

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

the
Montana
VETERAN



Volume 26
No. 3

vfwmt.org
Dec./Jan./Feb./Mar. 2023



On October 23, 2023 Post 497 Havre Montana rededicated Veterans of the Highline Memorial Park. Pictured cutting the ribbon from Left to Right are Post member SSG Tayler Wise and Post QM Dale Herd.

Post 497 Honor Guard performs at the rededication of the Veterans of the Highline Memorial Park in Havre Montana.



On October 23, 2023 Past State Commander Ron Mervin passed away at home. A memorial service was held at Terrace Lake Community Church on October 30, 2023. Full military honors were conducted at the church following the memorial service.



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

Coming Events 2024

- MID-WINTER | JAN 27 | GREAT FALLS | 09:00-17:00**
- DISTRICT 3 | APR 6 | BILLINGS, 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 | 10:00-10:00**
- 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,

This year is racing by, and our department continues to drive forward despite the many challenges we have already faced. As I think about our purpose and mission as an organization, I am reminded that the Veterans of Foreign Wars is more than just a club for veterans to gather and tell old war stories, our organization stands as a guardian of those who have served in defense of freedom. Freedom from tyranny, freedom from oppression, and most importantly freedom of thought and expression. We are comprised of a diverse group of veterans from a wide array of backgrounds

all coming together for a common purpose.

At its core the VFW is a lifeline for veterans offering a multitude of veteran's advocacy ranging from financial aid, emotional support, to community engagement. The continuation of these efforts relies heavily on the strength of our membership base. An ever growing and engaging membership ensures a solid and able network of veterans ready to meet the evolving needs of veterans.

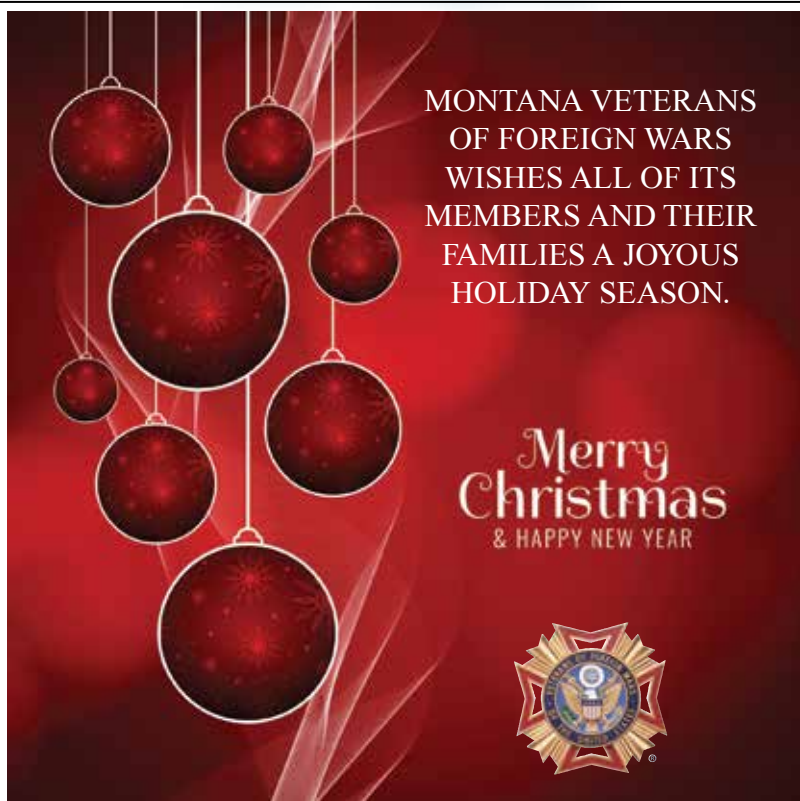
Membership recruiting and retention aren't just administrative tasks to reach an arbitrary number, they are the lifeblood of the VFW's ability to fulfill its mission. A thriving and active membership translates to increased advocacy and influence in the halls of Congress, expanded community outreach, and most importantly a more significant impact on policy decisions that affect our veterans.

Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento set a goal for each department to be 102% for the year. The importance of this goal cannot be undersold. If we are to continue to garner the influence and platform, we currently have for veteran's advocacy, it is essential that we not just maintain, but grow our membership back over one million members nationwide. I am proud of our department and because of the confidence I have in each of our posts I promised Chief Sarmiento that we would reach 102%. Department of Montana has consistently risen to the challenge before and I am confident we will meet the challenge this year, but it will take a concerted effort from each of us. We need your help to reach our department goal of 102% by December 31, 2023.

