

Legion News



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STILL SERVING AMERICA

OCTOBER 2018

Successful Homecoming For Commander Denny Brenden



State Commander Dennis Brenden Receives State Commander Banner

The Homecoming for South Dakota American Legion State Commander Dennis Brenden, hosted by Codington County American Legion Post #17 of Watertown, SD, held on Saturday, August 4, 2018. The reception was well-attended and brought in Legionnaires and other Legion Family members from across the state.

The Homecoming Program, held at the Ramkota Conference Center in Watertown, started off with opening

remarks by Codington County Post #17 Commander. After the warm welcome, The Master of Ceremonies, PDC Paul Evenson, then took over the microphone, followed by a hand salute to the Colors of our country.

Larry Klumb of Ethan, SD, offered the Invocation.

Paul Evenson then called for the presentation and escort State Commander Brenden and his wife Roxy

to the stage. Additionally, Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander Kerry Jorgensen and his wife, Donna.

PDC Larry Price was the speaker of the day, congratulating his longtime friend on his election and offering words of advice on Denny's year as commander.

PDC Tim Jurgens did an excellent job providing the special music throughout the program, offering the Marine Corps Hymn, a folk song medley and God Bless America.

Commander Jorgensen and Auxiliary President Jeannine Loesch offered their congratulations and expressed their excitement in working together over the next year.

Wrapping up, PDC Hugh Holmes awoke the crowd in a typical Homer fashion, and presented Denny with the Department Commander Home Post Banner.

Following the ceremony, Post #17 hosted a meal and social time. The Department Children and Youth Chairman, Miranda Krumm, brought 60 backpacks for distribution across the state as part of the Backpack Initiative. Overall, a very successful homecoming.

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Brett P. Reistad Elected National Commander



**Brett P. Reistad
National Commander
2018-2019**

Brett P. Reistad was elected national commander of The American Legion on Aug. 30, 2018, in Minneapolis during the organization's 100th national convention. He has been a member of the nation's largest veterans organization since 1981.

A resident of Manassas, Va., Reistad is a life member and past commander of Post 270 in McLean. The Department of Virginia reached an all-time high in membership while he served as department commander from 2005-2006. He retired as a

lieutenant with the Fairfax County Police Department after 26 years of service and began a second career as a law enforcement services coordinator for the Regional Organized Crime Information Center of the Regional Information Sharing Systems Program, a congressionally funded law enforcement investigative assistance program of the U.S. Department of Justice. He holds a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Virginia's Bluefield College.

Reistad's American Legion membership eligibility is through his honorable Vietnam War-era service (1974-1978) as an active duty U.S. Army infantryman where he served with the Presidential Salute Battery of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) at historic Fort Myer, Va. He participated in the inaugural ceremony for President Carter and other high-profile ceremonies. He has since been honored as a Distinguished Member of the Regiment.

Reistad has served at every level of The American Legion. He is a past president and honorary life member of the National American Legion Press Association. He recently completed a six-year appointment as chairman of the Department Legis-

Continued on page 2

Dell Rapids Post Celebrates Centennial Under 100th Commander George A. Fitzgerald Post #65 Boasts New Commander Every Year Since 1919



Above: George A. Fitzgerald Post #65 Commander Jack Majeres stands in front of the post's Past Commanders boards. Post #65 is one of two posts known in the nation to have had a different commander, without repeats, every year since 1919.

When George McGee took command of Post #65 in 1919, he had no idea that he was the start of a century-long tradition. This year, the Dell Rapids American Legion elected its 100th commander, Jack Majeres.

A farmer and chairman of the Moody County Conservation District by trade, Majeres has worked his way through the post's leadership positions the last four years. "As Post #65 begins its 100th year, I am honored to be its 100th commander. We have the distinction of being the only post in South Dakota able to claim a different commander each year."

This is not a small feat—the only other known post in the country with the same accomplishment is the Francis Scott Key Post #11 located in Frederick, Maryland.

"This is a major accomplishment, and we are working hard to ensure it

continues for many years to come," Majeres explained. "We've had 5 father and son sets serve as commander, and one husband and wife serve consecutive terms. Their son served 10 years later."

The system has proved successful for the post. Not only can they boast a new commander every year, but the rotation keeps fresh ideas coming, burnout rates low and membership active. Their monthly meeting attendance is proof positive.

The Dell Rapids American Legion Post is a valued part of its community. Recently, they constructed a beautiful Veterans Memorial Park in town. They also host the annual Cootie Days Festival, a much-anticipated family friendly carnival in June. Additionally, Dells has sponsored Legion baseball teams, hosted weekly Bingo and boasts an extremely active Auxiliary unit.



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Top Ten American Flag Myths

The Flag Code is The American Legion Flag Code. On Flag Day, June 14, 1923, The American Legion and representatives of 68 other patriotic, fraternal, civic and military organizations met in Washington, DC for the purpose of drafting a code of flag etiquette. The 77th Congress adopted this codification of rules as public law on June 22, 1942. It is Title 4, United States Code Chapter 1.

A flag that has been used to cover a casket cannot be used for any other proper display purpose. A flag that has been used to cover a casket can be used for any proper display purpose to include displaying this flag from a staff or flagpole.

The Flag Code prohibits the display of a United States flag of less than 50 stars. According to the U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry the United States flag never becomes obsolete. Any officially approved American flag, irrespective of the number or arrangement of the stars and/or stripes may continue to be used and displayed until no longer serviceable.

The Flag Code does provide for penalties for violations of any of its provisions. The Flag Code is simply a guideline for proper flag etiquette. The law does not provide penalties for violation of any of its provisions. **You must destroy the flag when it touches the ground.** As long as the flag remains suitable for display, the flag may continue to be displayed as a symbol of our great country.

The Flag Code prohibits the washing or dry-cleaning of the flag. There are no provisions of the Flag Code, which prohibit the washing or dry-cleaning of the flag. The decision to wash or dry-clean would of course depend upon the type of material.

There has been a change to the Flag Code that no longer requires the flag to be properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. There has been NO CHANGE to Flag Code section 6(a), which states: "It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness."

The mayor, a town official, or the Post Commander can order the flag to be displayed at half-staff. The gesture of placing the flag at half-staff means that the Nation or the state mourns the death of a highly regarded National or state figure, hence only the President of the United States or the Governor of the state may order the Flag to be half-staffed in accordance with Flag Code section 7(m). Those individuals and agencies that usurp authority and display the flag at half-staff on inappropriate occasions are quickly eroding the honor and reverence accorded this solemn act.

The Flag Code states that when the flag is no longer a fitting emblem for display it is to be disposed of by burning in private. The Flag Code as revised and adopted by the Congress of the United States in 1942 has never included the word(s) "private" or "in privacy." Section 8(k) of the Flag Code states: "The flag, when it is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." Since 1937, The American Legion has promoted the use of a public flag disposal ceremony. This ceremony is a fitting tribute and an overt expression of patriotism, which enhances the public's understanding of honor and respect due the American flag.

The Flag Code prohibits the "fringing" of the flag. Fringing of the flag is neither approved of nor prohibited by the Flag Code. The American Legion considers that fringe is used as an honorable enrichment to the Flag. Additionally the courts have deemed without merit and frivolous, lawsuits that contend that the gold fringe adorning the flag conferred Admiralty/Maritime jurisdiction.

2019 MidWinter Conference

Holiday Inn Convention Center

Spearfish, SD,

February 8-10, 2019

Please watch the upcoming editions of the Up-To-Now
for the 2019 MidWinter Conference Agenda

DISCLAIMER

The *South Dakota Legion News* is published six times a year to serve its members and interested parties by informing them of and about Department activities and other relevant issues concerning the veterans of South Dakota. The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from members. The news and opinions expressed in this publication does not necessarily reflect the views of The American Legion Department of South Dakota, its officers, members, or the Editor. The Editor has the right to edit all articles.

Reistad Elected National Commander

Continued from Page 1

lative Committee and two three-year terms as a gubernatorial appointee to the Commonwealth of Virginia's Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations where he helped coordinate the input of 23 veterans service organizations in crafting veteran-friendly legislation and advocating the proposed legislation before the governor and General Assembly. He is also a tenured past department historian and was recently bestowed an honorary life membership by the National Association of Department Historians of the American Legion.

He is a past Legionnaire of the Year from Post 270 and a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 10 in Manassas. His wife, Jessica, and his family, are proud members of the American Legion Family.

His theme as national commander is "Celebrating Our Legacy," with special emphasis on the organization's centennial.

Centennial Website Boasts Over 3,000 Post Histories

Five years after its release at the 2013 American Legion national convention in Houston, the number of pages on the Centennial Celebration post history platform has surpassed 3,000.

Any Legion post, no matter its age, can start a page and fill it with its history – through descriptions, timeline items, photo galleries and more. Notable members and notable accomplishments alike are encouraged.

This functionality will remain as the Centennial Celebration site transitions into the updated and expanded Legacy & Vision site. Slated for release this fall, the new site will serve as a one-stop shop for accessing both the history (legacy) and future (vision) of The American Legion. It will include links to the memorials database, the Digital Archive, founding documents of the Legion, news, events and more. But the URL will remain the same: www.legion.org/centennial.

