

Legion News



VOLUME 87, NUMBER 1

STILL SERVING AMERICA

August 2019

Legionnaires Elect Fred Nelson 2019-2020 Department Commander

Fred Nelson of Spearfish was elected as the State Commander of The American Legion Department of South Dakota by delegates attending the 101st Annual State Convention of The American Legion in Sioux Falls on Sunday, June 9th. Nelson was nominated by Larry Price of Redfield, and his nomination was seconded by Ron Schuttler of Spearfish. The American Legion is the largest wartime veteran service organization in South Dakota with over 18,000 members serving in 240 local American Legion Posts across the state.

Nelson graduated from High School in Spearfish, SD, in 1981. At the age of 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served as an aircraft crew chief and later as an Air Training Command instructor.

Nelson is a 21-year continuous member of The American Legion and is currently a member of The Spearfish American Legion Post #164 in Spearfish, SD. Nelson is a life member of The American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans and is a member of the Air Force Sergeants Association.

Fred is married to his wife Micheline and between them they have 5 children and 9 grandchildren. Fred and Micheline reside in Spearfish, SD. Micheline serves as President of the Spearfish American Legion Auxiliary and as the department newsletter editor.

On Thursday, June 6th, the state convention activities kicked off with a meeting of the Department Finance Commission where Department Finance Officer Gary Wolkow briefed the Department Finance Commission on the status of the current budget and following their meeting, the Department Executive Committee met in the Spearfish Convention Center. Later that same afternoon, the 5-Year Membership Council and Public Relations/Media Committee held their joint meeting.

On Friday morning, June 7, the Convention Resolutions Committee, led by committee chairman Fred Nelson of Watertown, met to assign resolutions to the various convention committees. This year, the Convention Resolutions Committee referred a total of five resolutions to the convention committees. All nine Convention Committees met early in the afternoon to act on any resolutions assigned to their respective convention committee.

The South Dakota American Legion Press Association (SDALPA) held their annual luncheon and business meeting at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. Charemon Dunham of Iroquois, SD, was elected to serve as the SDALPA President in 2019-2020.

On Friday evening, the Go-Getter Smorgasbord was held at the Point and as always, the event was very well attended by the Go-Getters and everyone had a great time. The unique setting gave everyone a chance to mingle and learn a new fact or two. Again this year, a "fun auction" was held and the proceeds were \$7,260. An auction highlight this year was the auctioning off of haircuts and shaves for Darryl Barry of Sturgis and Department Judge Advocate Gary Schumacher of DeSmet. Their cuts alone raised \$1,293 during the evening.

The convention fun auction continues to grow and gets more exciting each year. The items donated for the fun auction are top quality and very desirable for the bidders. Everyone attending the fun auction had a great time and the winning bidders were happy to take home their treasures.

The General Session of the Department Convention opened on Saturday morning, June 8th, following a mini-concert by the South Dakota American Legion Band.

The American Legion Riders from Black Hills Chapter #164 performed the POW/MIA Ceremony.

Several dignitaries brought greetings to the Convention including Governor Kristi Noem; South Dakota Representative Dusty Johnson; Shawn Bohn representing the VA Dakotas Regional Office; Brad Richardson, Superintendent of the Michael Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home; and Sgt.



Fred Nelson
2019-2020
State Commander
Department of South Dakota

President Trump Signs LEGION Act



American Legion—In a significant legislative victory for The American Legion, President Trump signed a bill July 30 that declares the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941.

The American Legion sought the declaration as a way to honor approximately 1,600 U.S. servicemembers who were killed or wounded during previously undeclared periods of war.

The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act) also opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

"Recognizing the service of these wartime veterans is the right thing to do and it is long overdue," National Commander Brett Reistad said. "The families of those who were killed or wounded during these wartime acts should take pride in knowing that we recognize their sacrifice and service. Moreover, we are proud to welcome any of the six million living veterans from the previously unrecognized periods into our organization and call them 'Legionnaires.'"

Now that the legislation has been signed, The American Legion's eligibility criteria immediately changes from seven war eras to two: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government. No other restrictions to American Legion membership are changed.

The law's journey began on Feb. 14 when Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., introduced S. 504, along with Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C. A companion measure, H.R. 1641, was introduced in the House by Reps. Lou Correa, D-Calif., and Ben Cline, R-Va.

Reistad expressed gratitude to the bipartisan members of Congress for passing the legislation.

"We are grateful that President Trump fully acknowledges the importance of The American Legion by signing the LEGION Act in the White House today – just one week after it passed the House of Representatives," Reistad said. "In an era of partisan gridlock, Republicans and Democrats in Congress overwhelmingly recognized the importance of allowing thousands of honorable but previously ineligible veterans the right to join the largest and most influential veterans organization in the country."

Reistad pointed out that existing American Legion membership applications are in the process of being updated but can still be used. "In the meantime, I recommend that prospective Legionnaires and recruiters write 'LEGION Act' in the eligibility date section of American Legion membership applications if they fall outside the previous war eras," Reistad said. "The larger pool of veterans now eligible for The American Legion will also open their family members to eligibility in the Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary as well."



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4—Perry Schmidt, Redfield

5—Matt Lagerstrom, White

6—Doug Feltman, Chamberlain

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Fred Nelson Elected State Commander

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Tony Manau of the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

Numerous Americanism, Membership, Employer, and individual awards were presented during the opening session of the convention.

Convention delegates heard several commission and convention committee reports from their respective chairpersons.

Doug Harris of American Legion Post #22, Rapid City, SD, was selected as the 2019 Department Legionnaire of the Year recipient.

Ed Thompson of American Legion Post #46, Custer, SD, was selected as the recipient of the Robert C. Gabrielson Memorial Leadership Award for 2019.

The Joint Memorial Service, led by Department Chaplain Larry Klumb of Ethan, SD, was held later that afternoon in the Sioux Falls Event Center.

The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion Joint Banquet was held on Saturday evening, June 9th, at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. National Commander Candidate of The American Legion, Bill Oxford from the Department of North Carolina, served as the keynote speaker for the Joint Legion, Auxiliary and SAL Banquet.

Elections for department offices were held on Sunday, June 9th. Elected as the two new Department Vice Commanders for 2019-2020 were Kevin Morello of Blackhawk, SD, who will represent Districts 1 and 2, and Harry Boner of Castlewood, SD, who will represent Districts 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Each will serve a one-year term.

Verle Whipple of Clear Lake and a member of Gary Post #109, was unopposed and re-elected as the Department Sergeant-At-Arms for a one-year term in 2019-2020.

The 2019 State Convention concluded with the election of Fred Nelson, of Spearfish, as the 2019-2020 State Commander. Nelson will serve a one-year term as Department Commander.

Newly elected Department Commander Nelson was sworn into office and presided over the Department Post Convention Department Executive Committee which met immediately after the adjournment of the State Convention to conduct their Post-Convention business which included several department appointments. Thank you to Sioux Falls Post #15 for their hosting of the 2019 State American Legion Convention. Everyone appreciated their hard work and hospitality. In February 2020, the Legion Family is off to Oacoma, SD, for Mid-winter Conference.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The South Dakota Legion News is published six times a year to serve its members and interested parties by informing them 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 reserves the right to edit all articles.

11 Things You Need to Know About the LEGION Act

The American Legion—With President Trump's signature on the LEGION Act, the extension of the ongoing declared period of war was extended back to Dec. 7, 1941. The congressionally approved act is a way to honor thousands of veterans who were killed or wounded on duty during periods not previously considered a time of war.

"Finally Congress has acknowledged the service and sacrifice of at least 1,600 veterans who died or were wounded in previously undeclared periods of war," said American Legion National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett. "This new law honors the memories of those veterans while allowing other veterans from those previously undeclared eras to receive all the American Legion benefits they have earned through their service."

The LEGION Act - Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act — also redefines The American Legion's membership eligibility dates. The eligibility now span from Dec. 7, 1941, until a time when the U.S. is no longer at war, as determined by Congress.

Here are answers to 11 key questions about the new law and what it means for The American Legion.

Question: *How does this change the eligibility requirements for The American Legion?*

Answer: The only change is that Congress has reduced the number of eligibility periods from seven to two. They are April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941, and continuing. No other restrictions are changed.

Question: *What's the impact on veterans who previously were not eligible for American Legion membership?*

Answer: Veterans who were honorably discharged but whose service did not fall into the previous defined war eras may now join The American Legion immediately. To do so, eligible members may sign up at www.legion.org/join.

Question: *I am among the veterans who were not allowed to join previously, so why do you want me now?*

Answer: The American Legion's founding fathers believed, "a veteran is a veteran," an axiom that has held true throughout the organization's more than century of service. Some veterans were ineligible to join because of the war eras that were defined by Congress. The recent bill passage and president's signature changed that.

Question: *So how does this differentiate The American Legion from AMVETS?*

Answer: The American Legion's eligibility criteria states that veterans must have served during "wartime." When Congress decides the U.S. is no longer in a state of war, the Legion's membership eligibility period will close, while AMVETS will still be open to those who served.

Question: *How does this affect the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)?*

Answer: The Sons' eligibility criteria will change along with that of The American Legion. Any son or grandson of a living American Legion member will be able to join the SAL program. (Sons and grandsons of deceased veterans are also eligible.) For example, a son of a veteran who served between 1985 and 1988 previously would not have been eligible. With the extension of the war period, that veteran would immediately be eligible for The American Legion and the son would be able to join the SAL.

Question: *How does this affect the eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary?*

Answer: This follows the same concept as the SAL, as noted previously. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is currently open to grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and adopted female descendants of eligible veterans.

Question: *How does this affect membership for departments, districts and posts?*

Answer: This change opens up American Legion membership to thousands more veterans who likely live in your communities. They may become members immediately.

Question: *The current membership applications don't address the eligibility change. How do we process those members?*

Answer: New membership materials will be developed and provided as quickly as possible. Until then, it is recommended that prospective members from a previously undocumented war era write "Other Conflicts" in the eligibility date section and send it in to their department with the appropriate dues.

