



Past Department Commander C. Darrel Haskell Reports to Post Everlasting



Past Department Commander C. Darrel Haskell passed away December 23, 2020 at Avantara Watertown.

Charles Darrel Haskell was born in Conde, S.D. on Jan. 8, 1931. He was the son of Adelbert and Lucy Haskell. He attended rural school for 3 years, then moved to Conde with his family. He graduated from Conde High School in 1949. He was active in many sports and extracurricular activities. Darrel was a prominent member of the 1950 Conde Independent baseball team that took second place at the state tournament in Watertown, SD, which now has been featured on a recent documentary. He attended SDSU in Brookings from 1949-1951.

On Jan. 27, 1952 he was united in marriage to Joyce Wolner at the Conde United Methodist Church. On Feb. 3, 1952 he left South Dakota to serve in the United States Army during the Korean War. He took his basic training and attended leadership school with the 101 Airborne in Breckenridge, KY. He then was shipped overseas to Germany where he served with Hdq. Co. of the 169th Infantry Regiment, 43rd Division for 16 months.

He returned to Conde in 1954 and began farming with his wife. He helped with the

Continued on back page...



Trust Through Action

By Courtney VanZanten, DSO

Successful posts share a number of qualities: they share their story, they constantly evaluate the needs of the community they serve and they look outward and adapt to meet those needs.

Old school marketing is one way to qualify the success of the Ethan American Legion Post #261. Most of their members have an admittedly trepid relationship with technology; though a few, like member Roy Sonne, have made the post's activities known through a public Facebook group. Rather, the post primarily relies on three tried and true techniques to get their story told: Signage, Face Time and Relationship Building.

Upon arriving in Ethan, the visual impact of the Allen Erpenbach Post #261 is immediate and noticeable. Driving east on Highway 42, a bold American Legion billboard and beautiful Veterans memorial mark the entrance into the town of 330. Turning down main street, a giant sign, put up five years ago according to Post Adjutant Joe Puetz, sits outside the American Legion hall. It reads, “Join Now: Thousands Would IF They Could! Thousands Could IF They Would!”

The 110 members of #261 live up to that signage through their ubiquity in their community--they are a group of doers. Post Historian Delmar Mueller has albums detailing the multitude of hap-



penings, from military funeral honors to Quilts of Valor presentations and 4th of July parades to fundraisers. Each event, crafted with their mission and community in mind, was well publicized through the local newspaper, flyer or word of mouth, and now lies documented for posterity in Delmar's history scrapbooks.

The strong presence and consistent action has made Post #261 a reliable source in town. Relationships with other centers of the community, such as the school, have blossomed over time. The Post has sponsored scripts for the Readers Theater and provided gloves and hats to students in need. Post member Dan teaches CPR classes to the Rustler upperclassmen. “These kids are our future,” quipped Post Commander Vilas Kurtenbach, “Let's invest in them.”

There is constant collaboration between the post, Sons squadron and Auxiliary unit to better serve Ethan. When two families fell on hard times during the pandemic, the Legion family rose to the occasion.

“We grabbed four guys, four grocery carts and filled them up. In total, we spent just shy of \$400. \$200 worth of groceries for each family. They were so appreciative,” said Kurtenbach, “People know that we're here to help. They trust us, and that is a good feeling.”

MidWinter Conference Cancelled

After much consideration and deliberation, the Department Executive Committee voted to adjust Midwinter Conference to a working DEC meeting. No training sessions will be held in person. This change will allow the necessary business of the Legion to occur without jeopardizing the health of our Legionnaires.

While our hearts wanted to hold the conference, our minds faced the ethical dilemma of hosting a gathering in the midst of the pandemic. In the end, our members are our most valuable asset,

and we cannot justifiably put them in harms way.

We hold hopes that the vaccine will be more widely available and administered by the time Spring Meetings come around, and have started planning a joyous reunion this summer in Huron for the Department Convention.

If you had reservations, they can be canceled at no cost to you by calling the Cedar Shore Resort (605) 234-6376.

The amended Legion schedule will be:

Saturday, February 20, 2021
10:00 a.m. Department Executive Committee meets and will receive reports from the follow-

- ing committee chairs:
- Americanism (and Boys State)
- Athletic
- Children & Youth
- Finance
- Internal Affairs
- Legislative
- Media and Communications
- Membership and Marketing
- Public Safety
- Training
- Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
- Sunday, February 21, 2021
- 10:30 a.m. State Finals Oratorical Contest

South Dakota Legion News
(ISSN 0745-5801)

Vol. 88 No 4 February 2021

Official Publication of the American Legion of South Dakota
Published six times per year by
The American Legion of South Dakota
14 1st Ave SE
Watertown, SD 57201

Printed at 218 South Egan Avenue, Madison, SD 57042-0348

Subscription Price: \$5.00 a year, Send subscription request to:

South Dakota American Legion, PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201

Courtney VanZanten, Chester, Editor

Kevin Hempel, Watertown, Managing Editor

Send all copy for publication to:

South Dakota Legion News, PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201-0067

Office Phone (605) 886-3604, Fax (605) 886-2870

Email: dso@sdlegion.org

Home page: <https://www.sdlegion.org>

PLEASE REPORT CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

SD LEGION NEWS, PO BOX 67, WATERTOWN, SD 57201-0067

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

State Commander — Fred Nelson, Spearfish

fred.nelson@live.com, (605) 641-7959

State Vice Commander (Dist 1-2) — Kevin Morello, Black Hawk

kmore29442@aol.com, (605) 791-5969

State Vice Commander (Dist 3-8) — Harry Boner, Castlewood

hb.boner@yahoo.com, (605) 691-4571

National Executive Committeeman — Jim Huls, Madison

jphuls@svtv.com, (605) 421-1700

Alternate National Executive Committeeman — Denny Brenden, Watertown

dennybrenden2@gmail.com, (605) 881-3179

State Adjutant — Kevin Hempel, Watertown

adjutant@sdlegion.org, (605) 886-3604

State Americanism Officer — Doug Harris, Rapid City

doughinut@gmail.com, (907) 231-8556

State Membership Chairman — Travis Flisrand, Castlewood

membership@sdlegion.org, (605) 868-8503

State Service Officer — Courtney VanZanten, Chester

dso@sdlegion.org, (605) 868-8750

State Chaplain — Justin Warfel, Spearfish

chaplain.warfel@gmail.com, (605) 212-7922

State Finance Officer — Gary Wolkow, De Smet

glwolkow@gmail.com, (605) 854-3020

State Historian — Fred Lee, Sioux Falls

fotofred4u@q.com, (605) 413-9451

State Judge Advocate — Jay Leibel, Madison

jay@leibellaw.com, (605) 256-3961

State Sergeant-At-Arms — Verle Whipple, Clear Lake

pawhip@hotmail.com, (605) 695-6361

State Children and Youth Chairman — Miranda Krumm, Chester

joshmirandakrumm@gmail.com, (605) 695-9122

Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander — Terry Hanson, Arlington

badgerbdad@gmail.com, (605) 983-3360

American Legion Riders Liaison — Buck DeWeese, Spearfish

deweese@rushmore.com, (605) 722-2361

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

1—David Booze, Piedmont

boozedmaverick6@aol.com, (605) 787-5943

2—Eugene Iron Shell, Jr., Rosebud

eugene.ironshell@gmail.com, (605) 319-1365

3—LeRoy Madsen, Pierre

lmppm396@msn.com, (605) 280-6612

4—Bob Thomason, Selby

bobcat@venturecomm.net, (605) 848-6357

5—Matt Lagerstrom, White

malager@itctel.com, (605) 651-9568

6—Cindy Hoffman, Plankinton

cindyhoffman@goldenwest.net, (605) 770-1293

7—Rodney Smith, Chester

rsb664071@gmail.com, (605) 480-3018

8—Jennifer VanRoekel, Marion

jennifervanroekelsf@gmail.com, (605) 251-0635

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

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

Congressional Contact Information

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

The American Legion is hard at work in South Dakota.

As I sit at my computer to write the first article of 2021, my mind wanders over the years of great experiences I have encountered and the amazing, life-long friendships I made while being a member of the South Dakota American Legion. We have a true legacy in our Department. From our first Department Commander, Myron Lewis Shade, a veteran of the Spanish-American War, through to today, our membership has included veterans from every war and conflict our country has encountered since that time. Our Posts, our Department, and our Legionnaires have histories that we must document and remember. During my travels, I encountered a couple of Posts that had published books on their Post's history. I have those books on my shelf along with "The American Legion in South Dakota, First Quarter Century" and "The American Legion, An Official History 1919-1989." My first challenge of 2021 will be to ask our members to re-energize their efforts in documenting our history at all levels within the Department. If you need assistance in getting started, contact Dept. Historian Fred Lee or Dept. Adjutant Kevin Hempel. Also, I would like for each Post to list their accomplishments over this past year and share them with their members, prospective members, and communities. Post them on the Internet. These lists can come in very handy with recruiting and completing your Post Consolidated Report.

Legion on the Road these past weeks have included some actual miles and more online meetings.

On Nov. 20, I had the honor of presenting two certificates of appreciation from the National American Legion HQ to Daktronics in Brookings via the Internet. The certificates recognized them for winning the Department's "Employer of Veterans - Large Company" and the "Award to Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons." Thank you to Daktronics for their support of veterans and the disabled.

On Dec. 21, I traveled to Pierre for a planning meeting at the Law Enforcement Training Center. A couple of members of the South Dakota American Legion Public Safety Committee, Dept. Adj. Hempel and I met with the South Dakota Highway Patrol to discuss the 2021 Youth Trooper Academy.

On Dec. 28, I attended the Media and Communication committee meeting via zoom. The committee includes six Legionnaires located throughout South Dakota, and they are excited about the American Legion and social media. The committee discussed ways of promoting our American Legion, made some plans, and assigned some tasks. Watch for the increased coverage of the South Dakota American Legion.

On Jan. 4, I traveled to Hudson Post 128 for their annual oyster stew feed. It was my second time attending this event, and it was great to socialize with the Legionnaires from the area. The Rocky Mountain Oyster Stew was a hit, and a few opted for the chili. After the meal, the Post conducted a productive meeting.

