



Above Center: The Post #299 home in Polo, SD. Surrounding Photos: Work on the Post home, August 2020. Bottom Right: Polo Post Honor Guard presenting in Faulkton and Annual Coyote Hunt, 2019.



## Rebuilding in Polo

By Courtney VanZanten, DSO

The American Legion post home in Polo is getting an overdue facelift. The building, built in 1956, hadn't seen much for renovations in the last 70 years. There was shag carpet, old wood paneling and a staleness that needed to go. It is now stripped down to the studs, ready for some fresh drywall, new paint and talks of future expansion.

Walking into Post #299, its observed that the building remodel is a metaphor reflective of their membership. Over the last ten years, the demographic of the post has changed dramatically. Today, the vast majority--70 percent, to be exact--of Polo Legionnaires are Persian Gulf or Global War on Terror veterans.

The noticeably young group didn't just happen. Brothers Sam and Paul Schaefer, Orient locals and GWOT veterans, started coming to Polo Legion meetings and showing an interest about a decade ago. They encouraged friends to come along, and soon, the room was teeming with younger veterans.

When asked the secret to their success, Paul Schaefer replied with some facetiousness: "Find a dying post with a few of your buddies and take it over." After a laugh, Schaefer clarified. "It took a few years for

the old boys to trust that we weren't just going to take the money and run. But once they handed over the reins, it was game on."

Observing the work party, there were clear-cut clues on how the Polo post was celebrating an All-Time-High of 52 members in 2019. Heath Smith, a recruiter for the South Dakota National Guard, divvied up a few names to directly contact as potential members. Post Adjutant Dwight Aymar assigned renewal lists. But clearly, what continually draws people into the post is the camaraderie present. In tearing down cabinets and insulation, jokes were told, memories relived and plans laid out. The members were not only planning their active recruiting, but working their retention, passive recruitment and community support through activities.

The Polo post still runs the traditional programs of the American Legion. They have a particularly impressive Honor Guard, as many of the current guardsmen sport their military uniforms in lieu of a blazer. The legionnaires have also kept up many of the activities their mentors started, most notably a longstanding Trap Shoot fundraiser. This year's Trap Shoot will be held October 16th at 5pm, meeting at the post home.

Participants should bring their own ammo and shotgun--while the post will have some for sale, they are limited this year.

The crew at Post #299 has expanded their reach into the Polo community as well. The post has an active Facebook page, where drone-shot footage of their Memorial Day programs, pictures of family-oriented Christmas parties and raffles at the local races dominate their timeline. Tapping into local interests, they started an Annual Coyote Hunt, an all-weekend affair that has proven to be a successful fundraiser. The event pulls in a strong showing year after year, and the post expects the same this January. The hunt is scheduled for January 29th-31st, 2021: Sign Up and Rules Meeting on Friday, January 29th at 5pm, Stag Night on Saturday with activities starting at 8pm, and Weigh-Ins on Sunday starting at 12pm. Any further questions on the Coyote Hunt can be directed to Post Commander Ted Schaff at (605) 661-7731.

The trust put into the young veterans at the Polo Post #299 has been rewarded with a reinvigorated post, both literally and figuratively. Strong hearts, strong backs and a strong sense of community have secured a legacy for generations to come.



### Past Dept Commander Weekley Reports to Post Everlasting

Past Department Commander Deane Weekley reported to Post Everlasting on January 6, 2020 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Deane Ernest Weekley was born in Hubbard County, Minnesota on September 24, 1925. He joined the Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton in 1943. He served in the Pacific theater fighting the Japanese. The first island he fought on was Peleliu, going in on the second wave. He said they were getting ready to go on to Okinawa, Japan when they heard the A-Bomb was dropped. He said "God bless our President". He served in Occupied Japan following the bombing, where he was promoted to Corporal.

A 73-year member of Lynn G. Peterson Post #273 of Frederick, SD, Deane served as Department Vice Commander in 1974-1975 and Department Commander in 1978-1979. In recent years, Deane had the opportunity to visit Washington D.C. as part of the Honor Flight program, where he was still quoted as saying, "Once a Marine, always a Marine." Rest in Peace, Commander Weekley.



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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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**Senator John Thune (R-SD)**, 511 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, Phone: 202-224-2321, Fax: 202-228-5429, Toll Free: 1-866-850-3855, Website: <http://www.thune.senate.gov>

**Senator Michael Rounds (R-SD)**, Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 502, Washington, D.C. 20510, Phone: 202-224-5842, Fax: 202-224-7482, Toll-Free: 202-875-5268, Website: <http://www.rounds.senate.gov>

**Representative Dusty Johnson (R-SD)**, 1508 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515; Phone: (202) 225-2801; Web site: <https://dustyjohnson.house.gov/>

## Carry on the Legacy

### Fred Nelson Department Commander



Legionnaires,

If you pay attention to our Facebook page, you know that we've definitely resumed Legion On The Road activities. Labor Day weekend, I packed the Legion van, filled my coffee cup, topped off the fuel tank, and checked twice that my American Legion cap was with me. I headed east, with my usual stop in Vivian. As I drove into Wagner, it was apparent that the parade was going to be well attended again this year. After some social time at the Post, Micheline and I jumped in the back seat of their Legion Jeep. After the sound of the canon and the flyover by a local pilot, the 120th Wagner Labor Day Parade was on the move. As the Color Guard and other flagged vehicles passed, grandparents, parents, and children stood and placed their hands on their hearts. Patriotism is alive and well in Wagner.

My next road trip was to Hartford to attend the South Dakota American Legion State Golf Tournament. The tournament committee hosted a putting contest with the proceeds going to the South Dakota American Legion Foundation. After enjoying a program and dinner with the golfers, I was back in the Legion van and driving north to Arlington. Arlington Post 42 was hosting a dinner and was giving away the boat. I received a warm welcome at Arlington and received a tour of their new Post Home. I was honored to draw the winning name for the boat and I imagine the winner is currently out fishing with a big smile.

In the coming weeks, I will be traveling to all eight districts and attending all the meetings, resulting in six more trips across South Dakota. I am sure the meetings will be different. There will be fewer handshakes, hugs, and we will be more concerned with safe social distancing. But we need to conduct our American Legion business and help ensure we continue to be there for our fellow veterans and communities. I hope to see many of you at the meetings, but I understand that some need to stay isolated.