To view the Department of South Dakota posts, visit <https://centennial.legion.org/histories/south-dakota>. There are 63 posts who have started or completed their histories on the site, and placeholders built to showcase at the very least the number of posts within the state. If your post has not completed their online history, please do so.

Reach out to your local high school or Boy/Girl Scout programs if you need assistance with navigating the website. Creating these histories is a great community service project for young people—not only will they log hours working with the Legion, they'll be learning about their local history as well.

“We Will Leave No Veteran Behind”

Dennis Brenden
State Commander



Legionnaires,

The questions I hear most from Legionnaires are “Are you busy?” and “Are you enjoying being Commander?” I can answer both with a quick yes. Here are just a few of the events I’ve attended representing the Department: State B and State A Baseball Tournaments, Youth Trooper Academy, State Golf Tournament, National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis, Pow Wow in Little Eagle, 3 veterans memorial Dedications, one Veterans Cemetery dedication, State Fair, Labor Day Parade in Wagner, Post Leaders in Pine Ridge, and tons of Post Meetings and Events. Each one I’ve enjoyed immensely.

I truly enjoy attending a Post Meeting. It seems that every Post has its own unique qualities and events that pertain to that Post. The dedication can be felt of those Legionnaires attending the meeting. Truly the American Legion, Communities and Children are rewarded for having the local American Legion Post.

This year there is a need for increasing our numbers to maintain the strength the American Legion in South Dakota. My motto this year is “We Will Leave No Veteran Behind” and I believe in this motto. I believe if a veteran needs help we need to step up to the plate and do what we can to assist our brothers and sisters. Also, by not offering them the chance to become a member of our organization we are leaving them behind. Many of you go to meetings where it’s Post, District, State or National. As we gather a relationship is built up between each other. This relationship does not happen if veterans are not given the opportunity to become one of us. One time, as a Post Commander, I looked out at the 16 members present and stated “Without The American Legion most of us present would not be friends and share our Comradeship”. A veteran needs another veteran to confide in and maybe just to be around. While we were in the service our buddies were very important to us. We at least need of offer membership to them, to give them a chance to become a member of a winning team. This year our National Commander has named all of us “Team 100” in reference to our 100 years of service to America. I urge everyone to take the time to ask people you come in contact with if they are a veteran. If so, man or woman ask them to join us in the American Legion Family.

I would like to visit your Post or any event that you would like me at. All I ask is that you email me the date and information on the event. Our District Meeting are about to start. I look forward to seeing many friends and comrades across the State. We are going to have a good year as we celebrate our 100th anniversary. We are the largest veteran’s organization in the world and most respected. Thank you all for being part of our history and future.

For God and Country,

Denny Brenden,
Your State Commander

2018 Legacy Motorcycle Run Tops \$1.2 Million

Don’t let the leather fool you—there are hearts of gold under those vests.

The American Legion Riders raised \$600,000 for the Legion’s Legacy Scholarship Fund during the 1,000-mile Legacy Run from Hutchinson, Kansas, to Anoka, Minnesota. Legion Riders gathered on stage during the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis to present more donations. In total, a record \$1,256,930 was raised – the fifth straight year the ride helped raise more than \$1 million.

The American Legion Department of Minnesota led the way, donating \$251,000. Other top department donations were the Department of Missouri (\$93,324); Department of South Carolina (\$65,204); Florida (\$57,005); Wisconsin (\$45,439); and Kansas (\$57,005). Ohio Post #557 in Wintersville donated \$15,000.

Other donations on the national convention floor included: \$44,315 for Operation Comfort Warriors and \$139,651 for the National Emergency Fund.

VETERANS DAY November 11, 2018

Please show your support by proudly wearing your American Legion cap when attending your local community Veterans Day programs and events.

VA Releases National Veteran Suicide Data Analysis

WASHINGTON — Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) released national and state-level findings from its most recent analysis of Veteran suicide data, from 2005 to 2016. The analysis is part of VA’s ongoing examination of non-Veteran and Veteran death records that is being used to evaluate and improve VA’s Suicide Prevention Program.

“Suicide prevention remains VA’s highest clinical priority. One life lost to suicide is one too many,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. The report yields several important insights:

- From 2015 to 2016, the overall current and former service member suicide count decreased from 7,663 to 7,298 deaths (decrease of 365).
- From 2015 to 2016, the Veteran specific suicide count decreased from 6,281 to 6,079 deaths (decrease of 202).
- From 2015 to 2016, the Veteran unadjusted suicide rate decreased from 30.5/100,000 to 30.1/100,000.
- Overall, the fact remains that on average about 20 current or former service members die each day, six have been in VA health care and 14 were not.
- Rates of suicide were highest among younger Veterans (ages 18-34) and lowest among older Veterans (ages 55 and older). However, because the older Veteran population is the largest, this group accounted for 58.1 percent of Veteran suicide deaths in 2016.
- The rate of suicide among 18-34-year-old Veterans continues to increase.
- The use of firearms as a method of suicide remains high. The percentage of suicide deaths that involved firearms was 67.0 percent in 2015 and 69.4 percent in 2016.
- Information regarding deaths among current service members is not included.

Veterans who are in crisis or having thoughts of suicide, and those who know a Veteran in crisis, can call the Veterans Crisis Line for confidential crisis intervention and support 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Call 800-273-8255 and press 1; send a text message to 838255 or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat.

Department Adjutant’s Thoughts

Travise Flisrand
State Adjutant



Legionnaires,

As you read this column, State Commander Denny Brenden of Watertown has finished with the 2018 State Commander’s Calls that he is conducting at several locations across the state of South Dakota. Hopefully, you or someone from your Post has had the opportunity to attend one of these events. If you haven’t, you missed a great opportunity to learn new information on programs of The American Legion.

On Sunday, November 4th, National Commander Brett Reistad of Virginia will arrive in Sioux Falls for his official visit to the Department of South Dakota. We would have much preferred to have the visit coordinated with a Department Convention or MidWinter Conference, but when the National Commander has 55 Departments to visit, not everyone can get the visit scheduled in conjunction with a major Department function.

The schedule is still being finalized as this article is being written, here is what is firming up and is NOT written in stone yet:

Nov 4th

National Commander arrives late evening– Overnight in Sioux Falls Sheraton

Nov 5th

Breakfast at Sioux Falls Legion Post 15
Visit Sioux Falls VA & Claims office
Watertown Post visit for noon meal
Visit Posts on way to Aberdeen area
Evening Meal in Groton?
Overnight in Aberdeen.

Nov 6th

Breakfast in Aberdeen
Drive to Standing Rock. Meeting with Veterans late morning. Possible at Casino.
Visit other Posts on way to Pierre.
Drive to Pierre. Possible visit to YTA/State trooper academy and Capitol
Evening meal at Post 20
Overnight in either Pierre.

Nov 7th

Breakfast in Pierre
Late morning on Rosebud with veterans.
Afternoon on Pineridge with Veterans
Evening meal at Hot Springs Post
Overnight in Hot Springs

Nov 8th

Breakfast at Go to Vets home
Go to Hot Springs Hospital
Tourist Attractions and more Post visits
Evening meal in Hermosa at Post
Drive north, overnight in Northern Hills

Nov 9th

Breakfast with post in Northern Hills
Lead Post visit with possibly a visit to lab in gold mines.
Ft. Meade visit
Noon meal with Post
Visit Posts in afternoon
Evening meal in Rapid City Area
Overnight in or near Rapid City.

Nov 10th

Fly out early from Rapid City

Legionnaires are encouraged to attend these events during the National Commander’s visit. We would like him to meet as many South Dakota Legionnaires as possible and as you can see from the schedule, he will get to see a lot of our great State. When the final schedule gets Posted, be sure to RSVP with the Host Post that is serving meals so they can plan accordingly. Watch the Up-to-Now for updates.

For God and Country,

Travise Flisrand
Department Adjutant

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Courtney VanZanten
Department Service Officer



Greetings Legionnaires!

It's hard to believe it is fall already. My oldest started Kindergarten this year, so it's been a whole new learning curve adjusting to the new schedule. Add in the new baby during harvest on a farm, and it's a miracle I can compose a complete sentence right now.

School got me thinking about our younger veterans again, and how to reach out and help them. Educational benefits are one of the most commonly used VA programs, but there is one corner of the G.I. Bill that remains woefully underutilized: On-The-Job/Apprenticeship Training. A large range of professions can utilize this program: EMTs, Firefighters, Chefs, Truck Drivers, Welders, Mechanics and even Farmers—if your line of work requires training or certification, it could very well qualify for payments under the G.I. Bill.

OJT and Apprenticeship allow Veterans to learn a trade or skill through training on the job participation rather than attending formal classroom instruction—a fantastic alternative use for those uninterested in two or four-year schools. A Veteran generally enters into a training contract for a specific period with an employer, and at the end of the training period, the Veteran gains job certification or journeyman status.