I understand many of our members are doing great things. However, I would like to recognize a couple for their efforts. First is our Children and Youth Chair, Miranda Krumm. Miranda hit the ground running this past year and hasn't slowed down. She recently approached the South Dakota American Legion Foundation with a plan and was awarded a grant to purchase 750 gift bags. The gift bags contained nearly 6000 donated toys collected through "Operation Home Front." Her mission was to distribute the bags to Military and Veteran families in time for the holidays. Great job to Miranda and her team!

Second, I would like to recognize Courtney VanZanten for her efforts in honoring Native American Veterans during Native American Heritage Month. Each day of the month, she posted on our Department FaceBook page a tribute to a Native American Veteran. Great job, Courtney!

The mission of our organization can only be carried by the efforts of its members.

For God and Country, we associate together!

Fred Nelson,

Your Department Commander

ADVERTISE

in the South Dakota American Legion News

Reach 18,000 Veterans across the state.

For rates and information, contact

david@leaderprinting.com

605-256-4444

The South Dakota Legion News reserves the right to refuse advertisement.

Support our Advertisers

The SD Legion News needs sponsors to regularly publish the paper. Please thank these businesses for their support of our mission!



From the Adjutant

Kevin Hempel
Department Adjutant



As I sit at my computer contemplating what to focus on for this article, I am thinking what a crazy year 2020 was. Personally, I started my position as the Department Adjutant, closed my woodworking business and moved my family to Watertown. Normally I would say that was quite an accomplishment. But it seems rather mundane when I look at everything else that happened in 2020. We cancelled almost all Legion events after MidWinter 2020. We quickly learned how to use Zoom to do virtual meetings but missed that great camaraderie when we met in person. In fact, Baseball was almost cancelled, but we were able to at least have a season.

So, what will 2021 bring? We have changed gears for MidWinter, opting to shift to a DEC meeting in the interest of our Legionnaires' health. We are looking forward to Spring District Meetings in March and April as well as the Department Convention in June. Baseball seems to be back on track as is the Oratory Contest and other National programs. But do not put away those masks yet! National has cancelled the March Washington Conference as well as the Dept Service Officer class. The National Legion college was postponed from last fall to this spring and it has been postponed again until next fall. If we have learned anything from 2020, it has been to be flexible and to try new methods to connect with others.

Speaking of connecting, in the December issue I discussed National was updating MyLegion and the new version would be going live in December. Right after I made that statement, National decided to postpone the release of the MyLegion to 1st Quarter 2021. An exact date has not been announced, but it sounds like it will be closer to March. As we have learned so far, the new MyLegion sign on will be based on your email address so I can't stress enough all emails must be up to date in MyLegion. Additionally, if you hold an office such as Commander or Adjutant, your access to conduct business will be associated with your email address as well as your position held. That is going to make the annual Post Officer Certifications extremely important. The information in the certification is what will be entered into MyLegion which will give the officers their access. In early December, the National Information Technology folks gave an overview of the new system. For those interested it can be found at <https://vimeo.com/496923973>. Since then, National has produced a training video on the new sign in procedure. Go to <https://www.legion.org/training/mylegion> and then click the video presentation link. It will better explain the process. National has advised additional training will be coming soon. I want to encourage anyone who does or will use MyLegion to view these training materials and get ready for the changeover when it happens.

I hope everyone stays safe for 2021. I am looking forward to a great year with high hopes of being able to shake hands, sit down in person and move our great Legion Department forward.

For God & Country,
Kevin Hempel

From the NEC

Jim Huls
National Executive Committeeman



Legionnaires,

Recently, National adopted the following Vision, Mission and Values statements:

Vision : "The American Legion : Veterans Strengthening America "

Mission : "To enhance the well being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

Values : A Veteran is a Veteran

Selfless Service

Family and Community Engagement

American Values and Patriotism

Advancing the Vision

Honoring Those Who Came Before Us

This Vision, Mission, and Values statement expresses the who, what and why of the American Legion, the nation's largest organization of wartime veterans.

As was noted in the last Legion News, the American Legion has entered a 2 year Sponsorship of a car for Jimmie Johnson-Chip Ganassi Racing in the NIT Indy Car Series. Both the National Marketing and Finance Commissions recommended that we sponsor this for the following reasons. 1. Business Development 2. The American Legion Brand exposure. 3.Membership. 4. Fund raising/donors. 5. Content for The American Legion Media Channels. 6. Emblem Sales. Professional marketing and sales people believe this to be a great opportunity for The American Legion and a calculated Rate of Return (ROI) very favorable for The American Legion. Hopefully this sponsorship will increase Membership in The American Legion as fans of Indy Car racing are younger eligible veterans. Since passage of the Legion Act all past and present military service members are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

The American Legion: Veterans Strengthening America

For God & Country,
Jim Huls, NEC

Single Sign-On Available for Legion Websites

Indianapolis--Are you a registered user of national American Legion web resources, such as MyLegion.org, Baseball.legion.org, Legiontown.org or Legion.org? And are you tired of having to log in with your username and password each time you access the individual sites? Good news – a single sign-on is here! This is critical for those members who hold leadership positions, especially adjutants, within their post. The new MyLegion platform will utilize the single sign-on. Take the time to re-register, and make certain your contact information is up-to-date and accurate.

To access the new single sign-on, you must re-register and set up a new password. And more importantly, confirm the response email.

You may have noticed that a new login screen became available Dec. 31 that requires you to re-register. Members and non-members will need to do this for a single sign-on and to continue accessing the valuable information and tools provided through the following American Legion web assets:

- MyLegion.org
- Legion.org
- Legiontown.org
- Centennial.legion.org
- Burnpit.us
- Baseball.legion.org

(Note: this requirement does not currently apply to registered users of the Emblem Sales website.)

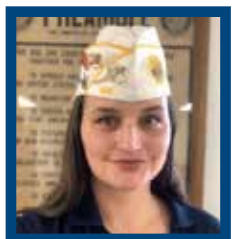
This new single sign-on is Stage 1 of a multi-stage rollout that will allow The American Legion to provide a streamlined and better user experience within its web environment – and it begins with this initial step of re-registering. Thank you for taking this first step in a series of exciting American Legion web features that are to come on MyLegion.org and Legion.org.

How to begin the re-registration process:

1. Click the "Sign In" tab on any American Legion web property. You will be taken to the single sign-on site.
2. Click "Register as a new user." Fill in the entire form using your best contact email address and member ID (if applicable). All information you provide is kept safe and secure.
3. Enter and confirm your new password of choice.
4. Click "Finish" to receive your confirmation email.
5. Click the link to confirm your new account in the confirmation email sent (check your junk email inbox). The provided email will be from sso@legion.org.

DSO Update

Courtney VanZanten
Department Service Officer



Greetings Legionnaires!

Changes are coming down the VA pipeline with H.R. 7015, the Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020. I'll share a few major highlights with you:

Three conditions added to Agent Orange Presumptive List: Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism. If you meet the criteria for presumptive exposure and suffer from one of these, get into your local service officer as soon as possible. If you have filed in the past and have been denied, now is the time to file the appeal to that decision. Additionally, if you know of any spouse of a Veteran who died of a presumptive disease, reach out to them and encourage them to get into a service officer. They may be entitled to dependency and indemnity compensation.

VA required to study illnesses experienced by those who served at the Karshi-Khanabad (K2) Air Base in Uzbekistan between October 1, 2001, and September 30, 2005. This also opens up the Burn Pit Registry to those who served in K2.

Requires the VA to return Disability Based Questionnaires (DBQs) to their public-facing website. DBQs were removed, to much chagrin, a few years ago--this is a very welcomed reversal. This also requires the VA accept DBQs as evidence in disability compensation claims even when completed by non-VA medical providers.

The Deborah Sampson Act is included in this legislation. This act removes many barriers to adequate healthcare for women veterans, improving on care and access at VA facilities. **Veterans Benefits Administration must establish specialized teams for processing Military Sexual Trauma claims.** Additionally, Veterans filing a claim for a physical or mental health condition resulting from sexual trauma can choose the gender of their Compensation & Pension Exam provider.

National Guard and Reserve service under Title 32 orders now count for VA Home Loan eligibility.

One great way to help take care of another veteran is to get them the benefits they deserve. We have phenomenal County and Tribal Service Officers in this state--find your local office at <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteransserviceofficers/>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at dso@sdlegion.org.

Here to help,

Courtney VanZanten

Department Service Officer

District Commander Updates

1



David Booze, Piedmont

New Year greetings to the South Dakota American Legion Family. District 1 kicked off 2021 focusing on Americanism activities. Sturgis Post 33 and Legionnaire Ken Sabers, District 1 Americanism Chairman, hosted District 1 Oratory Competition. The winner, Elias Grimsley sponsored by Spearfish Post 164. Elias, a 2020 District 1 winner, and State American Legion competitor, provided an insightful prepared presentation, as well as exceptional perspective during the required impromptu Constitution and Bill of Rights assigned topic.

District 1 Posts are reaching out to their high schools encouraging Boys State and Youth Trooper Academy attendance. School administrations are being informed this year's seniors are also eligible to attend in order to afford those seniors the opportunity for American citizenship and patriotism experiences that were missed due to the 2020's Boy State cancellation.

Concurrent with the 75th Anniversary of the successful victory over the Axis Powers by American servicemembers known as the "Greatest Generation," District 1's Posts recognized our fifty plus surviving WWII veterans with Certificates of Recognition and WWII Victory Medals.

God Bless America, our American Veterans, Servicemembers, and their families for their sacrifices and continued service.

2



Eugene IronShell, Jr. Rosebud

On behalf of Vice Commander Mike Ball, Adjutant Christopher Rendon, Membership Chairman Ed Thompson, and myself, I send all Legionnaires in South Dakota wishes for a happy, safe and successful 2021.

I have the honor of serving on the National American Legion College selection committee for the next three years. We met virtually during early December with Chancellor Dave Rehbein and other members of the committee. This year's class will be significantly smaller due to Covid-19. As of this writing NALC is still set to happen in March 2021. Only thirty Legionnaires will attend, however, there is a chance that other seats will become available. For those unfamiliar with Legion College, it is a week-long program held in Indianapolis, and prepares Legionnaires for leadership positions in posts, districts, counties, and departments through education, development, and motivation. It focuses primarily on leadership, communication, marketing and the history of the American Legion. I highly encourage anybody interested to find more information and apply: www.legion.org/college.

