

The South Dakota Legion News



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"Veterans Strengthening America"

March 2022



National Vice President Dee Dee Buckley speaks to Legionnaires during a session. From left, South Dakota Department Adjutant Kevin Hempel, Department Commander Gary Wolkow, Dee Dee Buckley, Department Auxiliary President Mary Jo Stier and SAL Detachment Commander Casey Hanson.

MidWinter Conference A Success



National Vice Commander, Angel Narvaez from Carolina, Puerto Rico, speaks during the Saturday morning business session.

The annual Department MidWinter Conference was held February 18-20 at Cedar Shores in Oacoma. In addition to the usual meetings, there was a well-attended joint banquet Friday evening. On Saturday, training was held on My Legion, Social Media, How to Avoid Scams and How to be a Successful Post. There was also a panel discussion on mentorship. The Go-Getters event was held Saturday evening with a great meal being served by Post 3 and Unit 3. We had the pleasure of having the Midwest Region National Vice Commander as well as the Auxiliary National Vice President attend most of the weekend events.



Above: Department Commander Gary Wilkow presents Charemon Dunham with a 3rd place National Historian's Contest award for narrative history.



Left: from left, SAL Detachment Commander Casey Hanson, Department Auxiliary President Mary Jo Stier, Department Commander Gary Wolkow, National Vice Commander Angel Narvaez and National Vice President Dee Dee Buckley.

Below: from left, Membership Chairman Travis Flisrand stands with Clayton Nei and Department Commander Gary Wolkow as Nei receives an award for Post 250 reaching membership goals this year.

Below: Legion members display the POW MIA flag during a MidWinter conference session.



Left: Legionnaires recite the Pledge of Allegiance during the joint banquet. About 150 members were registered for the conference this year.

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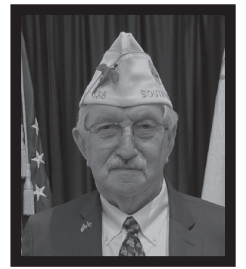
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Winter Update

Gary Wolkow
Department Commander



We are well on our way in 2022. January brought many “Zoom” meetings, Committee meetings and we were fortunate to attend several Post meetings all around the state.

Thank you to all the Posts that invited us into their meetings. It’s a great honor to do “buddy checks” with our fellow Legionnaires to let them know we are here to support them with all their challenges and goals to promote our Legion programs and help veterans and their families.

February brought the Midwinter Conference in Oacoma. We had a great attendance from all over the state. Thank you to the Training Committee for their break-out sessions. They were well attended, and a lot of valuable information was shared. We enjoyed showing some good old winter South Dakota hospitality to our National Vice Commander Angel Narvaez from Puerto Rico. It was a pleasure and an honor to have him visit. Also, we have to recognize and commend all of the oratorical contestants. Choosing the winners was a difficult choice. They were all very good and all winners in my eyes. We had a great and very successful Midwinter Conference. THANK YOU to all who attended.

We also held the Legislative Meeting and Reception in Pierre. It is a great opportunity for us to host this reception every year and visit with our Legislators about all the potential bills that affect our veterans. Thank you to Pierre Post 8 for hosting this event each year. They do a great job!

I cannot end without talking about membership a little. First of all, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to ALL of you for dedicating your time and effort working on membership. It is very important and is the lifeline of The American Legion. It is not always easy and sometimes we become a little frustrated but try to stay positive. Keep in mind it is just a goal, a challenge and we plan ways to achieve the goal. In the end it’s great if we achieve our goal, but if we don’t we know we gave our best effort and can feel satisfied with the results. It is not the end of the world. And we know the world is a little shaky these days, but we will keep working at our goals and we, all together will be successful.

Stay safe and healthy and don’t forget to do your “buddy checks.” There are veterans out there that need our support.

2022 Department Convention

Where: Ramkota Event Center in Watertown
When: June 16-19

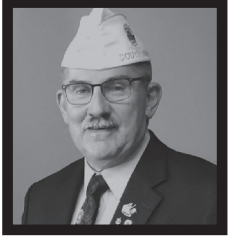
Room reservations can be made by calling 605-886-8011 or 605-886-6127. The Legion rate should be \$91.99 plus tax.

For questions, contact Roger Papka, the convention chairman, at 881-6142. The banquet will be held June 17th at the Ramkota. Tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased from American Legion Post #17, PO Box 292, Watertown SD, 57201. Make checks out to American Legion Post 17.

Also indicate your choice of Chicken Breast or Pot Roast with your order. Tickets must be ordered in advance and will be waiting at the door of the banquet. Deadline for ordering tickets is May

From the Adjutant

Kevin Hempel
Department
Adjutant



As I write this, we are getting ready for the start of Spring District Meetings. This means we have a little over three months left of the fiscal year. It is hard to believe this year has gone this quickly. We are already gearing up for the Department Convention and we should have some interesting contests for NEC, Alternate NEC and Department Vice Commander for Districts 1 and 2. I am sure the candidates will be out campaigning the next three months. These candidates will be representing you at the National level and the Department level so listen to what they have to say and make sure your Post is represented at the elections at the Department Convention June 16 – 19 in Watertown.

Another important part of the end of the year is the required reports. There are several reports I would like to discuss here. The first is the Officer Certification. This is due as soon as new officers are installed at the Post. It is extremely important this report gets turned in to headquarters. We do not send your membership cards to the Post until we receive it. Another report that is critical is the Consolidate Post Report or CPR. This report goes to National and highlights all the activities the Posts have been involved in. I admit the report looks a little overwhelming, but just take it a step at a time and you will be done in no time. Our goal is for every Post to submit this report. If you have any questions, please contact us and we will help you with it. And don't forget the Americanism report, that is due May 1st.

In addition to reports, May 1st is also the due date for a number of recognition awards such as Educator of the Year and Good Samaritan of the Year. More information on these can be found on the Department website or in the South Dakota Post Adjutant's Administrative and Awards Manual.

Lastly, I want to leave you with one thought. What has your Post done to support the community? I ask this question because it has been a proven fact that those Posts that are active in their communities get a lot of support back from those communities. It is a win-win for everyone.

For God & Country,
Kevin Hempel
Department Adjutant

Attention!

Due to financial restraints, we are only able to send printed copies of the March issue of the Legion News to the Posts and those that have paid to receive the paper. It is available online at our website, www.sdlegion.org. We will be sending the May issue of the Legion News to all Legionnaires.



Pictured left to right: South Dakota American Legion Department Commander Gary Wolkow; Fiala Herceg, Aberdeen; Emily Hofer, Hartford; Thomas Haar, Rapid City; Logan Decker, Gettysburg; Dorian Sikkink, Castlewood; Calister Grimsley, Spearfish; and Department Americanism Chairman Harry Boner.

RAPID CITY YOUTH WINS SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION'S HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

By Mary Jo Boner, Children and Youth Programs manager

Thomas Haar emerged victorious as the top orator in the final round of competition of The South Dakota American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, "A Constitutional Speech Contest" in Oacoma this past weekend. Thomas is the son of James and Brenda Haar of Rapid City.

First, contestants were required to deliver a prepared oration of 8-10 minutes on the U.S. Constitution. Second, a constitutional topic was assigned to the contestants and a 3-5-minute extemporaneous orations was required on that topic. They were allowed five minutes of preparation time.

