

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

the

Montana

VETERAN



Antelope

Volume 27  
No. 1

vfwmt.org  
April/May/June/July 2024

### Montana VFW members travel to Tarawa to bring back a fallen brother from the Battle of Tarawa November 20-23,1943.

The journey started in early 2019 when there was a meeting with the Defense Department of Accounting and the National VFW Leadership. When the Montana VFW talked to the History Flight, the organization that has their mission to recover the remains The Montana VFW asked if possibility Montana VFW members could go and help recover remains of marines from the battle of Tarawa. The answer was YES! The trip would be sponsored by donations and out of pockets by those would go.

Then the dreaded COVID hit shutting the entire world down causing

a nearly two and a half-year delay as well Government delays with Visa's and work permits, causing even further delays. Finally, flights were booked and lodging reservation were made then on October 9, 2023 one of the members, National Junior Vice C-I-C Select Tim Peters, suffered a near fatal heart attack that rendered him unable to go. On November 18, 2023 Fred Hamilton, Mike Pryor and Tim Sowa left on their journey of a lifetime to bring back a fallen brother. The dates the group would be there would fall on the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Tarawa.

**Marine being taken to the airport and transported on the plane to be identified so he can be taken to his family and his final resting place after 80 years.**



The island of Tarawa



BATTLE OF TARAWA, CONT.ON PG. 3

### Deadlines

All articles and pictures have to be into Department Headquarters on or before the following dates for the next three issues of *The Montana Veteran*.

June 15, 2024 ..... Aug-Sept-Oct-Nov  
October 15, 2024 ..... Dec-Jan-Feb-Mar  
February 15, 2024 ..... Apr-May-June-July

### Coming Events 2024

DISTRICT 3		APR 6		BILLILNGS, MT		08:00-10:00
DISTRICT 2		APR 13		FT. BENTON, MT		08:00-10:00
DISTRICT 4		APR 20		BELGRADE, MT		09:00-11:00
DISTRICT 5		APR 20		CIRCLE, MT		10:00-12:00
DISTRICT 6		APR 21		BOADUS, MT		10:00-12:00
DISTRICT 1		APR 27		WHITEFISH, MT		08:00-10:00
STATE CONVENTION   JUNE 12-15, 2024   GREAT FALLS, MT						

# COMMANDER'S REPORT



**JIM LAYTON**

Comrades,

We are over halfway through our VFW year. I want to express my thanks to all of you for your continued dedication and hard work. Currently, we have achieved our goal of being a 102% Department in membership. I want to thank those whose hard work has helped us to meet the challenge. As of this date we have reached 102.79% for membership. I would also like to give a special thanks to our Department Membership Chair Jack Hawley who helped keep us all on track and



hungry for success throughout this membership year. I ask now that you continue to engage your members, let them know they are part of a team and involve them. By doing so, we only get stronger.

I would also like to thank those Posts who participated in our Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year competitions. It is tremendously important that we take the time to foster patriotism within our community and recognize those who work so diligently to educate our youth. I had the opportunity to escort and speak with our Voice of Democracy winner Isabel Seeley during the Parade of Winners in Washington D.C. It is students like her that give me hope our Nation is not yet lost. She exemplifies the values and dedication we need to cultivate in our up-and-coming generations.

Mid-Winter was well attended. To those that were able to attend, thank you for your participation and helping me welcome our National Representative National Chief of Staff Cary Prichett. He was very impressed with your spirit of comradery and teamwork. I also want to thank VFW Post 1087 for hosting our Mid-Winter meeting. As always you did a superb job.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone for their well wishes, prayers, and generosity towards my family in the last few months. As some may know, our son was born 10 weeks early and has been in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Billings ever since. Also, my wife has had some recent health struggles of her own following the pregnancy. I am thankful to report that both are finally back home and getting stronger and better each day. I assure you the collective thoughts, prayers, and generosity of this extended family have made a world of difference to us.

I look forward to seeing you all throughout April for the Spring District Meetings. Department of Montana has a legacy of success, and we shine greater when we work together. I know we can succeed once again and "Meet the Challenge."

**"Make Service Your Legacy"**

# SR. VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



**LONNIE JOHNSON**

Greetings comrades,

Welcome to another great year! I attended a board meeting of the MTVAD via zoom a few weeks ago. During that meeting information was brought up about a survey for long term care needs of veterans. This survey is being conducted by the Montana Department of Health and Human Services and can be found online at: [https://dphhs.mt.gov/SLTC/2024\\_mt-veterans-ltc-needs-survey\\_ada2.pdf](https://dphhs.mt.gov/SLTC/2024_mt-veterans-ltc-needs-survey_ada2.pdf). I strongly encourage everyone to take the time and fill out this form. Especially if you are on the eastern side of the state. It was great to see everyone at mid-winter and I look

forward to spring meetings. I will be attending Senior Vice Commander training in Kansas City, so there may be a meeting or two that I won't be able to attend. It looks like we are on track for membership, but that doesn't mean that we coast going forward. Let's continue to support Commander Layton in the latter part of his year and also continue to support our veterans. Thank you!



◆ **THANK YOU VETERANS FOR ALL YOU DO** ◆

# DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS 2023-2024 STATE OFFICERS

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<b>4 Tom Johnson, Cmdr</b> Jeff Schepp, Adj/QM Dave Johnson, Patriot's Pen Jeff Schepp, VOD Brian Rumsey, Teacher Frank Belgarde, SO	PO Box 1421 East Helena 59635 PO Box 1202 East Helena 59635 5558 Canyon Ct Helena 59602 PO Box 1202 East Helena 59635 PO Box 509 Pony 59747 400 E 6th Ave Helena 59601	439-2564 465-9500 202-2386 465-9500 685-3488 465-0254
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<b>Trustees:</b>	Ed Viig, Art Widhalm and Sheila Schwegel
<b>By-Laws Committee:</b>	Art Widhalm, Jack Hawley, Tim Peters and Jeff Schepp

## JR. VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



HEATHER ALLEN

Hello Comrades!