Unfortunately, death has entered the ranks in District 2, with past district commander Tom Pranger's passing. He was a treasured member of the American Legion family and member of Custer Post 46. He was a ten year member and served as district commander from 2016-2017. Also, it was sad to learn of the passing of Marvin Berstch, a member of the McIntosh post from District 1. I enjoyed visiting with Marvin at the state meetings.

Membership is doing great in District 2 when you consider the big picture. Many posts, such as Rapid City Foothills, Draper, Philip, White River, Rosebud, Edgemont, Kyle, Pine Ridge, and Manderson are all within 5 members of achieving 100%. Our two larger posts Rapid City 22 and Hot Springs, I have high hopes for. Congratulations to the following posts in our district on achieving 100%: Murdo, Custer, Wall, and Batesland. Remember in football there is the "Hail Mary" and when it comes to membership that sort of thing happens for District 2 this time of the year. We will be looking forward to the next two months and we'll see where we stand. There may be a couple Gold Brigadiers again this year. We shall see.

Lastly, I want to send you a personal message. Please get your Covid-19 vaccine. There is a lot of misinformation out there regarding the vaccine. Don't believe everything you read, especially on social media. I have gotten both my first and second doses, and felt fine after all of them. My 91 year old father is the oldest veteran on the Rosebud Reservation, and he recently received his first dose. Didn't feel a thing and no side effects. If you have questions about the vaccine you can sure call me, or email me, and I will answer any questions you may have. We all want to be able to gather for our spring meetings and the state convention this summer....please, get your vaccine.

For God and Country
Eugene Iron Shell, Jr.
District 2 Commander

3



LeRoy Madsen, Pierre

Fellow Legion Members

We have entered into a New Year, 2021, with high hopes that it will be a better year. Right off the bat for January is the American Legion Scholarship Oratory Competition.

In November-2020 I had the pleasure to meet and talk with a fellow Legion Member, Robert Huckins, and presented to him a 75year Membership Certificate. He served in the U.S. Army 1944-1946 as a Field Artilleryman. At 95 yrs old Robert and his wife Beverly reside in Pierre S.D. Thank you for your service and many years of support for the American Legion.

It is with a sad heart to report the American Legion has lost a good friend and long time Legion Member for 64 yrs...Ollie Redden (92 yrs old) of Pierre S.D. Ollie served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was married to Angie Redden Dec. 31, 1955, they had 3 children. Ollie was Post 8 Commander 1967-1968. You will be missed...GOD BLESS.

I have served two 2-year terms as District 3 Commander as well my wife Patsy Madsen as District 3 President, our terms are up as of March 2021. If anyone is interested or know of anyone interested in these positions come join us at the Spring District Meeting on March 20, 2021, in Winner, SD. One final note.....District dues for 2021 are due, so please take care of this as soon as possible. Thank you.

4



Bob Thomason, Selby

American Legion Family,

Greetings from District 4.

I hope this finds you well, as we continue to struggle through this COVID pandemic. As I try to schedule visits to my posts, I am finding that some are still not having regular meetings. I can both relate to that, and respect that. The protection of ourselves, our Post members and our communities is of the utmost importance. But we must continue the business of The American Legion.

As with any organization, communication is vital, and the Department has provided us with what I believe are excellent tools for communication. The two main tools I like to use are Zoom video conferencing, and email. It is much easier to communicate with many at a time, rather than one at a time.

In District 4, I have proposed having a Zoom conference about once every 2 months. These conferences would:

*Include anyone wishing to participate.

*Be VERY informal; and

*Be a platform for sharing information and ideas among the different posts

Another reason I like Zoom is a computer is not required. MOST smart phones today have the capability of video conferencing.

ANY American Legion Family member can contact me by email at district4@sdlegion.org.

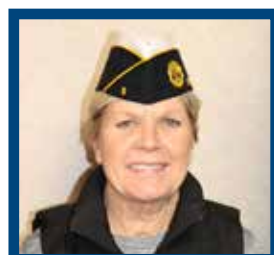
5



Matt Lagerstrom, White

Despite The Virus, our Legion Posts are doing good things for other people. Just as when we set out as an organization in 1919, today our Posts are working to take care of our Veterans, their families, and our communities. I know that Posts are working with their members to assure that their needs are being met in the era of social distance, sudden forced unemployment, and potential public health risks. Posts hosted Poultry Parties respective of CDC guidelines to assure families could have a happy Thanksgiving with food on the table. Veterans Day was remembered in classrooms and communities across our land because of our members working with local school districts to remind our next generation that Freedom is Fragile and that without all people willing to defend it, Freedom is easily lost. Over the Holidays our Post Homes became small havens for the idea of what Christmas means spiritually and socially to our Veterans. Most importantly, our members worked hard these last to assure that those who are fighting a seemingly unwinnable fight against The Virus and all its horrible side-effects had the support of our Proud Organization. I wish I had the space to share what I have seen from our Posts and our members, but they have not yet developed a media to accept all the wonderful positive stories which I have seen during my travels as your District Commander. Thank you for all that you do. Be Brave.

6



Cynthia Hoffman, Plankinton

Greetings from District 6,

There is truly nothing better than homemade chicken noodle soup to welcome a person as I was visiting Post 261 in Ethan on Jan 13, 2021. Yes, I have started my visits to the District 6 Posts. Our American Legion Leadership was there also so everyone had a chance express their thoughts and concerns.

With the Coronavirus being somewhat under control and the vaccine being distributed soon to our locations, hopefully we can get back to somewhat of a normal society again. I am especially hopeful to hold Boys State again. We have so many fantastic students, both Juniors and Seniors this year, that deserve the opportunity to attend.

Great news from the Wessington Post#110: they are remodeling their Legion Hall. Post #110 was able to participate in the Wessington Parade of Lights with the Adjutant being the Parade Marshall. It was a great event with 30 floats total.

I would like to Honor our WWII Veterans as we had 4 in the past year be honored with the Greatest Generation Certificate. They were Wester Clark, Marvin Mathews, Post #110, Jean Kern Post# 5, and Don Reeves of Post#96. Please let me know of others so they can get the proper acknowledgement. Let us hope that 2021 is packed with more positive things happening.

Thank You all for what you do to keep the American Legion going strong.

7



Rodney Smith, Chester

Wow! Time is flying by even with the restrictions we are under. We just held our District 7 Oratory contest in Dell Rapids SD Post #65. I look forward to the State Competition on February 21 at 10:30 AT the Cedar Shore Resort Oacoma SD. The winner will go on to represent South Dakota American Legion at the National contest and have the opportunity to compete for a \$25,000 scholarship. My thanks to Joe Thornell for stepping up and taking charge of the District Contest.

I hope we can get a lot of candidates for Boy's State and Youth Trooper. I encourage you to stop into your local schools to encourage the students to sign up.

On a sad note, we lost William P Bill Hunter due to complications of COVID-19. He was a dedicated Legionnaire and took his role as District 7 Americanism Officer very seriously. I will miss him as he was a mentor to me and usually started of with a bit of a grump and ended with his big smile.

If you are interested in serving as the District 7 American Officer, please contact me at 605-480-3018.

Our District 7 Spring meeting will be at Montrose Post #154, 12:00 Social, 1:00 Meal, 2:00 Meeting. This is our year for elections, and we will need to vote for a District Commander, Vice Commander for a term of one year, Vice Commander for a term of two years. If interested get your hat in the ring.

De Smet Post #137 has endorsed Gary Wolkow as candidate for Department Commander



Chamberlain Post #3 has endorsed Doug Feltman as candidate for Department Vice Commander Areas 3-8



Greer Post #11 of Wagner has endorsed Greg Geiman as candidate for Department Sergeant-at-Arms



HATS IN THE RING



Drafted into the Army in May of 1969, Gary Wolkow completed Basic and Advanced Infantry Training at North Fort Lewis in Washington State. From there, he was sent to NCO School in Fort Benning, Georgia, attaining the rank of Sergeant. In 1970, he was sent overseas for duty in Vietnam, where he was assigned to the 101st Airborne 327th Infantry Division in the northern hills. He was honorably discharged in April 1971.

Wolkow is currently on the National Veterans Education, Other Benefits and Homeless Committee, Department Trust Fund Committee, American Legion Foundation Committee and Department Finance Committee, of which he has served as the Chairman since 2009.

Previously, Wolkow has served as a National Security Council member, Department Membership Chairman, Department Vice Commander, District Commander, District Vice Commander, Kingsbury County Commander, De Smet #138 Commander, and Post Finance Officer.

Wolkow's awards include the Robert C. Gabrielson Leadership Award in 2010, District Legionnaire of the Year in 1993, and several District and Post membership goal awards.

Wolkow is a 34 year Paid-Up-For-Life member of the American Legion, and is also a member of Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans.

A servant at heart, Wolkow is a retired De Smet volunteer firefighter of 20 years, serves on the De Smet Hospital Board, the De Smet City Council, and is currently the Mayor of De Smet, a title he has held since 2000. Prior to retirement, he was the Good Samaritan Center Environmental Services Director for 30 years.

Wolkow was born and raised in Erwin, SD, and has lived in De Smet since 1971. He is married to his wife of 50 years, Judy. Together, they have two sons: Jason, of Atlanta, Georgia; and Adam, with wife Kyra and grandchildren Oakley, Aspen, and Brecken of Fort Collins, Colorado.

Commander Oxford's Challenge: 90% Member Retention

"If recruiting is about having an organization worth belonging to, retention is about leadership." --National Commander Bill Oxford

As of January 2021, membership in South Dakota is in second place nationally. Great job! But we can still do better.

Membership is a vital part of our organization at all levels. Post membership equates to manpower and the ability to effectively run programs and events in your community. 2020 was a challenging year in many aspects, to include recruiting. 2021 is starting out on a similar note, as our traditional recruiting events are simply not happening. What we do have, however, is a list of people who showed enough interest to join once.

Department membership affects our bottom line: each membership equals \$15 to be used for American Legion programs in South Dakota. Nationally, our strength of advocating for Veterans lies in numbers; the more members we have, the louder and stronger our collective voice when presenting to Congress.

National Commander Bill Oxford is challenging Legionnaires with Operation Come Back. This campaign, starting February 1 through March 15, focuses on re-engaging expired members and bringing them back into the Legion. The long term goal? A 90% membership retention rate. There are challenges laid out at every level of leadership

to meet this goal, but as we all know, the post is where the rubber meets the road.