As an apprentice/OJT worker, a Veteran is entitled to a housing allowance in addition to their agreed-upon wages. In 2017, the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill Military Housing Allowance (MHA) for the Madison, SD area was \$1206/month. While on the program, a Veteran will receive 100% of the MHA during the first 6 months of training, less 20% every six months following until completion of the training. Post-9/11 GI Bill recipients will also receive up to \$83 per month for books and supplies.

If interested, both the employer and the trainee must submit an application to the State Approving Agency in Pierre, to include a training outline, Designation of Certifying Official form, and a training agreement. Apprenticeships must also meet the state criteria published by the Department of Labor.

Businesses may proactively set up training programs to incentivize future Veteran hires. There are thousands of South Dakota Veterans who could benefit from a program like this—go to your local businesses and preach this opportunity. If a business takes hold of the program, recognize them by putting them in for a Veteran Employer award.

For more information, and to search for already participating employers, go here: https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/onthethejob_apprenticeship.asp.

Always here to help,
Courtney VanZanten
Department Service Officer

South Dakota Receives Grant Opportunity for State Cemetery

PIERRE, S.D. – The United States Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has notified the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs they may be awarded grant funds for the construction of a state veterans cemetery.

“Today’s announcement is great news for the men and women of South Dakota and the surrounding area, who served this country,” said Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA). “South Dakotans in the eastern part of the state will not have to travel 370 plus miles to bury their heroes in a veterans cemetery.”

“Now the real work begins,” said Aaron Pollard, Deputy Secretary for SDDVA. “Our Department will begin meeting with NCA, the State Office of Engineering and our design firm, Stockwell Engineers.”

This announcement coincides with the City of Sioux Falls’ first reading of their ordinance gifting over 60 acres of land to SDDVA for the construction of a state veterans cemetery.

“This state veterans cemetery is the culmination of a lot of hard work between numerous partners who are committed to taking care of our veterans,” said Zimmerman.

The NCA Design and Construction Service provides planning, design and construction project management, design and construction standards, environmental, energy, and historic preservation services and expertise to deliver high quality and cost-effective cemetery facilities that honor veterans with final resting places and commemorate their service to our nation. They provide leadership, expertise, and advice in the development, acquisition, expansion and preservation to create veterans cemeteries as lasting memorials which invoke a sense of honor and dignity for our Nation’s veterans.

Global War on Terror Advocates Start Work on Memorial in D.C.

WASHINGTON — Michael Rodriguez doesn’t know what the national Global War on Terror memorial will look like, but he’s confident about where it should be.

“I believe it needs to be on the National Mall,” said Rodriguez, president of the memorial’s foundation. “In a lot of ways, this has already become a forgotten war. We need that national reminder.”

The Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation is about to launch a multi-month outreach project discussing the size, scope and meaning behind the planned tribute, authorized by Congress in 2017.

That will include surveys of troops, veterans, military family members and even individuals with no direct link to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to collect their thoughts on what the memorial should include. Foundation officials announced that Winstanley Architects & Planners will serve as the architect for project and will lead that effort.

Like other national war memorials, the foundation is following a rigorous 24-step process outlined by the National Capital Planning Commission to establish site selection, memorial design and construction schedule.

But unlike other memorials, foundation officials are conducting their work while troops remain deployed overseas in support of the Global War on Terror.

Supporters had to gain special permission from Congress to waive the mandatory 10-year waiting period for the memorial construction process, arguing that waiting longer would prevent veterans from the earliest days of the 17-year-old conflict from ever seeing the final honor.

Rodriguez said that presents an unusual challenge of putting the still-ongoing worldwide military operations in context with the height of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We don’t know how long this war is going to continue,” said Rodriguez, a former Army Green Beret who served in Afghanistan and saw his wife and son also deployed overseas in recent years

“I just welcomed my first grandson, and he very well could one day be fighting in this war. So we don’t know what the memorial is going to be yet and how to capture all of that.”

But given the scope of the individuals involved — nearly 7,000 U.S. troops killed and hundreds of thousands of others who served overseas — Rodriguez said he feels the memorial needs a prominent public placement, like the National Mall.

Earlier this year, federal officials approved plans for the National Desert Storm War Memorial to be located there, just a short walk away from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall and the Lincoln Memorial. The Global War on Terror Memorial is still several years away from any such decision.

Once a site is approved, foundation officials will host a nationwide design competition to establish the memorial’s look and scale. Rodriguez said the goal is to have groundbreaking on the final site in 2022, with dedication by the end of 2024. For more information or to donate to the project, visit the foundation’s website at: <https://www.gwotmemorialfoundation.org/>

2018 Marks 35th Anniversary of Beirut Bombing

This year marks 35 years after one of the worst attacks on the U.S. Marines on foreign soil: The Oct. 23, 1983, attack on the Marine Barracks at the Beirut Airport in Lebanon. Experts said it was the largest conventional (nonnuclear) explosion in history up until that time.

The United States lost 241 service personnel, the largest loss of military lives since Iwo Jima in World War II.

The attack occurred during the administration of President Ronald Reagan, when Lebanon was torn apart by sectarian bitterness and civil war. The Palestinian Liberation Organization, the Israeli Defense Forces, the Syrians, the Iranians and Hezbollah were active or suspected to be active on the ground. Reagan sent Marines to Beirut to be part of an multinational peacekeeping force, to act as a buffer between warring sides, then to strengthen the Lebanese Armed Forces.

The attack happened at 6:22 in the morning, when a yellow Mercedes truck loaded with explosives rammed into the airport building where 350 Marines were sleeping. The Marine sentry at the gate, Lance Corporal Eddie DiFranco, was unarmed because of the rules of engagement under which the Marines were operating. He quickly realized the truck driver’s intent and went for a magazine to load his M16, but he was too late to stop the truck. Moments later, the truck exploded inside the building, killing the driver and 220 Marines, 18 Navy sailors and three Army soldiers. Another 100 others were injured.



The Beirut bombing, October 23, 1983. Picture: Associated Press

Membership
"20,001 Plus 1"



Gene Opbroek
State Membership Chairman

I hope this finds you all well and prosperous. As I write this we are in the midst of the Fall District Meetings. Really great to see everyone and spend some time with you.

We are a little bit behind last year on our Membership numbers and I know all of you are working diligently to bring those numbers back in line. GREAT JOB TO THE POSTS OVER 100%! Keep driving on!!

I am hoping you are making plans to speak to our National Guard soldiers during their drill periods. There is a CD available online with talking points for you to discuss at your presentations to Guard members. It is called TS2 and is part of the Operation Outreach program. This is a great CD with information on how to prepare a presentation in your own words. It also gives you suggested remarks and a lead in to get you started off on the right foot. Log onto Legion.org and in the search area, put TS2 and it will bring the page up. Posts need to order these.

I want to also remind everyone to let me know if you have any events in your area that you may need assistance with. We have a Membership team ready willing and able to assist in any way they can. Do not be too proud to ask for help. We are here to help each other. That is why we joined the greatest Veterans organization in the World, right??

I also just received a list of events at the Rapid City Civic Center for October and November. I will be forwarding them to the membership team for review. Looks like some great events we can attend to help with recruiting new members.

Let's not forget to check with Gary Henle on our past members as well. Gary is doing a fantastic job working retention for us.

I have stated in District Meetings that we need to remember, we need to reach 20,001 for everyone in the Legion. To protect our programs, to have a strong voice for Veterans issues, to preserve our Freedoms and Democracy, and to be there for these young soldiers who are protecting our way of life in this great nation. They need us to have their back, today and days into the future!!! Let's be there for them!!!

Thank you for all your HARD WORK!! I know you are out there beating the bushes for membership. WE WILL GET 20,001!!!
Be safe!!!
GeneO



Right: GeneO a few years back. Let this be a lesson in submitting articles that fit the allocated space.

