

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES  
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

# the Montana VETERAN



Antelope



Volume 24  
No. 2

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Aug./Sept./Oct./Nov.

On the afternoon of Memorial Day 2021, a highway marker was placed in memory of Asa Woodard 7 miles west of Jordan, MT. Asa was a member of the Montana Army National Guard and died in a vehicle crash December 2020. VFW Post 7886 assisted in placing the marker and providing an honor guard with the American flag, two uniformed rifle bearers and taps. Shortly thereafter the entire group proceeded to the Steves Fork Cemetery where two donated grave

markers were placed. The markers were for Woltraud Pillsbury and Bob Pillsbury, Chester Pillsbury was marked with a military marker since he served in the US Army. All three died in a vehicle accident about 3 miles west of the cemetery. The same ceremony was repeated at the cemetery including taps. This accident happened in March 1953 and the two graves had been unmarked for 68 years. Chester Pillsbury was Asa Woodard's great uncle.

*Placing the marker with Asa's dad John.*



*Asa's two sisters and parents John & Julie.*



*Playing Taps*



*Playing Taps at Steves Fork Cemetery.*



Dave Tupper of Post 3596 in Plains, MT receives the Montana VFW's Lifetime Achievement Award at state convention in Lewistown, MT this June. After decades of service to the veterans in Montana and the members of the VFW, Past State Commander Dave Tupper was honored by his peers for his selfless service in advancing the ideals of the Department of Montana VFW. Congratulations to Dave Tupper for receiving the long overdue recognition.



## 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*.

October 15, 2021 ..... Dec-Jan-Feb-Mar  
February 15, 2022 ..... Apr-May-June-July  
June 15, 2022 ..... Aug-Sept-Oct-Nov

## Coming Events

DISTRICT 2	SEPT 1	CONRAD, MT
DISTRICT 1	SEP 18	KALISPELL, MT
DISTRICT 6	SEP 18	BROADUS, MT
DISTRICT 5	SEP 19	SIDNEY, MT
DISTRICT 4	SEP 25	EAST HELENA, MT
DISTRICT 3	OCT 2	BILLINGS 1634, MT



## COMMANDER'S REPORT



**RON MERWIN**

In June we were able to meet at the YOGO INN in Lewistown for our State Convention. Loren Drivdahl worked hard and had a good convention set up. It was challenging for the Convention Center as so many businesses are having trouble finding help. As I have been traveling to many of our Posts it is apparent that the lack of help is reflected on our Posts as well. Cutting back on hours of service and menu items has been an ongoing challenge. We are Veterans who have been challenged before and we will get through this as well.

It was good to see many able to get out after all the covid lockdowns last year. Thank you for your support during these troubling times. I look forward to us having a good year.

Congratulations to Jeff Schepp our Sr Vice Cdr. and to James Layton our new Jr Vice Cdr. My Chief of Staff is Fred Hamilton who is also the Inspector, District 1 Commander and Commander of Whitefish Post 276. Tommy Tradewell, past Commander in Chief from Wisconsin was at our Convention. He was in Lewistown for a convention in 2009. It was an honor to be installed by him.

We need to work hard with the 2021-2022 membership year. This past year we were the first Department to reach 100% We did so on December 12th. This year marks the 80th year since Pearl Harbor and I would like us to be 100% by December 7th. Congratulations to the All Staters this past year and to the All Americans. Department, all six Districts and thirteen Posts made All American.

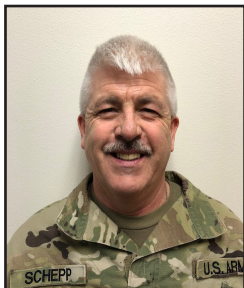
We will have a National Convention! It has been moved from Baltimore to Kansas City. I look forward to seeing many of you at Great Falls for the School of Instruction in August and again at the district meetings this fall. I plan to have 'Homecoming' at the East Helena Post following the district meeting there on 25 September. Plan to attend, let's make it a really good gathering.

I urge all of you to sell the department raffle tickets which will support not only the Department but your District and Post as well.

Our continued success as a Department will only come to fruition if we work together! Thank you and God bless you for your service to our great country and your continued service to your community!

**Ron Merwin,  
State Commander**

## SR. VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



**JEFF SCHEPP**

Greetings Comrades,

I would like to take this time to thank you all for electing me as your Senior Vice Commander for 2021 to 2022. I will work extremely hard this next year to get to the posts through this great state of Montana. I will also work very closely with our newly elected State Commander Ron Merwin and with our newly elected Junior Vice James Layton on achieving our membership goals as well as getting the medallions out to the posts to get all graves that are not marked.

I am overly excited about starting my new career with the VFW and working with Tim Peters starting in September 2021. I look forward to the challenge to learning on what happens on a day-to-day basis, answering questions and getting the knowledge to be able to step in if elected when Tim Peters is selected to run the chairs at the national level.

As I stated above it is an honor to serve as your State Senior Vice Commander and I will do my absolute best not to let you down! I also look forward to meeting more of our members of this great state as I get to travel more.

**Jeff Schepp,  
State Sr. Vice Commander**

## JR. VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



**JIM LAYTON**

Comrades,

I want to take the opportunity first to express my gratitude and appreciation to all for the support you gave me by electing me as your State Junior Vice Commander. I am honored and humbled by the confidence you have placed in me, and I am excited to serve you in this position. I look forward to visiting with each of you throughout the year and discussing how we may best serve you and together continue to make this incredible organization even better.

As we begin this new fiscal year, I want to thank everyone for your dedication and hard work to continually advance the mission and purposes of our department and the VFW as a whole. Your work does not go unnoticed. I also want to congratulate all 6 of our districts and the 13 posts that achieved All-American for 2020-2021. This achievement is a direct reflection of your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts.