At the post level, it is important to know where to start. Expired Membership and Direct Mail Service (DMS) lists can be accessed by Post Adjutants on mylegion.org (see screenshot) or by calling Department Adjutant Kevin Hempel at 605-886-3604.

Engaging members who have expired can be a tricky business. When we recruit new members, we sell the promise of the American Legion. When we retain, we've followed through on those promises. Here are few tips and tricks to re-engage and retain:

Challenge them to invest in your community: The American Legion is a service organization, comprised of volunteer Veterans who care deeply about their communities. Every small town in South Dakota relies on volunteers to run: there's PTA parents, firefighters, coaches, Legionnaires, and more; each no less valuable.

For our towns to keep functioning, we all must play our part. Sometimes, we choose to be active participants--fighting fires, organizing classroom treat schedules, providing final honors at funerals, or hosting a late-night practice. Other times, we simply support, be it an hour of volunteering at an event or opening the wallet once a year. And both means are necessary for our towns and all their organizations to survive. A successful community takes investment.

Make Initial Contact: Reach out to your members early and often. Say hi to new members, and make them feel like a part of the Post family. Build that camaraderie.

Find out why they



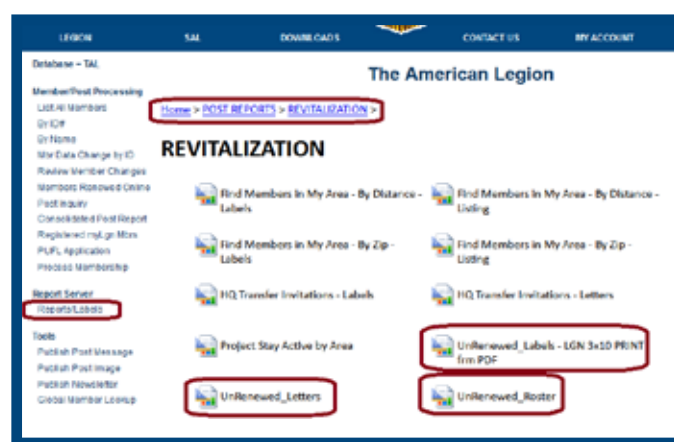
joined in the first place: Do more of that. Chances are, you'll keep them around this time, and you might find a new project for your post.

Recommend another post: If your post didn't meet the needs of an individual, suggest another nearby post that possibly could. Are they interested in Legion Riders? Baseball? Bingo Nights? It may not count towards your numbers, but getting them engaged with our organization is for the greater good.

Communicate your successes: A lot of members don't realize the full scope of American Legion activities. Sending out post newsletters, maintaining social media, and writing consistent press releases are all ways of letting both the community and your members know the good you do.

Membership is not the responsibility of one person--it is a collective effort. If you need assistance, please reach out. Contact information can be found on page 2 for all District Commanders, Department Membership Chairman and Department Headquarters. Future Goal Dates:

President's Day, February 10, 2021 | 85%
Legion Birthday, March 10, 2021 | 90%
Children & Youth April 14, 2021 | 95%
Armed Forces Day May 12, 2021 | 100%



Wedding Receptions • Family Reunions • Anniversary Open Houses • Retirement Parties



Great Location for Regional Meetings Conference Center • Meeting Rooms • Theater

A Place for Everyone

De Smet Event and Wellness Center
 705 Wilder Lane • De Smet, SD 57231

605.854.6060 • eventdir@outlook.com
 www.cityofdesmet.com/eventcenter





From the Chair

**Americanism Commission
Doug Harris, Rapid City**

Greetings to my Fellow Legionnaires!

Welcome to 2021!! Last year was a rough one and I look forward to never seeing another like it. I believe we can finally start the steep climb back to “normalcy” and look forward to getting back to work on our (in my opinion) most important pillar - Americanism.

First, I would like to thank all of you who work hard, year in and year out, to make these programs a success! The difference they make in the lives of our youth is hard to calculate, but I know personally how impactful they can be. Now, let's talk about our programs.

District Oratorical competitions should be complete, and District Americanism Officers should have submitted the appropriate paperwork identifying their winners to Department. While MidWinter Conference has been largely cancelled, the Oratorical contest will still be held in-person. Commander Nelson and I agree that the contest must happen regardless of the status of the conference. National decreed in October 2020 that only those Departments which held an in-person contest will be allowed to send their winner to the National contest. Masks will be required for the protection of all participants. My personal goal is to make fewer mistakes during the contest this year – wish me luck. Here's the link for Oratorical Contest information: <https://www.sdlegion.org/oratorical-scholarship/>

Boys State (May 31 – June 4 at Northern State University in Aberdeen SD): We are still in the planning process and expect to hold an “in-person” session this year. Those who successfully completed their Junior and/or Senior years of high school are eligible this year. Along with the “normal” recruiting efforts this Winter/Spring, I'm asking Posts to contact individuals who were signed up to attend the 2020 session and let them know they are still eligible to attend in 2021. You should also ask them to help you recruit their Junior friends. I realize doubling the number of boys you would normally send, might stretch your finances, so don't be afraid to ask for assistance if you need it. There are always Posts who want to send someone but don't have a candidate(s) or a school. I look forward to my 3rd year as a counselor for the Boys State city of Dallas and encourage any of you who might be interested in being part of the staff to apply as well. It is a grueling and highly rewarding job and if an old guy like me can manage it, so can you. Here's the link for Boys State information: <https://www.sdlegion.org/boys-state/>

Youth Trooper Academy (YTA) is scheduled for July 16-21 in Pierre. Space in the program is limited to 24 students from across the state. The program is open to male and female high school students who are entering their senior year or have just graduated high school in 2021 and have an interest in a career in law enforcement. Posts should be recruiting in all schools. South Dakota Highway Patrol has selected their mentors (HP officers) for the 2021 Academy, and they will be helping us recruit in selected high schools. Larry Price will notify the appropriate Posts when HP Officers are coming to their schools. You should send a representative(s) to these presentations to let the students know The American Legion will sponsor them. Application deadline is March 21, 2021. Here's the link for YTA information: <https://www.sdlegion.org/sd-youth-trooper-academy/>

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.

Junior Shooting Sports: I was recently notified by National, that the following SD teams will be competing in The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Tournament this year: Dakota Sharpshooters and Humboldt Sharpshooters, both sponsored by Post 15 of Sioux Falls. Also, the Pierre Junior Shooting Club, sponsored by Post 8 of Pierre. Wishing you the absolute best of luck at the national competition!!

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 (print these out and take them with you to schools, etc): <https://www.sdlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Americanism-Big-3-2021-ADJ-COLORS-1.pdf>

3) Our Americanism Program descriptions/points of contact (POCs) and the 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>

Americanism Reports: Your Post Americanism reports will be coming due in the March/April timeframe, so don't forget to use these resources to help you complete them and compete for awards. You do the work, so take credit for it. Look for the appropriate forms on the SD Legion website using this link: <https://www.sdlegion.org/post-adjutant-manual-forms/>

1) Post Americanism Report: <https://www.sdlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020-POST-AMERICANISM-REPORT-fillable-centered.pdf>

2) Post Americanism Report-How-To (explains what each section means and how to report it): <https://www.sdlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Post-Amer-Rpt-Definitions-Explanation-6-20-002.pdf>

3) Post Americanism Report (Example of winning package): <https://www.sdlegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2019-Post-46-Americanism-Report-example-.pdf>

Finally, since this issue goes out to all SD Legionnaires, I would like to again pass on some excellent news. 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 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 this month! Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns about any of our programs.

Douglas D. Harris
Americanism Commission Chairman



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

• BOYS STATE •

MAY 31 - JUNE 4, 2021

NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY | ABERDEEN, S.D.



Understand the American system of government.
Appreciate the responsibilities of citizenship. Learn
the fundamental principles of leadership.
Media Team Applications Due | February 1, 2021
Regular Session Applications Due | April 1, 2021

OPEN TO ALL JUNIORS AND SENIORS FOR THE 2021 SESSION

Sign up for Boys State today! Information and applications can be found at

SOUTHDAKOTABOYSSTATE.COM | SDLEGION.ORG/PROGRAM/BOYS-STATE
or contact your local American Legion Post.

Do YOU have what it takes?

2021 YOUTH TROOPER ACADEMY

JULY 12-16, 2021 ★ PIERRE, SD



Are you interested in law enforcement?
The Youth Trooper Academy provides an
intensive weeklong experience at the
South Dakota Law Enforcement Training
Center in Pierre, SD. Veteran Troopers
provide mentorship and hands-on
training in the following areas:

- firearms safety
- defensive driving
- crash investigation
- traffic stops
- leadership
- criminal law
- defensive tactics

Applicants must be high school juniors or
seniors in good academic standing. The
program utilizes a paramilitary approach
and is therefore physically and mentally
demanding. Be prepared!

TO APPLY:

Check out <https://www.sdlegion.org/program/sd-youth-trooper-academy> for
more information and qualifications. Applications can be found on the
website, with any state trooper, your guidance counselor or at your local
American Legion. **Application deadline is March 21, 2021.**

Applicants are encouraged to apply early, as space is limited

SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

Children and grandchildren of veterans are
eligible to apply along with veterans. Scholarships
will be paid to the Recipient and the post-secondary
school that they attend after the completion
of the 1st semester.

<https://www.sdlegion.org/scholarship-information/>

Applications due March 1, 2021





Above: The Sons of the American Detachment leadership present the George A. Fitzgerald Squadron #65 with their official charter. Congratulations Dell Rapids!



Above: A joint Honor Guard presides over a Veteran's funeral in Castlewood, SD. Members from the Castlewood Post #250, Sons Squadron #170, and the Watertown chapter of Vietnam Veterans of American took part in the ceremony. Below: Members of Herreid Post #170 and Sons Squadron #170 participate in the Herreid High School Military Appreciation Night by presenting the colors.

American Legion Around the State



Children & Youth Chairman Miranda Krumm and SDAL Foundation President Jim Kurtz pose with Operation Homefront gift bags ready for distribution.



December saw the distribution of the Operation Homefront Gift Bags! The South Dakota American Legion Foundation provided a grant to our Children & Youth Committee to purchase 750 gift bags. Those gift bags holding nearly 6000 donated toys were delivered to three National Guard armories (Sioux Falls, pictured left), the Rosebud reservation (pictured above during their American Legion Riders #125 parade of lights), the Lake Traverse reservation and the Pine Ridge reservation.



