



Chip Ganassi Racing, The American Legion Announce Multi-Year NTT INDYCAR SERIES Relationship

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 1, 2020/PRNewswire

Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) announced today a multi-year agreement with the nation's largest veterans service organization, The American Legion, as a sponsor of the No. 48 Honda in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES represented by a combination of Seven-Time NASCAR Cup Series Champion Jimmie Johnson (street and road courses) and former Indianapolis 500 Winner and Series Champion Tony Kanaan (ovals).

“We’re excited about this new relationship with The American Legion as it allows us to further the sponsorship program on the No. 48 team with Jimmie and Tony, while also representing a very important relationship with an organization dedicated to supporting veterans,” said Chip Ganassi, team owner of Chip Ganassi Racing. “Jimmie in particular has a long-standing appreciation for the service of veterans, so it was just another reason why partnering with The American Legion on his debut in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES made sense.”

The American Legion will be featured prominently on Johnson's No. 48 Honda during every race in the 2021 and 2022 NTT INDYCAR SERIES. The organization will also be the primary paint scheme for two races in 2021, including, “The Greatest Spectacle in Racing” the Indianapolis 500 on Memorial Day weekend. Kanaan, winner of the 2013 Indianapolis 500, will be behind the wheel for those races.

“This is truly a win-win for all involved,” said James W. “Bill” Oxford, national commander of The American Legion. “Teaming up with Chip Ganassi Racing allows The American Legion to showcase how it strengthens America every day through its programs, advocacy and support of veterans and their families. We’re looking forward to bringing that message and our mission to race fans across the country.”

The announcement comes on #GivingTuesday, a day of global giving designed to help change communities and the world. Donors can visit www.legion.org/48 to make a gift and help celebrate this new relationship and veterans across the country.

Johnson, who has family members who have served in the military, will make a \$10,000 donation to The American Legion. Johnson hopes his donation will motivate fans and the public to support veterans by donating \$48 to The American Legion. The \$48 pays homage to the number 48 car that he and Kanaan will drive.

“Our family knows firsthand how important it is to recognize our veterans,” said Johnson, who’s grandfathers and brother-in-law served in the military. “It’s exciting to be partnering with The American Legion to be able to show our appreciation to veterans and to continue to raise public awareness and support for this special organization. Giving Tuesday is a great day to announce this partnership and a way for fans to show their appreciation for our veterans.”

Family First

By Courtney VanZanten, DSO

“Welcome to Herreid. Your Last Stop in South Dakota.”

There’s few welcome signs that speak the truth more than the one entering Herreid. Located 8 miles from the North Dakota border, it’s a haul from nearly every direction. The town of 417 is relatively isolated, but it is immediately welcoming.

The American Legion Family has a strong presence from the get-go. Coming in from the south, The Veterans Memorial Park, where the Family logos are featured prominently on the entrance. From the north, the Campbell County Veterans Memorial in front of the high school. The post itself sits downtown, right in the center of it all.

Being as remote as they are, the folks in Herreid have come to have a certain self-reliance. Perhaps this helps to explain how the Legion Family grew so fantastically here; both the Auxiliary and the Sons outnumber the Legion significantly. Membership goal for the Legion this year is 36, with the Auxiliary and Sons sitting at 56 and 78, respectively.

Even at first glance, it’s easy to see that this is a highly effective team. The mission is clear, centered around helping and honoring veterans; communication is open; and collaboration is key. “We wouldn’t be able to do half of what we do if it weren’t for the

Sons or the Auxiliary,” said Post #170 Commander Andrew Van Kuren.

Between the three groups, there is a Veterans Day Program at the school, and Memorial Day ceremonies at a dozen different cemeteries in the area. There are fundraisers, such as the Sons Gun Calendar or the Bankers Dinner, and all sorts of community service projects--the Sons even go out to the Black Hills supporting the Veterans Honor March every year (pictured right).

A major undertaking, delayed because of 2020, has brought the #170 Legion Family even closer together. In June 2021, the Travelling Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be coming to Herreid. Additionally, the Iraq & Afghanistan Memorial will make its first appearance in South Dakota. The Herreid Legion Family worked hard in securing grants, hosting fundraisers and massive amounts of coordination and scheduling to bring the memorial visit to fruition. Its taken not only teamwork, but backing from the people of Herreid as well. “Our community is very supportive,” said Sons Commander Lance Vander Vorst, “We’re very fortunate.”



When the Walls Talk...

While visiting post homes, it’s inevitable to be drawn to the pictures and plaques on the walls. Every so often, the walls tell a story that’s hard to forget.

To the upper right, the black and white photograph depicts the funeral Edward H. Goehring, a WWII Gold Star soldier, and the first funeral that the Herreid post performed. Below, the funeral of Eddie Goehring, a 43-year member of Post #170 and Vietnam Veteran. Born two years after his older brother’s death. Eddie was named after his departed brother. They are now buried near each other at the Fairview Cemetery in Herreid.



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Find Post Information here: <https://www.sdlegion.org/district-posts-maps/>

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sdamericanlegion/>

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Carry on the Legacy

Fred Nelson Department Commander



The American Legion is hard at work in South Dakota.

Recently the Department Executive Committee (DEC) met via Zoom. During the meeting, I shared that I would like to add an ad-hoc committee and make some changes to two of our existing committees.

The new ad-hoc committee will be the "Public Safety Committee." The committee's charge will be selecting the Law Enforcement Officer/Fireman/EMT of the Year and promoting the program. The committee will also partner with the South Dakota Highway Patrol to promote and help administer the South Dakota Youth Trooper Academy. PDC Larry Price will chair this committee.

The Public Relations Committee will now be the "Media and Communications Committee." The committee's charge will be improving and enhancing our media presence throughout our entire department. We need to effectively use all social media avenues to share the South Dakota American Legion and its programs. We need to continue to make changes in our methods as technology changes. This committee will also be working to improve our communications at all levels throughout the department. We need to ensure members are informed and communicating. Courtney VanZanten will chair this committee.

The Membership Council will now be the "Membership and Marketing Committee." The committee's charge is to assist the Membership Chairman in promoting membership, creating strategies to attract new members, and retaining current members. Our Membership Chair, Travis Flisrand, will chair this committee. If you know of any members that are skilled in marketing or recruiting, please have them get in touch with Department Adjutant Kevin Hempel.

During October, on the 21st, I traveled east to attend the South Dakota Veterans Council in Sioux Falls. A critical item from the meeting is that all four annual veterans round-tables are canceled because of COVID-19. On the 27th, I traveled north to Lemmon Post 66, along with our Dept. ALR Liaison, Buck DeWeese. I attended their ALR and SAL meetings. Great things are happening in Lemmon. On the 31st, I had the honor of judging the Box Elder Post 315 annual chili cook-off along with State Vice Commander Kevin Morello and District One Vice Commander John McDonald. It was a tough decision, but we managed to choose a winner.