Membership Percentages by Posts / Districts

*As of September 24, 2018

DISTRICT 1	62.25%	GETTYSBURG	72.18%	VEBLER	84.85%	MADISON	54.03%
POST	% of GOAL	HOVEN	71.57%	MARSHALL CO	65.59%	NUNDA	45.45%
Belle Fourche	49.21%	POTTER CO.	71.91%	New Effington	72.31%	Ramona	31.03%
Nisland, Newell, Vale	62.50%	Fort Pierre	57.50%	Old Agency	6.98%	Wentworth	78.38%
BUTTE CO.	53.68%	STANLEY CO.	57.50%	Rosholt	65.38%	LAKE CO.	55.48%
Buffalo	78.13%	Onida	51.69%	Sisseton	56.78%	Colman	65.22%
HARDING CO.	78.13%	SULLY CO.	51.69%	Wilmot	68.75%	Egan	84.21%
Lead	63.54%	Bonesteel	9.30%	ROBERTS CO	55.47%	Flandreau	56.25%
Spearfish	54.90%	Burke	53.57%	Bradley	68.75%	Trent	88.00%
LAWRENCE CO.	57.67%	Dallas	73.33%	Carpenter	47.62%	MOODY CO.	67.94%
Box Elder	55.93%	Fairfax	88.24%	Clark	61.80%	Bridgewater	59.09%
Piedmont	63.88%	Gregory	59.05%	Raymond	81.03%	Canistota	76.67%
Thunder Hawk	66.90%	Herrick	58.00%	Willow Lake	43.75%	Montrose	65.17%
Faith	40.00%	GREGORY CO.	53.85%	CLARK CO.	63.43%	Salem	60.56%
MEADE CO.	63.21%	Kennebec-Reliance	62.35%	Watertown	60.10%	McCook CO.	64.62%
Bullhead	4.35%	Presho	75.76%	CODINGTON	60.10%	Baltic	10.00%
Little Eagle	13.33%	Vivian	11.76%	Astoria	52.00%	Brandon	49.41%
McIntosh	62.50%	LYMAN CO.	59.26%	Clear Lake	50.00%	Colton	63.16%
McLaughlin	70.21%	Colome	60.19%	Gary	50.55%	Dell Rapids	56.62%
Thunder Hawk	63.64%	Winner	47.51%	Toronto	54.05%	Garretson	34.09%
CORSON CO.	50.51%	Witten	60.87%	DEUEL CO.	50.92%	Hartford	61.90%
Eagle Butte	170.83%	TRIPP CO.	51.29%	Bryant	80.00%	Humboldt	61.18%
Isabel	90.00%	Miller	43.33%	Castlewood	43.94%	Renner	47.44%
Timber Lake	87.50%	Polo	65.79%	Estelline	51.49%	Sioux Falls	51.04%
DEWEY CO.	117.14%	HAND CO.	52.04%	Hayti	78.72%	Valley Springs	65.59%
Bison	65.96%	DISTRICT 4	57.87%	HAMLIN CO	61.27%	MINNEHAHA CO.	50.49%
Lemmon	59.20%	POST	% of GOAL	Aurora	88.24%	Alcester	53.57%
PERKINS CO.	61.05%	Aberdeen	57.47%	Brookings	63.68%	Beresford	67.86%
Dupree	47.06%	Claremont	69.57%	Bruce	53.85%	Elk Point	51.61%
ZIEBACH	47.06%	Columbia	56.41%	Elkton	45.61%	North Sioux City	69.39%
DISTRICT 2	53.69%	Frederick	54.84%	Sinai	76.19%	UNION CO.	62.55%
POST	% of GOAL	Groton	70.15%	Volga	64.58%	Canton	52.83%
Allen	11.76%	Hecla	92.00%	White	66.67%	Harrisburg	68.54%
Martin	46.62%	Stratford	55.81%	BROOKINGS CO.	63.74%	Hudson	54.14%
BENNETT CO.	42.67%	Warner	61.54%	DISTRICT 6	57.35%	Lennox	56.32%
Midland	65.52%	BROWN CO.	60.22%	POST	% of GOAL	Tea	56.94%
Philip	64.71%	Herreid	71.43%	Hitchcock	25.93%	Worthing	61.54%
HAAKON CO.	64.95%	Pollock	65.52%	Huron	63.24%	LINCOLN CO.	58.04%
Belvidere	17.65%	CAMPBELL CO.	69.01%	Virgil	40.00%	DISTRICT 8	59.61%
Wanblee	5.56%	Bowdle	65.96%	Wessington	69.84%	POST	% of GOAL
Kadoka	51.16%	Hosmer	35.14%	Wolsey	74.42%	Centerville	56.82%
JACKSON CO.	33.33%	Ipswich	65.71%	BEADLE CO.	60.61%	Chancellor	62.99%
Draper	82.35%	Roscoe	54.24%	Arlington	58.14%	Davis	36.84%
Murdo	65.00%	EDMUNDS CO.	52.09%	Badger	30.77%	Hurley	60.00%
JONES CO.	72.97%	Eureka	30.36%	DeSmet	44.94%	Marion	57.50%
Norris	0.00%	Leola	60.00%	Erwin	65.52%	Parker	11.11%
White River	71.43%	Long Lake	60.71%	Hetland	84.21%	Viborg	9.09%
Wood	60.00%	McPHERSON CO.	46.25%	Iroquois	56.82%	TURNER CO.	53.30%
MELLETTTE CO.	55.70%	Mobridge	62.81%	Lake Preston	69.35%	Avon	63.41%
Mission	40.00%	Selby	51.39%	Oldham	13.33%	Scotland	72.09%
Parmelee	113.33%	WALWORTH CO	58.55%	KINGSBURY CO	55.93%	Springfield	47.13%
Rosebud	56.52%	Brentford	60.00%	Canova	5.88%	MDSP Springfield	60.00%
St. Francis	13.33%	Conde	69.33%	Howard	58.46%	Tabor	68.83%
TODD CO.	55.88%	Doland	70.37%	MINER CO.	47.56%	Tyndall	73.77%
Custer	61.76%	Mansfield	68.75%	Plankinton	9.38%	BON HOMME CO.	63.27%
Hermosa	67.59%	Mellette	50.00%	Stickney	51.56%	Geddes	59.42%
CUSTER CO.	65.73%	Northville	88.24%	White Lake	46.67%	Greenwood	10.00%
Edgemont	72.00%	Redfield	62.35%	AURORA CO.	39.68%	Lake Andes	58.33%
Hot Springs	53.85%	Tulare	62.96%	Chamberlain	60.00%	Pickstown	25.00%
Oelrichs	60.00%	SPINK CO.	64.74%	Kimball*	34.33%	Platte	40.00%
FALL RIVER CO.	55.34%	Cresbard	35.56%	Pukwana*	80.00%	Wagner	66.02%
Hill City	22.22%	Faulkton	52.73%	BRULE CO.	52.33%	CHARLES MIX CO.	53.85%
New Underwood	6.67%	Gann Valley	40.91%	Gann Valley	40.91%	Alsen	59.26%
Rapid City	57.21%	Rockham	51.85%	BUFFALO CO.	40.91%	Irene	59.18%
Rapid City Foothills	62.77%	FAULK CO.	46.46%	Ethan	105.88%	Vermillion	73.08%
Wall	65.22%	DISTRICT 5	59.50%	Howard	58.46%	Wakonda	56.36%
PENNINGTON CO.	55.85%	POST	% of GOAL	Mitchell	62.69%	CLAY CO.	60.75%
Batesland	0.00%	Andover	31.25%	Mount Vernon	64.58%	Armour	70.21%
Kyle	13.33%	Grenville	94.44%	DAVISON CO.	70.96%	Corsica	58.06%
Pine Ridge	33.33%	Lily	86.67%	Alexandria	31.91%	Delmont	54.55%
Porcupine	6.67%	Pierpont	36.84%	Emery	68.42%	DOUGLAS CO.	60.37%
Manderson	4.76%	Roslyn	51.85%	Ful-Frm-Epiphany	71.43%	Freeman	56.00%
OGLALA LAKOTA CO.	10.23%	Waubay	59.74%	HANSON CO.	52.48%	Menno	62.50%
DISTRICT 3	57.10%	Webster	57.44%	Alpena	72.22%	Parkston	74.42%
POST	% of GOAL	DAY CO	60.00%	Wessington Sprgs	46.45%	Tripp	56.10%
Blunt	64.00%	Big Stone City	61.29%	JERAULD CO.	51.31%	HUTCHINSON CO.	64.89%
Pierre	60.71%	Milbank	47.40%	Artesian	64.00%	Gayville	63.16%
HUGHES CO.	60.89%	Strandburg	80.65%	Letcher	43.08%	Yankton	64.84%
Highmore	35.19%	Pierre	60.71%	Woonsocket	47.14%	YANKTON CO.	64.49%
HYDE CO.	35.19%	GRANT CO	57.14%	SANBORN CO.	48.13%		
		Britton	58.11%	DISTRICT 7	53.71%		
		Kidder	50.00%	POST	% of GOAL		
		Langford	50.00%	Chester	59.15%		

In State Headquarters, September 24, 2018

State Vice / District Commander Membership Standings

		2018 Goal	2018 Mbers	Percent	Pos.
State Vice Commander	Ed Thompson	3,535	2,029	57.40%	
Districts 1-2					
Districts 3-8	Ed Stringer	16,216	9,277	57.21%	
District Commander		2018 Goal	2018 Mbers	Percent	Pos.
DISTRICT 1	KEVIN MORELLO	1,531	953	62.25%	1
DISTRICT 2	GENE IRON SHELL	2,004	1,076	53.69%	8
DISTRICT 3	LEROY MADSEN	1,881	1,074	57.10%	7
DISTRICT 4	PERRY SCHMIDT	2,058	1,191	57.87%	4
DISTRICT 5	MATT LAGERSTROM	3,304	1,966	59.50%	3
DISTRICT 6	DOUG FELTMAN	2,682	1,538	57.35%	6
DISTRICT 7	ROGER KLOS	4,100	2,202	53.71%	5
DISTRICT 8	GREG GEIMAN	2,191	1,306	59.61%	2
Post 500		250	150		
Department Totals		20,001	11,456	57.28%	

Department Commander Brenden's Homecoming Celebration



Department Commander Dennis Brenden addresses the audience at his Homecoming on August 4, 2018 in Watertown, SD.



PDC Tim Jurgens provided special music for the Homecoming Celebration.



PDC Larry Price provided remarks for the occasion.



PDC Paul Evenson served as Master of Ceremonies for the Homecoming Celebration.