On Friday, December 4th, the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion each donated \$500 a piece (\$1,000 total) to the Good Samaritan Center to be used for those in need during this Christmas season. Pictured above, from left to right, are Ted Kimball, Penny Ihnen, Sherry Wurtz and Frank Schwarz with the donated checks. (Photo courtesy of Redfield Press)



Warner Post #137 member Jeremy Smidt renders a salute during the Wreaths Across America ceremony held jointly with Stratford Post #207.

Member Spotlight:

Kenny VanKekerix Post #167



Name: Kenny VanKekerix
Post: Witten #167
Military Service: US Army
Why Nominated: Kenny has a longstanding reputation as the “go-to” guy in West River. He has always been involved: Witten Post #167 Commander since 1991 (30 of his 48 years in the Legion), Tripp County Commander in 2001 and again in 2008, District Commander from 2006-2008, Department Vice Commander in 2010, and the Department VAVS Chairman since 2012.

A near constant face at conventions and meetings, anyone who has met Kenny can attest to his delightful demeanor and ability to relate. Kenny is a walking encyclopedia, and will keep any nearby listeners enthralled with stories from American Legion times past and general South Dakota history.

Kenny also runs The Village Grocery in Witten,

SD, where he works on scroll saw art. An avid supporter of the South Dakota American Legion Foundation, he has consistently donated several pieces for the annual Fun Auction. Thank you, Kenny, for your outstanding dedication and service to the South Dakota American Legion.

Daktronics Recognized for Veteran & Disabled Employment Awards



Above: Department Commander Fred Nelson virtually presents Daktronics with their awards for Large Company Employer of Veterans and Enhancing the Lives of Disabled Persons. (Photo courtesy of Daktronics)

Brookings--Daktronics has been recognized for their ongoing support of military personnel, National Guard, Reservists, Veterans, and disabled persons. The South Dakota American Legion has an annual Employment Awards Showcase, recognizing South Dakota companies who strive to support and enhance veterans, disabled veterans, the disabled and older workers in the workplace. The South Dakota American Legion has selected Daktronics for two awards:

Employer of Veterans – Large Company

Award to Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons

These awards recognize Daktronics' efforts to significantly support their veterans and improve the ability of persons with disabilities in hiring, employment, and retention in the workforce.

Harry Boner, Electrical Design, Brookings, nominated Daktronics through his post, Castlewood Olson-Reid Post 250. Harry is the current Adjutant for his post and the current State Vice Commander for the State of South Dakota. As part of the nomination process, Harry offered these supportive words “I have been employed by Daktronics for 27 years now and I have always admired the way that Daktronics has taken the time to hire and make accommodations for employees with disabilities. Over time, as the disability level in some has changed, the accommodations for those employees has changed as well. As a disabled Veteran, I feel fortunate to be working for a company like Daktronics. Daktronics cares for their employees.”

Department Calendar

FEBRUARY 2021

Black History Month

- 1: Boys State Media Team Applications Due
- 3: Four Chaplains Day
- 10: Legislative Committee Meeting, Pierre Post #8
- 14: Valentine's Day
- 15: Presidents Day, HQ Closed
- 19: Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- 20: 10:00 a.m. DEC Meeting, Arrowwood Resort, Oacoma, SD
- 21: 10:30 a.m. High School Oratorical Contest Finals
- 26: Legionnaire of the Year nominations due to District Commanders

MARCH 2021

Women's History Month

- 1: Eagle Scout of the Year Nominations due to HQ
- 3: Navy Reserve Birthday
- 5: Seabee Birthday
- 13: District 8 Spring Meeting, TBD
Time TBD (www.sdlegion.org/up-to-now for updates)
- 14: District 7 Spring Meeting, Montrose Post #154
12pm Social, 1pm Meal, 2pm Meeting
- 15: American Legion Birthday
- 20: District 3 Spring Meeting, Winner Post #169
Time TBD (www.sdlegion.org/up-to-now for updates)
- 21: District 6 Spring Meeting, Wessington Springs Post #14
Time TBD (www.sdlegion.org/up-to-now for updates)
- 21: Deadline for Youth Trooper Applications
- 25: Medal of Honor Day
- 27: District 5 Spring Meeting, Veblen Post #76
1:30pm Social, 2pm Meeting
- 28: District 4 Spring Meeting, Eureka Post #186
12pm Social, 1pm Meal, 2pm Meeting
- 29: National Vietnam War Veterans Day

APRIL 2021

Month of the Military Child

- 1: Boys State Applications Due
- 4: Easter
- 5: Gold Star Spouses Day
- 5: Easter Monday, HQ Closed
- 9: National Former POW Recognition Day
- 10: District 1 Spring Meeting, Piedmont Post #311
10am Social, 11am Meal, 1pm Meeting
- 11: District 2 Spring Meeting, Martin Post #240
Time TBD (www.sdlegion.org/up-to-now for updates)
- 14: Air Force Reserve Birthday
- 24-25: District Commander Training

MAY 2021

Military Appreciation Month

- 1: Educator of the Year packages due to HQ
- 1: Good Samaritan packages due to HQ
- 1: Post Americanism reports due
- 1: Department VA&R Excellence Award packages due to HQ
- 5-8: National Spring Meetings
- 9: Mother's Day
- 15: Armed Forced Day
- 31: Memorial Day
- 31-June 4: South Dakota Boys State, Northern State University, Aberdeen

Need a Fresh Take? Check Out the Tango Alpha Lima Podcast



www.legion.org/tangoalphalima

Indianapolis--What happens when three veterans walk into a podcast studio? Vibrant camaraderie, playful joking and hot takes ensue. Join Post 9/11 Veterans Mark Seavey, Ashley Gorbulja-Maldonado and Jeff Daly as they explore current events, interesting trends and quirky stories of interest to the military community.

The weekly podcast, produced by National American Legion Headquarters is a veterans-eye-view on current events - particularly in the military and veteran community. For more stories and videos please visit www.legion.org/tangoalphalima

South Dakota Veterans Cemetery Update

Fellow Legionnaires,

There is a lot of progress being made at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery. As shown by the attached pictures, a lot of work has been accomplished since the ribbon cutting nearly two years ago. Tentative Dedication is this Memorial Day, and a schedule of events will be provided as soon as possible.

To date, there are 511 Veterans and 385 Spouses that have already put their Applications in to be laid to rest in the Veterans Cemetery. To pre-register or find more information about the Veterans Cemetery, go to <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteranscemetery/>.

Finally, there is still a need to bring our endowment up to the \$3 million dollar mark. If you or your post would like to donate, please do so. <https://sdcommunityfoundation.org/for-advisors/existing-funds/south-dakota-state-veterans-cemetery-fund/>

For God & Country,

Ken Teunnisen, Vice-President, South Dakota Veterans Council



Work continues on the South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery outside Sioux Falls, SD. Above: The multi-season committal service shelter has glass panels installed. Below Left: the main cemetery flag, seen from below its hill. Below Center: A columbarium nears completion. Below Right: The main entrance take shape. Photos courtesy of Ken Teunnisen.



Toronto Post Consolidates With White

Submitted by Matt Lagerstrom, District 5 Commander

December 31, 2020, was the end of a still proud Erikson-Olson Post #81 from Toronto that proudly served for 101 years in The American Legion as they consolidated with their neighboring Post in White. The decision to pursue this course of action was not easy, though it was necessary for the long-term support of the Veteran Community in Toronto.

During the summer of 2019, the Toronto Post had a member who was in dire circumstances. The Post Commander reached out to the remaining membership of the Post to help this member and soon realized that while there was desire to help, the energy and manpower to do so was lacking from what was locally available. So, the Commander reached out to his neighboring Posts for help. The response was overwhelming and the member's circumstances changed dramatically for the better through the actions of The American Legion and community members from throughout the region.

While the Post was proud of its accomplishment, it also realized that long-term its ability to help others was rapidly becoming more and more limited as the pressures of modern agriculture has dramatically changed the demographics and population of the area around Toronto, making it increasingly difficult to find new members, and keep existing ones active, as people move out of the area. In working with the neighboring Posts, Toronto soon realized that having more people who are active makes for a more powerful impact on the Veterans that the Post wants to serve, and that started the discussion on consolidation with one of their neighbors.

In early August 2020, the Post called a meeting for all members and much discussion was had on what they would like to do. In the end, the discussion turned to the existing friendships between the Posts in Toronto and White who share, with Astoria's Post, the Deubrook School District. Much discussion was made on which way the members wanted to move, as their potential new homes in the four Posts closest to them had much to offer, though the decision to head to White was based largely on available member support from the White Post. With that decision, the members of Toronto approached White and asked for their acceptance of their consolidation proposal. Important in this discussion was the promise of the White Post to carry on the community traditions of observing Memorial Day at the Toronto Area Cemeteries; care of the community's Veterans; and a special request to honor one of their Post Namesakes – Army Captain Arlo Olson – who earned his Medal of Honor during the World War Two - Italian Campaign. To this request, the White Post was honored and plans were made between the two Posts for their pending Consolidation which culminated with a Flag Rolling Ceremony for the Toronto Post on December 28, 2020.

It was during the Flag Rolling Ceremony that the remaining members of the Toronto Post were honored for their service to The American Legion in Toronto, and were then welcomed into the White Post. Importantly, during this event, the members were able to share stories of their proudest moments with the Post. One member remarked that they had been home from their service in Vietnam for almost three days when the Toronto Adjutant confronted him while walking down the street demanding ten dollars. This member wasn't quite sure what was going on, but gave the man the money, to which the response was "Welcome to The Legion". That young man went on to a very proud career with the Legion serving in a wide array of offices over the next 50 years culminating with Department Commander. Another member, discussed how he valued being able to discuss history from a first-person perspective with Veterans who-had-been-there. A common sentiment among all the members was that they were glad that their Post would not be forgotten and that their community would be well served well into the future. Nobody wants to close a Post, but when it is necessary the key is for the membership to be comfortable with their new home, and the new partnership between the Veteran communities of White and Toronto will certainly work towards that goal.



