



Custer Post #46  
2018-2019  
Americanism Report

**POST AMERICANISM REPORT**  
(Deadline – Spring District Meeting)

Post \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Membership at Time of Filing Report \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

**Americanism Officer:** Please fill out this report, indicating your participation, attach any documentation, list the number of participants and mail to Department Headquarters, South Dakota American Legion, PO Box 67, Watertown, South Dakota 57201, or turn in at the Spring District Conference.

**Rating System:** A maximum of 20 points will be awarded for each program completed. Five points will be awarded if you conduct a program below. In addition, up to 5 points will be awarded for each of the following: 1) a narrative explaining what you did; 2) picture(s); 3) newspaper article(s). Documentation and additional information should be attached to this report.

	Conducted Program	Documentation Included	No. Of Participants	Points Awarded
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SAFETY</b>				
Get out the Vote	_____	_____	_____	_____
Veteran of the Month	_____	_____	_____	_____
Gun Safety	_____	_____	_____	_____
Bicycle Safety	_____	_____	_____	_____
School Safety	_____	_____	_____	_____
Home Safety	_____	_____	_____	_____
Defensive Driving	_____	_____	_____	_____
Water Safety	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Comments: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**

American Education Week	_____	_____	_____	_____
Need A Lift?	_____	_____	_____	_____
American Legion School Award	_____	_____	_____	_____
Citizenship Day	_____	_____	_____	_____
Veterans in the Classroom	_____	_____	_____	_____
Patriotic Observances in the School	_____	_____	_____	_____
Educator of the Year	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Comments: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

American Legion Baseball	_____	_____	_____	_____
Junior Shooting Sports	_____	_____	_____	_____
American Legion Boys State	_____	_____	_____	_____
High School Oratorical	_____	_____	_____	_____
Boy Scouts of America	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Comments: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

PATRIOTIC HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Arbor Day	_____	_____	_____	_____
Flag Day	_____	_____	_____	_____
Independence Day	_____	_____	_____	_____
Memorial Day	_____	_____	_____	_____
Veterans Day	_____	_____	_____	_____
Patriots Day	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Comments: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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FLAG EDUCATION

Flags for First Graders	_____	_____	_____	_____
Flag Etiquette	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Comments: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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SERVICE TO GOD AND COUNTRY

Promote regular public worship	_____	_____	_____	_____
Promote daily family prayer	_____	_____	_____	_____
Promote religious education	_____	_____	_____	_____
Four Chaplains Program	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Comments: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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COUNTER SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

Counter-terrorism Education	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Comments: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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Signed (Post Americanism Officer) \_\_\_\_\_



# Custer Post #46 2019 Americanism Report

## *Narrative*

This narrative supports the Annual Post Americanism Report and is attached thereto as follows:

1. COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SAFETY.

a. Public Safety and Service Awards. Custer Post #46 public safety and service awards were presented at the annual American Legion Birthday Supper observed the evening of 17 March 2019 at Crazy Horse Memorial's Laughing Water Restaurant. 99 people attended. The Master of Ceremonies was Duane Martinz, with awards presented by Commander Hone.

Award	Name	Organization	Comments
Law Enforcement Officer	Eric Nelson	US Forest Service	Citation Attached
Firefighter	Bryan Ott	Custer VFD	Citation Attached
Emergency Medical	Holly Cotner	Custer Ambulance Svc.	Citation Attached
Search & Rescue	Doris Ann Mertz	Custer County SD S&R	Citation Attached
Educator of the Year	Jody Rounseville	Custer Elementary School	Citation Attached
Business of the Year	Jennifer Behlings	Jenny's Floral	Citation Attached

b. Custer Area Veterans Memorial Association. Custer Post #46 is a founding member of the association, which was created in early 2012. The mission of the association is to create a memorial park with suitable monuments to honor all Custer area veterans. The park was dedicated on 11 November 2018. The Post already maintains its re-dedicated Veterans' Memorial Flagpole in Way Park. Photo attached.

c. Cold Springs Historical Society. Custer Post #46 has a history of supporting the Cold Springs Historical Society. This support was renewed in 2011 with the Post's Life Membership in the Society. In 2018 the Post participated in Memorial Day and Wreaths Across America ceremonies at the Cold Springs Pioneer Cemetery. The Post donates both bronze war markers and flags for the society's Cold Springs Pioneer Cemetery veterans' graves.

d. Blood Donor Program. Commencing 17 August 2016 joined with Custer City Lodge #66 A.F. & A.M. to sponsor UBS blood drives. In the current reporting period the Post coordinated and conducted 6 drives totaling 347 donors, exceeding all goals. Due to this success, both the amount of drives in Custer and their goals have been increased for 2019. Photo attached.



# Custer Post #46 2019 Americanism Report

## *Narrative*

e. Honor Guard. The Custer Veterans Honor Guard provided services for 10 funerals and 10 patriotic events. Photo attached.

### 2. EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.

- a. On 21 November 2018 supported the Elk Mountain School's Veterans Day Program by donating American and South Dakota flags for the students' flag retirement/raising ceremony.
- b. On 14 December 2018 provided breakfast to 65 students, faculty, and staff at Custer Jr/Sr High School as part of the monthly Friday Morning ICU Program.
- c. On 20 March 2019 named Jody Rounseville of Custer Elementary School as Educator of the Year.

3. YOUTH ACTIVITIES. The Post continues to maintain and expand its youth activities. This has become so reliably important that this year, 13 February was again designated as "Legion Day" at Custer High School. This permitted introduction of multiple programs to the students.

a. American Legion Boys State. Because Custer County's only high school co-located with a Post is located in Custer City, Custer Post #46 administratively oversees the selection process of all the county's delegates to the American Legion SD Boys State with participation of Hermosa Post #303 (when desired). The 2019 program included Custer County, Custer High School, Custer School District (Home Schools), and Elk Mountain School District (with Home Schools). The process consisted of (timeline attached):

- (1) On 13 February 2019 introduced four interested boys from the Junior Classes to the Boys State program. This was a joint Boys & Girls States pizza lunch briefing at Custer High School.
- (2) Currently awaiting two online applications and statements of interest.
- (3) Interviews are scheduled for candidates on 20 March 2019.

b. Boy Scouts of America. Custer Post #46 supported "Scouting" this reporting period by;

- (1) Including Boy Scout Troop 25 and Cub Scout Pack 25 in the 2018 Memorial Day veterans' graves decoration; and,
- (2) Supplying roses for Cub Scout Pack 25 distribution to veterans on Veterans Day, 2017.



## Custer Post #46 2019 Americanism Report

### *Narrative*

c. Youth Trooper Academy. This SD American Legion/Highway Patrol program launched in 2012 is supervised by the Post's Vice Commander Glen Talley, a retired Law Enforcement Officer. The Post works closely with South Dakota Highway Patrol. This year's activities:

(1) On 13 February 2019 briefed the Custer High School Junior Class about the program. Awaiting applications.

d. Auxiliary Girls State. Custer Post #46 has integrated the Girls State program with its youth programs. The Post assists the Hermosa Unit #303 of the SD American Legion Auxiliary with the program that it manages for Custer County. Activities consisted of:

(1) On 13 February 2019 introduced five interested girls from the Junior Classes to the Girls State program. This was a joint Boys & Girls States pizza lunch briefing at Custer High School.

(2) One girl has already applied for Journalism City.

f. High School Rodeo Americanism Award. This new program was introduced to the Custer High School Rodeo Team in 2018. On 13 February 2019 nine team members were present at the briefing. All the rodeo team is interested in competing in this exciting new program!



