”

They left in March 2003 for Kuwait. In this war, there was no scouting around the backwoods of the U.S., with the Bravo company mapping the environment. The soldiers of the 3rd Cav went to Baghdad, Al Faw, Al Faw Palace, “where it was called. They had Bradleys, and the scouts worked closely with the tankers.

On June 25, the cavalry scouts had marauder described hours in the desert heat with limited amounts of water. A private first class, who had been described as a “corroborative Fighting Vehicles to Baghdad, Faluja, Ramadi, among other cities. After the defeat of the Iraqi conventional forces in late 2002, the well-known Iraqi Republican Guard no longer functioned as a cohesive force. It became difficult to tell a civilian from an enemy.

He was promoted to specialist four and then-Col. H.R. McMaster, retired, who was the company commander. He quickly realized it wasn’t. “I yelled for help. That’s the way I’d been trained to fire at. It is unknown whether the injured insurgent was the one who shot Sgt. Wolf.

Wolfsteller said the insurgents must have been trained to fire at to self-opts in the armor of Americans, just underneath the interceptor vest where the femoral artery was located. The 7.62 mm round hit him above his 9 mm pistol and behind the hand grenade on his right side, striking right on the hip bone. Woods and Bradfield ran to come over. Spc. Hoby Bradfield and PFC Eric Woods, a building of victory, healing and hope. For more information, call 320-255-6353.

**Roundtables ready for January**

ST. PAUL — The World War II History Roundtable in January focuses on the events of the Russian Civil War and the book "Massacre in Menning,” author of the forthcoming book “Russian Army and the First World War" and the classic book "War in a Box," which is about the tumult of World War I as it led to World War II, according to the schedule.

The discussion takes place at 7 p.m. at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul.

The Vietnam War Roundtable will feature veterans who have returned to Vietnam.

“Often these trips can bring a sense of closure or open doors to new life experiences or opportunities," says the website.

In town hall meeting open to veterans

ST. CLOUD — Veterans served by the St. Cloud VA Health Care System who are interested in participating in a town hall meeting on January 23 are invited to participate in a town hall meeting at 2:30 p.m. Jan. 15 in the Auditorium (Bldg. 8), St. Cloud VA Medical Center, 4801 Veterans Drive, in St. Cloud.

The town hall meeting is a public forum focusing on improving VA health care services and programs.

“ WWI finally getting proper memorial "WASH NGTON — On Dec. 12, key leaders gathered on the site of the future World War I Memorial in the nation’s capital to mark the start of construction, after the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission received $25 million for the project from Congress.

The memorial will be a 360-foot project to rebuild the former Pershing Park, and prepare the site for the eventual installation of a new memorial to the American soldiers who served in World War I.

The first phase of construction will be a 360-foot project to rebuild the former Pershing Park, and prepare the site for the eventual installation of a new memorial to the American soldiers who served in World War I.

The memorial will be a 360-foot project to rebuild the former Pershing Park, and prepare the site for the eventual installation of a new memorial to the American soldiers who served in World War I.

The memorial will be a 360-foot project to rebuild the former Pershing Park, and prepare the site for the eventual installation of a new memorial to the American soldiers who served in World War I.

The memorial will be a 360-foot project to rebuild the former Pershing Park, and prepare the site for the eventual installation of a new memorial to the American soldiers who served in World War I.
Bud and Darrel were first father-son commanders in the Department of Minnesota’s history.

Continued from Page 1

A Legion poppy ceremony.

Bud Redepenning was Department Commander from July 1986 to June 1987. He was 10th District commander 1977-78, Department vice commander 1980-81, and Department membership director 1982-83. He worked for 30 years for the Anoka County Highway Department, starting off as a surveyor and rising to be a director.

In 2004, the 10th District gave him an award as Godfather of the District. “Dad through the years did many installations for a lot of commanders, including me,” said Darrel Redepenning, commander in 2018-19.

Bud and Darrel were the first father-son Department of Minnesota commanders.

“We’re both really proud of that,” Darrel said.

Darrel said Bud was known as a great speaker, often receiving standing ovations and leaving people with tender and funny moments. Bud established the brain sciences research at the University of Minnesota and appointed Dan Ludwig to be in charge, a move that catapulted Ludwig eventually to national commander.

Darrel said it was one example of how Bud impacted the organization. “In the Legion, he touched a lot of people’s lives.”

Images from Legionnaire files
Wounded in a war zone, and surviving

By Al Zdon

T. PAUL — Over 300,000 Americans were wounded while fighting in Vietnam. He attended the December meeting of the Vietnam War Roundtable, three veterans and a nurse told of their experiences during the war including getting wounded, getting help and getting heated.

The Roundtable meets at 7 p.m. every third Monday at Concordia University in St. Paul in the Bueto Auditorium.

Trudell Guerue, a Lakota Sioux, went to the Rosedale Rehabilitation Center in South Dakota. He said his cultural background propelled him to enlist in the Army in 1966.

He went through officer candidate school, airborne jump school and ended up in the 173rd Airborne as a captain. He was in Vietnam as a medical officer.

Guerue said while he was home on leave, he had an ordnance that told him he was going to die in Vietnam. “It scared the crap out of me. But once I knew I was going to die, I never was afraid again. I would call in artillery 100 meters from my position, and I knew there was no point in being afraid.”

On one mission, his unit was sent to a village when they had an intelligence report that a district Viet Cong leader was going to hold a meeting.

“We came in the night before and reconed the place and guarded them so they wouldn’t talk. Some ‘white mice’ were flown in. They were kind of the military police of Vietnam, and they wore white helmets.”

Guerue said the Vietnamese police beat a woman, the leader’s sister, until he indicated that the leader was hiding just below them in a tunnel.