Erikson-Olson Post 81 Members Past and Present assemble for a final photo while holding their Original Post Charter. From Left to Right: Wayne Kelm; Ron Tolrud; Lester Lunden; Gene Wilts; and Maynard Morud (Photo by Matt Lagerstrom)

Activate Your No-Cost Legioncare Benefits Today

As a member of the Legion Family--yes, Sons, Riders and Auxiliary are included--you are eligible for up to \$5,000.00 in NO COST To You coverage. But your Confirmation is REQUIRED for activation.

Your beneficiary will receive a check for \$5,000.00 if you suffer a fatal covered accident while you are traveling to or from or participating in any covered event conducted for Legion business, or \$1,000.00 for all other fatal covered accidents. You pay nothing for this coverage.

The American Legion endorses this coverage to stand by your family with up to \$1,000.00 cash benefits paid straight to your beneficiary if you suffer a fatal covered accident at home, on the job, in your car, on vacation, while traveling, wherever you are.

Again, this is a free accidental death benefit for all members of the Legion Family. As long as your membership is kept up-to-date, you will only have to sign up once. To sign up for your free coverage:

www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare
Phone: 1-800-235-6943

If your membership has expired, lapsed, or you simply have not applied since the "lifetime registry" change, please do so as soon as possible.

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

Commander Fred Nelson recognizes the following Legionnaires for their longstanding deidcation to the American Legion. These milestones denote steadfast loyalty to their posts, significant contributions to American Legion programs, and faithfulness to the ideals of our organization. Their service to community, state, and nation is truly appreciated, and worthy of recognition. Please join Commander Nelson in congratulating the following:

50 YEARS

#2 Tyndall
#2 Tyndall
#4 Mobridge
#4 Mobridge
#4 Mobridge
#6 Gregory
#7 Huron
#7 Huron
#7 Huron
#8 Pierre
#8 Pierre
#9 Milbank
#10 Lake Andes
#11 Wagner
#13 Wakonda
#13 Wakonda
#13 Wakonda
#15 Sioux Falls
#15 Sioux Falls
#15 Sioux Falls
#15 Sioux Falls
#15 Sioux Falls
#15 Sioux Falls
#15 Sioux Falls
#17 Codington Co.
#17 Codington Co.
#17 Codington Co.
#17 Codington Co.
#17 Codington Co.
#17 Codington Co.
#17 Codington Co.
#17 Codington Co.
#18 Mitchell
#18 Mitchell
#18 Mitchell
#18 Mitchell
#21 Hurley
#21 Hurley
#21 Hurley
#22 Rapid City
#22 Rapid City
#22 Rapid City
#22 Rapid City
#23 Garretson
#23 Garretson
#23 Garretson
#24 Aberdeen
#24 Aberdeen
#24 Aberdeen
#24 Aberdeen
#24 Aberdeen
#24 Aberdeen
#24 Aberdeen
#24 Aberdeen
#24 Aberdeen
#24 Aberdeen
#24 Aberdeen
#24 Aberdeen
#24 Aberdeen
#24 Aberdeen
#25 Madison
#28 Burke
#29 Woonsocket
#32 Belle Fourche
#32 Belle Fourche
#32 Belle Fourche
#33 Sturgis
#33 Sturgis
#36 Bonesteel
#38 Miller
#39 Groton
#40 Webster
#40 Webster
#42 Arlington
#42 Arlington
#47 Artesian
#49 Clear Lake
#50 Sisseton
#50 Sisseton
#50 Sisseton
#50 Sisseton
#50 Sisseton
#56 Geddes
#58 Columbia
#59 Wolsey
#59 Wolsey
#60 Clark
#60 Clark
#61 Canova
#61 Canova
#62 Humboldt
#62 Humboldt
#63 Lake Preston
#63 Lake Preston
#63 Lake Preston
#63 Lake Preston
#63 Lake Preston
#65 Dell Rapids
#65 Dell Rapids
#66 Lemmon
#67 Ipswich
#67 Ipswich
#67 Ipswich

Dennis Plihal
Edward Vavruska
Milton Johnson
Dennis Naasz
Roger Nordstrom
Arvid Lindquist
James Cameron
Thomas Fahey
Lyle Swanson
Jerry Thayer
Thomas Murphy
Kenneth Rausch
Herbert Peterson
Lewis Dillon
John Ramsdell
Jack Glidden
Steven Johnsen
Melvin Walz
Ronald Hieb
Kenneth Klein
George McBride
Dorothy Nash
Leo Nelson
Robert Nelson
Kenneth Teunissen
Richard Bury
Darrell Darling
William Dunkel
Allen Kasperson
Richard McNaboe
Larry Picht
Russell Porath
Dale Valberg
John Weber
Patrick Carlson
Patrick Clark
Jerry Fischer
LaMont Kucker
Ross Benson
Keith Jorgensen
Roger Petersen
Robert Orelup
Alton Palmer
Bruce Peterson
John Reule
Larry Engebretson
Jon Jordahl
Jimmy Krtnak
Thomas Agnitsch
Daryle Declercq
Lawrence Diegel
Michael Erickson
Joel Hornaman
John Kippley
Ronald Krogman
Harold Lux
Eugene Morris
Douglas Nostrud
Timothy Rich
Roger Dover
Claude Fahrenbacher
Gary Sandness
Les Budmayr
Rosemary McMahon
Theodore Schmidt
David Reinhardt
Richard Weisz
Edward Jons
David Sivertsen
Leslie Dohman
Charles Bacon
Darrell Dargatz
John Bunker
Robert Haufschild
Dale Wormstadt
Kent Morris
Robert Estwick
Frank Karst
Guy Mackner
Timothy Pearson
Paul Solnar
Tim Thompson
Roger Zastrow
Donald Houck
Gary Seeman
Sheri Junso-Foster
James Weaver
Wayne Koepsell
Robert Vanemmerik
Frederick Lee
Larry Pressler
Rodney Anderson
Paul Danielson
Blaine Miller
Daniel Nelson
Ralph Nelson
Jerald Fox
Michael Schmidt
Vincent Gunn
Donald Braun
William Steen
Harris Swanson

#70 Flandreau
#71 Hot Springs
#71 Hot Springs
#71 Hot Springs
#71 Hot Springs
#72 Beresford
#74 Brookings
#76 Veblen
#76 Veblen
#77 Blunt
#80 Britton
#80 Britton
#85 Ful-Far-Epi
#88 White
#88 White
#92 Redfield
#92 Redfield
#92 Redfield
#92 Redfield
#94 White River
#96 White Lake
#96 White Lake
#97 Egan
#97 Egan
#102 Faulkton
#103 Astoria
#109 Gary
#109 Gary
#109 Gary
#110 Wessington
#113 Willow Lake
#118 Hartford
#118 Hartford
#120 Isabel
#121 McLaughlin
#121 McLaughlin
#129 Waubay
#129 Waubay
#130 Kimball
#130 Kimball
#131 Valley Springs
#131 Valley Springs
#131 Valley Springs
#132 Springfield
#133 Sinai
#135 Gettysburg
#135 Gettysburg
#136 Chester
#137 Warner
#138 De Smet
#140 Salem
#131 Langford
#145 Howard
#145 Howard
#145 Howard
#146 Colome
#147 Buffalo
#147 Buffalo
#148 Conde
#148 Conde
#148 Conde
#149 Northville
#152 Menno
#152 Menno
#153 Carpenter
#154 Montrose
#154 Montrose
#154 Montrose
#154 Montrose
#154 Montrose
#154 Montrose
#154 Montrose
#154 Montrose
#157 Vivian
#157 Vivian
#159 Hoven
#159 Hoven
#161 Wentworth
#164 Spearfish
#166 Emery
#166 Emery
#169 Winner
#169 Winner
#169 Winner
#169 Winner
#169 Winner
#170 Herreid
#173 Philip
#173 Philip
#173 Philip
#174 Lennox
#174 Lennox
#177 Worthing
#177 Worthing
#180 New Effington
#183 Tabor
#184 Estelline
#184 Estelline
#186 Eureka
#186 Eureka
#189 Hosmer
#189 Hosmer
#189 Hosmer

Duane Carr
Don Huxford
Victor Kienitz
Randall Meyers
Lawrence Sawyer
Arvid Sommervold
Lewayne Erickson
Harlan Hillelen
Edward Ormand
Neil Spaid
Ronald Lewis
Roger Tom
Donnie Cheeseman
Gary Anderson
Rick Barg
Gary Hagman
Ronald Pollock
Perry Schmidt
Roger Siebrecht
Chris Assman
Richard Kieffer
Wallace Mohnen
Charles Hemmer
William Herrick
William Warren
Curtis Peterson
Lyndon Fitzpatrick
Harold Moyer
Verle Whipple
James Major
James Knadle
Larry Nicholson
Douglas Viet
Darrell Drageset
Mike Maxon
Anton Schneider
Donald Brink
Harlan Lagge
Gene Derald
Robert Westendorf
Douglas Gulseth
Gerald Kerkhove
Robert Klingbile
Jeffrey Erickson
Arnold Hope
Percy Goebel
Phillip Goebel
Dale Bunkers
James Young
Dennis Helms
Roger Huls
Richard Holland
Wesley Elliot
Thomas Hauge
James Litterick
Gene Neises
Jess Mabry
Larry Hansen
David Lindholm
James Becker
Bill Troske
Lowell Wattier
John Forsyth
Gary Schelske
Curtis Zeeb
Steven Glanzer
Duane Bartmann
Vincent Bartmann
Steve Jesse
Roger Kipp
John Rieck
Mark Zimmer
Richard Zimmer
Lyle Regennitter
Daniel Sevryn
Larry Miles
Darrel Simon
Wayne Oetken
Bruce Gordon
Victor Huber
George Leitheiser
Jim Cahoy
Rudolph Kahler
James Kaiser
Melvin Littau
Donald Sabol
Larry Wilcox
Alvin Winckler
Marvin Denke
Keith Harry
Lester Pearson
Larry Bultena
Clifford Wulf
Lyle Devitt
Dell Jacobs
Joseph Ramola
Douglas Carda
Larry Rust
James Taylor
Richard Hanson
Gary Oster
David Heier
Leonard Heier
Kenneth Hieb