## Custer Post #46 2019 Americanism Report *Narrative*

4. PATRIOTIC HOLIDAY PROGRAMS. Custer Post #46 conducts and sponsors numerous patriotic holiday programs. They are described as follows:

a. Advertisements (attached) for holidays in honor of specific war eras:

Armed Forces Day	-	Lebanon and Granada
Pan American Day	-	Operation Just Cause
Memorial Day		
Flag Day		
Independence Day		
Korean War Veterans Armistice	-	Korean War
Patriot Day	-	Global War On Terror
Armistice Day	-	Bells of Peace
Veterans Day	-	World War I and all Veterans
Pearl Harbor Day	-	World War II

b. Independence Day.

(1) Custer Post #46 participated in Custer City's 2018 "Old Time Country Fourth" as follows:

- (a) Participated in the parade:  
Convertible with Vietnam Veteran Legionnaires Glen and Donna Talley. Parade entry consisting of 10 veteran combat service support vehicles appropriately decorated with flags, bunting, and American Legion magnetic decals.  
VA's Mobile Veterans Center arranged by and part of Post's entry.
- (b) Created Custer's first military vehicle show.
- (c) Participated in the Veterans Memorial Park Flag Ceremony.
- (d) Created and co-sponsored the Patriots Picnic at the Senior Center.
- (e) Coordinated Veterans Outreach at the Patriots Picnic by the VA Center's Tahoe.

(2) Post #46 conducted its American flag fundraiser on Independence Day at various locations in Custer. This high-visibility activity is the Post's oldest recurring fundraiser and is well-supported by the community and visitors.



## Custer Post #46 2019 Americanism Report

### *Narrative*

c. Memorial Day. Custer Post #46 works closely with the Custer City Cemetery Sexton to maintain a veterans' graves registry. The Post also marks all veterans' graves for Memorial Day with bronze flag holders and American Flags which it purchases. Approximately 500 Custer veterans' graves were decorated on 25 May with flag removal on 29 May. Assisting were Custer Boy Scout Troop 25, Custer Cub Scout Pack 25, Custer Girl Scouts, SD DAR Harney Peak Chapter, and local volunteers. Newspaper photographs attached.

d. Legion Lake Lodge Annual Opening. Each year Custer Post #46 renews its ties to its namesake, Legion Lake Lodge. On the lodge's 12 May 2018 annual opening, members raised the American and Legion flags in front of the lodge. The flags remained flying until the day's closing when they were lowered by the Post's Color Guard. An American flag and South Dakota state flag were then donated to Legion Lake Lodge to fly for the rest of the season.

e. Veterans Day. This Post #46 sponsored event is conducted by all schools in Custer. Planned by the Custer High School senior class with guidance from Post #46, this 1-hour program honoring veterans is conducted in the old Custer Armory. All classes participate with every veteran individually recognized and presented a rose and thank you note for their service. The guest speaker was South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Larry Zimmerman. Attendance was standing room only at 500+ with extensive press and television coverage. Newspaper articles and photographs attached.

f. Pearl Harbor Day. Six WWII veterans were honored during the National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day program on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Custer Senior Center. The program, sponsored by the 1881 Courthouse Museum, Custer American Legion Post 46, Custer Senior Center and Custer VFW Post 3442, honored the county's WWII veterans through displays, speeches, stories, gifts, and dinner. While only five veterans could attend, Custer County's 10 known living WWII veterans were all honored. Newspaper article and photographs attached.

g. Legion Birthday. Though not a holiday, the American Legion Birthday is observed annually by Custer Post #46. Always well received, this year's birthday supper at Crazy Horse Memorial was attended by 99 on 17 March 2019 with Public Safety/Service awards, membership awards, and special awards presentations following as part of the program. Pins awarded were:





## Custer Post #46 2019 Americanism Report *Narrative*

Award	Legionnaire
5-year Continuous Membership Pin	Peter Burkett, Donna Talley
10-year Continuous Membership Pin	Ralph Kelley
15-year Continuous Membership Pin	David Fluck
20-year Continuous Membership Pin	Charles Najacht
25-year Continuous Membership Pin	Jack Larsen
35-year Continuous Membership Pin	Paul Larson
40-year Continuous Membership Pin	Randolph Skott
45-year Continuous Membership Pin	Robert Hugelmann, Richard Nolte
50-year Continuous Membership Pin & Certificate	Edwin Thompson
Bronze Blood Donor	Douglas Faaborg, Ernest Thornell
Silver Blood Donor	Jerry Burnham, Franklin Raffaell, Michael Smaydy, Corey Virtue

Special awards presented were:

Award	Recipient (s)
2018 Boys State Citizenship	Drew Hanson
Student Americanism	Dakota Prior
Outstanding Host	Crazy Horse Memorial
Master of Ceremonies	Duane Martinz

(Photos taken but not available at time of this report.)



# Custer Post #46 2019 Americanism Report

## *Narrative*

5. FLAG EDUCATION. Custer Post #46 participated in four flag education events during this reporting period:

a. Etiquette. Conducted the “For Which It Stands” flag education program with the entire Junior Class of Custer High School on Loyalty Day, 01 May 2018.

b. Parade the Colors. Color Guard led the Patriots Parade in Custer’s Independence Day “Old Time Country Fourth”.

c. Retire/Raise the Colors. Custer City’s official Independence Day flag event, this ceremony retires Custer City’s massive United States Flag and raises a new one to fly continuously until retirement on the eve of the next Independence Day.

d. Color Ceremony. Supervised Elk Mountain School students conducting the flag ceremony as part of their 21 November 2018 Veterans Day Program.

6. SERVICE TO GOD AND COUNTRY. Custer Post #46 conducts and participates in several Service to God and Country programs. They are described as follows:

a. Taps. The Post is dedicated to honoring the memory of all area departed veterans. This is accomplished through several interlocking Post programs and participation in related separate projects as described below:

(1) Graves Registration. The Post Service Officer, as Graves Registration Officer, works closely with the Custer City Sexton, the Pringle Cemetery Sexton, and the Cold Springs Historical Society to ensure veterans gravesites in the Custer and Pringle city cemeteries and Pioneer Cemetery are properly identified and recorded. This, in turn, supports other Post programs to honor departed veterans such as the Memorial Day veterans’ graves decoration.

(2) Final Roll Call. The Post is particularly concerned that it honors its departed Legionnaires. The Post has expended great effort to obtain digital obituaries of its departed Legionnaires back to 2005. Sympathy cards are sent when timely & appropriate. Funerals are attended when possible. Online guest books are signed with appropriate sentiments by the Commander. The Post Charter is draped in mourning for the month following death. And the departed Legionnaires’ names are read at the annual Veterans Day program. Finally the Legionnaires’ obituaries are included on the Post’s website, [www.custerlegion46.org](http://www.custerlegion46.org), as a lasting tribute.



