



# MONTANA

## VETERANS MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2026



Volume 28 Issue 2



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# From the Editor

How is everyone after Convention and the Montana Summer? We Montanans always have so much to do in the short summer months. It's hard to believe that the -ber months are here, but I will not complain about the weather getting cooler.

Thank you to everyone who came to Miles City for the 2026 State Convention! We loved hosting you and getting to meet everyone! We hope that you had a great time, and that you enjoyed your time here. I have no doubt that East Helena is going to rock it in 2027!

As the State and National Conventions are over, we are getting the Magazine back into circulation for you! There is so many fantastic things happening throughout our great state, and I hope that everyone's Post happenings have been included. If we missed something amazing from your Post, please let us know!



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
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**District 4** – Kenneth F. Liston (Cmdr) – Post 10010

**District 5** – Randy L. Kreps (Cmdr) – Post 4018

**District 6** – J. Mike Ward (Cmdr) – Post 1125

Update is in  
process..

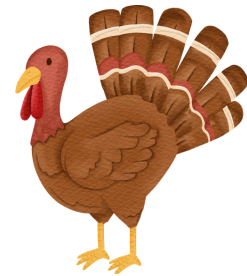
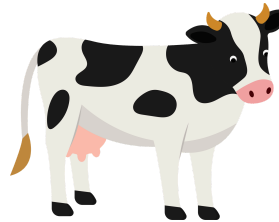
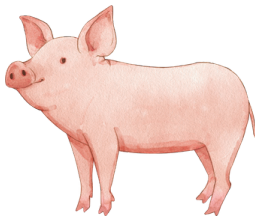


# VFW Meat or Cash Raffle

**2026-2027**



**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 30 January, 2027**

**Tickets only \$10 each**

# Messages from our leadership

Comrades,

We are moving forward into another membership year. Your delegation from Montana represented you well at the National Convention in Reno. A lot of great networking amongst veterans throughout the world as we came together to fulfill the mission of the VFW. New leadership was elected, and priorities established. National continues to fight for us in what our leaders have determined is the correct course of action when it comes to our earned benefits and care. Sometimes this comes at the expense of conflict with other Veteran Service Organizations. Some of which several of us are also members of. I urge all of us to study the information and not make assumptions. The VFW does not answer nor report to another organization just as no other organizations answer or report to the VFW.

It is that time of year for fall District meetings. This is one of the best times for information to be shared amongst the backbone of the organization, the Posts and their local members. Membership programs, VOD and Patriots Pen, and anything important to the organization. I personally will not be able to attend all District meetings, but someone from Department leadership will be present.

As we transition through the fall months, make sure you take time and reach out to all veterans, not just the members of your Posts. We are in this together. We are comrades with a mission, taking care of each other.

If you have questions, please reach out to leadership. If we don't have the answer, we will find someone who does. It is better to work from actual facts and not rumors and personal perspectives.

Moving forward!

Yours in comradeship,

Lonnie J. Johnson

State Commander



Lonnie Johnson

Montana State Commander





Comrades –

I would like to start off by saying thank you. Your support in allowing me to move to Department Senior Vice is both humbling and appreciated. I will need all y'all's help to make this year successful, and remember, I work for you, so please contact me anytime and anywhere for anything.

As we begin this new year, I would like us all to look back on this past year and see where we were successful, determine where we need to improve and let me know of any ideas you have to make us better. Share your best practices with other posts as well as reaching out to other posts for help and ideas. We accomplished some amazing things last year and I am excited to see what we do this year.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention membership. Membership is so vital to our organization. Growing our ranks and renewing our annual members is paramount to our success. Membership plays a huge part in our department's finances as well as our place within the entire organization. Although National benefits as well, only the Department will suffer by us not achieving membership goals and doing all we can in this program. Montana has always set the standard in membership and this needs to continue.

I am truly honored and proud to be a member of a department with such outstanding people. You all do amazing things, and I thank you for it.

*Bill McCord*

Sr Vice Commander

# CHAPLAIN'S NEWSLETTER

Greetings to all of our members across Montana. Last week, we wrapped up the 127th Anniversary of the VFW with our Convention in Reno, Nevada.

Montana was represented very well, with recognition for Past State Commander Heather Allen receiving All-American honors, VFW Post 1087 Commander Helen Morin receiving All-American honors, and Past State Commander Jack Hawley for recruiting over 250 members. ***Congratulations to all!***

The continued success of our **TEAM** is a responsibility that we all share as we work together to build a stronger future for VFW Posts across Montana.

Recruiting is vital for our organization, but it also gives each of us the opportunity - not just for a new member, but the chance to extend an invitation for a healthier future for those who struggle.

The ability to connect with our Veterans is a duty that each of us carries, and I firmly believe that each of our members can be trusted to provide the resources needed for so many of our brothers and sisters who are looking for a better way of life.

I firmly believe that the Department of Montana has, and will continue to, lead the charge from our small towns to the steps of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

When we are **ALL** working together on the same issues, we are unstoppable. By continuing collaboration and cooperation, we create a better future for those who follow in our footsteps.

Through August 5, 2026, Montana has lost 24 Veterans by suicide. The continued decline is a result of our Department, District, and Post members remaining vigilant and working together to ensure that every Veteran is heard, recognized, and given the opportunity for meaningful change. ***I am deeply appreciative of you for being the difference.***

Let us all be in prayer for those deployed and for the families who await the return of their loved ones.

Thank you for all that you are doing, and may God bless America.