*Jr. Vice Commander's Report, continued on Page 3*

## DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS 2021-2022 STATE OFFICERS

		(AREA CODE 406)
Ron Merwin, Comdr	51186 Cheff Ln. Ronan 59864 <a href="mailto:ronmerwin@blackfoot.net">ronmerwin@blackfoot.net</a>	Cell 644-2805
Jeff Schepp, Sr. Vice Comdr	PO Box 1202 East Helena 59635 <a href="mailto:beauford227@yahoo.com">beauford227@yahoo.com</a>	HdQtrs 417-3278 Cell 465-9500 250-5784
James Layton, Jr. Vice Comdr	PO Box 767 Malta 59538 <a href="mailto:jllyayton1225@gmail.com">jllyayton1225@gmail.com</a>	324-3992 Fax 226-7463 Cell 438-1558 862-5602
Tim Peters Adjutant/Quartermaster	PO Box 4789 Fort Harrison 59636 <a href="mailto:montanavfw@gmail.com">montanavfw@gmail.com</a> Toll Free Number 877-881-3767	277-4499
Ken Herrmann, Judge Advocate	PO Box 4385 Whitefish 59937 <a href="mailto:kensautosvc@yahoo.com">kensautosvc@yahoo.com</a>	(253)988-9901
Jim Porter, Chaplain	PO Box 309 Belt 59412 <a href="mailto:pjimannie@3rivers.net">pjimannie@3rivers.net</a>	217-5194
Fred Hamilton, Chief of Staff/ Inspector	71 Larry Ln Columbia Falls 59912 <a href="mailto:kobrasc@hotmail.com">kobrasc@hotmail.com</a>	
Harol Wheeler, Past Comdr	4123 10th Ave S Great Falls 59405 <a href="mailto:haroldwheelerjr@gmail.com">haroldwheelerjr@gmail.com</a>	
<b>DISTRICT OFFICERS AND CHAIRMAN</b>		
1 Fred Hamilton, Comdr	71 Larry Ln Columbia Falls 59912	(253)988-9901
Jerry Erickson, Adj/QM	PO Box 614 Troy 59935	295-4086
Joe Thomas, Patriot's Pen/VOD	480 Bowditch Rd Kalispell 59901	249-6990
Shelia Schwegel, Teacher	2098 Old Reserve Dr Kalispell 59901	702-0928
Ryan Keeler, SO	PO Box 45 Lakeside 59922	844-0620
2 Loren Drivdahl, Comdr	PO Box 283 Hobson 59452	366-6396
Marty Havrilla, Adj/QM	PO Box 518 Ft. Benton 59442	788-9828
Phillip Stewart, Patriot's Pen	2000 8th Ave. S. Great Falls 59405	899-1136
Loren Drivdahl, VOD	PO Box 283 Hobson 59452	366-6396
Loren Drivdahl, Teacher	PO Box 283 Hobson 59452	366-6396
Dan Arnold, SO	1505 25th Ave. S. Great Falls 59405	781-7655
3 Joe Welter, Comdr	PO Box 627 Absarokee 59001	321-2624
Tom Kelly, QM	1831 Rehberg Ln Billings 59102	656-7553
Rick Osborn, Adj	118 N 24th St Apt 22 Billings 59101	702-0378
Rick Osborn, Patriot's Pen/VOD	118 N 24th St Apt 22 Billings 5910	702-0378
Ed Viig, VOD	241 C St Columbus 59019	322-4791
4 Doug Brown, Comdr	8283 York Rd Helena 59602	475-3221
Dave Johnson, Adj/QM	5558 Canyon Ct Helena 59602	202-2386
Dave Johnson, Patriot's Pen	5558 Canyon Ct Helena 59602	202-2386
Tim Peters, VOD	PO Box 4789 Ft. Harrison 59636	438-1558
Brian Rumsey, Teacher	PO Box 509 Pony 59747	685-3488
Frank Belgarde, SO	406 E 6th Ave Helena 59601	465-0254
5 Lonnie Johnson, Comdr	706 Glenwood Ave Plentywood 59254	765-7106
Jack Curtiss, Adj/QM	54 Modby Plentywood 59254	480-3887
Lonnie Johnson, Patriot's Pen, VOD	706 Glenwood Ave Plentywood 59254	765-7106
Jack Curtiss, Teacher	54 Modby Plentywood 59254	480-3887
Art Widhalm, SO	PO Box 182 St Marie 59231	524-3761
6 Stan Swiontek, Comdr	4722 Valley Dr E Miles City 59301	951-1269
Joe Murnion, Adj/QM	PO Box 269 Jordan 59337	557-6195
Charlie Barbero, Patriot's Pen	PO Box 32 Boyes 59316	427-5261
Doug Byron, VOD, Teacher	810 B Ave E Glendive 59330	939-5191
Bernard Crane, SO	PO Box 631 Broadus 59317	436-2708
<b>NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER</b>		
Jack Hawley	413 Deerfield Ct Great Falls 59405 <a href="mailto:jack.hawley.1@us.af.mil">jack.hawley.1@us.af.mil</a>	899-3973
<b>STATE SERVICE OFFICER</b>		
Dan Arnold, Service Officer	600 Central Plaza, Suite #418 Great Falls 59401 <a href="mailto:danarnold@mt.gov">danarnold@mt.gov</a>	452-2265 Fax 453-5871