# Custer Post #46 2019 Americanism Report

## *Narrative*

(3) Last Salute. The Post also honors its recently departed area veterans who were not Legionnaires. Online guest books are signed with appropriate sentiments by the Public Affairs Officer and Graves Registration Officer. The departed veterans' names are read at the annual Veterans Day program. Links to their memorial webpages are maintained on the Post's website until read at the Veterans Day program. And their digital obituaries are both shared with the County Veteran Service Officer and retained for historical purposes.

b. Missing In America Project. This organization is dedicated to ensuring that no veteran's cremated remains are abandoned and forgotten. It locates such "cremains" and ensures that they receive proper burial with appropriate military honors. Custer Post #46 supports this project through its 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, Glen Talley, who is the "West River" coordinator of the project.

c. Wreaths Across America. Custer Post #46 participates in this annual event at the Cold Springs Pioneer Cemetery by Pringle, SD and the Custer City Cemetery in Custer, SD. Both events were conducted on 15 December 2018 just ahead of a winter storm which limited attendance.

d. Grave Marker Program. Commencing 23 August 2016, the Post participates in a joint veterans program setting and replacing veterans' grave markers. To date, two VA grave markers have been set with others identified for re-setting or replacement.

7. COUNTER SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. Custer Post #46 had no counter subversive activities events during this reporting period.

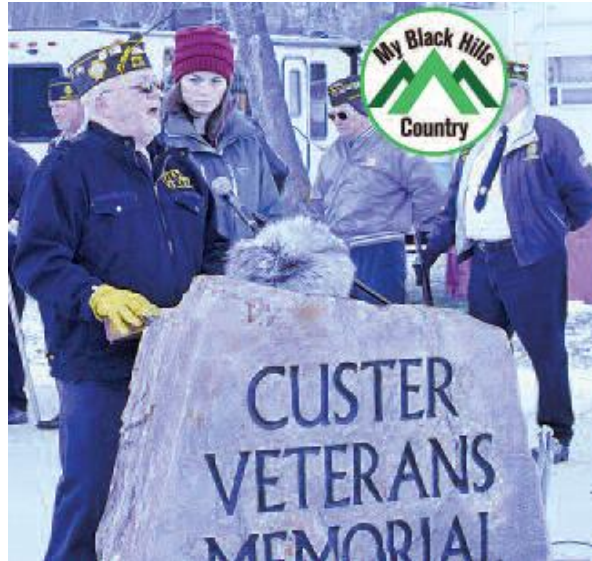
8. IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION ACTIVITIES. Custer Post #46 had no immigration and naturalization activities events during this reporting period.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Mills  
Americanism Officer

# Community Service & Safety

## Custer Veterans Memorial Association



**VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION** — A crowd braved temperatures in the 20s at 8 o'clock Sunday morning to attend the dedication of the Custer Area Veterans Memorial Park. Memorial association president Tony Gonsor, left, welcomed those in attendance and introduced board member Ember Fluck, right, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. [CCC Photo/RON BURTZ]



**VET'S ESTATE HELPS VETERANS MEMORIAL** — Cost overruns in the construction of the new Custer Veterans Memorial on Washington Street had left the project with a deficit. However, a \$15,000 donation from the estate of Custer veteran Delmer Brown will hopefully provide funds to complete the memorial. The check was presented at the conclusion of the July 4 flag lowering/raising ceremony by Heath Lowry, front, second from left, to Tony Gonsor, third from left, president of the Memorial Association. From left, back, are Master Chief Petty Officer Steve Hone, Rob Shay, Paul Miller, Callahan Cundy, Paul Larson, Ernie Thornell, Corbin Herman; front, Larry Maciejewski, Lowry, Gonsor, American Legion Commander Don Hone, VFW Commander Peggy White, Jim Hattervig and Ed Thompson. [CCC Photo/RON BURTZ]

# For those who served

## *Veterans Memorial dedication is culmination of six-year journey*

A community-wide process that began more than six years ago will finally come to fruition this Sunday at 8 a.m. when the Custer Area Veterans Memorial Park is dedicated. Several members of the memorial association, the group responsible for planning and constructing the memorial park on the south end of 5th Street in Custer, met Monday morning at the Senior Citizens Center to discuss final plans. Jim Hattervig talked about the original vision for the memorial which came from a conversation he had with former Custer Mayor Gary Lipp when they were serving on the city council in 2012.

“He just mentioned we ought to have a veterans memorial. And I was commander of the VFW then and I got to thinking about that a little bit. And as I thought it through, the VFW couldn’t handle that alone so I called up Mark [Mills] and Dave Fluck [of the American Legion] and we met at the Wrangler a couple times.”

From those informal meetings in early 2012, it was decided to form a nonprofit corporation called the Custer Area Veterans Memorial Association. The founding meeting was held July 18, 2012.

Hattervig had decided that as commander of the VFW and a city council member, he shouldn’t head up the association, so he

tapped Tony Gonsor, who had prior experience in building such memorials, to be the association president. Gonsor said at first the committee was made up of three members from the VFW and three from the Legion, but soon decided to include members who were not veterans to get a broader range of vision and support. Bringing on board nonveterans like Custer Senior Center director Jill Kettle, high school student Ember Fluck and Dave Hazeltine turned out to be a great idea. Gonsor said Kettle wrote grants for the association and Hazeltine was instrumental in helping the group get a \$5,000 grant. As chairman, Gonsor takes little credit for the success of the project, saying, “I’ve worked with a lot of committees and this is the best committee I’ve ever worked with. We don’t always see eye to eye, but we iron it out.” The city of Custer provided the property for the memorial and it will remain a city park. Gonsor said when the project is completed, the association will turn over any leftover funds to the city for ongoing maintenance. A groundbreaking ceremony was held Sept. 19, 2012, and the Custer Area Chamber of Commerce said it was one of the largest ground-breakings they had been a part of. The group is happy about the location which catches the eye as visitors come down the hill into

Custer on Highway 385. “It’s a perfect location for us,” said Gonsor, who said the park will be the focal point for Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day observances for years to come. He said its central location away from heavy traffic noise will make it a better venue than the Custer Cemetery for such ceremonies. Names of veterans will be printed on bricks which will be mounted on large slanting steel stands. Organizers say the bricks won’t be in any particular order except for the grouping of family members and other requested groupings. Furthermore, the memorial is not limited to veterans from the Custer area. Association director Mark Mills said it’s the Custer area’s memorial to all veterans. Association director Ken Irwin said bricks may be purchased for anyone who has worn a U.S. military uniform and has received an honorable discharge. “A few years ago the state changed the definition of veteran,” Irwin said. “The new definition includes National Guard people who have never been deployed.” Gonsor said a number of out-of-state visitors have purchased bricks for friends and relatives from all over. Someone bought a brick in honor of WWII hero Audie Murphy, and George Armstrong Custer will also have a brick. “I had one little girl in



the first booth we set up in Way Park,” said Gonsor, “She bought a brick for her dad. And I said, ‘Does your dad have any connection to Custer?’ She said, ‘No. But now he has to come and see his brick.’”

About 600 bricks have been purchased so far, but there is room for 1,900 bricks, said Gonsor. “We’ll always have veterans, and if we don’t, we’re in trouble,” he said.

The steel platforms that

will hold the bricks were recently installed, along with two additional flagpoles on either side of the large American flagpole. They will display the South Dakota state flag and the POW/MIA flag.

Gonsor said the group will wait until spring to install the bricks and epoxy them together, but the lights are expected to be installed before the ceremony on Sunday.

Association members

expressed their appreciation for the many hours of volunteer work and materials donated by the people of Custer. A group of former Marines from Sioux Falls called Rolling Thunder donated a marble bench and local Girl Scouts built and planted two planter boxes for the park.

Sunday’s dedication program will begin at 8 a.m. and will be followed by a reception at the VFW post home.