100 Miles for Hope! National Commander Bill Oxford has challenged American Legion Family members to walk, run, ride as a way to raise funds for the Veterans & Children Foundation, as well as encourage American Legion Family members to be active in this time of social distancing. The Foundation serves two primary functions: It provides critical grants for military and veteran parents in unexpected financial crises and support for service officers in their tireless efforts to obtain care, benefits, and opportunities for disabled veterans and families. I challenge South Dakota's Posts, Units, Squadrons, and Chapters to be creative and step forward to do 100 Miles for Hope.

Lastly, let me bring up the American Legion Employment Awards Program. Applications are due November 15th. We have many businesses in South Dakota that go the extra mile in support of veterans, older works, and disabled workers. These businesses deserve to be recognized, and I encourage Posts to nominate their area businesses. I challenge every district to make sure their Posts submit one or more award nomination packages. If you have questions, please contact our Department Adjutant at state headquarters.

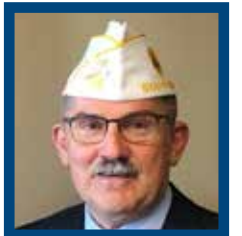
The Legion van is on the road again. Watch for it, and if you spot it, please honk and wave. For God and Country, we associate together!

Fred Nelson

Your Department Commander

## From the Adjutant

### Kevin Hempel Department Adjutant



Legionnaires,

Each year about this time the Department Adjutant attends a membership workshop at National Headquarters. As with most meetings right now, it was cancelled due to COVID. However, a virtual membership workshop was held via video-teleconference over several days. One of the topics was recruiting at the Post level. The presenter, who spent a number of years in the military as a recruiter, said there were two main types of recruiting, active and passive.

Active recruiting is when you are involved in the process of trying to convince a person or persons to join the cause. It could be getting a person to join the organization or could be trying to convince someone to help with a project. In either case you are speaking directly to the person. Passive recruiting is when people see what you are doing and are impressed enough to want to help or join.

I mentioned in my last column, posts that do well are the ones that are active in the community. Your post marching in a parade during holidays or holding a Veterans Day event is great way to show your patriotism and is certainly the right thing to do. But does it really show community involvement? What if your Post held a food drive or helped at the local food pantry for those struggling during this COVID pandemic? Does your Post help at a neighborhood clean-up? Have they taken on a special project like painting a WWII veterans' home? The possibilities of helping in your local community are only limited by your imagination.

I have talked to a number of younger veterans. Unfortunately, quite often their perception of The American Legion is a bunch of old guys sitting around a table telling war stories. Although that has its place, most veterans want to do something meaningful or have a purpose. Especially the younger ones because they want to be involved in their community. If you can come up with a project the whole family can be involved in that is even better. A post that is active in the community is demonstrating that passive recruiting. Give the younger veteran a reason to join and they will.

There is another step to the passive recruiting that is quite important. Your post needs to advertise. I don't mean take an ad out in the local paper. I mean the members need to wear their Legion ball caps or post shirts, so people know it is the Legion being active in their community. Take some photos of your members involved in the project and post them on your Facebook page. Send the photos to your local paper and write a short story. There is a good chance they will publish it. Being active in your community is not only good for the community, it is good for your Post.

For God & Country,

Kevin Hempel

Department Adjutant

# Backpacks Across South Dakota



Above: Kevin Hempel, Robin Hempel, Hugh Holmes, Kathy Evenson, Joyce Smith, Frank Smith, Rod Smith, Denny Kreul, Miranda Krumm, Courtney VanZanten and Paul Evenson present backpacks ready for distribution. Bottom left: Gary Fisher delivers backpacks to the Faith School District. Bottom right: Carole Gregg delivers backpacks to schools on the Rosebud reservation.



By Courtney VanZanten, DSO

A key partnership made the South Dakota American Legion Backpack Program expand in 2020.

Operation Homefront, whose mission is to get school supplies into the hands of military, veteran and in-need children, is the charitable arm of Dollar Tree stores. In July 2020, a representative from Operation Homefront contacted Miranda Krumm, the Department Children & Youth Chairman, and arranged for donations from stores across the state.

Krumm then worked to coordinate volunteers to pick up the donated school supplies at Dollar Tree stores. Every week in July, volunteers in Sioux Falls, Mitchell (Hugh Holmes), Watertown (Kevin Hempel) and Aberdeen (Steve Nemmers) picked up boxes of supplies.

Additionally, through their newly implemented grant system, the South Dakota American Legion Foundation provided the Children & Youth Backpack Program a \$1500 dollar grant to purchase backpacks to house the donated materials.

In the beginning of August, all donations and purchased backpacks were centralized to the Chester American Legion & Auxiliary, where volunteers sorted supplies, stuffed backpacks and prepared for distribution.

In total, 335 backpacks and 24 classroom

*Continued on Page 5...*

## 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>

# From Fore to Fundraising:

## Tee It Up For Troops Holds Golf Tourney Benefitting SD Veteran Non-Profits



Above: Doug Harris from Post 22 receiving our challenge coin for Post 22 being a sponsor from Committee member Dave Atwood

Drive Championship Competitor, was also on the course providing entertainment and support. In only its second year of existence, the Black Hills event has quickly become one of the largest Tee It Up for the Troops events in terms of veteran participation in the nation.

Tee It Up for the Troops-Black Hills is creating quite the stir in South Dakota. This year, Governor Kristi Noem declared Monday, July 20, 2020 as "Tee It Up for the Troops Day" in the state of South Dakota and U.S. Senator Mike Rounds, who has supported the event each year had his West River office play in the event. In the media, the event was covered by NBC's NewsCenter1 Media Group and ABC's Good Morning KOTA Territory. The top two sponsors were NewsCenter1 Media Group and Midco along with many other local business sponsors, like the American Legion Post 22, that make this event successful.

Even though the event is only heading into its third year, it has established strong ties with the American Legion. Tournament Director, Joey Franze and Committee Member, Beau Garcia are members of American Legion Post 22 in Rapid City, SD. In addition to taking on leadership roles within Tee It Up for the Troops, members of Post 22 have participated in the first two events. Warner Legionnaire, Chris Reder was also on the course raising awareness for his foundation DTOM 22/0. Tee It Up for the Troops-Black Hills looks forward to strengthening their ties with the American Legion as Post 22 will become the 2021 local beneficiary. Developing this partnership between Tee It Up for the Troops-Black Hills and American Legion Post 22 will help the event to continue to move forward and create an event that can only be found in the Black Hills of South Dakota...and they are only getting started.

The 2021 committee is hard at work on creating an event that will be even bigger and better which will be held on Monday, July 19, 2021 at Arrowhead Country Club. For information on sponsorship opportunities please feel free to email them at [teeitupbh@gmail.com](mailto:teeitupbh@gmail.com).