<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</b>		
American/Loyalty	Mel Kieninger 565 Hobson Ave Butte 59701 <a href="mailto:kieninger@msn.com">kieninger@msn.com</a>	565-5305 Cell 565-6668
Buddy Poppy	Tim Peters PO Box 4789 Ft Harrison 59636 <a href="mailto:montanavfw@gmail.com">montanavfw@gmail.com</a>	324-3992
Citizenship Education	Mike Pryor 117 Cougal Trl Whitefish 59937 <a href="mailto:michael-ryor@att.net">michael-ryor@att.net</a>	(717)503-0482
Community Activities	Tim Peters PO Box 4789 Ft Harrison 59636 <a href="mailto:montanavfw@gmail.com">montanavfw@gmail.com</a>	324-3992
Disabled Warriors	Tim Sowa 2665 Colt Dr E Helena 59635 <a href="mailto:mtsniper89@hotmail.com">mtsniper89@hotmail.com</a>	461-1073
Legislative	Joe Fletcher 3104 3rd Ave S Great Falls 59405 <a href="mailto:joe.fletcher@bresnan.net">joe.fletcher@bresnan.net</a>	788-3151
Membership Chairman	Jack Hawley 413 Deerfield Ct Great Falls 59405 <a href="mailto:jack.hawley.1@us.af.mil">jack.hawley.1@us.af.mil</a>	899-3973
Membership Chairman Asst	Jeff Schepp PO Box 1202 East Helena 59635 <a href="mailto:beauford227@yahoo.com">beauford227@yahoo.com</a>	417-3278 Cell 465-9500
Montana Veteran	Tim Peters PO Box 4789 Ft Harrison 59636 <a href="mailto:montanavfw@gmail.com">montanavfw@gmail.com</a>	324-3992
National Home	Ed Viig 241 C St Columbus 59019 <a href="mailto:epviigs@charter.net">epviigs@charter.net</a>	322-4791
Patriot's Pen	Loren Drivdahl PO Box 283 Hobson 59452 <a href="mailto:bu1drivdahl@yahoo.com">bu1drivdahl@yahoo.com</a>	423-5585
Public Rel/News Media	Tim Peters PO Box 4789 Fort Harrison 59636 <a href="mailto:montanavfw@gmail.com">montanavfw@gmail.com</a>	324-3992
Technology Chairman	Zack Bain PO Box 413 Ulm 54985 <a href="mailto:406techwhisperer@gmail.com">406techwhisperer@gmail.com</a>	465-1896
Technology Co-Chairman	James Layton PO Box 767 Malta 59538 <a href="mailto:jllyayton1225@gmail.com">jllyayton1225@gmail.com</a>	250-5784
Veterans & Military Support	Martin Havrilla PO Box 518 Ft Benton 59442 <a href="mailto:mavh4047gm@gmail.com">mavh4047gm@gmail.com</a>	788-9828
Voice of Democracy	James Layton PO Box 767 Malta 59538 <a href="mailto:jllyayton1225@gmail.com">jllyayton1225@gmail.com</a>	250-5784
<b>VAWS REPRESENTATIVES</b>		
Fort Harrison Rep:	Tom Johnson PO Box 1421 E Helena 59635 <a href="mailto:tompjts@hotmial.com">tompjts@hotmial.com</a>	439-2564
Miles City Rep:	Bruce Banister 201 Arrowhead Dr Miles City 59301 <a href="mailto:bbaniste@midrivers.com">bbaniste@midrivers.com</a>	853-2764
Billings Rep:	Jerry Hudson 11 Prairie View Dr Billings 59102 <a href="mailto:hudjer@bresnan.net">hudjer@bresnan.net</a>	652-1635 Cell 591-4402
<b>VETERANS HOMES LIAISONS</b>		
Columbia Falls	Carey Dill 41 4th Ave W Kalispell 59901 <a href="mailto:2mtdillpickles@montanasky.com">2mtdillpickles@montanasky.com</a>	471-7446
Glendive	Tom Toomey 319 Juniper Ave Glendive 59301 <a href="mailto:trtoomey@midrivers.com">trtoomey@midrivers.com</a>	377-3043
<b>CERTIFIED NATIONAL RECRUITERS</b>		
Jack Hawley	413 Deerfield Ct Great Falls 59405 <a href="mailto:jack.hawley.1@us.af.mil">jack.hawley.1@us.af.mil</a>	899-8749
Tim Peters	P.O. Box 4789 Ft Harrison 59636 <a href="mailto:montanavfw@gmail.com">montanavfw@gmail.com</a>	324-3992
Art Widhalm	PO Box 182 St Marie 59231 <a href="mailto:chiefhunter2u@yahoo.com">chiefhunter2u@yahoo.com</a>	524-3761
Trustees:	Ed Viig, Dave Johnson and Art Widhalm	
By-Laws Committee:	Art Widhalm, Jack Hawley, Tim Peters and Jeff Schepp	