A promotional poster for Veterans Day. At the top, a blue banner contains the text "Join us as we honor our Veterans" in white. Below this is a bald eagle in flight against a blue sky, positioned over a large, stylized American flag that appears to be draped and waving. The words "VETERANS DAY" are written in large, bold, blue-outlined white letters across the eagle and flag. Below that, "Custer Veterans Memorial Park Dedication" is written in a similar blue-outlined white font. A dark blue brushstroke-style banner contains the date and time: "Sunday, NOV 11, 2018 - 8 AM". Below this, on a black background, are the event details: "Reception following Dedication - VFW", "Memorial Service at Custer Veterans Memorial Park - 11 AM", and "Community Potluck at VFW - Noon". At the bottom, a blue banner contains the sponsors: "Sponsored by American Legion Post 46 - VFW Post 3442 - Citizens and Businesses of Custer".

**Join us as we honor our Veterans**

**VETERANS DAY**

**Custer Veterans Memorial Park Dedication**

**Sunday, NOV 11, 2018 - 8 AM**

*Reception following Dedication - VFW*  
*Memorial Service at Custer Veterans Memorial Park - 11 AM*  
*Community Potluck at VFW - Noon*

Sponsored by American Legion Post 46 - VFW Post 3442 -  
- Citizens and Businesses of Custer

# Blood Donor Program



**COMMUNITY SERVICE** - Custer City Masonic Lodge No. 66 A.F. & A.M. and American Legion Post No. 46 were recently honored by United Blood Services with its Community Service Award. The award was presented by donor recruitment representative Jeremy Waddell, who said, "Your constant attention to detail and relentless commitment...are essential to countless lives being saved. Your drive has become one of my top performing drives." The Masons and American Legion sponsor six blood drives a year. The next drive is scheduled for Aug. 10. Pictured is blood drive coordinator Ralph Sowder accepting the UBS award on behalf of Custer City Lodge No. 66 and American Legion Post No. 46, both of which he is a member. [Submitted Photo]



## Custer Veterans Joint Honor Guard



Members of the Custer Honor Guard, comprised of members of both Custer VFW Post 3442 and Custer American Legion Post 46, stand at attention during last Saturday morning's Veterans Day program at the Veterans Memorial. [CCC Photo]



# Youth Activities

## 2018 Boys State



**BOYS STATE DELEGATE** — Drew Hanson of Hills City, SD meeting Senator Mark Rounds. Hanson is the Custer Post #46 delegate to the 2018 session of South Dakota Boys State. [Submitted Photo/: Hill City Prevailier]

## 2018 Girls State



**GIRLS STATE BOUND** — Custer High School juniors Katy Bradeen and Paige Myrick are headed for 2018 Girls State. From left are Don Hone, commander of American Legion Post No. 46, Bradeen, Myrick, Custer High School instructor, American Legion Auxiliary member and Girls State assistant director Tiffany Newman and Custer County Legion vice-commander Ralph Sowder. The girls were selected and are sponsored by Battle Creek Unit No. 303, American Legion Auxiliary of Hermosa. The 72nd Session of South Dakota Girls State is scheduled for May 28 through June 2 at the University of South Dakota at Vermillion. [CCC Photo/RON BURTZ]

## 2018 Youth Trooper Academy



**TROOPER CADET** — Tanah Oestmann, a junior at Custer High School, has been selected to attend the South Dakota Youth Trooper Academy next month. She is one of only 24 students statewide to be selected for the academy, and only the second cadet from Custer High School in the program's history. The Youth Trooper program is sponsored jointly by the South Dakota American Legion and the South Dakota Highway Patrol, and will take place at the state Law Enforcement Training Academy in Pierre beginning June 25. It is an intensive week-long training program for young adults from diverse backgrounds. Pictured with Oestmann are Don Hone, commander of American Legion Post No. 46 in Custer, left, and Custer County American Legion Vice Commander Ralph Sowder, right. [CCC Photo/RON BURTZ]

# Patriotic Holiday Programs

Advertisements

## Armed Forces Day

**Guster VFW Post 3442 & American Legion Post 46**  
**ARMED FORCES DAY SPRING FUNG 2018**  
May 19 • VFW Post • 721 Mt Rushmore Rd  
Noon to Close

**LIVE MUSIC!**  
2-6PM - SOPHIA BEATTY  
7-11PM - JJ KENT

**Commemorating Veterans from:**

- OPERATION GRENADA 1983 URGENT FURY**  
SPONSORED BY VFW Post 3442
- PIG ROAST SIDES**  
SPONSORED BY VFW Post 3442
- AUXILIARY DESSERTS**  
SPONSORED BY GUSTER AMERICAN LEGION Post 46

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Col (Ret.) Joe Becker**  
Air Commando  
Special Operations  
Hall of Famer  
&  
Veteran of Panama

**Operation Just Cause 1989-1990**  
PANAMA INVASION  
COMBAT VETERAN

**Proudly sponsored by VFW Post 3442 and American Legion Post 46**



## Pan American Day

*This Pan American Day, please pause and remember those who restored liberty to Panama in a "Just Cause"*



**April 14th**  
**Pan American Day**

**Custer-Post-#46,-American-Legion**



## Memorial Day



*Salute* our fallen  
*Veterans*

All are cordially invited to join  
Custer Post #46  
American Legion  
for  
Veterans graves decoration  
at  
Custer City Cemetery

Friday • May 25 • 5 p.m.

## Flag Day

# FLAG DAY

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

**CELEBRATE  
BY FLYING A NEW FLAG!**

Please remember

To retire old flags with dignity.  
Turn in old, unserviceable flags  
for final retirement to:

Custer American Legion Post #46  
Custer VFW Post #3442

## Independence Day



## Korean War Veterans Armistice Day





# Patriot Day



The American Legion request that all observe *September 11*

*Patriot Day*

9 · 11 · 01



**REMEMBER**

by honoring our Responders & Veterans of the Global War on Terror

**CUSTER POST #46**

# Armistice Day





Commemorating 100 Years Since Armistice Day  
The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> Day of the 11<sup>th</sup> Month.



1918-2018

**BELLS OF PEACE**

A World War I Remembrance



**HELP HONOR THE BRAVE AMERICANS THAT FOUGHT TO PRESERVE LIBERTY AT HOME AND ABROAD.**  
**DOWNLOAD THE "BELLS OF PEACE" APP AND JOIN THOSE NATIONWIDE LISTENING LIVE AS THE BELLS TOLL THEIR REMEMBRANCE.**

[www.worldwar1centennial.org](http://www.worldwar1centennial.org)

Custer American Legion Post #46



# Independence Day



## July 4 events start Sunday

Custer residents and visitors alike are invited to Custer's annual celebration of the birth of our nation with the Old Time Country Fourth, a four-day event that begins Sunday. The events get underway July 1 with the beginning of the arts and crafts fair at the 1881 Courthouse Museum on Mt. Rushmore Road. Nearly two dozen vendors and exhibitors will participate in the arts and crafts fair, offering food, ice cream products and entertainment. Included in this year's exhibitors and vendors will be Mothers & Daughters handmade jewelry, hand painted saws and other items, Tumbleweed Designs, Buffalo Valley Soaps, Rainbow Rock Art, Custer Piecemakers Quilt Guild, Galvan's Crafts, Heavenly Treasures, Little Luxuries, Ron Ackerson's Antlers, Wood Toys & Leather Goods and Wild Horse Boutiques. Food vendors will include George Regan's Chuckwagon, Burrito Xpresso, Yummy Dark Chocolate and Stone's Famous Kettle Corn. As a special feature, this ickteigs, who will demonstrate dutch oven cooking from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. Information on joining the dutch oven cooking

club will be available. A new addition this year is entertainment in the courtroom on July 2-3 at 3 p.m. Allen and Jill Kirkham will perform on July 2 and Peggy Douglas will perform Badger Clark poems she has put to music on July 3. On Monday, July 2, the arts and crafts fair resumes from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and again the following day, Tuesday, July 3. Also on July 3 will be a children's fair from noon to 3 p.m. at Way Park. That same afternoon from 1-4 p.m. there will be live music at Way Park. A flaglowering and folding ceremony will conclude the day's events at 7:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial at Washington and 5th streets. The children's fair will have old-fashioned games such as a bean bag toss, knock-over wood pile, basketball game, corn hole, ring toss and bubble blowing. For the children to get in the patriotic spirit, there will be a self-serve face painting area. This year's concessions will be provided by the Cub Scouts on July 3 and the Custer County Mounties 4-H Club July 4. Each child visiting the fair will receive a special gift.