Each of the 6 contestants in the finals had previously won competition at the local and district levels of competition. Those eligible to compete at the finals this past weekend and their placings were: Thomas Haar, Rapid City – 1st place trophy and \$1000; Fiala Herceg, Aberdeen – 2nd place trophy and \$500; Emily Hofer, Hartford – 3rd place trophy and \$300; and finalists: Dorian Sikkink, Castlewood; Calister Grimsley, Spearfish and Logan Decker, Gettysburg; each receiving \$100.

Thomas will also receive a plaque to be displayed in his high school's trophy case as the first-place winner of the state contest. He will have the opportunity to represent The South Dakota American Legion at the National Contest, to be held April 22-24 in Indianapolis, Indiana.



2022 South Dakota American Legion Oratorical Champion, Thomas Haar with Dept. Commander Gary Wolkow.

Thomas will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship for participating in the first round of competition at the national level and an additional \$2,000 if he advances to the second round of national competition but does not make it into the final round. Scholarship awards possible in the national level competition are \$25,000 for first place, \$22,500 for second place, and

\$20,000 for third place.

Since 1938, The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program has encouraged the nation's high school students to study the U.S. Constitution and to hone their public speaking skills. For their endeavors, they are rewarded with substantial scholarships if winning at the National level.



Black Hills War Monument set to be built in 2022

Submitted by Edward J Manzano Jr, member Post 22

When you think of South Dakota, you normally think of horses and ranchers, The Sioux Indians reservation and tribal lands, and the magnificent Mt Rushmore Memorial and Crazy Horse Mountain carving. For many of us who live here and love the four seasons and independent lifestyle, it is truly "the land of the free and home of the brave".

But the Black Hills of western South Dakota also has a rich military legacy. During WWII, Rapid City Air Base (Ellsworth AFB), trained B17 & B26 aircrews who helped defeat Japan and Germany. Clyde Ice Field in Spearfish SD trained thousands of pilots who flew combat war missions, many never to return. POW camps that held German soldiers were also built and used in the Black Hills. Finally, the 4th Cavalry at Ft Meade SD, was ordered to mobilize as M-5 light tank units and were on the beaches of Normandy. The Black Hills of South Dakota hosted Prisoner of War (POW) camps that held German soldiers: these soldiers worked local sugar beet fields in the absence of the male manual labor force. There were two airports dedicated to aircraft used in the war: Rapid City Air Base (later named Ellsworth AFB in 1953) trained B-17 Flying Fortress Crews, and Clyde Ice Field in Spearfish, trained 2000 pilots who flew overseas in the war. The National Guard base at Camp Rapid was leased to the US Government during World War II for use as a mobilization and training center for National Guard troops and other recruits. Many SD National Guard soldiers who were ordered to active duty and served in combat were from Camp Rapid in Rapid City, SD.

Over the past 7 decades Ellsworth AFB (formerly Rapid City Air Base) has operated and based B29, B36, B52, B-1B, and in 2024-25 the new B21 Bombers. In addition, the 44th Missile Wing had ICBM silo sites that were an integral part of the Strategic Air Command's nuclear triad that deterred war with the Soviet Union during the Cold War from 1946-1994.

In Nov 2021, the Black Hills War Monument Association (BHWMA) a 501C3 nonprofit association was formed. Several retired military veterans and civilian Gold Star family members decided to unite and dedicate their time and efforts to ensure the sacrifices of Black Hills military members over the past century are not forgotten. The BHWMA has obtained Rapid City Council approval and plans to erect the Black Hills War Monument (see attached photo), that will honor all BH veterans, but specifically name over 700 soldiers, sailors and airmen from the Black Hills who did not return home to their families and loved ones.

The Black Hills War Monument will be near downtown Rapid City, at the site of the current Veterans Memorial in Memorial Park. The site will be updated to honor veterans from WWI-2021; in addition, 6 service flags, the official POW-MIA flag and state of SD flag, will be displayed around the US flag. Behind these 9 flags, in a flower lined walkway, will be six walls of Black Hills granite with the engraved names of 700 KIA soldiers, sailors and airmen from WW I to 2021, those who never returned home. Among the names engraved will be USN S2C Vincent Fast Horse, a Lakota Sioux sailor from Pine Ridge reservation who was aboard the USS Indianapolis on

July 30, 1945. The ship was on a top secret mission, delivering critical atomic bomb parts to US bomber aircrews. This mission ensured the end of WWII with the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On 30 July the ship was attacked and sunk by enemy submarines, and of the 1195 men on board, only 316 survived. Seaman Second Class Vincent Fast Horse was among those listed MIA. His only surviving son James Fast Horse currently lives on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation and will be part of the monument dedication ceremony in 2022.

Another military hero whose name will be engraved is B-25 Mitchell combat pilot Capt Donald G Smith, 449th AAF Bomb Squadron, from Belle Fourche SD. He part of Doolittle's Raiders, when sixteen B25 bombers launched from the USS Hornet in April 1942 and bombed Tokyo, Japan. Capt Smith and his fellow airmen accomplished the first bombing of mainland Japan at a time when morale in the US was low after the attack on Pearl Harbor only 4 months before. They launched knowing they were on one-way missions due to running out of fuel once their mission was done, and all 16 bombers and their aircrews ditched in the South China Sea. Capt Smith survived this mission, but was killed a few months later in the war in Europe.

Korean War Medal of Honor winner Herb Littleton from the Black Hills town of Spearfish, SD will also be engraved on the War Monument granite walls. On 22 April 1951, in Chungchon, Korea, USMC PFC Littleton, Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, hurled himself on a grenade during a fierce battle and his bravery and heroism saved the lives of

his fellow Marines. under fire earned him the nations' highest military award.

Forty three soldiers from the Black Hills were KIA during the Vietnam War, and another seventeen during the Iraq/Afghanistan Wars. We will also honor Cold War casualties, among them BGen Richard Ellsworth, who was commander of the 28th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing at Rapid City Air Base in 1953. While returning from a 30 hr roundtrip recon mission in Europe, RB-36 bomber, Gen Ellsworth and the aircrew encountered bad weather and crashed into a mountain peak while crossing the coast of Newfoundland. Today, Ellsworth AFB is named after him, and is home of the premier long range bomber in the USAF, the B-1B.

The final granite wall will be dedicated to the 98 Black Hills POW/MIA military members. Among these will be Petty Officer 2nd Class David Alonzo Leedy, from Rapid City SD, who died aboard the USS Arizona on Dec 7, 1941, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Once the monument is completed, the BHWMA will maintain the flags and monument site, enlisting the volunteer services of local American Legion veterans, as well as the other veteran organizations and even Post 22s new Boy Scout troop. Our mission is to ensure the monument stands as a testimony and legacy to those who died in defense of freedom. Written across the bottom of the six walls will be the words:

NEVER FORGET FREEDOM IS NEVER FREE

District Commander Updates

1



Jon McDonald, Box Elder

Hello District 1 Members. I hope you all made it through the winter months without too many problems. In February we had our Mid-Winter Convention in Chamberlain, and it was great to see so many friendly faces. The Department Training Committee had some fantastic classes to choose from this year.