As the holiday season approaches, we must redouble our efforts to remember and support veterans. For many of our comrades who served, this time of year can be particularly challenging. Financial strain, loneliness, and the invisible scars of war can weigh heavily. Part of our retention efforts must be to organize initiatives and support networks to ensure that no veteran feels forgotten during this season of celebration. Our community is stronger together.

In conclusion, the VFW's unwavering commitment to membership, remembrance, and support encapsulates the essence of our legacy of service. As we approach this holiday season, let us not only express gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy and for those who made it possible but also actively contribute to our community and the VFW's mission. By participating in membership initiatives and reaching out to less fortunate veterans, we become instrumental in preserving our legacy of service and ensuring that no veteran is left behind. May the VFW's call echo loudly. Join, remember, and uplift—because the spirit of service knows no season.

**“Make Service
Your Legacy”**



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Trustees: By-Laws Committee:	Ed Viig, Art Widhalm and Sheila Schwegel Art Widhalm, Jack Hawley, Tim Peters and Jeff Schepp	
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SR. VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Lonnie Johnson

Greetings comrades,

What a busy and exciting year. Thank all of you for the hospitality at all the fall meetings in which I was able to attend. Programs are in full swing, and we still need to work on the 102% membership goal. Remember that goal will pass on to the next year as well. Enjoy the Holiday Season and make sure to include your members in a celebration or meal. Too often we forget about those who are without family to spend time with during this time of year. Reach out to me as you need. If you plan any events and would like me to attend, give me a call and I will do my best to schedule it in.

In order to succeed we all need to communicate and work together. As we get into midwinter and spring, I plan to travel more and get out to see as many members as I can. Be Visible!

JR. VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Heather Allen

Comrades,

It was a pleasure visiting with you all at your district meetings. I want to remind you to start making a list of things your post needs and/or wants. As I said in the last edition of the Montana Veteran, the things on that list can be small or huge; think out of the box and think big! Please get your wants and needs to me before 31 Dec 2023 so I can start formulating a plan to make those things happen. Please fill out the online form at <https://rb.gy/rps4a> or email me at heatheryallen@yahoo.com.

If you weren't at your district meeting, I announced that there is now a member only section you can [login](#) to on the state website: vfwmt.org. In the upper right corner of the screen, click "login". Your login is your member number and your password is your last name with the first letter capitalized. All life and legacy members have an account loaded into the system. If you are an annual member and would like access, please contact me at the email above or call or text me at 406-240-8444. I am working on reformatting the roster to load into that section and as we create other useful forms those will be available there as well; suggestions are welcome. There is nothing available in that section now, but hopefully soon!

Keep active with your post and in your community. The more you and your post are out and about and visible in the community, the easier it will be for you to sign up new members to help the VFW reach its 102% membership goal. You are the key to the success of your post, this department, and the organization.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



Mike Pryor

Greetings to all the members of the Montana VFW! I had the opportunity to spend a little time with many members during the fall District Meetings around the state. It was good to see many friends and meet new ones and share ideas. We all know changes have been made by the National VFW how Post Chaplains are selected, and most understand why these were necessary. However, it is vitally important that ALL Posts have a Chaplain appointed who will fulfill ALL duties and obligations of the position. I continue to say Post Chaplains should contact District Chaplains who should contact the State Chaplain when a member is in need. Chaplains and Service

officers (Post, District, and State) should be working together to ensure the needs of our members are addressed. Sending a card, or a phone call to a member or a family member goes a long way.

I've been looking over my notes from the past year and a half when I made the decision to ask your support to be your State Chaplain. I shared some of my ideas with my main theme being new faces bring fresh ideas, never to become stagnant. I will not be seeking the Chaplain's position in the upcoming year as it is time for newer ideas to be presented. It is my hope that another person will want to share their fresh ideas. It is an opportunity to be a member of the Council of Administration which gives you a voice in the operations of the State VFW. I encourage all to consider seeking the position as the next State Chaplain.

As the seasons change in the coming weeks, we know how busy our lives will be. Families will be getting together with wonderful smells from the kitchen reminding us of get-togethers of years past. I hope everyone will enjoy these times and laugh and sometimes cry over these wonderful times. Please be sure to remember those close to you, as well as those who may not be as fortunate, with kindness and support. Have a great time and enjoy the holiday season. See you in Great Falls for the Mid-Winter Conference.