Following the ceremony, a meal was hosted by Post #17 at the post home. At the meal, the C & Y Backpack Initiative gave away 60 backpacks for distribution across the state.



Dick Vohlken serving as host at Post #17's reception for Department Commander Denny Brenden.

Spearfish Starts Junior Shooting Sports Program



Spearfish Post #164 Shooting Sports Coach Scott Hansen provides guidance on the range to a Junior Shooter.

It's a sport that's sweeping the nation, and Spearfish has jumped on board as the newest Shooting Sports program in the state.

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a gun safety education and marksmanship program that encompasses the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment and competition. Shooters use the .177 caliber air rifle. Both males and females ages 8 to 18 can participate and disabled youth are encouraged to join our

team. This competitive shooting is a Legion sponsorship sport that creates an equal playing field for all competitors.

Junior Shooting Sports is a three-part program that combines the Basic Marksmanship Course, Qualification Awards and Air Rifle Competition into a well-rounded activity. This kind of team is not new to the Spearfish area—there are local 4H clubs that have shooting junior shooting sports. The difference about the Spearfish American Legion Post 164

Black Hills Junior Shooters is that it is a program of an American Legion Post and not sponsored by the US Department of Agriculture.

The Post #164 team is currently affiliated with the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) and is working on collaborating with the Lawrence County 4H for future post matches.

Scott Hansen, the Spearfish Post #164 Shooting Sports coach, is a retired Army veteran. "Shooting marksmanship and instruction are in my life. My years as a Drill Sergeant and Range Officer in the Army provided me with the training to be able get this youth program going. When asked if I wanted to start a Junior Shooting Sports program for the Spearfish Post #164, I immediately said yes!"

"I began working on starting this program a year ago and it is nice to see everything come together," said Hansen, "Today we have ten boys and girls signed up for our team and we are looking to grow."

There are growing pains, however, Hansen noted. "We currently have three .177 air rifles to use and our BB guns were ordered. Since this is our first year and we are a new program, we have to share the rifles, both BB guns and Air rifles, with other team members. This can

become a challenge because of the sights on the rifles being changed numerous times."

Additionally, there is significant training required of coaches, to include range officer training and CPR. The training, however, does come with benefits: "I am a CMP level 1 range officer. We (Post 164) are Affiliate on the CMP. Anyone looking for a Junior Shooters Club can find us."

Hansen will be attending the CMP Level 2 Range Officer course at the end of the year. The knowledge and further exposure will pay off for the program, he hopes.

"I am excited for this opportunity for our younger generation to learn and develop the skills and aptitudes to compete in future months. They are taking their safety courses before learning to handle and practice shooting."

Hansen encourages other posts to take the steps to developing their own shooting sports programs. There is no required number of students to start a team, nor age or gender requirements. That flexibility means that any post from any size town could start a team. He notes that while it is a bit of work to get things organized, he's been overwhelmed by the support he's received from the Post, the community at large and the local gun clubs. His

advice? Don't be afraid to ask for help. "I am thankful for the support and guidance received and for the grants from the NRA and the Black Hills Shootists Association providing the baseline funding of our program."

Overall, Scott Hansen and Spearfish Post #164 have a lot to be proud of with their new program. "We are looking forward to our first year competing," Hansen stated. "Getting our teams name out there so they know who we are."

Anyone interested in donating to the Spearfish Shooting Sports Program can send donations to:

Spearfish American Legion
RE: Shooting Sports
PO Box 583
Spearfish, SD 57783



100th Annual National Convention – Minneapolis, MN



Top Left: The South Dakota National Convention delegates at the South Dakota Caucus. Members each attended their assigned convention committee and reported back to the caucus. Bottom left: Past Department Commander Hugh “Homer” Holmes, NEC Jim Huls and Department Adjutant Travis Flisrand South Dakota Department stand next to the department sign in the main convention hall. The placard is signed by all 42 department national convention attendees, and each side given to the immediate PDC and current Department Commander. Attendees saw Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie, Theodore Roosevelt IV, and National Commander Denise Rohan, amongst others. Bottom Right: The South Dakota delegation marching in the National Convention parade. The parade was moved indoors at the last minute because of inclement weather, but was still a lot of fun for all. The parade was nearly 2.5 hours long, with every department participating and numerous bands, floats and other entities.



U.S. Mint Unveils Legion Centennial Coin Designs

U.S. Mint Director David J. Ryder, the son of two veterans, unveiled before thousands of American Legion members Aug. 29 the designs of three commemorative coins that go on sale next March to honor the organization’s 100th anniversary.

“Every day across the nation, the Mint connects America through coins,” Ryder said. “And next year, it will be our great privilege to connect America to the legacy of the nation’s largest wartime veterans service organization.” Sales of a \$5 gold piece, a silver dollar and a clad half-dollar honoring The American Legion’s legacy stand to raise up to \$9.5 million for the organization’s programs and services, Ryder said.

The coin required congressional action. On Oct. 6, 2017, Congress passed Public Law 115-65 allowing the Mint to strike and issue 50,000 of the gold coins, 400,000 of the silver dollars and 750,000 of the half-dollars.

The gold pieces feature on the heads side the Eiffel Tower, a V for victory in World War I, the engraved word LIBERTY and the years 1919 – 2019 encircled by the outer ring of an American Legion emblem, recognizing the organization’s founding in Paris after the armistice that ended the Great War. On the tails side of the \$5 coin, a soaring bald eagle is depicted, along with a sculpted American Legion emblem.

The silver dollar shows on the heads side the Legion emblem surrounded by oak leaves and a lily, commemorating the Legion’s founding in Paris. The reverse side has crossed U.S. and American Legion flags under a fleur-de-lis and the dates 1919 and 2019 and the inscription 100 YEARS OF SERVICE.

The half-dollar has on its heads side two children, one of whom is wearing her dad’s Legion cap, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The reverse continues the pledge with ...OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA with a billowing U.S. flag and Legion emblem above the inscription.

The coins are scheduled to go on sale around the time of the Legion’s birthday in March 2019. To be added to the mailing list for updates, vis-

it www.legion.org/ coin. For ordering information, prices and other information as it becomes available from the Mint, visit www.usmint.gov. “Since the beginning of the commemorative coin program in 1992, the U.S. Mint has raised more than \$506 million to help preserve or enhance museums, preserve historical sites and support important national programs,” Ryder said. “If we sell this program out, it should raise somewhere in the neighborhood of \$9.5 million for the organization.”

Ryder said that over 36 percent of the U.S. Mint’s 1,700 employees are military veterans. “Since our institution’s founding in 1792, the men and women of the United States Mint have taken great pride in rendering the story of our nation in enduring examples of numismatic art,” he said. “To hold a coin or medal produced by the U.S. Mint is to connect to the founding principles of our nation and the making of our economy.”

The commemorative coins were designed through the Artist Infusion program and U.S. Mint sculptors and engravers, in consultation with The American Legion, the Citizens Coin Advisory Committee and the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts.



National Convention Reunites Long-Lost Shipmates

By Courtney VanZanten

Rodney Smith has always been hospitable. As a father of nine, he has seen more than his fair share of people traipse through his home—though every single friend ends up feeling like family. It's a skill set that he and his wife, Joyce, honed during Rod's service in the Navy; the makings of which brought two long-lost shipmates together at the American Legion National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota this past August.

Rod started his military career in March of 1970 with boot camp at the San Diego Naval Training Center, followed by Shipfitter Class A school and Class C Gas Welding School. Immediately following his training, Rod received orders to the USS Tutuila ARG 4 in Vietnam, where he repaired Mike 6 and Mike 8 boats and the occasional LST or mine sweeper.

In December of 1971, Rod received new orders for the USS Orion AS 18, a submarine tender stationed in Charleston, South Carolina. On his 30 days of leave between duty stations, he went home to South Dakota and married his sweetheart, Joyce Grieve. The trip to Charleston served as their honeymoon.

The Smiths settled in and, as a married couple, were asked to sponsor some of the incoming people to make them feel more at home in Charleston. In 1973, a young sailor named James "Jim" Bluth reported on board. Rod and Jim hit it off, and Jim spent some time at their house. "The running joke became that Joyce must have had an unending pantry," Rod said, "I always bringing someone home for a home-cooked meal. Jim was no exception."

Rod was discharged from the Navy on March 25, 1974. On the rare trip through Minnesota, Jim Bluth's home state, Rod would look in the phone book to see if he could find Jim's phone number. As time passed and memories faded, attempts dwindled, and eventually stopped.

Fast forward, and Rod Smith has been an active Legionnaire, serving at the post and county levels, as well as on the Department Americanism Commission. Rod and Joyce have attended three National American Legion Conventions, to include this year's Centennial Convention in Minneapolis.

As with any National Convention, a huge parade had been planned, but a predicted thunderstorm moved the parade indoors. The new indoor route meant a lot more stop-and-go traffic, and during one of the stops, Rod noticed two men wearing USS Orion AS 18 caps. He walked over, made mention that he was there from 1972-1974. When they responded with "us too," Rod asked for names. "He said Jim Bluth! I said I used to haul you to my house for a meal now and then and told him my name was Rod Smith."