The mission of Tee It Up for the Troops is to "Honor, remember, respect and support all those who serve(d) in the Armed Forces for this great nation." This mission is accomplished through local chapters like Tee It Up for the Troops-Black Hills, hosting annual golf events throughout the United States which benefit national non-profits, the Fischer House and Warfighter Sports as well as local non-profits that support one or more of the Tee It Up for the Troops Pillars which are: Family & Caregiver Support, PTSD & Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment, Suicide Prevention, Golf & Sports Rehabilitation, Employment, and Housing & Homelessness. For up-to-date information on the organization be sure to follow them on Facebook at Tee It Up for the Troops-Black Hills or

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

On Monday, July 20, 2020, Tee It Up for the Troops-Black Hills held its second annual golf event at Arrowhead Country Club in Rapid City, SD. This year's event saw tremendous growth in which the number of participants was up 40% and fundraising nearly doubled. The local non-profits that the Black Hills chapter benefited were Rapid City's very own Super Dogs for Super Heroes, who trains rescue dogs to become service dogs for veterans and Warner's DTOM 22/0 Foundation who provides South Dakota veterans with the opportunity to participate in the Draper Method Equine Therapy. In addition to a great day of fundraising for our veteran community, Tee It Up for the Troops-Black Hills is an opportunity for fellow veterans of all conflicts to get out on the golf course and socialize with each other and our civilian community. For the second straight year, the Black Hills event had 40 veterans who played in the event and another 8 veterans that volunteered. Troy Teal, an Air Force Combat Veteran who is also a five-time World Long

## ADVERTISE

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# District COVID VA Oratory Update 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.

## COVID VA Update

The COVID-19 Pandemic has had significant impact on the world of VA Compensation and Pension claims. Offices have been closed, remote or short-staffed, Compensation exams have been missed, and its been difficult to collect and submit evidence relevant to claims. Because of all of this, the VA has allowed for extensions provided the case meets the effective dates.

Effective March 1, 2020, if a claimant or a claimant's authorized representative requests an extension of a time limit associated with a required action based on the COVID-19 pandemic, including,

- the filing of a claim that would perfect a previous expired communication of intent to file
- the filing of a response to a proposed adverse action
- the submission of requested evidence, or
- attendance at a hearing or C&P examination

VBA will grant these requests under the good cause provisions, provided the time limit would have expired or situation occurred on or after March 1, 2020.

To request an extension for filing due to COVID-19, claimants should note the request on their filing submission or attach the request as a separate document. Where an extension is requested after expiration of a time limit, the action required of the claimant must be taken concurrent with or prior to the filing of a request for extension of the time limit.

To ensure full consideration of a time limit extension, claimants should note in their request that they are requesting an extension of the time allowed to take the specified action on a claim because of COVID-19.

## Department Calendar

### OCTOBER 2020

- 2: Sioux Falls Veterans Stand Down, VOA Veterans Service Center 11:00am-2:00pm
- 3: District 2 Fall Meeting, Rapid City Social 2:00pm, Meeting 3:00pm, Meal 4:30pm MT
- 3: SGT Allen Kokesh Jr. Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication Yankton County Courthouse, 1:00pm CT
- 4: District 1 Fall Meeting, Box Elder Social 10:30am, Meal 11:30pm, Meeting 12:30pm MT
- 13: Navy Birthday
- 14: SGT Daniel Busse Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication Highmore High School Auditorium, 1:30pm CT

### NOVEMBER 2020

- 3: Election Day
- 6: Northern Hills Veterans Appreciation, Sturgis, 2-4pm MT
- 10: Marine Corps Birthday
- 11: Veterans Day, HQ Closed
- 11: SSG Jason W. Montefering & SGT Jeremiah Boehmer Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication, Parkston High School, 9:00am CT
- 15: Post direct submit deadline for Employment Awards
- 26: Thanksgiving, HQ Closed
- 27: Thanksgiving Observed, HQ Closed
- 30: Posts Submit Firefighter/EMT/LEO Awards to District

### DECEMBER 2020

- 10: Sioux Falls VA Hospital Christmas Party
- 12: Hot Springs VA Hospital Christmas Party
- 13: National Guard Birthday
- 13: State Veterans Home Christmas Party
- 14: Ft Meade VA Hospital Christmas Party
- 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

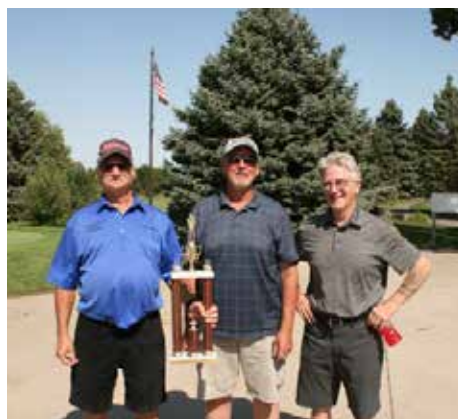
## State Legion Golf Tournament Wraps Up



For the second year in a row, Hartford Post 118 and Humboldt Post 62 hosted the State American Legion Golf tournament at Central Valley Golf Course. Teams representing a total of nine posts across the state competed in the two-day 4 Man Scramble. The team representing Hartford won the tournament while the team from Hermosa won first flight honors.

First flight winners in the American Legion golf tournament were Gene Gillen, Larry Schulte, Greg Brewer. Not pictured Brian Schulte. (bottom left)

Winners of the Championship flight, Kerry Loudenslager, Aaron Loudenslager, Darwin Viet and Darrel Viet with a winning score of 126 or 18 under par. (bottom right)



## Submit Stories for the Legion News

Greetings from the editor! The Legion News has been my baby for the last 2.5 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 revamp 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 Polo on the front page) and a Member Spotlight (David Fluck, opposite page). 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

# Member Spotlight: David Fluck, Custer Post #46



**Name:** David Fluck  
**Post:** Custer Post #46  
**Military Service:** U.S. Coast Guard, 1988-1992, Presidential Honor Guard; US Army, 2004-2005, Military Police Officer  
**Civilian Occupation:** Captain, Hot Springs VA Medical Center Fire Department  
**Why Nominated:** David has been an integral part of Custer Post #46 for the last 16 years. Not only did he serve as a longtime Americanism Officer for the post, David stepped up to the plate and founded the Custer Area Veterans Memorial Association, of which he now serves as the Vice President. His work was vital in the development, implementation and realization of the Custer Veterans Memorial, which was officially dedicated November 11, 2018. The memorial has continually grown since, largely in part to the efforts of David and his association team. David's work on the memorial, the American Legion and the fire department make it easy to recognize him as a man of service to veterans and public safety. Thank you, David, for your humble dedication to the Custer community.