The Americans entered the tunnel and were loaded down with a store of ammunition and explosives.

“A grenade went off right next to me. I never heard it, but I could feel it. The only ones who showed their rank were the officers. There was a bright orange light, and I knew I was dead. I hoped it wouldn’t take too long, because I didn’t want to spend the weekend in Vietnam.

He was hit with shrapnel in several places, stopping it at 4:35 p.m. “If it hadn’t been for my watch, it would have taken my hand off.”

He was taken to a chopper where he remembers the sand blown from the helicopter’s rotors hitting his body. He was airlifted to a field station. “This time, it really, really hurt.”

“I spent the weekend in Vietnam. I was just miserable. I lived for the next day. “I lived for the next day.”

He said the Vietnamese had the sand blown from the battlefield and the sand was just miserable. “I lived for the next day.”

He was accepted at Dartmouth, and got his law degree in 1976. His career included helping low-income people who ran afoul of the law.

mission, and they went in with two six-man teams and carried extra ammo and explosives. Their involvement went on for five days and the fighting sometimes was very close. “I knew we were throwing each other’s hand grenades back and forth.”

Nagler was knocked down by a hand grenade. “It knocked me out. The next thing I remember they were putting plastic over my chest wounds and taping me up.”

He was admitted to the hospital and seeing a lot of light. “I was in shock.”

He had to be kept under anesthesia for a day in order to patch him up and change his bandages. “Then it was on to the Philippines and then to Japan for surgery.”

“I spent three months laying flat on my back, paralyzed.”

After four months, he was flown back to the United States. “They thought I’d have better healing there.”

He had the highest praise for the Navy corpsmen. “They had a total disregard for their own lives. I remember one guy rescuing several Marines until he was shot in the backside himself.”

He was sent to the 71st Evacuation Hospital. “I was sent to the 71st Evacuation Hospital. I didn’t have a clue what was going on, I was just waiting for things to calm down.”

He was sent to the 71st Evacuation Hospital. “I didn’t have a clue what was going on, I was just waiting for things to calm down.”

Kathleen Burrows went into the Army nursing program during college because she could get paid as an E-3 and afford to support her family.

She did three months of training and was sent to the 71st Evacuation Hospital. “I didn’t have a clue what was going on, I was just waiting for things to calm down.”

She said about the nurses and corpsmen, there was little regard for rank. “The only ones who showed their rank were the physicians. We all worked together. We didn’t think of ourselves as nurses. We were soldiers.”

Burrows said the patients were always courteous to them.

When the hospital came under attack, the staff would do what they could to protect the patients. “We’d take the mattresses off the empty beds and put them over them. The hospital had a direct hit before I got there, but no one was killed.”

After Vietnam, she was sent to Fort Benning as a head nurse in post-op. She later had a long career in leadership and was the administrator for the Minnesota Veterans Home at Laverne, and later was the interim deputy commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Vietnam War Roundtable presents one program a month in January and September to May. It is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Military Museum, Twins Cities Public Television and Concordia University.

“Veterans of Minnesota was also joining as a sponsor.”

Press of wounded soldiers at Hamburger Hill. Later working for UPI, van Es took the famous Fall of Saigon photo of civilians scraming to board a CIA helicopter. He was accepted at Dartmouth, and got his law degree in 1976. His career included helping low-income people who ran afoul of the law.

Miss Burrows went into the Army nursing program during college because she could get paid as an E-3 and afford to support her family. She later volunteered for service in Vietnam.

“Then it was on to the Philippines and then to Japan for surgery.”

“I spent three months laying flat on my back, paralyzed.”

After four months, he was flown back to the United States. “They thought I’d have better healing there.”

He had the highest praise for the Navy corpsmen. “They had a total disregard for their own lives. I remember one guy rescuing several Marines until he was shot in the backside himself.”

Kimbrough spent 30 years in the military, both as a Marine and as an Army reservist.

Floyd Nagler joined the Marine Corps in 1968 and was trained in reconnaissance. “I got into recon by mistake. I wanted to go into infantry, but it didn’t work out.”

He was a corporal and a squad leader serving near the DMZ. “We were in a rice paddy, and they were firing mortar rounds over our head. One was heading for me, and I had this vision of a hand moving it to the side. It went off, but not on top of me. I was hurt, but I wasn’t killed.”

The mortar round hit his right side, from his shoulder to his ankle and knocked him out.

He soon came to. “I looked at my right arm, and the blood was coming out like the water out of a pitcher. The corpsman was cutting off all my clothes. All I had on were my pants, boots and flak jacket.”

He was helped aboard a tank that took him back to an aid station. “They patched me up and changed my bandages.”

Then it was on to the Philippines and then to Japan for surgery. “I spent three months laying flat on my back, paralyzed.”

After four months, he was flown back to the United States. “They thought I’d have better healing there.”

He had the highest praise for the Navy corpsmen. “They had a total disregard for their own lives. I remember one guy rescuing several Marines until he was shot in the backside himself.”

Kimbrough spent 30 years in the military, both as a Marine and as an Army reservist.

T he Vietnam War Roundtable presents one program a month in January and September to May. It is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Military Museum, Twins Cities Public Television and Concordia University.

“Veterans of Minnesota was also joining as a sponsor.”

Press of wounded soldiers at Hamburger Hill. Later working for UPI, van Es took the famous Fall of Saigon photo of civilians scrambling to board a CIA helicopter. He was accepted at Dartmouth, and got his law degree in 1976. His career included helping low-income people who ran afoul of the law.

Miss Burrows went into the Army nursing program during college because she could get paid as an E-3 and afford to support her family. She later volunteered for service in Vietnam.

“Then it was on to the Philippines and then to Japan for surgery.”