Question: *What steps should departments, districts and posts focus on?*

Answer: A good first step would be to review all recruiting materials to look for eligibility dates. Information on electronic media (websites, social media channels, etc.) should be changed immediately. It is up to departments to decide on the best way to handle printed materials, while updated ones are being produced.

Question: *How does this change the Paid Up For Life program?*

Answer: There are no changes to the PUFL program, though the newly eligible members would be able to become PUFLs. To learn more about the program, visit <https://www.legion.org/PUFL>

Question: *Who can I contact for more information about this change as it applies to membership and recruiting?*

Answer: Contact the national Membership Division. Visit this web page to find the representative in your state. <https://www.legion.org/membership/contactus>

“Carry on the Legacy”

Fred Nelson
State Commander



Thank you, Legionnaires, for entrusting me to serve as your State Commander of the South Dakota American Legion, for 2019-2020. I am truly honored and plan to dedicate my year to “Carry on the Legacy” into the new centennial. I chose this motto as we face the challenge to embrace the needs of our various generations of Veterans. I plan to carry on the legacy shared by my father, Niels Nelson, WWII Veteran, Pacific Theater, a 60-plus year American Legion member, to the youth that is our new generation of Veterans and their families.

I have only been your State Commander for a few weeks at the time of writing this article and have already added 6,000 miles to the odometer of the department vehicle; that is without leaving the borders of South Dakota. I traveled to Sioux Falls multiple times, Buffalo, Garretson, Salem, Rapid City, Hot Springs, Pierre, Madison, Eureka, and Dell Rapids. I dedicate my commitment to the position by answering as many engagements as time and schedule allow from attending department meetings, giving the American Legion greetings at the VFW State Convention, helping with the Youth Trooper Academy graduation, serving as parade Grand Marshall, participating in Posts’ centennial celebrations, paying respect to those called on their last journey, and attending the ALA President’s homecoming, to name just a few.

Have you watched “Legion on the Road?” As I travel, I am creating videos with fellow Legion Family members to keep everyone up to date. These videos are posted on our department Facebook found at <https://www.facebook.com/sdamericanlegion> and later, I intend on posting them on our YouTube. These videos are receiving thousands of views and are getting the word out about our South Dakota American Legion Family.

My Homecoming took place in Spearfish in late June. I am grateful for the support of the Spearfish Post 164 American Legion Family and all those who traveled and attended. It was a great day to socialize with fellow American Legion members and family.

I identified three missions for the coming year. They include strengthening “Public & Media Relations”, providing “Mentorship & Training”, and focusing on “Membership”. Ed Stringer is this year’s membership chairman. Soon, he will unveil his plan to reach his goal “Membership is strength, let’s get stronger!” We’re going to continue the forward momentum that our department membership team accomplished last year. Members of the executive committee have again been challenged to each recruit three new members. In addition, this year, each district commander is asked to challenge the post commanders throughout their districts to also recruit three new members.

At the Department Executive Committee meeting, we discussed the future of the American Legion in South Dakota. I briefed the committee on the three missions and also challenged those district commanders that haven’t completed the “new” American Legion Basic Training offered online, at no cost, on the National American Legion webpage, to complete the course.

I look forward to future travels to the National Membership Workshop, the National Convention, all Fall District Meetings, and other events across the state.

Carry on the Legacy,

Fred Nelson
Department Commander

2019 Boys State Election Results



The following is a list of the election results from the 77th Annual, 2019 American Legion Boys State that was held on the campus of Northern State University in Aberdeen from May 27-31, 2019.

Governor

Johnathan Smith, N-Sioux Falls

Justice of Supreme Court

Court Anderson, N-Sioux Falls
Hunter Hauck, N-Sioux Falls
Eli Kortan, F-Alexandria
Thomas Lafave, N-Mission Hill
Nathan Moon, F-Sioux Falls
Noah Mursu, N-Big Stone City
Cooper Vermeulen, F-Letcher

Public Utilities Commissioner

Harry Heiberger, F-Brandon
Henry Heiberger, F-Brandon
James Lusk, N-Milbank

Secretary of State

Michael Yousef, N-Sioux Falls

State Auditor

Cadin Kallenberger, N-Leola

State Treasurer

Eli Longville, N-Colton

Attorney General

Scott Shlanta, N-Sioux Falls

Commissioner of School and Public Lands

Grant Beilke, F-Sioux Falls

Department Adjutant’s Thoughts

Travise Flisrand
State Adjutant



Every Legion member started their time in the armed forces with the same core training. Boot Camp. This initial training phase taught all of us how “our” service was organized/operated, chain of command and most importantly teamwork. Some of us learned these lessons quickly but a lot of us needed that extra effort from the instructors. Looking at the basics of our organization from time is time is needed to refocus our attention on the mission.

As State Adjutant I get what seems to be daily phone calls asking for information from new members in leadership positions or from those who have sat in every seat and have overlooked some of those core lessons they learned decades ago. Most of the time, the answers are usually within their grasp in the Officers Guide, Adjutants manual or the Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion. Training and education of our membership can keep our focus and efforts towards the mission of The American Legion.

The National American Legion has invested time and resources in developing training courses designed to give members the core information of our pillars and the programs that support the pillars. The “Basic Training” course offered on the National website is free to all members and is the primary training all membership should start with. You can access the course through this link <https://www.legion.org/alei>. Posts are challenged to have all officers complete this course this year and Department Commander Fred Nelson has challenged the leadership of the organization to complete this course. More training videos are on the training page of the national website that are great tools, they can be found here: <https://www.legion.org/training>.

The second topic I would like to cover with my column is teamwork and collaboration between Posts and County organizations. I have observed that the counties with active organizations/meetings have been some of the more successful Posts in the State. The ability to communicate on what each Post is doing and working together on larger projects increases the American Legion presence and has a direct impact in support from the communities to those Posts. Not only does it increase resources available but the camaraderie in that county between Posts is looked forward to by those who attend meetings. County Commanders are encouraged to develop active County Organizations if they have multiple Posts, meetings do not need to be held monthly and can rotate locations between Posts. It might be something to look into as a way to pool resources if you do not already do it.

2020 is looking very positive for our membership. The 2019 membership year saw a stable membership compared to previous years with a significant improvement in Posts attaining 100% membership. Working together as a team, our Department can grow and achieve more!

For God and Country,

Travise Flisrand
Department Adjutant

District Commander’s Corner

Perry Schmidt
District 4 Commander



Hello Legionnaires,

I hope your summer and the 4th of July has been enjoyable. I want to thank everyone for their hard work this last year with membership and all the Legion programs that you have been involved in. Now we turn our attention to the beginning of another year in District #4. Memberships are beginning to come into your local Posts and we need to be proactive in getting your Early Bird Events planned and continue to retain all members in your area.

District #4 was fortunate to have the State Oratorical Winner this last year. Congratulations to Keilly Gunther from Aberdeen. Great Job Keilly and Aberdeen Post 24.

For those Posts hosting an event or parade, book the Legion Parade Float. It makes a great statement about the mission of the American Legion. Get a hold of the state office to make a reservation for your event.

I am asking the County Commanders to help your local Posts with any and all events the Legion supports. With your help we can help make everyone’s year a great year. Thanks.

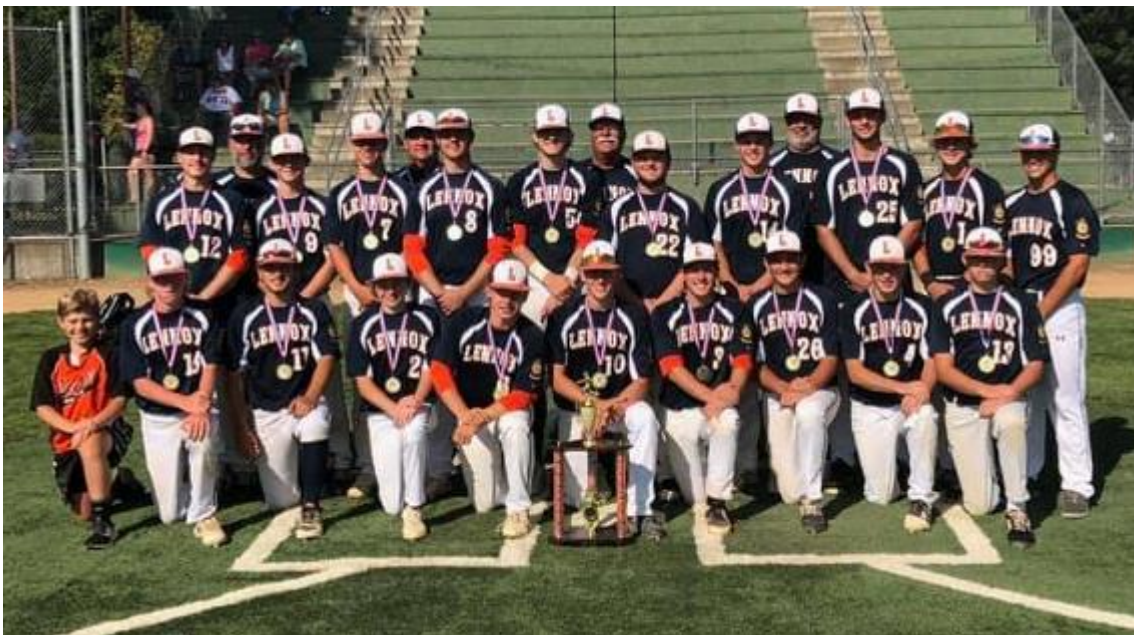
Don’t forget to help out at the District 4 Booth at the Brown County Fair. The fair runs August 12-18. We are located in the Odde Ice Arena Booth 269. It is a great opportunity to meet, visit and sign up new members. See you there.