# From the Chair

**Americanism Commission  
Doug Harris, Rapid City**

Greetings to my fellow Legionnaires!

I hope this finds you all healthy, happy, and ready to get back to work for the youth of our state. What follows is a message on planning your year assuming the "best case" scenario. Hopefully there will soon be vaccine for the COVID-19 virus and our lives might get back to normal. That means, I need the Americanism Officers/Commanders/Adjutants/any member willing to help, to make their best effort at getting back in the schools.

You should soon have your Americanism packets from Department with lots of useful information and tools. The packet has been delayed while we waited for Boys State officers to meet and set the 2021 dates. The meeting took place on August 22nd in Pierre SD. The 2021 session will take place from May 31st to June 4th. This keeps the program at five (5) days vice the proposed six (6). Both Juniors and Seniors will be eligible to attend in 2021. This means those boys who were unable to attend in 2020 can attend in 2021, but they won't be eligible for Boys Nation.

You will find attractive marketing materials (rack cards) you can share with your school counselors and principals. Try to meet with these individuals and show them what we have to offer. If you sell them on the programs, they will help you recruit. All Posts will receive some marketing materials, while the larger Posts with one or more schools, will receive more of each. The "Big 3" sheet has been updated online (<https://www.sdlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Americanism-Big-3-2021-ADJ-COLORS.pdf>) and can be printed for distribution to those groups you are briefing. It may be especially hard to get in the schools during the Fall semester, but at least try to make contact via phone conversation and email. Deliver the rack cards and offer to discuss the printed information. Most will be extremely impressed with the amount of scholarships we are offering this year (especially for the Oratorical competition).

Our first hurdle will be finding participants for the Oratorical Contest. Here again the biggest draw should be the scholarship money being offered. The State contest will be held during Midwinter on Sunday the 21st of February at 10:30 A.M. Find out who your debate coaches/speech teachers are and give them a call. The scholarship amounts increased several thousand dollars over 2020's numbers. If you would like to volunteer to help with the State contest, please send me an email at [doughinut@gmail.com](mailto:doughinut@gmail.com).

I've tried over the last several months to provide as much helpful information on "how to" get the word out about our programs. If you need ideas or a complete roadmap, go to the August 2020 edition of the SD Legion News, page 9 (<https://www.sdlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/South-Dakota-Legion-News-August-2020-Web.pdf>) and look for my "Promoting the Big 3" article. It should help you decide whom to target beyond just the schools. There are also Points of Contact for the other Americanism Programs (Baseball/Scouting/Shooting Sports/etc.) if you need help or advice on any of those. Other new information to help Post Americanism Officers complete their annual Americanism Reports is here: <https://www.sdlegion.org/post-adjutant-manual-forms/>. You will find a "how to" complete the form worksheet, as well as an example of a winning report. I sincerely hope these additions help make the process easier. You know you are doing the work, so take credit for it.

Wishing you all a highly successful and hopefully less traumatic year in 2021!

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas D. Harris  
Americanism Commission Chairman

# From the NEC

**Jim Huls  
National Executive Committeeman**



Greetings Legionnaires,

The National Executive Committee of the American Legion recently Passed Resolution 5 - Vision, Mission, Values and Motto of the American Legion- which was a significant event and will prove to be highly valuable for the organization as it enables the American Legion to focus on its true purpose--improving the lives of veterans, the military and their families. Adjutant Hempel has covered this resolution in the Up to Now several times recently. The resolution #5 is available on the National Website. <https://www.legion.org/resolutions>.

With the National Election coming up in a few weeks, we as legionnaires must be aware of our position on the issues, remember the American Legion only speaks to the issues, not supporting any candidate. Remarks made by local Legion leadership to the media (or other officials) should be based on resolutions only-- and not the personal beliefs or wishes of the designated local spokesman. Again check the National website for leadership and guidance.

Please refer to Resolution 5 as your guidance on all we do to --improve the lives of Veterans, the Military and their Families.

For God and Country

Jim Huls  
NEC

# Backpack Program Continued from Page 3



Above: SD American Legion Foundation Board Member Paul Evenson presents Department Children & Youth Chairman Miranda Krumm with the \$1500 grant check. Bottom left: Steve Nemmers receives donations from the Aberdeen Dollar Tree. Top right: Rod & Joyce Smith deliver backpacks to the Sioux Falls National Guard base. Middle R: Doug Feltman & Gerald Koch deliver backpacks to Mt. Vernon Schools. Bottom Right: Gary Fisher and Kermit DuPris receive backpacks for distribution in Faith, SD.

bags carrying \$3,902 worth of supplies made their way to deserving children in nearly two dozen communities from Sioux Falls to Faith, and Aberdeen to Rosebud.

Thank you to Operation Homefront, Dollar Tree, and all the Legion Family volunteers that made this program possible this year. Your dedication to our mission of Serving Children and Veterans is greatly appreciated!



# Membership & Post Activities



## From the Chair

### Travis Flisrand, Castlewood

#### "Bandwagon Effect"

There are numerous metrics one can use to measure the success of an American Legion Post in the local community. A statistician can quote the numbers from a Post Date report stating the Post did 3,000 hours of community service to veterans and donating thousands of dollars to the local American Legion baseball team. This may seem like the Post is obviously having a positive impact on the community, but, how many people in that community know what the Post is really contributing back to the community? This article is titled the bandwagon effect because most veterans can understand the team that wins a championship usually draws in new supporters for the team because they want to be associated with "WINNING".

A common factor that growing Posts have is they are actively reporting to the community what they are doing. From publishing fundraisers with dedicated purposes and reporting back to the community how much they were able to accomplish with the communities support. If the community does not know what the Post is doing, they simply do not exist. If the Post does not stay in the memories of the citizens in the town as something worth supporting, the impacts will be negative trend in support and recruiting new members in.

The American Legion family (Legion / Auxiliary / SAL / Riders) need to work together as a team coordinating events that benefit all programs within that community. Utilizing social media, local newspapers and radio stations is a key part of communicating to the community what the "Family" is doing. Posts are encouraged to find a member within the American Legion family who is active with Social media to increase the communities' knowledge of Post activities.