The entertainment schedule on July 3 will be Black Hills Ukulele Orchestra, Keith Burden, Black Hills Cloggers in Motion and JJ Kent (Native American flute and storytelling). This year there are some special additions to the children's fair. The Planters NUTmobile and Mr. Peanut will be there to hang with all his nutty buddies on July 3-4. Peanutters will pass out peanut samples, Nutmobile stickers and will have some games for everyone to play. The children's fair will also have a 20-foot Native American tipi on July 3 and Kent will explain to children what it was like to live in a tipi and how people lived off the land. The arts and crafts fair begins once more on Wednesday, July 4, at 10 a.m., running until 6 p.m. Also at 10 a.m. is the Kids' and Patriots' parades featuring children on bicycles, wagons, carts and other forms of transportation decorated in patriotic themes riding through downtown Custer, as well as military personnel, veterans and first responders. Children who wish to be in the Kids' Parade should meet at 9 a.m. at the Custer Skate Park on 8th Street across from Lynn's



Dakotamart.

A U.S. Air Force B-1 Bomber from Ellsworth will fly over downtown Custer to kick-start the parades. The Patriots' Parade marshal will be Marty Mahrt of Custer to honor his service as a pilot in the Vietnam War. Special guests honored in the parade include new VFW Post 3442 commander Peggy White, World War II veterans Harold Stickney, Floyd Mills and Roy Roadifer, Col. John Edwards, the commander of the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base, the American Legion state vice commander and District 2 commander and new U.S. citizen Sara Bishop. The Patriots' Picnic, hosted by Custer VFW,

American Legion and Senior Center, will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the senior center. It will run until 1 p.m. Following the parade, the Rapid City Veterans Center will be located next to the senior center to assist veterans with obtaining VA benefits.

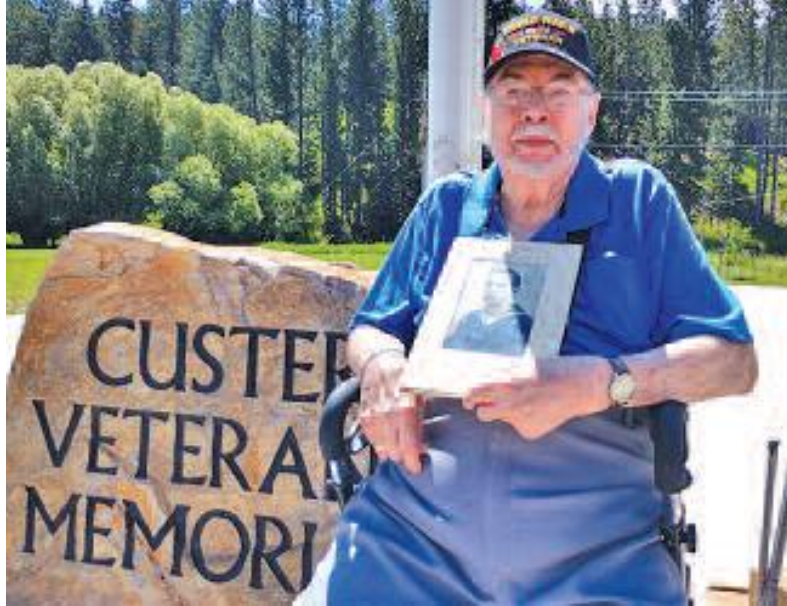
A flag-raising ceremony will commence at the Veterans Memorial at 11 a.m., as will the children's fair at Way Park, which will run until 4 p.m. A deejay will play music on stage during the children's fair. "President Roosevelt," Gib Young, will visit Custer on July 4. He will be in the Patriots' Parade, flag-raising ceremony and Patriots' Picnic.

A new event this year is the Military Vehicle Show. The military vehicles that

are in the parade will be on display at the Custer Area Chamber of Commerce parking lot. The show will start after the parade around 11:15 a.m. and run until 2 p.m. The local Civil Air Patrol squadron will have an information table for Wreaths Across America. The celebration will conclude the evening of July 4 with the annual Custer Volunteer Fire Department-sponsored fireworks show at around 9:30 p.m. at Pageant Hill. Prior to the show, music will be played on the hill at 8th and Canal streets. For more information, contact the Custer Area Chamber of Commerce at 673-2244 or visit [custersd.com](http://custersd.com)



Harold Stickney was one of the local World War II veterans who were honored in the Patriots' Parade July 4.



**THEN AND NOW** — Floyd Mills of Custer sits in front of the Custer Veterans Memorial last July 4 while holding a photo of himself after graduating boot camp. Mills, a Navy veteran of World War II, was among the Custer WWII veterans honored during the Patriots' Parade on Independence Day. [Submitted Photo]



Veterans lower and prepare to fold the flag before raising it again. The 11 a.m. program included singing of the National Anthem, a 21-gun salute and an explanation of the meaning of each fold of the flag.

**Serving all Veterans and Armed Forces Members**



**Veteran Center**

**Next to the  
Custer Senior  
Center**

**Independence Day after the Patriots Parade**



**PATRIOT PICNIC JULY 4TH**

**10:30 AM TO 1:00 PM**

**AT THE CUSTER SENIOR CENTER**

**PICNIC FARE FOR ALL VETERANS,  
RESPONDERS AND THEIR FAMILIES!**

SPONSORED BY:  
CUSTER AMERICAN LEGION POST #46,  
CUSTER SENIOR CENTER & CUSTER VFW POST #3442

## Card of Thanks

My road to citizenship has been a real journey for me, and I would like to thank everyone who supported me through the process. From Judy Kellogg who drove with me to Sioux Falls and tested me relentlessly in the lead up to my interview (I may not have made it without your help) to all my friends and colleagues who took the time to come to the Mount Rushmore ceremony and

support me, I'm so happy you all came along for the ride. The love and support given by friends and strangers has been overwhelming and humbling and I am so proud to finally be a part of this great nation. Thanks also to the Custer Chamber and Mark Mills and the American Legion for honoring me on the 4th of July and inviting me to be in the parade. I am truly blessed. **Sara Bishop**

# Memorial Day

## Memorial Day activities set

Custer County will host several Memorial Day activities Monday, May 28. Planned events are as follows: On Friday, Custer American Legion Post 46 members will be joined by Custer Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Crazy Horse Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol and the Harney Peak Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to decorate the graves of service members at Custer Cemetery, beginning at 5 p.m. On Memorial Day, May 28, events will start with the Hermosa American Legion Post 303 decorating graves at the Hermosa Cemetery. That will be followed by the flags at both Way Park and the Custer

