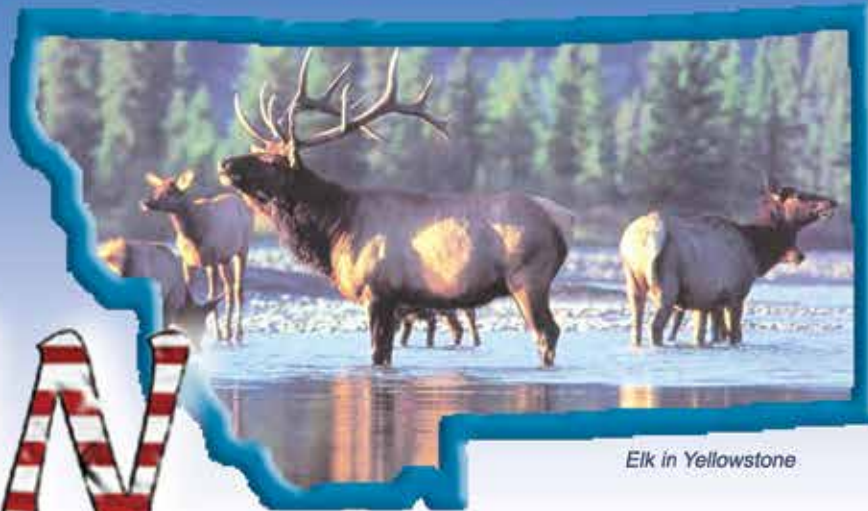


VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
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the
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VETERAN



Volume 24
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Commander Ron Merwin's Homecoming

A Show of Solidarity



Chief of staff Fred Hamilton, Jr. Vice Commander Jim Layton and Adjutant/Quartermaster Tim Peters shaved their heads to show solidarity with Commander Ron Merwin during his Homecoming on 25 September 2021 at Post 10010 East Helena MT. (Pictured from left to right, Fred Hamilton, Tim Peters and Ron Merwin).



Commander Ron Merwin receiving his 2021 2022 belt buckle from the Council of Administration at his Homecoming 25 September, 2021 at Post 10010 East Helena MT. The belt buckle replaced his COVID buckle and had the correct years on it. Ron was quite surprised at the gift. (Pictured from left to right, Fred Hamilton, Tim Peters and Ron Merwin)



Commander Ron Merwin receiving a USS Calhoun submarine during his Homecoming 25 September 2021 at Post 10010 East Helena MT.

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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*.

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

Coming Events

MID-WINTER MEETING | 29 JANUARY, 2022 | GREAT FALL POST 1087

DISTRICT 3	APR 2	RED LODGE, MT	08:00-10:00
DISTRICT 1	APR 16	LIBBY, MT	08:00-10:00
DISTRICT 2	APR 9	HAVRE, MT	08:00-10:00
DISTRICT 5	APR 9	GLASGOW, MT	10:00-12:00
DISTRICT 6	APR 1	EKALAKA, MT	10:00-12:00
DISTRICT 4	APR 23	DILLON, MT	10:00-12:00

COMMANDER'S REPORT



RON MERWIN

Commander's Report,

I have been traveling many miles since the State Convention, visiting Posts and attending Post meetings when possible. Most recently we just finished the Fall District meetings. I want to thank all of you who attended the District meetings and I encourage you along with those Posts who were not in attendance to schedule your time to attend the 'Midwinter' on January 29, 2022 in Great Falls at Post 1087. There will be special training covering Roberts Rules which is now the governing method for conducting our meetings. Please attend the meetings and this special training to be presented by a National representative.

It is good to see so many able to get out after all the covid restrictions that have been in place but at the same time I encourage everyone to be cautious and safe as this "Covid" can knock you out. I just recently lost my only sibling, my sister, a victim of the evil virus.

I want to thank all for the support you have given me and the Department during these troubling times. I look forward to meeting the challenges and with your help we can meet the goals set out. As of this writing we already have eight Posts who are 100% in membership. We have to work hard to meet the goal of 100% Department on December 7th, the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, but I am confident we can accomplish the challenge. Posts only need to be 100% plus one member to qualify for All American.

James Layton, our Jr Vice Cdr., has been assigned to the southern border three times since May. He will be back home again as you are reading this article. Another reason for you to be sure and attend the Midwinter is to visit with James and learn about the challenges we all can expect with these surges in migration that are not being checked.