Congratulations to all posts who have reached the commander's goal of 102% or higher, great work! For those posts who aren't there yet, keep going, let's get the department to 102%. Each of you is the key to the success of your post, your district, this department, and the organization. If you need help, our district commanders and officers in the department are willing to assist you, just reach out!

I have been asking all posts to come up with a "wish list" for what they need and want and have yet to receive one. Please fill out the online form at <https://rb.gy/rps4a> or email me at

heatheryallen@yahoo.com. Remember that the list can have anything you want for your post, dream big! I will form a fundraising plan and get to work on your goals over the coming months.

It was wonderful to see such a good crowd at the Mid-Winter conference in January. I'm looking forward to seeing many more of you at your upcoming Spring District Meeting. It's always great to meet members I haven't met before and see those of you I have. I hope you are having a great year so far, if not, remember that you are not alone. Please reach out to me or someone you trust if you need anything.

## CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



MIKE PRYOR

Good day fellow veterans!

This has been a very good year for Montana, and, as the year nears the end it is only getting better. I feel we are going to surpass our goal of 102.0 per cent membership and that will be a fantastic achievement. I've had the opportunity to attend a few national conventions and it is a great feeling to be NUMBER ONE in membership and lead the parade of states.

More importantly, I've met many wonderful people at these conventions and had the opportunity to speak with many Chaplains from various states. The Chaplains work group gave us an opportunity to talk about the good and bad problems we

face. Most agreed we have much work to do to care for our members. During the past two years I have stressed the importance of contacting our members and their families. Everyone needs to know our organization cares about them. A card, phone call or both goes a very long way to someone who is grieving, a visit is even more effective. Post and District Chaplains must reach out to their members and inform the State Chaplain so they may follow up. It goes a long way folks.

As most know, this is my last year as your State Chaplain. Going into this I planned to be the Chaplain for two but no more than three years. It is important for others to have an opportunity to serve in any position. In other words, no position is a lifetime position. I now will be able to travel more and spend time doing things important to me. There is a very qualified person who is a candidate and feel he will be great as your Chaplain.

The past two years have been an absolute pleasure serving as your Chaplain. I hope to meet, greet and thank all of you for trusting me to do what God sent me to do.

## Veterans and Military Support (VMS)

VMS Reporting made easy.

Who, what, when, where, why, how many people, how many hours and how much did you spend/donate.

EXAMPLES:

Joe VFW member buys Ralph, a homeless Vet a meal at Burger King. Report one Member, one Vet, provided meal to a homeless Vet, 30 minutes, \$15.

Non member Veteran needs help with medical bills. Post elects to donate toward his cause. Report Post donated \$400 to assist Veteran with medical bills.

Post member cuts, splits and delivers a cord of wood to an elderly Veteran. Report one member provided a cord of firewood to a needy Veteran. One member, six hours, 22 miles, \$50 for fuels.

Post partners with a local Guard unit for a Yellow Ribbon Event. Report date(s), number of Post members, number of Guard personnel, hours and cost. Include new members of you recruited any during the event.

Post member assists Veteran College Student with applying for Help a Hero Scholarship. Report it!

All of the above cover the Three Pillars of VMS: Unmet Needs, Military Assistance Program and Help a Hero.

Thank you for your support and cooperation. PLEASE keep me informed about your activities because No One Does More for Veterans than us, The VFW!!

Respectfully, your Department VMS Chair Marty Havrilla (mahv4047qm@gmail.com (406)788-9828).

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**



L -R: VFW Post 10010 Member Tim Sowa, VFW Post 276 Post Members Fred Hamilton and Mike Pryor getting ready to board plane to Tarawa.



Fred Hamilton, Mike Pryor and Tim Sowa preparing to bring the missing Marine to the ceremony.



The Monument at the ceremonial site for the recovered Marine.

Fred Hamilton was given the great honor to lay the wreath at the monument at the ceremony.



The President of Kiribati gives his speech. There were many other speeches that we gave that morning by the US Ambassador, Japanese Ambassador and other local dignitaries.

Fred Hamilton and Mike Pryor attending the ceremony holding the wreath that was given to the Montana VFW delegation by Embassy personal.



The island of Tarawa



# What is a Legacy Life Member?

A Legacy Life member is another level of the VFW life membership program. It is intended to give our life members a way to leave a lasting legacy to the VFW. Future generations will know you not only for the sacrifices you made as a veteran but for the contributions you made as a member. **That's a legacy to be proud of.** When you become a Legacy Life Member, you are helping us strengthen the VFW where "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS". There are 3 prestigious levels of Legacy Life Membership available, (Gold, Silver, or Bronze). Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life Members. Once your Legacy Life Membership begins, an annual endowment in your name will be made to your Post, Department, and the organization. You will feel confident knowing your contributions to our organization are helping not only today's veterans but the veterans of tomorrow. Future generations will know and remember you for the sacrifices you've made during your time in uniform in addition to the contributions you've made as a VFW Legacy Life Member. You will always be a member of your Post even after you're gone. Now Legacy Life memberships can be purchased for deceased life members, this is a great way to honor our past life members and keep them on the rolls of your post. If you are a life member and are interested in this program simply contact your Department Headquarters at (406)324-3992 for an application.