**Matthew 5:9**

***"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."***

## ***Cowboy Bill***

Department of Montana Chaplain / Legacy 1087  
(406) 314-1800 Cell



First and foremost, I want to extend my sincere thanks to every member of the Department of Montana for another outstanding Department Convention. A special thank you goes to the members of VFW Posts 1579 (Miles City) and 1125 (Glendive), along with their Auxiliaries and volunteers, for hosting an exceptional convention. Your hospitality and hard work made this year's Convention a tremendous success.

I also want to share a compliment from Assistant Adjutant General Brian Walker, who attended our Convention. Brian said he had a great time in Montana and was especially impressed with the professionalism, respect, and conduct displayed by our members throughout our convention

deliberations. Thank you for representing the Department of Montana and the Veterans of Foreign Wars with such distinction.

As we begin a new VFW year following a successful Department Convention, I'd also like to share a few highlights from the National Council of Administration Meeting held on March 1, 2026, in Washington, D.C.

National Headquarters reported the VFW remains on solid financial footing, thanks to strong fundraising and investment performance. The Council also received updates on National Veterans Service initiatives, including improvements to veterans' claims assistance, continued efforts to combat claim sharks, and ongoing advocacy to improve VA benefits and health care.

One area of particular interest to Montana was the continued progress of the VFW Riders Group. National leadership reported that work is moving forward on incorporation, national bylaws, and the launch of a dedicated Riders website. With discussions already underway about establishing VFW Riders in Montana, these developments provide an encouraging foundation for Departments looking to grow this exciting program.

The Council also heard from the Women's Veteran Committee, which emphasized the increasing role of women veterans within both the military and the VFW. The committee highlighted continued advocacy for improved VA health care, mental health services, and support for veterans affected by military sexual trauma. Their work serves as an important reminder that we must continue ensuring every eligible veteran feels welcome and represented within our organization.



Jim Layton  
National Council Member





(Layton - con't)

The Council also directed National Headquarters staff to develop draft policy governing the use of the VFW name and trademarks by Department and Post foundations and other charitable entities. That proposed guidance will be presented for Council review later this summer.

One of the most meaningful moments of the meeting came when the Council honored the memory of longtime National Headquarters employee Betty Franke, whose 47 years of dedicated service left an immeasurable mark on our organization. The Council unanimously approved renaming the 12th Floor conference room at National Headquarters in Kansas City the Betty Franke Memorial Conference Room, ensuring her legacy of faithful service will continue to inspire future generations of VFW leaders and employees.

It remains a tremendous honor to serve on the National Council of Administration. Thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me. I remain committed to keeping our Department informed and ensuring our Department's voice is heard as we continue working together to strengthen the VFW and better serve America's veterans.

Yours in Comradeship,  
James L. Layton



# EVERYTHING WE DO, WE DO FOR VETERANS.®



Learn more or join at [vfw.org](https://vfw.org).

I bring you greetings from eastern Montana as the VFW Auxiliary Department President. During the time I served in 2009-2010 under Charlie Miller, everything was on paper, not digital. There were 81 Posts (now 65), 65 auxiliaries, (now 30), 7 districts (now 5 Aux & 3 orphaned auxiliaries). Gone are the days of reading the Montana Veteran and the National VFWA magazine when you recline in your chair, feet propped up, and relaxing before bed.

This year I hope to teach our members of the information available through the [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org) website via MALTA.

Many have signed into MALTA at one time but have never used it. All members have access to information regarding programs and membership stats. National cancer grants have increased from \$250 to \$550 (available twice in a lifetime) and the messy paperwork is gone, with everything on one page. Several donations can be made without writing a check, and history of donations is visible. The job of the president, treasurer, and secretary have become faster and easier, as well as having resources available with just a click.

Reporting Community Activities has not been mentioned in the past several years. In September a change in MALTA will allow the President, Treasurer, and/or Secretary to record activities for Americanism, VFW Natl Home, Hospital, Legislative, Scholarship, Vet & Fam Support, and Youth Activities. This will include # members, # hours, # miles, \$ donations. This will help give our Posts and Department equal opportunity when they are judged at Department and National. It will also help our organization to maintain its non-profit status.

I believe in Teamwork. Together we can accomplish many tasks. The National joint special project is "Operation Bring Them Home". The Montana Auxiliary pin is "Gone but not Forgotten". The Auxiliary will be selling chances for ground beef, with proceeds being divided between the Montana Joint project and my special project. More details will follow. The Auxiliary is here to support the Veterans and families, as well as promote the National Programs. We can do this together. "United we stand, divided we fall"

Respectfully,  
Violet E Tharp  
Sidney, MT



Violet Tharp  
President, VFW Auxiliary

# VA: Health and Benefits



Manage your **VA health care, benefits,** and **payments** from your mobile phone.

**With the VA: Health and Benefits app, you can access:**



## Health Care Tools

- Refill and track your VA prescriptions.
- Send and receive secure messages from your VA health care team.
- Review appointments and add them to your calendar.
- Access your VA vaccination records.



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- Submit evidence for your claim or appeal.
- Review your claim or appeal status.
- Download common VA benefits letters.



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- Find VA facilities and services near you.



## Veterans Crisis Line

- Get quick access to the Veterans Crisis Line.

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Download on the  
**App Store**



GET IT ON  
**Google Play**





DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA VFW  
Community Spotlight

## Polson Celebrates Independence Day with Revolutionary War Reenactment

*A July 4 tradition continues to grow as volunteers bring the nation's founding history to life.*



**July 4, 2026 - Polson, Montana**

Our Polson VFW event is getting bigger each year. Local media asked about the event, and the community once again turned out in strong support of the annual Revolutionary War reenactment.

*Polson celebrates Independence Day with a parade and Revolutionary War reenactment. Image included in the original email.*

This year's July 4th Revolutionary War battle featured **37 Minute Men and 30 Redcoats**, including three drummers carrying flags, plus another half-dozen volunteers working behind the scenes.