“I spent three months laying flat on my back, paralyzed.”

After four months, he was flown back to the United States. “They thought I’d have better healing there.”

He had the highest praise for the Navy corpsmen. “They had a total disregard for their own lives. I remember one guy rescuing several Marines until he was shot in the backside himself.”

Kimbrough spent 30 years in the military, both as a Marine and as an Army reservist.

From left are Pam Burrows, Keith Kimbrough, moderator Doug Bekke, Floyd Nagler and Trudell Guerue.
The Battle of the Bulge left many soldiers in German hands.

T. PAUL — On Dec. 16, 1944, the German Army crossed the Siegfried Line, catching the Americans by surprise. This event, known as the Battle of the Bulge, was one of the deadliest and most decisive battles of World War II.

The battlefield mainly was in three large, primeval forests in Germany and Belgium: the Ardennes, the Hurtgen, and the Eifel. Those were tough conditions. "If you're a tank and a people can hit you from behind trees.

The American divisions guarding the front were spread out over too much area to be effective.

"And the German morale was surging, and so we were not able to go in."

Fontenot described the confusion prior to the battle, including the advancement in technology. "The American Army got closer and closer. The German Army got closer and closer."

Thompson praised his commanding officer. "I was sure that the next shell was going to hit my bed, and so I grabbed my rifle and headed for the bunker."

"I was sure that the next shell was going to hit my bed, and so I grabbed my rifle and headed for the bunker."

Thompson was out of the Army by the end of February 1945. He said he got restless, and was able to climb and get over a wall. At Stalag 12-A, he said he got restless, as he said, and was assigned to a reconnaissance unit as a unit leader. He was killed.

The German Army had been pushed back to the horizon, he said, was just on the horizon. When the 7th was eventually pushed back to the horizon, he said, I was sure that the next shell was going to hit my bed, and so I grabbed my rifle and headed for the bunker.

"I was sure that the next shell was going to hit my bed, and so I grabbed my rifle and headed for the bunker."

Thompson was one of many survivors of the Battle of the Bulge.

Minneapolis VA gets $5 million grant to study mix of PTSD, substance abuse

MINNEAPOLIS — A research team at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System has been awarded a $5 million funding award by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) for a study to compare PTSD and substance use disorders.

The team is led by Dr. Shannon Keeler-Forbes, a research investigator at the Minneapolis VA and the University of Minnesota.

Patients with co-occurring PTSD and substance use disorders prefer that their PTSD treatment be tailored to the substance use disorder, but little is known about how best to treat PTSD among those with impairing alcohol or drug use, according to a VA study.

This newly approved study will test two psychotherapy approaches for treating PTSD that have not been shown to be effective for those without co-occurring substance use but have not been widely studied among those with co-occurring PTSD and substance use disorders.

The project is titled Comparative Effectiveness of Trauma-Focused versus Non-Trauma-Focused Treatment Strategies for PTSD among those with Co-occurring Substance Use (CTPASS) for short.

The news release says that patients are more likely to be helpful with their treatment decisions about how to best treat symptoms of PTSD for those with substance use. "Although as many as 50 percent of patients with PTSD also have a substance use disorder, those with both conditions have typically been excluded from studies evaluating treatment strategies for PTSD. This has left these patients and their clinicians to make treatment decisions with limited information about whether our evidence-based therapies will work as well for them. They are excited to be able to answer this important clinical question to ensure that the care offered to veterans who are struggling with multiple treatment needs meets their preferences and gives them the best possible chance at improvement," said Keeler-Forbes, the project’s principal investigator.

This project was selected for PCORI funding not only for its scientific merit and commitment to engaging patients and other stakeholders, but also for its potential to fill an important gap in our health knowledge," said PCORI’s Terence M. P. Brotherton.

The research team is co-led by Dr. Shannon Keeler-Forbes and Dr. Gregory Fontenot, who is a research investigator at the Minneapolis VA and the University of Minnesota.

The news release says that patients are more likely to be helpful with their treatment decisions about how to best treat symptoms of PTSD for those with substance use. "Although as many as 50 percent of patients with PTSD also have a substance use disorder, those with both conditions have typically been excluded from studies evaluating treatment strategies for PTSD. This has left these patients and their clinicians to make treatment decisions with limited information about whether our evidence-based therapies will work as well for them. They are excited to be able to answer this important clinical question to ensure that the care offered to veterans who are struggling with multiple treatment needs meets their preferences and gives them the best possible chance at improvement," said Keeler-Forbes, the project’s principal investigator.

This project was selected for PCORI funding not only for its scientific merit and commitment to engaging patients and other stakeholders, but also for its potential to fill an important gap in our health knowledge," said PCORI’s Terence M. P. Brotherton.

The news release says that patients are more likely to be helpful with their treatment decisions about how to best treat symptoms of PTSD for those with substance use. "Although as many as 50 percent of patients with PTSD also have a substance use disorder, those with both conditions have typically been excluded from studies evaluating treatment strategies for PTSD. This has left these patients and their clinicians to make treatment decisions with limited information about whether our evidence-based therapies will work as well for them. They are excited to be able to answer this important clinical question to ensure that the care offered to veterans who are struggling with multiple treatment needs meets their preferences and gives them the best possible chance at improvement," said Keeler-Forbes, the project’s principal investigator.

This project was selected for PCORI funding not only for its scientific merit and commitment to engaging patients and other stakeholders, but also for its potential to fill an important gap in our health knowledge," said PCORI’s Terence M. P. Brotherton.
ROSEVILLE — Department of Minnesota Commander Mark Dvorak delivered good news: Membership at the state and national levels is up compared to the same time last year.

“Wonderful things are getting done, so keep it up,” he said.