## LEGACY LIFE MEMBER EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS

MEMBER INCENTIVES	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
	\$400	\$800	\$1200
Plated Engraved Life Member Card	●	●	●
Lapel Pin	●	●	●
Hat Pin	●	●	●
Distinctive Emblem & Supply Line for Legacy Life Members	●	●	●
Framed Certificate for Legacy Life Membership	●	●	●
Recognition on Internet & Convention Program	●	●	●
Recognition at Kiosks at Memorial Building in Washington, D.C. and Museum at National Headquarters	●	●	●
Special Plaque	●	●	●
Hat Patch	●	●	●
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza	●	●	●
Emblem & Supply Discounts (For Personal Use Only)	5%	10%	15%
Increased Level of No-Cost AD&D Insurance	\$2000	\$3500	\$5000
Annual Endowment: Post	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment: Dept.	\$6	\$12	\$18



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.**  
**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**  
**Become a Veterans' Advocate**

Join the VFW Action Corps here:  
[www.vfw.org/weekly](http://www.vfw.org/weekly)  
 and receive the Washington Weekly e-newsletter  
 and All VFW Action Alerts.

# LEGACY LIFE HONOR ROLL

William J. Reneau	Gold Post 209	Francis E. Croucher	Gold Post 6786
Ralph A. Ammondson*	Gold Post 276	Ken R. Utter	Gold Post 6786
Terrald L. Baker	Gold Post 276	Melody J. Weldon	Gold Post 6786
Ross A. Beagle	Gold Post 276	Richard N. Weldon	Gold Post 6786
Dennis G. Dreyer	Gold Post 276	Gary O. Borland	Gold Post 7311
Fred Hamilton	Gold Post 276	Charles M. Handley*	Gold Post 7311
Kenneth A. Herman	Gold Post 276	Barton W. Lawson	Gold Post 7311
Dean House	Gold Post 276	Edward A. Viig	Gold Post 7311
Robert L. Meagher*	Gold Post 276	Joseph F. Welter	Gold Post 7311
Thomas M. Nugent	Gold Post 276	Corry Mordeaux	Gold Post 7407
John G. Pearce	Gold Post 276	Charles R. Noland	Gold Post 7407
Michael A. Pryor	Gold Post 276	Leslie L. Poland	Gold Post 7885
Michael G. Rogers	Gold Post 276	James W. Ryan*	Gold Post 7886
Robert Sammon	Gold Post 276	Jason W. Aaron	Gold Post 8292
Shelia L. Schlegel	Gold Post 276	Thomas H. Armstrong	Gold Post 8292
Joe D. Thomas	Gold Post 276	Carl M. Carver	Gold Post 8292
John H. Wise	Gold Post 276	Leonard W. Eik	Gold Post 8292
Dustin A. Wegner	Gold Post 276	Carl J. Graham	Gold Post 8292
Lawrence Cunningham*	Gold Post 1087	Ace M. Hanson	Gold Post 8292
Bradley A. Darnon	Gold Post 1087	Terry W. Lambert	Gold Post 8292
William A. Darby	Gold Post 1087	William I. Mackley*	Gold Post 8292
Joe R. Fletcher	Gold Post 1087	Jesse B. Paxton	Gold Post 8292
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Fred D. Nester*	Gold Post 1087	Doug M. Brown*	Gold Post 10010
William T. Rose*	Gold Post 1087	William R. Bovee*	Gold Post 10010
Gerald E. Van Every*	Gold Post 1087	Michael C. Buckley	Gold Post 10010
Harold E. Wheeler Jr.	Gold Post 1087	Mark E. Colton	Gold Post 10010
William H. Inabnett	Gold Post 1125	Joseph N. Guest	Gold Post 10010
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Matt Egloff	Gold Post 1448	LeRoy S. Johnson*	Gold Post 10010
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Michael L. Lawson	Gold Post 1448	Lyle F. Pedersen*	Gold Post 10010
Richard M. McLeod	Gold Post 1448	Timothy C. Peters	Gold Post 10010
Ronald R. Peterson*	Gold Post 1448	Thomas A. Pouliot	Gold Post 10010
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Robert P. Seely	Gold Post 2154	Robert T. Schweigel*	Gold Post 12177
James C. Aho*	Gold Post 2252	Richard L. Osborn	Gold Post 12181
Kelly W. Kvigne*	Gold Post 2252	Ruthie M. Buttrick-Best	Gold Post 15027
Jeremy L. Mays	Gold Post 2252	Austin W. Bromley	Gold Post 15027
Leo D. Barrett*	Gold Post 3107	Charles L. Padgett	Gold Post 15027
Jeremy A. Bartel	Gold Post 3107	Tim Sheehy	Gold Post 15027
Dale J. Bender	Gold Post 3107	David G. Waters	Gold Post 15027
Reid B. Coldwell	Gold Post 3107	Glen J. Morrell	Silver Post 276
Norman K. Dahl*	Gold Post 3107	Charles F. Davis	Silver Post 1087
Albert Franzen*	Gold Post 3107	Laureen A. Hawley*	Silver Post 1087
John Kolstad*	Gold Post 3107	Samuel D. Rankin	Silver Post 1634
George Kolstad*	Gold Post 3107	Roy P. Christenson*	Silver Post 3107
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Michael J. Lenoir	Gold Post 3107	Kenneth K. Kautz	Silver Post 3107
Russell O. Lenoir	Gold Post 3107	Richard J. Partridge	Silver Post 3107
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Thomas R. Marron	Gold Post 3107	Felice H. Wilson	Silver Post 3107
Gerald L. Murch	Gold Post 3107	William J. Henderson	Silver Post 4099
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Ian Kaufmann	Gold Post 3177	Samuel L. House	Bronze Post 276