### Jr. Vice Commander's Report, continued from Page 2

Moreover, our state convention was a great success. I want to commend Lewistown Post 1703 for putting together and hosting such a wonderful convention. This past year and a half have presented many new challenges to gathering in person, so I am thrilled that so many posts were in attendance.

Nonetheless, the absence of many of our comrades was felt. I understand the time sacrificed to travel and attend these events; however, I have never left a convention feeling it was not worthy of my time. They are always fun and informative. Not to mention the camaraderie and connections made with other members and posts throughout our state that are invaluable resources to strengthen and support one another. I encourage those posts which were unable to be present to make concerted efforts to do so for our next state convention in Billings.

I recently attended the grand opening of the Montana National Guard's newest Readiness Center in Malta, Montana. This latest facility is the culmination of 10 years of planning and two years of construction. The keynote speaker for this event was Major General J. Peter Hronek, Adjutant General of Montana, and was attended by over 200 members of the local community, including Malta City Mayor John Demarais, and many veterans from the area. The facility will be the home station for approximately 120 soldiers of the 484th Military Police Company, some of which are members of VFW posts throughout Montana. There are also plans to have the Starbase program in this new facility. Starbase is a youth Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) educational program.

In the August 2019 Montana Veteran then Jr. Vice Commander Ron Merwin emphasized the 3 R's: Reach out, Recruit, and Retain. The grand opening was an excellent opportunity to show our support for Montana service members and reach out to potentially eligible veterans to join the VFW. I encourage each of you to take advantage of similar opportunities in your areas. The most significant impact is made at the post level; it is the foundation on which everything else is built. Sometimes all a potential member needs to make the leap is a friend in the post.

These veterans have much to offer our posts, and they will bring a renewed energy, and they can help us grow.

As we have heard before, membership drives our organization. I know the entire leadership team appreciates your devoted efforts. However, we cannot allow ourselves to get lax. We must begin now to work on our 2021-2022 membership year. Commander Ron Merwin has set a goal to achieve 100% in membership for the Department of Montana by December 7, 2021. I am confident with the leaders we have at our Posts and Districts, we will rise to meet this challenge.

I look forward to serving with you and seeking your knowledge and input to improve our efforts.

**Jim Layton,**  
State Jr. Vice Commander

## CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



**JIM PORTER**

My Dear Comrades, Veterans, and Auxiliary members,

Well, as you all may or may not know, the District meetings and the Department convention in Lewistown are over. Loren Drivdahl, the post Commander in Lewistown promised that it will be a dandy. I don't know how many of you really know Loren Drivdahl, but if Loren says it, you can pretty much take it to the bank. I would like to thank you for re-electing me to the office of Department Chaplain.

I do not know how many of you have or have not gotten your Covid 19 vaccination, but if you haven't, I can promise I will pray for you. I pray for ALL veterans all the time anyway, but for those that have not been vaccinated, I will offer a special prayer for sure. Yes, I have been vaccinated, both shots, Moderna. I did not have any trouble with feeling sick, or anything else. Oh, my left arm was a little sore, but only for a couple of days. I realize it affects everyone differently. I really do believe the end results outweigh the in between. That is my opinion however, and not necessarily the opinion of the Dept. of Mt., or the Montana Veteran.

I do pray that you & your families, survived the snowy & rainy Spring we had. Then, when it started to dry out & warm up, well, it really warmed up. This next week, it is supposed to be a little closer to normal or average. The one thing that I always keep in mind is, THIS IS MONTANA. As you all know, here in Montana, the weather can change in the blink of an eye. I usually check the weather each morning by going out the back door, sniffing the air, and looking up at the sky & Heaven. That will kind of determine my activities for the day.

We elected our new officers for the Dept. of Mt. at this year's convention. I would just ask that we all give them our support. New officers need to know that their membership is behind them so they can do a good job & build their confidence as well. As I mentioned earlier, I have truly enjoyed being your Chaplain, and I want to "THANK YOU ALL" very much for putting your confidence in me the last couple of years. May the Good Lord keep you & your families wrapped in His Loving Arms Always.

**Jim Porter,**  
State Dept. Chaplain



## NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT



**JACK HAWLEY**

Comrades,

It was a great year for our programs and membership. We finished the year number 2 in the world, but we were there first on 12 December 2020. I want to congratulate our new State Officers, State Commander Ron Merwin, Senior vice Commander Jeff Shepp, Junior Vice Commander James Layton, and Chief of Staff and State Inspector Fred Hamilton. Our New Commanders goal is to be 100 percent by Pearl Harbor Anniversary 7 December 2021 but again we need your help. We have a different incentive each month until December to help you reach 100 percent in membership by December. I like it when we work hard to achieve our goal early and sit back and enjoy the fruits of our labor. Again, I'm here to help you and your post, if you need anything feel free to contact me anytime. I'll be heading to Kansas City 30 July until 4 August to attend the National Convention and finally get to meet my fellow Council of Administration members. I'm your voice from Montana, if anything is on your mind let me know. I look forward to hearing and seeing you at the school of instruction in August and District meetings starting in September.

**Jack Hawley,**  
National Council Member Montana



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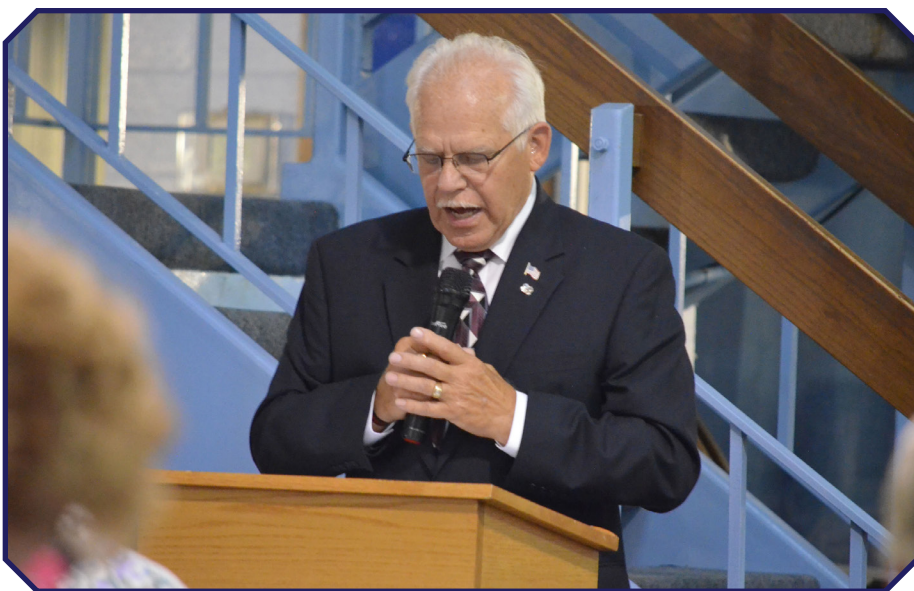
# State Convention Lewistown, MT



2021-2022



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS



State Convention - Lewistown, MT



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 are 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 you 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.