Cemetery being lowered to half mast by the Custer American Legion and Custer VFW Post 3442, respectively, at 8 a.m. Also at 8 a.m., Memorial Day ceremonies will take place at Fairburn Cemetery. That will kick off a string of such ceremonies around the county, including at the Hermosa Cemetery and Cold Springs Cemetery at 9 a.m., the Pringle Cemetery at 10 a.m. and at the Custer Cemetery at 11 a.m. Also at 10 a.m. on Memorial Day, the Hermosa American Legion will have coffee and rolls at its post home. At noon on Memorial Day, Custer American Legion and Custer VFW will reraise the colors at noon at Way Park and



# In Remembrance



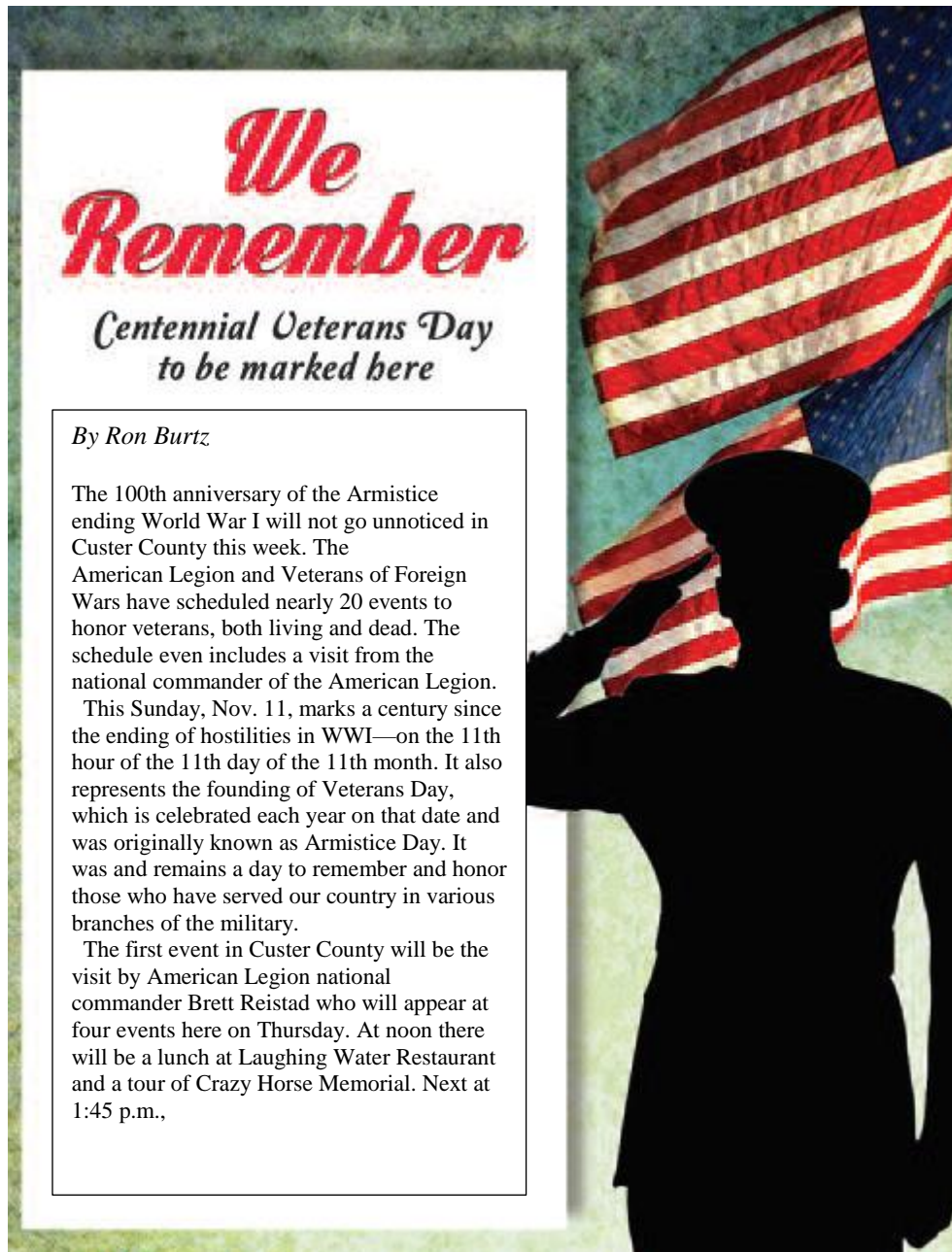
**HONORING THE FALLEN** — Local veteran Dick Nolte was among those who spent time last Friday evening decorating the graves of war veterans at Custer Cemetery. Members of the Custer American Legion, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Crazy Horse Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol and the Harney Peak Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution all pitched in to put American flags at each veteran's grave. [CCC Photo/**JASON FERGUSON**]





**IN THEIR HONOR** — War veterans buried in the Custer Cemetery were once again honored by local organizations over a beautiful Memorial Day weekend that also saw some heavy rain. Expect a reprieve from the heavy rain this week, with fewer storms predicted. [CCC Photo/**JASON FERGUSON**]

# Veterans Day



*We Remember*  
*Centennial Veterans Day*  
*to be marked here*

*By Ron Burtz*

The 100th anniversary of the Armistice ending World War I will not go unnoticed in Custer County this week. The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars have scheduled nearly 20 events to honor veterans, both living and dead. The schedule even includes a visit from the national commander of the American Legion.

This Sunday, Nov. 11, marks a century since the ending of hostilities in WWI—on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. It also represents the founding of Veterans Day, which is celebrated each year on that date and was originally known as Armistice Day. It was and remains a day to remember and honor those who have served our country in various branches of the military.

The first event in Custer County will be the visit by American Legion national commander Brett Reistad who will appear at four events here on Thursday. At noon there will be a lunch at Laughing Water Restaurant and a tour of Crazy Horse Memorial. Next at 1:45 p.m.,

Reistad will tour Operation Black Hills Cabin. Then after a drive through Custer State Park there will be a dinner at Hermosa's American Legion Post Home. Mark Mills of Custer American Legion Post #46 said the visit "will provide area veterans the opportunity

to meet Reistad in casual settings at Crazy Horse Memorial and Hermosa." School children and their parents will have an opportunity to learn some WW I history on Friday at the local premier showing of the animated film "Sgt. Stubby." The film portrays the true story of a stray dog

who joins his new master on the battlefields of France. For his valorous actions, Sgt. Stubby is still recognized as the first canine ever to be promoted to the rank of sergeant and the most decorated dog in American history. The film will be shown courtesy of the American



Legion at Custer High School Theater at 7 p.m. Admission is \$2 which will go to the CHS Student Council.

On Saturday, Nov. 10, the Legion will hold a flag retirement/raising ceremony at Way Park near the courthouse at 4:35 p.m.

Starting things off on Veterans Day will be the Custer Veterans Memorial dedication ceremony at 8 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park on Washington Street. Following the ceremony there will be a reception at 8:30 a.m. at the VFW #3442 Post Home. See the article on the journey to completion of the memorial elsewhere in this week's *Chronicle*.

The official Veterans Day Ceremony sponsored by the VFW will take place at 11:11 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park, followed by a potluck lunch at the VFW Post Home at noon. In Hermosa, the day will be observed with a soup and chili feed sponsored by Hermosa American Legion Post #303 at the post home at 4 p.m.