An important note on our District Membership. I know that all our District Posts are working hard on their membership drives. All we can ask is for each Post to do the best they can to meet their goals set by the Department. With the current state of the economy, I know it is hard for our membership right now, but Post Commanders please reach out to all your members and let them know you are thinking about them.

On April 3rd we will be having our Spring District Meeting in Sturgis at the Veteran's Club. We would like to have as many Post members attend as possible since we will have awards to hand out. We will also be electing our County Commanders and awarding the District Legionnaire of the Year.

On Friday April 29th, Box Elder Post 315 will be hosting a dinner for the National Commander Paul Dillard. The Post will be selling tickets, \$25 each, and we will only have *55 available for purchase. If you have any questions or would like to purchase tickets, please call the Post at 605-923-3168. I will also have some tickets available for purchase at the April 3rd District Meeting in Sturgis.

5



Matt Lagerstrom, White

"Success is how your children describe you to their friends," reads the sign at the local Sandwich Shop. Ponder the sage advice of these purveyors of delicious bread and meat... As you do so, consider that the people watching you are the ones who are judging your ability to do the task at hand – in the case of the sign, your kids are judging your ability to be a "good" parent. Admittedly, what makes a parent "good" or "bad" is highly subjective – doubly so when your offspring become teenagers – but your kid describing you as "pretty cool" compared to "that idiot" says a lot about your relationship with them. Not all of us have children for one reason or another, but we do have people that we interact with each day, and they are certainly evaluating your competency "for the job". Take a step back and think about what they are saying about you. One of my favorite proverbs from my time in the Army is "Do you really want what you are doing in the accident report?" As you consider the actions of yourselves and your friends, it is meeting the mission that you set out to accomplish? If not, what do you have to do so that what-you-are-doing meets up with what-you-want-to-do? It is an honest challenge to be that person which the people-you-are-sworn-to-protect need. I sincerely pray that the actions you are taking help "your kids" speak highly of you.

2



Christopher Rendon, Rapid City

Greetings District 2 Legionaries,

This has been a busy quarter for our district. The day of remembering our history, Post 46 of Custer, celebrated the American Legion's 106th birthday and their 103 years as a post. Exciting news, our district will be represented at the National Convention during the National Oratorical Contest. Congratulations to Thomas Haar of Rapid City who is state winner.

Here are some notes to pass along.

First, our spring convention will be April 2 at Rosebud Sioux Veterans Affairs building. We will begin with a social at 11:30am CST, and for a meal at noon. The meeting will start at 1:00 pm. (Note: Rosebud is in the Central Time Zone) At our meeting, we will be electing our District and County Commanders as well as passing the hat for the Veterans and Children's Foundation.

Second, the National Commander will be traveling in our district during the last week of April. He plans to stop by Post 22 in Rapid City and the next day see the Southern Black Hills before traveling onto district 1.

Third, please remember there are several awards with submission due dates prior to May 1. The Americanism report to the state is also due that day.

Finally, adjuncts when submitting your memberships by check, the membership will not be updated until the check has cleared the bank so there may be a delay with your report.

7



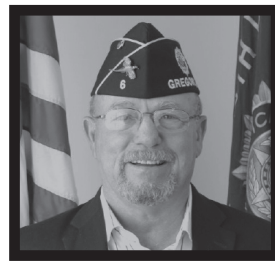
Patrick Mullen, Madison

Once again time for news and updates from the Commander District Seven. I am very proud of each and every Post in my District for your efforts in the latest Membership Campaign. You got the renewals and new member that were within your reach. I need to give a BIG SHOUT OUT to all Posts in District 7.

I was looking through the Post Adjutant's Manual just to update myself on all of the Happenings within the Legion. We are a service organization baring none. Just talk about a few Youth Trooper, Boys State, Legion Baseball American Legion Educator of the Year, Fire Fighter of the Year, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Children & Youth Awards and all of the individual awards that a post can give for achievement. This doesn't take into special projects that we have done such as Honor Flight which we really did an outstanding job.

Remember Legion Members we are a band of brothers and sisters that stand together through thick and thin. My Hat is off to all Legion Members.

3



Gene Opbroek, Gregory

Greetings to all,

It is the busy time of year, spring always is with the anticipation of good things to come for the rest of 2022.

It is busy in the Legion also with Boys State and Youth Trooper Academy applications and interviews, Legion baseball coaches are getting their teams ready for another season. These are just three great programs that the American Legion has to offer for the youth in our communities.

Three great ways to promote your Legion Post. Sometimes communities forget the role of the American Legion and all the things that a Legion Post contributes to a community. We must remember that along with contributing to the welfare of our youth and community it is also a great tool to promote the Post and membership.

Are you attending those baseball games? Going to Boys State or Youth Trooper Academy on "Blue Hat Day"? Are you showing support for YOUR Legion programs in YOUR community? If we show support in our community for these programs our membership would go up or at least our renewals would be easier to get. Next time you attend a Blue Hat Day at Boys State or Youth Trooper or go to a Legion Baseball game take along a prospective or new Legion member or your High School Guidance Counselor or Government Teacher. Let them experience how great our youth programs are in the com-

8



Jennifer VanRoekel, Marion

I recently had the pleasure of attending an All Women Hunt at Wings of Valor near Parker. I enjoyed meeting women from all over the state and join together to do something we've never done before. It was great to be able to speak to women who are experiencing some of the same issues I have been and to be able to share some ideas on how to deal with those issues. I appreciated the kindness and patience the staff at Wings of Valor showed us as well as their insight on what we could do and how to do it. There was no judgement, just sharing ideas. The volunteers were great, and I knew when I needed some help with my anxieties they were there to help. I share this with everyone so if you should feel the need to join other veterans to enjoy the comradery or even to get some help with issues you may be experiencing, I would highly recommend Wings of Valor. I would love to go back there for another hunt and am considering being a volunteer.

District 3 continued...

munity. Impress on them the role of the Legion is not only to help veterans but also to be a strong influence in the community.

I am a firm believer in the "Just Ask" scenario of recruiting new members, but would you give your money to join and organization without knowing what that organization stands for or what its primary goals are? I wouldn't and I don't think you would either. So, let's promote our programs, be informed about our organization and be able to speak that language when we are talking to a potential new member. We need to be proud of who we are and what we do in our communities. Sometimes a little "bragging" in the morning with the coffee crew doesn't hurt!!

Keep up the great work, God bless!!

4



Bob Thomason, Selby

Buddy Checks. Who needs them?

Let me relate a couple of my own experiences.

I was looking at my Post Roster, deciding which members to call and in what order. One name seemed to stick out more than any other.

I went back to my Legion Hall, looked at this man's picture on the wall and thought "this could be interesting."

Back home, I made the call many of us dread. We do not know what to expect if the member we are calling has not been to a meeting for a while. When the gentleman answered, I introduced myself and told him that I was calling to just check up on him and see if there was anything I or The American Legion could do for him.

I was told that the man was in fact in Stage 4 cancer and did not have long to live. Somehow, I was able to find it in myself to keep conversation going and after about 10 minutes bid him goodbye, again saying if there was anything I could do, please call.

A few days later, I saw his caretaker in town, and she thanked me for calling this man. She said it really cheered him up that someone would call just to check on him, and he could not quit smiling.

More recently, I, myself was the recipient of some Buddy Checks. My American Legion Family calling to make sure I was ok. What an emotional time that was. Thank you to my "Family members" that reached out to me.

