



Up To Now!

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Phone (605) 886-3604

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August 5, 2025

Aug 9 Post 303 Beers and Ears, Hermosa
Aug 9 Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication, 1LT Larry Barbee, American Legion Post 92, Redfield, 2pm
Aug 14 Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication, CPL Henry Kluess, VFW Post 2118, Brookings, 10am
Aug 16 Post 132 Golf Tournament, Springfield Golf Course 9:30am
Aug 20 SD Vets Council Meeting, Virtual, 1pm
Aug 21 Cheyenne Rv Vets Standdown, Eagle Butte Vet Ctr 10am
Aug 22-28 106th National Convention, Tampa, FL
Aug 27-Sep 1 SD State Fair
Aug 30 Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication, SP5 Richard Miller, Silo Market, Plankinton 1pm
Sep 1 Labor Day **Office Closed, Fly the Flag**
Sep 6 District 7 Meeting
Sep 7 District 8 Meeting
Sep 13 District 2 Meeting
Sep 14 District 1 Meeting
Sep 16 SD Vets Council Meeting, Yankton VFW Post 1pm
Sep 17 Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication, PVT Elmer Albertson, Harding County School 2:30pm
Sep 17 Constitution Day, **Fly the Flag**
Sep 18 Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication, PFC Peter Ommen, 243 Central Main Street, Central City 1pm
Sept 19 National POW/MIA Recognition Day, **Fly the Flag**
Sep 20-21 SDAL Golf Tournament, Wakonda
Sep 23 Midwest Honor Flight Mission 27
Sep 25 Rapid City Vets Stand Down, DoubleTree by Hilton 10am
Sep 27 District 3 Meeting, Pierre Post 8, 1130am social, 12pm meal, 1pm meeting
Sep 28 District 6 Meetings
Oct 3 Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication, SGT Dirk Abbas, Britton Event Center, 2pm
Oct 6-9 National Fall Meetings, Indianapolis
Oct 7 Midwest Honor Flight Mission 28
Oct 8 Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication, PVT Leroy Goosen (location and time to be determined)
Oct 11 District 5 Meeting
Oct 12 District 4 Meeting
Oct 13 Native American Day, **Office Closed, Fly the Flag**
Oct 15 SD Vets Council Meeting, Virtual, 1pm
Nov 8 Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair, Sturgis Community Center, 11am-2pm
Nov 8 Day County Vets Banquet, Webster Armory, 5pm
Nov 8 Northern Hills Vet Appreciation Fair "We've Got Your Six" Sturgis 11am-2pm
Nov 11 Veterans Day, **Office Closed, Fly the Flag**
Nov 19 SD Vets Council Meeting, DAV HQ, Sioux Falls, 9am
Nov 19 Legislative Round Table, Sioux Falls DAV HQ 1-4pm
Nov 20 Legislative Round Table, (North East)
Nov 21 Legislative Round Table, Rapid City
Nov 22 Legislative Round Table, Pierre
Nov 27-30 Thanksgiving, **Office Closed, Fly the Flag**
Dec 2 Governor's Budget Address 1pm
Dec 13 Wreaths Across America Ceremony, SD Vet Cemetery, Sioux Falls, 11am
Dec 24-26 Christmas, **Office Closed**
Dec 31-Jan 2 New Year's, **Office Closed**
Jan 13 SD Legislative Session Opens
Jan 14 SD Veterans Council Meeting, Pierre Post 8 2-5pm
Jan 14 SD Veterans Council Legislative Reception 5:30-7:30pm
Jan 19 Martin Luther King Jr Day, **Office Closed**
Feb 19-22 MidWinter Conference

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Legionnaires,

I am going to start this column on a sad note. Steve Stier, District 3 Commander, suddenly passed away the end of July. He was a good friend and a tireless supporter of the Legion and veterans. He will be missed by many. Please keep Mary Jo and the rest of his family in your prayers.