The District Fall Meeting will be held on Sunday September 8th this year. If your Post would like to host this event get ahold of me soon. Thanks.

So, let us all put on our Legion Best and get out and help make this a great year for our new State Commander Fred Nelson. Go Navy!!!

Perry Schmidt
Legion Post 92 Redfield
District 4 Commander

Lennox Claims State B Senior Title



Above: Members of the State B Championship team from Lennox Post #174. Post #174 claimed the title with a 2-0 win over Post #92 out of Redfield.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Courtney VanZanten
Department Service Officer



Greetings Legionnaires!

Getting ready to attend the Department Service Officer School in Indianapolis, and I am excited for it. This session will focus primarily on winning appeals, and I look forward to bringing that information home. Also attending the school with me will be Kevin Bowen, one of the State Field Officers, whose territory covers Brown, Marshall, Day, Spink, Clark, Hyde, Hand, Beadle, Sanborn, Jerauld, Buffalo, Brule, Aurora, Douglas, Charles Mix and Gregory counties.

In big VA news in the last two months, The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act passed. The law differs slightly from the Procopio ruling—encourage any Blue Water veteran you may know to get into their local Veterans Service Office as soon as possible to discuss their potential claim.

From the American Legion HQ: The decades-long fight for Blue Water Navy veterans to receive VA disability benefits for illnesses linked to exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War is over.

On Tuesday, June 25, President Trump signed into law H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. The American Legion-supported legislation will extend disability benefits covering medical conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure to those who served on ships off the coast of Vietnam, known as "Blue Water" Navy veterans.

Veterans who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975 are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange if diagnosed with a medical condition associated with the herbicide, according to the Agent Orange Act of 1991. Presumptive diseases of exposure to the herbicide include certain cancers, Parkinson's disease and diabetes. However, this act applied only to veterans who served on land and in Vietnam's inland waterways. H.R. 299 extends these benefits to any military personnel who served on any vessel during the Vietnam War that came within 12 nautical miles of the coastlines of Vietnam.

H.R. 299 further expands coverage and includes the provision that every veteran exposed to herbicides like Agent Orange should receive the same presumptive benefits. A provision in H.R. 299 states, "A veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975," will be eligible for disability compensation for presumptive conditions of herbicide exposure. This will allow veterans who fall into that category and whose claims have been denied or held in pending status to gain access to VA medical care for conditions on the presumptive list.

H.R. 299 will afford spouses of certain veterans whose death was caused by a service-connected disability access to pension benefits. The bill also provides the children of veterans of covered service in Thailand who suffer from spina bifida access to health care, vocational training and rehabilitation, and monetary allowance.

Always here to help,
Courtney VanZanten
Department Service Officer

David Booze of Piedmont Selected to Attend National Legion College

This year, The American Legion Department of South Dakota had five Legionnaires that applied to attend the 2019 National Legion College in Indianapolis, Indiana.

A panel of Past Department Commanders reviewed all five applications during the state convention in Spearfish and recommended David Booze of Piedmont to be the Department's first choice selection to attend the National Legion College. Also, the Department submitted the application for Eugene Iron Shell, Jr. of Rosebud, SD, the National American Legion College as an attendee.

Both applicants qualify under the guidelines for the National Legion College and both applications will be forwarded to the National American Legion College Screening Committee for their consideration.

Each department is allowed one applicant to attend but other applications will be considered and may be accepted by the National American Legion College Screening Committee depending on the number of applicants.

The final selections will be announced by National Headquarters shortly after the conclusion of the 100th annual American Legion National Convention held in Indianapolis August 23-29, 2019.

The 2019 National American Legion College will be a week long, in-depth course of instruction on The American Legion. The college is a combination of lectures, small group workshops, and practical exercises. Students will receive training in leadership, sales and marketing, communication and fundraising. Focus is on self-taught small group sessions under the supervision of graduate facilitators, national staff members and national officers.



David Booze of Post 311

Gold Star Mothers Sacrificed Too

Day County woman works for Gold Star recognition

Reprinted with permission by Amanda Fanger
reporter@reporterandfarmer.com

For Carol Gregerson, finding and honoring all of the "Gold Star Mothers" in Day County is a mission that goes back to when she was a child.

Growing up in Waubay, Gregerson saw a blue banner in the window of a woman and one day noted that a gold star had appeared. Sharing with her mom that she thought it was pretty, her mom told her why it was there.

"She told me, 'She lost her only son in the war. No mother wants a banner like that,'" Gregerson recalls.

A few years ago, that story was recalled to Gregerson's mind. As a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Waubay, Gregerson decided she wanted to do something to honor any mothers who had suffered the loss of a child in service to the country.

"I just got the idea and ran with it," she said. "Personally, I think the time is overdue to show tribute to these women for the sacrifice they made."

Initially, she found six women who had lost sons and who were laid to rest at Waubay-area cemeteries. That Memorial Day, when she gave a speech at the program, she was informed she'd missed a few.

Eleven, to be exact.

Armed with those 17 names, Gregerson went to Kevin Bohn at the Day County Veterans Service Office to see how these women's graves could be marked to honor them. When Bohn found out about Gregerson's project, he encouraged her to expand her search to the entire county.

Since then, she's discovered even more. The list is now at more than 80 names.

And she's sure that's just the start. "We've now located, total Day County, 80 – and there are still people coming up with more," she said. "We keep adding to the list."

Gregerson and others have come up with the current list of names based on personal knowledge and library research. Gregerson has also been assisted by Penny (Hawkins) Behnke, now from Britton, who has a research business called Digging Up Bones. Behnke was born and raised in Waubay.

"It wasn't just finding (the fallen soldiers), it was finding their mothers' names and where they were buried," Gregerson said. "Some of these women are not buried around here. It's a community effort."

After presenting the project to Legion, VFW and Auxiliary groups, Gregerson was told by those members that she couldn't quit this project now. They told her she needed to see this through to completion or else it would get dropped.

"They were really on board with it, as mothers would be," Gregerson said. "I feel sad for all of the mothers... It's tragic and God bless them for being tough enough."

For the 17 known Gold Star Mothers in the Waubay Area, Gregerson said the Waubay American Legion Auxiliary group purchased the grave marker medallions – at a cost of about \$40 apiece.

Now, Gregerson is concerned about coming up with the estimated \$2,400 that is needed to purchase medallions for the remaining 60 names.

And those are just the names that she knows of at this time.

"If any names have been forgotten, I want to know about them," she said. "We don't know (how many). The more we look, the more we find."



Standing around the "Gold Star Mother" medallion placed on the grave of Katharine Peterson at Lakewood Cemetery in Waubay are Ted Wasilk, Carol Gregerson and Day County VSO Kevin Bohn. (Reporter & Farmer photo by Amanda Fanger)

Continued on page 11...

Major emphasis is placed on core programs, management techniques and the development of leadership skills necessary to increase visibility of programs, growth in membership and public awareness of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion.

The National American Legion College is scheduled to run from November 2-8, 2019, at the American Legion Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Eugene Iron Shell, Jr. of Post 125

Future American Legion National Convention Sites

August 23-29, 2019
Indianapolis, Indiana
The 100th Birthday celebration of
The American Legion.
August 28-September 3, 2020
Louisville, Kentucky
August 27-September 2, 2021
Phoenix, Arizona
August 26-September 1, 2022

National Executive Committeeman

Jim Huls
National Executive Committeeman



Congratulations to Fred Nelson as our newly elected Department Commander for 2019-20. Commander Nelson will do a outstanding job for the Legionnaires of South Dakota.

The National scene of the American Legion is now focused on the National convention and electing a new National Commander at the Convention in Indianapolis. The NEC will meet twice during the National Convention and again during the Fall Meetings in early October. I will report on those meetings in future South Dakota Legion News. The American Legion-sponsored bill in Congress, to change eligibility dates for membership in the American Legion, has passed the Senate and is waiting for House action.

Thanks to all South Dakota Legionnaires who supported me for another term as your NEC, I will do my best for you.
For God and Country,

Jim Huls
National Executive Committeeman

Sweepstakes Winners

The following individuals are the winners of our State Convention sweepstakes that was drawn on June 29, 2019 by our State Commander Fred Nelson.

- Duane Riedel of Aberdeen, SD \$1,000
- Barry Deem of Alcester, SD \$500
- Perry Schmidt of Redfield, SD \$300
- Howard Caylor of Ethan, SD \$200
- Eugene Kocer of Yankton, SD \$100

State Commander Fred Nelson Cap Pin

State Commander Fred Nelson will use his special State Commander Cap Pin to award membership recruitment and participation in specific American Legion programs for 2019-2020.

State Commander Nelson will also award his special "Continue the Legacy" State Commander Cap Pin for the following participation in The American Legion programs (Certification is required from the Post Adjutant):

Commander's Cap Pins will be awarded to Post Legionnaires for: Legionnaires who recruits ONE NEW 2020 member or reinstates ONE member whose membership has lapsed.

Legionnaires who participated in conducting a Local, District or Department High School Oratorical Contest.

Each Legionnaire who participates in the process of interviewing and choosing the Post's Boys State Delegates or conducts an Orientation within his/her District.

Each Legionnaire who participates in the presentation of military rites at the funeral.

Each Legionnaire who actively participates in American Legion Baseball. This Legionnaire must work the program and is not for going to the game as a spectator.

Only one "Carry on the Legacy" commander's cap pin will be awarded per member, per year.

Any request for the special State Commander Cap Pin will need to be certified by the Post Adjutant.

The certification form and official guideline requirements for the pin can be found in the 2019-2020 Post Adjutant's Administrative & Awards Manual which has been mailed to every Post Adjutant.