Kenneth C. Williams*	Gold Post 3177	William J. Metteer	Bronze Post 276
Douglas K. Browning*	Gold Post 3596	Dan B. Reese	Bronze Post 276
James T. Carey	Gold Post 3596	Dale L. Herd	Bronze Post 497
Joseph E. Eisenbrandt Sr.*	Gold Post 3596	Homer R. Christensen	Bronze Post 1087
Gary A. Jensen*	Gold Post 3596	Larry G. Dobb	Bronze Post 1087
Charles Oelschlag	Gold Post 3596	Harold D. Floyd*	Bronze Post 1087
Otto J. Otnes	Gold Post 3596	Richard J. Freeman	Bronze Post 1087
David A. Tupper*	Gold Post 3596	Jose J. Garrigo	Bronze Post 1087
Lonnie J. Johnson	Gold Post 4018	Paul T. Quinn*	Bronze Post 1087
James L. Layton	Gold Post 4067	John M. Ward	Bronze Post 1125
Dennis F. Albrecht*	Gold Post 4099	Harold P. Godtland*	Bronze Post 1448
Charles G. Albrecht*	Gold Post 4099	Mark P. Gollinger	Bronze Post 1448
Dennis D. Burns	Gold Post 4669	Daniel P. Kohr	Bronze Post 1448
Russ A. Jacques	Gold Post 4669	Earl M. Larvie*	Bronze Post 1448
James G. Porter	Gold Post 4669	James H. Long	Bronze Post 1448
Frank Tuss	Gold Post 4669	Edward J. Powers	Bronze Post 1448
Shannon R. Wilson	Gold Post 4669	John F. Sadoski	Bronze Post 1448
James H. Yeagley III	Gold Post 4669	Michael C. Samples	Bronze Post 1448
Robert W. Moran*	Gold Post 4725	Richard M. Skates	Bronze Post 1448
Gary L. Race*	Gold Post 4725	John S. Thompson*	Bronze Post 1448
Irwin D. Bangen	Gold Post 5159	Kirk B. Waren	Bronze Post 1448
Orville M. Bjorge*	Gold Post 5159	John W. Whelan*	Bronze Post 1448
John C. Bras	Gold Post 5159	Troy A. McDowall	Bronze Post 1579
Steven L. Buck*	Gold Post 5159	James A. Ussin*	Bronze Post 1634
Hugh R. Butler*	Gold Post 5159	Jennifer A. Oates	Bronze Post 1703
Russell J. Carey*	Gold Post 5159	Joshua S. Rouns	Bronze Post 1703
Donald A. Carr	Gold Post 5159	Kenneth C. Handl	Bronze Post 2154
Roy M. DeLong*	Gold Post 5159	John F. Yeager	Bronze Post 2154
Donald M. Decker*	Gold Post 5159	Michael J. Bennett, Jr.	Bronze Post 2252
Larry J. Douglass*	Gold Post 5159	Carey F. Dill	Bronze Post 2252
Lyle T. Fisher	Gold Post 5159	Robert Franczek*	Bronze Post 2252
Rachel R. Fisher	Gold Post 5159	Jerry P. Stewart	Bronze Post 2252
Randall E. Giese	Gold Post 5159	James L. Amundson*	Bronze Post 3107
Derwin F. Halvorson Jr.	Gold Post 5159	Lance A. Bender	Bronze Post 3107
Henry F. Hanson	Gold Post 5159	Charles Bradford Jr.	Bronze Post 3107
Lloyd G. Heinselman	Gold Post 5159	Michael K. Corey	Bronze Post 3107
Victor Holmberg	Gold Post 5159	Earl Fuhrman*	Bronze Post 3107
Robert L. Jackson II	Gold Post 5159	Floyd R. Hopstad	Bronze Post 3107
Howell K. Joiner	Gold Post 5159	Byron M. Lindsay*	Bronze Post 3107
Thomas W. Magera	Gold Post 5159	Gerald F. Myers*	Bronze Post 3107
Zachary Malinak	Gold Post 5159	Marvin J. Olson*	Bronze Post 3107
Alan J. McCoy	Gold Post 5159	Kenneth E. Page*	Bronze Post 3107
Daniel M. Oberlander	Gold Post 5159	Steve Page	Bronze Post 3107
Stephen M. Sedladko	Gold Post 5159	Leon H. Pearce	Bronze Post 3107
Victor J. Stobie	Gold Post 5159	Harold A. Potter*	Bronze Post 3107
Jerry A. Sutton	Gold Post 5159	Marvin L. Potter*	Bronze Post 3107
Charles B. Theademan	Gold Post 5159	James Scot Renville	Bronze Post 3107
Joel W. Thomas	Gold Post 5159	LeRoy R. Stein*	Bronze Post 3107
Clifford S. Tolman	Gold Post 5159	Manley L. Tiffany*	Bronze Post 3107
James L. Wellington	Gold Post 5159	Zachary R. Yohn	Bronze Post 3107
Clayton H. White	Gold Post 5159	Adam R. Zamborowski	Bronze Post 3107
Ted H. Wilburn	Gold Post 5159	Edwin M. Zamborowski	Bronze Post 3107
D. B. Zimmer	Gold Post 5159	Ron M. Chisenhall	Bronze Post 3596
Juan E. Santos Jr.	Gold Post 5514	Raymond L. Middleton	Bronze Post 3596
John C. Fay	Gold Post 5652	Danny S. Albrecht	Bronze Post 4099
Ronald J. Merwin*	Gold Post 5652	Everett E. Crum Jr.	Bronze Post 4099
David M. Oberwegner	Gold Post 5652	Troy H. Garza	Bronze Post 4099
Melvin L. Quakenbush	Gold Post 5652	Joe M. Halversen*	Bronze Post 4099
Charles M. Carroll*	Gold Post 6774	Louie A. Kuylen*	Bronze Post 4099
John T. Freethy*	Gold Post 6774	Harold E. Lorenz*	Bronze Post 4099
Paul R. Harper	Gold Post 6774	Eugene N. Ronningen	Bronze Post 4099
Thomas F. Kelly	Gold Post 6774	Stanley K. Rosaaen	Bronze Post 4099
John C. Lattimer*	Gold Post 6774	Lawrence R. Troutt	Bronze Post 4099
Russell H. Mobraaten*	Gold Post 6774	Vernon E. Wilson*	Bronze Post 4099
David C. Redmon	Gold Post 6774	Paul L. Holmgren*	Bronze Post 4762
Robert J. Sutton	Gold Post 6774	Alfred J. Adolph*	Bronze Post 4925
Howard J. Aemisegger	Gold Post 6786	Daniel C. Barta	Bronze Post 4925
Ken J. Bartells	Gold Post 6786	Jack L. Burger*	Bronze Post 4925
Jerret Bratton	Gold Post 6786	Loren R. Erbe*	Bronze Post 4925