Remember, when you are communicating to the community and the press, it is important to maintain a positive attitude while speaking with them. Never highlight anything negative. Speaking with positive energy that reflects the positive impact the American Legion Family has had on the community and be knowledgeable of the impacts we have had at the State and National level.

We are still leading the National in market penetration for veterans in the state being a member of the Legion and we are (as always) at the top of the list for highest percentage of goal for this time of year.

Keep up the great work brothers and sisters!

Travis Flisrand  
Department Membership Chair

# RETAIN, RECRUIT & EDUCATE

DISTRICT 1	1,470	786	53.47%
POST	GOAL	MBSHP	% GOAL
Belle Fourche	42	33	78.57%
Nisland, Newell, Vale	25	13	52.00%
<b>BUTTE CO.</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>68.66%</b>
Buffalo	33	19	57.58%
<b>HARDING CO.</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>57.58%</b>
Lead	104	65	62.50%
Spearfish	193	115	59.59%
<b>LAWRENCE CO.</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>60.61%</b>
Box Elder	118	74	62.71%
Piedmont	217	141	64.98%
Sturgis	278	176	63.31%
Faith	15	7	46.67%
<b>MEADE CO.</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>63.38%</b>
Bullhead	21	1	4.76%
Bullhead #324	15	0	0.00%
Little Eagle	15	3	20.00%
McIntosh	24	18	75.00%
McLaughlin	39	26	66.67%
Thunder Hawk	70	31	44.29%
<b>CORSON CO.</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>42.93%</b>
Eagle Butte	53	2	3.77%
Isabel	28	2	7.14%
Timber Lake	15	9	60.00%
<b>DEWEY CO.</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13.54%</b>
Bison	41	25	60.98%
Lemmon	109	17	15.60%
<b>PERKINS CO.</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>28.00%</b>
Dupree	15	9	60.00%
<b>ZIEBACH</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>60.00%</b>
<b>DISTRICT 2</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>56.07%</b>
POST	GOAL	MBSHP	% GOAL
Allen	15	1	6.67%
Martin	89	62	69.66%
<b>BENNETT CO.</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>60.58%</b>
Midland	26	23	88.46%
Philip	65	44	67.69%
<b>HAAKON CO.</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>73.63%</b>
Belvidere	15	3	20.00%
Wanblee	15	2	13.33%
Kadoka	34	19	55.88%
<b>JACKSON CO.</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>37.50%</b>
Draper	15	13	86.67%
Murdo	28	17	60.71%
<b>JONES CO.</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>69.77%</b>
Norris	15	0	0.00%
White River	43	34	79.07%
Wood	15	11	73.33%
<b>MELLETT CO.</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>61.64%</b>
Mission	15	4	26.67%
Parmelee	15	3	20.00%
Rosebud	21	10	47.62%
St. Francis	15	1	6.67%
<b>TODD CO.</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>27.27%</b>
Custer	86	49	56.98%
Hermosa	131	88	67.18%
<b>CUSTER CO.</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>63.13%</b>
Edgemont	24	16	66.67%
Hot Springs	264	151	57.20%
Oelrichs	15	6	40.00%
<b>FALL RIVER CO.</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>57.10%</b>
Hill City	26	11	42.31%
New Underwood	23	2	8.70%
Rapid City	573	342	59.69%
Rapid City Foothills	84	50	59.52%
Wall	36	31	86.11%
<b>PENNINGTON CO.</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>58.76%</b>
Batesland	15	0	0.00%
Kyle	15	0	0.00%
Pine Ridge	15	1	6.67%
Porcupine	15	2	13.33%
Manderson	15	1	6.67%
<b>OGLALA LAKOTA CO.</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5.33%</b>
<b>DISTRICT 3</b>	<b>1,589</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>65.32%</b>
POST	GOAL	MBSHP	% GOAL
Blunt	22	14	63.64%
Pierre	334	213	63.77%
<b>HUGHES CO.</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>63.76%</b>
Highmore	41	22	53.66%
<b>HYDE CO.</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>53.66%</b>
Gettysburg	113	88	77.88%
Hoven	89	84	94.38%
<b>POTTER CO.</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>85.15%</b>
Fort Pierre	88	57	64.77%
<b>STANLEY CO.</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>64.77%</b>
Onida	65	44	67.69%
<b>SULLY CO.</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>67.69%</b>
Bonesteel	34	22	64.71%
Burke	26	20	76.92%
Dallas	30	15	50.00%
Fairfax	15	15	100.00%
Gregory	94	59	62.77%
Herrick	38	25	65.79%
<b>GREGORY CO.</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>65.82%</b>