#194 Parkston
#194 Parkston
#194 Parkston
#194 Parkston
#194 Parkston
#207 Stratford
#207 Stratford
#209 Raymond
#209 Raymond
#210 Mount Vernon
#213 Crestbard
#213 Crestbard
#229 Big Stone City
#229 Big Stone City
#233 Nisland
#237 Gayville
#237 Gayville
#240 Martin
#240 Martin
#240 Martin
#240 Martin
#241 Erwin
#241 Erwin
#242 Brentford
#242 Brentford
#246 Wall
#255 Bison
#255 Bison
#256 N. Underwood
#259 Roscoe
#261 Ethan
#264 Bowdle
#267 Frederick
#280 Iroquois
#283 Chancellor
#283 Chancellor
#298 Kidder
#299 Polo
#303 Hermosa
#307 Renner
#311 Piedmont
#318 Brandon
#500 South Dakota

Jim Bialas
Patrick Boehmer
Terry Grajkowski
Leo Thury
Wayne Tiede
Roy Weisz
Randall Bartz
Duane Jark
John Hermoe
Gary Kruthoff
Gerald Koch
Eugene Fix
Randal Horning
James Andrews
Mel Eidsmo
Jake Dell
Gary Freeburg
Neil Heier
Vernon Brown
Alfred Livermont
Alvin Rhodes
Micheal Wordeman
David Carlson
Wayne Siver
Joel Bindenagel
Randall Stoltenberg
Van Simpferfer
Roger Ingebretson
Jerry Landis
Ronald Racicky
James Goetz
Cyril Fix
Wayne Wasilk
Richard Huettl
Jerry Culver
Orville Deneui
Gayle Wilts
Darrell Chapin
Donald Ortmeier
Bryce Nelson
William Anderson
Paul Wilson
Marrel Bush
Danny Nelson

60 YEARS

#4 Mobridge
#15 Sioux Falls
#17 Codington Co.
#35 Highmore
#38 Miller
#43 Centerville
#50 Sisseton
#52 Armour
#74 Brookings
#78 Leola
#78 Leola
#78 Leola
#100 Selby
#102 Faulkton
#109 Gary
#128 Hudson
#135 Gettysburg
#142 Tripp
#146 Colome
#237 Gayville
#240 Martin
#274 Corsica
#278 Colman
#279 Thunder Hawk
#283 Chancellor
#299 Polo

Valentine Goldade
Donald Norby
Marvin West
Don Ray
Delbert Jury
Virgil Null
Gordon Peterson
Vermayne Bringelson
Harry Forsyth
Charles Hoffman
Curtis Job
Derald Mack
Richard Pudwill
Joseph Bowar
John Jensen
Merlyn Winterfield
Kermit Wagner
Clyde Kepplinger
Raymond Petersek
Mel Larson
Mark Walker
James Oakland
Donald Phillips
Don Pearson
Ray Bunjer
Steve VanZee

65 YEARS

#2 Tyndall
#6 Gregory
#8 Platte
#15 Sioux Falls
#17 Codington Co.
#23 Garretson
#27 Kadoka
#33 Sturgis
#46 Custer
#61 Canova
#63 Lake Preston
#63 Lake Preston
#74 Brookings
#80 Britton
#100 Selby
#102 Faulkton
#102 Faulkton
#103 Astoria
#110 Wessington
#111 Bridgewater
#114 Volga
#142 Tripp
#150 Avon
#174 Lennox
#198 Elkton
#246 Wall
#250 Castlewood

Wyane Schuurmans
James Harder
Harold Markey
George Zilko
Leo Bohlmann
Cecil Deneke
Wendell Hanson
George Harter
Darreyl Lovre
Burdette Drake
Robert Morrow
Delvin Steever
J. Dale Schroeder
Leon Josephsen
E Clair Lambert
Arnold Lorensberg
Norman Tchida
Ted Yochim
Duane Sanger
James Jarling
Charles Johnson
LeRoy Johnson
Gordon Schanzenbach
Harold Haber
Charles Chamberlain
Theodore Meier
Jesse Hanson
Wallace McGregor
Robert Halvorson

#136 Chester
#136 Chester
#137 Warner
#138 De Smet
#144 Belvidere
#145 Howard
#145 Howard
#146 Colome
#149 Northville
#150 Avon
#151 Mellette
#152 Menno
#155 Scotland
#169 Winner
#175 Baltic
#186 Eureka
#194 Parkston
#206 Colton
#206 Colton
#209 Raymond
#246 Wall
#253 Roslyn
#255 Bison
#264 Bowdle
#266 Tea
#279 Thunder Hawk
#299 Polo
#311 Piedmont
#311 Piedmont

Charles Alverson
Donald Brown
Warren Criddle
Dale Goreham
Ddonald Perault
Ralph Buthe
John Weidler
LeRoy Modine
Daryl Borchard
Jim Griffith
Joseph Weinreis
Willard Kirschenman
Robert Goeken
Leo Froning
Irvin Schreurs
Ivan Schlenker
Franklin Horstman
Marvin Gustafson
Garret Reurink
Ronald Hinman
Elry Hoefs
James Hendrickson
Donald Hanson
Dwayne Lee
Delmer Wetering
Edward Schmidt
Paul Schlechter
Dean Antonsen
Lawrence Hertel

70 YEARS

#6 Gregory
#7 Huron
#21 Hurley
#24 Aberdeen
#24 Aberdeen
#27 Kadoka
#35 Highmore
#53 Canton
#69 Doland
#80 Britton
#92 Redfield
#115 Platte
#118 Hartford
#118 Hartford
#134 Elk Point
#144 Belvidere
#189 Hosmer

Kenneth Kayl
Walter Gutzmer
Virgil Christensen
Lawrence Benson
Delber Lunzman
Richard Olney
R. Ray
C. Fostvedt
Norbert Miles
Leslie Eberlein
Duane Mason
Lauren Lucas
James Irvine
Donald Jacobs
Ray LaFleur
Joseph Leutenegger
Paul Malsom

75 YEARS

#7 Huron
#7 Huron
#8 Pierre
#15 Sioux Falls
#46 Custer
#50 Sisseton
#53 Canton
#89 Pesho
#102 Faulkton
#110 Wessington
#120 Isabel
#136 Chester
#143 Midland
#151 Mellette
#198 Elkton
#217 Hayti
#246 Wall
#250 Castlewood

Robert Entwisle
Eugene McMillan
Guy Harding
Orville Hill
Harold Stickney
Cornelius Wallace
John Frislie
Paul Olson
Robert Wherry
Marvin Matthews
Raymond Knodel
John Foster
George Stroppel
Frank Oberle
Ervin Scharke
Delbert Petersen
Woodrow Shelton
William Janssen

76 YEARS

#2 Tyndall
#6 Gregory
#8 Platte
#15 Sioux Falls
#17 Codington Co.
#23 Garretson
#27 Kadoka
#33 Sturgis
#46 Custer
#61 Canova
#63 Lake Preston
#63 Lake Preston
#74 Brookings
#80 Britton
#100 Selby
#102 Faulkton
#102 Faulkton
#103 Astoria
#110 Wessington
#111 Bridgewater
#114 Volga
#142 Tripp
#150 Avon
#174 Lennox
#198 Elkton
#246 Wall
#250 Castlewood

Darold Shaffhausen
Howard Hogrefe
Robert Huckins
Lloyd Leaders
Melvin Turbak
Dean Engebretson
Larry Parkinson
Keith McKay
Floyd Mills
Duane Miller
Harry Adams
Howard Melstad
Maurice Hale
Bryce Thoelke
Leo Allmendinger
Melvin Anderson
James Brewer
Elwood Bakke
Lester Clark
John Vondra
Howard Lee
Vernon Just
Reid Griffith
Verlyn Hofer
Harold Hegerfeld
Wayne Haerer
Cecil Wiarda

77 YEARS

#12 Yankton
#17 Codington Co.
#230 Rapid City FH

James Black
Richard Hurkes
Earl Dahme

Chaplain's Corner

Justin Warfel
Department Chaplain



Fellow Legionnaires,

What is the value of a person's word? Must a man do that to which he verbally commits himself? Simply asked, does the swearing of an oath carry the weight of moral obligation?

The biblical text is replete with examples of, and instruction in, the swearing of oaths and the giving of one's word. It is a matter God takes quite seriously. Both Old and New Testament alike place great emphasis upon the subject.

In Numbers 30:2 God's word states clearly, "If a man vows a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth." Clearly, God expects that once given, an oath is binding. In Deuteronomy 23:21-23 we see the following, "If you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the Lord your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin." Not only does God require that an oath made to him be fulfilled, He considers it sin if a man fails to do so. Finally, in James 5:12 we are told, "But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation." God will take a person at his word, and hold him to it.

We who have served, have given our word; we finished our oaths of enlistment or commissioning with the words "so help me God." We have stated by oath or affirmation that we will uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies both foreign and domestic. Are these mere words to be said when convenient and then ignored when their fulfillment presents us with a difficult challenge? Will God hold us to account for our failure to act in time of great need? I believe He will. His word tell us He will. And, unlike man, God does not lie.

Grace & Peace,
Chaplain Justin Warfel

Sturgis Slated for Gold Star Families Memorial



Louisville, KY-- A new Gold Star Families Memorial Monument honoring the families of servicemen and women who sacrificed their lives while serving in the military is currently being planned in Sturgis South Dakota, thanks to a partnership with the Woody Williams Foundation.

The proposed site location is on the corner of Main Street and Harley-Davidson Way. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the groundbreaking planned for Spring 2021, and dedication to be held during the 2021 Sturgis Rally.

Beka Zerbst is serving as the local committeewoman, while Jerry Cole and Post #33 member Aaron Jordan are the Honorary Board Members for the Gold Star Family Memorial Monument, Woody Williams Foundation.

The Gold Star Family Memorial Monument was created by Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams to remember those families who have made the ultimate sacrifice. To learn more about this mission, visit <https://woodywilliams.org/>.

To donate to the Sturgis Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, please contact the Foundation at monument@woodywilliams.org or donate directly here:

<https://hwwmohf.kindful.com/?campaign=1088660>

Any excess funds raised for this Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Project will be used to further the mission of the Woody Williams Foundation of honoring Gold Star Families and their fallen Heroes through the establishment of Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments in communities across the United States, offering scholarships to Gold Star Children as well as sponsoring and hosting outreach programs and events for Gold Star Families.



South Dakota Taps

As reported to Department Headquarters, November 24, 2020-January 21, 2021
"The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example."