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Distinctive Emblem & Supply Line for Legacy Life Members			
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Recognition at Kiosks at Memorial Building in Washington, D.C. and Museum at National Headquarters			
Special Plaque			
Hat Patch			
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Increased Level of No-Cost AD&D Insurance	\$2000	\$3500	\$5000
Annual Endowment: Post	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment: Dept.	\$6	\$12	\$18



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LEGACY LIFE HONOR ROLL

William J. Reneau	Gold Post 209	Elmer D. Bernard*	Gold Post 10010
Ralph A. Ammondson	Gold Post 276	William R. Bovee*	Gold Post 10010
Dennis G. Dreyer	Gold Post 276	Michael C. Buckley	Gold Post 10010
Fred Hamilton	Gold Post 276	LeRoy S. Johnson	Gold Post 10010
Kenneth A. Herrmann	Gold Post 276	Lyle F. Pedersen*	Gold Post 10010
Dean House	Gold Post 276	Timothy C. Peters	Gold Post 10010
Robert L. Meagher*	Gold Post 276	Ludwig J. Rigler*	Gold Post 10010
John G. Pearse	Gold Post 276	Jeffery D. Schepp	Gold Post 10010
Robert Sammon	Gold Post 276	Robert T. Schwegel	Gold Post 12177
Shelia L. Schwegel	Gold Post 276	Richard L. Osborn	Gold Post 12181
Lawrence Cunningham*	Gold Post 1087	Ruthie M. Buttrick-Best	Gold Post 15027
Bradley A. Damron	Gold Post 1087	Ross A. Beagle	Silver Post 276
William A. Darby	Gold Post 1087	Roy P. Christenson*	Silver Post 3107
Joe R. Fletcher	Gold Post 1087	Lee E. Erickson	Silver Post 3107
Jack A. Hawley	Gold Post 1087	Kenneth K. Kautz	Silver Post 3107
Arthur P. Marshall Jr.	Gold Post 1087	Thomas R. Marron	Silver Post 3107
Anthony G. Morris*	Gold Post 1087	Douglas L. Peterson	Silver Post 3107
Fred D. Nester*	Gold Post 1087	William H. Sugg, Jr.*	Silver Post 3107
William T. Rose*	Gold Post 1087	Felice H. Wilson	Silver Post 3107
Gerald E. Van Every	Gold Post 1087	Otto J. Otnes	Silver Post 3596
Doug N. Brown	Gold Post 1116	Donald R. Kendall	Silver Post 6774
Thomas A. Pouliot	Gold Post 1116	George E. Boner	Silver Post 8292
Daniel P. Antonietti*	Gold Post 1448	Carl J. Graham	Silver Post 8292
John R. Fish Jr.*	Gold Post 1448	Louis L. Polinsky	Silver Post 8292
Melvin W. Kieninger	Gold Post 1448	William T. Winninghoff*	Silver Post 8292
Michael L. Lawson	Gold Post 1448	Thomas V. Johnson	Silver Post 10010
Richard M. McLeod	Gold Post 1448	Samuel L. House	Bronze Post 276
Ronald R. Peterson	Gold Post 1448	Joe D. Thomas	Bronze Post 276
Carrol D. Koenig*	Gold Post 1634	Charles F. Davis	Bronze Post 1087
Robert P. Seely	Gold Post 2154	Harold D. Floyd*	Bronze Post 1087
James C. Aho*	Gold Post 2252	Laureen A. Hawley	Bronze Post 1087
Kelly W. Kvigne*	Gold Post 2252	Paul T. Quinn*	Bronze Post 1087
Jeremy L. Mays	Gold Post 2252	Mark E. Colton	Bronze Post 1116
Duane Barrett*	Gold Post 3107	Eugene E. Olson*	Bronze Post 1116
Dale J. Bender	Gold Post 3107	Angelina M. Sinrud	Bronze Post 1116
Reid B. Coldwell	Gold Post 3107	Harold P. Gottland*	Bronze Post 1448
Norman K. Dahl*	Gold Post 3107	Mark P. Gollinger	Bronze Post 1448
Albert Franzen*	Gold Post 3107	Earl M. Larvie*	Bronze Post 1448
George Kolstad	Gold Post 3107	Edward J. Powers	Bronze Post 1448
E.C. Buster Lenoir*	Gold Post 3107	Richard M. Skates	Bronze Post 1448
Michael J. Lenoir	Gold Post 3107	John W. Whelan*	Bronze Post 1448
Russell O. Lenoir	Gold Post 3107	Troy A. McDowall	Bronze Post 1579
Steve A. Markle	Gold Post 3107	Gordon L. Ewell	Bronze Post 1634
Gerald L. Murch	Gold Post 3107	James A. Ussin*	Bronze Post 1634
Edwin V. Swanson*	Gold Post 3107	Kenneth C. Handl	Bronze Post 2154
Walter E. Watts	Gold Post 3107	Michael J. Bennett, Jr.	Bronze Post 2252
Arthur J. Widhalm	Gold Post 3107	Carey F. Dill	Bronze Post 2252
Wilmer F. Zeller	Gold Post 3107	Robert Franczek*	Bronze Post 2252
Sharon Bonogofsky-Parker	Gold Post 3177	William J. Metteer	Bronze Post 2252
lian Kaufmann	Gold Post 3177	Jerry P. Stewart	Bronze Post 2252
Kenneth C. Williams*	Gold Post 3177	James L. Amundson*	Bronze Post 3107
Joseph E. Eisenbrandt Sr.	Gold Post 3596	Lance A. Bender	Bronze Post 3107
Charles Oelschlager	Gold Post 3596	Charles Bradford Jr.	Bronze Post 3107
Lonnie J. Johnson	Gold Post 4018	Michael K. Corey	Bronze Post 3107
James L. Layton	Gold Post 4067	Earl Fuhrman*	Bronze Post 3107
Leslie L. Poland	Gold Post 4099	Floyd R. Hopstad	Bronze Post 3107