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).

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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.
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Become a Veterans' Advocate

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

LEGACY LIFE HONOR ROLL

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Ross A. Beagle	Gold Post 276	Barton W. Lawson	Gold Post 7311
Dennis G. Dreyer	Gold Post 276	Edward A. Viig	Gold Post 7311
Fred Hamilton	Gold Post 276	Joseph F. Weiler	Gold Post 7311
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Joel W. Thomas	Gold Post 5159	Raymond L. Middleton	Bronze Post 3596
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James L. Wellington	Gold Post 5159	Everett E. Crum Jr.	Bronze Post 4099
Clayton H. White	Gold Post 5159	Troy H. Garza	Bronze Post 4099
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D. B. Zimmer	Gold Post 5159	Louie A. Kuylen*	Bronze Post 4099
Juan E. Santos Jr.	Gold Post 5514	Harold E. Lorenz*	Bronze Post 4099
John C. Fay	Gold Post 5652	Eugene N. Ronningen	Bronze Post 4099
Ronald J. Merwin*	Gold Post 5652	Stanley K. Rosaaen	Bronze Post 4099
David M. Oberwegner	Gold Post 5652	Lawrence R. Troutd	Bronze Post 4099
Melvin L. Quakenbush	Gold Post 5652	Vernon E. Wilson*	Bronze Post 4099
Charles M. Carroll*	Gold Post 6774	Paul L. Holmgren*	Bronze Post 4762
John T. Freetty*	Gold Post 6774	Alfred J. Adolph*	Bronze Post 4925
Paul R. Harper	Gold Post 6774	Daniel C. Barta	Bronze Post 4925
Thomas F. Kelly	Gold Post 6774	Jack L. Burger*	Bronze Post 4925
John C. Lattimer*	Gold Post 6774	Loren R. Erbe*	Bronze Post 4925
Russell H. Modraaten*	Gold Post 6774	John G. Liggitt*	Bronze Post 4925
David C. Redmon	Gold Post 6774	Paul R. Meged*	Bronze Post 4925
Robert J. Sutton	Gold Post 6774	Douglas H. Parrott	Bronze Post 4925
Howard J. Aemisegger	Gold Post 6786	Henry A. Plott*	Bronze Post 4925
Ken J. Bartells	Gold Post 6786	Wayne H. Moser*	Bronze Post 5514
Jerret Bratton	Gold Post 6786	Paul G. Metzger*	Bronze Post 5652
Francis E. Croucher	Gold Post 6786	George O. Stonehocker*	Bronze Post 5652
Ken R. Utter	Gold Post 6786	Gordon L. Ewell	Bronze Post 6774
Melody J. Weldon	Gold Post 6786	Will D. Juhl	Bronze Post 6774

Legacy Life Honor Roll continued

Clifford E. Schleusner*
 Terry Beazley
 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
 Zane G. Murfitt
 James G. Prusa
 Zachariah C. Bain
 Frank L. Belgarde III
 John R. Buckley*

Bronze Post 6774
 Bronze Post 6786
 Bronze Post 6786
 Bronze Post 6786
 Bronze Post 6786
 Bronze Post 6786
 Bronze Post 6786
 Bronze Post 6786
 Bronze Post 6786
 Bronze Post 6786
 Bronze Post 6786
 Bronze Post 7311
 Bronze Post 7407
 Bronze Post 8292
 Bronze Post 8292
 Bronze Post 8292
 Bronze Post 8292
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010

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

Total 303

Special Project Donation continued

“I chose Grace home because it was a great veteran’s organization to donate to because they help veterans transition when they need help to when they leave the military and come into the civilian world,” Havrilla stated.

Deborah Kottel said, “This is a significant donation for them, which will allow them to directly help men and women who are unhoused. You need housing in order to take the next step in your life. It’s very hard to move your life forward when housed on the street.”

Kottel noted that they have been at capacity every day since that time, serving 14 men with private rooms and robust support, such as literacy, financial support, and sobriety.

While Grace Home supports military men, there second facility, Grace Haven aims to support military women and their children.

“It was real clear to us that female veterans are eight times more likely to be homeless, unhoused, and have trauma” Kottel said. “Yet there was not one place in the state of Montana that was dedicated to female unhoused veterans. This is particularly difficult because many of the unhoused female veterans come with children. You have to have a facility that can also accommodate children.”

Kottel emphasized that not a single penny of their donations goes to administration.