The VFW organizes the event, but the Raven Hall MRC has been the foundation of the Redcoat forces since its beginning. Without their support, the reenactment would not have lasted five years. We started the battle five years ago to help prepare for the nation's 250th anniversary and hope to continue the tradition each year if the Polson community keeps participating.

Volunteers arrive at 10:30 a.m. on July 4th, are fitted with costumes, receive a quick briefing, and head into battle. We simplified the program from two skirmishes to one after early attempts to portray both Lexington and Concord proved confusing for spectators.

This year, crowd noise drowned out the narration, and we plan to use microphones next year. We also had difficulty keeping a safe path clear for 5K runners despite marking it with signs and chairs. Next year, we will clearly define the route with orange flagging tape on both sides. We also hope to replace our dud smoke grenades with a reliable smoke machine.

Polson remains one of the most patriotic towns in the country. We are grateful for the strong community support and the excellent coverage from local media and TV, which continue to help grow this fun event. By teaching our children the foundational principles of our nation's founding, we ensure a bright future. If we forget how we got here, we risk losing the republic.

**FIVE YEARS OF BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE IN POLSON**

# 24/7, confidential crisis support for **Veterans and their loved ones**



If you're a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, reach caring, trained responders 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

When you call the Veterans Crisis Line, here is what you can expect:

- A qualified responder will answer your call, ready to listen and help.
- The responder will ask a few questions, such as whether you or the Veteran you're concerned about may be in immediate danger or at risk for suicide.
- The conversation is free and confidential, and you decide how much information to share.
- Support doesn't end with your conversation. Our responders can connect you with the resources you need.

You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.

## You're not alone— the **Veterans Crisis Line** is here for you.



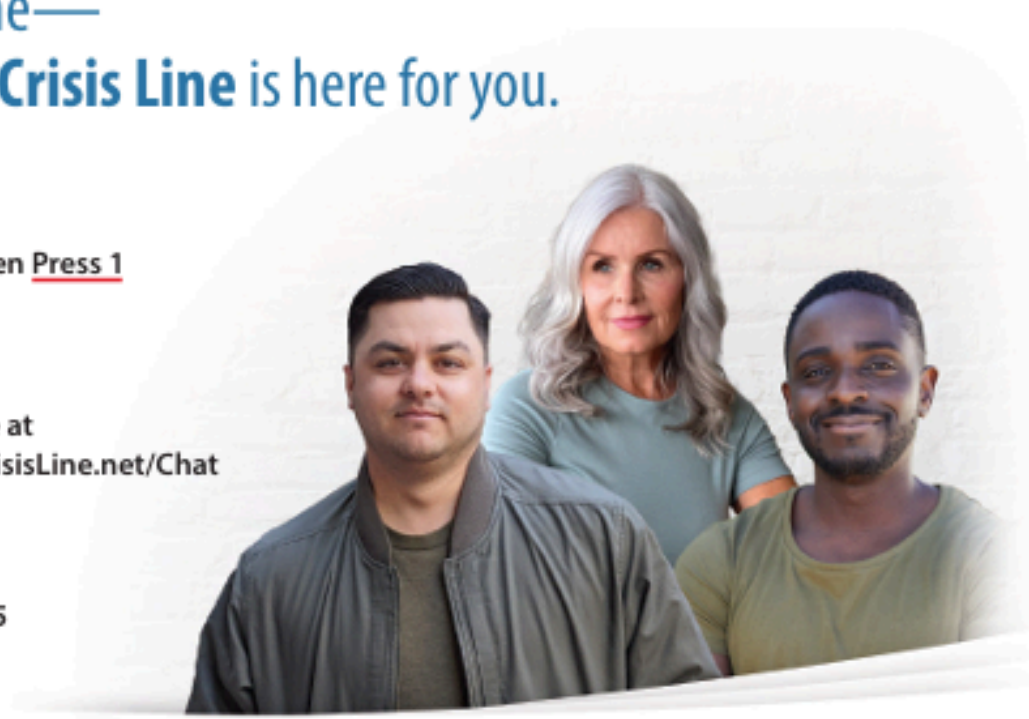
Dial 988 then Press 1



Chat online at  
[VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat)



Text 838255



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

Scan the QR code to download  
**Veterans Crisis Line** resources.



07/2022

# 2026 Convention Highlights



Assistant Adjutant General Brian Walker and Commander Allen



Commander Allen with TAG Trent Gibson and State Enlisted Leadeder CSGM Keith DeBoo