Russ A. Jacques	Gold Post 4669	Byron M. Lindsay*	Bronze Post 3107
James G. Porter	Gold Post 4669	Gerald F. Myers*	Bronze Post 3107
Robert W. Moran*	Gold Post 4725	Marvin J. Olson*	Bronze Post 3107
Gary L. Race*	Gold Post 4725	Kenneth E. Page*	Bronze Post 3107
Irwin D. Bangen	Gold Post 5159	Steve Page	Bronze Post 3107
Orville M. Bjorge	Gold Post 5159	Richard J. Partridge	Bronze Post 3107
John C. Bras	Gold Post 5159	Leon H. Pearce	Bronze Post 3107
Steven L. Buck	Gold Post 5159	Harold A. Potter*	Bronze Post 3107
Hugh R. Butler*	Gold Post 5159	Marvin L. Potter*	Bronze Post 3107
Russell J. Carey*	Gold Post 5159	LeRoy R. Stein*	Bronze Post 3107
Donald A. Carr	Gold Post 5159	Manley L. Tiffany	Bronze Post 3107
Roy M. DeLong*	Gold Post 5159	Edwin M. Yohn	Bronze Post 3107
Donald M. Decker*	Gold Post 5159	Adam R. Zamborowski	Bronze Post 3107
Larry J. Douglass*	Gold Post 5159	Edwin M. Zamborowski	Bronze Post 3107
Lyle T. Fisher	Gold Post 5159	Everett E. Crum Jr.	Bronze Post 4099
Rachel R. Fisher	Gold Post 5159	Troy H. Garza	Bronze Post 4099
Randall E. Geise	Gold Post 5159	Joe M. Halversen*	Bronze Post 4099
Derwin F. Halvorson Jr.	Gold Post 5159	Louie A. Kuylen*	Bronze Post 4099
Henry F. Hanson	Gold Post 5159	Harold E. Lorenz*	Bronze Post 4099
Lloyd G. Heinselmann	Gold Post 5159	Eugene N. Ronningen	Bronze Post 4099
Victor Holmberg	Gold Post 5159	Stanley K. Rosaaen	Bronze Post 4099
Robert L. Jackson II	Gold Post 5159	Lawrence R. Troutd	Bronze Post 4099
Howell K. Joiner	Gold Post 5159	Vernon E. Wilson*	Bronze Post 4099
Thomas W. Magera	Gold Post 5159	Paul L. Holmgren*	Bronze Post 4762
Zachary Malinak	Gold Post 5159	Alfred J. Adolph*	Bronze Post 4925
Alan J. McCoy	Gold Post 5159	Daniel C. Barta	Bronze Post 4925
Daniel M. Oberlander	Gold Post 5159	Jack L. Burger*	Bronze Post 4925
Stephen M. Sedladko	Gold Post 5159	Loren R. Erbe*	Bronze Post 4925
Victor J. Stobie	Gold Post 5159	John G. Leggett	Bronze Post 4925
Jerry A. Sutton	Gold Post 5159	Paul R. Meged*	Bronze Post 4925
Charles B. Theademan	Gold Post 5159	Douglas H. Parrott	Bronze Post 4925
Joel W. Thomas	Gold Post 5159	Henry A. Plott*	Bronze Post 4925
Clifford S. Tolman	Gold Post 5159	Paul G. Metzger*	Bronze Post 5652
James L. Wellington	Gold Post 5159	Dale E. Morgan	Bronze Post 5652
Clayton H. White	Gold Post 5159	Will D. Juhl	Bronze Post 6774
Ted H. Wilburn	Gold Post 5159	Thomas F. Kelly	Bronze Post 6774
D. B. Zimmer	Gold Post 5159	Clifford E. Schleusner *	Bronze Post 6774
Juan E. Santos, Jr.	Gold Post 5514	Terry Beezley	Bronze Post 6786
John C. Fay	Gold Post 5652	Stanley A. Burns	Bronze Post 6786
Ronold J. Merwin	Gold Post 5652	James H. Follensbee	Bronze Post 6786
David M. Oberwagner	Gold Post 5652	Leo A. Howe*	Bronze Post 6786
Austin W. Bromley	Gold Post 6697	J. P. Hume*	Bronze Post 6786
John T. Freetly*	Gold Post 6774	Patrick L. McKeever	Bronze Post 6786
Paul R. Harper	Gold Post 6774	John C. Mueller*	Bronze Post 6786
John C. Lattimer*	Gold Post 6774	Thomas H. Price	Bronze Post 6786
Russell H. Mobraaten	Gold Post 6774	Francis L. Utter*	Bronze Post 6786
Robert J. Sutton	Gold Post 6774	Dale F. Wassmann	Bronze Post 7311
Howard J. Aemisegger	Gold Post 6786	Robert M Stout	Bronze Post 7407
Francis E. Croucher	Gold Post 6786	Jason W. aaron	Bronze Post 8292
Ken R. Utter	Gold Post 6786	Paul E. Coble*	Bronze Post 8292
Carl T.J. Wehner	Gold Post 6786	Ace M. Hanson	Bronze Post 8292
Melody J. Weldon	Gold Post 6786	Zane G. Murfitt	Bronze Post 8292
Richard N. Weldon	Gold Post 6786	Jesse B. Paxton	Bronze Post 8292
Gary O. Borland	Gold Post 7311	James G. Prusa	Bronze Post 8292
Charles M. Handley*	Gold Post 7311	Edward J. Boucher	Bronze Post 10010
Barton W. Lawson	Gold Post 7311	John R. Buckley*	Bronze Post 10010
Edward A. Viig	Gold Post 7311	David F. Johnson	Bronze Post 10010
Joseph F. Welter	Gold Post 7311	Melvin V. Johnson*	Bronze Post 10010
Corry Mordeaux	Gold Post 7407	Dale A. Person*	Bronze Post 10010
Charles R. Noland	Gold Post 7407	Robert J. Russ*	Bronze Post 10010
James W. Ryan*	Gold Post 7886	George C. Stump Jr.*	Bronze Post 10010
Thomas H. Armstrong	Gold Post 8292	Art J. Alvarado	Bronze Post 12181
Carl M. Carver	Gold Post 8292	Vern L. McCants	Bronze Post 12181
Leonard W. Eik	Gold Post 8292	John M. Ward	Bronze Post 12181
Terry W. Lambert	Gold Post 8292	Roy E. Jordan*	Bronze Post 15027
William I. Mackley*	Gold Post 8292		
George F. Fryett, Jr.	Gold Post 9040		