“We run on a very tight budget. “We don’t have federal funds. This is community support. No donation ever goes into administrative overheads. This will go to pay utility bills, pay insurance on the building, have a car that transports people to their job, direct counseling, treatment. It will go to those services.”

Grace Haven is expected to open in November, located at 1220 17th Street South.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

SUICIDE AWARENESS PROMINENT IN PLAINS
 BY HEATHER ALLEN



Every September, for suicide awareness month, VFW Post 3596 Life Member, Edward Foste creates a Veteran Suicide Awareness display on the greenway along Hwy 200 in Plains, MT. He started with a Veteran organization out of Missoula containing a static display in 2018 featuring two white crosses and a Star of David. The following year, with that organization no longer active, he made the display his own. In the back center of the display is a large cross with a green line American Flag that gets more distressed every year. He plans to keep it distressed because of the struggles within our Veterans who take their own lives. With that, 660 American flags are added in front of it throughout the month. Every flag represents a veteran who completed suicide that day. Various veterans, community members, children (young and old) and political figures have all joined Ed each day of every September to add 22 new flags for that day. He added a silhouette of a kneeling soldier in 2019 and in 2020 he added a female kneeling soldier to the display. In 2021 he changed them from black silhouettes to distressed silhouettes to signify the struggle within Veterans around us.

This year, the display grew even bigger. He talked with local businesses and asked them if they wanted to be a part of suicide awareness month. Twelve businesses and one family all provided supporting banners to hang on the fence behind his growing display. He also asked if the Suicide Awareness truck could be part of the display, which was a resounding yes. Each weekend the truck left on a mission to the VFW District meetings around the state then came back to the display, changing positions each time. On the final day, he had WWII Veteran Tom Charlton help him add the large flags down the center. He has future plans to add silhouettes of children and other family members to represent the Green Star Families, which are the family members the departed Veteran has left behind.

If you or someone you know is struggling within, please have them call the Crisis Hotline at 988 then press 1. No one is alone in the fight. There is a support system in place for everyone, please reach out.

PDP TAMEE HAVRILLA PRESENTS SPECIAL PROJECT DONATION



On Sept 5,2023 Past President Tamee Havrilla, presented a check in the amount of \$3,333.47, the total amount raised from her Special Project to help Grace Home. She presented the check to Deborah Kottel who serves as the Executive Director for St. Vincent De Paul of Cascade County.

For the past six years, the Grace Home Veterans Center in Great Falls has been working to change the lives of those who served our country.

This donation helps the organization to further enhance their mission.

VFW Post 4042



VFW Post 4042 member Jim Gray and Senior Vice Commander Michael Stone at the Flag Retirement Ceremony held at a Bigfork Chamber of Commerce event in which the Post hosted. Local Marine Recruiters also supported the event.



VFW Post 4042 Quartermaster Ron Wenzel, Senior Vice-commander Michael Stone and member James Davenport hand out poppies and American Flags on Veterans Day at Harvest Foods in Bigfork MT.





Past National Commander Tim Borland presented Bigfork VFW Post 4042 Quartermaster Ron Wenzel his coin while visiting Reno NV.



VFW Post 4042 Quartermaster Ron Wenzel with Congressman Zinke at the Veterans Day Ceremony at Bigfork High School.



VFW Post 4042 Patriot's Pen winners from Cayuse Prairie School in Creston MT.



VFW Post 4042 Senior Vice Commander Michael Stone presents Voice of Democracy Certificates to the winners of the essay contest to Bigfork High School.



e-Edition
Same format as our printed edition.

You can view the current issue and other back issues of the Montana Veteran on our website at mtvfw.org

VFW Post 5514

NORTHWEST VETERANS STAND-DOWN LIBBY, MT



On September 30th and October 1st 2023, the Northwest Veterans Stand-down was held in Libby Montana. Total breakdown of the weekend was. Veterans registered attendance 418, Family members 108, Meals served 510, haircuts 103, flu shots given by V. A. staff 69, food boxes distributed 60, service providers 25, volunteers 81, One donor gave away \$4000.00 worth of dog and cat food. There were four guest speakers and five members of the color guard helped at this event. The following members from Post 5514 Troy MT volunteered their time. Travis Sealy, Amy Snow, Bobbie Scott and Sean Scott. State Auxiliary President and her daughter also volunteered their time.



2023 VFW & AUXILIARY WESTERN CONFERENCE



The Department of Montana VFW and Auxiliary was well represented at the Western Conference that was held 2-5 November, 2023 in Salt Lake City, Utah during the joint opening session.