Installation of officers at State convention

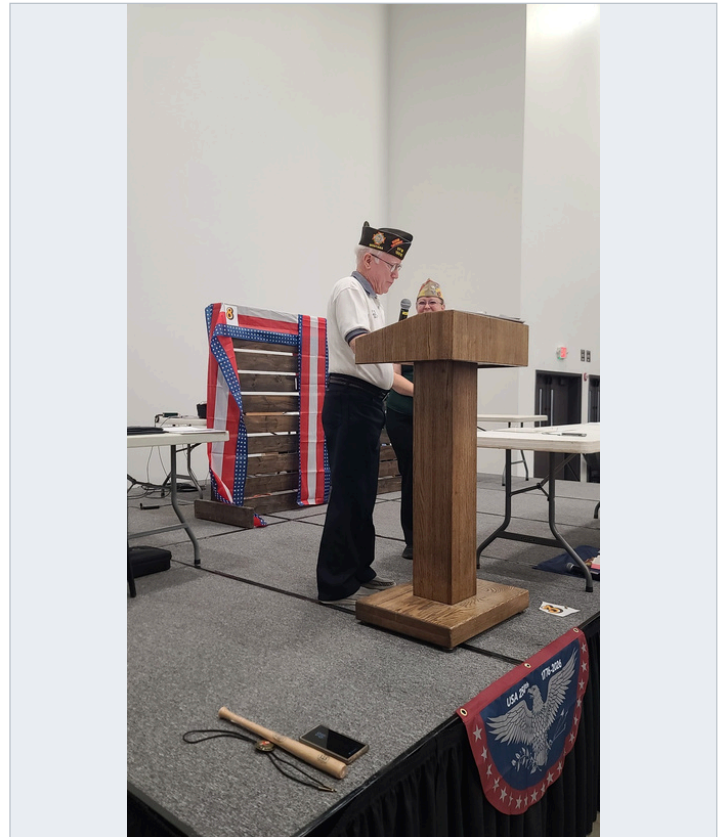


Joint opening State convention 2026

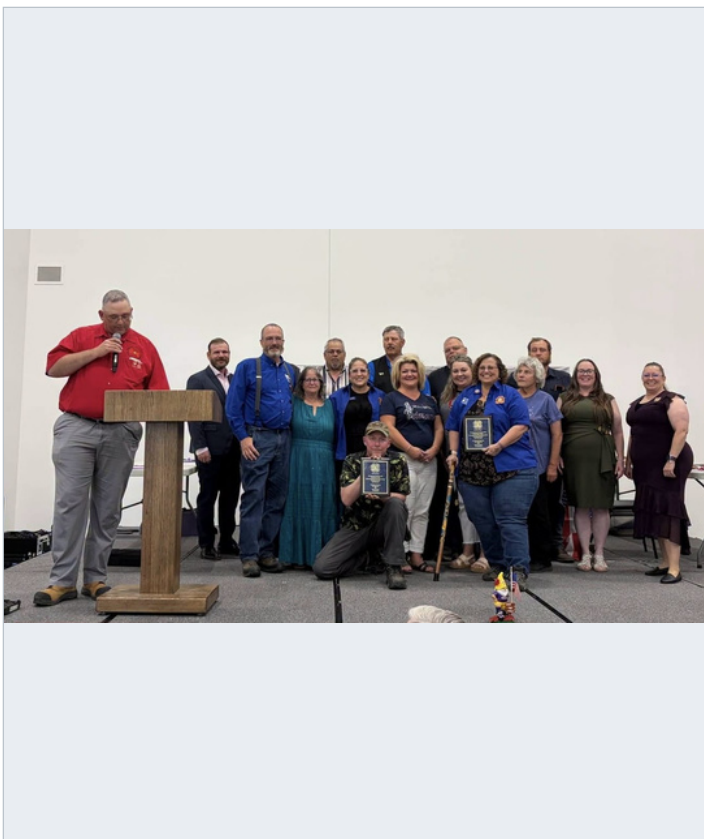




Kasey Koehler presents Governor Greg Gianforte with a convention coin



Past C-I-C Tom Pouliot Orepreas to sware in new officers



Post 1125 and post 1579 Convention Planning Team



State Commander Heather Allen and Govenor Gianforte

# SUMMER FUN



**SUNSHADE**  
Silver with red  
VFW Logo.  
Polyester.  
60 x 28". Made  
in the USA.  
1233 \$13.95



**NEW! 250TH  
ANNIVERSARY ORNAMENT**  
This America  
Semiquincentennial'  
ornament showcases iconic  
symbols – the American  
flag, the Statue of Liberty,  
and the Constitution.  
2½ x 2 5/8 x ¼".  
Made in the USA.  
1063 \$29.95  
*While quantities last.*



**BEACH TOWELS** 100% cotton.  
VFW logo screenprinted. 30 x 60".  
~~\$26.00~~ Red 258 Orange  
\$26.00 *While*  
*quantities last.*



**NAVY USA CAP** Embroidered USA  
on front. Six-panel, structured, low  
profile, 100% cotton. Printed stars  
and stripes. Adjustable hook-and-  
loop back closure. Imported.  
7121 \$16.95



Back



Front

**MEN'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY  
T-SHIRT** Navy blue 100% preshrunk  
cotton. Screened design on back.  
VFW logo screened left chest. U.S.  
flag screened left sleeve. Imported;  
decorated in the USA.  
7499 S-3XL \$24.00  
*While quantities last.*



**LADIES' 250TH ANNIVERSARY  
V-NECK T-SHIRT** Navyblue  
100% preshrunk cotton.  
Screened design on front. VFW  
logo screened right sleeve.  
Imported; decorated in the USA.  
7450 S-3XL \$24.00  
*While quantities last.*



**1776 FLAG CAP** Five-panel,  
structured, with hook-and-loop  
closure. Woven loop label on  
closure "EST 1899" for the year  
the VFW was founded. Imported;  
decorated in the USA.  
7201 \$20.00



# VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION

A look back at Montana's participation and memorable moments from the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention held in Reno, Nevada, in July 2026.