Commander's Report, continued on Page 3

SR. VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



JEFF SCHEPP

Comrades,

It was nice to see you at the Fall District meetings in September. I got to meet more of the membership in person and that was great. Now it's that time of the year for our favorite word Membership. Our State Commander has set a goal for the State of Montana to



be at a 100% by 7 December 2021 which happens to be the 80th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Please take the time to read Ron Merwin's membership program for this year, there are many incentives to help achieve our goal.

As of 6 October 2021, the state of Montana needs 1,235 members to reach 100%. Let's all work together as a team by making the phone calls, sending out the letters, do recruiting events and asking all of the post membership to help reach Commander Merwin's goal. Do what you can today to make the goal easier to achieve tomorrow.

I have my commander shirts on sale right now if you are interested and want to order one, please give me a call at (406)465-9500. The shirts are teal in color and come in Men's long and short sleeve and Women's ¾ sleeve. The shirts cost is \$35.00 and the main order will be placed after the Mid-Winter meeting. I will have them for those that preorder them at the 100th convention in Billings Montana 14-18 June 2021.

Until we all meet at Mid-Winter 29 January, 2022 be safe and recruit, recruit and recruit.

Jeff Schepp
State Sr. Vice Commander

JR. VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



JIM LAYTON

Comrades,

It's been a great start to our year so far. With fall district meetings now complete, I would like to thank all the host posts and district officers who worked diligently to put on great meetings. I also want to thank all of you for your efforts to meet State Commander Ron Merwin's goal of 100% membership by December 7, 2021. I know how much work goes into reaching this goal, especially in our more rural posts. Members are the lifeblood of our organization; without active and engaged members, our mission would be for not. I urge every post to continue their efforts; there is always more we can do.

Moreover, I want to wish you all a happy holiday season. The holidays can be a struggle for many of our fellow veterans. I ask that you keep these veterans in mind and reach out as you can to help lift them up.

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

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Art Widhalm	PO Box 182 St Marie 59231 chiefhunter2u@yahoo.com	524-3761
Trustees:	Ed Viig, Dave Johnson and Art Widhalm	
By-Laws Committee:	Art Widhalm, Jack Hawley, Tim Peters and Jeff Schepp	

Commander's Report, continued from Page 2

James Layton along with my Chief of Staff, Fred Hamilton, and our QM/Adj Tim Peters all shaved their heads for my Homecoming at the end of September. That is going all out in support of me, but it is also a statement of their support for all of you. If all come on board with just a portion of that support we will have a great year. Our Commander in Chief, Fritz Mihelcic's slogan is "The time is Now". Yes, The Time is Now for us to bring new life to the VFW Department of Montana. New members, new activities in the community, new social media outlets from our Posts to get the word out on all that you are doing in your communities

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. The drawing will be held on January 29, 2022 at the Midwinter and 10 lucky winners will receive a cooler with a meat package worth about \$1,000.00.

Our continued success is dependent on all of us working together to support our veterans and our communities. As we work together, we can take pride in our accomplishments knowing that together as Comrades and members of the VFW we have met the challenges put before us and that 'NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS THAN THE VFW'. Thank you and God bless you for your service to our great country and your continued service to your community!

**Ron Merwin,
State Commander**

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

One of the tremendous benefits of membership in our organization is the comradeship we build with one another. Just as when we served in uniform, we need to be looking to the person on our left and right, support one another, and make our advance together. No matter how you choose to celebrate, I hope you are each surrounded by love and laughter. I look forward to seeing you all at our Mid-Winter meeting in Great Falls.

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

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT



JACK HAWLEY

Comrades,

Good to see old friends at the District meetings that I attended sorry I missed the last one but my new grandson was being born so I chose to stay home I hope it went well. Flew to Kansas City to attend a National Council meeting in September and we passed our new working budget for the year so all's well in VFW nation. Membership is always a topic that I address we have a pretty aggressive challenge from our State Commander and that is to be 100% in membership by 7 November Pearl Harbor's 80th anniversary and I know you will all step up to the challenge after all Montana Veterans don't back down from nothing. Covid-19

is still prominent and our veterans might still need help paying their dues if your post can afford it use your life membership monies you received in September and reinvest it into your members. Our business is helping our fellow veterans and this is a small way to do that. During the month of October the National Commander and State Commander have membership challenges that might put some money back into your post and the way you do that is renewing your current members, reinstate past members, and get new members the post with largest increase with those three categories will receive \$1,000 dollars from National and \$200 from the State for more info contact Me, Tim or Jeff and we will answer your questions. That's all for this quarter everyone have a great Holliday season and you'll be hearing from me after we become 100% in membership December 7th.