On November 6th, I participated in the Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair - "We've Got Your Six." The fair started as an idea from the VA & R co-chairs of the ALA Spearfish Unit 164, a spin-off of the Rapid City veteran's stand-down. "We've Got Your Six" was meant to provide resources, supplies, and appreciation to all veterans and active-duty service members. Although COVID-19 threw the planning committee many challenges, there were 31 veterans organizations and over 100 registered veterans. The drive-through fair took place in Sturgis, known as a veteran corridor to the Ft. Meade VA and the Black Hills National Cemetery. The change of venue from indoor to outdoor and relocation required additional preparations and sponsors. Several American Legion Posts, ALA Units, ALR Chapter 164, the VFW, and DAV gave financial support to provide this opportunity successfully and safely in the Northern Hills. I was filled with pride to see so many Legionnaires from the department, district, and posts volunteering that afternoon. The event brought together the American Legion Family and many other veterans organizations. Stay tuned for a second annual event in 2021.

The South Dakota American Legion Foundation awarded a \$2,000 grant to South Dakota Boys State. While attending the "We've Got Your Six" Veterans Appreciation Fair, I had the honor of presenting the check to our Americanism Officer, Doug Harris. Thank you, South Dakota American Legion Foundation.

On Veterans Day, I had the honor of taking part in a new park's dedication ceremony at Black Hills State University (BHSU) after WWII and lived in the "Vets Ville," a group of trailers brought in for them. The park's center has a flagpole flying "Old Glory" with a base, including our military service branches' seals. I took this opportunity to present BHSU with a plaque that recognizes their support of the American Legion and all veterans.

Veterans Day has passed; Thanksgiving and Christmas are next. My thoughts and prayers are with all Legionnaires and their families as 2020 winds down.

For God and Country, we associate together!

Fred Nelson, Your Department Commander

Patriots Plaza Dedicated on University of South Dakota Campus



Vermillion--Inspired by USD student veterans and supported by others in the USD family, Patriots Plaza features an impressive display of American, South Dakota, POW/MIA and USD flags honoring three USD alumni Congressional Medal of Honor recipients and other veterans. The plaza also commemorates the first 100 years of the Army ROTC at USD. The Plaza was officially dedicated on November 11, 2020.

District Oratory Contest

“A Constitutional Speech Contest”

For All SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

District American Legion Americanism Chairs, and the counties under the jurisdiction of each are as follows:

District 1 – (Butte, Corson, Dewey, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Perkins, Ziebach counties) Chair: Ken Sabers, (kcsabers@gmail.com) 1908 Butte View Dr. Sturgis, SD 57785. **District Contest to be held at Sturgis American Legion Post 33, January 10, 2021, 1:00pm.** Storm date, January 17th, 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 SDSM&T Classroom Bldg., 501 E. Saint Joseph St, January 10, 2021 10:00 a.m.** Storm date, January 17th, same time and 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 24, 2021 2:00 p.m.** Storm date, January 31st, 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 3, 2021, 3:00 p.m. Storm date, January 10th, 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 Castlewood Lutheran Church, Jan. 17, 2021, 1:30 p.m.** Storm date, Jan. 24th, 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 Chamberlain High School, 1000 Sorenson Dr., Chamberlain, SD, 57325, January 17, 2021, 2:00 p.m.** Storm date, Jan 24th, same time and place.

District 7 – (Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Moody, Union counties) Chair: Bill Huntimer, (wphejh@siouxvalley.net), 509 W. 9th St., Dell Rapids, SD 57022. **District Contest to be held at the Dell Rapids American Legion Post Home, January 10, 2021, 2:00 p.m.** Storm date January 17th, same time and place.

District 8 – (Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Douglas, Hutchinson, Turner, Yankton counties) Contact: Greg Geiman (speedy_82501@yahoo.com) 410 Stafford St, Scotland, SD 57059. **District Contest to be held at the NFAA HQ (Archery), 800 Archery Lane, Yankton SD 57078, January 16, 2021, 10:00 a.m.** Storm Date January 23, 2021, same time and place.

From the Adjutant

Kevin Hempel
Department Adjutant



We had successful District fall meetings and I was encouraged by the number of Legionnaires who took the time to attend despite the COVID issues we are currently facing. The question that now seems to be on everyone's mind is will we hold our annual MidWinter Conference which is scheduled at Cedar Shores in Oacoma February 19-21.

We have been in contact with the facility and they are standing by to support the conference, keeping COVID and social distancing in mind. The Chamberlain Post, who is the host for the conference, has been working on the menu and cost for the joint banquet. The Training Committee is planning another round of great training. There are a number of committees who meet during the conference and have business to attend to. With that said, at this point the conference is still a go, however we will continue to monitor COVID. With all things related to COVID, we will see some changes made to the way we conduct business.

Other items of interest I wanted to point out in this month's column:

1. MyLegion. National has announced the current version of MyLegion will be replaced by a new system. There will be a number of changes associated with the new system. First, all current logins will no longer work after December 16th. The new system is supposed to be online December 21st. Individuals will need to get a new login and it must be associated with an email address on file with MyLegion. We have been informed by National there will be a number of training videos forthcoming on the new system. I just finished watching a 10-minute video on what to expect and the requirements to sign in for the first time. I highly recommend everyone who will be using MyLegion to watch this first video and keep an eye open for the next ones. You can find the video by going to Legion.org then go to the search feature on the upper right and type in Training. Follow the link to MyLegion training and the video should be there. Or you can type the following into your web browser: <https://www.legion.org/training/mylegion>.

2. Oratory Contests. The Posts should be working with the schools to advertise the program and then have their local competitions completed by January 10th with their winners competing at the District competition. You will need to check with your District on their schedule.

3. Training Tuesdays. National has started a series of online training events aimed at Post Leadership. It will be the last Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. central time. To access the training, go to Legion.org and find the training section or again, go to the Search area and type in Training Tuesdays.

4. VA Christmas Parties. Each year the Auxiliary hosts a Christmas party for veterans in the various VA hospitals over the Christmas Holidays. Legion members are encouraged to participate. However, COVID has put the brakes on visitors to the VA. The VA will still host the parties with the staff helping, however they could use your support in the form of financial donations to bring some holiday cheer to the patients. If you feel you can support this event, you can send checks to the Volunteer Services point of contact at the various hospitals or you can send a donation to HQ with a note as to which hospital you would like to support and we will ensure it get to the proper location.

That is enough for this issue's column. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays. Stay safe and don't forget to check on our veteran buddies.

For God & Country,
Kevin Hempel
Department Adjutant

Firefighter/EMT & Law Enforcement of the Year Award Nominations Due to Districts

We all have them: the local heroes who, day in and day out, work to keep our communities safe. The American Legion recognizes these individuals every year through the Firefighter/EMT, and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year awards. While it goes without saying that the Department wants Posts to recognize its local heroes for what they do, these awards also serve an important secondary purpose: It is firmly believed these awards serve to promote public trust and support of our law enforcement and firefighting agencies, which is more critical now than ever.

Firefighter of the Year:

The Firefighter of the Year Award to a firefighter who has exceeded the requirements expected of his or her position and has shown a distinct pattern of community service and professional achievement. The award, which takes into account heroic acts, will be given annually at the Legion's Department and National Conventions.