About 150 people turned out for the Pearl Harbor Membership Rally at Roseville Post 542 on Dec. 7.

National is up 6,831, a turnaround of 67,545 from the same time last year, and the state is up 155, a turnaround of 3,779, Dvorak said.

He reiterated his theme for the year of getting younger veterans involved and allowing them to follow their passions.

Auxiliary President Mary Hendrickson welcomed people to visit Christmas light displays in Duluth, then talked membership.

She noted it was ahead of the same time last year.

Detachment Commander Dave Vulcan of the Sons of The American Legion said 66 squadrons out of 238 are inactive. He said that’s 26 percent of the organization. Though membership, he said, is ahead of his time last year, the SAL needs help.

Honorary Junior President Emily Seuss said Juniors will push membership, too.

“We as Juniors also want to make sure we are here for another 100 years,” she said.

She said the Juniors plan to contact each of the five Minnesota veterans homes and ask them about their needs. The goal is to raise $600 for each of the homes. That, she said, equals a grand total of $3,000. The Juniors have raised $2,285. They need only $715.

National Executive Committee Man Bill Barbkeyrcht introduced several key leaders, noted the many commanders, vice commanders and past officers and added great talent will continue to bolster membership figures. He said past officers need to do more than give guidance; they need to help out.

“We need to get out and spread the word,” Barbkeyrcht said. “The American Legion is not about bars and booze. It’s about the programs that we have.”

He told people at the rally not to go home and quit working on membership just because of positive trends.

Department of Minnesota Membership Director Sy Fix said Minnesota is in fourth place nationally among departments at 79.268 percent.

“We got a great, great team,” he said.

Legion and VA note
Physician of the Year

MINNEAPOLIS — American Legion officials in Minnesota recognized a general psychiatrist at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center as the Physician of the Year, not only for the Minnesota but for the entire VA Health Care System.

Megan Press will be recognized and officially March 10 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. The local program took place in the medical center’s auditorium on Dec. 19, with Director Jim Kelly present to thank the Legion.

American Legion Past National Commander Dan Ludwig said The American Legion was instrumental in forming the Veterans Bureau after World War I, and it later became what today is the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“We’ve been your partner since the beginning,” he said.

Ludwig spoke highly of the Minneapolis facility and added: “This is the flagship of the fleet, and this is a credit to all of you.”

It is the third year that The American Legion is given the Physician of the Year award.

“it has been an honor and a privilege working with veterans,” Press said.

She has worked at the VA Health Care System for 15 years. Press went to medical school at the University of Arizona in Tucson and did her residency at the University of Minnesota. She was hired by the VA right after.

“I value the relationships created with veterans over time,” she said.

Dick Ward of Minneapolis Post 1 plays “Taps” on the bugle Dec. 7 to honor sailors and others killed in the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941 and soldiers killed Dec. 5 in a helicopter crash near St. Cloud.

Plaque at Peavey Plaza unveiled

MINNEAPOLIS — The American Legion and the city of Minneapolis have a relationship going back for 100 years. That connection is now explained on a plaque at Peavey Plaza, near the corner of Nicollet Avenue and South 11th Street.

On Pearl Harbor Day, about 25 members of The American Legion Family primarily from the 4th and 5th districts, gathered at Peavey Plaza to unveil and dedicate the plaque and to read a proclamation from Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey.

The ceremony had a moment of silence for military members who perished in the attacks at Pearl Harbor in 1941.

The new plaque is near a 1959 monument created with veterans over the V A right after.

Barbkeyrcht introduced several key leaders, noted the many commanders, vice commanders and past officers and added great talent will continue to bolster membership figures. He said past officers need to do more than give guidance; they need to help out.

“We need to get out and spread the word,” Barbkeyrcht said. “The American Legion is not about bars and booze. It’s about the programs that we have.”

He told people at the rally not to go home and quit working on membership just because of positive trends.

Department of Minnesota Membership Director Sy Fix said Minnesota is in fourth place nationally among departments at 79.268 percent.

“We got a great, great team,” he said.

Legion and VA note
Physician of the Year

MINNEAPOLIS — American Legion officials in Minnesota recognized a general psychiatrist at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center as the Physician of the Year, not only for the Minnesota but for the entire VA Health Care System.

Megan Press will be recognized officially March 10 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. The local program took place in the medical center’s auditorium on Dec. 19, with Director Jim Kelly present to thank the Legion.

American Legion Past National Commander Dan Ludwig said The American Legion was instrumental in forming the Veterans Bureau after World War I, and it later became what today is the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“We’ve been your partner since the beginning,” he said.

Ludwig spoke highly of the Minneapolis facility and added: “This is the flagship of the fleet, and this is a credit to all of you.”

It is the third year that The American Legion is given the Physician of the Year award.

“it has been an honor and a privilege working with veterans,” Press said.

She has worked at the VA Health Care System for 15 years. Press went to medical school at the University of Arizona in Tucson and did her residency at the University of Minnesota. She was hired by the VA right after.

“I value the relationships created with veterans over time,” she said.

Department of Minnesota Membership Director Sy Fix confers Pearl Harbor Awards to Pat Logan and Myron Ehrich for having the highest percentage of membership turn-ins. Logan is the department vice commander for the 1st and 3rd districts, and Ehrich is the membership director for the 1st District.

From left are Chuck Stone, Glenn Meuller and Kassy, Tonia and Clint Bettermann. They are holding puncher dinner checks of $200 from North Branch Post 85, $50 from St. Charles Post 190 and $9,300 from Owatonna Post 77.

From left are Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller, Dr. Megan Press, Past National Commander Dan Ludwig, Rehabilitation Committee Chairman Wilson Spence III, then-Department Assistant Adjutant Mike Maxa and Rehabilitation Committee member Gary Munkholm.
Minnesota Veterans Home to host nursing classes in auditorium space

MINNEAPOLIS — Imagine taking college classes at the site of your next employer.