\* Deceased

Total 244

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



## VFW Post 6786

### BENCH DONATION

VFW Post 6786 Commander (Eureka) Rick Weldon (who is also the Woodshop teacher), Larry Bensen (Metalshop teacher) and student Anthony Butler are seen placing a Memorial Bench in the Eureka Veterans Park. The bench is in honor of deceased post member Hubert McKenzie. The story goes deeper than this. Past Post Commander Daryl Handy had taken on the project on behalf of the McKenzie family, but sadly passed away before its completion. This is when Commander Weldon took on the project to see it through to fruition.



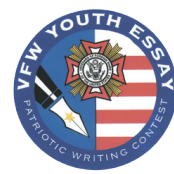
*Fawn McKenzie (veteran and daughter of Hubert McKenzie) presented a donation to the Eureka Woodshop class as a thank you for building the Memorial Bench in honor of her father Huber McKenzie.*



## VFW Post 3107



### VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/ PATRIOT'S PEN



VFW Post 3107 presented the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners at an assembly in both Opheim and Hinsdale Schools. Presenting the awards were Post Commander Art Widhalm, Post members Bob Bartlett, Phil Wilson, Reid Coldwell and Dough Peterson. Award winners from both Post and District levels were presented. Voice of Democracy winner for Opheim was Cole Taylor. Opheim's Patriot's Pen winner was Latia O'Guin. Voice of Democracy winner from Hinsdale was Matea McColly. Patriot's Pen winner from Hinsdale was Coy Bowman. VFW District 5 Voice of Democracy winner was Cole Taylor and Patriot's Pen winner was Coy Bowman. Post awards included lapel pins, certificates and scholarship checks for \$100. District awards were certificates and \$100 scholarship checks.

Commander Widhalm also announced to the students that the new program subjects for next school year would be out in about six weeks. At that time he will pass out the information to all schools so students can work on their entries over the summer.

VFW Post 3107 would like to thank all of the students who entered the competition as well as the schools who supported the programs.

### OFFICERS SWORN IN



*Right: Jim Layton, the VFW Commander for Malta Post 4067, installs the 2021-22 officers of Post 3107 in Glasgow on April 8. Being installed from front to back are: Art Widhalm, Commander; Joe Yoeman, Sr. Vice Commander filling in for Jason Partridge who couldn't be present; Ann Kulczyk, Jr. Vice Commander; Scott Renville, Adjutant/Quartermaster; Phil Wilson, Chaplain; Doug Peterson, three-year Trustee; Reid Coldwell, two-year Trustee; and Bob Bartlett, 1-year Trustee.*





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Dave Lemelin, Commander,  
Department of Alaska (2018-2019),  
VFW Post 10029, North Pole, Alaska



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## VFW Post 3107 GLASGOW, MT

### VFW PRESENTS FIREFIGHTER AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OF THE YEAR AWARDS



Above: Long Run Firefighter Wes Sibley receives the VFW FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR award for the State of Montana. He was also the recipient of the VFW Post 3107 Firefighter of the Year award as well. Left is Post Commander Art Widhalm and right is Post Quartermaster Scott Renville.



VFW Post 3107 Commander Art Widhalm presents Valley County Deputy Jesse Vaughn with the VFW Post 3107 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR award.

Recipients of the awards are nominated by their peers or supervisors and decided on by a panel put together by the post and state. The Paramedic of the Year award.

## VFW Post 4042 BIGFORK, MT



VFW Post 4042 members Ron Wenzel, Michael Stone & Rob Gambino along with Gary Ely (BSA Council), Scoutmaster Jeff Ohrn, and Mark Sanman (BSA District). Rob Gambino holding the Troop Recharter is also the Assistant Scoutmaster and Ron Wenzel is Parent Committee for Troop 1923.

## VFW Post 4042 BIGFORK, MT CONTINUED



VFW Post 4042 members Mike Stone and Mike Shepard with the replica "Billy Bike" that Dennis Hopper rode in Easy Rider. Both Mike's are members of the Suicide Prevention group Veterans Coalition of Northwest Montana. The Coalition is raffling tickets till September 2021 to support suicide prevention training.



Veterans Coalition of NorthWest MT consists of 5 VFW members of Post 4042 Bigfork, MT and 1 VFW member from Post 1548 Libby MT. Not pictured from Bigfork VFW is Ron Wenzel and Doug Shanks. The Coalition participated in the Kalispell Gun Show, March 26-28, and were able to talk to 105 veterans on their services and referred 12 veterans to Veteran Service Officers and Combat Veteran Center.