Nominees must A: be a citizen of the United States, male or female; and B: be a certified, living, active, full-time, paid, or **volunteer** firefighter. Military firefighters are eligible for participation in this award provided they are state firefighter certified.

Nomination packages cover the time period of 1 July to 30 June. District Commanders are responsible for ensuring their nominees are forwarded to the Department by December 31st. It is recommended that Posts complete and forward their nominations in November. The application for Department Firefighter/EMT of the Year is the same as National.

Find the application here: <https://www.legion.org/security/firefighter>

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year:

Each year, The American Legion gives its National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has exceeded the duty requirements expected of his or her position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement. The award, which especially takes into account heroic acts, is presented annually at the Legion's Department and National Convention.

Nominees must be U.S. citizens and living, active, full-time and paid, sworn law enforcement officers entrusted with full authority and the powers of arrest. Posthumous awards will be acceptable only if the nominee's death has occurred after the department's selection.

Nominees must be assigned to or fully recognized by municipal, county, district or state police; highway patrol; sheriff's office or as a sworn federal law enforcement officer (FBI, Secret Service agent, U.S. Marshal, National Park Police, U.S. Capitol Police, etc.) Military police officers or investigators are eligible if they are state law enforcement certified. Nominees must also reside and be assigned or attached for duty in the nominating department.

Nomination packages cover the time period of 1 July to 30 June. District Commanders are responsible for ensuring their nominees are forwarded to the Department by December 31st. It is recommended that Posts complete and forward their nominations in November. The application for Department Law Enforcement Officer of the Year is the same as National.

Find the application here: <https://www.legion.org/security/officeraward>

South Dakota American Legion Foundation Update



The South Dakota American Legion Foundation thanks the following for their incredible contributions:

Howard American Legion Post #145: \$5000.00 (Pictured above)

Garretson American Legion Post #23: \$5000.00

Leo King: \$250.00

Your support of the Foundation can impact the South Dakota American Legion for generations. Amplify your generosity by donating today:

<https://www.sdlegion.org/foundation/> or

<https://sdcommunityfoundation.org/for-advisors/existing-funds/south-dakota-american-legion-foundation>

Sioux Nation Centennial Legion Post's Fledgling ALR Chapter Making a Difference

The American Legion--Located on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, Chauncey Eagle Horn Post 125 was chartered in December 1919 and is one of the oldest Native American Legion posts in the organization. Its namesake was assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division, nicknamed the "Rainbow" Division, and was killed in action on July 29, 1918, in the Battle of Chateau Thierry in France. He was the first man to be killed in action from any Great Sioux Nation tribe.

Nearly 98 years later, American Legion Riders Chapter 125 was chartered with a primary mission of providing proper final respects to veterans in the area who passed away.

The chapter regularly takes part in funeral escorts and flag lines, while also taking part in parades, community events and ceremonies while providing support for military families and Department of Veterans Affairs' facilities.

The chapter was formed shortly after some veterans living in the area met up with American Legion Riders from Hot Springs, S.D., who were providing an escort for a Korean War prisoner of war whose remains had been identified and were returned to his sister in Rosebud.

"(The Hot Springs Riders) told us that we should start something around here," said Carole Gregg, a U.S. Army veteran who doubles as Post 125 commander and Chapter 125 director. "That's when six of us got together, joined the Legion and started (Chapter 125). (It was) making sure our veterans are recognized, especially when it's their funeral and they're getting escorted."

Chapter 125's efforts recently included teaming up with Tree of Life Ministries, a nonprofit in Mission, S.D., that provides food, clothing and shelter to those in need on the reservation. Gregg was contacted by Tree of Life Director Linda Garriot, who shared that the ministry was getting a load of mattresses – approximately 16 pallets full – and wanted to distribute them to veterans.

Chapter 125 put the word out Oct. 28 and two days later had volunteers on hand in the Tree of Life parking lot to pass out nearly 100 twin-sized Tempur-Pedic mattresses to local veterans. In order to maintain social distancing and safety protocols, all recipients stayed in their vehicles and wore masks. Chapter 125's Riders loaded the mattresses into their vehicles, distributing all but a handful of the mattresses – one per veteran – in less than two hours.

Being able to facilitate distributing the mattresses "was very valuable," Gregg said. "It's a low-income area on the reservation, very low income. And the unemployment rate is really high, so anything like this sure helps out."

Being able to get the mattresses to veterans in need "feels good," Gregg said, "especially when you know people are struggling with COVID or age, and they can't work and their income's low, you can give them something to where at least they can sleep comfortably."



Members of the ALR Chapter #125 stand next to a pallet of mattresses ready for distribution. The Chapter was featured by National HQ for their community service. See it online here: <https://www.legion.org/riders/251145/sioux-nation-centennial-legion-posts-fledgling-alr-chapter-making-difference>

Sisseton Post Standing Proudly

Submitted by Matt Lagerstrom, District 5 Commander

Sitting in the Northeast Corner of South Dakota, Sisseton acts as a regional trade hub bringing people from around the area who seek out their daily necessities of life and the services of "life in town". Otto-Quande-Renville Post #50 of Sisseton seeks to be one of the key stops on those traveler's journey through town, and by all accounts, they are working hard to meet the high goals of The American Legion to take care of Veterans, their families, and making their community a better place to live.

Despite the slowdown of life due to The Virus, the Post has been busy working with their community to make it a better place to live this summer. The community recently decided to redo a major portion of Highway 10 through town, and Post 50 was integral into their plans as just outside the Post Home, a new traffic circle was installed. The Post worked with city planners and the construction company to assure that business traffic in and out of the restaurant which the Post hosts would not be impeded, and while construction was ongoing, the Post worked to improve their grounds by emplacing new fencing and landscaping around their M60 Patton tank that proudly guards the Post Home.

The Post is dedicated to care of the Sisseton Community Cemetery, and over the summer has worked with the cemetery board on repair-



Members of the Post relax after building a fence around the M60 Patton Tank which guards the City of Sisseton this June 2020 (Picture by Post Commander Calvin Hove)



Members of the Post spend an afternoon cleaning the Post Honor Guard Rifles before enjoying a steak fry (Picture by Post Commander Calvin Hove)

ing and resetting 18 headstones in the cemetery as well as innumerable repairs to Veteran grave markers.

The Post normally sponsors a local Legion Baseball team, however, The Virus proved to be too much for the sponsorship of their cherished program, but it was not to be a complete loss. Instead, the Post took advantage of the off-season and in partnership with the city took on a project to demolish the old concession stand which the Post operates during games, and for the 2021 season a new ballfield and concession stand will welcome all who come to enjoy a staple of summer life in the community.

The Post works with a local Boy Scout Troop, and when the boys couldn't go to a formal Summer Camp experience this summer, they packed their bags and the Post helped sponsor their move a few miles west of town to Roy Lake State Park, where the boys were able to enjoy a week outside doing what they are supposed to be doing as boys learning how to be responsible adults.

Finally, Post 50 has an Honor Guard team which keeps their membership plenty busy when they aren't already doing something. Working with local funeral homes for performing Funeral Honors; presenting flags during community celebrations; and local athletic events keeps their members busy almost every weekend of the year.