The celebration continues on Monday, Nov. 12, starting with a flag-raising ceremony at Hermosa School at 7:45 a.m.

Throughout the morning veterans will visit Hermosa

classrooms and a moment of silence will be observed at Hermosa School at 11:11 a.m. At noon veterans are encouraged to join Hermosa students for lunch at the school and there will also be a POW/MIA ceremony. The Hermosa Veterans Day Program will take place at 2:15 p.m. at the school, which will be followed by a veterans reception at 3:15 p.m.

In Custer the Veterans Day observance begins at 10:50 a.m. with the Veterans Day dinner at Custer Elementary. Students are encouraged to invite a veteran to join them for a roast turkey lunch which will be provided at no charge to the veterans. The cost for other guests is \$3.60.

A Veterans Day lunch is also planned for Custer Jr./Sr. High starting at 10:47 a.m.

At 2 p.m. students will be transported to the Custer Armory for the 24th annual student-run Veterans Day program to which the public is also invited.

The program will include flag posting by the Civil Air Patrol, patriotic music performed by all classes as well as the band and choir, a POW/MIA ceremony and a remembrance

of veterans who have died in a past year. Individual recognition of each veteran in attendance will be conducted by Custer Cub Scouts and the sixth grade class.

Keynote speaker will be Larry Zimmerman, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. The program will be followed by a veterans social at 3 p.m. in the Armory lunch room.

The day culminates with a veterans visit by Cub Scouts at Custer Regional Senior Care at 4:30 p.m.

On Nov. 21 there will be a Veterans Day program at Elk Mountain School at a time to be announced later.

When World War I ended on Nov. 11, 1918, bells pealed out across Europe and America at 11 a.m. to mark the signing of the Armistice. Since there are few church bells left in our communities these days, the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission has devised a plan for having cell phones ring bells across the country at 11 a.m. local time on Sunday.

Participation in the program is free and more information can be found



**NATIONAL COMMANDER VISITS** — American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad, left, was given a Crazy Horse belt buckle and other gifts during a stop for lunch at Crazy Horse Memorial on Thursday. Presenting the gifts was Custer American Legion commander Don Hohn, right. About 20 local veterans attended the informal lunch which was part of Reistad's statewide tour last week. Reistad was also supposed to visit Operation Black Hills Cabin in Custer but due to changes in his schedule was unable to take the tour. After a visit to Mt. Rushmore in the afternoon Reistad had dinner with veterans in Hermosa at the American Legion Post Home. [CCC Photo/RON BURTZ]

SPECIAL SCREENING

LOGAN LERMAN    HELENA BONHAM CARTER    GERARD DEPARDIEU

**SGT. STUBBY**

AN AMERICAN HERO

The Incredible True Story of America's Top War Dog

**Movie Premiere • November 9 • 7PM**  
**CUSTER JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL THEATER**  
 Tickets: \$2<sup>00</sup> • Proceeds going to Student Council  
 Sponsored by Custer Post #46, American Legion



**LUNCH WITH A VETERAN** — Custer Elementary School students were encouraged to invite a veteran to have lunch with them at school on Monday in observance of Veterans Day. Garrett Weiand, right, invited his dad, Donny Weiand, for the roast turkey dinner courtesy of Lunchtime Solutions. [CCC Photo/RON BURTZ]



**A ROSE OF HONOR** — Custer Cub Scout Daniel Ferraro, left, presents a single red rose to veteran and former VFW Commander Jim Hattervig at the 24th Annual Veterans Day Program on Monday. A large crowd filled the Custer Armory for the program of songs, poems and speeches presented by the students of Custer schools. [CCC Photo/RON BURTZ]





# Veterans Day

Honoring All Who Serve & Sacrifice

NOVEMBER 11, 2018



**EVENTS**

**Friday, 09 November 2018:**

- 7:00 pm 'Sgt. Stubby' Movie Premier** - Custer Post #46 will host in the Custer Jr/Sr High School Theater the South Dakota premier showing of a new animated movie.
- Sunday, 11 November 2018:**
- 8:00 am Custer Veterans Memorial Dedication** - The Custer Area Veterans Memorial Association will dedicate the new Veterans Memorial Park at the park. Dedication will include a speaker, flag ceremonies, and the Custer Veterans Honor Guard.
- 8:30 am (approximately) Custer Veterans Memorial Reception** - Following dedication ceremonies, the Custer Area Veterans Memorial Association will host a reception at the Custer VFW building.
- 11:00 am Bells of Peace** - Area bells will toll 21 times in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of WWI Armistice. Individuals are requested to enable their smartphones to simultaneously ring bells by downloading a free app available at [www.warriorcentermichigan.org](http://www.warriorcentermichigan.org)
- 11:00 am VFW Veterans Day Ceremony** - At the Custer Veterans Memorial Park flagpole, Custer VFW Post #462 will conduct ceremonies with speaker and the Custer Veterans Honor Guard.
- 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Veterans Day Pot Luck Lunch** - A pot luck lunch will be held at the Custer VFW building. The lunch is open to all with the request that attendees bring a favorite dish to share.
- 4:00 pm Soup & Chili Feed** - Hermosa's Battle Creek Post #523, American Legion Post Home.

**Monday, 12 November 2018:**

- 7:45 am - 8:30 pm Hermosa School Veterans Day Program** - Extensive activities will be conducted throughout the day with Battle Creek Post #303, American Legion, at the Hermosa School.
- 10:55 am to 12:25 pm Custer Elementary School Veterans Dinner** - Veterans are personally invited by students to dine with them. This is the second annual Veterans Dinner.
- 10:47am Custer Jr/Sr High School Veterans Dinner** - Veterans are personally invited by students to dine with them. This is the first such dinner at the Custer Jr/Sr High School.
- 2 pm Custer School District 24th Annual Veterans Day Program** - The program in the Custer Armory is sponsored by Custer American Legion Post #46 and co-chaired by the students. It consists of Civil Air Patrol flag pooling, patriotic music performed by all classes, the Seal and the Color Pledge ceremony, remembrance of deceased veterans from the past year, individual recognition of each veteran in attendance by Custer Cub Scouts Girl Scouts and the 8th Grade Class, and Civil Air Patrol flag retirement.
- Veterans Snacks & Social** - This event immediately follows the CSD Veterans Day Program in the Custer Armory. Coined jointly by the Custer County Democratic and Republican parties, it provides light snacks and beverages to our veterans and an opportunity for them to relax and chat.
- 4:30 pm (approximately) Nursing Home Visit** - Custer Cub Scout Pack 25 will honor resident veterans at the Custer Regional Senior Care Center. Working with the Custer Regional Senior Care staff, Pack 25 will visit the nursing home to honor each resident veteran with a rouse and a hand-drawn card.

**Elk Mountain School**

**Wednesday, 21 November 2018:**

- This year's program will be conducted Wednesday, 21 November at the Elk Mountain Schoolhouse. Some convenient times to be announced.
- Every year students of the Elk Mountain School present a program to honor "their" veterans. Students from kindergarten to 8th grade will perform patriotic music, conduct readings, and present each veteran present with a card.