The parade started moving again, so Rod marched on as well. When the South Dakota delegation finished, Rod hurried back to where Jim and Dennis Couture were standing. They visited until the last American Legion Department marched out, then went out to find Joyce. As hugs and handshakes were exchanged, Jim looked at Joyce and told her he remembered coming to their house for a Mountain Oyster feed! Many memories were shared, and Rod and Joyce have reconnected with friends not seen or heard from in 44 years. Thanks to the American Legion and the National Convention, an old friendship was rekindled. And if there's one recommendation Rod Smith can give in regards to attending a National Convention, it is "Go. If you get the chance, just go."



Above: USS Orion AS 18 Veterans Dennis Couture, Rodney Smith and Jim Bluth reunite on the indoor parade grounds at the 100th National American Legion Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Aberdeen CBOC to Expand to Larger Facility

The Sioux Falls Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System has awarded a lease for a new larger site for the VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Aberdeen, SD. Plans will now begin for the contractor, Construction Managers of Goldsboro, Inc., to build the new clinic at 909 S. Lamont Street behind Target in Aberdeen. The current Aberdeen CBOC has 8,141 sq. feet; and the new clinic will add nearly 2,000 sq. feet for primary care, expanded mental health and telehealth services. Since the VA outpatient clinic opened with contracted staff in 2001, it has continued to grow with support from Aberdeen area veterans and surrounding communities. During FY 2017, over 2,500 veterans received health care there.

Rapid City Guard Unit Returns Home From Middle East, Homecoming in Works

More than 90 soldiers with the South Dakota Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment have arrived home to South Dakota after completing overseas duty in the Middle East. The Rapid City-based unit returned after a nearly year-long deployment where they provided aerial medical evacuation support with HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters to U.S. military and coalition forces in the region. "This unit exceeded all expectations throughout their deployment," said Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG. "We are so thankful for their safe return to South Dakota." The soldiers returned stateside to Fort Hood, Texas, to complete demobilization requirements before returning back to South Dakota. A welcome home ceremony for the unit is being planned for early November. Details for the ceremony will be released once confirmed.

82nd Annual American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program Dates Set

It's not too early to start guiding high school students in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program.

The main purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program "A Constitutional Speech Contest", is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students.

Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities as well as the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

The opportunity to win more than \$18,000 in scholarships awaits high school students who participate in the South Dakota American Legion Oratorical Contest. The national contest offers \$18,000 for the 1st place winner; \$16,000 for 2nd place; and \$14,000 for 3rd place.

The state winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and a trophy plus a plaque for display in his/her high school trophy case. Second place winner will receive a \$500 scholarship and a trophy and third place winner will receive a \$300 scholarship and a trophy. Fourth through eighth place finishers will each receive a \$100 scholarship and a trophy. The state winner will also advance to the national competition in Indianapolis where he or she is guaranteed a \$1,500 scholarship for participating in the first round of competition and an additional \$1,500 for participation in the second round but does not advance to the final round.

Local contests must be completed by January 13, 2019. The District contests must be finished on or before January 27, 2019. The top contestant from each District will compete in the State Finals which is scheduled to be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Spearfish, SD, Sunday, February 10, 2019, immediately following the Non-Denominational Memorial Service at the MidWinter Conference.

District contests will be held as follows:

District 1 – (Butte, Corson, Dewey, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Perkins, Ziebach counties) Chair: Ken Sabers, (ksabers@rushmore.com) 1908 Butte View Dr, Sturgis, SD 57785. District Contest to be held at Sturgis American Legion Post 33, Jan. 6, 2019, 1:00pm. Storm date, Jan. 13, same time and place.

District 2 – (Bennett, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Jackson, Jones, Mellette, Pennington, Shannon, Todd counties) Chair: Paul Douglas, 622 Auburn Dr, Rapid City, SD 57701. District Contest to be held at Rapid City American Legion Post 22, 818 E. St. Patrick St., Rapid City, January 13, 2019 2:00 p.m. Storm date, January 20, 2019 7:00 p.m. same place.

District 3 – (Gregory, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Lyman, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Tripp counties) Chair: Larry Madsen, (larry_madsen@hotmail.com) or 906 E Commercial Ave., Gettysburg, SD 57442. District Contest to be held at the Faith Lutheran Church Christian Living Center, 714 N Grand Ave, Pierre, SD. January 20, 2019 2:00 p.m. Storm date, January 27 same time and place.

District 4 – (Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, Spink, Walworth counties) Chair: Dale Strom, (dale_strom@yahoo.com) 115 N. Kline St, Aberdeen, SD 57401. District Contest to be held at the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 431 W Melgaard Rd, Aberdeen, SD 57401 January 6, 2019, 4:00 p.m. Storm date, January 13th, same time and place.

District 5 – (Brookings, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts counties) Chair: Shelli Romeu (shelli.romeu@gmail.com) PO Box 284, Watertown, SD 57201. District Contest will be held at Watertown Post home, Jan. 20, 2019, 1:30 p.m. Storm date, Jan. 27, same time and place.

District 6 – (Aurora, Beadle, Brule, Buffalo, Davison, Hanson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Miner, Sanborn counties) Chair: Tim Thomas, (photostoday@midstatesd.net) 112 S Merrill St Chamberlain SD 57325. District Contest to be held at the Best Western Hotel 2000 Dakota Ave S, Huron, SD, January 13, 2019, 2:00 p.m. Storm date, Jan 20th, same time and place.

District 7 – (Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Moody, Union counties) Chair: Kevin Hempel, (krhempel@gmail.com) 25793 470th Ave. Sioux Falls, SD 57107. District Contest to be held at Humbolt American Legion Post Home, Humbolt, SD 57035, January 13, 2019, 2:00 p.m. Storm date January 20th same time and place.

District 8 – (Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Hutchinson, Turner, Yankton counties) Chair: Greg Geiman, (gksn_82501@hotmail.com) 410 Stafford St Scotland, SD 57059. District Contest to be held at the Yankton Public Library, 515 Walnut St, Yankton SD 57078, January 12, 2019, 10:00 a.m. Storm Date January 17, 2019, same time and place.

We encourage Legionnaires to come out and support these very talented students at your respective contest. The National Oratorical Finals will be held in April 2019 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

National Executive Committeeman

Jim Huls
NEC



Legionnaires,

Activities at the National Level are the upcoming Fall Meetings in Indianapolis of the NEC on October 17-18 and commission and committee Meetings on Oct 15-16. Several South Dakota Legionnaires are called to these meetings.

The Leading Candidate for National Commander in 2019-2020 is Bill Oxford from North Carolina, who will visit the Department Convention in Sioux Falls next summer.

In November, National Commander Brett Reistad will be visiting our Department, arriving on the evening of November 4th in Sioux Falls. He then will travel across the State of South Dakota and depart on the morning of November 10 from Rapid City. Details are being worked out as to the activities he will participate in, but expect him to visit many Posts across South Dakota. This is a great chance for South Dakota Legionnaires to visit with a National Commander at one of these stops. The Commander's stops and timing will be in the Up To Now, so make an effort to attend one of these. The National Commander will also be collecting money for American Legion Charities. On your checks, please note "Commander Charity Fund". Consider making a donation to the National Commander's Project.

For God and Country,
James J Huls
SD NEC

Kathy Dungan Elected National President of the American Legion Auxiliary



Kathy Dungan, of Wesson, Miss., was elected national president of the American Legion Auxiliary during the organization's 98th National Convention held Aug. 24-30 in Minneapolis. Dungan will serve the world's largest women's patriotic service organization as national president for a one-year term.

Dungan has held numerous leadership positions in the organization at the unit, district, department, and national levels. At the national level, she chaired ten committees and served special appointments, including work on the ALA's 5-Year Centennial Strategic Plan, Future Focus Committee, 100th Anniversary Committee and Succession Planning Committee. Dungan also served as ALA Mississippi Girls State director for three years.

"Members of the American Legion Auxiliary, thank you for putting your trust in me to lead this great organization as national president ... What an honor, I am humbled and truly blessed," said Dungan in a speech at the Installation of Officers during the ALA's National Convention.

After more than 20 years of employment with the Mississippi Supreme Court, she retired as judicial assistant for a Supreme Court judge. She is actively involved in her community in many ways, including as a member of Little Bahala Baptist Church where she volunteered as church treasurer for more than a decade, Youth Sunday School teacher, and as a member of the widows' ministry committee and planning committee. Kathy's love for God and Country is the guiding reason for her dedication to make a difference in the lives of veterans, and she steadfastly believes in the ALA's mission of Service Not Self.

Dungan, a 40-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary, is eligible for membership through the service of her father, Wittie Card, who served in the Army in WWII. Kathy and her husband, William, have one son and two grandchildren, all of whom are members of The American Legion Family. She is a member of ALA Drane-Prine Unit 79 in Wesson.

2019 National Convention Award Winners

A multitude of awards are given out at each American Legion national convention, and the 100th convention in Minneapolis in August was no exception. Below is a list of 2018 awards and their recipients, whether given on-stage or off.