VFW Post 9040

POST 9040 MEMBERS RECEIVE GOVERNOR'S VETERANS COMMENDATION AWARDS

On July 12, Governor Greg Gianforte, presented 3 members of Bill Carroll VFW Post 9040 with his Governor's Veterans Commendation Award. Dick Jackson, a veteran of the "Brown Water Navy" in Viet Nam was recognized for his service to the VFW for over 50 years in various leadership roles during that time period. He was also recognized for his service to the Dillon community by assisting with the Medical Equipment Loan Program run by the American Legion Post in Dillon. Dick was not able to attend the ceremony because of prior medical appointments, so his brother, John, also a member of Post 9040 accepted the award for him. Chuck Thompson, served as an Air Force commando in Viet Nam and is a past commander and current chaplain of Post 9040. Chuck promotes patriotism in the local area by leading the Wisdom 4th of July parade, and promoting proper respect and etiquette for the flag around the community throughout the year. He also presents VFW awards at the Dillon Middle School, Beaverhead County High School, and the Montana Youth Challenge Academy. Bob Bump was an Army infantryman in Viet Nam receiving numerous awards for heroism, including a purple heart, during his time in SE Asia. His service to the Dillon community includes helping run the local "Wood Bank" which provides fire wood to needy veterans and other community members in the area. He also acts as the armorer, maintaining ceremonial rifles used by the military honor guard at veteran's funerals. The Governor thanked each of these veterans for their service to the country and for their continued service to the VFW and the Dillon community.



Governor Gianforte with Chuck Thompson, John Jackson, and Bob Bump.

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Say goodbye to paper dues notices. With VFW AUTOPAY, you provide your payment information (Credit, debit or bank account) at www.vfw.org and your membership is automatically renewed annually. It's just that easy. Best of all, you're in full control of your membership record. You can change your payment information or cancel at any time. Plus, you can make other changes yourself, like updating contact information, requesting replacement membership cards and more. **With the NEW "Subscription Dues" your membership is good for 365 days from the time of renewal.**

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VFW Post 10010

On 20 November, 2023 members of Post 10010 East Helena met and assembled Thanksgiving baskets for 50 Families in East Helena, MT. The baskets then were delivered to the Life Point Church where the families would come pick up there baskets later that day. The following Post members helped assemble and deliver the baskets. Jeff Dahlin, Dave Johnson, Joe Wagner, Jim Bowers, Tom Johnson, Ken Liston, Jeff Schepp and Tim Peters.



Wishing you and your loved ones a Happy Thanksgiving, with good health, good times, and a good life.

Happy Thanksgiving



Senate Candidate Tim Sheehy, who is also a VFW member, spoke at East Helena Post 10010 Veteran's Day ceremony held at Memorial Park. After the ceremony at the Park the Community was invited back to the Post for a luncheon that was provided by the Auxiliary.



**QUANTITY ORDERS FOR POST COMMANDERS, SPECIAL
EVENTS, FUNDRAISERS, COMMUNITY EVENTS**

CUSTOM

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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816.968.1181 • kwinston@vfw.org**

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DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS 2023 - 2024 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM



“Make Service Your Legacy”

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, 2024**.

102% MEMBERSHIP PIN

Every Post Commander and Post Quartermaster who becomes 102% in Membership as recorded in the VFW Online Membership System (OMS), as of June 1, 2024, will receive a special 102% Membership Pin, Commander's Pin, Commander's Coin, and Commander-in-Chief Pin.

MEMBERSHIP

Each Post that reaches 88% in Membership by 30 September 2023, and or 93% in Membership by 31 October 2023, and or 100% in Membership by 30 November 2023 will be entered in a drawing for one of two \$100 awards at each benchmark. Additionally, each Post that reaches 102% in Membership by 31 December 2023 will be entered in a drawing for one of two \$500 awards. Awards to be drawn at the Mid-Winter meeting. *(Posts can qualify for more than one award)*

Each District that reaches 102% in membership by 31 December, 2023 will receive \$500 for your District.

The Department Commander will be contacting each District Commander monthly to receive updates on their District.

STATE COMMANDER'S MONTHLY CHALLENGE

July Challenge: The Post that has the largest percent of continuous annual members that pay their dues between 1 July and 31 July, 2023 will receive \$200 for their Post.

August Challenge: The Post that has the largest number of reinstated members to renew between 1 August and 31 August, 2023 will receive \$200 for their Post.