It was an interesting first month as the Department Commander. Started off with the 4th of July weekend and then the Centennial Baseball game in Milbank to celebrate the 100th anniversary of American Legion Baseball. Then lots of meetings throughout the month to include the SD Veterans Council, Finance Commission, SDAL Foundation, the Dept Executive Committee and the District Commander Seminar. Past Dept Commander Red Vetter passed in July and his funeral in Cresbard was well attended by many of the Legion Family. Next event was the homecoming for Susie Learning, newly elected SD American Legion Auxiliary President in Irene. I look forward to working with Susie and the rest of the Legion Family leadership. The next event was my homecoming the next day in Chester. Thanks to all who attended and a special thanks to all those that made it a great day. I ended the month attending the SD Dept of Veterans Affairs "What's Brewing" event in DeSmet. The SD Secretary of Veterans Affairs and several of his staff gave updates on what is impacting veterans and then had question and answer time. They also informed the group there will be many Fallen Hero bridge dedications in the next several months and encourage everyone to attend. They hold these What's Brewing events periodically around the state so I would encourage you to attend one if it is in your area.

August will be some out of state travel. Some of the department leadership will be heading to Indianapolis for the national membership workshop and then a large Legion Family delegation will be heading to Tampa, Florida for The American Legion 106th National Convention the end of the month. A special note, August 16th will be Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Wyatt Ries homecoming.

As always, I encourage our Legion Family to continue to be involved in our communities, serve our veterans, children and communities and tell our stories.

Kevin Hempel,
Department Commander
L. I. S. T.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE & PROGRESS REPORT

South Dakota American Legion – August Membership Message

“Eye of the Tiger” – Let’s Start Strong!

As we move into August, I want to give a big **THANK YOU** to all the Legionnaires across South Dakota who have already renewed for 2026. Your early action shows dedication and helps us build the momentum we need for another successful year.

To those who haven’t renewed yet — now’s the time. **Let’s dig deep, find that Eye of the Tiger spirit, and get fired up.** This is our year to lead with energy, purpose, and pride.

“Went the distance, now I’m back on my feet – just a man and his will to survive!”

We’re off to a strong start, but we need everyone in the fight. Together, we can stay ahead of the game and show the nation what South Dakota is made of.

A quick reminder: If you haven’t yet paid your **2025 dues**, there’s still time. Your membership is active through **December 31, 2025**, so please take a moment to get that renewal in — your support is essential to our mission.

And as we look ahead, let’s remember that **America’s 250th birthday** is right around the corner in 2026. Let’s make membership part of how we honor that milestone. Whether it’s through service, community improvement, or helping fellow veterans, your involvement shows your commitment to country and legacy. Let’s make sure every post is strong and every member is active as we prepare to celebrate this historic event.

Let’s rise to the challenge — with the Eye of the Tiger — and make 2026 a year to remember.

For God and Country,
Bill Peters, Membership Chair
605.360.6547 bpeters0551@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER MAKES APPOINTMENTS

- Commander Hempel has made the following appointments:
- Bill Peters of Sioux Falls to 1 year term as Membership Chair
- Jay Leibel of Madison as Judge Advocate for a 1 year term
- Krisma Dewitt of Watertown to a 2 year term as Finance Officer
- Carrol Howtitz of Spearfish to 1 year term as Americanism Chair
- Mike Kumm of North Sioux City to 1 year term as Dept Chaplain
- Harry Boner of Castlewood to 1 year term as Department Children and Youth Chairman
- Matt Pillar of Brookings to another 1 year term as Service Officer and VA&R Commission Chair
- Doug Harris of Rapid City as Boys State Director
- Larry Price of Redfield to Public Safety Chair for 1 year
- Mike Mehlhaff of Pierre to a 1 year term as Legislative Chairman
- Dave Booze of Piedmont to five year term as member of the Finance Commission
- Ryan Skjoldal to one year term as Homeless Veteran Chairman
- Fred Lee to one year term as Department Historian
- Courtney Steffen to one year term as Marketing & Media Communications Chair
- Trip McClurkin to one year term as National Security Chair
- Jack French for a 1 year term as Training Committee Chair
- Charemon Dunham as the VAVS Chair for a one year term
- C.P. Van Delist to 1 year term as Dept Public Relations Officer

106TH NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION

DELEGATES AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES

The following are the Department’s Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention in Tampa, FL 22-28:

Department Commander Kevin Hempel of Chester
Immediate Past Dept Commander Kevin Morello of Piedmont
Department Adjutant C.P. Van Delist of Rapid City 22
NEC Fred Nelson of Spearfish (National Call In)
ANEC Doug Feltman of Chamberlain (National Call In)
PDC Paul Evenson of Garretson (National Call In)
PDC Terry Hanson of Arlington (National Call In)
PDC Hugh Holmes of Mitchell (National Call In)
PDC Tim Jurgens of Milbank (National Call In)

PDC Jim Huls of Madison (National Call In)
Andy Lyngen of Garretson (National Call In)
Warren Aas of Watertown (National Call In)
Doug Harris of Rapid City 22 (National Call In)
PDC Rick McDonald of Hermosa
PDC Charemon Dunham of Iroquois
Noel Cummins of Milbank
Vern Prickett of Milbank
Andy Lyngen of Garretson
Chris Rendon of Rapid City 320
Annette Dunham of Iroquois
Patrick Branco of Sioux Falls 15
Bill Peters of Sioux Falls 15
Dale Hill of Sioux Falls 15
Bruce Babcock of Groton
Ward Chapman of Milbank
Jeff Hrabanek of Winner
Brian Dean of Spearfish
Carol Howtitz of Spearfish
PDC Jim Huls of Salem
Mike Kumm of N. Sioux City
Greg Smith of Gregory
Sandy Smith of Gregory

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Cards are in the mail!!!

Headquarters has received the 2026 membership cards. Certify your officers **NOW** to receive your cards. The form is in the Post Adjutant’s Administrative and Awards Manual or you can email the information to hq@sdlegion.org or give Judy a call at Dept HQ.

POSTS THAT HAVE NOT CERTIFIED OFFICERS

10 Lake Andes, 19 Wood, 35 Highmore, 40 Webster, 41 Alexandria, 70 Flandreau, 77 Blunt, 82 Bullhead, 86 Alcester, 96 White Lake, 105 Nunda, 116 Alpena, 117 Viborg, 125 Rosebud, 145 Howard, 147 Buffalo, 148 Conde, 157 Vivian, 229 Big Stone, 235 Marion, 238 Oelrichs, 239 Little Eagle, 248 Freeman, 251 Pine Ridge, 256 N Underwood, 257 Greenwood, 258 Andover, 265 Kyle, 269 Wanblee, 273 Frederick, 282 Pickstown, 289 Mansfield, 294 Porcupine, 295 Parmelee, 297 St Francis, 299 Polo, 308 Eagle Butte, 310 Norris, 314 Old Agency, 317 Allen, 324 Rock Creek

BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS SCHEDULE

The schedule for The American Legion 2025 baseball state tournaments is as follows:

CLASS “A” Senior Winner Post 45 Harrisburg Gold

CLASS “A” Junior Winner, TBD at time of print

CLASS “B” Senior Winner, TBD at time of print

CLASS “B” Junior Winner, TBD at time of print

BASEBALL BIDS DUE

Bids for the 2027 Regional and State tournaments are due to the Athletic Commission no later than December 1, 2025. If you are interested in hosting one of the tournaments contact Beau Garcia for more information. beau.garcia2@gmail.com or 605-206-0347

LEGION INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS

Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution of The American Legion states, "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment." Additionally the National Charter, approved by Congress, stipulates The American Legion as an organization is nonpolitical. Therefore, The American Legion as an organization is never to help or endorse a candidate. As a private citizen and not speaking for the organization, can do whatever is legal and ethical to advance his/her candidacy. If attending a political event, The American Legion cap, or any clothing with The American Legion emblem visible, must be removed so as not to imply any endorse-

ment by The American Legion. This includes in person or over social media.

The American Legion values its independence and effectiveness on veterans' issues. This stance is best maintained by neutrality on all individual candidates or political parties. The American Legion, by legal definition, is non-partisan and supports "or opposes as necessary" only issues which impact the Four Pillars.

!!!!!!LEGISLATIVE ACTION NEEDED!!!!!!