That’s pretty much what is happening at the Minnesota Veterans Home. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs has a new partnership with Inver Hills Community College that allows new students to take their classes at the home, where they have access to the facilities they will encounter in their field.

The partnership was set up “to really spark their interest in clinical care and hopefully attract them to our clinical sites as their place of work,” said Mary Mehelich, clinical education liaison for the MDVA.

In the auditorium of Building 15, the MDVA has set up a classroom, a resident room and a skills laboratory. The stage is being used for annual training needed for all staff employees, not just new hires.

Inver Hills Community College offers a seven-week course for certified nursing assistants, commonly called CNAs.

The advantage of having the classes at the Minnesota Veterans Home is the students can have the three-day clinical experience at the same location as their classes, plus during class they can take advantage of facilities a short walk away.

Mehelich said she hopes it can be extended to other types of training besides CNAs. She mentioned professional development of the staff as one option, and she hopes veterans can use service organizations eventual will use the space.

The classroom is just that, a space with tables, chairs and a projector. The resident room is actually a mock room that duplicates new rooms in the MDVA’s system of veteran homes.

“We’ll be able to use it for simulation training,” Mehelich said. “If they need to practice moving someone from the wheelchair to the toilet, that’ll be a great space.”

She said the skills laboratory is an area with dummies in beds, where the students learn to make beds, move residents, give bed baths, place bedpans, roll residents over and perform range-of-motion exercises, among other tasks.

The annual training — called MAC for mandatory annual competency — is done during orientation for new staff members.

The auditorium in Building 15 was renovated nine years ago. The seating was removed to allow for more wheelchair and flexibility of use. The classroom was set up this past fall, and the auditorium in Building 15 has been moved to the community rooms, said Sandy Larson, public affairs director for the Minnesota Veterans Home.

Mehelich said the Minnesota Veterans Home is not short-staffed, but it is in a tight lab with the Twin Cities labor market, it doesn’t want to end up short-staffed, either. Having CNA classes offered on the veterans home campus, rather than a college campus, helps ensure the facility remains strong.

Mary Mehelich, clinical education liaison for the MDVA, shows a skills laboratory to a group of staff members.

Veterans Day on the Hill is going to be the latest in session it ever has been

MINNEAPOLIS — The Armed Forces Services Center at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport has moved into new digs. Now, the place for members of the armed forces to hang out — or even sleep inside the airport security. The soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, military retirees, former officers of war, Purple Heart recipients, Honor recipients, National Guardsmen and Department of Defense or U.S. Public Health Service personnel who stay there, often between connecting flights, won’t need to exit security only to get through the checkpoint again when flying out.

An open house is slated for noon Jan. 9. The Minnesota General of the AFSC, Directive Debra Cain said usage appears to be up.

“It’s been nonstop,” she said.

Frazer, when asked what she said, can feel like targets, especially when in uniform, and staying inside security works well for them.

She’s eager to see the first month’s numbers, but can tell by the increase in foot traffic. The Armed Forces Services Center, meanwhile, is marking its 50th anniversary in 2020, and program will acknowledge that mark, too.

The place offers sleeping quarters, complimentary food, wireless internet, a TV-viewing lounge, and volunteer assistance, as well as a place to leave your car.

The old location had 2,700 square feet, and the new place has 6,500 square feet. It has 30 beds for men and 10 for women. There are one crib in each of the men’s and women’s quarters. Some of the new beds are larger than the old ones.

“We’re finding that height of the average soldier is longer than it used to be,” said Joe Janzen, The American Legion’s AFSC representative.

The new location also offers a playroom, too. There is a screen in the TV lounge allowing arrivals and departures.

The new location is in Terminal 1, the old location, but it is now at the end of Concourse C, at the end of the tram ride, right across from the Blue Door Pub and up one floor.

That area of the airport, Janzen said, used to be for storage and training. The cost of the new area is $2,005,000, paid by the Metropolitan Airports Commission, which will seek reimbursement through the $100,000 from the state Legislature. The AFSC treasury did bear the cost of the purchase of some of the new furniture. It is supported largely by state money.

The American Legion. The center does accept donations but not from new troops staying there. Janzen said the main reason for the move is MSA removed the area for an ongoing remodeling of the ticketing and baggage claim areas at Terminal 1, to be wrapped up by 2022.

The men’s sleeping area has 30 beds.

Traveling military can lounge in recliners in front of a TV while awaiting flights.

Minnesota offers training at no charge.
Greetings to the American Legion Family
Happy New Year everyone! Good luck with your resolutions. I will share the resolution that I always give to all my members. I resolve to be the best me that I can be.

Looking at membership numbers, it is a funny thing. Depending on which column of the reports you study, you get different standings. If you took only at percentage of goal achieved, then the 6th District is in fifth place. If you look at total memberships, we are in second behind the 3rd District.

For weekly turn-ins, we are in third for the week, and if you look at the number of posts at goal, we are in first place. I am not saying we should rest, but rather that we should not get down on ourselves. Continue to work toward your post goals and don’t forget to talk about the Legion Act when talking to potential new members.

Since January is a time of new beginnings, let’s think about the Legion in the 21st Century. Think about your own district and how you can contribute to the Legion’s success at the Post, District or Department levels. Think about stepping up for a leadership role. There are people who are willing to train and mentor you.

The 6th District Mid-Winter Conference and Sweetheart Rally coming soon. Hope to see lots of you.

The website is at mn6thdistrict.org.

Greetings to all of the 7th District and to all fellow Legion Family Members.