Mike Stone, Mike Shepard, Doug Gilbertson and LD (Gross).

Veterans of Foreign Wars members of the Veterans Coalition of NorthWest MT pose with their new sign at VFW Post 4042 in Bigfork where they hold their meetings.



(L-R): Doug Gilbertson-Libby VFW; Michael Shepard, Michael Stone, L.D. Gross and Doug Shanks-Bigfork VFW. The Coalition does Suicide Prevention Training and to date have trained over 375 participants in NorthWest MT.

Brandon Wenzel, son of VFW Post 4042 member Ron Wenzel, has been selected to attend the United States Military Academy this coming Fall. Brandon is also an Eagle Scout from BSA Troop 1923 which is sponsored by VFW Post 4042.





<b>WHITEFISH POST 276</b> Meeting 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Post and Auxiliary Club Room open 9:00 a.m. to ? 7 days a week	<b>BLACK EAGLE POST 4669</b> 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	<b>DAN ARNOLD</b> <b>DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER</b> Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday 406-452-2265 600 Central Plaza, Suite 300 • Great Falls, MT 59401
<b>GREAT FALLS POST 1087</b> Meeting 2nd Thursday each month 6:00 p.m. Chicken & Steak Dinner – 3rd Sunday Breakfast Every Sunday – 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.	<b>POLSON POST 2986</b> 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	<b>PONY VFW POST 3831 AND MOC PUP TENT #24</b> Post Meetings 2nd Saturday 1:00 p.m. at Pony Bar Members and Guests Welcome
<b>LIBBY POST 1548</b> 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	<b>KALISPELL POST 2252</b> 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 <b>Come in and enjoy Flathead Camaraderie</b>	<b>BOZEMAN POST 903</b> 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
<b>BIGFORK POST 4042 AND AUXILIARY</b> VFW Meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month/same time Auxiliary Meeting 1st Wednesday of the month Steak Night – 3rd Wednesday of the month	<b>EUREKA POST 6786</b> 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.	<b>MISSOULA POST 209</b> Post Meeting 2nd Wednesday – 7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting 2nd Tuesday – 2:00 p.m.
<b>Visit the Montana Military Museum</b> At historic Fort Harrison, just west of Helena. Telling Montana’s Military History and Recognizing Montanans For Their Service! For more information write to: <b>Fort William Henry Harrison Museum Foundation &amp; Montana Military Museum</b> <b>ATTN: Museum Director/Curator</b> P.O. Box 125, Fort Harrison, MT 59636-0125 E-mail: myfun51@msn.com – 406-324-3550	<b>EAST HELENA POST 10010</b> Post Meeting, 1st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meetings, 3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m. (April-Sept.) 2:00 p.m. (Oct.-March) Club Open from 11:00 a.m. to ? <b>Stop By and Enjoy Our Smoke Free Club</b>	<b>TROY VFW POST 5514</b> Post Meeting, 2nd Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. Auxiliary Meeting, 1st Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Jr. Girls Meeting, 4th Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.
<b>GLASGOW POST 3107 AND AUXILIARY</b> 1222 Highway 2 West Meeting 2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Canteen open 2:00 p.m. to ?, Mon-Sat	<b>PLENTYWOOD POST 4018 AND VETERAN’S CLUB</b> 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.	<b>MALTA POST 4067 &amp; AUXILIARY</b> 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
<b>PLAINS POST 3596</b> Post Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesdays Auxiliary Meetings 2nd Monday Club – Bowling Alley – Banquet Hall You Are Always Welcome	<b>BILLINGS HEIGHTS POST 6774</b> Post Meeting 2nd Wednesday - 6:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting 2nd Thursday - 6:00 p.m. Canteen Open Daily	<div><b>e-Edition</b>  <b>Same format as our printed edition.</b> <b>You can view current editions as well as back issues of the Montana Veteran on our website at <a href="http://vfwmt.org">vfwmt.org</a></b>  <b>The Montana Veteran Department of Montana VFW c/o Tim Peters P.O. Box 4789 Fort Harrison, MT 59636</b>  <b>The Montana Veteran is designed at American Publishing LLC Jenny DeBack, Owner <a href="mailto:americanpublishing8482@gmail.com">americanpublishing8482@gmail.com</a></b></div>
<b>SIDNEY POST 4099</b> Meeting 2nd Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Club open daily 10:00 a.m. to Midnight Closed Sunday Phone: 433-9982	<b>BILLINGS POST 1634</b> 4242 State Ave. Post Meeting 1st Monday at 7 p.m. Kitchen Open Tuesday-Sunday Canteen Open 10:00 a.m. - Close	
	<b>LEWISTOWN POST 1703</b> Post Meeting 3rd Monday – 7:00 p.m. Basement – American Legion Club	

<b>VA Montana Health Care System TOLL-FREE NUMBER 1-877-468-8387 (M-F: 8:00-4:30)</b>			
<b>Option #1 Pharmacy</b> (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) 1. Refill 2. Renewal 3. Anticoag 4. Staff  **Refill Option is available 24 hours.	<b>Option #2 Central Scheduling</b> (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)	<b>Option #3 Mental Health</b> (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) 1. Appointments 2. Crisis Nurse 3. Staff  **If crisis nurse is needed after 4:30 p.m., call <b>406-442-6410</b>	<b>Option #4 VA Clinics</b> (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) 1. Missoula, Kalispell, Cut Bank 2. Great Falls, Lewistown, Havre 3. Fort Harrison, Anaconda, Bozeman 4. Billings, Miles City, Glendive

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