You can contact your representative through our campaigns located at the National Grassroots Action Center. Share The American Legion's legislative priorities using the Legislative Agenda when you contact their office. While on the Grassroots Action Center page, be sure to sign up for legislative alerts so you can stay up to date on all of The American Legion's legislative campaigns.

<https://www.votervoicenet.com/AmericanLegion/home>

2025 SDAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The SDAL annual golf tournament will be held in Wakonda, SD over the weekend of September 20 & 21, 2025. For more information contact Athletic Commissioner Elton Blemaster 605-280-2023 or Athletic Commissioner Gene Gillen at 605-415-0885

DWIGHT WOOD POST #132 GOLF TOURNAMENT

At Springfield Golf Course Saturday, August 16, 2025 Shotgun Start @ 9:30 a.m. Open to ALL Golfers Four Person Teams \$50.00 per person Includes Noon Lunch Cart NOT included. To Register Contact: Springfield Golf Course 605-369-5525

LEGION TABLE AT STATE FAIR

The SD Legion will have a booth at the State Fair in the **Air Conditioned** the Expo Building August 27 to September 1, from 9 am to 5 pm. The team would like to run morning and afternoon shift, if you are interested in helping, please contact PDC Gary Wolkow at 605-203-0226.

FUTURE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AND MIDWINTER DATES AND LOCATIONS

2026 MidWinter, Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, Feb 20-22
2026 Convention, Ramkota, Aberdeen, June 18-21
2027 MidWinter, Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, Feb 19-21
2027 Convention, Ramkota, Sioux Falls June 17-20
2028 MidWinter, Cedar Shores Resort, Oacoma, Feb 18-20

2030 DEPT CONVENTION & MIDWINTER

Bids for the 2030 Convention are being accepted, at this time there were no bids submitted for convention. Posts and Convention Centers who desire to submit bids to host either events should send that information to the Dept Adjutant. Application forms are available from Dept. Arrowwood Resort, in Oacoma was selected for the 2030 MidWinter Conference.

2026 MID-WINTER INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mid-Winter Conference is being hosted by Potter Post 3, and will be held at the Arrowwood Resort, in Oacoma, 20-22 February 2026. The entire hotel is blocked off for the Midwinter, reservations can be made by calling the resort at 605-234-6376. The rate for the Standard King or Double Queen room is \$104 plus taxes. Be sure to mention you will be attending the American Legion Midwinter Conference. Other details such as the Joint Banquet, Go-Getters, and training sessions will be coming soon. Other lodging available:

Chamberlain:

- AmericInn 1981 King Street, (605) 234-0985) \$105. 10 rooms blocked until 2 Feb, must state with The American Legion to get that rate.
- Best Western 220 West King Street (605) 734-5575 2 beds \$98, 1 bed 2 people \$88

Oacoma:

- Baymont 1100 East Hwy 16, 1-888-712-6558 \$119
- Howard Johnson 203 E Hwy 16 (605) 234-4222 \$89
- EconoLodge 400 East Hwy 16 (605) 734-4100 \$69 single queen bed, \$79 2 queen beds
- Quality Inn 100 Hwy 16 (605) 734-5593 single queen bed \$ 89, 2 queen beds \$ 99, one king bed \$94.00

TRAINING TUESDAY UPDATE

There is an exciting lineup for National's Training Tuesday sessions. July 29, 2025: Be The One - *UPDATE*. Get more info at www.legion.org/information-center/training/training-tuesdays

NAT CDR POST EXCELLENCE AWARD

To qualify, a post is required to achieve excellence in four areas: 1) At least 103% of their membership goal. At least one post officer attends district meetings. 2) Consolidated Post Report submitted by July 1. 3) Renew at least 90% of their 2024 members. 4) Conduct an event that connects the community and Post.

District Commanders are responsible for the post will certify a post as having achieved the four specified criteria and submit to Dept HQ. List should include the post name, phone number, address, and commander's name. If possible, attach copies of press releases. Dept HQ will send Posts that qualify to National HQ.