Buddy Checks. Who needs them?? I say we ALL need them.

Building A Better Deck

Submitted by Courtney Van Zanten, Department Service Officer and Matt Lagerstrom, District 5 Commander

With many rural towns seeing dwindling Veteran numbers, American Legion Posts are looking for options to keep a presence in their local communities. The desire to serve is there, but manpower and able bodies may be lacking. There just aren't enough cards in one hand to play the game anymore. One option? Post consolidation.

When Toronto Post #81 realized that long-term its ability to help others was rapidly becoming more and more limited and began to research their options. 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. A final decision was made to consolidate with White Post #88, and on December 31, 2020, a ceremony was held to recognize the newly-formed alliance.

Since the merger took place, there have been numerous benefits. Toronto has not lost its Legion presence; in fact, the members who transferred have become more active through the many activities made possible by their addition to the Post rosters. A prime example of this was the Midwest Honor Flight fundraiser: the Toronto-based members worked with their local implement dealer to get a deal on a zero-turn mower, generator and power washer that were used in a raffle. The final total was in excess of \$11,000 raised, with \$6,210 going towards Midwest Honor Flight. Being such a small post and raising so much money right off the bat, there were many calls over the summer thanking the Post for laying down the gauntlet, and essentially embarrassing other posts into action.

White Post #88 relies heavily on the ideas and talents of their combined membership. With a focus on service to their

communities, they've honed in on Children & Youth activities. One member from Toronto, Wayne Kelm, shoots long-distance accuracy competitions, and a member from White, T.J. Carpenter, is an active member of the South Dakota National Guard Marksmanship team. They wanted to share their passion for the sport, and developed an afternoon activity for area youth where the kids were given basic gun safety, introduction to precision rifle, introduction to precision target shooting, and trap. The initial event attracted people from as far away as Milbank and Nebraska and is planned to repeat again this year on April 23rd. There have been Santa Days, LEGO building contests, and most recently a Puppy Poster contest. Post member Kale Skogen, currently deployed to Africa, raises purebred Golden Retrievers, and offered to donate one of the current batch to a South Dakota child whose parent is currently de-

ployed. The contests asks participants create a picture of what they miss most about their deployed parent. While the winner may get the puppy, all posters will be combined into a collage that will highlight the "cost of war" from the child's perspective.

The injection of energy that came from the consolidation of the Toronto and White Posts is palpable. The extra manpower has taken the existing purpose of the White Post and brought it to the next level. New ideas are coming forward, and there's now room and the members to entertain them. The heritage and history of Toronto lives on in the service of their members, and thanks to the consolidation, will keep a presence in their community for the foreseeable future. A stronger deck has been built, and now, the cards are falling in favor of Post #88.



Boys State Update

**C.P. "VAN" Van Delist
Director**

To every Legionnaire, thank you for your support in making Boys State 2021 a great success. We are currently sitting at 85 Boys registered for the 2022 Session. Last year we had over 270 Boys attend the event. Those numbers were down from years past and we are hoping with your support we can get

as many boys to this year's event as possible. Our goal this year is 285 Boys in attendance. Boys State 2022 is scheduled for May 30th to June 3rd, 2022 on the Campus of Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD.

American Legion Boys State of South Dakota has a two-fold purpose. First, to better help youth understand and appreciate

the American system of government and way of life including the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Secondly, to give a better knowledge of the fundamental principles of government within the State of South Dakota. These objectives are sought by establishment of a mythical 51st State of Union, comprised of cities and counties, giving Boys State's actual experience in control and operation of these units of government.

The American Legion wants the Boys of South Dakota to understand the problems

of government as well as how it functions. Tuition is again \$200 and transportation is the posts' responsibility to arrange. Thursday again is Legion Day and we welcome as many members to come visit the program to see one of our premier Americanism Programs. For more information, please feel free to contact me at an time.



Larry Price, SDALPSC

The SDAL Public Safety Committee met on January 11th at Chamberlain for the purpose of judging the "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" award and the "Firefighter of the Year of the Year" award and other business. This year we saw a slight improvement in the number of applications for both Awards. We encourage more posts to recognize these first responders in our communities who are certainly deserving of recognition. Instructions for nominating these local heroes can be found on the sdlegion.org website.

This year's winners are for "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" Garret Masten from Rapid City Post 22 and for "Firefighter of the Year" Cody Linneweber, Garretson. Congratulations to these outstanding first responders and to the posts who took the time to recognize them. All the applications were very good. It

makes it tough to judge. But fun!!

We discussed the South Dakota Youth Trooper Academy. By the time you read this we will have interviewed and selected 24 outstanding young people to attend the academy this June. Dates of the academy are 20-24 June. Thanks go out to all the Legion family members who help find and select the best of the best.

We also reviewed the M.O.U. (Memorandum of Understanding) we have with the South Dakota Highway Patrol. We reviewed the procedures we use to coordinate interviews and other operational duties assigned to the Legion. This year, for the first time, students were able to apply to the YTA "ON-LINE". Thanks to the SDHP Mentors for their making this happen.

We would like to invite any member of our American Legion family to attend the YTA on Thursday 23 June on "Blue Hat Day".

We will be at the firing range two miles North of Pierre on 1804 and ¼ mile east on range road. There you will witness several demonstrations and the recruits will be firing weapons. That evening you are invited to stay for a cookout sponsored by the SDAL. We had a very good turnout last year but would certainly welcome more. If you wish, you are also invited to stay for Friday's graduation ceremony. It is a very inspiring occasion.

We decided to rename our YTA scholarship from "SDAL Outstanding Leadership Award" to "SDAL Outstanding Graduate". The scholarship is for \$500.00 which matches the scholarship awarded by the SDHP.

We received a letter from Col. Rick Miller, Superintendent of the South Dakota Highway Patrol. He had this to say "Our partnership with the American Legion has created a phenomenal program

for youth in our state that are interested in a future in Law Enforcement. This last Youth Trooper Academy was filled with so many energetic, determined and team-oriented kids.

I truly appreciate Legion members who are willing to take the time out of your already busy schedules to mentor the young recruits and share your vast knowledge and experience with them.

On behalf of the South Dakota Highway Patrol, I want to thank you and the rest of the American Legion of South Dakota for their continuing support in Law Enforcement. We look forward to many more years of working together."

This will be out 10th YTA. Lt. Maunu, the Training and Standards Officer, says this program works, we have several graduates from the YTA who we and other agencies have employed.