Department Commander Nelson Announces Appointments

- Ed Stringer of Sioux Falls to a one-year term as Department Membership Chairman.
 - Travise Flisrand of Castlewood to a two-year term as Dept. Adjutant.
 - Jim Huls of Madison to a one year term as Aeronautics Chairman.
 - Travise Flisrand of Castlewood to a one-year term as Public Relations Officer.
 - Doug Harris of Rapid City to a one-year term as Americanism Chairman.
 - Doug Harris of Rapid City to a three-year term on the Americanism Commission.
 - Krisma Dewitt of Watertown to a three-year term on the Americanism Commission.
 - Brian Dean of Spearfish To a one-year appointment as National Cemetery Commission chairman.
 - Patrick Lewellen of Spearfish to a one-year appointment as Dept. Chaplain.
 - Miranda Krumm of Chester to a one-year appointment as Dept. Children and Youth Chairman.
 - Mark Weinmann of Canton to a one-year appointment as Dept. Internal Affairs Chairman.
 - Tim Jurgens of Milbank to a four-year appointment on the Internal Affairs Commission.
 - Hugh Holmes of Mitchell to a one-year appointment as Chairman of the Dept. Education loan Committee.
 - Fred Lee of Humboldt to a one-year appointment as Dept. Historian.
 - Rod Martens of Piedmont to a five-year appointment on the Legislative committee.
 - Rod Martens of Piedmont to a one-year appointment as the Dept. Legislative Committee chairman.
 - Warren Aas of Watertown to a one year term as Chairman of the VA&R Commission.
 - Tim Jurgens of Milbank to a one year term as Vice-Chairman of the VA&R Commission.
 - Noel Cummins of Milbank to a four-year term as member of the VA&R Commission.
 - Jerry Lolley of Sturgis to a four-year term as member of the VA&R Commission.
 - Mark Mills of Custer to a one-year term as Chairman of the National Security committee.
 - Larry Madsen of Gettysburg to a three-year term on the Trust Fund Committee.
 - Kenneth Van Kekerix of Witten to a one year term as Chairman of the VAVS Committee.
 - Buck DeWeese of Spearfish to a one year term as Legion Riders Liaison.
 - Gary Watts of White to a one year term as a member of the South Dakota Veterans Council.
 - Joseph Knoer of Vermillion as a member of the PR/Media Committee.
- Finance Committee Elections:
Paul Evenson of Garretson was elected to replace Jim Preston for a 4-year term, Jose Romeu of Watertown was elected to replace Steve Houston of Milbank for a 3-year term and Dave Gutzmer of Lake Preston was elected to replace Courtney VanZanten for a 2 year term.

The Haircuts Heard 'Round the World'



Above: Darrel Berry of Post #33, Sturgis, and Department Judge Advocate, Gary Schumacher of Post #138, DeSmet before their haircuts. The two graciously volunteered to raise money for the South Dakota American Legion Foundation by auctioning off their hair. In total, \$1293 was raised for two haircuts and one beard trim. Below: Royce Loesch of Post #20, Fort Pierre, and Don Branson of Post #318, Brandon, give Darrel and Gary their much anticipated and pricey haircuts.



Department Americanism Awards Presented at 2019 State Convention

Each year all Posts in the Department are encouraged to document their Americanism Program and submit an Annual Americanism Report at the Spring District Conventions.

The Americanism Commission conducts its summer meeting at Northern State University in Aberdeen during the week of Boys State. At that meeting, the members of the Americanism Commission review and judge the Americanism Reports for the purpose of picking the winners of two National Americanism Awards that are presented within each Department on an annual basis. These awards are The American Legion Certificate of Distinguished Service and The American Legion Certificate of Meritorious Service. Americanism Chairman Larry Madsen presented the Americanism Awards at the Department Convention in Spearfish. Those chosen as the award winners for this year were:

Certificate of Distinguished Service – Spearfish American Legion Post #164, of Spearfish, SD.

Certificate of Meritorious Service – Custer American Legion Post #46, of Custer, SD. Individual Americanism Award – Fred Nelson of Spearfish American Legion Post #164.

The following individual Posts were recognized for their contributions to the Americanism Program within their respective membership goal-size groups:

- 15-45 members – Herried American Legion Post #170
 - 46-74 members – Custer American Legion Post #64
 - 75-124 members – Volga American Legion Post #114
 - 125-350 members – Spearfish American Legion Post #164
 - 351 members and larger – Watertown American Legion Post #17
- Congratulations to all the Americanism Award Winners!

101st Annual Department Convention, Sioux Falls, SD



Newly elected State Commander Fred Nelson of Spearfish, SD, addressed the convention body near the closing of the 101st Annual State Convention in Sioux Falls on June 9, 2019.



The keynote speaker at the Joint Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Banquet on Saturday evening, June 8th was The American Legion National Commander Elect Bill Oxford..



Dennis Brenden of Watertown addresses the convention for the last time as the Department Commander for South Dakota . Congratulations on a great year and a lot of miles, Commander!



Governor Kristi Noem addressed the American Legion Convention on Saturday, June 8th. We appreciate Governor Noem taking time out of her busy schedule to address our convention.



2019 Department Convention Activities



U.S. Congressman, Dusty Johnson addressed the American Legion Convention on Saturday, June 9th. Johnson gave the convention delegates an overview of the issues that he is working in Washington, D.C. concerning the veterans and their families. We appreciate Representative Johnson taking time out of his busy schedule to address our convention.



Taking the oath of office are newly elected Department Commander Fred Nelson of Spearfish, SD, NEC Jim Huls of Madison, SD, Alt NEC Dennis Brenden of Watertown, SD, Department Vice Commander Districts 3-8 Harry Boner of Castlewood, SD, Department Vice Commander Districts 1-2 Kevin Morello of Blackhawk, SD, and Department Sergeant-At-Arms Verle Whipple of Clear Lake SD.



Department Adjutant Travis Flisrand organizing the plaques and certificates recognizing the Centennial posts across the state. Dozens of plaques were presented at this convention, with many more plaques sent home with District Commanders for distribution at a local level.



The Singing Legionnaires from Sioux Falls Post #15 did a fantastic job Providing beautiful music during the Memorial Service. The Singing Legionnaires also provided musical selections at the Joint Banquet.



Jim Huls of Madison addressed the convention as the National Executive Committeeman for South Dakota. A longtime member of the Salem post, this was Jim's first Department Convention as NEC.



Harry Boner of Castlewood displays Castlewood's Centennial recognition plaque and certificate.

Department of South Dakota 2019–2020 American Legion State Officers



Fred Nelson
Department
Commander



Travis Flisrand
Department
Adjutant



Ed Stringer
Department
Membership
Chairman



Jim Huls
National
Executive
Committeeman



Dennis Brenden
Alternate
National Executive
Committeeman



Harry Boner
State Vice
Commander
(Districts 3-8)



Kevin Morello
State Vice
Commander
(Districts 1-2)



Miranda Krumm
Department
Children & Youth
Chairman



Doug Harris
Department
Americanism
Chairman



Gary Schumacher
Department
Judge Advocate



Fred Lee
Department
Historian



Patrick Lewellen
Department
Chaplain



Gary Wolkow
Department
Finance Officer



Verle Whipple
Department
Sergeant-At-Arms



Courtney VanZanten
Department
Service Officer

Doug Harris Selected as Department “Legionnaire of the Year”



Doug Harris of American Legion Post #22 in Rapid City, SD, is presented the South Dakota American Legion “Department Legionnaire of the Year” award during the 101st State Convention in Sioux Falls.

Other finalists included Scott Hansen from Spearfish Post #164, Doug Harris from Rapid City Post #22, Charlie Marquardt from Ft Pierre Post #20, Shad Wood from Stratford Post #207, Russ Bortnem of Volga Post #114, Rolly Quam, from Arlington Post #42, Tom Reecy from Dell Rapids Post #65, and Joseph Knoer from Vermillion Post #1. The South Dakota American Legion Legionnaire of the Year is selected from the eight winners of their respective American Legion Districts in South Dakota. The district winners must be in attendance at the state convention to win the award. We congratulate all district winners.

Ed Thompson 2019 Robert C. Gabrielson Memorial Leadership Award Recipient

The Robert C. Gabrielson Memorial Leadership Award was presented to Ed Thompson, of Hot Springs, SD, during the 101st Department Convention held in Sioux Falls, SD. This most prestigious award is presented to a Legionnaire that has demonstrated his or her leadership in the department. Ed is a member of the Custer American Legion Post #46 in Custer.

The award was created in 2004 in honor of PDC Robert C. Gabrielson of Hoven, SD, who was a great advocate for the veterans of South Dakota and very influential as a lobbyist in Pierre for many years on behalf of The American Legion.

Indianapolis to Host 101st Annual National Convention

Members of the South Dakota Delegation will be making their preparations to attend the 100th Annual National American Legion Convention to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana from August 23-29, 2019. Delegates that have been elected and will represent the Department of South Dakota at the 2019 American Legion National Convention include Standing Commission and Committee Meetings, Band Contest, Convention Committee Meetings, National Convention Parade, General Session meetings, and the Department of South Dakota Caucus. The annual luncheon sponsored by the Legionnaires Insurance Trust (LIT) and a Central States Caucus breakfast and meeting are on the agenda.

This year’s delegates are as follows: NEC Jim Huls, PDC Denny Brenden, Commander Fred Nelson, Dept. Adj. Travis Flisrand, District 1 Commander David Booze, District. 2 PDC Rick MacDonald, District 3 Commander Leroy Madsen, District 4 Tom Perrizo, District 5 Noel Cummins, District. 7 Ed Stringer, District. 8 Dan Hunhoff, additional Delegates were Kevin Hempel of Sioux Falls, Rod Smith of Chester and State Vice CDR Kevin Morello of Black Hawk.

National Call-ins: PDC Paul Evenson, PDC Larry Price, PDC Gunner Baatrup, PDC Byron Callies, PDC Mark Weinmann, PDC Terry Hanson, PDC Hugh Holmes, PDC Tim Jurgens, Warren Aas, and District. 6 CDR Doug Feltman.