NAT CDR 103% MEMBERSHIP DOG TAG COIN

Any Post, District, County, Department Commander or Membership Chair who achieves 103% of their member goal in 2025 can receive a dog tag coin. Complete the form online at www.legion.org/about/leadership/national-commander/103-percent-membership-award & send it to Dept HQ hq@legion.org for verification.

NAT CDR'S MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE DOG TAG COIN

A National Commander's "Be the One" dog tag coin will be awarded to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members. A new member is anyone who was not a member during the 2024 member year. Transfers, Auxiliary and Sons members don't count. Only one coin per individual. Complete the form online at www.legion.org/about/leadership/national-commander/national-commanders-incentive-program and send it to National HQ kadams@legion.org

ALL AMERICAN LEGION POSTS TO FILE IRS FORM 990

Federal tax regulations require every Post to file IRS form 990. This must be filled out by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your organizations accounting period. If the IRS does not receive this form, they will revoke the tax-exempt status of the Post. To get your Tax-exempt status back you have to apply and pay a fee. This process takes months and can be challenging. Download at <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f990.pdf>

LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST (LIT)

This Year the Department received \$22,500 from the LIT Program.

Every legionnaire who signs up for any of the LIT programs brings money right back here to our Department.

As a member of the Legion Family, you're eligible for No Cost LegionCare Insurance. \$5,000 NO COST To You Accidental Death Protection if traveling on official American Legion business. \$1,000 Accidental Death Protection for all other covered accidents. Activate your NO COST To You insurance coverage today. <https://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare/>

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust is a trusted provider for Medicare Supplement and Medicare solutions, offering protection designed for American Legion members. Upcoming Medicare Open Enrollment period is October 15 - December 7, 2025. For those turning 65, or already eligible, this is your time to review and enroll. [e-Health Medicare](#), through LIT, connects members to:

A+ rated Medicare Supplement & Advantage plans Nationwide access to top carriers.

BOYS STATE AND YOUTH TROOPER

Applications are now being accepted for Boys State and YTA. Applications can be found at <https://sdlegion.org/programs>. Now is the time to get out and start recruiting for these great programs.

SDAL FOUNDATION

Did you know that the SDAL can facilitate donations directly to your Post or programs. Many donors are reluctant to donate to a Veteran Non-Profit 501c19 and only want to donate to a 501c3 for various tax reasons. Well that is where the SDAL Foundation can help. Call or email the Department Adjutant for the application and more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH A C&Y SCHOOL SUPPLY PICKUP AND DISTRIBUTION

The 2025/2026 Children and Youth year is starting very soon. I am looking for volunteers to assist with pick-up and distribute donated school supplies from the Dollar Trees in Mitchell, Yankton, Watertown, Aberdeen, Brookings, Pierre, and Vermillion in the coming weeks. Donated toys will also need to be picked up later this fall from the same stores. I will line up local locations as to where the donated items can be distributed to.

If you or your Post family are interested in assisting with item pickup, let me know before the state convention and I can assist you with the registration process to be listed as a volunteer for this Operation Homefront project, or you can access the registration process from their web site at <https://my.operationhomefront.org/Account/Login> to create a login and then select which store you are interested to pick up supplies at.

I hope you are interested in assisting with this project. If you would like to help, please let me know as soon as you can. Keep an eye out also for more news to come related to volunteering for the Back to School Backpack distribution event at Ellsworth AFB that is scheduled for July 26. Thank you for your time and consideration. Best Regards,
Harry Boner, Department Children and Youth Chair
(605) 691-4571, hb.boner@gmail.com

JULY HISTORY

Aug 2, 1776 - Most of the 55 members of the Continental Congress signed the parchment copy of the Declaration of Independence.

Aug 24-26, 1920 The Second Annual Convention of the American Legion Department of South Dakota took place in Watertown. After L.L. Stephens of Pierre withdrew from the race, Fred B. Ray of Yankton was elected Department Commander. Ray lied about his age to join the Army in 1898 at the age of 15 where he served time in the Philippines. In WWI he served as the Regimental Commander of both the 135th Infantry and the 133rd Infantry. Ray is one of two Commanders to serve as Department Commander for two years.

Aug 6, 1941 First atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.