This Feb. the South Dakota Law Enforcement Training Aca-

Public Safety Chairman Report



SEAS wins Employer of Veterans Award

By Greg Dias, Employment Committee Chairman

The American Legion Department of South Dakota Employment Committee would like to congratulate this year's recipient of the Employer of Veterans Award, the Spearfish Emergency Ambulance Service (SEAS). Founded in 1975, the SEAS has been serving Spearfish and the Northern Lawrence County area for almost half a century, providing critical life-saving services to well over 100,000 people. The number of lives they have saved during the last 47 years would be impossible to quantify. They operate 24/7/365, covering a 600 square mile area, and respond to an average of over 2,500 calls a year. In addition, over 20% of their workforce are veterans, a large number of them members of the American Legion. The Director of the

SEAS, Brian Hambeck, is a past commander of Post #164, and is currently the Director of the American Legion Riders Chapter #164. With over 4 decades of emergency medical services experience, Brian has done an outstanding job during his tenure of 28 years as Director, forming the unit into an effective quick-response team, and has provided crucial leadership to his paramedics and EMTs. His efforts have paved the way for the organization's success for decades to come. In addition to providing essential life-saving services, the SEAS members are actively involved in many different volunteer activities in support of the community such as organizing blood drives, participating in emergency preparedness fairs, raising funds for Special

Olympics, providing care packages for deployed military servicemembers, and much more. The citizens of Spearfish are extremely fortunate to have such an exceptional organization in their community, and receipt of the department Employer of Veterans Award is eminently deserved. The Committee would also like to thank past Department Commander, Fred Nelson, for his outstanding nomination package, which resulted in a unanimous selection by the Committee. The winning nomination package has been forwarded to the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission for consideration.

Brookings County Hosts Family Support Night

By Matt Lagerstrom, District 5 Commander

Having a meeting on Valentine's Day is a potential problem, but for the six American Legion Posts of Brookings County, it was an opportunity to highlight an often ignored aspect of Military Service – the challenges of a family left at home while the Service-member is doing their job "over there". Aurora's Wendy Henley, who is the Auxiliary District President, discovered through her husband Tom that their Post was going to be hosting the monthly gathering of County Legionnaires in February and sought to make the evening a special occasion. She coordinated with Department Auxiliary President Mary Jo Stier and her husband Steve to come speak about the challenges that they faced during the time that Steve was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During the evening, Mary Jo spoke about some of the challenges that she faced, with the comment that made the biggest impression on the crowded room "Not once in the year that Steve was deployed did someone ask 'how are you?' Everyone asks about the service member, but nobody seemed to care about me or our kids". Being deployed puts a great deal of responsibility on the spouse left behind which Mary Jo was fortunately able to handle, but the support for her was very lacking with Steve noting "the military has all sorts of support for the service member, but very little was of-

ferred to the spouse or children ... [and he] felt very let down by the support that was offered while he was gone". A particular burden on the family was that communication was very difficult from half-a-world away and Mary Jo was reluctant to tell Steve about the challenges that they were having at home – she "didn't want to burden him with the things that she was going through". At the same time, Steve knew that she was not telling him everything which made his time deployed that much more difficult – it was only by forming a network of friends within the unit that he was able to keep going. The particular challenge was upon return home, their nine-year-old son had become the "man of the house" and had taken over many of the chores that dad had done, and to hear from the kids or from his beloved wife "I don't need you to do that – I do it now" caused a feeling of alienation that made him "feel like a guest in his own house." To the family's credit, they were able to work through the hurdles of "coming home" and they found the network that they needed to support them in that challenging time, though taking the first step to get that help was a challenge, and we in the Legion Family are grateful that they did because their experience helped provide us with a family that provides great leadership to the Legion in South Dakota in helping our service members and their families in



coping with the reality of military life.

After Mary Jo and Steve were done, Bill Flippo from the South Dakota Army National Guard Family Readiness Program provided some comments on the current state of family support to the military. Bill has a great deal of experience with what Mary Jo and Steve's family went through – himself a Combat Veteran with several deployments all over the planet to his credit. As he was being introduced, Bill noted, that "he couldn't help but chuckle as they spoke as his family had been through most of what they went through" adding "whenever I get my wife upset, she reminds him that she taught all three of their boys how to potty-train standing up" while he was "over there". Bill noted that the military now has a dedicated staff of professionals stationed in our local communities to help service-members and their families with

the challenges of military life, and that they are busy as there are two Army Guard units (the 1742nd Transportation and 235th Military Police Companies) currently deployed from South Dakota and a third one unit is getting ready to deploy later this summer. The deployed Soldiers and their families need help, and Bill's job is to get "the right person or organization to help them". Bill's closing comment was a powerful statement which captured the theme of the evening: "Most of us [Legionnaires] would give the shirt off our back to a friend in need, but none of us would ever ask for a new one." It was that very thought that the presentation that evening sought to bring to light, and motivate those in attendance to address as they went back to their home Posts to help the Veterans and their families living in the communities around them.

Department Calendar

March 2022

- 12: District 6 Spring Meeting, Ethan with 1:00 social and 2:00 meeting
- 13: District 3 Spring Meeting, Gregory with 11:00 social, 12:00 meal and 12:30 meeting
- 19: District 7 Spring Meeting, Valley Springs with 11:00 social, 12:00 meal and 1:00 meeting
- 20: District 8 Spring Meeting, Location & Time TBD
- 21: Youth Trooper registration closed
- 26: District 4 Spring Meeting held in Stratford with 1:00 social, 2:00 meal and 3:00 meeting
- 27: District 5 Spring Meeting, Big Stone with 1:00 meeting and post events following

April 2022

- 2: District 2 Spring Meeting, Rosebud, 11:30 social, 12:00 meal and 1:00 meeting
- 3: District 1 Spring Meeting, Sturgis, 10:30 social, 11:00 meal and 12:00 meeting
- 15: Good Friday, HQ Closed
- 26-29: National Commander visit to South Dakota

May 2022

- 1: Boys State registration closes
- 1: Americanism Reports due
- 1: Good Samaritan, Educator of the Year and VA&R Award input due to HQ
- 2-5: National Spring Meetings
- 6: All resolutions for Department Convention due to HQ
- 30: Memorial Day, HQ closed
- 30-Jun 3: Boys State

June 2022

- 1: Consolidated Post Reports due to HQ
- 1: SDALPA Award inputs due to HQ
- 1: Applications for National American Legion College due to HQ
- 16-19: Department Convention—Watertown
- 17: Post History Award inputs due to at Convention or earlier at HQ
- 20-24: Youth Trooper Academy

June 2022

- Aug 26 – Sep 1: National Convention, Milwaukee WI

Veteran graves to get headstones



By Ron Burtz, Custer County Chronicle

After having been buried for over 130 Black Hills winters in Custer's city cemetery, Civil War veteran Joel Nelson Lillie is finally getting a headstone to mark his grave this spring. The grave stones for Lillie and nearly a dozen other U.S. military veterans buried in Custer are to be installed largely thanks to the efforts of American Legion member Glen Talley and Custer County Veterans Service Officer Todd Fish. The stones for three of the veteran graves, including Lillie's, have already been delivered and will be set when the weather warms up this spring.

Talley, who took over as Legion Post 46's graves registration officer several years ago, said the effort really began about a decade ago. Charged with the responsibility of putting flags on all veteran graves on Memorial Day, Talley found that a number of those graves were not marked and many didn't have flag holders.

"It got to the point where we didn't know where the veterans' graves were," said Talley, so he

launched a project to identify those graves. One high school girl even made the effort her senior project. The result of that study was to learn that as many as 13 graves, believed to be of veterans, had no stones at all. So, about five years ago Talley began working on getting official veteran headstones for those graves from the Veterans Administration.

Of the 13 stoneless graves, two were believed to be of Civil War vets, one from the Spanish American War, two from WWI, five from WWII and two from Vietnam. Two others were uncertain as to the time of service.