**Legacy Life Honor Roll continued**

John G. Liggett\*  
Paul R. Megeed\*  
Douglas H. Parrott  
Henry A. Plott\*  
Wayne H. Moser\*  
Paul G. Metzger\*  
George O. Stonehocker\*  
Gordon L. Ewell  
Will D. Juhl  
Clifford E. Schleusner\*  
Terry Beezley  
Stanley A. Burns  
James H. Follensbee\*  
Leo A. Howe\*  
Cory J. Hildebrand  
J. P. Hume\*  
Patrick L. McKeever  
John C. Mueller\*  
Thomas H. Price  
Francis L. Utter\*  
Dale F. Wassmann  
Robert M. Stout  
Paul E. Coble\*  
Mark R. Drake

Bronze Post 4925  
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Bronze Post 4925  
Bronze Post 4925  
Bronze Post 5514  
Bronze Post 5652  
Bronze Post 5652  
Bronze Post 6774  
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Bronze Post 6786  
Bronze Post 6786  
Bronze Post 7311  
Bronze Post 7407  
Bronze Post 8292  
Bronze Post 8292

Zane G. Murfitt  
James G. Prusa  
Zachariah C. Bain  
Frank L. Belgarde III  
John R. Buckley\*  
James H. Clark  
Robert J. Clemo  
Timothy R. Graff  
Melvin V. Johnson\*  
Steven Z. Larson  
Eugene E. Olson\*  
Dale A. Person\*  
Robert J. Russ\*  
Kale J. Schmidt  
Timothy J. Sowa  
George C. Stump Jr.\*  
Joseph E. Wagner  
Steven E. Walraven  
Art J. Alvarado  
Vern L. McCants  
Clayton H. Dethlefsen  
Roy E. Jordan\*

\* Deceased

Bronze Post 8292  
Bronze Post 8292  
Bronze Post 10010  
Bronze Post 10010  
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Bronze Post 12181  
Bronze Post 12181  
Bronze Post 15027  
Bronze Post 15027

**MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE**

**SLEEPING GIANT MOC  
DART LEAGUE MEALS**

On 1.27.24 the State Military Order of the Cooties ran a meal donation drive for the Dart League in the Helena area. A Strong group of volunteers participated while we served Breakfast Burritos in the morning and Burgers, Hot Dogs, and Corn Dogs in the afternoon. We were able to make a little bit of money, have a fun time, and build the fellowship that it takes to be a member of the Cooties. Always feel free to ask our state leadership what it might take to become a member and you too can enjoy the good times.



**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA  
AT THE WHITEFISH CEMETERY**



Mike Pryor Presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Kevi Kaltschmidt, General Manager for Don K Automotive, for their participation in the Wreaths Across America at the Whitefish Cemetery.



Fred Hamilton, Post 276 Commander, and Mike Pryor present a Certificate of Appreciation to Coldwell Banker, Landstar Division employees Paul Veroullis, Karly Hanson, Jenna Gilliland and Tyler Idleman, for their participation in the Wreaths Across America at the Whitefish Cemetery.



Post Member Dustin Wegner, an employee of BNSF, was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for the Railways' for their participation in the Wreaths Across America at the Whitefish Cemetery.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP PLACING FLAGS TO HONOR OUR VETERANS IN BUTTE CEMETERIES**



Each year VFW Post 1448 & 1448 Auxiliary coordinates placement of up to 4,000 flags to honor Butte Veterans interred in Mount Moriah, St. Patricks, Holy Cross and Mountain View Cemeteries.

All VFW supplied flags are marked with pink tape to enable easy identification for placement & recovery.

All residents, students & families are welcome to assist in this effort. Groups such as Civil Air Patrol and Montana Youth Challenge cadets have always supported this project.

This year flags will be placed on Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup>. If interested meet us at 9:00 AM at the Spanish - American Veteran plot in Mount Moriah Cemetery.

A safety briefing , instruction on identifying Veteran headstones & proper flag placement will be presented and assignments given out. Bottled water will be provided.

Flags will be recovered on Tuesday May 28<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the SA plot at 10:00 AM

REMEMBER ALL VFW FLAGS HAVE PINK TAPE ON THE SHAFT ONLY PICK THE PINK!!



Dan Kohr (406) 491-1691



Mollie Kirk (406) 565-0653

To schedule a group please contact



# VFW Post 4042



Bigfork VFW Post 4042 Senior Vice Commander Michael Stone was presented the State of Montana Governor's Veteran Commendation for 2023 which included a state flag and certificate.



(L-R) Bigfork VFW Post 4042 Quartermaster Ron Wenzel, Senior Vice Commander Michael Stone & member Pete Wohl at Lutheran Cemetery for Veteran Wreaths Across America.