Kennebec-Reliance	69	55	79.71%
Presho	22	17	77.27%
Vivian	20	2	10.00%
<b>LYMAN CO.</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>66.67%</b>
Colome	85	62	72.94%
Winner	289	154	53.29%
Witten	19	14	73.68%
<b>TRIPP CO.</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>58.52%</b>
Miller	46	31	67.39%
Polo	50	25	50.00%
<b>HAND CO.</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>58.33%</b>
<b>DISTRICT 4</b>	<b>1,731</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>64.70%</b>
POST	GOAL	MBSHP	% GOAL
Aberdeen	452	280	61.95%
Claremont	37	26	70.27%
Columbia	37	25	67.57%
Frederick	25	16	64.00%
Groton	53	35	66.04%
Hecla	23	1	4.35%
Stratford	46	22	47.83%
Warner	46	31	67.39%
<b>BROWN CO.</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>60.64%</b>
Herreid	34	29	85.29%
Pollock	18	14	77.78%
<b>CAMPBELL CO.</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>82.69%</b>
Bowdle	39	32	82.05%
Hosmer	63	49	77.78%
Ipswich	31	23	74.19%
Roscoe	45	28	62.22%
<b>EDMUNDS CO.</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>74.16%</b>
Eureka	91	55	60.44%
Leola	82	62	75.61%
Long Lake	17	13	76.47%
<b>McPHERSON CO.</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>68.42%</b>
Mobridge	98	67	68.37%
Selby	69	35	50.72%
<b>WALWORTH CO.</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>61.08%</b>
Brentford	15	14	93.33%
Conde	60	41	68.33%
Doland	25	17	68.00%
Mansfield	15	12	80.00%
Mellette	21	11	52.38%
Northville	16	16	100.00%
Redfield	147	91	61.90%
Tulare	22	17	77.27%
<b>SPINK CO.</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>68.22%</b>
Cresbard	35	30	85.71%
Faulkton	40	12	30.00%
Rockham	29	16	55.17%
<b>FAULK CO.</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>55.77%</b>
<b>DISTRICT 5</b>	<b>2,772</b>	<b>1,789</b>	<b>64.54%</b>
POST	GOAL	MBSHP	% GOAL
Andover	15	3	20.00%
Grenville	27	9	33.33%
Lily	15	14	93.33%
Pierpont	15	4	26.67%
Roslyn	26	14	53.85%
Waubay	50	37	74.00%
Webster	164	106	64.63%
<b>DAY CO.</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>59.94%</b>
Big Stone City	152	108	71.05%
Milbank	138	73	52.90%
Strandburg	23	10	43.48%
<b>GRANT CO.</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>61.02%</b>
Britton	68	41	60.29%
Kidder	23	17	73.91%
Langford	16	7	43.75%
Veblen	54	46	85.19%
<b>MARSHALL CO.</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>68.94%</b>
New Effington	60	57	95.00%
Old Agency	40	3	7.50%
Rosholt	22	20	90.91%
Sisseton	218	134	61.47%
Wilmot	28	19	67.86%
<b>ROBERTS CO.</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>63.32%</b>
Bradley	15	10	66.67%
Carpenter	15	10	66.67%
Clark	62	42	67.74%
Raymond	49	43	87.76%
Willow Lake	23	13	56.52%
<b>CLARK CO.</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>71.95%</b>
Watertown	491	337	68.64%
<b>CODINGTON</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>68.64%</b>
Astoria	19	15	78.95%
Clear Lake	73	53	72.60%
Gary	140	69	49.29%
Toronto	24	11	45.83%
<b>DEUEL CO.</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>57.81%</b>
Bryant	56	47	83.93%
Castlewood	78	30	38.46%
Estelline	76	50	65.79%
Hayti	37	27	72.97%
<b>HAMLIN CO.</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>62.35%</b>
Aurora	27	28	103.70%
Brookings	168	113	67.26%
Bruce	29	18	62.07%
Elkton	45	18	40.00%
Sinai	15	11	73.33%
Volga	97	67	69.07%
White	79	55	69.62%
<b>BROOKINGS CO.</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>67.39%</b>
<b>DISTRICT 6</b>	<b>2,296</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>60.98%</b>
POST	GOAL	MBSHP	% GOAL
Hitchcock	24	8	33.33%
Huron	275	172	62.55%
Virgil	38	16	42.11%
Wessington	53	42	79.25%
Wolsey	35	24	68.57%
<b>BEADLE CO.</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>61.65%</b>
Arlington	219	139	63.47%
Badger	27	9	33.33%
DeSmet	143	90	62.94%
Erwin	20	20	100.00%
Hetland	15	3	20.00%

Iroquois	68	51	75.00%
Lake Preston	128	74	57.81%
Oldham	15	10	66.67%
<b>KINGSBURY CO.</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>62.36%</b>
Canova	33	3	9.09%
Howard	117	69	58.97%
<b>MINER CO.</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>48.00%</b>
Plankinton	32	33	103.13%
Stickney	51	36	70.59%
White Lake	26	16	61.54%
<b>AURORA CO.</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>77.98%</b>
Chamberlain	99	49	49.49%
Kimball*	43	22	51.16%
Pukwana*	15	13	86.67%
<b>BRULE CO.</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>53.50%</b>
Gann Valley	18	10	55.56%
<b>BUFFALO CO.</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>55.56%</b>
Ethan	110	75	68.18%
Mitchell	316	216	68.35%
Mount Vernon	42	28	66.67%
<b>DAVISON CO.</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>68.16%</b>
Alexandria	37	1	2.70%
Emery	18	10	55.56%
Ful-Frm-Epiphany	29	24	82.76%
<b>HANSON CO.</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41.67%</b>
Alpena	29	5	17.24%
Wessington Sprgs	108	70	64.81%
<b>JERVAUD CO.</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>54.74%</b>
Artesian	17	13	76.47%
Letcher	51	28	54.90%
Woonsocket	45	21	46.67%
<b>SANBORN CO.</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>54.87%</b>
<b>DISTRICT 7</b>	<b>3,566</b>	<b>2,132</b>	<b>59.79%</b>
POST	GOAL	MBSHP	% GOAL
Chester	89	39	43.82%
Madison	144	84	58.33%
Nunda	18	13	72.22%
Ramona	23	12	52.17%
Wentworth	27	26	96.30%
<b>LAKE CO.</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>57.81%</b>
Colman	24	17	70.83%
Egan	16	16	100.00%
Flandreau	38	6	15.79%
Trent	24	17	70.83%
<b>MOODY CO.</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>54.90%</b>
Bridgewater	16	2	12.50%
Canistota	29	18	62.07%
Montrose	98	78	79.59%
Salem	82	69	84.15%
<b>McCOOK CO.</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>74.22%</b>
Baltic	64	10	15.63%
Brandon	77	44	57.14%
Colton	30	21	70.00%
Dell Rapids	195	105	53.85%
Garretson	210	105	50.00%
Hartford	126	99	78.57%
Humboldt	62	52	83.87%
Sioux Falls	30	10	33.33%
Renner	57	46	80.70%
Sioux Falls	1395	819	58.71%
Valley Springs	75	56	74.67%
<b>MINNEHAHA CO.</b>	<b>2,321</b>	<b>1,367</b>	<b>58.90%</b>
Alcester	25	20	80.00%
Beresford	96	76	79.17%
Elk Point	47	34	72.34%
North Sioux City	54	33	61.11%
<b>UNION CO.</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>73.42%</b>
Canton	47	31	65.96%



On September 11, McCook Central/Montrose(MCM) hosted a military appreciation night to honor all veterans that attended the game. Veterans got in for free and were recognized and half time for their service. A joint color guard from American Legion Post 140 of Salem and Post 154 of Montrose Presented the Colors for the game.