While many Posts chose to maintain a low profile during the National Catastrophe of The Virus, Sisseton chose to never forget their mission, and their members faced the challenge of community service with a great deal of patriotism and pride.

District Commander Updates

1



David Booze, Piedmont

During the District 1 Veterans Day Program, the focus revolved around keeping alive the stories of our Veterans.

Veterans have lots of stories, not solely gory combat details, however, stories of humor, plus the work and environment encountered. People who don't know the stories, don't understand the cost to maintain a military to preserve our freedom. Oral history needs to be sought out and written down, once the veteran passes, the history is not coming back.

During the Program District 1 American Legion Certificates of Recognition with World War II Victory Service Medals were presented to recognize four of Post 33's WWII veterans: Juno Sundstrom, United States Army; Keith McKay, United States Army; Leo Getsgo, United States Navy; Donald Dubbe, United States Army.

In historical reflection, Veterans Day, originally "Armistice Day," recognized the first anniversary of the WWI Armistice signing on the 11th hour, 11th day of the 11th month 1918, "The War to End All Wars." Congress recognized Armistice Day in 1926 and as a Federal Holiday in 1938. Unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day pays tribute to all American Veterans, living or deceased, with a focus on giving thanks to living veterans who served our nation honorably in all times of war or peace. To all veterans, thanks for your service.

2



Eugene IronShell, Jr. Rosebud

Greetings to the South Dakota American Legion,

I am honored to be the District 2 Commander for another term. Thank you to Rapid City Post 22 for hosting the fall meeting.

I have had the chance to make one post visit recently to the Otterman Post 94 in White River. ALA District President Regina Whipple and I made a visit to their November meeting and enjoyed Indian Tacos for their meal. Thank you to Post 94 for their hospitality.

There have been some improvements to the membership across the district. There are a few posts that are three members or so short of their 100% goal. Keep up your hard work in your communities. January and February are the strongest months for membership growth in District 2 so the party hasn't started yet.

Please take care of yourselves as the pandemic is getting worse in our rural communities. Take the proper precautions. And wear a face covering.

Thank you to the posts that continue to serve the Veterans and our communities during these challenging times. Remember what the Marines say: Adapt and Overcome.

I wish you all a happy holiday season and a prosperous year in 2021.

3



LeRoy Madsen, Pierre

Legion family,

There isn't much new with Posts in District 3. Most are concerned about covid 19, and not holding regular meetings.

Myself and my wife are involved in a Community Support Committee for a new naval ship to be built--named USS Pierre (LCS 38). There are about 8 of us on the committee. The ship is a Independence class littoral combat ship. 419 ft long, 40 knots, blue and yellow crew, 3,104 metric tons.

We are working on establishing a non-profit 501.C3 tax exempt account. Fund raising goal \$200,000-300,000, and fund raising activities. Reaching out sending letters to SD Governor Noem, Senators Rounds, & Thune, Congressman Johnson, Mayor Harding of Pierre, and Mayor Hanson of Ft Pierre. As well trying to involve other Veteran organizations in the community. The Committee meets once a month at Post 8 to discuss n talk about where things are in the planning stages. We will be holding our 3rd meeting Wed. Nov. 18,2020.

Here's hoping that we'll all be able to meet freely soon. Until then, stay healthy, and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Side note: Since submitting this article, LeRoy has been undergoing health issues. Please keep his recovery in your prayers.

4



Bob Thomason, Selby

I would first like to thank the Legionnaires of District 4 for electing me as Commander. It is both an honor and a privilege to serve you in this capacity.

Even during these times of uncertainty, we must continue to drive forward. With this most recent surge in COVID-19 occurrences within our state, many things that were postponed or cancelled earlier in the year continue to be postponed through the upcoming Holiday Season. But we need to focus on the positive. For example:

Post 170 of Herreid has renewed their commitment to bring the Travelling Vietnam Wall to Herreid, South Dakota in June of 2021. Thank you Post 170.

Post 100 of Selby, while postponing our annual fundraiser until spring, has voted to bring American Legion Baseball back to Selby. We also have two Boy Scouts currently working on their Eagle Scout projects. One of these will put a "Drop Box" for used flags at our Post Home, while the other is to build a permanent fire pit behind our Post Home solely for the purpose of Dignified Flag Retirement ceremonies.

District 4 will again host a booth at the Brown County Fair. We will be giving away 2 bicycles (kids bikes), and an American Flag. Also, we will be having a raffle for a \$500 meat bundle.

Have a safe and happy Holiday Season, and best wishes for the New Year.

5



Matt Lagerstrom, White

The Age of The Virus has taken a definite toll on our society, and our beloved organization is doing its best to alleviate some of the more awful effects which it has imposed on our lives. Our Posts are still checking up on our older Veterans who for very good reason have become home-bound through Buddy-Checks and simply being good neighbors.

Our Posts are still active working with community organizations and our schools to assure the values which our Nation's Veterans sacrificed much from their lives to keep alive including the most important - our desire to live in a nation where the tyranny of the classes and the masses does not become the rule of law.

Many Posts supported Veterans Day programs, whether they were in a local school, at the City Veterans Memorial, or in the case of Sisseton's Post in a sixty-seven vehicle parade with over 150 participants that wound its way through more than four miles of the city before making its way to support a Funeral Honor Guard for one of their local Veterans.

We are a strong organization with a fantastic membership based on taking care of each other. This Virus won't stop us from doing what we value most so long as we never forget to be safe and to be brave. I sincerely look forward to seeing all of you soon. Until then, call your friends and tell them how much they mean to you.

6



Cynthia Hoffman, Plankinton

What a year it has been. I know we all want to get past 2020 and hopefully into a new year with a cure for COVID. I am getting a very slow start to my duties and I know so well that I have big shoes to fill, as Doug Feltman did an outstanding job as District 6 Commander.

As District 6 Commander, I have started to contact each Post with hopes of visiting each soon. Normally, Posts this time of year would be hosting Turkey Bingos and Pancake Feeds, much less meeting, but COVID has struck our social calendars yet again.

With so many of our communities being hit hard with COVID, I find it incredibly important to follow up on our fellow veterans with the Buddy Checks. Often times, our Veterans don't need material items, but a friendly voice on the phone with a genuine concern on their well-being--someone who actually cares can make a difference. We have a long road ahead of us with this winter approaching, but together, we can be tough and get through this.

I will continue to make my phone calls to the Posts. I cannot stress enough that if you need me to do something for your post, please contact me. Like most soldiers, I have a stubborn and innate desire to help my fellow veterans, and I am truly a phone call away.

A final thank you to Doug Feltman for his continued service to the American Legion. God Bless our Country and State.

7



Rodney Smith, Chester

The words of our days seems to be Canceled, Postponed or Fewer people allowed. There will be fewer Feather Parties/Turkey Bingo this season so it is time to think creatively to have fundraising that safely distances people and still raise money to support our American Legion programs.

I have seen some of our District 7 Post's Veterans Day Programs done virtually and a few did have in person celebrations with smaller than usual crowds. The flag pole dedication at Post 15 and the State Veterans Cemetery were very impressive.