Aug 9, 1941 Second atomic bombing of Japan occurred as an American B-29 bomber headed for the city of Kokura, but because of poor visibility then chose a secondary target, Nagasaki.

Aug 10-13, 1941 The Twenty-third Annual Convention of the American Legion Department of South Dakota took place in Huron. Department Commander Mumford presided and Claude Hamilton of Sioux Falls is elected Department Commander. The Boys State report given by Dr. Harry Darling 274 boys attend the second session that year. Phil Boerger was elected as Boys State Governor and with in two years he was drafted into WWII. Boerger would go on to graduate from West Point and later retire from the US Army at the rank of Brigadier General.

Aug 24, 1969 Legion's National Executive Committee establishes the National Emergency Fund as a result of Hurricane Camille.

Aug 2, 1990 The Legion files suit against the federal government for failure to conduct a Congress-mandated study about the effects of

Agent Orange on veterans who served in Vietnam.

Aug 2, 1990 Iraqi forces invade Kuwait

Aug 16, 2017 The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 – also known as the “Forever GI Bill” because it removes time limits for veterans who wish to use it for college – is signed into law by President Donald J. Trump. The legislation is named for The American Legion past national commander who in the winter of 1943-44 drafted the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act that changed the nation after World War II.

Here’s a shortened version that preserves the heart of Wayne “Red” Vetter’s life and legacy:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF WAYNE VETTER

Wayne “Red” Erich Vetter, 82, of Cresbard, passed away July 15, 2025.

Born May 19, 1943, in Redfield to Alfred and Louise Vetter, Wayne served 27 years in the U.S. Army & National Guard, retiring as Sergeant 1st Class. He was a lifelong member of the American Legion, Legion Riders, and 40 & 8.

Wayne married Barbara Heidenreich in 1973, and together they raised three sons in Cresbard. He worked in law enforcement for 23 years, retiring as Chief Deputy, then served 13 more years as Veterans Service Officer and Emergency Manager—dedicating over 40 years to Faulk County.

A passionate advocate for veterans, Wayne served as American Legion State Commander and helped honor local hero Cecil E. Harris. He led efforts to build the Cresbard Community Center and Veterans Memorial, and ran several local businesses including a laundromat-turned-rec center and a SteamX franchise.

Wayne loved farming, raising cattle, hunting, fishing, and guiding pheasant hunts. He cherished time with his family, especially his grandchildren, and was a proud supporter of their activities.

He is survived by his wife Barb; sons Eric, Joel, and Chad; grandchildren Carstyn, Taylor, Adyson, Austin, and Creightyn; sister Carol; and many extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings, in-laws, and close friends.

Wayne lived a life of service, dedication, and love. “28-1B your watch is over.” He now watches over us from above.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF STEVE STIER

On July 29, 2025, we lost a truly remarkable man—District 3 Commander Steve Stier. A devoted husband, father, Legionnaire, and friend, Steve touched countless lives with his kindness, humor, and unwavering dedication. He will be deeply missed.

Born in Elbow Lake, MN, Steve grew up in Chokio, where he shared a lively childhood with his brothers Mark, Matthew, Patrick, and Bradley, and lovingly watched over his sister Lisa. He found his greatest treasure in Mary Jo, the love of his life, and together they built a beautiful 35-year journey in Onida, SD, raising their children Michael “Gooser” and Katherine “Girly.”

Steve served his community and country through the Onida Fire Department, the 200th Engineer Company, and the American Legion. Whether as a coach, mentor, or friend, he was known for his generous spirit, infectious laughter, and legendary rhubarb jelly. His presence made the world brighter for everyone around him.

He was preceded in death by his father Clifford Dean Stier, brother Bradley, grandmother Anna Stier, and grandparents Sara and Odin Mithun. He is survived by his wife Mary Jo; children Michael (Courtney) and Katherine (Connor); beloved foster and step-grandchildren; mother Barbara; siblings Mark (Lynn), Matthew (Melanie), Patrick (Alli), and Lisa (Dustin); and many nieces, nephews, and cherished friends.

Thank you, Steve, for your life of love, laughter, and service. You made a difference.