Benjamin Disraeli

#2 Tyndall	Joseph Becvar	#22 Rapid City	Donald Andrews	#94 White River	Richard Hantsbarger
#3 Chamberlain	James Comfort	#22 Rapid City	Jose Arguello	#110 Wessington	Laszlo Babinsky
#3 Chamberlain	Howard Elrod	#22 Rapid City	Daniel Brandt	#110 Wessington	William Strom
#3 Chamberlain	Leroy Schaub	#22 Rapid City	Glenn Fauss	#114 Volga	Leland Schlimmer
#7 Huron	Robert Geranen	#22 Rapid City	Freddie Morrison	#116 Alpena	Harry Baltzer
#7 Huron	Mike Gogolin	#22 Rapid City	Frank Mosset	#116 Alpena	Ray Scherschligt
#7 Huron	William Hansen	#22 Rapid City	Phillip Noble	#121 McLaughlin	Tom Frankenhoff
#7 Huron	David Hofer	#22 Rapid City	Kenneth Northrup	#121 McLaughlin	Willie Holzer
#7 Huron	Abe Ritchhart	#22 Rapid City	Larry Wilsey	#121 McLaughlin	Edwin Maxon
#8 Pierre	George Hipple	#24 Aberdeen	Ed Ackerson	#121 McLaughlin	Edward Schock
#8 Pierre	Marshall Miller	#24 Aberdeen	August Braun	#121 McLaughlin	Melvin Wiest
#8 Pierre	Oliver Redden	#24 Aberdeen	Howard Dahme	#129 Waubay	Wilbert Robertson
#10 Lake Andes	Sylvester Patocka	#24 Aberdeen	Alva Ferguson	#132 Springfield	Melroy Hofer
#11 Wagner	Tom Hrdlicka	#24 Aberdeen	Earl Johnson	#133 Sinai	Curtis Halvorson
#11 Wagner	Joey Ober	#24 Aberdeen	David Lemer	#136 Chester	Walter George
#11 Wagner	Eddie Zylstra	#24 Aberdeen	Herbert Schroeder	#136 Chester	Paul Sehr
#12 Yankton	James Cowles	#24 Aberdeen	Kenneth Stuart	#139 McIntosh	Marvin Bertsch
#12 Yankton	Mark Miller	#25 Madison	Keith Bahr	#142 Tripp	Eugene Kocer
#12 Yankton	Richard Robinson	#25 Madison	Gary Wipf	#142 Tripp	Edgar Magera
#13 Wakonda	Loren Ouellette	#26 Stickney	Bernard Heruth	#143 Midland	Mahlon Alcock
#14 Wess. Springs	Wayne Salmen	#32 Belle Fourche	James Green	#145 Howard	Larry Riden
#14 Wess. Springs	Willard Willman	#33 Sturgis	Merle Windedahl	#148 Conde	Darrel Haskell
#14 Wess. Springs	Wilson Yost	#37 Bryant	Noel Anderson	#148 Conde	Ronald Troske
#15 Sioux Falls	Gerald Brazones	#37 Bryant	Michael Ogren	#152 Menno	Terry Auch
#15 Sioux Falls	Elton Budahl	#39 Groton	Gary Heitmann	#152 Menno	Donald Handel
#15 Sioux Falls	Adrian Ekdorn	#42 Arlington	Frank Reurink	#159 Hoven	Allen Kuhnhehn
#15 Sioux Falls	Bryan Engel	#43 Centerville	Richard Landsman	#160 Hill City	Jay Hendrickson
#15 Sioux Falls	Frank Hansen	#45 Harrisburg	Bruce Smith	#164 Spearfish	Duane Bury
#15 Sioux Falls	Glen Hundley	#46 Custer	Thomas Pranger	#164 Spearfish	Kenneth Higashi
#15 Sioux Falls	Donald Joyce	#50 Sisseton	Gerald Block	#164 Spearfish	Gordon Vercoe
#15 Sioux Falls	Duane Kuntz	#50 Sisseton	William Deutsch	#169 Winner	Ronald Teigh
#15 Sioux Falls	Charles Merrow	#50 Sisseton	Gerald Hatling	#170 Herreid	Edward Goehring
#15 Sioux Falls	Gary Ruhberg	#50 Sisseton	Alex Heminger	#170 Herreid	Harlow Rudolph
#15 Sioux Falls	Harry Sewell	#53 Canton	Benjamin Noid	#174 Lennox	Glenn Vanningen
#15 Sioux Falls	Leroy Vockrodt	#56 Geddes	Harold Jaeger	#175 Baltic	Ron Jenks
#17 Codington Co.	Charles Benson	#62 Humboldt	Severin Drobny	#193 Irene	Leland Eide
#17 Codington Co.	Richard Butala	#70 Flandreau	Kenneth Rahn	#200 Bruce	Roger Telkamp
#17 Codington Co.	Rodney Dilley	#71 Hot Springs	Daniel Bruner	#209 Raymond	Richard Lindow
#17 Codington Co.	Glenn Edland	#71 Hot Springs	Edward Hartle	#216 Ramona	Edward Strohm
#17 Codington Co.	Lester Kampen	#71 Hot Springs	Paul Johnson	#233 Nisland	Richard Gorder
#17 Codington Co.	Vernon Kearnes	#71 Hot Springs	David Luce	#248 Freeman	Marian Huber
#17 Codington Co.	Elmer Keller	#71 Hot Springs	Ola Rexroco	#250 Castlewood	Donald Walraven
#17 Codington Co.	Ken Kubat	#71 Hot Springs	W. Stoddard	#255 Bison	Leroy Spoering
#17 Codington Co.	Howard Ostlund	#71 Hot Springs	Jack Timm	#259 Roscoe	Eugene Conn
#17 Codington Co.	James Tuttle	#72 Beresford	Mathew Birgen	#264 Bowdle	Jimmy Glatt
#18 Mitchell	David Corcoran	#72 Beresford	Jerald Fray	#280 Iroquois	Hugh Evans
#18 Mitchell	Roger Garness	#74 Brookings	James Adams	#292 Tulare	Donald Bottum
#18 Mitchell	Vernon Hainy	#74 Brookings	Gerald Bergum	#303 Hermosa	Gerald Scherer
#18 Mitchell	Leroy Kayser	#74 Brookings	Dr. Philip Blackford	#303 Hermosa	Richard Simon
#18 Mitchell	William Mahrt	#74 Brookings	Michael Kuck	#308 Eagle Butte	Frederick LeBeau
#18 Mitchell	Robert Nagel	#74 Brookings	Richard Nielsen	#308 Eagle Butte	Thomas Thompson
#18 Mitchell	Alvin Nolz	#74 Brookings	Harold Widvey	#311 Piedmont	Carroll Lundin
#18 Mitchell	Norman Pearson	#76 Veblen	Rodney Hill	#318 Brandon	Charles Beecroft
#18 Mitchell	Bruce Pearson	#76 Veblen	Duane Breabt	#318 Brandon	Doyle Young
#18 Mitchell	John Roeder	#77 Blunt	Wayne Pool	#319 N. Sioux City	Don Martin
#18 Mitchell	Charles Rumbolz	#77 Blunt	Edward Ravnas	#319 N. Sioux City	Walter Price
#18 Mitchell	Delbert Weber	#77 Blunt	Arnold Webb	#323 Springfield	Curtis Schnellbach
#18 Mitchell	Nicholas Weber	#77 Blunt	Arlice Williams	#500 South Dakota	Harvey Bauer
#18 Mitchell	Harold Wolf	#85 Ful-Far-Epi	Hugo Iburg	#500 South Dakota	George Mammenga
#21 Hurley	Donald Freese	#88 White	Cedric Raine	#500 South Dakota	Ronald Poppens

Past Department Commander C. Darrel Haskell Reports to Post Everlasting

continued from Page 1...

family Ford and John Deere dealerships and trucking business. From 1965-1969 he phased out the businesses after the death of his father and devoted his time to farming, his family and his faith.

Darrel was active in his community, serving on the Conde School Board, the Conde Civic Development Association, the Farmers Elevator Board, Aberdeen Toastmaster Club, the Benton-Beotia Busy Beavers 4-H Club and bowling and card clubs. He was especially active in the United Methodist Church of Conde and later the United Methodist Church of Aberdeen, regularly attending Sunday School and services with his wife. He was a life member of the Redfield VFW and a past Chef de Gare of Voiture 146 40 et 8 of Aberdeen.

His passion of patriotism was being a life member of the Donald A. Lewis Post 148 American Legion in Conde, where he was twice commander, and the Editor and Publisher of the Post 148 News for twenty-five years. He served as State Historian from 1979-1981 and as President of the South Dakota American Legion Press Association for three terms. He served the NALPA as President in 1996-1997.

Darrel served the American Legion and became State commander in 1985-1986, and went on to be the National Vice Commander in 1995-1996. He represented the American Legion at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day 1996 and he and his wife were invited to the White House for a breakfast reception hosted by President Bill Clinton.

He enjoyed traveling with his wife throughout the United States, Europe and the far east. Many trips were taken with his wife, family and grandchildren. He was supportive of his five children in their various vocations and enjoyed the achievements of his grandchildren and great grandchildren. In recent years Darrel lived a full life spending time with his family; going to the family lake cabin, enjoying fish fry's, Friday happy hours, and Sunday dinners. He attended weekly Church, grandchildren's events, Thursday night lives and annual pheasant openers.

He will be remembered for his generosity, kind heart, and strong work ethic that will live on through all the lives he touched.

Celebrating his life are two sons Curtis (Cindy), Conde; David, Sioux Falls; his three daughters Sandra (Gene) Fernen, Aberdeen; Debra (Dale) Schoenefeld, Watertown; Linda (Rob) Sherman, Excelsior Springs, Missouri; 13 grandchildren; 24 great grandchildren; and one sister, Marilyn Rahn, Sioux Falls. Preceding him in death were his parents, wife, and two grandsons. Casket bearers will be his grandsons Brandon Schlosser, John Haskell, Ryan Schoenefeld, Brett Schoenefeld: grnddaughters Kimberly Schlosser, Krista Oleson: great-grandsons Dexter, Tristyn, and Hayden Lick. Honorary casket bearers will be all his other grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Memorials may be directed to Debra Schoenefeld, 1374 4th Street NW, Watertown, SD 57201.