(L-R) Bigfork VFW Post 4042 member Pete Wohl, Quartermaster Ron Wenzel & Senior Vice Commander Michael Stone at Bigfork Community Cemetery for Veteran Wreaths Across America.



(L-R) Bigfork VFW Post 4042 Senior Vice Commander Michael Stone, Post Commander Steve Gordon, & Quartermaster Ron Wenzel at Lonepine Cemetery for Veteran Wreaths Across America.

Bigfork VFW Post 4042 table at the annual VFW Post 4042 Crafts Fair. Even Santa is in on recruiting!



(L-R): Three members of Sandry Construction Company, VFW Post 4042 Senior Vice Commander Michael Stone, Post Commander Steve Gordon & Quartermaster Ron Wenzel receive a Patriotic Wreath for the VFW Post in Bigfork MT.



VFW Post 4042 Senior Vice Commander Michael Stone presents Ms. Suzi Byrne of Cayuse Prairie School, the crystal apple Teacher of the Year.

VFW Post 4042 Senior Vice Commander Michael Stone presents Ms. Suzi Byrne of Cayuse Prairie School, the Teacher of Year Certificate.



VFW Post 4042 Quartermaster Ron Wenzel and Senior Vice Commander Michael Stone hosted the Griz Watch Party for the FCS National Championship Game.



(L-R) VFW Libby Jim Higgins, VFW Post 4042 member LD Gross, VFW Post 4042 Senior Vice Commander Michael Stone, Bill Austin, Andrew Sliter of Sliter Lumber and Building Supply, VFW Post Libby Doug Gilbertson, & VFW Post 4042 member Doug Shanks. All VFW members are the Board of Directors for the Veterans Coalition of North West Montana for Suicide Prevention and Awareness. Sliter Lumber & Building Supply present a check for \$1,000 dollars for the Coalition.

# VFW Post 4669

## VFW Post 4669 News

Shannon Wilson, Post Adjutant  
January 2024



**Voice of Democracy Speeches and Patriot's Pen Essays:** Belt High School seniors participated in the VFW Voice of Democracy Speech Contest this October for our Post. The theme this year was 'What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?' Twenty-five speeches were judged. The top two were forwarded to MT VFW District 2 for judging at the district level. The students did a great job, and their effort was appreciated. Twenty-six Patriot's Pen essays, which are from Grades 6 to 8 students, were also judged during the week by the same judges, and the top two were forwarded for district judging also. The theme for Patriot's Pen this year was 'How are you inspired by America?'



*Pictured (L to R) Post Member Patricia Vigil, Annie Porter, Belt High School teacher Karl Koontz, Post Adjutant Shannon Wilson, and Post Sr. Vice Commander Dennis Burns.*

**Veterans Day:** Post members were invited to Belt Public Schools for their Veterans Day program. All the students were involved in the program. The VFW Voice of Democracy First and Second Place winners for our post read their speeches. At the end of the program, all the guests that attended received caramel rolls from the kitchen staff.



*Pictured is Post Service Officer Jim Porter. Other post members that attended the ceremony in Belt included Post Sr. Vice Commander Dennis Burns and Post Adjutant Shannon Wilson. Post members also took part in the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11th at the Montana Veterans Memorial.*



## VFW Post 4669 CONT.

**Grace Haven Women's Veterans Home:** VFW Post 4669 is stepping up to help homeless women veterans, and has donated \$1000 to help the Grace Haven Home open their doors. They are located at 1220 17th St. South in Great Falls. They anticipate a soft opening by the end of January, taking in a couple homeless women veterans to start. Post members also helped collect donations for Grace Haven Home at Super 1 Food Store one weekend in November, and about \$1900 was collected. The Post is also sponsoring one of the eight rooms, which includes fully furnishing and setting up the room.



*Pictured at the Grace Haven Home (L to R): are Post Quartermaster Ed Van Vleet, Post member Russ Jacques, Grace Haven Director Angela Jukkala, and Post Commander Frank Tuss.*



### Montana Veterans Memorial Association (MVMA):

VFW Post 4669 members have been very involved in the association since it began. The Post gave the first \$2000 to start the Memorial. Post Member Terri Tobiness and Post Commander Frank Tuss, both MVMA Board members, are pictured at a plaque placement in November. Post Service Officer Jim Porter is also a member of the MVMA Board.



### Post Membership Continues to Grow:

Our Post has good attendance from our members. Our recent meeting had 20 members present! We meet at the Black Eagle Community Center on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. We enjoy refreshments at the center after the meeting to further networking and camaraderie.



# VFW Post 7407

## CHARLIE NOLAND Awarded GOVERNOR GLANFORTE AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Charles Noland from VFW Post 7407 Worden MT was awarded the Governor Gianforte award for Public Service. A ceremony was held at the Huntley Museum on 12 March, 2024. Charlie is pictured next to Governor Gianforte and the First lady Susan Gianforte as well as family and friends.



Post 10010's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners.



From left to Right. 1st place PP Caden Ray, 3rd place VOD Jace Ray, 2nd place VOD Lora Dudley, 2nd place PP Macy Canney, 3rd place PP Hailey Graves and 1st Place VOD Ainsley Hansmann. It was a great night celebrating 100 years and rewarding are future leader for their hard work.

# VFW Post 10010

On February 24, 2024 Post 10010 East Helena held the annual Anniversary dinner. This year's dinner was a little more special. It was supposed to be our 74th Anniversary but with the consolidation of Helena Post 1116 in 2023 according to the National By-Laws we must use the Charter date of the oldest Post. The Charter date of Post 1116 was December 20, 1923. We celebrated our Centennial Anniversary! A Great prime rib dinner was prepared by the Post 10010 Auxiliary, Tim Sowa presented a slide show of the three VFW members that were able to go to Tarawa and help bring back Marine from thar Battle of Tarawa and finally, the awards for the students for Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen.