The alternate delegates: Ken Sabers, District. 2 CDR Eugene Iron Shell Jr., PDC Wayne Vetter, PDC Charemon Dunham, Tom Henley, Department Sergeant at Arms Verle Whipple and Annette Dunham.

Historically, approximately 10,000 Legionnaires from all 55 departments will attend the national convention. Department seating at the national convention is determined by membership as of Flag Day, June 14. The higher the department membership percentage on that cut-off date, the closer the department is seated to the main stage.

The schedule for the National Convention will be similar to that used for the past several years:

Fri, Aug 23- Resolutions Screening Committees

Sat, Aug 24- Standing Committees and Commissions

Sun, Aug 25 - Convention Committees, National Chaplain’s Breakfast, Patriotic Memorial Service, National Convention Parade, Tri Stack Social – (South Dakota Hosts)

Mon, Aug 26 - Department Caucus

Tue, Aug 27 -National Convention General Assembly, National Commander’s Banquet

Wed, Aug 28 -National Convention General Assembl

Thur, Aug 29 -General Assembly continues, National Commander elected.



**2018-2019 National Commander
Brett Reistad, Dept of Virginia**

Membership

“Membership is Strength, Let’s Get Stronger!”

Ed Stringer
State Membership Chairman



Well here we go again, with someone new bringing up a subject that a lot of people do not want to discuss. (MEMBERSHIP) As a volunteer in The American Legion, you all have to ask the question, HOW CAN I HELP THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION GROW STRONGER? Strength in numbers has been a large part of all the different military branches we served in. We all joined The American Legion for one reason or another. WHY DID YOU JOIN? I joined because of all the programs we sponsor and support. As YOUR new membership chairman, I am going to ask for all the help you can give. We have to be a TEAM. (Together Everyone Achieves More) I have the task, with your help of finding a way to make our organization grow. The only way that can happen, is with the help of every member. I have been told by more than one Legion Member, (I have been there and done that). I ask each of you to do it again. I can not do it without your help. Lets make this a year to remember in positive way. I will try to keep up with the schedules of events and let you know what is happening in as many areas as I can.

Listed is contact information for some of the National Guard units and some of the Drill dates for the next two months.

Sioux Falls Armory August 1, 10&11 September 7&8 14&15

Contact is SFC Ben Lamp 605-357-2939

Mitchell Armory August 2&3 September 7&8

No name at this time but phone number is 605-995-1640

Camp Rapid Armory August 1,3&4 September 7&8

Stephony Kinsella 605-737-6191

Milbank Armory September 7&8

Phone number 605-432-4671

Watertown Armory September 6,7&8

Phone 605-882-9320

Rapid City Armory August 1 & 31 September 6,7&8

Tony Diss 605-737-6637

Madison Armory August 3&4 September 5&6

SFC Chance Ragsdale 605-256-5287

Vermillion Armory September 7&8

SGT Hanson

Brookings Armory August 2-4 September 7&8

SFC Paul Mausback 605-696-5412

Spearfish Armory August 17 & 18 September 7&8

SFC Frank Bartlett

Pierre Range Road August 17 & 18 September 7&8

SFC Dan Heil 605-224-9650

These are just some of the places and dates that we can set up Information tables at. I use the term Information table rather than Recruiting table, because the word Recruiting makes some people shy away. We can not make our goal without this being a TEAM effort. Even having Four Gold Brigadiers last year we fell short, and that alone was in excess of two hundred members. Four or Five people are not what we need to get the job done. We need 18,000 plus members working on this. Two or three people setting up an information table at the above listed locations on a regular basis would get the point across that we are a serious organization doing the right thing.

When setting up a table and telling our story, have information hand outs to back up what you are telling potential members about our programs. If you do not have the hand outs, let Headquarters and or me know and we will get them to you. Any community event we can make ourselves known at will be good advertising for The American Legion. City wide garage sales, set up a table, Fairs, Ball games, Talk to your city council and see what is happening and if you set up a table. A card table is all you need.

Suggestions for a table:

Keep all material in separate piles and neat. Put up a banner or Legion Flag at the table to let people know who you are. Some of the handouts to put on a table are: Why You Should Belong, Boys State, Youth Trooper, Oratorical Contest (potential 18,000 dollar scholarship), Baseball (started in Milbank South Dakota), Sons Of The American Legion, Legion Riders, Operation Comfort Warriors, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS (you need them to sign up new members), Legionnaires Insurance Trust information (\$5,000 possible). Make a Sign telling people where their money goes when they join. Take some of your old Legion magazines for them to look at to see what is going on elsewhere in the Legion.

My contact info is: Ed Stringer, South Dakota Department Membership Chairman, membership@sdlegion.org, 605-310-8120. Call with any questions, I’m here to help!

For God and Country,

Ed Stringer
Department Membership Chairman

VBOC of the Dakotas Assists Vets with Entrepreneurship

Grand Forks, ND—You or someone in your household likely owns or works for a small business. With the latest census data showing over 99% of businesses in this country having 500 or fewer workers, you get an idea of just how many entrepreneurs there are in America.

Whether a person is just getting started with their idea, looking to grow their business, or ready to retire and sell the company, a Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) is here to help.

The mission of VBOC of the Dakotas is to provide entrepreneurial development services such as business training, counseling and mentoring, as well as referrals for eligible veterans owning or considering starting a small business.

The VBOC program has assisted service members, veterans and spouses across the country for several years. In 2018, the program coverage areas were restructured and VBOC of the Dakotas, serving North and South Dakota, began when the grant was awarded to the University of North Dakota. At the helm is Wendy Klug, program manager, with teaching, small business ownership and business advising included in her rich work history.

“We are excited to serve individuals on active duty, veterans of any era, and their spouses across the states of North and South Dakota,” says Klug. “And, as an SBA program, we are connected with several other resource partners that can assist you at any step in your journey – for free!”

The VBOC’s primary focus is training workshops in the forms of Boots to Business, held on military installations, and Boots to Business Reboot, held off installations. Boots to Business and Boots to Business Reboot both provide participants with an overview of business ownership as a career vocation, an orientation to the components of a business plan, a practical exercise in opportunity recognition, and an introduction to available public and private sector resources.



Above: Veterans attend a VBOC training workshop in North Dakota.

In addition to these federally structured training events, VBOC of the Dakotas has offered shorter sessions on topics such as social media and marketing as well as providing free and confidential one-on-one advising.

Clients can come to the Grand Forks office for a face-to-face meeting, or conduct their sessions over the phone or via web conference. Some that live close by even opt for one of these time saving choices.

For Klug, the reward for a job well done is seeing the success of those the program assists. “We love to see our training attendees and clients succeed and start their business to reach their dreams. It’s so rewarding to serve those that have served us and give them a helping hand in this next chapter.”

VBOC of the Dakotas is managed through the Center for Business Engagement & Development a part of the UND College of Business & Public Administration. The Center

also oversees the ND Small Business Development Centers and the ND Procurement Technical Assistance Center.

If you are interested in attending a training workshop, registering for advising services, or reading our client success stories, please visit the VBOC of the Dakotas website at www.UND.edu/dakotasvbo to get started.

Centennial Highway 281 Ride a Success



Team Legacy resting up and drying off at Post 14, Wessington Springs.

Nearly thirty bikes braved torrential rains on August 2nd, as the 2019 Centennial Highway 281 ride made its way down the South Dakota stretch. With 14 stops on the docket, the ride lasted from 8am with riders finding hotel rooms closer to 9pm. Riders included National Vice Commander Jim Wallace from the Department of Michigan, Department Commander Fred Nelson, Department Adjutant Travis Flisrand and Media Correspondent Michael Hjelmstad from Post 43, Hollywood, California.

The ride included stops in Frederick, Aberdeen, Warner, Redfield, Tulare, Wolsey, Wessington Springs, Plankinton, Stickney, Corsica, Armour, Wagner and Pickstown. Originally, a stop was scheduled for Virgil as well, but the immense rainfall made for sloppy gravel roads, and for the safety of the bikers,

Continued on Page 10...

Membership Awards Presented at 101st Annual Department Convention



Several membership incentive awards were presented during the 101st Annual State American Legion Convention held in Sioux Falls, SD.

This year The South Dakota American Legion recognized five Posts and one District for membership achievements by The American Legion's Birthday target date on March 14, 2019. These Posts received a plaque to commemorate their achievement. The winners were as follows:

Eagle Butte Post #308 received a plaque for having the highest percentage of increase in the state at 208.33% of goal. Ethan Post #261 was the winner in the 75-124 goal size group for making 113.73% of goal. Hermosa Post #303 was the winner in the 125-199 member goal size group for making 97.24% of goal. Sturgis Post #33 was the winner in the 200-299 member goal size group for making 103.83% of goal. Winner Post #169 was the winner in the 300 and up goal size membership group for making 92.63% of goal, and finally, a plaque was presented to District 1 for making 95.36% of goal enrolled by the Legion Birthday of March 14, 2019.

The "Pride of the Prairie" (White Buffalo) traveling membership trophies were presented to those Posts in each of the five goal size groups which have the highest percentage of membership increase on June 2, 2019, over their membership on June 2, 2018. The winners in their respective goal size groups were:

15-74 Goal Size Group – Eagle Butte American Legion Post #308 with a 150% increase.

75-124 Goal Size Group – Ethan American Legion Post #261 with a 22.11% increase.

125-199 Goal Size Group – Hermosa American Legion Post #303 with a 4.9% increase.

200-299 Goal Size Group – Sturgis American Legion Post #33 with a 10.55% increase.

300 Plus Goal Size Group – Hot Springs Post #71 with a 4.13% increase.

Congratulations to all the 2019 membership award winners. All Legionnaires are membership recruiters.

Summary of 2019 Department Convention Resolutions

The Convention Resolutions Committee reviewed and referred a total of 5 Resolutions to the following Convention Committees.

Convention Resolution No. 2019-03 was drafted by the Post 136, Chester.