September Challenge: The Post that has the largest percent increase of paid members between 1 September and 30 September, 2023 will receive \$200 for their Post. *(excluding life members)*

October Challenge: The Post that has the largest number of annual members converted to life member between 1 October and 31 October, 2023 will receive \$200 for their Post.

November Challenge: The Post that recruits the largest number of new members between 1 November and 30 November, 2023 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, 2023 will receive \$200 for their Post.

POST LEGACY LIFE AWARD

The post with the largest increase in new and upgraded Legacy Life members for the year will receive \$400. A point system will be used to determine the winner. Posts will receive 1 point for each level increased and 4 points for each new Gold Legacy Life member i.e., bronze to silver = 1 point, bronze to gold = 2 points, new silver = 2 points, new gold = 4 points.

State Headquarters will use information from the Online Membership System (OMS). Cutoff date will be 30 April 2024.

ALL-STATE POST COMMANDERS & QUARTERMASTERS

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

1. Your Post must be 102% in the Membership Program by **June 30, 2024**
2. Your Post must be inspected by **15 October, 2023**.
3. Your Post must have Four (4) Quarterly Post Audits for the year April 1, 2023–March 31, 2024, on file with the Department Quartermaster. Specifically, the Quarterly Audits for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarters, calendar year 2023 and the 1st, Quarter, of calendar year 2024 must be received before **30 April, 2024**. 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.

4. Your Post must have a representative at both the Fall and Spring District meetings.
5. Your Post must host or participate in a minimum of two (2) recruiting events and report results on the Community Activity Report or dashboard by **30 April 2024**.
6. Your Post must participate in a minimum of one (1) community service special project and report the results on the Community Activity Report by **30 April 2024**.
7. You must have a 2024–2025 Election Report on file at the Department Headquarters by **May 1, 2024**.
8. Must turn in at least one (1) community activity report quarterly to Department headquarters.
9. Posts that have failed to turn all documents in by the deadline will not be qualified for All-State.

MEMBERSHIP

Points can be credited by achieving the following goals by the dates posted:

Posts 100% by December 31, 2023 .	50 Points
Achieving 102%	75 Points
Cutoff date June 30, 2024.	
	Total 125 Points

PROGRAMS

Posts will receive **10 Points** for each of the following programs that they report in; Americanism, Community Activities, Buddy Poppies, National Home, National Military Service, Safety, Scouting and Youth Activities. 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, 911 Dispatcher of the Year, Employer of the Year, or Member of the Year to Department for judging (entry forms available at vfwmt.org)

	Total 150 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 three (3) Poppies per member	10 Points
Purchase more than three (3) Poppies per member	50 Points
	Total 50 Points

Grand Total 400 Points

ALL-STATE

The top ten (10) All-State Post Commanders and Quartermasters (5 each) will receive an All-State Commanders Cap or All-State Quartermaster Cap respectively. One (1) of the All-State Commanders will be selected as Captain and (1) of the All-State Quartermasters will be selected as Captain and will receive All-State Commanders/Quartermaster Captain Caps. If your Post is not 102% by April 30, 2024 but is 102% by June 30, 2024 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 or their 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 Captain - All-State District Commander, and will receive a special All-State District Commanders Cap. If no District is 102% by April 30, 2024, but is 102% by June 30, 2024, 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 2023**. The following criteria and points will be used to determine the Captain of the All-State team of District Commanders:

District 102% Membership by June 30, 2024	Total	30 Points
Every Post in the District 102% by April 30, 2024	Total	100 Points
District 100% Inspected by October 15, 2023	Total	60 Points
District 100% of Posts reporting in Community Activities Programs by April 30, 2024	Total	50 Points
Districts 100% of Posts purchasing Buddy Poppies by April 30, 2024	Total	40 Points

Grand Total 280 Points

VFW Department Cash Raffle

Fall - Winter
2023-2024



First prize will be \$2,000
Second Prize will be \$1,000
Third Prize will be \$500

Drawing to be held 27 January, 2024
At Mid-Winter in Great Falls MT.

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



STORE - WWW.VFWSTORE.ORG

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- * U.S. Flags
- * Patriotic items
- * Custom orders
- * And much more!

Your purchase supports veterans, military service members and their families.

833.VFW.VETS vfwstore.org



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

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

**PONY VFW POST 3831
AND MOC PUP TENT #24**

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

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.

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

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

e-Edition

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

**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.

**Option #2
Central Scheduling**

(Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)

**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**

**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

**WE SUPPORT
OUR VETERANS**