Post Commander Zach Larson presents Cody Ray a First place Certificate and a check for a \$100.00. Patriot's Pen Chairman Zach Bain presents Cody with his plaque. Cody was also Montana's State Patriots Pen winner and also received a check for \$300.00 and a plaque.



State Adjutant/Quartermaster Tim Peters presents Post 10010 Commander Zach Larson with the 100-year anniversary certificate from the National Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento.



From left to Right. Lewis and Clark Sheriff Leo Dutton, Under Sheriff Brent Colbert, Post 10010 Law Enforcement winner Cody Colbert and Commander Zach Larson. Cody Colbert was selected due to his hard work and dedication to the citizen of Lewis and Clark County.



Commander Zach Larson presents Ainsley Hansemann a First place Certificate and a check for \$100.00 and Zach Bain, Voice of Democracy Chairman, presents Ainsley with her Plaque. Ainsley was also District 4 2nd place winner and she received a check for \$50.00.



# VFW

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I have had the opportunity on several occasions to work with Kim Winston on custom orders. Kim has always been an extremely easy person to work with, whether it's custom shirt orders, coffee mugs or marketing items. I simply give her my ideas and in no time, she is emailing me sample pictures that she thinks might be what I'm looking for. Once I decide exactly what I want and what colors, I let her know and she works the order up, sends me a proof to approve and gets my project ordered. When my order has shipped, she lets me know the tracking number and when it is expected to arrive. In every case I received exactly what I expected. When I need a custom item from the VFW Store Kim Winston is always my first call. Kim Winston is a first-class employee of the VFW. With customer service as her number one priority, it is always a pleasure doing business with her.



TIMOTHY C. PETERS  
State Adjutant/Quartermaster  
Montana



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816.968.1181 • [kwinston@vfw.org](mailto:kwinston@vfw.org)**

[vfwstore.org](http://vfwstore.org) | 39

## DISTRICT 1

District 1 Commander Dave Oberwegner along with Polson High School Principal Andy Fors present Isabel Seeley, Montana's 2023-2024 Voice of Democracy winner and a plaque and check for \$2000.00



# SAVE THE DATE

## State Convention June 12-15, 2024

Great Falls, MT



### VFW Rifle Raffle

Spring 2024



**HENRY**  
Cal .30-30  
Or Savage  
6.5mm Creedmoor



**Henry 30-30 or  
Savage 6.5mm Creedmoor**

Drawings to be Held 14 June, 2024

**Tickets only \$5 each or 6 for \$20**



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**EARN \$1000**

FOR REFERRALS WHO ENLIST INTO  
THE MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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- MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD RETIREE OF ANY RANK
- ANY MONTANA RESIDENT WHO SERVED IN ANY BRANCH OF SERVICE AND RECEIVED AN HONORABLE OR GENERAL UNDER HONORABLE CONDITIONS DISCHARGE



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Post	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Sur Name
209	Charles	R	Doty	
209	Carl	R	Flood	
209	Michael	J	Kruger	
209	James	J	Loran	
209	Walter	J	Wengrzynek	
209	David	L	Wifall	
497	Harold	J	Anderson	
497	Lyle	C	Strand	
689	Thomas	G	Findlay	
1087	Richard	A	Grundy	
1087	Laureen	A	Hawley	
1087	Perry	A	Kollmar	
1087	Robert	L	Lindow	
1087	Alfred		Malfin	
1087	Thomas	G	Suurendonk	
1087	William	F	Wojtala	
1125	Lester	H	Henne	
1125	Willis		Lapp	
1448	Paul	M	Aguilar	
1448	James		Keenan	
1548	Boyd	E	Adskison	
1548	Sam	E	Gonzales	
1548	Ray		Wadsworth	
1551	Edward	H	Lode	
1579	Merry	J	Deanda	
1579	Floyd	E	Hoover	
1579	Patrick	L	Klatt	
1634	Terry	S	Lloyd	
1634	Jeffery	L	Mc Laughlin	
1876	Arthur	C	Ellison	
2252	Kenneth	R	Bunker	
2252	Daniel	P	Carlson	
2252	Robert	L	Cartwright	
2252	Donald	R	Jacobson	
2252	Alven	E	Krantz	
2252	Dustin	L	Martin	
2252	James	D	Roth	
2252	Daniiel	J	Vician	
2484	Douglas	J	Markuson	
2986	James	J	Cole	
2986	Melvyns	S	Holm	
3107	Richard	J	Thronson	
3596	Gary	J	Novakovitch	
3596	Thomas	R	Schuster	
3648	Gerald	L	Hayden	
4042	Dick	L	Levi	
4042	Conrad	L	O' Masters	
4099	Lynn	B	Peterson	
4099	Francis	M	Reed	
4109	Neal	M	Johnson	
4198	Bradford	F	Newcomb	
4620	Kenneth	R	Finley	
4620	Gerald	F	Stender	
4725	Vincent	J	Daly	
4813	Jim	S	Bryan	
4925	Joe	B	Fisher	
5514	Daniel	M	Casey	
5652	Douglas	K	Emery	
5748	Gerald	R	Fradet	
6774	Robert	D	Ellithorpe	
6774	Don	M	Fraker	
6774	Gerald	D	Hoffman	
6774	Vernon	R	Roemmich	
6786	James	C	Reynolds	
6786	Dean	C	Schoettler	
7407	John	P	Carney	
7655	Duwayne	F	Steiner	
7886	Edwin	F	Clark	
10010	Michael	J	Andreasen	
10010	Howard	A	Eich	
10010	Marvin	R	Netzer	
10010	Robert	A	Strainer	
12181	John		Conley	
15027	Ryan	D	Anderson	
15027	Boyd	A	Bernard	
15027	Thomas	D	Cox	
15027	Ross	B	Facler	Jr.
15027	James	W	Grant	
15027	Richard	C	Lockwood	
15027	Eugene	F	Longie	
15027	Lindy	H	Ray	
15027	Merlyn	R	Weber	