**Jack Hawley
National Council Member Montana**



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VFW Post 4042



VFW Post 4042 Commander Rob Gambino receiving All American Post Certificate from Past State Commander Wheeler and State Quartermaster Tim Peters at the Fall District 1 meeting in Kalispell, MT.



VFW Post 4042 Senior Commander Steve Gordon and Chaplain Brent Pomeroy along with several members of Post 4042 Auxiliary present CRESTON SCHOOL with cleaning supplies.



VFW Post 4042 Senior Commander Steve Gordon and Chaplain Brent Pomeroy along with several members of Post 4042 Auxiliary present SWAN RIVER SCHOOL with cleaning supplies.



VFW Post 4042 Senior Commander Steve Gordon and Chaplain Brent Pomeroy along with members of Post 4042 Auxiliary present CAYUSE PRAIRIE SCHOOL with cleaning supplies.



VFW Post 4042 Senior Commander Steve Gordon and Chaplain Brent Pomeroy along with members of Post 4042 Auxiliary present BIG FORK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL with cleaning supplies.



VFW Post 4042 member Michael Shepard with Montana State University President Cruzado during Bobcat Game with University of San Diego. Michael is also President of the Veterans Coalition of Northwest Montana on Suicide Prevention.



(l-r: Jeff Peterson, Nathan Gebhart, Michael Shepard & Michael Stone)

VFW Post 4042 members Michael Shepard and Michael Stone present Title of the "Billy Bike" to Nathan Gebhart. The bike was built by Jeff Peterson of Vintage Technologies in Kalispell MT. The bike was raffled by the Veterans Coalition of North West Montana for Suicide Prevention.



Changes to VA's community care program raise concerns about vets' health care access

Veterans Affairs leaders are phasing out the department's office in charge of community care programs, a move that some advocates are decrying as unfairly limiting veterans' medical options but officials insist is only about efficiency and not sweeping policy changes. Last week, VA officials said they would begin a multi-month process of "designing a new integrated access and care coordination model to better deliver seamless care." Connected to that, lawmakers on Capitol Hill received letters from VA Secretary Denis McDonough announcing that the Office of Community Care would be decommissioned in coming months, with its responsibilities shifted to a yet-to-be-established Office for Integrated Veterans Care.

"Implementation of these changes allows the Veterans Health Administration to continue its modernization journey and transformation to operate as a high reliability, veteran-centric organization," the letter stated.

RELATED

VA's community care programs lack wait-time standards and proof of success, critics charge

A GAO report this week said VA has refused to set guidelines on appointment delays for vets seeking care outside the department's medical system.

By Leo Shane III

The issue of community care — where veterans can see private-sector doctors paid for by department funds — has been a contentious one within VA for years.

Former President Donald Trump made expanding outside medical access a key point of his 2016 campaign and presidency, pushing for more "choice" for veterans in where they received their health care.

But Democratic lawmakers — including President Joe Biden — have cautioned that too much use of private-sector doctors for core VA medical responsibilities could drain finances from the VA health care system and lead to "privatization" of the department.

In a statement to Military Times, Donald Koenig, special advisor to VA's acting Under Secretary for Health for Integrated Veteran Care, said the goal of the new changes is not to hamper or dismantle the community care program.

"Nothing we are doing will change any appointments scheduled now or in the future," he said. "We're working to simplify, coordinate better, and make scheduling faster for veterans, whether for a VA provider or a community care provider. Our goal is to deliver the right care at the right time, that best meets our veteran's health needs."

Officials at Concerned Veterans of America — longtime advocates of increased community care programs and critics of the VA health care system — see it differently.

They noted that VA also recently took down a web page devoted to explaining veterans' options under the community care program, effectively limiting public information about how to enroll or schedule outside appointments.

"The administration does not like community care," said Darin Selnick, senior advisor to the group and former Veterans Affairs advisor for the Trump White House. "If they are renaming and neutering offices and moving around access to the revenue, it feels like it is part of a campaign to get rid of it completely."

Koenig said the Office of Community Care won't be fully shut down until next spring, with a target now of March 2022.

About 3,600 employees will be transferred to the new integrated care office, while another 4,300 will be reassigned to the Veterans Health Administration's finance office. No jobs will be terminated or physically relocated.

But Selnick said CVA has heard from numerous veterans and congressional offices about increased problems accessing the program and getting outside medical appointments. He said the decision to separate the financial and operational functions of the program could cause even more delays and confusion.



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.