This page is sponsored by these businesses and professional people:


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|---|---|---|---|





**SALUTING THE FLAG** — Mark and Dean Mills salute the flag at Way Park after raising it to full staff last Saturday afternoon. The event was also attended by World War II veteran Roy Roadifer. Brisk fall weather greeted most of the outdoor Veterans Day events over the weekend. [CCC Photo/JASON FERGUSON]

**HONORING ALL WHO SERVED**



**24<sup>TH</sup> Annual  
Custer School District  
Veterans Day Program**

**Monday, Nov. 12 • 2 p.m.**  
Custer Armory

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Custer American Legion Post 46**

# 'Go out and find the stories'

## *Zimmerman charges audience to find veteran stories*

By Ron Burtz

Speaking without notes and frequently interacting with veterans seated in the audience, South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Larry Zimmerman gave an energetic and emotional keynote address at the 24th Annual Veterans Day program at the Custer Armory on Monday.

The culmination of five days of veteran-related events in the area, the Armory was filled nearly to capacity as Custer elementary and high school students, veterans and other community members turned out at 2 p.m. to honor those who have served in America's armed forces.

Following a program which included poems and other readings, a POW/MIA empty chair ceremony, songs by the grade school and high school

choirs, Zimmerman was introduced by senior Dakota Prior.

Taking a wireless microphone and abandoning the platform, Zimmerman spoke extemporaneously, frequently inviting veterans to stand to give their name and tell when and where they served. In the process he introduced the only three World War II veterans in attendance.

"There are 70,000 veterans in South Dakota and all of them have a story," said Zimmerman. He displayed his late father's WWII uniform and told of his regret of never having been told the story of his father's four years of service.

Noting that this Veterans Day marked the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which ended World War I, Zimmerman lamented the fact that none of those veterans are still living to tell their stories.

"They're all gone," he

said. "And our World War II veterans are leaving us too fast. I want the students to go out and find the stories. Go out and find them while you still have time."

"We fought for the freedoms of this great country so we could sit here today and do our Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, sing the National Anthem, be able to go to our churches because men and women went and fought for our freedoms," said Zimmerman.

Specifically addressing the many students in the crowd, Zimmerman concluded his comments by saying, "an old veteran is going to give an assignment." "Go home," he said. "Go to the city. Go somewhere and find a story, because they're inside each one of these veterans sitting in front of you. God bless America and happy Veterans Day."



**IN APPRECIATION** — South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs secretary Larry Zimmerman, center, was the guest speaker at the 24th Annual Custer School District Veterans Day Program. He was presented with a mineral carved buffalo and polished rock base from Dave's Rock Shop as a gift for his participation in the event. From left are Custer American Legion Post 46 commander Don Hone, Zimmerman and Custer Jr./Sr. High School Student Council president Katy Bradeen. [Submitted Photo]





World War II veterans Harold Stickney, left, and Floyd Mills, center, were briefly interviewed by keynote speaker Larry Zimmerman during his address.



Army veterans stand as their names are called during the Recognition of Veterans at Monday's program at the Armory



Members of the Custer Honor Guard, comprised of members of both Custer VFW Post 3442 and Custer American Legion Post 46, stand at attention during last Saturday morning's Veterans Day program at the Veterans Memorial.



**CUB SCOUTS HONOR VETERANS** — Army veteran Wes Shafter, center, shakes the hand of Cub Scout Titus Magnuson after being presented with a red rose for his service at Custer Regional Senior Care on Monday. At left is Silas Magnuson. About a dozen Custer Cub Scouts visited with veterans at the facility giving out roses and sharing cookies. [CCC Photo/RON BURTZ]



# Pearl Harbor Day

## WWII vets to be honored Friday at senior center

The 1881 Courthouse Museum, Custer Legion Post No. 46, Custer Senior Center, Custer VFW Post No. 3442 and the Custer Veterans Service Office will conduct a public Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance program to remember Pearl Harbor and honor World War II veterans at Custer

Senior Center Friday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m.

The public program commences at 2 p.m. It will be immediately followed by a private holiday dinner for WWII veterans living in Custer County.

Those participating in the holiday dinner will serve meals to and dine

with WWII veterans and their personal guests. The center will be decorated in WWII USO Canteen style. And the meal will represent all those family Christmas meals veterans gave up while serving during WWII..



**ATTENTION  
CUSTER COUNTY  
WORLD WAR II VETRANS**


**We are searching for you!**

Custer veterans organizations wish to acknowledge and honor you at the upcoming Pearl Harbor Day Program. If you served, please contact us. Or if you know someone who served, help us acknowledge and thank them at the ceremony.



**Contact Mark A. Mills 605-673-341  
Custer American Legion Post #46**

Please join together in remembering Pearl Harbor and honoring our remaining WWII veterans. Public program begins at 2 pm Friday, Dec. 7th, at the Custer Senior Center followed by a private dinner for WWII veterans

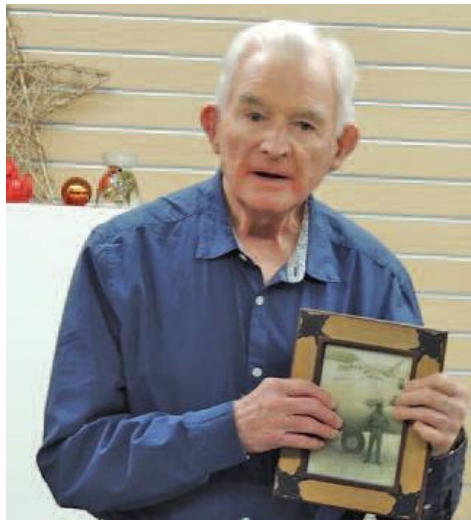


**1881 Courthouse Museum,  
Custer Legion Post 46, Senior Center,  
VFW Post 3442, & Veterans Service Office**

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: MARK MILLS • 605.673.3414



**REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR** — Five Custer County World War II veterans attended the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day program Friday, Dec. 7, at Custer Senior Center. From left are Wesley Shafer, Army; Roy Roadifer, Marines; Harold Stickney, Army Air Corps; Floyd Mills, Navy; and Grant Muse, Navy. They hold World War II challenge coins which they were presented. Absent were Ray Asebroek, Carl Jensen and Gerald Manlove.



**PAPPY'S PASSION** — Harold Stickney holds a photo of him by the B-24 bomber named Pappy's Passion which flew 128 missions over the Pacific in World War II, more than any other bomber during the war. The aircraft is identical to the one Stickney flew in as a Tech Sgt. Gunner during World War II.



**VETERAN BANNERS** — Harold Stickney of Custer is one of 100 World War II veterans pictured on as many banners flying in downtown Rapid City. Stickney's banner is on St. Joseph St. by Tally's restaurant. [CCC Photos/CHARLEY NAJACHT]

# Legion district meeting, supper Sunday

The annual District 2 Spring Meeting of the South Dakota American Legion will be March 17 at Crazy Horse Memorial for Legionnaires from Bennett, Haakon, Jackson, Jones, Mellette, Todd, Custer, Fall River, Pennington and Shannon counties.

A social will begin at 11 a.m. with the meal at noon in the Laughing Water Restaurant. The business meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m., in the Mountain View Room.

Participants will elect county commanders and vice commanders in the district for one-year terms during the business meeting. The session will also feature Post Americanism

reports, a membership turn-in, recognition of the District 2 Legionnaire of the Year and an address by State American Legion commander Denny Brenden of Watertown. District 2 commander Eugene Iron Shell, Jr. of Rosebud will conduct the Legion business session and the Custer Post No. 46 will be in charge of local arrangements.

The District 2 Auxiliary will hold its meeting at 1:30 p.m. the same day in the large classroom at Crazy Horse.

Custer American Legion Post No. 46 will host an American Legion birthday dinner from 4-6 p.m. in the restaurant.