Distinguished Service Medal

Hon. Elizabeth Dole

National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Brett Walsh

National Firefighter of the Year

Damon Faust

Ralph T. O'Neil Education Trophy

For greatest activity in use of American Legion School Medal awards
Department of New Mexico

Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism Trophy

For best all-around Americanism activities
Department of Virginia

National Recruiter of the Year

David L. Witucki, Houston

Race to the Top winners

Given to district commanders who attain at least 100 percent of the district's assigned membership objective by March 31

Ronald F. Bradstreet, Hoover, Ala; Holly Lewis, Colliers, W.Va.

Jimmy L. Mitchell, Fresno, Texas; Gregory A. Spight, Detroit

Consolidated Post Report winners

Departments of West Virginia, Alaska, Colorado, Vermont, Connecticut, Kentucky, Idaho, Wyoming, Ohio and Maryland

Frank N. Belgrano Trophy

For support of Boy Scouts of America
Department of Missouri

Garland D. Murphy Jr. Award

Based on actual contributions received during the 2017-2018 American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) year
Department of Florida

U.S. "Udie" Grant Legacy Award

Based on total combined donations of American Legion Family to the Child Welfare Foundation
Department of Florida

Child Welfare Foundation Meritorious Achievement Award

Given for the highest increase in per-capita giving to the CWF

Department of Kansas

William F. Lenker National Service Trophy

For best supporting and implementing programs to benefit veterans and their families

Department of Montana

Fourth Estate Awards

Broadcast: KARE-TV, Minn., "Disconnects, Delays and a Pattern of Denial"

Print: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, "Mexico Blackouts"

New Media: The War Horse, "Marines United"

O.L. Bodenhamer Trophy

No. 1 in membership at June report Department of West Virginia

Employer of the Year

For companies and businesses dedicated to hiring veterans

Small: Allied Universal Security Services (Raytheon Account), Rowlett, TX

Mid-Sized: Gallery Furniture, Houston

Large: Southwest Airlines, Dallas

Employer of Older Workers Award

ESW Inc., Crown Point, Ind.

Michael Guty Homeless Veterans Outreach Award

Department of New Jersey American Legion Family

Employment Service Local Office Award

IDES Sterling, Peoria, Ill.

Local Veterans Employment Representative of the Year

Spencer Horton, Georgia

Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist of the Year

Samuel L. Denson, Pensacola, Fla.

Color Guard Contests

Military: Fountain Hills (Ariz.) Post 58

Military Open: Harrisburg Post 472, Houston

Open: Shooting Stars Unit 14, Flora, Ill.

Advancing/Retiring Colors: SAL Detachment of California District 12

Band Contest

American Legion Band of the Tonawandas, Tonawanda, N.Y.

Spirit of Service

Air Force: Staff Sgt. Robert P. Andrews

Coast Guard: Machinery Technician 2nd Class Brian Gogo

Marine Corps: Sgt. Molly Hampton

Army: Sgt. Drew Hunnicutt

Air National Guard: Staff Sgt. Heather J. Hyon

Navy: Petty Officer 2nd Class Sha'nae Wilson

Free Flu Shot Clinics for VA Veterans

During flu season, protecting your health with a flu shot is easier than ever and as close as your local VA or neighborhood Walgreens. VA and Walgreens care about your health and are partnering to offer enrolled Veteran patients easy access to flu shots.

VA and Walgreens are national partners, providing no-cost standard (Quadrivalent) flu shots to enrolled Veterans of the VA health care system. If you are interested in finding out more about other vaccine options, especially if you are aged 65 or older, contact your VA health care team.

During the program, which runs from August 15, 2018, through March 31, 2019, enrolled Veteran patients nationwide have the option of getting their flu shot at any of Walgreens' 8,200 locations in addition to their local VA health care facilities.

No appointment is required. Simply go to any Walgreens, tell the pharmacist you receive care at a VA facility and show your Veterans Health Identification Card and another form of photo ID. (Patients will also be asked to complete a vaccine consent form at the time of service.)

Your immunization record will be updated electronically in your local VA electronic health record. Walgreens has the capability to electronically send vaccination information to the VA electronic health record.

The VA-Walgreens national partnership is part of VA's eHealth Exchange project. This national program ensures that many Veterans get their no-cost flu shot at their local Walgreens, satisfying their wellness reminder because they either found it more convenient or did not have a scheduled appointment at a local VA health care facility.

Sioux Falls VA Healthcare System Flu Shot Schedule:

Sept. 26 - Aberdeen CBOC, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sept. 27 - Sioux Falls VA, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Oct. 2 - Sioux City CBOC, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Oct. 2 - Sioux Falls VA, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Oct. 3 - Wagner Outreach Clinic, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Oct. 9 - Watertown CBOC, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Oct. 11 - Spirit Lake CBOC, 12N-3:30 p.m.

Oct. 12 - Sioux Falls VA, 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Oct. 15 - Sioux Falls VA, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Oct. 23 - Aberdeen CBOC, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Oct. 24 - Spirit Lake CBOC, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Oct. 24 - Wagner Outreach Clinic, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Oct. 25 - Sioux Falls VA, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Oct. 26 - Watertown CBOC, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Nov. 7 - Sioux Falls VA, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Nov. 13 - Sioux Falls VA, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Dec. 3 - Sioux Falls VA, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Dec. 13 - Sioux Falls VA, 7:30 a.m.-12N

Process For Starting a Sons of the American Legion Squadron

The Sons of the American Legion is an excellent way to recruit and involve more community members into a local post. We all know that the veteran pool itself is shrinking—we don't fight wars with the same manpower we did 70 years ago. However, that doesn't lessen the patriotism within a community, and the Sons taps into that spirit and dedication to serve without the requirement of being a Veteran.

The eligibility requirements for SAL membership are as follows: All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and the Gulf War/War on Terrorism, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the "Sons of The American Legion." There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership.

The formation of a new SAL squadron relies first and foremost on keeping a positive attitude. Remember, you'll be rendering a service to the community and its veterans. These steps can serve as a guide:

1. The post commander (with the approval of the members) should appoint a committee of at least three members to organize a squadron within the post.
2. Survey the post membership to ascertain the number of sons, grandsons, stepsons or adopted sons eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion. (There is no age limit for the Sons organization.)
3. The committee should obtain information from the district or department SAL chairman or your department headquarters.
4. The post should call a meeting to discuss the possibility of forming a squadron. Invite a speaker, someone who is involved in the Sons of The American Legion, discuss the organization and its activities. It might be a good idea to invite the district adviser and/or commander to talk to the young men.
5. The organizing committee should ask the post to name a permanent chairman and at least two other interested members to head up the squadron.
6. The committee should develop a program covering at least six months, and establish a regular meeting day and time. The SAL should meet in the post home, and all meetings must be conducted by the guidelines in the SAL handbook.
7. At the first meeting of the SAL squadron, the committee should select a temporary staff of officers that will serve for a three-month period, after which a regular election can be scheduled.
8. The charter application should be completed and sent to department headquarters with national per capita of \$2 plus the applicable department per capita for each member. Be sure all four copies of the application are completed and signed.
9. The charter application (without monies) will be forwarded by the department headquarters to National Headquarters for preparation of the charter. Upon receipt of the charter at department headquarters, the charter members' membership cards will be made out and both the charter and membership cards will be sent to the post commander.
10. An initiation of the members and installation of the squadron officers should be conducted by the post officers or by some American Legion ceremonial group. The ranking Legion officer in your area should take part in the program and charge the post with its responsibility in conducting the squadron.
11. The post committee and the squadron officers should plan meetings and squadron programs for at least the next year.
12. The post committee should prepare a report for each post meeting outlining the accomplishments and goals of the squadron.
13. The post committee should be expanded until there is at least one adviser or more for each squadron.
14. Encourage squadron members to participate in all district SAL functions and in areas where there is no county or district organization, try to organize one.
15. The post should notify the squadron of all upcoming events such as parades, memorial services and other functions in which they could take part. The squadron should make itself useful in assisting the post.

Greg "Doc" Gibbs SAL National Commander



Greg "Doc" Gibbs is the new national commander of the Sons of the American Legion for 2018-2019.

He was installed Sunday during The American Legion's Centennial Convention in Minneapolis, MN, and the Sons 67th Convention.

A retired university professor and public school administrator, Gibbs holds a PhD in administration from the University of New York at Buffalo. He serves the Sons through Hamburg Post 527 in western New York.

While serving as legislative chairman for the Detachment of New York, he was honored as the George B. Evans Grassroots Advocate of the Year in 2013 at the Houston, Texas convention.

Gibbs is a member of the Legion Riders with Orchard Park Post 567 and says he is "also proud to wear the colors of the 9-11 Memorial Post #2001 Riders Group."

He has served as a Legion College of New York faculty member, the first SAL member to ever do so, co-teaching a session on legislation.

Gibbs has served as the VAVS representative to the Buffalo, NY VA Hospital.

His daughter and son are both members of the Legion family and he has been married to his wife Pam for over four decades.