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MEMBER INCENTIVES	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
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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%
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Annual Endowment: Dept.	\$6	\$12	\$18



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Hugh R. Butler*	Gold Post 5159	Harold A. Potter*	Bronze Post 3107
Russell J. Carey*	Gold Post 5159	Marvin L. Potter*	Bronze Post 3107
Donald A. Carr	Gold Post 5159	LeRoy R. Stein*	Bronze Post 3107
Roy M. DeLong*	Gold Post 5159	Manley L. Tiffany	Bronze Post 3107
Donald M. Decker*	Gold Post 5159	Edwin M. Yohn	Bronze Post 3107
Larry J. Douglass*	Gold Post 5159	Adam R. Zamborowski	Bronze Post 3107
Lyle T. Fisher	Gold Post 5159	Edwin M. Zamborowski	Bronze Post 3107
Rachel R. Fisher	Gold Post 5159	Everett E. Crum Jr.	Bronze Post 4099
Randall E. Geise	Gold Post 5159	Troy H. Garza	Bronze Post 4099
Derwin F. Halvorson Jr.	Gold Post 5159	Joe M. Halversen*	Bronze Post 4099
Henry F. Hanson	Gold Post 5159	Louie A. Kuylen*	Bronze Post 4099
Lloyd G. Heinselman	Gold Post 5159	Harold E. Lorenz*	Bronze Post 4099
Victor Holmberg	Gold Post 5159	Eugene N. Ronningen	Bronze Post 4099
Robert L. Jackson II	Gold Post 5159	Stanley K. Rosaaen	Bronze Post 4099
Howell K. Joiner	Gold Post 5159	Lawrence R. Trout	Bronze Post 4099
Thomas W. Magera	Gold Post 5159	Vernon E. Wilson*	Bronze Post 4099
Zachary Malinak	Gold Post 5159	Paul L. Holmgren*	Bronze Post 4762
Alan J. McCoy	Gold Post 5159	Alfred J. Adolph*	Bronze Post 4925
Daniel M. Oberlander	Gold Post 5159	Daniel C. Barta	Bronze Post 4925
Stephen M. Sedladko	Gold Post 5159	Jack L. Burger	Bronze Post 4925
Victor J. Stobie	Gold Post 5159	Loren R. Erbe*	Bronze Post 4925
Jerry A. Sutton	Gold Post 5159	John G. Liggett*	Bronze Post 4925
Charles B. Theademan	Gold Post 5159	Paul R. Meged	Bronze Post 4925
Joel W. Thomas	Gold Post 5159	Douglas H. Parrott	Bronze Post 4925
Clifford S. Tolman	Gold Post 5159	Henry A. Plott*	Bronze Post 4925
James L. Wellington	Gold Post 5159	Juan E. Santos, Jr.	Bronze Post 5514
Clayton H. White	Gold Post 5159	Paul G. Metzger*	Bronze Post 5652
Ted H. Wilburn	Gold Post 5159	Dale E. Morgan	Bronze Post 5652
D. B. Zimmer	Gold Post 5159	Will D. Juhl	Bronze Post 6774
Juan E. Santos Jr.	Gold Post 5514	Thomas F. Kelly	Bronze Post 6774
John C. Fay	Gold Post 5652	Clifford E. Schleusner	Bronze Post 6774
Ronald J. Merwin	Gold Post 5652	Terry Beezley	Bronze Post 6786
David M. Oberwegner	Gold Post 5652	Stanley A. Burns	Bronze Post 6786
Austin W. Bromley	Gold Post 6697	James H. Follensbee	Bronze Post 6786
John T. Freedly*	Gold Post 6774	Leo A. Howe*	Bronze Post 6786
Paul R. Harper	Gold Post 6774	J. P. Hume*	Bronze Post 6786
John C. Lattimer*	Gold Post 6774	Patrick L. McKeever	Bronze Post 6786
Russell H. Mobraaten	Gold Post 6774	John C. Mueller*	Bronze Post 6786
Howard J. Aemissegger	Gold Post 6786	Thomas H. Price	Bronze Post 6786
Francis E. Croucher	Gold Post 6786	Francis L. Utter*	Bronze Post 6786
Ken R. Utter	Gold Post 6786	Dale F. Wassmann	Bronze Post 7311
Melody J. Weldon	Gold Post 6786	Robert M. Stout	Bronze Post 7407
Richard N. Weldon	Gold Post 6786	Jason W. Aaron	Bronze Post 8292
Gary O. Borland	Gold Post 7311	Paul E. Coble*	Bronze Post 8292
Charles M. Handley*	Gold Post 7311	Ace M. Hanson	Bronze Post 8292
Barton W. Lawson	Gold Post 7311	Zane G. Murfitt	Bronze Post 8292
Edward A. Viig	Gold Post 7311	Jesse B. Paxton	Bronze Post 8292
Joseph F. Welter	Gold Post 7311	James G. Prusa	Bronze Post 8292
Corry Mordeaux	Gold Post 7407	Charles R. Thompson	Bronze Post 9040
Charles R. Noland	Gold Post 7407	Edward J. Boucher	Bronze Post 10010
Leslie L. Poland	Gold Post 7886	John R. Buckley*	Bronze Post 10010
James W. Ryan*	Gold Post 7886	David F. Johnson	Bronze Post 10010
Thomas H. Armstrong	Gold Post 8292	Melvin V. Johnson*	Bronze Post 10010
Carl M. Carver	Gold Post 8292	Dale A. Person*	Bronze Post 10010
Leonard W. Eik	Gold Post 8292	Robert J. Russ*	Bronze Post 10010
Terry W. Lambert	Gold Post 8292	George C. Stump Jr.*	Bronze Post 10010
William I. Mackley	Gold Post 8292	Art J. Alvarado	Bronze Post 12181
George F. Fryett, Jr.	Gold Post 9040	Vern L. McCants	Bronze Post 12181
Elmer D. Bernard*	Gold Post 10010	John M. Ward	Bronze Post 12181
William R. Bovee*	Gold Post 10010	Roy E. Jordan	Bronze Post 15027
Michael C. Buckley	Gold Post 10010	* Deceased	Total 252