This year has started out on a good note for the 7th District Legion Family, and we need to follow through in spreading the good that we can do for fellow veterans. I have posted our meeting areas out only in the time of the holiday season but throughout the whole year.

Whether it be visiting our fellow veterans in the various homes throughout the state, taking a care package to those who are in need or just extending a warm handshake and a cheerful hello, and thank you for their service, but it is in this time that I believe that the Legion Family can do so much for each other.

I would like to wish everyone a very good holiday season and a Happy New Year. Let’s keep communicating with each other to spread the good of the American Legion Family.

God Bless You and God Bless America!

-- Dean Knutson

---

Greetings, Fighting 5th District, as well as the Department of Minnesota, I hope that all of your holidays were joyous and peaceful.

We are still behind in membership. Our total goals for the upcoming year are to get our membership up to where they need to be.

Don’t forget to come to the next 5th District Oratorical Contest, which will be held Feb 3, with an additional post at Richfield Post 435 and all of our posts that have reached goal.

Johnnie Baker sends out letters and emails and makes phone calls to encourage our membership and even offers to fill in for any of the duties of members, and there is no response. We are baffled by this.

Please do NOT forget what a hospital, nursing home or home visit could mean to our convalescing veterans.

Happy New Year to all.

-- Andrew Rose Sr.
Attend the Junior Conference
coming in April at Waite Park

Saturday, April 18, is the date for the 57th annual Department Junior Conference. It will be held at Waite Park American Legion Post 428 with the 6th District serving as hosts. A fun evening has been planned for Friday, April 17.

Complete information and the Call to the Junior Conference was included in the January/February Unit mailing.

Be sure you share this information with your Junior Activities Chairman. Make arrangements for your Juniors to attend. We need more Juniors to attend our conference and share their successes with other Junior members so we can grow the program. Junior members are the Auxiliary’s future, and we must nurture and promote what they do.

We have a wonderful Honorary Junior President, Emily Susac, who has done a great job promoting Juniors and what they do for our veterans.

Girls State reservations

In the January/February Unit mailing, every Unit received the necessary information and reservation form to reserve a place for their candidate(s) to the 2020 session of the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State. Please ask your Unit President for the necessary information.

After your Unit sends in the reservation fee ($300 per girl) and it has been processed, your Unit will receive a packet of information including a complete registration packet for each girl you are sponsoring. This will be sent to the person who signed the reservation form.

Information will be mailed to each high school in January. The schools will be waiting to be contacted by you. Let them know now if you will be sponsoring a girl.

A Unit may sponsor as many girls from the same high school as it would like to. There is no limit. The candidate(s) must attend a Minnesota precinct meeting, either military, state, or school, or be a resident of Minnesota. All reservation fees will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis. Any person, business or organization may accept on a first-come first-served basis.

Please do not wait until Poppy Day. After your Unit sends in the reservation form to reserve a place for your candidate(s), please make sure to fill out the ones you do participate in and return them. If your Unit is inactive and doesn’t participate in any of the programs, please send them back stating “do not participate” on the form.

Second dues notice

The National organization will be sending out a second dues notice around June. 15 to all Senior members whose 2020 dues were NOT received and recorded by the National organization by Dec. 8. That means some of you will receive this second notice though you recently paid your dues.

Reminder: Any member who has not paid her 2019 dues by Jan. 31 is considered delinquent and loses her rights, privileges and benefits of membership. Payment of her 2019 dues reinstates her as a member in good standing.

Department President Mary

Just a reminder that President Mary Hendrickson would love to come visit your Unit at a meeting or function. There is a Visit Form on our website or call Sandie at 651-224-7634. You can also email sandie@minnesotalegion.com with when and where you would like her to visit.

Mary Hendrickson is the president of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota.

Dec. 11, 2019, Membership:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>4,177</td>
<td>3,039</td>
<td>72.76%</td>
<td>3,307</td>
<td>72.76%</td>
<td>3,307</td>
<td>72.76%</td>
<td>3,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>4,191</td>
<td>2,269</td>
<td>78.00%</td>
<td>3,307</td>
<td>78.00%</td>
<td>3,307</td>
<td>78.00%</td>
<td>3,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>3,064</td>
<td>2,269</td>
<td>75.39%</td>
<td>2,973</td>
<td>75.39%</td>
<td>2,973</td>
<td>75.39%</td>
<td>2,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four</td>
<td>624</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>79.01%</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>79.01%</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>79.01%</td>
<td>464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five</td>
<td>6,393</td>
<td>4,158</td>
<td>77.32%</td>
<td>4,353</td>
<td>77.32%</td>
<td>4,353</td>
<td>77.32%</td>
<td>4,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six</td>
<td>3,369</td>
<td>2,578</td>
<td>76.52%</td>
<td>2,622</td>
<td>76.52%</td>
<td>2,622</td>
<td>76.52%</td>
<td>2,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven</td>
<td>1,363</td>
<td>967</td>
<td>70.95%</td>
<td>948</td>
<td>70.95%</td>
<td>948</td>
<td>70.95%</td>
<td>948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight</td>
<td>3,618</td>
<td>2,744</td>
<td>75.84%</td>
<td>2,859</td>
<td>75.84%</td>
<td>2,859</td>
<td>75.84%</td>
<td>2,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine</td>
<td>4,804</td>
<td>3,737</td>
<td>71.49%</td>
<td>3,945</td>
<td>71.49%</td>
<td>3,945</td>
<td>71.49%</td>
<td>3,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>91.57%</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>91.57%</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>91.57%</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3318</td>
<td>2458</td>
<td>75.45%</td>
<td>2458</td>
<td>75.45%</td>
<td>2458</td>
<td>75.45%</td>
<td>2458</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mary Hendrickson is the president of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota.