South Dakota Sons of the American Legion Leadership

Commander
Kerry Jorgenson

Vice Commander
Casey Hanson

Adjutant
Dewey Hessaa

NEC
Jeff Shannon

Follow SD SAL on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/sdsal/

National Commander Brett P. Reistad Post Excellence Award

The American Legion's Post Excellence Awarded has added new criteria. To now qualify for the Post Excellence Award, a post is required to achieve excellence in four areas: membership, submission of the Consolidated Post Report (CPR), sharing of post history, and community activity.

The purposes of this award is membership growth, exposure of American Legion values to the youth of the community, and increased visibility of the American Legion Family through service projects. A post achieving this qualification will have had numerous post members involved in planning and achieving these goals. Many posts are most likely already active in these areas and will qualify without extra effort. Others, however, will need to increase their efforts in one or more areas to qualify for the award.

The standard to be achieved in each area is as follows:

Membership: Post membership must be at least one member greater than the previous year. At least one post officer attends district meetings.

Consolidated Post Report: CPRs must be submitted by July 1. The American Legion's federal charter requires the submission of an annual report to Congress on activities for the year. MyLegion.org has made it simple for a post to submit its CPR in a timely manner.

Sharing of post history: The American Legion's Centennial web page (www.legion.org/centennial) allows posts to convey its legacy by sharing historical photos, videos and print material. For instructions on how to create a post profile, click here <https://www.legion.org/dispatch/217282/share-your-posts-legacy>.

Community activity: The post must conduct an event that connects the local community with The American Legion post. The objective is to open your doors, welcome the community in, and educate them on what The American Legion is all about and how the post is an asset to the community. Posts do not need to have a physical building to accomplish this. This activity can be held in a park, a community center, or anywhere the post can welcome and interact with the local community.

The district commander responsible for the post will certify a post as having achieved the four specified criteria. The district commander will submit a list of posts meeting the criteria to department headquarters. That list should include the post name, phone number, address and commander's name. If possible, accompany the last two criteria with copies of press releases submitted to the local media about the projects to show that the projects were not only accomplished but that an attempt was made to enhance the image of The American Legion through local media. The copy submitted should include a date and time stamp showing receipt by the media outlet.

National Commander Reistad's Incentive Pin Program

American Legion National Commander Brett P. Reistad will award his national commander "Membership Excellence: Team 100" incentive pin to any Legion Family member who obtains three new members into The American Legion. A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2019 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2018 membership year.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs. Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Reistad's pin incentive program will end June 30, 2019, or when supplies are exhausted.



National Commander Reistad's Team 100 Honor Ribbon

American Legion National Commander Brett P. Reistad will award his Team 100 American Legion Family Ribbon to any American Legion Family that achieves 100 percent membership by May 30, 2019. For this award, the Legion Family is defined as a post and any combination of an Auxiliary unit, Sons squadron or Legion Riders chapter. Each branch must achieve 100 percent membership to qualify for the award.

Ethan Post Hosts Another Successful Sweat For Vets Run



Above: Decked out in red, white, and blue, nearly 200 participants and volunteers flooded the streets of Mitchell to take part in the Sweat for Vets run/walk hosted by Ethan Post #261. The money raised during the event goes to fund the Children and Youth programs put on by the post. Below left: PDC Hugh Holmes participates in the 2018 Sweat for Vets. Below right: The Corn Palace decked out to host the run. (Pics courtesy of Corn Palace and Hugh Holmes)



Clark Post Breaks Ground on Charters of Freedom Setting



The Clark American Legion Post #60 has broken ground on what is to be a one-of-a-kind memorial in the state of South Dakota. The Charters of Freedom are our country's founding documents. These three original documents, The Declaration of Independence, The United States Constitution and The Bill of Rights, are on display in the National Archives

THE AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY DATES

Gulf War

August 2, 1990, to cessation of hostilities as determined by the U.S. Government

Panama

December 20, 1989, to January 31, 1990

Lebanon and Grenada

August 24, 1982, to July 31, 1984

Vietnam War

February 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975

Korean War

June 25, 1950, to January 31, 1955

World War II

December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946

*Merchant Marine, Dec. 7, 1941, to Aug. 15, 1945

World War I

April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918

Calendar of Events

October 2018:

- 8: Columbus Day. Legion Headquarters office closed.
- 15-18: National Fall Meetings, Indianapolis, IN
- 23: Beirut Bombing, 1983
- 25: Grenada Invasion, 1983
- Oct 28-Nov 2: National American Legion College, Indianapolis, IN.
- 31: Halloween

November 2018:

- 4: Daylight Saving Time Ends.
- 6: Election Day.
- 11: Veterans Day.
- 12: Veterans Day (observed). Legion Headquarters Office closed.
- 22-23: Thanksgiving Holiday. Legion Headquarters Office closed.

December 2018:

- 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 15: Bill of Rights Day
- 20: Panama Operation Just Cause, 1989
- 21: First Day of Winter
- 24-26: Christmas Holiday. Legion Headquarters Office closed.
- 31: New Year's Eve

in Washington, D.C. They are open to the public and free to view. However, the vast majority of Americans will never see these documents in person—which is where the project comes into play.

Working with the nonprofit group Foundation Forward, the Clark post has secured a location along the main street of Clark for the setting, which will consist of full-size replicas of the Setting in the National Archives. All Charters of Freedom Settings are placed in a location central to the community, 24 hour access, with high visibility, high foot traffic, and easy access for school children.

This is truly a community strengthening experience by allowing future generations to grow up no longer just talking about the Constitution and Bill of Rights in Washington, but talking about *their* Constitution and *their* Bill of Rights, right in their home community! The hope is that they will know how government is supposed to work to protect and serve *We The People*.

Construction of the project is currently underway. The Clark Post #60 will be holding a dedication ceremony on Veterans Day, November 11, 2018, at 3pm in Clark in conjunction with their Post's Centennial Celebration. All are encouraged and welcome to attend.

Anybody interested in donating to offset the costs of this project can send

contributions here:
Cagley-Smith Post #60
102 N Commercial Street
Clark, SD 57225

Annual State Legion Golf Tournament a Success



The Wakonda American Legion Post #13 hosted the Annual South Dakota State American Legion Golf Tournament September 8th & 9th. Saturday play was at the Bridges Golf Course at Beresford and Sunday play was at Glenridge Golf Course at Irene, SD. The Wakonda American Legion and Auxiliary hosted the Saturday night tournament banquet. The national anthem was sung by Brecklyn Sherman. The Irene/Wakonda School FCCLA Club served the evening meal.

State American Legion Commander, Denny Brenden welcomed the golfers Sunday morning and toured the course. American Legion Posts represented on the teams were from Gayville, Hermosa, Pierre, Rapid City, Tripp, Volga, Wakonda, and Yankton. The players were impressed by the courses and the host post.

A Sunday lunch was served. The tourney is a 4 person best ball. The traveling trophy was won by the Wakonda team. Teams from Pierre and Volga tied for second. Next years host will be determined at a later date.

Pierre WWII Vet Honored With Paid Membership



The Pierre Unit #8 Auxiliary has many programs to support Veterans, but wanted to do something special to show appreciation towards WWII Veteran Glenn Kietzmann for his service and American Legion membership of Pierre Post 8 for 58 years. Unit 8 decided to do this by paying for his 2019 membership dues, presenting the 2019 card to Glenn and 9 other veterans.

Glenn is 92 years young and has been at Edgewood Apartments for a year. He joined the Navy and is a WWII Veteran. He was in the service from 1944-1946. Basic training was at Great Lakes, then to Miami where he would be deployed from. He was ready to be shipped out, but the war ended so he was never deployed. He ended up at Camp Wallace Texas where his job in the service was a telegrapher, running records for Discharges. After the service he worked at DOT for 40 years.

Glenn also played in Big Bands, playing the drums. He played the drums for Juell Johnson Trio. Glen also likes to play pool, as well as he was chosen Homecoming King at Edgewood this fall. He is very appreciative and kind person. He has 2 daughters, 1 son, 7 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. His wife passed about a year ago.

The Unit 8 members that attended the presentation enjoyed very much visiting with Glenn and were honored that he shared his story, and thanked him for his service. Great work Auxiliary!

Legionnaires Attend Membership Workshop at National Headquarters, Indianapolis



Pictured above are the attendees to the National Membership Workshop held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on August 10-11, 2018. Pictured above from left to right sporting their new 2018 membership polo shirts are Department Adjutant Travis Flisrand, Department Commander Denny Brenden, 6th District Commander Doug Feltman of Chamberlain, 4th District Commander Perry Schmidt of Redfield, 8th District Commander Greg Geiman of Scotland, and Department Membership Chairman Gene Opbroek of Ft. Pierre.

Youth Trooper Academy Class of 2018



The 2018 Youth Trooper Academy graduating class, South Dakota Highway Patrol instructors and South Dakota American Legion and SAL leadership, pose for their picture in front of the Capitol building in Pierre. This year was another highly successful week of training and instruction for the Youth Troopers as they were drilled and taught what it takes to be a law enforcement officer in South Dakota.

American Legion Basic Training

The current American Legion Extension Course has been replaced with the American Legion Basic Training Course which is an online course.

The online American Legion Basic Training Course is **FREE**.

Go to www.legion.org; then Media; then Extension Institute.

(You will need to create a legion.org username and password to login and get started)