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

VFW Meat or Cash Raffle

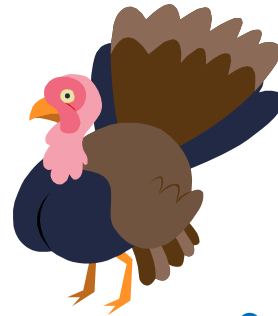
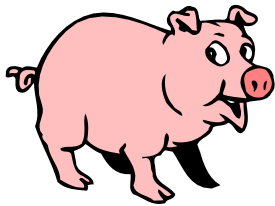
2021-2022



10

\$1,000

Packages



**10 chances to win one
of 10 meat packages**

**Winners can take Meat package or
\$500 cash**

Packages valued at \$1,000 each

Aprox. 140 pounds of meat

**Make money for your Post, District and Department all at
the same time.**

**Posts, Auxiliaries and Cooties will receive
\$2.00 for each ticket sold And**

Their District will receive \$0.50 for each ticket sold

Drawing to be Held 29 January, 2022

Tickets only \$10 each

VFW Post 10010

East Helena VFW Post 10010 Hosts District #4 Picnic

East Helena VFW Post 10010 hosted the District #4 picnic in August at Main St. park in East Helena. There were many District #4 Posts in attendance. The picnic was for all members of District #4 and their families. It was a great event and all that attended had a great time. Next year's district #4 picnic will also be hosted by East Helena Post 10010. Make your plans now to attend next August and make it an even bigger event.



Ruck to Remember was held to raise awareness of Suicide Prevention.



Post 10010 East Helena, MT and Post 12177 Fort Harrison, MT had a recruiting table on 22 September 2021 during the Ruck to Remember. Ruck to Remember was held to raise awareness of Suicide Prevention.