As someone who loves doing genealogical research and with a background in criminal investigation, Talley is the perfect man for the job of digging up information on cold cases. He said during his investigations he made several trips to the state archives in Pierre and joined a website called Fold3, which specializes in veteran records dating all the way back to the Revolutionary War. When he came to the end of his resources he turned to Fish who was able to pursue channels Talley didn't have access to.

"Todd has been the one who really pushed it over the edge," said Talley, noting that Fish is able to make the official application to the VA's Memorial Services at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia which cuts the stones.

Fish said when Talley turned the information over to him he first had to do a state-level search of records followed a federal search with the National Personal Records Center. He said the government didn't start keeping good records at the federal level until WWI and he notes getting the information can take a long time.

The pair's work has uncovered some fascinating facts about veterans buried—and not buried—in the Custer Cemetery on the hill north of town. They discovered, for instance, that of the nearly 400 veterans buried

there, 41 fought in the Civil War (with several fighting on the side of the Confederacy), 11 were in the Spanish American War, 84 served during WWI, 153 served in WWII, 45 fought in the Korean War, 28 served in Vietnam and four were Gulf War veterans. Another 15 are identified as veterans but not with any particular conflict and two veterans were involved in WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

Among the those who lie in previously unmarked graves on the hill, one was a transient whose body was found near Sylvan Lake after suffering a heart attack in 1967 and another was found to have served with both the Canadian and U.S. militaries in WWI. Talley said he is unable to get a stone from the VA he might be able to get one from an organization in Canada which provides markers for Canadian vets.

Still another veteran, Edward J. Beaton, who has a grave plot in the Custer Cemetery is not even buried there. Talley said the man's remains are actually buried at the Golden Gate National Cemetery near San Francisco.

His name has been scratched from the list of 13 as was the name of another man who was identified as a veteran in cemetery records but never served a day.

Lillie, who was a Union soldier in the Civil War, died on Nov. 24, 1889 when he fell from a load of hay near Four Mile breaking both arms and "sustaining serious internal injuries." A note in an old issue of the Custer County Chronicle said Lillie had come to the area a short time before from Caliope (sic), Iowa and left behind a wife and son. (Calliope appears to have been the original county seat of Sioux County, Iowa, located southeast of Sioux Falls.)

Of the 11 remaining graves on the list of those needing stones, Talley said details of the men's lives and service largely remain a mystery. He asked us to publish their names and dates of death (DOD) in hopes someone might have more information about them.

The five men are O.D. Moore, DOD 3/9/1905; Joseph Earl Moore, DOD 5/8/1931; John "Jack" Nellie, DOD 6/29/1967; Lawrence Brown, DOD 3/25/1915 and Daniel J. Brown, DOD 6/11/1928. Anyone who has information about these men is asked to email Talley at talley@gwtc.net.

The stones for Lillie and WWII veterans Theodore Gossen and Charles Z. Carpenter have been delivered and are being stored by Chamberlain-McColley Funeral Home as they await installation this spring. Fish and Talley said the funeral home has been extremely helpful in the project. They said the Custer County Commission has also very "very supportive" and in addition to paying for the setting of the three stones has offered to pay for other stones if they can't be obtained from other agencies.

Talley says he believes there may be more veterans buried in Custer than is known right now, but because families handled the burial arrangements the graves are not marked as such.

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From the Vice Commanders



Vice Commander, Dist 1-2
Eugene Iron Shell

Greetings to The American Legion Family.

It is 60 degrees here in Rosebud today and I am glad to leave winter behind.

My favorite Legionnaire passed away on February 5th. My Dad was 92 years old but he is now with the Lord. Dad was a proud Veteran of the U.S. Army and a Korean War paratrooper. He joined The American Legion in 1978 and was an officer in the Chauncey Eagle Horn Post for the majority of that time. I say thank you to all of the Legionnaires from across South Dakota that attended his funeral service or sent flowers and cards. It meant the world to our family.

Commanders Jon McDonald and Chris Rendon have been busy assisting their respective post commanders in District 1 and 2. Sometimes it has been slow but I admire their resilience and dedication to their duties. I have the best district commanders. It is an honor to serve alongside them.

Get your applications in for Legion College. If you need help don't hesitate to reach out. It's almost time for state convention. I look forward to seeing all of you again soon.

Stay in the fight, always.
Eugene Iron Shell, Jr.



Vice Commander, Dist 3-8
Doug Feltman

Greetings to One an All:

As I write this I see that in eight days Daylight Savings Time begins. Spring will not be far behind. With the "spring ahead" slogan for our clock setting, as Legionnaires let us do the same. A new season will be starting, the days will become warmer and longer, flowers will be blooming and the grass will green up. All of us have been through the dull dreary winter and the very stressful covid pandemic. It is time for some rejuvenating just as the seasons will bring.

We started off on the right foot with our successful Mid-winter Conference held at Arrow Wood. We were honored to have Angel Narvaez, National Vice Commander attend our Mid-Winter conference. Another successful oratory contest with outstanding students. The attendance was good for all of the Legion Family, the banquet food was good and the Go Getters supper was great. And let's not forget the hospitality rooms, by all indications they were a very big hit. There was some variety this year such as Lefsa, brats, hot cocoa with all the fixings, bars, many flavored pretzels as well as the "normal" hospitality rooms, so everyone had a choice and seemed to have a good time. And let's not forget the weather; you could not have asked for a better travel weekend in South Dakota in February. All in all everyone appeared to have a very good time. I know Post # 3 had was very glad to assist in the preparations for the conference and we are looking forward to seeing you again for Mid-Winter in 2025.

In closing do not forget National Commander Paul Dillard will be visiting South Dakota 25/29 April and traveling across the state. Lets show him what a great State South Dakota is and the hospitality of its Legionnaires.



From the NEC

Jim Huls
National Executive Committeeman

Since we just completed the Annual Washington Conference, it is appropriate to present The American Legion legislative agenda for the 117th congress, 2nd session to our members. The American Legion is

the voice of nearly 2 million U.S. military veterans and service members. A resolution-based organization, The American's positions represent the views of its members. This article will list each item by

heading, further explanation is available on The American Legion web site. 1. VA Health-care Modernization 2. Suicide Prevention & Peer Support 3. Address Toxic Exposure & Burn Pits 4. Improve Health Care for Women Veterans 5. Concurrent Receipt 6. Guard & Reserve G I Bill Parity 7. G I Bill for Honorable Service 8. Citizenship for Honorable Service 9. Address the Foreign Wars & Restore Congressional War Powers 10. Pay the Coast Guard 11. Protect the American Flag

National Commander Paul Dillard will be traveling across South Dakota visiting

Posts and Veteran service facilities the last week in April. Plan to visit one of his stops in South Dakota to see him. He is looking to visit veterans while here.

As I write this today, I have just received the VA Recommendations to the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission report. This document makes many changes to the VA Health Care System across South Dakota. The South Dakota American Legion's response will consume much time and energy in the near future.



From the Chair Training Committee

Krisma DeWitt
Finance Officer

The Department of South Dakota Training Committee was formed to address the training needs of all Legionnaires within the Department. The Committee has been operating for the past 3 years offering training at the MidWinter Conference and posting materials on the Department website to be used by all members. Some of the training that has been conducted over the past 3 years include topics such as using social media, making your Post more successful, MyLegion.org, mentoring, scams, conducting meetings, and other topics that have been relevant to the membership as a whole. Our next training event is being considered for around the Department Convention in June. The topic will be Train the Trainer/Facilitator.