One of the most important things to me has been the coming together of multiple Post to provide Honor Guard Duties. It was an honor to to be apart of that to pay our respect to our parted Comrades.

The Districts have a Zoom account and have the ability to set up Zoom meetings for Post and have done so for Two Post and one Honor Guard. It is not like face to face but it works, and business can get done. If you would like to try this for your Post meeting please contact me and we will get your meeting scheduled. Once scheduled an invitation will be sent to you and you will send it to your members, so they have the information to join and participate in the meeting. It is not perfect but sometimes it is the best way we have to stay in communication.

Be well and safe on your journeys and I hope to see you at Mid Winter in February.

8



Jennifer VanRoekel, Marion

Hello fellow Legionnaires!

My name is Jennifer VanRoekel, and I am the newly-elected District 8 Commander. I live in Parker, but am part of the Marion American Legion Post.

I am married to my husband Chris and we have 5 children: Ande 27, Kyle 26, Ana 26, Sean 24, Trinity 11, as well as one granddaughter, Paizley 6, and one dog Rooster.

In my free time I like to go fishing, go to the race track, and spend time with my family. I enjoy helping out my fellow veterans. That is why I became the Commander of District 8.

My plan is to get to know my district better and help each post to better if they will let me. I hope to get more younger veterans involved in the Legion because we are losing the older generation of veterans, and their knowledge with them. We also need to work on getting the women veterans to know they are welcome in the Legion as well.

I am new at this so I am still trying to figure out what to do next, but do know I want to make my district new and improved by the time I am done with it. I would like to make each post to work as a team because there is no I in team.

My Vice Commander is Brent Frier from Wakonda, and together, we look forward to learning and serving with you.

Have a very Merry Christmas, and I hope that 2021 brings us back together.



Above: Rapid City Post #22 Legionnaire Chris "Van" VanDelist receives the Legionnaire of the Year award. Above L: District 1 Commander David Booze and Post #33 member Darrel Barry converse during social hour at the District 1 Fall Meeting held in Box Elder. Center L: Post #22 Commander Lyle Tolsma performs the opening ceremonies of the District 2 Meeting held in Rapid City. Below L: Vice Commander Harry Boner and Department Commander Fred Nelson pose at the podium at the District 3 meeting held in Pierre. Below R: Aberdeen Post #24 Commander Steven Nemmers accepts an Americanism award from Department Commander Fred Nelson. Bottom: Newly elected County and District leadership take their oath of office from Department Commander Fred Nelson at the District 4 Fall Meeting held in Oacoma.



2020 Fall District Meetings





Above: Chad Hardy and Noel Cummins take their oath of office as the District 5 Vice Commander and Grant County Commander, respectively. Above R: District 5 Commander Matt Lagerstrom and Department Commander Fred Nelson pose outside the District 5 Meeting held in Sisseton. Right: Leon Josephsen of Post #42 is recognized at the District #6 Meeting held in Arlington for having the most years as a Legionnaire present. Lower R: Department Commander Fred Nelson recognizes Andy Lyngen of Garretson Post #23 as District Legionnaire of the Year at the District #7 Meeting held in Dell Rapids. Bottom R: Newly elected District Vice Commander Brent Frier of Wakonda and District Commander Jennifer VanRoekel of Marion stand with Department Commander Fred Nelson at the District #8 Meeting held in Wakonda. Bottom L: Department Service Officer Courtney VanZanten and Wakonda Legionnaire Paul Jensen pose for a picture. Below: Department Commander Fred Nelson addresses the District #6 audience at the new Arlington American Legion Post Home.



Member Spotlight:

Paul Payne, Plankinton Post #5



Name: Paul Payne
 Post: Plankinton Post #5
 Military Service: US Army
 Why Nominated: Paul Payne took over Post 5 in Plankinton in 2007. When Paul took over as Post Sec/Treasurer the Post was down to 12 members and was in jeopardy of losing its charter, Paul worked hard on getting membership up to what it is today over 100%.

Paul and Leanne have always been there for the Veterans their families. And the service is a family affair: Paul and Leanne have four children Kenny, Kristi, Kurt, and Kim. Kenny and Kurt both are Military Veterans, Kenny is our VFW Inspector; and is our VFW Post 6554 Commander.

Paul and Leanne have hauled numerous donations to the Veterans home in Hot Springs and to the Veterans hospital in Sioux Falls over the last several years, they have taken part in the Veterans Day Service and the Memorial Day services, when the pandemic hit Leanne knew our community was in need of masks she dedicated her time in sewing over 700 masks.

Paul and Leanne took it upon themselves to pass out certificates to every home that flies our US flag, Paul. Paul has always stayed on top of the keeping the Boys State in check, when our Boys State conference was canceled Post 5 decided to let the our Boys Stater keep the money for their college expenses, Paul and Leanne took it upon themselves to deliver the check to our Boys Stater Thomas Stange (pictured above).

If you are around Paul he will always put a smile on your face as he always has a joke to tell to lighten up the mood.

Paul and Leanne set the example high as they continue to work very hard with the Communities in getting information out to the Public. Post #5 is forever grateful to the hard work of Paul, Leanne and their family.



Department Calendar

DECEMBER 2020

13: National Guard Birthday
 20: Space Force Birthday
 23-25: Christmas Observed, HQ Closed
 25: Christmas, HQ Closed

JANUARY 2021

10: Posts to have completed Oratory Contest
 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, HQ Closed
 31: Districts to have completed Oratory Contest

FEBRUARY 2021

15: Presidents Day, HQ Closed
 19-21: MidWinter Conference, Arrowwood Resort, Oacoma, SD
 Hotel Reservations - 605-734-6376 or 888-697-6363
<https://arrowwoodcedarshore.com/>
 19: Midwinter Conference Agenda
 10:00 a.m. - Dept. Finance Commission Meeting—Howe
 12:00 p.m. - Registration Desk Opens - Pre-Function Area
 1:00 p.m. - Dept. Executive Committee Meeting—Howe
 6:00 p.m. - Social Hour - Pre-Function Area, Conference Center
 7:00 p.m. - Joint Legion / Auxiliary / SAL Banquet—Oacoma/Wheeler
 20: Midwinter Conference Agenda
 7:30 a.m. - Registration Desk Opens - Pre-Function Area
 8:00 a.m. - Joint Opening Session - Hale/Oacoma
 8:25 a.m. - Bill Oxford, National Commander Remarks
 10:00 a.m. - Recess Joint Session
 10:10 a.m. - BREAKOUT SESSION:
 MyLegion - Wheeler Room
 New Member Training - Howe Room
 11:00 a.m.
 Media Communications & Zoom - Glass
 12:00 p.m. - Noon Lunch Break
 1:00 p.m. - BREAKOUT SESSION:
 Mentorship/Leadership Panel - Hale/Oacoma
 Reports/Adjutants Manual - Howe Room
 2:55 p.m. - All assemble in Conference—Hale/Oacoma
 3:45 p.m. - Membership Report/ Awards/Turn-In
 4:15 p.m. - Popcorn Fund Turn-In
 4:20 p.m. - Announcements and Adjourn Assembly
 4:30 p.m. - American Legion Riders - Executive Board Room
 5:00 p.m. - Dept. Membership Committee Meeting—Hale/Oacoma
 6:00 p.m. - Go-Getter Reception, Chamberlain Community Center
 7:00 p.m. - Go-Getter Smorgasbord, Chamberlain Community Center
 8:00 p.m. - Hospitality Rooms, Arrowwood Resort Hotel rooms
 21: MidWinter Conference Agenda
 8:30 a.m. - Non-Denominational Service—Wheeler Room
 10:30 a.m. - High School Oratorical Contest Finals—Wheeler Room

2021 MidWinter Conference agenda and times are subject to change

Submit Stories for the Legion News

Greetings from the editor!