**November 11th
"Remember, Lest We Forget"**



Post	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Sur Name
209	Ralph	R	Reimann	
209	James	A	Schonrock	
276	Ralph	A	Ammondson	
1087	C	E	Berlien	
1087	Burl	W	Brawley	
1087	Jason	V	Christofferson	
1087	Penwell	S	Clint	
1087	Joe	B	Crees	
1087	Gifford		Doty	
1087	Gerry	D	George	
1087	Frank	F	Ghee	Jr.
1087	Gene	D	Griffith	
1087	Robert	M	Hamers	
1087	Edward	D	Jones	
1087	Carl	J	Mallory	
1087	Bill	P	Mc Gillis	
1087	Douglas	C	Miller	
1087	Roger	A	Roth	
1087	Lawrence	E	Tacke	
1087	Curtis	O	Wetherell	
1125	Jerome		Barth	
1125	John	D	Groshart	
1448	Gene	B	Fogarty	
1448	Jack	L	Hanley	
1448	Ronald	R	Peterson	
1507	Howard	G	Sandford	
1548	Richard	W	Johnson	
1579	Wayne	L	Morgan	
1849	Jack		Schwend	
2154	Donald	R	Garland	
2154	Fred	J	Gibson	
2154	James	F	Held	
2252	Jerry		Meckler	
2252	Ivan	G	Murdock	
2252	Anton	J	Yeager	
2484	Walter	R	Kolstad	
2484	Ernest	C	Porter	
2986	Edwin	W	Smout	
3107	Michael	L	Hansen	
3107	George		Kolstad	
3107	Melvin	C	Larsen	
3596	Richard		Beller	
3596	Joseph	E	Eisenbrandt	Sr
3596	Douglas	L	Fewkes	
3596	Paul	F	Goetz	
3596	Velmer	O	Gray	
3596	Harry	R	Greene	
3596	Chad		Kavanaugh	
3596	Albert	L	Mc Guigan	
3596	Glendon	W	Rummel	
3648	William		Hadfield	
3831	Allen	B	Hanson	
4047	Donald	R	Allison	
4109	John	B	Sutton	
4603	Evan	C	Andren	
4603	Dennis	A	Bird	
4744	Walter	T	Funk	
4813	Allen	E	Bond	
4813	Robert		Kluth	
4925	Billy	M	Strong	
5514	George	D	Whedon	
6774	Matthew	W	Grandpre	
6774	Eugene		Hoflin	
6774	Willard	F	LaCounte	
6774	Gordon	W	Torno	
6774	Allen	L	Whittington	
6786	Edwin	L	Beyers	
6786	Richard	W	Payton	
7311	Lester	R	Lynn	
7655	Jason	J	Giard	
7655	Buck		Traxler	
7886	Lloyd	R	Mc Kinney	
8292	George	J	Byrd	
9040	James	S	Stevenson	
10010	Joseph	W	Yuricic	
15027	Jerry	W	Mason	
15027	Richard	E	Stafford	



“Free”

Post Grave Marker Medallions

Grave marker medallions are available from Department headquarters at no cost to our Posts. Visit your local cemeteries and determine how many veteran graves you have that do not have any veteran markings on them and let us know how many you need. Once you receive them simply epoxy them to the grave stone and next time you place flags on the graves you won't miss any.

Help us identify all veteran graves in Montana

Commander's Special Project

Call Dept. Headquarters at (406)417-3278 or 324-3992

DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS 2021 - 2022 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM



“Remember, Lest We Forget”

MEMBERSHIP DRAWING

Any member who recruits five (5) or more New, New Life or Reinstated Members will be eligible for three (3) cash drawings of \$100.00 and one (1) cash drawing of \$250.00 at the State Convention. Recruiters will receive (1) chance for every (5) members recruited Cutoff date April 30, 2022.

100% MEMBERSHIP PIN

Every Post Commander and Post Quartermaster who becomes 100% in Membership as recorded in the VFW online membership system OMS, as of June 1, 2022 will receive a special 100% Membership Pin, Commander's Pin, Commander's Coin, and Commander-in-Chief Pin.

MEMBERSHIP

Each Post that reaches 100% in Membership by 31 December 2021 will be entered in a drawing for one of twenty \$250 awards. Awards to be drawn at the Mid-Winter meeting.

Each District that reaches 100% in membership by 31 December, 2021 will receive \$400 for your District.

THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER WILL BE CONTACTING EACH DISTRICT COMMANDER MONTHLY TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON THEIR DISTRICT.

Membership Program, continued on page 9

MONTHLY COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

October Challenge: The Post that has the largest increase in paid members between 1 October and 31 October, 2021 will receive \$200 for their Post.

November Challenge: The Post that has the largest percent increase in paid members between 1 November and 30 November, 2021 will receive \$200 for their Post.

December Challenge: The Post that has the largest number of new, reinstated, annual and life members paid between 1 December and 31 December, 2021 will receive \$200 for their Post.

State Headquarters will use information from the Online Membership System (OMS). **Cutoff date will be the last day of the month and the reporting date will be the first day of the next month.**

TOP RECRUITER

Member who signs up the most New, New Life or Reinstated Members will receive a citation. State Headquarters will use information from the National Monthly Recruiter Report. **Cutoff date April 30, 2022.**

ALL-STATE POST COMMANDERS & QUARTERMASTERS

To qualify for All-State Post Commander and Quartermaster the following requirements are established.

- Your Post must be greater than 100% in the Membership Program by June 30, 2021
- Your Post must be inspected by 15 October, 2021.
- Your Post must have Four (4) Quarterly Post Audits for the year April 1, 2021–March 31, 2022 on file with the Department Quartermaster. Specifically, the Quarterly Audits for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarters, calendar year 2021 and the 1st, Quarter, of calendar year 2022 must be received before 30 April, 2022. Any exception to this requirement must be addressed to the Department Quartermaster in advance of the report due date. Each audit is worth 25 points for a total of 100 points.
- Your Post must have a representative at both the Fall and Spring District meetings.
- You must have a 2022–2023, Election Report on file at the Department Headquarters by May 1, 2022.