This coming year, the Training Committee is in the process of establishing a Department Legion College. This process will

include developing a resolution for the establishment of such a college, planning the curriculum, identifying instructors and trainers, determining who attend, when it will be conducted, and numerous other details. We are anticipating running a train college sometime in 2023.

As members of the Legion, you know best what kind of training would be beneficial for you as a member, officer of the Post or District. Please feel free to contact any of the members of the committee or the Department Adjutant with ideas, needs, or desire to help. We could especially use suggestions for trainers for our events. Members of the Training Committee include PDC Fred Nelson and Jack French of Spearfish, Kevin Morrello of Piedmont, and Bill Peters of Sioux Falls.



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or contact your local American Legion Post.



Above: On Feb. 22, a group of Legionnaires and Auxiliary members met with the Girls and Boys State Governors and their parents for dinner at the capitol in Pierre. Auburn Brenner (front row, 3rd from left) is the 2022 Girls State Governor from Sioux Falls. Joseph Gebel (front, 4th from left) is the 2022 Boys State Governor from Mitchell.

American Legion Around the State



On Feb. 6, Post 15 in Sioux Falls held a memorial service for the Four Chaplains during World War II who died rescuing civilians and military personnel as the American troop ship SS Dorchester sank on Feb. 3, 1943.



Left: Dan Wyatt was made District 7 Legionnaire of the Year on March 19. Wyatt shakes hands with Department Commander Gary Wolkow.

Below: The Sons of the American Legion - Detachment of South Dakota was well represented in Washington DC during the Feb 27 wreath laying ceremonies at the WW2 Memorial, Tomb of the Unknow Soldier, and at the Vietnam Wall Memorial. Detachment Commander Casey Hanson, National SAL Commander Michael Fox and Alt NEC Kerry Jorgenson stand with the South Dakota wreath.



Post #25 Madison SD had their 3rd annual Fishing Derby on Feb. 26 at Lake Madison. Everyone that attended received door prizes and children 16 and under received a rod and reel. This year seemed to be Walley's the winner of both the most fish and largest fish had this type of fish. We as a legion have a tremendous amount of fun with this fundraiser and furthermore, we make the area aware we are here to stay.



Americanism

Harry Boner
Americanism Chairman

Greetings fellow Legionnaires. The American Legion year may be winding down to its conclusion in the next few months, however there are many Americanism activities, events and programs left to complete.

- Congratulations to Thomas Haar, from Rapid City, for being chosen as this year's Oratory Contest winner. He will represent South Dakota and Post 22 well at the National Oratorical contest in Indianapolis this coming April.

- The deadline for this year's Eagle Scout of the year has already passed and a winner has been chosen. Riley Murphy of Rapid City was selected as the South Dakota Eagle Scout of the year. Congratulations Riley.

- The deadline for American Legion Educational Scholarships has passed. The winners of these scholarships, along with other American Legion based scholarships, will be announced in the coming months.

- Youth Trooper application were due March 21st. Candidates selected to attend will need their \$200 tuition cost paid for by the candidate's home Post. Transportation cost to and from Pierre are to be covered by the candidate's home Post. Youth Trooper will take place June 20th through June 24th. Blue Cap visitation day is Thursday, June 23rd in Pierre. All Legionnaires are encouraged to come out to Pierre and meet the candidates at the SD Highway Patrol Shooting range to watch demonstrations from the K9 unit, urgent response teams and live fire activities with both students and instructors. The day ends with a cookout at the range later in the evening.

- Boys State application deadline is May 1st. This program is open to Junior boys (and Seniors again this year) who are interested in learning more about how government works and the dynamics of learning about Democracy. There are scholarship opportunities that the students can earn during this one-week camp, May 30th through June 3rd. The \$200 tuition cost for each boy to attend is to be paid by the boy's home Post. Transportation cost to and from Aberdeen is to be covered by the candidate's home Post. Blue Cap visitation day is Thursday, June 2nd in Aberdeen. All Legionnaire's are encouraged to come out to Northern State University in Aberdeen to watch the boys interact with each other, debating and backing each of their party's form

of government.

- Shooting sports activities have already started for the year. Many Posts that participate in shooting sports activities work together with their local 4H clubs: as many 4H programs are already equipped with the hardware needed to support these programs. Students that participate 4H shooting events can also participate in American Legion shooting programs. Just last year, Jenna Kruger from Pierre Junior Shooters, sponsored by Post 8, won the South Dakota Sporter Championship and Jasmine Hayes from Dakota Sharpshooters, sponsored by Post 15, won the South Dakota Precision Championship. Legion Posts with 4-H shooting sport programs in their areas, are encouraged to help how you can to support the students, their clubs and Post. Note, if you are interested in becoming a Shooting Sports instructor to assist with 4H shooting program, a background check is necessary.

- Baseball season is about to start. Team enrollment is currently open. Many teams are excited to get the season started. Teams are encouraged to utilize the Game Changer program to enter your teams' games scores and live stats in real time. Some Posts are thinking about forming new teams. If your team does not have enough players, try forming a County Team. Please be sure to consult the official rule book before forming a team and seeking out new players. Tournament dates have already been set for this year and tournament locations have already been awarded for next year. Keep an eye out for upcoming Up to Now's to find out about tournament dates and locations or check our website: <https://www.sdlegion.org/>.

As you can see, South Dakota American Legion Posts have been busy and have many options to help support the youth in our communities. Let's not forget about our other community service based Americanism programs and events, such as Flag Education, Get out the Vote, Operation Comfort Warriors and Family Support Network. We also have Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Education Week, First Responder Appreciation, Educator/Employer/Good Sarmatian Appreciation, and let's not forget about our service members.

If your Post is short active



South Dakota Taps

As reported to Department Headquarters, December 16, 2021-March 10, 2022
"The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example."