The resolve clause state: That the Department of South Dakota American Legion advocate for the development and passage of legislation to establish a grant program administered by the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs; and grants will be issued to congressionally-chartered Veterans Service Organizations for the express purpose of assisting Veterans and their families, and finally, that grants will be funded by increasing the cost of Military & Veterans License plates, along with the creation of a "Support Our Troops" plate, with all proceeds of the sales of said plates going towards the Veterans Assistance Grant Fund.

Annette Dunham made a motion, seconded by Perry Schmidt to forward this resolution to the Legislative convention committee. Motion carried.

Convention Resolution No. 2019-04 was drafted by the Department Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. The resolve clause states: That The American Legion urges The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which currently only provides medical care to persons who satisfy the VA's definition of a veteran as provided in 38 C.F.R. ("Veteran means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable"). This resolution provides that the VA shall not expand eligibility for medical care to include any person who does not satisfy the VA's definition of a veteran.

Annette Dunham made a motion, seconded by Steve Sittig to forward this resolution to the VA & R. convention committee. Motion Carried.

Convention Resolution No. 2019-05 was drafted by Department Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

The resolve clause states: That The American Legion Department of South Dakota create and fund a Department VA&R Award to be presented on stage at all state conventions of this department.

Perry Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Annette Dunham to forward this resolution to the VA & R convention committee. Motion Carried.

Convention Resolution No. 2019-06 was drafted by Post 125, Rosebud.

The resolve clause states: The American Legion endorse the National Charter for the National American Indian Veterans Inc., in its efforts to be chartered by the United States Congress. Eugene Iron Shell, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Charlie Marquardt to forward this resolution to the Internal Organization convention committee. After discussion, this motion was voted down. Eugene Iron Shell Jr. made a motion, seconded by Annette Dunham to send this resolution to the Legislative convention committee. Motion Carried.

Convention Resolution No. 2019-07 was drafted by Post 15, Sioux Falls. The resolve clause states: The American Legion, Department of South Dakota, seek legislative assistance to insure cemeteries specify an area to recognize the spreading or burying of the ashes of disposed American Flags. Annette Dunham made a motion, seconded by Steve Sittig to forward this resolution to the Legislative convention committee. Motion Carried.

Convention Resolution No. 2019-08 was drafted by the Convention Resolutions Committee to express thanks to Sioux Falls Post 15, for hosting a great convention.

Glorianne Davis made a motion, seconded by Eugene Iron Shell Jr, to Recommend Do Pass. Motion carried.

Convention Resolution No. 2019-09 was drafted by the Convention Resolutions Committee, The Resolve clause states: That The American Legion Department of South Dakota advocate to the State legislature for a citizenship test administered to all High School students in South Dakota. Robert Kucera made a motion, seconded by Steve Sittig to forward this resolution to the Americanism convention committee. Motion Carried.

Polo Legion Post Provides Color Guard For Painting Unveiling Honoring Faulkton Veteran and Wife



Above: Members of Polo Legion Post #299 provide color guard for the unveiling of the commissioned painting "Of Hearth and Home," a painting of WWII Veteran Cyril Huss' plane, The Dot T., which he named after his new wife in 1944. A P-51 Mustang, the same model as the Dot T., provided a flyover in honor of the event. The painting, by Sioux Falls artist John Mollison, was commissioned by Dr. David West of Sioux Falls. The painting will have a permanent home at the Dot T Steakhouse in Faulkton. (Photo courtesy of Heath Smith)

Calendar of Events

August 2019

- 2: American Legion Highway 281 Ride, ND Border
- 2-6: Class B Senior State Baseball Tournament, Lennox, SD
- 2-6: Class B Junior State Baseball Tournament, Groton, SD
- 4: Coast Guard Birthday
- 7: Purple Heart Day
- 8-10: Department Service Officer School — Indianapolis, IN
- 8-10: National Membership Workshop — Indianapolis, IN
- 15-20: American Legion World Series Baseball Tourney, Shelby, NC
- 18: Start of Legacy Run to National Convention in Lady Lake, FL
- 23-29: **101st Annual Legion National Convention, Indianapolis, IN**
- 26-29: SDDVA Annual Benefit School, Ramkota, Pierre, SD
- 29: Veterans Day, South Dakota State Fair, Huron, SD

September 2019

- 2: **Labor Day**
- 6: District 5 Fall Meeting, White
- 7: District 3 Fall Meeting, Pierre
- 8: District 4 Fall Meeting, Leola
- 9: State Veterans Cemetery Groundbreaking, Sioux Falls
- 11: Patriot Day
- 13: District 8 Fall Meeting, Wagner
- 14: District 6 Fall Meeting, Wessington Springs
- 15: District 7 Fall Meeting, Madison
- 18: U.S. Air Force Birthday
- 20-21: American Legion Golf Tournament, Hartford, SD
- 21: National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 21-22: National Children & Youth Conference, Indianapolis, IN
- 27-29: National Americanism Conference, Indianapolis, IN
- 28: District 2 Fall Meeting, Hot Springs
- 29: District 1 Fall Meeting, Eagle Butte
- 30: Gold Star Mother's Day

October 2019

- 14: **Native American Day**
- 13: Navy Birthday
- 16-17: American Legion Fall Meetings, Indianapolis, IN
- 31: Halloween

Good Samaritan of the Year

The 2019 Good Samaritan of the Year is Bill Tillson of Chester, SD. Bill is a longtime resident of Chester, and well known around the community for always being around to help.

Bill has logged over 4800 hours of community service in town, helping out at every high school event from basketball games to band concerts. He helps set up and tear down at Legion events, and is often found at the local fire hall. Bill makes sure every vehicle in the fleet is clean and ready to go for the next call.

Bill rides his bike around town, and is quick to greet everyone he meets with a smile. He is the go-to on knowing where anything in town is, and is often called upon for that knowledge.

Bill is special needs, but it certainly doesn't slow him down. And while Chester has certainly taken Bill in with open arms, Bill has definitely returned the favor with a lot of time and love.



Centennial Ride, Cont...



the stop was nixed.

Despite the rain, missed stop, and broken motorcycle for National Vice Commander Jim Wallace, all in attendance agreed to the success of the ride. Every stop provided incredible hospitality, with several providing firetruck or police escort into town. A special kudos to Stickeney, as they went above and beyond in their planning for the celebration (they even made a commemorative pin for the occasion!) Thank you to all who participated, and to all posts who helped make this ride an incredible (though wet) success.

South Dakota American Legion Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

The 2019 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year is Richard Millette of Sioux Falls. Millette's contribution to the Sioux Falls Police Department is multifaceted. He worked all three patrol shifts while assigned to the Uniformed Service Department where he was consistently in the top tier of performing officers. The two areas that Millette has made the biggest impact on are his time as a School Resource Officer, and his current responsibility as a Police Applicant background investigator. While an SRO Millette integrated seamlessly with the students and built trusting relationships with them, relationships that were key in preventing problems and solving issues.

As a Background Investigator Millette's dedication to the process, tenacity and commitment to making sure the applicant is the best possible fit for our department is second to none. Millette also has a distinguished career in the SD National Guard, where he currently serves as a Deputy Brigade Commander.



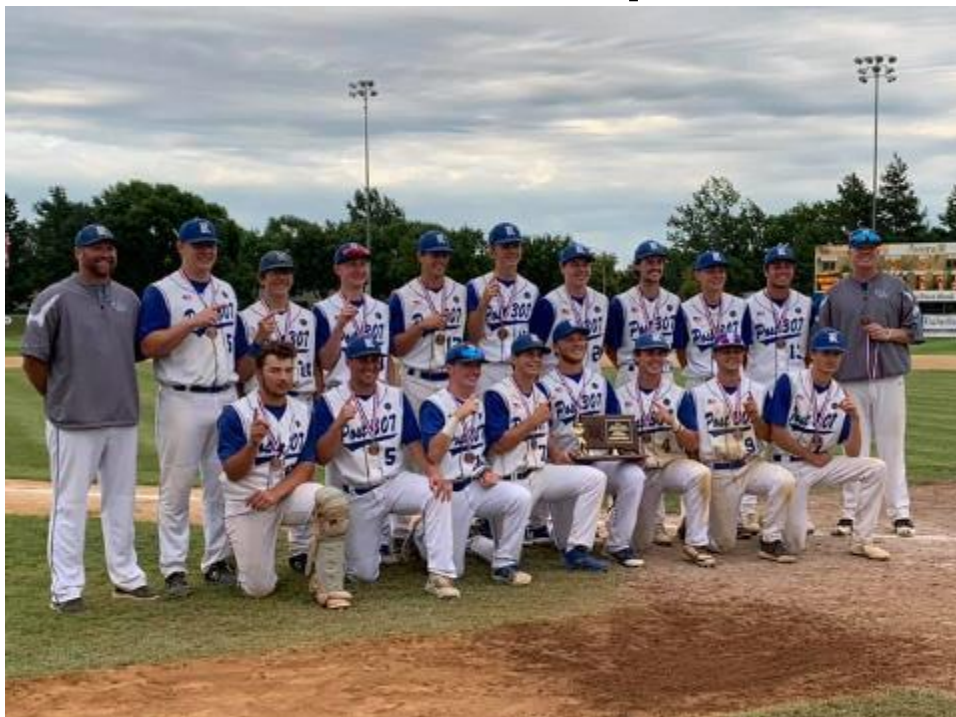
South Dakota American Legion 2019 Firefighter of the Year

The 2019 Firefighter of the Year is Fire Apparatus Operator Eric Bartz of Sioux Falls.