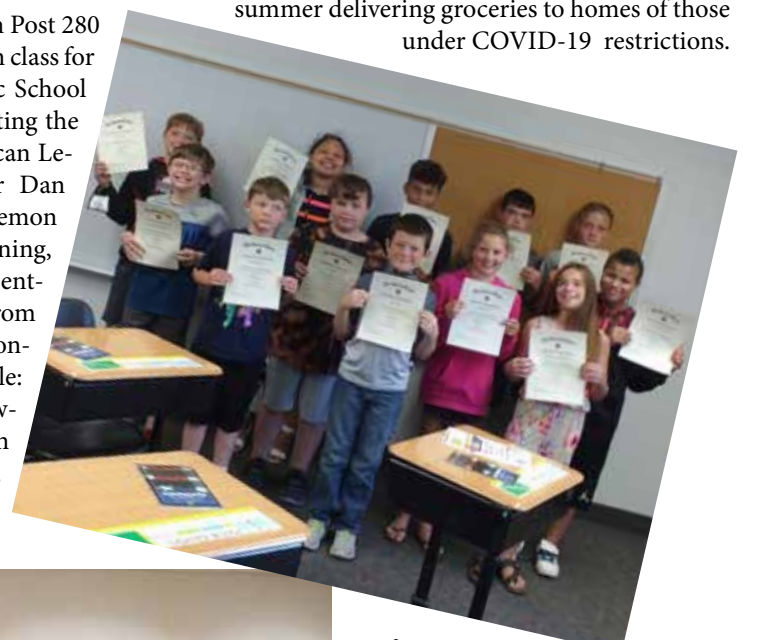
# American Legion Around the State



Above: Joe Montana, Commander of Rock Creek Post #324, delivers popsicles to youth to help beat the summer heat in August of 2020. The post also spent the summer delivering groceries to homes of those under COVID-19 restrictions.



The Bensley-Rounds American Legion Post 280 of Iroquois conducted a Flag Education class for the 5th graders at the Iroquois Public School on Monday August 17. Those conducting the training were Bensley-Rounds American Legion members: Americanism officer Dan Kennedy, Annette Dunham, and Charemon Dunham. At the completion of the training, certificates of participation were presented. 5th grade Flag Etiquette students from L to R Front row: Treyden Keating, Conner Huls, & Auri Klanchnik. Middle: Gabe Voges, John Raether, Avah Newman, & Mariya Conyers. Back: Brycen Blue, Korbyn Faulks, Ervin Carter, Dawson Sharp, & Carter Arbeiter. Not pictured: Johanna Murphree



The Parker-Browder American Legion Post 4 of Mobridge honored its buglers, who play live TAPS at military funerals, during a ceremony on July 3, 2020 at the post home.

The Estelline, SD High School Class of 1965 donated a monetary memorial to Post 4 in recognition of Richard R. "Rick" Wales, who had provided live bugler service for this post, a function he had also performed during his active duty military service time. What most people may not know is that his father was a Legion Post Commander and Rick began already playing TAPS for military funerals during his school days.

Post 4 had arranged for the preparation of a plaque honoring Rick and presented it to the Wales family members at the ceremony. Of recent, Mobridge Pollock High School band students have played TAPS at all military funerals for the post. Plaques will be prepared for the participating students and presented to each of them during the school's annual awards ceremony when they are graduating seniors, noting their years of performing this honorary service.

The ceremony was conducted by Post Commander Justin Loesch with the Wales family and friends, Legion members, guests and newly -elected District 4 Commander Robert "Bob" Thompson in attendance.



Left: Mayor Gary Harrington, right, reads the proclamation designating Huron as a Purple Heart City. Representing the American Legion in the presentation, from left is Huron Post Commander Jake Salathe, Huron, and representing the Military Order of the Purple Heart is Buck Underwood, Luverne, Minnesota, and State Military Order of the Purple Heart Commander Ken Teunissen, Sioux Falls. Photo courtesy of the Huron Plainsman.

## Chaplain's Corner

**Justin Warfel**  
Department Chaplain



# South Dakota Taps

As reported to Department Headquarters, July 25, 2020-September 22, 2020  
"The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example."

*Benjamin Disraeli*

Legionnaires,

Today we worry. We worry because we live in a time of uncertainty. We live in a time of cultural upheaval and attempts at societal redefinition. Intentions are not entirely clear, and outcomes are unknown, though stakes appear to be high. And, so, we find ourselves to be often anxious. Anxious because we do not know how exactly to respond, what exactly to do.

Tomorrow we must decide. We must choose amongst candidates for political office. Who should serve as our president, our chief executive, our commander-in-chief? Who will guide our nation through this turbulent time? Whom do we trust to lead us?

At such moments, the crossroads between uncertain times and points of decision making, there is often the desire amongst many to look for a savior. Let me assure you that, though no politician is worthy of your undying faith, nor capable of meeting every human need, there is one in Heaven whom you can trust without question and in all circumstances. There is one, and only one, whom you can turn to in times such as these. If we truly desire to see our nation made whole, we must first turn our hearts to the Lord.

Psalm 146 (English Standard Version)

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

3 Put not your trust in princes,

in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

4 When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;

on that very day his plans perish.

5 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord his God,

6 who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them,

who keeps faith forever;

7 who executes justice for the oppressed,

who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

8 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

9 The Lord watches over the sojourners;

he upholds the widow and the fatherless,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

10 The Lord will reign forever,

your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Praise the Lord!

Turn your hearts back to the Lord, America. You are only great so long as you are good. As John Adams, our nation's second president, stated so clearly while addressing Soldiers of the Massachusetts Militia in 1798, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Grace & Peace,  
Chaplain Justin Warfel

## Huron Post Recognizes 75-Year American Legion Member



American Legion Post 7 Commander Jake Salathe presented Abe Ritchhart, formerly of Huron, at his home in Sioux Falls, a certificate for his 75 years continuous membership in Huron Post 7. Abe, now 94 years old, served 3 years with the Navy during World War II in the Pacific Theater. He was a Yeoman 2nd Class aboard the USS Banner.