Geisler Cory Commander in Chief

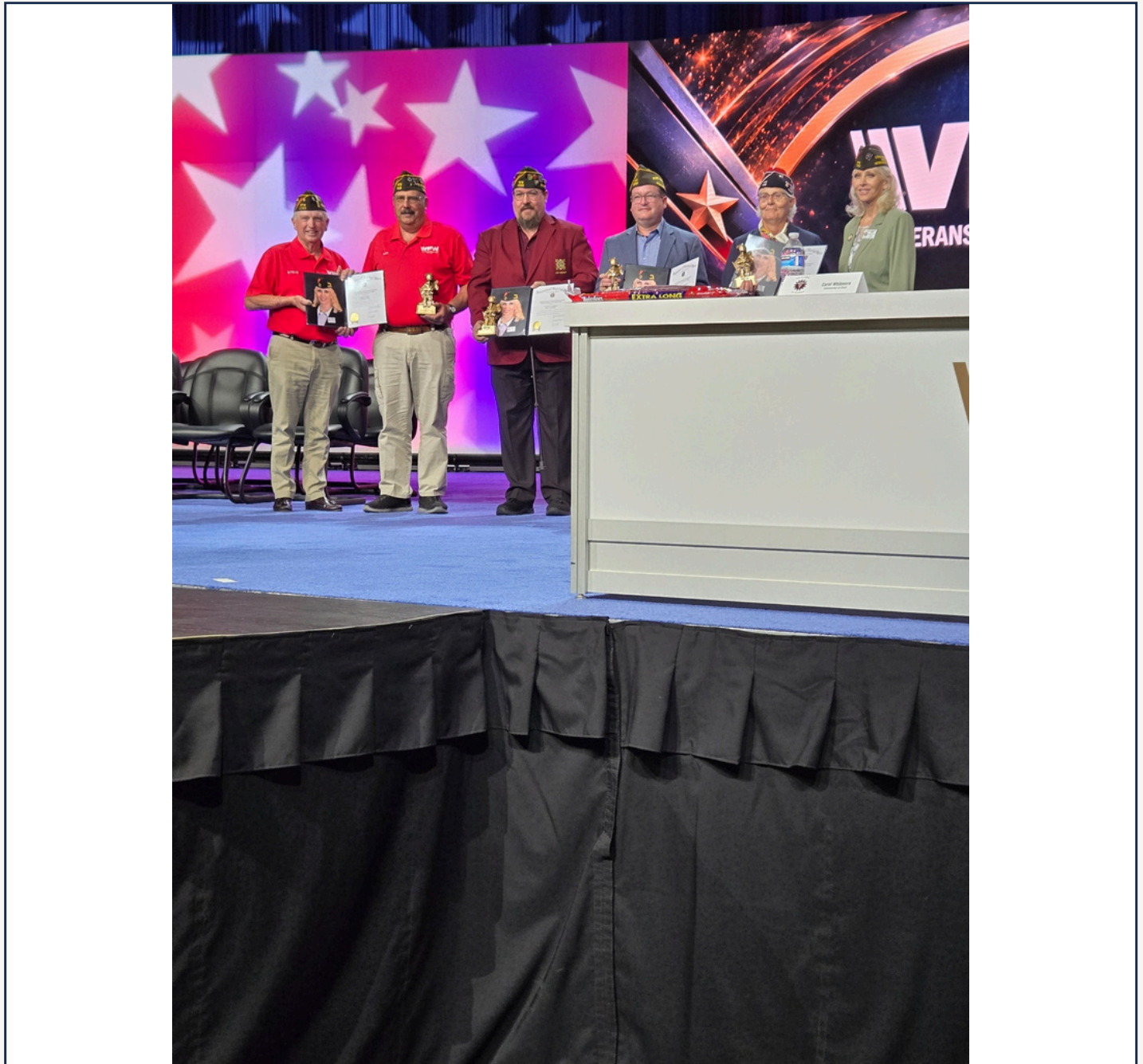


Montana getting ready to march in



# NATIONAL RECOGNITION

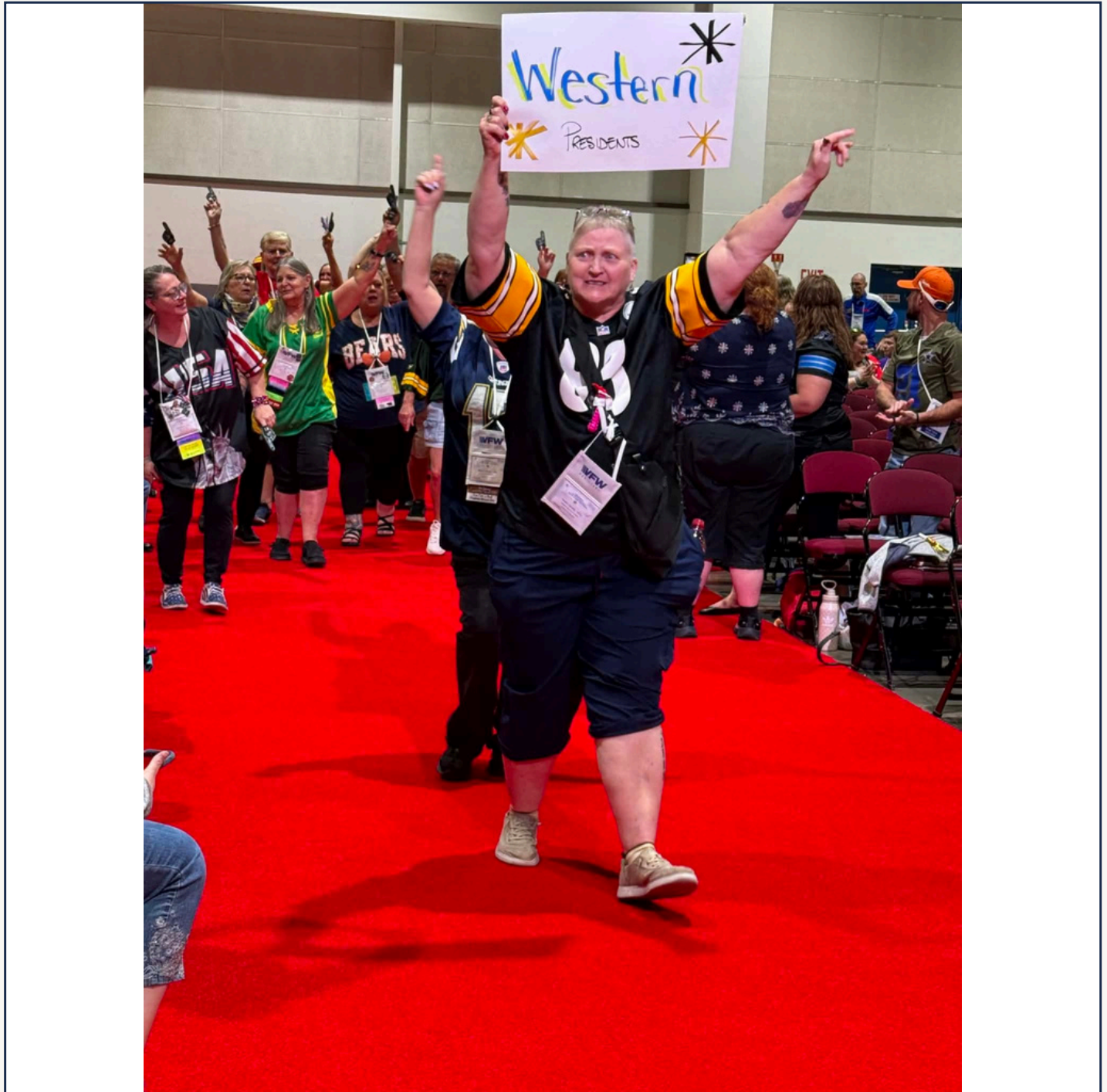
Montana's convention experience included proud moments of recognition and celebration on the national stage.