During his time on Sioux Falls Fire Rescue, Eric has distinguished himself in a number of different areas. Eric is a skilled Firefighter and EMT first, a trusted Urban Search and Rescue Technician, a SWAT Medic with the Sioux Falls Police Department, and a wildland firefighter and sawyer. Eric has been involved in a number of different areas on SFFR over the years and most recently finds himself helping to reimagine and rewrite the department's Rapid Intervention Crew guidelines and practices. Through his efforts, the selection process is more refined, meaningful, objective, and safe. His practices did not go unnoticed by Sioux Falls Police Department SWAT members who adopted some practices on the spot. In recognition for his work in rewriting the SWAT Medic selection process, Eric was chosen as the Sioux Falls Fire Rescue Firefighter of the Quarter this past year. Eric is also a Marine Corps veteran, serving from 2001-2006.



Post #307 Sweeps Junior and Senior "A" Tournaments



2019 Senior "A" American Legion Tournament Champions, Renner Post #307



2019 Junior "A" American Legion Tournament Champions, Renner Post #307

Gold Star Mothers, Continued...

The following is the complete list that Gregerson has of soldiers killed in action, followed by their mother's name and where the mother is buried in the county.

In Day County, Gregerson said there have been no casualties since Vietnam.

From Waubay: In WWI – Horace Barse, Jennifer Fawn Barse, St. James; Julius Hanson, Christina Hanson, Egeland; Arthur Christopherson, Anna Christopherson, Egeland; Frederick Monson, Christine Evertdatter Monson, Egeland; Albert Stine, Selma Stine, California; Jonah White, Pacandupa White, Sisseton; Ray Brady, Jessie Brady, Webster (Block 30 Sec. 3 Row A); Merwin McKee, Helga McKee, Seattle; Archie Sumner, Rena Sumner, Lakewood. In WWII – Colonel H. Jones, Ellen Jones, Lakewood; Darrel Peterson, Katharine Peterson, Lakewood; Harvey Mallery, Kitty Mallery, Ortle; Robert Seibon, Louise Seibon, Egeland; Sylvester Weyh, Florence Weyh, Catholic; Harold Melander, Pearl Melander, Ortle; Clarence Utne, Josephine Utne, Ortle; Allen Stee, Eunice Stee, Helgen; Harvey Reich, Elizabeth Schoenbeck Reich, Waubay. In Korea – Adolph Bluedog, Flora Good Voice Arrow Bluedog, Enemy Swim. In Vietnam – Steven John Surma, Mildred Surma, Egeland; Michael Meredith Jackson, Hilda Thennis, St. James/Sisseton; Gale Grothaus, Erma Lou Grothaus, Minnesota.

From Webster: In WWI – Herbert McKennett, Eudora Shock McKennett, Webster; William Kestner, Emiline Zimmerman Kestner, Webster/Egeland. From WWII – Benjamin Bowser, Elizabeth Bowser, Pennsylvania; Paul Kirchmeier, Magdalena Kirchmeier, Webster (Catholic); Donald Olson, Clara Anderson Olson, Webster; John Skoba, Clara Dahl Skoba, Webster; Hans Flattum (stone in Webster), Martha Flattum, Butler (Ebenezer); Kenneth Prieb, Lena Schwartz Prieb, Webster; brothers Lt. LeRoy Herr, Ordien Herr and Eugene Herr, Marmien Fodness Herr, Bethany Cemetery. In Korea – Arnold L. Block, Clara Amelia Moss Block, Watertown (Mt. Hope). In Vietnam – Curtis Leland Williams, Esther Eliason Williams, Webster; Charles Maury Hallstrom, Margaret Hempel Hallstrom, Webster.

From Bristol: In WWI – Walter Morehouse, Florence Long Morehouse, Bristol (row D Plot 67); Otto Nolte, Augusta Blattgerste Nolte, Bristol (plot 158 Lot 7). In WWII – Quentin Davidson, Nelly Palmer Davidson, Bristol; Raymond Lilly, Anna Pierson Lilly, St. Anthony's; Alvin Stern, Emma Loterbauer Stern, Bristol (lot 2 plot 198); James F. Swanson, Gertrude Hanson Swanson, unknown; Raymond Peterson, Lena Jensen Peterson, unknown.

From Lily: In WWI – Oscar Lee, Marthea Sjolie Lee, Hillside Cemetery. In WWII – Martin Burnell Peterson, Clara Amundson Peterson, Hosanger Cemetery.

From Andover: In WWII – Howard Ives, Jane Eva Ives, Groton Cemetery; Gale Thorne, Anna Wollock Thorne, Andover.

From Roslyn: In WWI – Carl Johnson (Arlington), Wilhelmina Peterson Johnson, Fron Lutheran; Magnus Brendmoen (Arlington), Anna Tjyruvoldt Brendmoen, Fron; Alfred Monshaugen, Ragnhild Myrum Monshaugen, Fron (plot 47); Oscar Adolph Nymoen, Eliza Johnson Nymoen, Fron (plot 63); Fred Ronmerin, Kari Halvorsdatter Romerein, Roslyn Lutheran; Rudolph Baukol, Karen Olesdatter Baukol, Fron; Edwin Ronshaugen, Martha Ronshaugen, Fron (plot 64). In WWII – Lawrence Hatle, Amanda Bakke Hatle, Roslyn; Percy Sakariason, Emma Olson Sakariason, Fron; Henry Sorenson, Julia Opsahl Sorenson, Fron; Emil Strand, Anna Anderson Strand, Roslyn; Curtiss Lorell Peterson, Lena Cornelius Peterson, Fron; Donald Rovang, Elma Rubel Rovang, Roslyn Lutheran.

From Butler: In WWII – Hans Flattum (stone in Webster), Martha Flattum, Ebenezer; Harold Soyland, Sophie Jacobson Soyland, Ebenezer (plot 64); Kenneth Prieb, Lena Schwartz Prieb, Webster/Butler.

From Holmquist: In WWI – Carl Milbeck, Kerstine Milbeck, New Sweden Cemetery. In WWII – Zane Elwood Carlson, Zena Carlson, New Sweden Cemetery.

From Wallace: In WWII – Eddie Urevig, Margaret Esping Urevig, Wallace.

From Grenville: In WWI – Joe Paul Henning, Martha Gruba Henning, St. Joseph's; Martin Pionk, Catharina Snaza Pionk, St. Joseph's; Mike Tonkel (Eden), mother buried in Poland. In WWII – Dick (Dominic) Gruba, Mary Ann Gonsor Gruba, St. Joseph's; Edmund Kurkowski, Martha Snaza Kurkowski, St. Joseph's.

From Pierpont: In WWI – Charles N. Young, Katarina Aadland Young, Homer Cemetery. In Korea – Richard Arnold Johannsen, Zela Gladue Johannsen, Homer Cemetery; Donald Robert Cannon, Mabel Kishner Cannon, Homer Cemetery. In Vietnam – Roger Sletten Cameron, Phyllis Sletten Cameron, Homer Cemetery.

From Langford: In WWI – Henry Osness, Lena Haugen Osness, Langford. In WWII – Ernest Wormke, Mary Meyer Wormke, Hillside Cemetery.

From Bradley: In Korea – Ralph O. Lien, Clara Petterson Lien, Bradley.

"This is an unfinished list," Gregerson concluded. "I wish it was finished because I don't want any more than this, because it makes it worse."

Gregerson said she's hoping others will contact her if they know of some who are not on this list. To contact her, call (605) 947-4213.



Above: Marmien Herr, a Gold Star Mother times three. Photo courtesy of C. Gregerson.

**1ST ANNUAL
ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO**





Activities Include:

- AED Training
- Aerobics, Walking, Yoga
- Ambulance Tours
- Balance Screening
- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Body Movement and Recovery Exercises
- Children's Activities
- Hands Only CPR Training
- Inflatable Heart and Lung Display
- Nutrition Counseling
- Pet CPR demonstration
- Pre-Diabetes Screening
- "REGGIE" The life size Operation Game
- Veteran's Outreach Information
- *Wellness Screening Lab offered for \$45.00 (Must be fasting 12 hours prior to lab draw)

WHEN: SEP 21, 2019 FROM 9AM-NOON

WHERE: RUSHMORE MALL

WHO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE BLACK HILLS COMMUNITY



American Red Cross



ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



Black Hills Health Care System



Black Hills NEUROSURGERY & SPINE



BLACK HILLS ORTHOPEDIC & SPINE CENTER



BLACK HILLS SURGICAL HOSPITAL



MILITARY ONE SOURCE



Regional Health



Regional Health SPORTS PERFORMANCE INSTITUTE



vitalant



WESTERN DAKOTA TECH



the Y



ZUMBA

"No Federal Endorsement Intended"

Youth Trooper Academy Graduates 24 Recruits

Graduation ceremonies were held in Pierre, SD, on Friday, June 28, for the 2019 Youth Trooper Academy.

State Commander Fred Nelson addressed the Trooper Recruits on Wednesday, June 27th and again at the graduation ceremonies.

The group of teens from South Dakota trained the week of June 24-28, 2019, with the Highway Patrol at the Youth Trooper Academy in Pierre.

Twenty-four young adults were selected from over many applicants located all over South Dakota. 2018 Youth Trooper Academy Recruit graduates include Jazlyn Millhouse of Piedmont, Brendan Anderson of Rapid City, Joshua Lesner of Miller, Jordan Spiers of St. Lawrence, Justin Bentz of Eureka, Maria Jenkins of Forbes, ND, Tait Logan of Frankfort, Connor Unterseher of Mobridge, Tasha Vohlken of Estelline, Brianna Jorgenson of Waubay, Dereck Molengraaf of White, Brandi Schuster of Veblen, Gavan Lindner of Watertown, Noah Hofer of Huron, Mason Wieman of Huron, Aaryn Harris of Brandon, Lauren Hanson of Worthing, Nadia Claussen of Sioux Falls, Colin Schnell of Sioux Falls, Tanner Gassman of Sioux Falls, Jack Harvison of Valley Springs, Trinity Johnson of Volin, Mayson Preheim of Marion, and Mitchell Slowey of Yankton.

Noah Hofer of Huron was awarded the \$500 South Dakota Youth Trooper Academy Scholarship sponsored by the South Dakota Highway Patrol Foundation, pictured above.