On Nov. 20, members of Dan Patch American Legion Auxiliary Unit 643, Savage, delivered supplies to Marion W. Savage Elementary School and to Hidden Valley Elementary School, both in Savage.

Jan Lauby and Sandie Deutsch with the Department of Minnesota attended the effectiveness training that was held in Indianapolis Dec. 8-10. Pictured are Jan Lauby, the new Executive Director of the American Legion Auxiliary Kelly Circle and Sandie Deutsch.

This year the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State will be held at Bethel University. The session will be held June 14 - 20.

2019-2020 poppy orders

Poppy orders are still being accepted in the Department office. As of this writing, we have received orders from 239 Units. Please get your order into the Department Office. We need to know how many poppies are needed so we can plan accordingly. If you have already ordered and need to place a second order, please do so.

Shipment of poppy orders has been ongoing. Upon receipt of your order, please check it carefully and report any discrepancies to the department office immediately. Please do not wait until Poppy Day.

Annual reports

Annual reports along with Trophy and Award information have been sent to all Unit Presidents in the January/February Unit Mailing packet. Please make sure and go through the reports and instruction sheets. If your Unit doesn’t participate in all of the programs be sure to fill out the ones you do participate in and return them. Your Unit is inactive and doesn’t participate in any of the programs, please send them back stating “do not participate” on the form.

Secretary’s Notes

Sandie Deutsch

I don’t have a whole lot for this month except everyone had a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

We are still extremely busy around the office — I give up on the “slow time” coming back. Jocelyn has been a god-send to Jan and me. She learns new things every day.

This is kind of a bittersweet month for me. My two amigas, Randy and Al, are gone from the office, my husband is retired from his job, and I am still working. (What’s up with that?)

Our Texas family was home for Christmas and my sister and husband flew in from Arizona so a good time was had by all.

American Legion Post 79 threw a retirement party for Shorty and what made it very special was that many of our family were able to be home. I am now starting my countdown, but my member, you have me through August. I don’t know if that is a blessing or a curse for you, but it is what it is.

Again, only the best for all of you in 2020 — love you all to death.

Sandie Deutsch is the executive secretary for the American Legion Department of Minnesota.
Get the word out on laws for our vets

The American Legion Auxiliary Legislative Program provides information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion. We support The American Legion in their legislative endeavors.

The role of the American Legion Auxiliary is to be informed communicators. We need to build relationships and support with our state legislators, congressional representatives and our U.S. senators and/or members of their staff. If you already have an established relationship, utilize the relationship to promote The American Legion legislative agenda.

Hand-written letters, telephone calls and office visits are all still appropriate, but, emails, messages and tweets are all acceptable as well.

When you make contact, clearly identify yourself as a constituent, keep it short and concise, cite facts, be respectful and thank them for their time. You want it to be a positive experience to garner positive results whether now or in the future. Our veterans and enhancing their lives are what matters.

The 2020 Minnesota Legislative session is starting in February. The Minnesota Commanders’ Task Force has produced a list of laws it would like to see approved (see Page 1 story), and you can be assured that the American Legion Family will be supporting the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

We want to be sure that all of their programs are fully supported and funded, including maintaining our state veterans homes, and taking a closer look into veterans suicide.

Mark your calendars now to attend Minnesota’s Veterans Day on the Hill at the State Capitol on April 20.

We need to have a large representation from the American Legion Family, and all veterans, to relay to our legislators that veterans’ priorities should be on the top of their list of legislation. Attend the ceremony and make appointments to meet with your state legislators in the afternoon. It will be a great day advocating for our veterans.

See you there!

Patti Coleman is the legislative chairwoman for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota.

January is National Security Month, and more

The National Security Program promotes a strong national defense supporting servicemembers and their families.

The National Security pages included 2019-2020 Unit Guide lists the three major areas that our National organization would like to see as our emphasis this year. The first is support the active, reserve and transition emotional and social needs of our veterans and their families.

The second is support the legislative priorities.

The third is support the American Legion Auxiliary with a Yellow Ribbon Reunification Program for Survivors.

The first is support the legislative priorities.

The second is support the American Legion Auxiliary with a Yellow Ribbon Reunification Program for Survivors.

The third is support the American Legion Auxiliary with a Yellow Ribbon Reunification Program for Survivors.

Get the word out on laws for our vets

The American Legion Auxiliary Legislative Program provides information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion. We support The American Legion in their legislative endeavors.

The role of the American Legion Auxiliary is to be informed communicators. We need to build relationships and support with our state legislators, congressional representatives and our U.S. senators and/or members of their staff. If you already have an established relationship, utilize the relationship to promote The American Legion legislative agenda.

Hand-written letters, telephone calls and office visits are all still appropriate, but, emails, messages and tweets are all acceptable as well.

When you make contact, clearly identify yourself as a constituent, keep it short and concise, cite facts, be respectful and thank them for their time. You want it to be a positive experience to garner positive results whether now or in the future. Our veterans and enhancing their lives are what matters.

The 2020 Minnesota Legislative session is starting in February. The Minnesota Commanders’ Task Force has produced a list of laws it would like to see approved (see Page 1 story), and you can be assured that the American Legion Family will be supporting the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

We want to be sure that all of their programs are fully supported and funded, including maintaining our state veterans homes, and taking a closer look into veterans suicide.

Mark your calendars now to attend Minnesota’s Veterans Day on the Hill at the State Capitol on April 20.

We need to have a large representation from the American Legion Family, and all veterans, to relay to our legislators that veterans’ priorities should be on the top of their list of legislation. Attend the ceremony and make appointments to meet with your state legislators in the afternoon. It will be a great day advocating for our veterans.

See you there!