Post 1448 receiving National Community service award in Reno

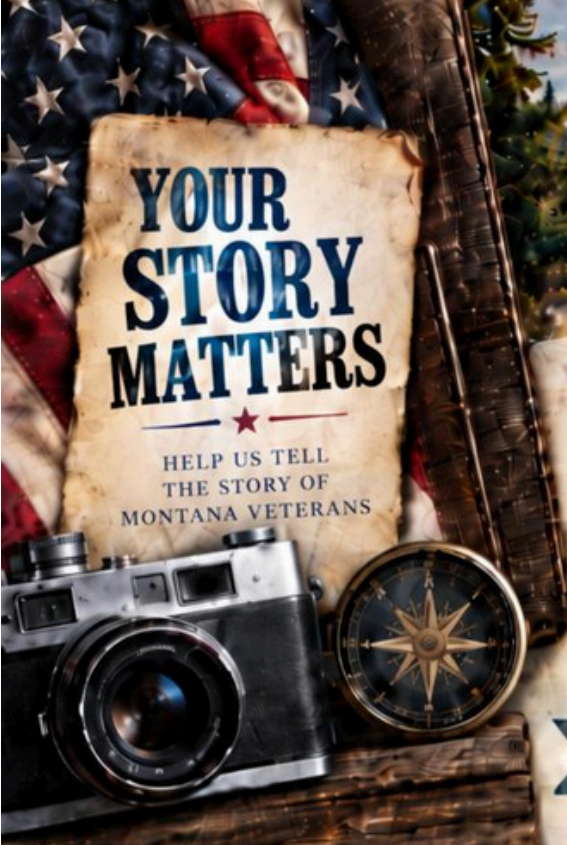
# AUXILIARY SPIRIT

The energy and enthusiasm of the Auxiliary were on full display throughout the national convention.



Tamee Havrilla leads Auxiliary at National Convention





## YOUR STORY MATTERS

HELP US TELL  
THE STORY OF  
MONTANA VETERANS

*Real Stories.  
Real People.  
Real Impact.*



# CALL FOR ARTICLES

· MONTANA VETERANS MAGAZINE ·

SHARE ★ INSPIRE ★ HONOR

### *We're Looking For:*

- ★ **POST NEWS**  
Events, fundraisers, programs  
and community support
- ★ **VETERAN STORIES**  
Personal experiences, service  
histories, and life after service
- ★ **COMMUNITY IMPACT**  
How your Post or community  
is making a difference
- ★ **HISTORICAL FEATURES**  
Montana VFW history, MEMORIALS,  
and noteworthy milestones
- ★ **UPCOMING EVENTS**  
Conventions, reunions, and  
special activities
- ★ **MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS**  
Recognizing those who go above  
and beyond

*Different VFW  
Posts.  
One Montana.  
One Mission.*

## *Don't Just Send Pictures...* **Send Your Story!**

Photos are great, but we want to  
hear the story behind them!  
Tell us who, what, when, where,  
why and how.

Share the details, the people, and  
the impact — let's bring your  
experiences to life for our readers  
across Montana and beyond.

*Not a writer?  
No problem!*

GOOD  
STORIES  
KEEP  
HISTORY  
ALIVE



# A Memorial That Tells the Story of Service

*Bigfork VFW's 9/11 Memorial project is moving forward with a concept that would turn a necessary safety barrier into a chronological tribute to America's military history.*



*Concept rendering: decorative CNC-cut steel panels could transform the retaining-wall safety barrier into a visual timeline of American military service.*

**B**igfork VFW Post 4042 is continuing work on its 9/11 Memorial with a new idea that could make the site safer while adding a striking new chapter to the memorial itself.

The concept grew out of a discussion with Chuck Sisler of Sisler Welding & Design in Bigfork about fabricating black metal handrails for the memorial's new concrete staircase. During that conversation, Sisler suggested going beyond a traditional safety fence along the rock retaining wall and creating a series of decorative steel panels instead.

The retaining wall has already been identified as a potential fall hazard, making some form of barrier necessary. Under the proposal, 4-foot-by-4-foot CNC-cut steel panels would be installed between black steel posts topped with decorative caps. Rather than simply enclosing the area, the panels would become an extension of the memorial.