The Legion News has been my baby for the last three years, and I'm so excited that we were finally able to give her an upgrade in design and get her out to you. I hope you enjoy, as it will be returning to hardcopy print in February 2021 for an experimental three-issue run. Please provide feedback, and if you know of anyone interested in advertising, send them my way!

The South Dakota Legion News is always accepting submissions, and with the new format, there's a lot of room to tell our story. That said, we have the opportunity to re-vamp how we curate the paper, so here's a few guidelines on submitting a news story:

1. Focus your story/caption on one or more of the Four Pillars. Everything we do as a Post is part of our mission, let's sell it that way.
2. Provide a quality picture. There's nothing more frustrating than an interesting story with low quality or blurry images that I cannot put to print.
3. Include details, like first & last names, locations and dates.
4. Going forward, there will be a Post Spotlight (like Herried on the front page) and a Member Spotlight (Paul Payne, above). If your post would like to be considered, or you have a member you want honor, give me a short write-up to select from.

Thank you for your support in this,

Courtney VanZanten

dso@sdlegion.org

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From the Vice

**Area Vice Commander, Dist 3-7
Harry Boner, Castlewood**

Greetings my fellow Legionnaires. Fall is here and the snow will be flying soon. This time of year commonly finds most Post hosting their Annual Poultry Parties. With this year not being a non-normal year, that puts plans like this on hold. I know that Poultry party is the largest fund raiser for many Post each year. No having this can put a damper on the Post finances.

During the Fall meetings, I spoke about going back to basics and re-entertaining those ideas that many Post have had in the past regarding fund raising events for the Post, which in many cases doubles and a community service for the community. While we may not want to huddle together inside, as time and the weather allows, that can be outdoor events that could held. Indoor events could be held as well, as long as there is plenty of room to spready out. We want to offer a service while keeping in mind the public safety.

I had a chance to visit with Hans Nelson from Veblen. I asked him what his Post had been up to in the crazy time. He told me about a year event that the host and how it was different this year, but they were still able to hold it. First some back story from Hans; "Well, were do I start? About 10 years ago the city was attempting to have a harvest day / festival. I was on that committee. Then about 8 years ago the Veblen Legion decided to have a car show to fill in between the 5 k run/walk and the rodeo. We bought trophies for 1st and 2nd place in 5-6 categories, Mopar, chevy, ford, pick up, modified and bike. We had 7 entrees that first year. We had a \$25.00 entrance fee and we went in the red by a few hundred dollars.

The second year we had an entrance fee of \$25.00, but we had 3 cooperate sponsors. NAPA, Ford dealership, and a local repair shop. These sponsors paid \$75.00 for their advertisement banner, with future years being \$50.00. The first year was to defray the cost of printing the 3' x 6' banner. We display these banners along the sidewalk during the show and a lot of our sponsors display them in their business during the year. I don't remember how many cars we had, but we reused the previous year's trophies, and bought extra ones and still we were in the red.

I think we were on the verge of giving this experiment the axe, and then I started going to other car shows and asking a lot of questions. We needed sponsorship and a lot of it. Free or otherwise, (radio, newspaper) and don't have a car show the same time as someone else. You can have it the same day but morning -vs - afternoon. Some of the people who have fancy cars may hit two - three shows a week, or more. Advertisement. Also as Commander Nelson said, "You need a salesman".

This year was our eight year with 32 entrees, No entrance fees 10 corporate sponsors, 6 - first place trophies (no second place) best in show people's choice plaques. We also raffle a 20' flag pole and flag at our show. It draws people and most will give you a \$10.00 bill for a flag pole raffle. Because of COVID and social distancing we didn't do the raffle this year. After all the bills are paid - Advertisement fliers, ads in two local papers, trophies / plaques, flag pole / flag, postage and office supplies. Last year we gave Operation Comfort Warrior \$450.00. If there is a post who wants me to come and talk to them about our program I'll meet with them."

What a success story, thank you Hans for sharing that with us. With a little work and coordination, Veblen had a successful event. Hosting alterative events, i.e. car shows, Barn Dances, Harvest days with corn mazes, pumpkin/apple picking and hay rides, Motorcycle poker runs are just some examples of how to get the community involved in order to help a programs of the American Legion. Proceeds earned from each Post can be put towards Legion Baseball, Boys State, the Oratory Contest and local scholarships for students, not to mention other Legion programs.

Please remember that it is not always about earning money, it is about supporting the community, Veterans in the community and programs of the Legion. Thinking of alterative ways to support the programs and educating the public about what the American Legion is all about will help to draw in the community and fellow Veterans into wanting to know more about the Legion, which may help with membership in the long run. Remember to be creative and be safe.

Submitted by
Harry Boner
State Vice Commander



From the Chair

**Americanism Commission
Doug Harris, Rapid City**

A final 2020 greetings to my Fellow Legionnaires!

What a challenging year this has been for everyone! If you have been paying attention to the news, you've probably heard that Pfizer has a vaccine for COVID-19 that's supposed to be 90% effective. Does this mean we will be able to move forward on "in person" Oratorical contests? I certainly hope so!! We might even be able to enjoy a Midwinter Conference at Oacoma in February, where we will hold a Department level contest and send our winner to Indianapolis for the National contest. I'm once again asking for those of you who want to assist with our Department contest to contact me via email: doughnut@gmail.com, or phone: 970-231-8556. It takes a large group of volunteers to pull this off.

As I mentioned in the October article, I'm asking everyone to move forward assuming the "best case" scenario and get out the word about Boys State (May 31st - June 4th) and Youth Trooper Academy (June 21st - 25th). If you wait until we know for sure that COVID-19 is in the rear-view mirror, it will be too late to recruit. An enormous amount of planning will be going into both programs, so let's make sure we keep our educators/ youth informed and ready to submit their applications. Be sure to contact those individuals who were signed up to attend the 2020 sessions and let them know they are still eligible to attend in 2021 (both Juniors and Seniors for Boys State this coming year). Thanks in advance to all of you who understand the importance of these programs and are out there doing the work to ensure their success.

Finally, let us talk once again about the marking tools available this year.