MEMBERSHIP

Points can be credited by achieving the following goals by the dates posted:
 Posts 100% by **December 31, 2021.** 100 Points
 Achieving 100% plus 1 25 Points
Cutoff date April 30, 2022. Total **125 Points**

PROGRAMS

Posts will receive **10 Points** for each of the following programs that they report in; Americanism, Community Activities, National Home, National Military Service, Scouting and Disabled Warrior. Information will be collected from the Post Community Activity Report and other reports. An additional 10 points each can be credited by forwarding, a Scout of the Year, Fireman of the Year, Emergency Medical Technician of the Year and Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, to Department for judging. Total **110 Points**

Submit a Citizenship Teacher of the Year to District 25 Points
 Submit a Patriot's Pen entry to District 25 Points
 Submit a Voice of Democracy entry to District 25 Points
 Total **75 Points**

BUDDY POPPY

Purchase less than five (5) Poppies per member 10 Points
 Purchase more than five (5) Poppies per member 50 Points
 Total **50 Points**
Grand Total 460 Points

The top ten (10) All-State Post Commanders and Quartermasters (5 each) will receive an All-State Commanders Cap and Lapel Pin/All-State Quartermaster Cap and Lapel pin. One (1) of the All-State Commanders will be selected as Captain and will receive an All-State Commanders Captain Cap. If your Post is not 100% by April 30, 2022 but is 100% by June 30, 2022 and you otherwise qualify for All-State Commander, Quartermaster the All-State star will be presented at a later date and an All-State cap can be ordered through the State Quartermaster at the officer or Post's expense.

NOTE: If you already own an All-State cap for this position, you will be offered a special insignia, a Gold Star, to place on your current cap instead of receiving a new cap. This will allow the next Commander in line to receive his/her first cap. As can be deduced from above the Department will only purchase ten (10) caps and unlimited Gold Stars. This does not limit the number of All-State Commanders that may be recognized. If a Commander qualifies for All-State but falls out of the ten All-State Cap limits, it will be required for the Commander / Quartermaster's Post to purchase an All-State cap if so desired. All-State Caps must be ordered through the Department Headquarters.

ALL-STATE DISTRICT COMMANDERS

The highest scoring District Commander, will be selected as All-State District Commander, Captain. And will receive a special All-State District Commanders Cap. If District is not 100% by April 30, 2022 but is 100% by June 30, 2022 The All-State cap will be presented at a later date as long as you qualify for All-State.



To qualify for All-State the District must complete the following:

Each Post in the District **MUST** be inspected by 15 October 2021.

2. The following criteria and points will be used to determine the All-State District Commanders.

District 100% Membership by June 30, 2022	Total	30 Points
Every Post in the District 100% by April 30, 2022	Total	100 Points
District 100% Inspected by October 15, 2021	Total	40 Points
District 100% Inspected after October 15, 2021	Total	20 Points
District 100% of Posts reporting in Community Activities Programs by April 30, 2022	Total	80 Points
Districts 100% of Posts purchasing Buddy Poppies by April 30, 2022	Total	30 Points

Grand Total **300 Points**

NOTE: If you already own an All-State cap for this position, you will be offered a special insignia, a Gold Star, to place on your current cap instead of receiving a new cap. This will allow the next Commander in line to receive his/her first cap. As can be deduced from above the Department will only purchase two (2) caps and unlimited Gold Stars. This does not limit the number of All-State District Commanders that may be recognized. If a District Commander qualifies for All-State but falls out of the two All State Cap limit, however it will be required for the District Commanders / Quartermaster's District to purchase an All-State cap if so desired. All-State Caps must be ordered through Department Headquarters.

All-American Criteria

The All-American program exists to recognize exceptional leadership and teamwork, authentic accomplishment in membership growth and VFW core programs.