Patti Coleman is the legislative chairwoman for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Minnesota.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 43 of Faribault packed 30 bags for the younger air travelers using the new MSP Armed Forces Service Center. Items were collected and Paulette Jameson and Louise Flom are pictured bagging small toys, dolls, horses, activity, sticker and coloring books, crayons, mechanical pencils, toy soldiers, dinosaurs and aquatic animals, and candy canes in gallon-sized ziplock bags, clear zippered bags and backpacks.

Karen Rasmussen, District 3 Armed Forces Service Center chair, is shown loading Sandie Deutsch’s car to take the bags for delivery to the airport.
Reverse Mortgages

The future doesn’t have to be uncertain.

The lower the Margin, the more you qualify for. Call for our low rates. Libor Margins as low as 1.5%. Call or email me for a free consumer guide and a personal quote.

Let a retired active duty veteran you can trust show you how you may benefit from a Reverse Mortgage.

MIKE KRAUS
Loan Officer
NMLS ID #283509

Mortgages Unlimited
guiding families home

Mike Kraus
Serving MN and WI
7365 Kirkwood Court North, Suite 300
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763-355-8450
mkraus@mulhnome IOms.com

Mortgages Unlimited

Get ready now 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 or visit absent members 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. Above all, thank them for their time.

I SERVED FOR

At USAA, the same values that guide our military inspire us to go above and beyond for our members. When you join USAA, you’re part of an organization where we have everything you need to make your membership a lifelong bond.

JOIN USAA TODAY
AND GET A QUOTE.
CALL 877-999-2654
OR VISIT USAA.COM/LEGION

USAA is proud to be the Preferred Provider of personal, financial and insurance services to The American Legion.

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. Use of the term “member” or “membership” refers to members of the USAA family of companies. Services, discounts, and rates are subject to change. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. © 2019 USAA, 25800-1097-A9.

Are you the son of a veteran? Maybe you are a veteran and the son or grandson of one? Either way, join your local Sons of the American Legion.

Attention Veterans!
This is your northern Minnesota resort. Barrie-free and open 12 months a year. Gateway to the BWCA. Guided tours of St Simons Island and Jekyll Islands. Deluxe motorcoach transportation. All meals and entertainment onboard the ship. Onboard gratuities and transfers to/from pier. 10 nights accommodations. Roundtrip flights. Deluxe motorcoach transportation. • 8 nights accommodations. • 14 Meals. • Guided Trolley Tour of Savannah. • Guided tours of St Simons Island and Jekyll Islands. • Harbor Cruise in Charleston. • Luggage handling. • $1,699.00 per person double occupancy

Reverse Mortgages

The future doesn’t have to be uncertain.

The lower the Margin, the more you qualify for. Call for our low rates. Libor Margins as low as 1.5%. Call or email me for a free consumer guide and a personal quote.

Let a retired active duty veteran you can trust show you how you may benefit from a Reverse Mortgage.

MIKE KRAUS
Loan Officer
NMLS ID #283509

Mortgages Unlimited
guiding families home

Mike Kraus
Serving MN and WI
7365 Kirkwood Court North, Suite 300
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763-355-8450
mkraus@mulhnome IOms.com

Mortgages Unlimited

Get ready now 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 or visit absent members 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. Above all, thank them for their time.

I SERVED FOR

At USAA, the same values that guide our military inspire us to go above and beyond for our members. When you join USAA, you’re part of an organization where we have everything you need to make your membership a lifelong bond.

JOIN USAA TODAY
AND GET A QUOTE.
CALL 877-999-2654
OR VISIT USAA.COM/LEGION

USAA is proud to be the Preferred Provider of personal, financial and insurance services to The American Legion.

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. Use of the term “member” or “membership” refers to members of the USAA family of companies. Services, discounts, and rates are subject to change. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. © 2019 USAA, 25800-1097-A9.

Are you the son of a veteran? Maybe you are a veteran and the son or grandson of one? Either way, join your local Sons of the American Legion.

Attention Veterans!
This is your northern Minnesota resort. Barrie-free and open 12 months a year. Gateway to the BWCA. Guided tours of St Simons Island and Jekyll Islands. Deluxe motorcoach transportation. All meals and entertainment onboard the ship. Onboard gratuities and transfers to/from pier. 10 nights accommodations. Roundtrip flights. Deluxe motorcoach transportation. • 8 nights accommodations. • 14 Meals. • Guided Trolley Tour of Savannah. • Guided tours of St Simons Island and Jekyll Islands. • Harbor Cruise in Charleston. • Luggage handling. • $1,699.00 per person double occupancy

Reverse Mortgages

The future doesn’t have to be uncertain.

The lower the Margin, the more you qualify for. Call for our low rates. Libor Margins as low as 1.5%. Call or email me for a free consumer guide and a personal quote.

Let a retired active duty veteran you can trust show you how you may benefit from a Reverse Mortgage.

MIKE KRAUS
Loan Officer
NMLS ID #283509

Mortgages Unlimited
guiding families home

Mike Kraus
Serving MN and WI
7365 Kirkwood Court North, Suite 300
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763-355-8450
mkraus@mulhnome IOms.com

Mortgages Unlimited

Get ready now 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 or visit absent members 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. Above all, thank them for their time.

I SERVED FOR

At USAA, the same values that guide our military inspire us to go above and beyond for our members. When you join USAA, you’re part of an organization where we have everything you need to make your membership a lifelong bond.

JOIN USAA TODAY
AND GET A QUOTE.
CALL 877-999-2654
OR VISIT USAA.COM/LEGION

USAA is proud to be the Preferred Provider of personal, financial and insurance services to The American Legion.

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. Use of the term “member” or “membership” refers to members of the USAA family of companies. Services, discounts, and rates are subject to change. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. © 2019 USAA, 25800-1097-A9.