The recruits undergo classroom and hands-on training in areas such as firearms safety, defensive driving, crash investigation, traffic stops, leadership, police dog handling, citizenship and criminal law.

A huge "thank you" goes out to all the South Dakota American Legion Posts that sponsored the Youth Trooper Recruits from their post as well as the Troopers from the South Dakota Highway Patrol. This is an outstanding program that is getting better each year.



Above: Noah Hofer of Huron was awarded the \$500 South Dakota Youth Trooper Academy Scholarship sponsored by the South Dakota Highway Patrol Foundation, pictured above.

“For God & Country”



Patrick Lewellen
Department Chaplain

Greetings American Legion Family,

It was so good to see everyone at Commander Fred Nelson’s Homecoming in Spearfish. It always gives me a good feeling in my heart to see all the dedicated American Legion Family come together for the good of our Country and our Veterans.

The gift of our American Legion History was passed on again at the 101st Annual Department Convention in Sioux Falls when Past Commander Denny Brenden passed the keys to Commander Fred Nelson. My prayer is this: May God richly bless our leadership for the next one hundred years, and may all who serve the South Dakota American Legion light the path of freedom and build on the legacy of our first one hundred years. Jesus tells us in His words in the Bible. “I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me”. (Matthew 25:40)

As I am writing this article today on June 20th, 2019, I am reminded of our legacy from 50 years ago. The 50th Anniversary of the Lunar Landing of Apollo 11. That was an awesome achievement for the United States of America. I had just graduated from Mobridge High School that year 1969 and hired out on the Milwaukee Railroad in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I was glued to the TV and while I was watching the Lunar landing of Apollo 11 and the words from Neil Armstrong, “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind”. How can you forget that awesome event in our legacy as Americans. I have to say that God was with us that day in our Legacy of American History—because the story of the Apollo 11 was much more than what we had seen on TV that day.

Holy Communion was taken on the surface of the moon. Apollo 11 astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin reveals that the first liquid poured and the first food eaten on the moon were communion elements. They wanted to express their feelings what man was doing in this mission. "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me." John 15:5 (TEV)

God reveals Himself in the common elements of every day life. The elements are bread and wine common foods in Bible days and typical products of man’s labor.

We can learn from our forefathers legacy; when we put God first in all our affairs in our life, God takes awesome care of His people. Amen.

Hebrews 10:24-25 24 “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

I will be praying for our leadership and all our American Legion Family.

With Love, Respect, and Comradship,

Patrick Lewellen
Department Chaplain



Langford Post Completes Work on Veterans Memorial

Pictured above, the completed work of Langford Post #141 at the Hillside Cemetery in Langford, SD. (picture courtesy of Chad Hardy)

Have a monument in your town? Make sure it is registered on the National American Legion’s Memorial Database. Currently, only 5 South Dakota Memorials are registered. The process is quick and easy—register your memorial here:

<https://www.legion.org/memorials>

Department of South Dakota Taps

June 1, 2019-July 29, 2019



“The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.” *Benjamin Disraeli*

Post #3 Chamberlain	Rolf Hope	Post #36 Bonesteel	Harry Odenbach
Post #6 Gregory	Kirk Caven	Post #38 Miller	Harlan Bushfield
Post #6 Gregory	Emil Hlavka	Post #43 Centerville	Donald Bystrom
Post #6 Gregory	Jim Keegan	Post #45 Harrisburg	Emil Berard
Post #6 Gregory	James Scissons	Post #45 Harrisburg	George VanDenHul
Post #6 Gregory	Larry Thomas	Post #46 Custer	Dean Hunhoff
Post #7 Huron	M. Tracy Gitchell	Post #50 Sisseton	Alvin German
Post #7 Huron	David Harles	Post #50 Sisseton	Leon Palmer
Post #7 Huron	James Holman	Post #50 Sisseton	Sherman Peterson
Post #7 Huron	Don Lundeen	Post #58 Columbia	Glen Wells
Post #7 Huron	Jerry Micheel	Post #59 Wolsey	Alan Kahre
Post #7 Huron	Edgar Rudy	Post #62 Humboldt	Loren Even
Post #8 Pierre	Clarence Coder	Post #62 Humboldt	Lawrence Lambertz
Post #8 Pierre	Gary Derzab	Post #63 Lake Preston	Melvin Ness
Post #8 Pierre	John Mitchell	Post #65 Dell Rapids	James Brown
Post #8 Pierre	Eldon Russell	Post #65 Dell Rapids	Kevin Kuper
Post #8 Pierre	Dennis Sharp	Post #65 Dell Rapids	Robert Sorsen
Post #8 Pierre	Daniel Shelbourn	Post #69 Doland	Chester Brothers
Post #8 Pierre	Philip Sieler	Post #69 Doland	George Wolf
Post #10 Lake Andes	Leonard Kisely	Post #76 Veblen	Roger Ormand
Post #10 Lake Andes	Burton Weaver	Post #76 Veblen	Ralph Parsons
Post #12 Yankton	George Flewares	Post #80 Britton	Dwayne Furman
Post #12 Yankton	Robert Jensen	Post #85 Fulton	Curtis Pueppke
Post #14 Wess. Springs	Jack Ferguson	Post #92 Redfield	Jack Haan
Post #14 Wess. Springs	Craig Leslie	Post #92 Redfield	Marlin Solheim
Post #14 Wess. Springs	Vernon Speck	Post #93 Letcher	James Evers
Post #15 Sioux Falls	Jerome Andersen	Post #93 Letcher	Alvin Thompson
Post #15 Sioux Falls	Herbert Beck	Post #109 Gary	Norbert Deslauriers
Post #15 Sioux Falls	Robert Binger	Post #109 Gary	Don Homan
Post #15 Sioux Falls	Perry Emmons	Post #109 Gary	Elmer Musch
Post #15 Sioux Falls	Kenny Eszlinger	Post #115 Platte	Kenneth Korb
Post #15 Sioux Falls	Kenneth Foley	Post #115 Platte	Bernard Nelson
Post #15 Sioux Falls	Floyd Gardner	Post #116 Alpena	Robert Hall
Post #15 Sioux Falls	Glen Hansen	Post #116 Alpena	Elmer Losing
Post #15 Sioux Falls	Marlyn Kelly	Post #129 Waubay	William Herold
Post #15 Sioux Falls	Bill Kolb	Post #131 Valley Springs	Arlo Anderson
Post #15 Sioux Falls	Lowell Larson	Post #131 Valley Springs	Kenneth Olson
Post #15 Sioux Falls	Curtiss Nelson	Post #131 Valley Springs	Ronald Rollag
Post #15 Sioux Falls	Robert Rang	Post #131 Valley Springs	Gale Zafft
Post #15 Sioux Falls	George Smart	Post #134 Elk Point	Orville Talbott
Post #15 Sioux Falls	Bert Tiesen	Post #135 Gettysburg	Wallace Combellick
Post #15 Sioux Falls	Louis VanderPlaats	Post #135 Gettysburg	Dale Eriksen
Post #15 Sioux Falls	Philip Varney	Post #135 Gettysburg	Sidney Magness
Post #15 Sioux Falls	Jeffy Wilkes	Post #135 Gettysburg	Larry Nagel
Post #17 Codington Co	Gerald Cornelius	Post #135 Gettysburg	Lyle Stoner
Post #17 Codington Co	Martin Eide	Post #135 Gettysburg	Bernie Webb
Post #17 Codington Co	Gerald Enger	Post #142 Tripp	Melvin Mikuska
Post #17 Codington Co	Donald Fassler	Post #153 Carpenter	Royal Gamber
Post #17 Codington Co	Lawrence Fiebelcorn	Post #159 Hoven	Norbert Arbach
Post #17 Codington Co	Laurel Foss	Post #164 Spearfish	Joe Picasso
Post #17 Codington Co	Donald Hofstiezer	Post #169 Winner	Rodney Grossenburg
Post #17 Codington Co	Donald Oleson	Post #174 Lennox	Richard Hempel
Post #18 Mitchell	“Bud” Delancey	Post #180 New Effington	Helmuth Henke
Post #18 Mitchell	Douglas Koch	Post #183 Tabor	George Bares
Post #18 Mitchell	George Schmit	Post #183 Tabor	Lester Scherschligt
Post #20 Fort Pierre	Royce Loesch	Post #183 Tabor	Ryan Sestak
Post #22 Rapid City	Hilary Cole	Post #183 Tabor	Stephen Walloch
Post #22 Rapid City	Don Fraser	Post #184 Estelline	Arthur Harms
Post #22 Rapid City	Delbert Harbaugh	Post #198 Elkton	Donald Bartelt
Post #22 Rapid City	Al Jensen	Post #198 Elkton	Donald Barthel
Post #22 Rapid City	Nick Meyer	Post #213 Cresbard	Albert Goetz
Post #23 Garretson	James Clark	Post #216 Ramona	Aaron DeCurtins
Post #23 Garretson	Chuck Hagemeyer	Post #240 Martin	Douglas Enders
Post #23 Garretson	Ralph Schreurs	Post #242 Brentford	Francis Halverson
Post #24 Aberdeen	Francis Walth	Post #248 Freeman	Ron Pullman
Post #25 Madison	Donald Erickson	Post #250 Castlewood	Dennis Lund
Post #26 Stickney	Don Hoffman	Post #261 Ethan	Donald Garvis
Post #29 Woonsocket	Martin Andersen	Post #261 Ethan	Jeffrey Pejchl
Post #31 Lead	John Milos	Post #266 Tea	Todd Woltuis
Post #33 Sturgis	Robert Ginter	Post #308 Eagle Butte	John Halsey
Post #33 Sturgis	Scott Goldade	Post #310 Norris	Burton Larvie
Post #33 Sturgis	Gregory Iversen	Post #319 N. Sioux City	Roger Batien
Post #33 Sturgis	Marvin Sharp	Post #500 Mitchell	Ronald Andera