Benjamin Disraeli

#6 Gregory	Lowell Remter	#24 Aberdeen	Ronald Cornell	#92 Redfield	Joseph Gruenwald
#7 Huron	Dennis Rasmussen	#24 Aberdeen	John Young	#92 Redfield	Ken Forgey
#8 Pierre	Floyd Richards	#24 Aberdeen	Gilbert Garrett	#93 Letcher	Clay Gregg
#8 Pierre	O Solberg	#24 Aberdeen	Edward Brown	#114 Volga	Richard Hammond
#9 Milbank	Delancy Cantine	#24 Aberdeen	Larry Erdmann	#114 Volga	Harold Christianson
#9 Milbank	Alphonse Holtzmann	#24 Aberdeen	Dean Gilborne	#115 Platte	William Brumbaugh
#9 Milbank	Charles Layher	#24 Aberdeen	Dennis Rudolf	#118 Hartford	Gordon Rang
#9 Milbank	Donald Mead	#24 Aberdeen	Earl Anderson	#122 Trent	Jesse Godsk
#11 Wagner	Robert Dvorak	#25 Madison	Merle Struwe	#138 De Smet	Dale Goreham
#11 Wagner	Ernest Kocer	#25 Madison	Davis Busk	#148 Conde	Reese Mathieu
#11 Wagner	Merle Bartunek	#25 Madison	Roger Dover	#152 Menno	Willard Kirschenman
#12 Yankton	Almon Adam	#25 Madison	Neal McIntyre	#162 Canistota	Dale Korkow
#14 Wess. Springs	Myron Kleppin	#25 Madison	Leonard Jerke	#162 Canistota	Ralph Vanwyhe
#15 Sioux Falls	Steven Batzel	#26 Stickney	Roger Crago	#162 Canistota	Francis Miller
#15 Sioux Falls	Frank Adams	#29 Woonsocket	John Huber	#169 Winner	Mike Cahoy
#15 Sioux Falls	Robert Brekke	#33 Sturgis	James Merchen	#169 Winner	Dennis Schroeder
#15 Sioux Falls	Keith Myrmoe	#33 Sturgis	Donald Workentine	#170 Herreid	Leroy Sattler
#15 Sioux Falls	James Webb	#33 Sturgis	Ronald Schaefer	#33 Philip	Valerie Oldenberg
#15 Sioux Falls	Dennis Dingman	#36 Bonesteel	Donald Bentz	#175 Baltic	Ordell Krogstad
#15 Sioux Falls	Robert Doese	#36 Bonesteel	Edward Remter	#175 Baltic	Robert Tidemann
#15 Sioux Falls	Leo Felcher	#42 Arlington	Frederick Anderson	#179 Kennebec	Paul Cooney
#15 Vermillion	Kenneth Thompson	#42 Arlington	Alvin Henry	#186 Eureka	Harold Scherff
#15 Sioux Falls	Steve Sampson	#42 Arlington	Leelan Larsen	#189 Hosmer	Alroy Aman
#15 Sioux Falls	Williard Lawrence	#42 Arlington	Donald Swanson	#194 Parkston	Elroy Lippert
#15 Sioux Falls	Donald Swearingen	#42 Arlington	Douglas Torbet	#200 Bruce	Floyd Kasdorf
#15 Sioux Falls	Gary Pierson	#42 Arlington	Jerry Spilde	#210 Mt. Vernon	Charles Jones
#15 Sioux Falls	Robert Boyd	#42 Arlington	Kenneth Cromwell	#210 Mt. Vernon	Kenneth Walz
#15 Sioux Falls	Donald Rames	#46 Custer	Ronald Treloar	#229 Big Stone City	Ronald Beling
#15 Sioux Falls	Harold Scharf	#50 Sisseton	Myron Koepp	#229 Big Stone City	Bernard Boos
#15 Sioux Falls	William Bernard	#50 Sisseton	Douglas Carl	#229 Big Stone City	Marlo Hansen
#17 Watertown	Richard Bury	#50 Sisseton	Robery Tarvin	#229 Big Stone City	Donald Rickard
#17 Watertown	Arnold Hardie	#60 Clark	Melvin Ommen	#235 Marion	Robert Globke
#17 Brookings	Robert Mahanke	#60 Clark	Herb Kranz	#250 Castlewood	Duwayne Mack
#18 Mitchell	Richard Amdahl	#62 Humboldt	Albert Erickson	#253 Roslyn	James Hendrickson
#18 Mitchell	Fred Kobold	#62 Humboldt	James Jarding	#258 Andover	Ivan Morehouse
#18 Mitchell	Jimmy Traupel	#63 Lake Preston	Wesley Jones	#259 Roscoe	Leo Himmerich
#18 Mitchell	Clarence Buck	#66 Lemmon	Dennis Crevier	#259 Roscoe	Elroy Goetz
#18 Mitchell	Loren Kasten	#66 Lemmon	Ruth Adams	#260 Badger	Alvin Carlson
#21 Hurley	Alan Loe	#66 Lemmon	Richard Krausz	#261 Ethan	Howard Caylor
#22 Rapid City	Theodore Gengler	#67 Ipswich	Robert Geditz	#261 Ethan	Norman Maeschen
#22 Rapid City	James Anderson	#71 Hot Springs	Charles Wood	#279 Thunder Hawk	Dick Dugan
#22 Rapid City	Dan Duncan	#71 Hot Springs	Lawrence Tesch	#279 Thunder Hawk	Lavern Moser
#22 Rapid City	Marland Richard	#74 Brookings	Robert Hoines	#280 Iroquois	Karl Matter
#22 Rapid City	Frank Gartner	#75 Murdo	Melvin Roghair	#283 Chancellor	Dennis Wieker
#22 Rapid City	Gary Shepherd	#79 Onida	Mike Mikkelsen	#319 N. Sioux City	Craig Nolen
#22 Rapid City	Jim Kolkman	#79 Onida	Lawrence Severson	#500 South Dakota	Richard Hendricks
#22 Rapid City	William Olsen	#79 Onida	Gregory Vogel	#500 South Dakota	John Travis
#23 Garretson	Edwin Lutz	#79 Onida	W Donahue	#500 South Dakota	Charles Schock
#23 Garretson	Randall Aanenson	#91 Dallas	Tom Graesser	#500 South Dakota	William Tatum
#23 Garretson	Charles Causey	#92 Redfield	Ronald Pollock		

Your SD American Legion Foundation

By: Jim Kurtz, Bd. Chrm. of SD American Legion Foundation

"The South Dakota American Legion Foundation is working diligently to strengthen and grow well established American Legion programs centered around Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Americanism and National Security." This is the Mission Statement of your South Dakota American Legion Foundation that was established in 2010 as a 501(C)(3) tax-exempt organization. The Legion's leadership at the time recognized the importance that the income from this Foundation would play in helping to fund the programs of the SD American Legion in the future. Their forethought has certainly proven accurate and valuable. The role of the Foundation is already important to the programs, but will continue to be more and more important.

Over the years, funds have come to the Foundation from many sources, including memorials and donations large and small from individuals and Posts, businesses and corporations. The Fun Auctions that you have participated in at the Department Convention have been great contributors. Gifts of property have been sold and helped considerably. Gifts of life insurance that will pay out at death are possibilities. Charitable gifts at the time of death through wills or bequests while living

are definite possibilities. We sincerely thank all of the individuals, Posts, business and corporations who have made donations and memorials in the past.

The funds are professionally managed by the South Dakota Community Foundation. Distributions from earnings are paid back to the South Dakota American Legion to support its programs. Our emphasis is on helping children and veterans. At this time, Net Assets total just under \$300,000, with approximately \$20,000 available for distribution. Chairpersons of Legion Committees have been notified of the process to request Grants for projects within their committee that will help children and veterans.

Your contributions to the Foundation are important, and can be sent to the Department Headquarters at PO Box 67, Watertown, SD 57201. If we can be assistance in guiding you through the process involving wills, insurance policies or any of the more complicated gifts, please contact any of the Board members, and we will work to get the help needed. A list of Board members is posted on the Department website.

You can absolutely play a role in the future of your SD American Legion programs. Thank you!

members to help with these programs and events, make sure you take advantage of other members in our American Legion family to assist you. Our Auxiliary Units, Sons Squadrons and Legion Riders are all ready, willing, and able to help where need-

ed. Other Posts within your County could be asked as well to assist with these programs and events.

I applaud our active Posts that support these programs and I challenge each Post to participate in at least one new Americanism activity in the

coming year that you do not support currently. In this time of great unrest and uncertainty, it would be good to remind ourselves and our community who we are, what we have done and what we can do together as one American Legion Family.