- 1) The Americanism packet materials (sent to Post Americanism Officers in September). Pass these to your High School Counselors, etc.
- 2) The "Big 3" sheet easily accessible online: <https://www.sdlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Americanism-Big-3-2021-ADJ-COLORS-1.pdf>
- 3) Our recruiting roadmap available in August edition of SD Legion News: <https://www.sdlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/South-Dakota-Legion-News-August-2020-Web.pdf>

I also need to pass on some excellent news I received recently. The South Dakota American Legion Foundation approved a grant for \$2,000 to assist the SD Boys State Program. The funds were presented by Commander Nelson to myself at the 1st Annual Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation Fair in Sturgis SD. Thank you to all of those who contribute to the Foundation. This is an example of your generosity at work.

Please stay safe and healthy, so we may continue to make a difference in the lives of our youth!! I look forward to seeing you all in Oacoma in a couple of months! Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions/concerns about any of our programs.

Douglas D. Harris
Americanism Commission Chairman

From the NEC

**Jim Huls
National Executive Committeeman**



Fellow Legionnaires,

The Fall Meetings of the National Executive Committee were held via Zoom on October 14-15. All Commission and Committee meetings were held prior our meetings. All Commission, Committee and Council members will remain the same for this next year except those that have resigned were replaced. Only change for the Department of South Dakota was Appointment of Krisma DeWitt replacing Ed Stringer on the National Security Council because Ed resigned due to health issues.

All Commission and Committee Chairman gave reports on their activities for the past year. Based on their reports, the business of The American Legion continued normally for the past year as more than 30 Resolutions were presented to the National Executive Committee for our approval.

Three resolutions should be of interest to South 'Dakota Legionnaires, those being Resolution # 38, that changed the wording of the Vision to "The American Legion: Veterans Strengthening America" and changes to the Mission Statement " To enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

Resolution #36, Mission Blue Post Assistance Program, Posts impacted by a government's public health restrictions implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic may apply for a grant up to \$1000. Posts must meet strong eligibility criteria. State headquarters has the applications and directions.

Resolution # 35, American Legion Insurance Requirements, Any organization using the Tradenames of The American Legion (American Legion Posts), and needing liability insurance coverage, is required to specify that The American Legion and the respective Department of The American Legion is held harmless and named as an additional insured on any and all insurance liability policies. The majority of insurance agencies do not charge for this endorsement; therefore, if presented with an additional charge one should inquire why such additional fee.

You will see more on these Resolutions as we move forward.

Merry Christmas, and stay safe out there.

For God and Country,
Jim Huls
National Executive Committeeman

**MidWinter
Banquet**

*Banquet buffet with fried chicken,
roast beef, green beans, wild rice,
roasted potatoes and apple crisp.*

Tickets are \$35, and can be ordered from:
John Payer
25120 344th Ave
Chamberlain, SD 57325
or john.payer@hotmail.com



Above: The Sons of the American Detachment leadership present Squadron #25 with their official charter. Congratulations Madison!

American Legion Around the State



The Sisseston Post #50 taking part in the Veterans Day Parade



Left: Box Elder Member Marv Tisdall and District 1 Adjutant Joanna Merrill present a certificate of recognition to the family of WWII veteran Walter Joynt.

Right: Members of Harrisburg Post #45 Bill Dunker, Sheldon Ahrendt and Jeff Clow present a Quilt of Valor to longtime Legionnaire and Army veteran Philip Pravec. Each year, Auxiliary member Deb Clow makes a quilt for a deserving Post #45 member, and nominations are put forth. Congrats Philip!



At District 7 Fall Meeting in Dell Rapids, the South Dakota American Legion had the distinct honor of presenting the permanent charter of the Patrick W. Herried American Legion Post #911 in the presence of Patrick's mother, Rita Herried and sister, Stacey Herried. Patrick W. Herried, 29, of Sioux Falls, was killed in action on February 6, 2006, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Stryker military vehicle during patrol operations in Rawah, Iraq. He was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.



Chaplain's Corner

Justin Warfel
Department Chaplain



South Dakota Taps

As reported to Department Headquarters, September 23, 2020-November 23, 2020

"The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example."

Benjamin Disraeli

Fellow Legionnaires,

As I write this, it is the week of Thanksgiving. In a few days' time, in homes across the nation, families will gather together to share meals and conversation. Historically, this is the time of year we Americans give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. As you read this, it is December, and the year is coming to a close. Annually, as we approach a new year, we reflect upon the experiences of the past year and try to imagine what the days ahead may hold. November and December mark in our culture a time of thoughtful consideration of past, present, and future.

Today we, as both a nation and as individuals, are feeling worn down by the recent past and anxious about the future. Though our emotional response to what has been, and remains, both a trying year and an uncertain long-term future is understandable, we should not allow these to define our mindset in the present. They should not keep us from being thankful for God's daily provision.

Perhaps, as we wrestle with the challenges of our time, it would be instructive to consider the challenging experiences of two men from the more distant past and to consider how they responded to the challenges of their day. Job, of biblical acclaim, and Abraham Lincoln, one of our nation's foremost Presidents, refused to allow their circumstances to rule their respective responses. Each, in his own way, faced overwhelming challenges with a surprisingly thankful heart.

Job, perhaps the one man in history most known for his enduring patience, faced personal trials of a kind that most of us can scarcely imagine. In short order, this man lost his family, his wealth, and his health. Understandably, Job was devastated. At his moment of greatest despair, he even wished that he had never been born. Even so, amidst all his suffering, Job remained thankful for God's provision. In Job's words of appreciative thankfulness in the face of loss and despair he humbled himself and acknowledge a simple yet profound truth, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!" If we can thank God during our times of blessing and prosperity, ought we not also give him praise in the midst of our suffering? Job believed so, as did one of our nation's most respected presidents.

As the single bloodiest year in American history came to its close, the nation's Commander-In-Chief, Abraham Lincoln gave an astounding proclamation. After a year of untold national suffering, the President of the United States called the nation to a period of thanksgiving. His words below are as meaningful in our time as they were in 1863.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Legion family.