The envisioned panels would present a chronological journey through American military history, beginning with the Revolutionary War and continuing through the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Somalia, Afghanistan and Iraq.

The timeline would also include September 11, 2001, representing New York, Shanksville and Washington, D.C., as well as Benghazi on September 11, 2012. One panel could also incorporate an artistic tribute inspired by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, creating another meaningful connection to those who served.

The project remains in the concept stage, but rough renderings have been prepared and potential grant opportunities and other funding sources are already being explored.



## BEHIND THE MEMORIAL

# Building a Place of Remembrance

*Bigfork VFW Post 4042 members and community partners continue the hands-on work of shaping the memorial site.*



*Post 4042 working on the monument.*



*Post 4042 monument.*



*Post 4042 moving rock into place for the monument.*



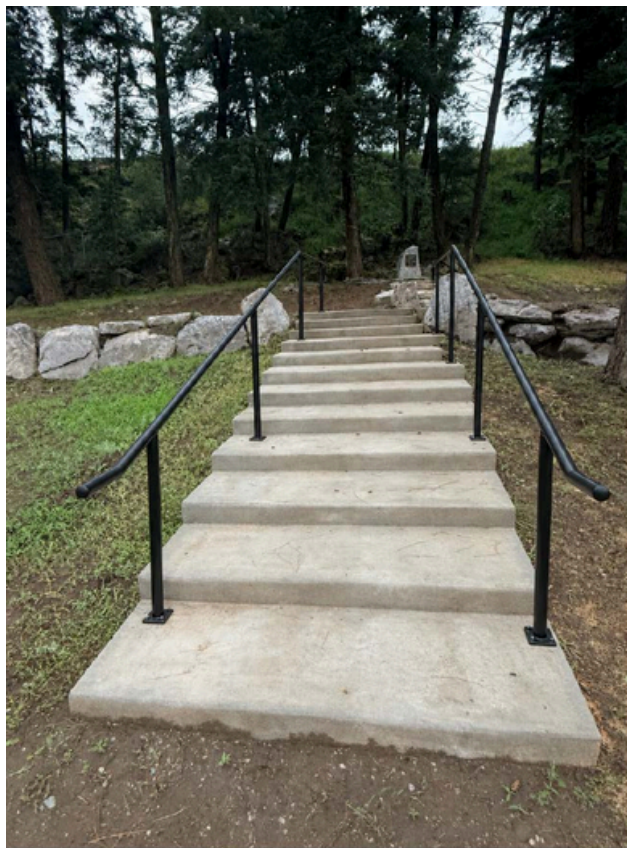
*Post 4042 sets the plaque in place.*

*Progress photos from Bigfork VFW Post 4042's memorial project.*



## PROJECT UPDATE

# A Community Legacy in the Making



*The new concrete staircase and black metal handrails are part of the continuing improvements at Bigfork VFW's 9/11 Memorial site.*

## THE VISION

### PURPOSE

Create a safety barrier that also becomes part of the memorial experience.

### DESIGN

4-foot x 4-foot CNC-cut steel panels separated by black steel posts with decorative caps.

### STORY

A chronological visual history of American military service, from the Revolutionary War through modern conflicts and 9/11.

### ESTIMATED COST

Approximately \$15,000 before possible material discounts or donated support.

## A Call for Partners

The estimated cost of the enhancement is approximately \$15,000, although that amount could be reduced if discounted materials or other support become available. At this time, funding has not been identified for this portion of the project.

Bigfork VFW is seeking ideas, contacts and potential partners. An individual, family, business, foundation or community organization interested in sponsoring the enhancement could help create a lasting legacy for both the memorial and the Bigfork community.

Project organizers believe the finished feature could become one of the memorial's most distinctive elements—an attractive safety barrier that also tells the story of America's military history in a way visitors can experience as they move through the site.

## GET INVOLVED

For additional project information, progress photos, a personal tour or funding connections, contact Ron Wenzel, Quartermaster, Bigfork VFW Post 4042, at 757-777-5941.

*Prepared from a June 30, 2026 project update from Bigfork VFW Post 4042.*

# Honoring the Past. Serving the Present. Building the Future.

## Bigfork VFW Post 4042 – Bigfork, Montana

*Submitted to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Montana as a request for state-level support for the Bigfork VFW Post 4042 Capital Improvement & Memorial Project.*



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## Who We Are

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4042** has proudly served veterans, their families, and the **Bigfork** community since Chartering in 1976. Our Post is a place of remembrance, fellowship, and service—honoring those who served overseas while continuing to give back locally through outreach, ceremonies, and community support.

Today, we are undertaking a **phased improvement project** to ensure our Post remains a dignified memorial, a visible community landmark, and a functional home for veterans well into the future.

---

## Our Vision

To transform the Bigfork VFW Post into:

- A **solemn memorial site** honoring sacrifice
- A **prominent symbol of patriotism** in our community
- A **modern, accessible facility** for veterans, public events and the community

This vision will be accomplished through **three clearly defined phases**, allowing donors to support specific, meaningful outcomes.



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## Phase 1 – Benghazi 9/11 Memorial & Rear Property Landscaping



**Significance:** This memorial carries a deeply personal connection to our community. One of the four Americans killed in the Benghazi attack, Tyrone Woods, has ties to Bigfork, Montana, as his parents previously resided in Bigfork.

**Purpose:** Create a permanent memorial honoring the Americans killed on September 11, 2001, the four Americans killed in Benghazi on September 11, 2012, and establish a respectful rear-property remembrance space.