All-American Post Criteria

- Membership greater than 100% Meet all the following Program Participation Criteria:
- Voice of Democracy - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging (Overseas Post can donate \$75 to National in lieu of entry)
- Patriots Pen - minimum of one entry advanced to District judging (Overseas Post can donate \$75 to National in lieu of entry)
- Hold a fundraiser with the proceeds going to Veterans & Military Support Programs Services, minimum of \$100.
- Partner twice with two separate organizations like Team RWB, Operation Ramp It Up, Operation Gratitude, Team Rubicon, Merging Vets & Players and other VSOs to include our friends at Sport Clips and Burger King. (Submit both online reports through dashboard).
- Create Post social media site or actively maintain existing site.
- 5 New Action Corps Sign-Ups: To sign up: Text "VFW" to "50457" to sign-up 5 previously unsubscribed members or VFW supporters.
- Have a 10% increase in total impact in Community Service. (\$ Donated + Hours = Total Impact) * Baseline has been established within the KPI Tools for Community Service. ***See notes on page 16.**

All-American Post Award

- All Posts that meet the Qualifying Percentage and the program participation criteria will receive an All-American Post Citation, Post Streamer and be recognized in the VFW magazine.

- The Top **25** Posts in each Division will receive:

- Acknowledgment in VFW Magazine
- Acknowledgement during the All-American Awards Ceremony at the National Convention
- All-American Post citation
- All-American Post streamer
- All-American citation - commander
- All-American name badge - commander
- All-American cap (commander only, quartermaster and Post members may purchase "Post Member" cap)
- All-American lapel pin (commander only, quartermaster may purchase pin)
- All-American Team Post Member lapel pin (25 pack)
- The top **five** commanders in each division will also receive:
 - A **\$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW National Convention.**
 - Reserved seating at the VFW National Convention joint opening session.**

VFW Post 7407 Worden, MT

Huntley Project VFW Post 7407 joined forces Boy Scout Troops 23 and 76 from Billings and Shepherd Montana. The ceremony was formal and followed the rules for flag retirement. It was a learning experience for the Scouts. Post 7407 in Worden Montana is the flag collection point for surrounding small towns. Worn and tattered flags strangely even show up in the Post's mail box. A total 736 flags were retired.



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◆ **THANK YOU** ◆
Veterans

NOVEMBER 11TH

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Select from thousands of products and create your own customized merchandise! From fundraisers to tournaments, gifts to commemorations, we can help create special designs for your one-of-a-kind event. For more information, to receive a FREE, NO OBLIGATION quote or to place an order, call Kim Winston at 816.968.1181 or email her at kwinston@vfw.org.



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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vfwstore.org | 39

<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>DAN ARNOLD DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday 406-453-0473 600 Central Plaza, Suite 300 • Great Falls, MT 59401</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>PONY VFW POST 3831 AND MOC PUP TENT #24 Post Meetings 2nd Saturday 1:00 p.m. at Pony Bar Members and Guests Welcome</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>BIGFORK POST 4042 AND AUXILIARY VFW Meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month/same time Auxiliary Meeting 1st Wednesday of the month Steak Night – 3rd Wednesday of the month</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>MISSOULA POST 209 Post Meeting 2nd Wednesday – 7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting 2nd Tuesday – 2:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Visit the Montana Military Museum At historic Fort Harrison, just west of Helena. Telling Montana's Military History and Recognizing Montanans For Their Service! For more information write to: Fort William Henry Harrison Museum Foundation & Montana Military Museum ATTN: Museum Director/Curator P.O. Box 125, Fort Harrison, MT 59636-0125 E-mail: myfun51@msn.com – 406-324-3550</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>TROY VFW POST 5514 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.</p> <p>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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">e-Edition</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Same format as our printed edition.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You can view current editions as well as back issues of the <i>Montana Veteran</i> on our website at vfwmt.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Montana Veteran Department of Montana VFW c/o Tim Peters P.O. Box 4789 Fort Harrison, MT 59636</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Montana Veteran is designed at American Publishing LLC Jenny DeBack, Owner americanpublishing8482@gmail.com</p> </div>
<p>PLAINS POST 3596 Post Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesdays Auxiliary Meetings 2nd Monday Club – Bowling Alley – Banquet Hall You Are Always Welcome</p>	<p>BILLINGS HEIGHTS POST 6774 Post Meeting 2nd Wednesday - 6:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting 2nd Thursday - 6:00 p.m. Canteen Open Daily</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	
<p>LEWISTOWN POST 1703 Post Meeting 3rd Monday – 7:00 p.m. Basement – American Legion Club</p>		

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TOLL-FREE NUMBER
1-877-468-8387 (M-F: 8:00-4:30)

<p>Option #1 Pharmacy (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) 1. Refill 2. Renewal 3. Anticoag 4. Staff **Refill Option is available 24 hours.</p>	<p>Option #2 Central Scheduling (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>Option #3 Mental Health (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 406-442-6410</p>	<p>Option #4 VA Clinics (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</p>
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