#1 Vermillion	Richard Brown	#32 Belle Fourche	Kenneth Williams	#134 Elk Point	Robert Hammond
#7 Huron	Thomas Allen	#33 Sturgis	Roy Bungert	#135 Gettysburg	Reinholdt Dutt
#7 Huron	Everett Collings	#33 Sturgis	William Lewis	#135 Gettysburg	Dennis Kessel
#7 Huron	Dick Fadgen	#33 Sturgis	Joe Lolley	#135 Gettysburg	Calvin Kula
#7 Huron	Richard Freng	#33 Sturgis	Michael Lyons	#136 Chester	Robert Larson
#7 Huron	Leroy Friedrichsen	#33 Sturgis	Paul Speed	#137 Warner	Don Meyer
#7 Huron	Ronald Jorgensen	#33 Sturgis	Tommy Staley	#138 De Smet	George Johnson
#7 Huron	Lavonne Luellman	#33 Sturgis	Thelma Swanson	#140 Salem	Harold Goldhammer
#7 Huron	Delbert Minske	#33 Sturgis	Gayle VanSickel	#141 Langford	Claire Hanson
#7 Huron	Donald Nelson	#33 Sturgis	Carl Wahl	#141 Langford	Duane Larson
#7 Huron	Anthony Popovich	#33 Sturgis	Clarence Whipple	#141 Langford	Mernie Olson
#7 Huron	William Reimer	#33 Sturgis	James Wiswell	#143 Midland	James Hand
#7 Huron	Mel Syring	#40 Webster	Sherman McC Carlson	#145 Howard	Harley Cross
#7 Huron	Ronald Walter	#40 Webster	Leonard Naessig	#152 Menno	Reno Mettler
#7 Huron	Rod Wiedenman	#43 Centerville	Robert Bendt	#152 Menno	Roland Preszler
#7 Huron	William Will	#43 Centerville	Dale Tieman	#152 Menno	Alfred Schaeffer
#7 Huron	Zack Wipf	#45 Harrisburg	William "Bill" Huggett	#154 Montrose	Donald Even
#7 Huron	James Wipf	#45 Harrisburg	Lloyd Oppold	#155 Scotland	Charles Deutscher
#7 Huron	Bob Young	#46 Custer	Merrill Johnson	#155 Scotland	Jerald Neugebauer
#7 Huron	Tom Zender	#47 Artesian	Siegfried Noack	#157 Vivian	David Moore
#8 Pierre	Don Fischer	#49 Clear Lake	Ed Krause	#159 Hoven	Durran Kaiser
#8 Pierre	John Gruba	#49 Clear Lake	Ronald Timmons	#161 Wentworth	Wilbur Gehrels
#8 Pierre	Clyde Jundt	#50 Sisseton	Danny Navratil	#164 Spearfish	Lyle Bockwoldt
#8 Pierre	Roger Lehmkuhl	#50 Sisseton	Alvin Pistorius	#167 Witten	Michael McDonald
#8 Pierre	Kurt Neyhart	#59 Wolsley	Wayne Johnson	#167 Witten	Gaylord Maier
#9 Milbank	Larry Peters	#65 Dell Rapids	Robert Lamberty	#169 Winner	Robert Henry
#11 Wagner	Leo Petrik	#67 Ipswich	Casper Malsom	#169 Winner	Gary Leach
#12 Yankton	Jerome Locken	#70 Flandreau	Ronald Conkling	#180 New Effington	Glen Johnson
#14 Wess. Springs	Donald Kraft	#70 Flandreau	Dean Ekern	#186 Eureka	Orville Ackerman
#14 Wess. Springs	James Starr	#70 Flandreau	Ralph Julian	#186 Eureka	Albert Heupel
#15 Sioux Falls	Edwin Ahlquist	#70 Flandreau	William Millman	#186 Eureka	Richard Hoff
#15 Sioux Falls	Alvin Ament	#74 Brookings	Samuel Artz	#186 Eureka	Floyd Libis
#15 Sioux Falls	Harlan Brandsrud	#74 Brookings	Harvey Mills	#186 Eureka	Mike Raile
#15 Sioux Falls	Jack Carlis	#74 Brookings	Ken Robinson	#187 Fairfax	Evelyn Liewer
#15 Sioux Falls	George Dunn	#75 Murdo	Harold Thune	#206 Colton	David Stene
#15 Sioux Falls	Arden Fjellanger	#78 Leola	Ronald Bieber	#216 Ramona	Noel Haroldson
#15 Sioux Falls	Neal Gardner	#80 Britton	O. "Kirk" Ehlers	#220 Herrick	Eugene Reuer
#15 Sioux Falls	Richard Lahn	#80 Britton	Neil Frey	#220 Herrick	Elton Serr
#17 Codington Co.	William Conlon	#80 Britton	Harold Larson	#229 Big Stone City	Elmer Athey
#17 Codington Co.	Marlyn Kuper	#85 Ful-Far-Epiph	James Kunkel	#229 Big Stone City	Nick Vanlith
#17 Codington Co.	Freeman McInroy	#86 Alcester	Richard Sommervold	#233 Nisland	Raymond Garness
#17 Codington Co.	Warren Spanton	#88 White	Sidney Peters	#237 Gayville	Orvin Oien
#18 Mitchell	Ervin Winter	#89 Presho	Virgil Johnson	#237 Gayville	Conley Stangne
#21 Hurley	Robert Jensen	#91 Dallas	Verne Ellston	#240 Martin	James Wallingford
#21 Hurley	Warren Spomer	#96 White Lake	Orville Hengen	#246 Wall	Richard Crawford
#21 Hurley	Robert Thompson	#97 Egan	Thomas Lahr	#248 Freeman	Knud Solberg
#22 Rapid City	James Brink	#100 Selby	Gene Sandmeier	#255 Bison	Arlen Aaker
#22 Rapid City	Harold Severson	#102 Faulkton	Delmar Deiter	#261 Ethan	Ray Grambihler
#23 Garretson	George Reining	#105 Nunda	William McDonald	#262 Claremont	Alvin Hassebroek
#24 Aberdeen	Earl Kruse	#109 Gary	Myron Busse	#268 Virgil	Antonio Palleria
#24 Aberdeen	Mark Nuese	#109 Gary	Myrlyn Christopherson	#279 Thunder Hawk	Ed Texley
#26 Stickney	Jay Heezen	#110 Wessington	Richard Moser	#283 Chancellor	Raymond Harms
#31 Lead	Kenneth Bockwoldt	#113 Willow Lake	Paul Knock	#283 Chancellor	Harlan Olson
#31 Lead	Howard Palmer	#128 Hudson	Vernon Harmelink	#287 Mission	Lewis White
#31 Lead	Howard Tammi	#132 Springfield	James Libis	#319 N. Sioux City	Richard Waddell
				#500 South Dakota	Gordon Edman

## South Dakota Employer of the Year



Above: "Ken's Superfair Foods" store in Aberdeen, SD is the recipient of the 2019 National American Legion Employment Award for employment of older workers. Pictured is Adjutant Kevin Hempel, veteran employee Dave Scepanick, owner Kevin Fiedler and Commander Fred Nelson.

Local businesses have been through a lot of challenges this past year. Recognition of their vital role in your community as an employer is one easy way of thanking them! Nomination forms, due November 15th, can be found here:

<https://www.sdlegion.org/employment-award-forms/>

Categories include:

Employer of the Year - Small Business, Mid-Sized Business and Large Business

Employer of the Disabled Award

Employer of Older Workers Award

Local Veterans Employment Representative of the Year

Outstanding Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist of the Year

Outstanding Employment Service Office of the Year