### Key Elements

- Benghazi 9/11 memorial monument and plaque
- Memorial walkways, seating, and lighting
- Rear property grading, drainage, and landscaping

### Impact

- National-level historical remembrance
- Dedicated space for ceremonies and reflection
- Enduring tribute supported by memorial donors

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## Phase 2 – Flagpole, Front Landscaping, Statue & Gravel Lot Paving



**Purpose:** Establish a strong public presence and improve accessibility and safety.

### Key Elements

- Installation of a 40ft satin flagpole to accommodate a 6'X10" American Flag
- Prominent illuminated flagpole
- Veterans' statue and pedestal
- Front landscaping and monument signage
- Paving of existing gravel parking lot with ADA access

### Impact

- Enhanced visibility and curb appeal
- Improved access for veterans, families, and visitors
- Community pride and ceremonial capability

## Phase 3 – Interior Renovation & Main Parking Lot Paving



**Purpose:** Modernize the interior facility and complete long-term infrastructure needs.

### Key Elements

- Social hall, bar, kitchen, and restroom upgrades
- Meeting and administrative space improvements
- Enclose the front overhang to create a grand entrance way
- Main parking lot paving, striping, and lighting

### Impact

- Improved member and visitor experience
- Improved meeting and community venue
- Increased rental and event revenue Long-term sustainability of the Post



## How You Can Help

Your contribution directly supports visible, lasting improvements. Donors may choose to support:

- A **specific phase**
- A **named element** (memorial stone, statue, flagpole, landscaped area)
- General project completion

**All donations directly benefit Bigfork VFW Post 4042 and the veteran community it serves.**

### Estimated Project Costs

The following estimates reflect the major project elements, Phase 1 and Phase 2, for which Bigfork VFW Post 4042 is respectfully seeking support from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Montana.

- Paving Gravel Parking Lot with ADA Access: \$17,000
- Benghazi / 9-11 Memorial Monument & Plaques: \$5,000
- Veterans' Statue & Pedestal: \$3,000
- 40ft Satin Flagpole (6'x10" American Flag): \$6,000
- Front Landscaping & Monument Signage: \$6,000
- Decorative Stone: \$5,000
- Memorial Walkways, Seating & Lighting: \$8,000
- Rear Property Grading, Drainage, Retaining Wall, Irrigation & Landscaping: \$15,000
- Smokers Pavilion: \$3,500
- Electrical Improvements: \$2,200
- Lighting Enhancements: \$2,200

Total Estimated Project Investment: **\$72,900**

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## Recognition Opportunities

- Permanent plaques or inscriptions
- Naming opportunities for memorial features
- Donor listing in Post publications and ceremonies

We are proud to recognize those who help preserve the legacy of service.

---

## Contact & Donations

**Bigfork VFW Post 4042**

POBox 645  
Bigfork, Montana 59911

**ronwenzel2@gmail.com**

*Checks payable to:* **VFW Post 4042**

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## Our Commitment

We are committed to:

- Responsible stewardship of donated funds
- Transparent reporting by project phase
- Completing improvements with dignity, quality, and respect

**Together, we can honor sacrifice, serve veterans, and strengthen our community.**





Flags at Veterans Park in Glendive for Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day.



Glendive VFW Post 1125, VVA, and American Legion donating to their local food bank.



Group shot Post 10010 Memorial day 2026

# COMMUNITY, HONOR & ADVOCACY



Marty Havrilla Post 4047 Fort Benton presents TOY to Mylo Lane. Photo courtesy of The River Press.



Montana Coffee March 2026 Small

## Across Montana, VFW members continue to serve beyond the uniform.

These moments reflect remembrance, outreach and commitment to community.



Nathaniel Lassord USMC LCpl Was presented the title to the vehicle by Post 4042



# SERVICE THAT STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES



Post 4018 do work on National Day of Service



Post 10010 East Helena presents \$25000.00 to Habitat for Humanity

## REMEMBER. SERVE. SUPPORT.

From memorial observances to hands-on service projects, Montana veterans continue making a visible difference in the communities they call home.



Tim Graff & Ken Liston Post 10010  
Memorial day 2026



Legacy Life Membership enables current Life Members to leave a lasting impression on our great organization.

When you become a Legacy Life Member, you are helping us strengthen the VFW – where NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

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 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.



Post 209

William J. Reneau\*

Post 276

Ralph A. Ammondson\* • Terrald L. Baker • Ross A. Beagle • Dennis G. Dreyer • Fred Hamilton • Kenneth A. Herman • Dean House • Robert L. Meagher\* • Thomas M. Nugent • John G. Pearse\* • Michael A. Pryor • Michael G. Rogers • Robert Sammon • Shelia L. Schlegel • Joe D. Thomas • Dustin A. Wegner • Melody L. Weldon • Richard N. Weldon • John H. Wise

Post 1087

Lawrence Cunningham\* • Bradley A. Damron • William A. Darby • Charles F. Davis • Joe R. Fletcher • Jack A. Hawley • Jeffrey D. Stephen • Arthur P. Marshall Jr.\* • William H. McCord • Anthony G. Morris\* • Fred D. Nester\* • William T. Rose\* • Gerald E. Van Every\* • Harold E. Wheeler Jr.\*

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Post 1448

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Post 1507

Matthew R. Walker

Post 1634

Carrol D. Koenig\*

Post 1703

Loren E. Drivdahl

LEGACY LIFE MEMBER EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS

| MEMBER INCENTIVES                                                                                  | BRONZE<br>\$400 | SILVER<br>\$800 | GOLD<br>\$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           |



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Corry Mordeaux • Charles R. Noland

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Clayton H. Dethlefsen • Roy E. Jordan\* • Hastings J. Lamb III

\*indicates this member is currently deceased.  
Total number of Legacy Life Members is 351



# TAPS

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## **POST 497**

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## **POST 903**

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## **POST 1087**

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