God Bless,
Justin Warfel
Department Chaplain

#4 Mobridge	Ivan Bormann	#27 Kadoka	Duane Waack	#110 Wessington	Jerald Zerfoss
#7 Huron	Thomas Ames	#29 Woonsocket	James Berg	#114 Volga	Tom Elverud
#7 Huron	Robert Fodness	#29 Woonsocket	Robert Larson	#114 Volga	Harold Raabe
#7 Huron	Donald Johnson	#29 Woonsocket	Delbert Pearson	#115 Platte	Delyle Johnson
#7 Huron	Ted Peterman	#32 Belle Fourche	Lorne Ruzicka	#120 Isabel	Gary Lindskov
#7 Huron	Lee Pfeiffer	#33 Sturgis	Gordon Bell	#125 Rosebud	Lloyd Walking Eagle
#7 Huron	John Rose	#33 Sturgis	James Harrison	#128 Hudson	Hobart Cole
#8 Pierre	Bernard Chrstenson	#33 Sturgis	Donald Henry	#128 Hudson	Dayle Eastman
#8 Pierre	Ralph Dunwoody	#33 Sturgis	Gerald Kienzle	#128 Hudson	Theodore Quarnstrom
#8 Pierre	Warren Hall	#36 Bonesteel	Gerald Pepper	#130 Kimball	Larry Blasius
#8 Pierre	Ron Oleson	#37 Bryant	Hank Poeggel	#131 Valley Springs	Gilbert Smedsrud
#8 Pierre	Mike Shaw	#38 Miller	Jerome Oligmueller	#132 Springfield	Charles Dawes
#8 Pierre	Paul Ward	#39 Groton	Robert Pray	#132 Springfield	Alvin Gimbel
#8 Pierre	Gary Whitney	#40 Webster	Galand Bohn	#133 Sinai	Richard Felberg
#9 Milbank	Tom Adler	#40 Webster	Marvin Bury	#141 Langford	Sherman Olson
#9 Milbank	Jack Kempter	#41 Alexandria	Donald Schuldt	#145 Howard	David Goronja
#9 Milbank	Ralph Stinson	#42 Arlington	Otto Piehl	#146 Colome	Garry Brown
#12 Yankton	Kenneth Henseler	#49 Clear Lake	Chester Benson	#146 Colome	Robert Hladky
#14 Wess. Springs	Scott Leighton	#49 Clear Lake	Larry Brinkman	#152 Menno	Alfred Hauck
#15 Sioux Falls	Dale Bailey	#50 Sisseton	Leroy Hellwig	#152 Menno	Jacob Luikens
#15 Sioux Falls	David Chevalier	#50 Sisseton	Edean Landmark	#154 Montrose	Gordon Vogel
#15 Sioux Falls	Elmer Cohlman	#50 Sisseton	Troy Opsal	#155 Scotland	Wayne Nelson
#15 Sioux Falls	James Cooper	#50 Sisseton	Ralph Schmidt	#160 Hill City	Ronald Rombough
#15 Sioux Falls	Raymond Dell	#50 Sisseton	Delmar Swenumson	#164 Spearfish	Kendall Hansen
#15 Sioux Falls	Eugene Heller	#53 Canton	Allen Brandsma	#164 Spearfish	Delane Herr
#15 Sioux Falls	Kenneth Hoover	#53 Canton	Wayne Mitchell	#164 Spearfish	Robert Johnson
#15 Sioux Falls	Dale Huber	#53 Canton	Murray Rowe	#164 Spearfish	Richard Stephan
#15 Sioux Falls	Leland Klostergaard	#53 Canton	Quintin Sorenson	#169 Winner	James Gregg
#15 Sioux Falls	Orren Lee	#56 Geddes	Robert Bruner	#169 Winner	Charles Horton
#15 Sioux Falls	Acie Matthews	#56 Geddes	Neil Raysby	#171 Strandburg	Robert Fiels
#15 Sioux Falls	Orlan Norgaard	#56 Geddes	Philip Steckley	#175 Baltic	Navis Dybedahl
#15 Sioux Falls	Quentin Oleson	#57 Rockham	Clifford Jackson	#176 Davis	Dick Knock
#15 Sioux Falls	Robert Otten	#59 Wolsey	Stephen Merritt	#176 Davis	Timothy Westphal
#15 Sioux Falls	Melroy Steckelberg	#60 Clark	Jerome O'Neill	#177 Worthing	Arthur Kimball
#15 Sioux Falls	David Stevens	#63 Lake Preston	Larry Gunderson	#186 Eureka	Lieven Rieger
#15 Sioux Falls	Jerry Teslow	#66 Lemmon	Scot Gaeth	#194 Parkston	Paul Binder
#16 Gann Valley	John Mayer	#68 Hecla	Roy Bushby	#206 Colton	James Wrage
#17 Codington Co.	Virgil Bastian	#71 Hot Springs	Henry Nelson	#209 Raymond	James Hurlburt
#17 Codington Co.	Dennis Bradshaw	#71 Hot Springs	Wayne Peterson	#235 Marion	Laura Aeschlimann
#17 Codington Co.	Alan Meguire	#72 Beresford	George Clay	#240 Martin	Marion Arment
#17 Codington Co.	Doug Ulven	#72 Beresford	Glenn Twedt	#246 Wall	Earnest Leonard
#18 Mitchell	Lance Carson	#74 Brookings	Douglas Hai	#249 Delmont	Curtis Buhler
#18 Mitchell	James Hauge	#75 Murdo	Robert Totton	#250 Castlewood	Jerome Wait
#18 Mitchell	Laverne Hedblom	#78 Leola	Albert Erdmann	#257 Greenwood	Norbert Picotte
#18 Mitchell	Jack Kinsella	#92 Redfield	Denny Adams	#259 Roscoe	Verne Reidt
#18 Mitchell	Donnie Kuder	#92 Redfield	Robert Cleberg	#261 Ethan	Lester Lone Eagle
#18 Mitchell	Dewayne Weiland	#92 Redfield	Elton Ellis	#261 Ethan	Dale Miller
#22 Rapid City	Benjamin Artichoker	#92 Redfield	Robert Fuss	#268 Virgil	Kenneth Brown
#22 Rapid City	Jerome Benson	#92 Redfield	Edward Moeller	#274 Corsica	Richard Brink
#22 Rapid City	Marvin Henzlik	#92 Redfield	Harry Schilling	#274 Corsica	Leonard DeVries
#22 Rapid City	Reuben Lehr	#92 Redfield	Robert Schur	#274 Corsica	Eugene Niewenhuis
#22 Rapid City	Cecil Stoner	#94 White River	Alfred Rattling-Leaf	#274 Corsica	Willis VanRoekel
#24 Aberdeen	Bennie Benson	#99 Pierpoint	Stanley Boe	#276 Long Lake	Vernie Gohl
#24 Aberdeen	Bart Berndt	#102 Faulkton	Ronald French	#280 Iroquois	Garry Olmstead
#24 Aberdeen	Ralph Hayes	#102 Faulkton	Robert Hadrick	#295 Parmelee	Dennis Spotted-Tail
#24 Aberdeen	Leonard Lippert	#102 Faulkton	Orville Lerew	#308 Eagle Butte	Aaron Widow
#24 Aberdeen	Dave Richards	#102 Faulkton	Gerald Overgard	#311 Piedmont	Mark Kinnick
#24 Aberdeen	Harley Taylor	#102 Faulkton	Joe Pfeifer	#314 Agency Village	Kurt Blue Dog
#24 Aberdeen	Lawrence Walth	#103 Astoria	Theodore Christianson	#314 Agency Village	Dennis Red Day
#25 Madison	Francis Fitzgerald	#109 Gary	Gene Berckes	#314 Agency Village	Brian Renville
#25 Madison	Robert Stratton	#109 Gary	Ralph Hall	#319 N. Sioux City	William Merrill
#26 Stickney	Joe Dykstra	#109 Gary	Arthur Larson	#500 South Dakota	Lyle Christensen
#27 Kadoka	Robert Getz	#109 Gary	Kermit Olson	#500 South Dakota	Raymond Lynn
#27 Kadoka	Russell Olney	#109 Gary	Oscar Stangeland		

Washington, D.C.

October 3, 1863

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln
William H. Seward,
Secretary of State