**WHITEFISH POST 276**

Meeting 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Post and Auxiliary  
Club Room open 9:00 a.m. to ?  
7 days a week

**BLACK EAGLE POST 4669**

Post Meetings – 4th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Club open daily at 12:00 p.m. Mon-Sat  
Lounge – Banquet Hall – Meeting Room  
Bowling Center, 2332 Smelter Ave.  
453-4736

**GREAT FALLS POST 1087**

Meeting 2nd Thursday each month 6:00 p.m.  
Chicken & Steak Dinner – 3rd Sunday  
Breakfast Every Sunday – 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**POLSON POST 2986**

Post & Auxiliary Meeting  
3rd Monday 7:00 p.m.  
Club open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.  
5th and Main in Polson

**VFW POST 3831**

Post Meetings 2nd Saturday  
1:00 p.m. at Pony Bar  
Members and Guests Welcome

**LIBBY POST 1548**

Meetings 1st Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
Bingo every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Club open daily at 12:00 Noon to 2:00 a.m.  
7 days a week

**KALISPELL POST 2252**

Post Meets 1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Breakfast available for purchase.  
3rd Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Lounge open 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Daily  
**Come in and enjoy Flathead Camaraderie**

**BOZEMAN POST 903**

121 W. Main  
(406) 577-2155  
Meeting 3rd Saturday at 10:00 a.m.  
Club House Open 12 Noon - 11 p.m. daily  
Members and Guests Welcome

**BIGFORK POST 4042**

**AND AUXILIARY**

Post meeting 2nd Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.  
Auxiliary meeting 1st Wednesday atn 5:00 p.m.  
Canteen open daily at 11:00 a.m.

**EUREKA POST 6786**

Post Meeting 1st Tuesday – 6:00 p.m.  
Auxiliary Meeting 1st Tuesday – 1:30 p.m.  
Club open 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

**MISSOULA POST 209**

Post Meeting 2nd Wednesday – 7:00 p.m.  
Auxiliary Meeting 2nd Tuesday – 2:00 p.m.

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**EAST HELENA POST 10010**

Post Meeting, 1st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Auxiliary Meeting, 3rd Monday, 3:00 p.m.  
Cooties Meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Club Open from 11:00 a.m. to ?  
**Stop By and Enjoy Our Smoke Free Club**

**TROY VFW POST 5514**

Post Meeting, 2nd Tuesday, 11:00 a.m.  
Auxiliary Meeting, 1st Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

**MALTA POST 4067 & AUXILIARY**

Post Meetings 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Auxiliary Meeting 2nd Wednesday at 6 p.m.  
Club Open 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Monday-Saturday

**GLASGOW POST 3107**

**AND AUXILIARY**

1222 Highway 2 West  
Meeting 2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
Canteen open 2:00 p.m. to ?, Mon-Sat

**PLENTYWOOD POST 4018**

**AND VETERAN'S CLUB**

Post Meeting 1st Tuesday – 7:00 p.m.  
American Legion Post 58  
Meeting 2nd Monday – 8:00 p.m.  
Club Hours 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

**BILLINGS HEIGHTS POST 6774**

Post Meeting 2nd Wednesday - 6:00 p.m.  
Auxiliary Meeting 2nd Thursday - 6:00 p.m.  
Canteen Open Daily

**PLAINS POST 3596**

Post Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesdays  
Auxiliary Meetings 2nd Monday  
Club – Bowling Alley – Banquet Hall  
You Are Always Welcome

**BILLINGS POST 1634**

4242 State Ave.  
Post Meeting 1st Monday at 7 p.m.  
Kitchen Open Tuesday-Sunday  
Canteen Open 10:00 a.m. - Close

**SIDNEY POST 4099**

Meeting 2nd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.  
Club open daily 10:00 a.m. to Midnight  
Closed Sunday  
Phone: 433-9982

**LEWISTOWN POST 1703**

Post Meeting 3rd Monday – 7:00 p.m.  
Basement – American Legion Club

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**The Montana Veteran  
Department of Montana VFW  
c/o Tim Peters  
P.O. Box 4789  
Fort Harrison, MT 59636**

**The Montana Veteran is designed at  
American Publishing LLC  
Jenny DeBack, Owner  
[americanpublishing8482@gmail.com](mailto:americanpublishing8482@gmail.com)**

**VA Montana Health Care System  
TOLL-FREE NUMBER  
1-877-468-8387 (M-F: 8:00-4:30)**

<p><b>Option #1 Pharmacy</b> (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refill</li> <li>2. Renewal</li> <li>3. Anticoag</li> <li>4. Staff</li> </ol> <p>**Refill Option is available 24 hours.</p>	<p><b>Option #2 Central Scheduling</b> (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)</p>	<p><b>Option #3 Mental Health</b> (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appointments</li> <li>2. Crisis Nurse</li> <li>3. Staff</li> </ol> <p>**If crisis nurse is needed after 4:30 p.m., call <b>406-442-6410</b></p>	<p><b>Option #4 VA Clinics</b> (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Missoula, Kalispell, Cut Bank</li> <li>2. Great Falls, Lewistown, Havre</li> <li>3. Fort Harrison, Anaconda, Bozeman</li> <li>4. Billings, Miles City, Glendive</li> </ol>
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