

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

the
Montana
VETERAN



Antelope



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 April/May/June/July



Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association partners with Wreaths Across America

Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to placing wreaths at Montana State Veterans Cemetery, Fort Harrison, MT and has been dedicated to this goal since 2015. In the past two years they have partnered with Wreaths Across America™ (WAA) as the fundraising group for this location and place live green wreaths in December, remembering our Montana veterans.

WAA is a nonprofit organization, founded to continue and expand the annual wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. In 1992 businessman, Morrill Worcester of Maine began one of our nation's finest tributes to our fallen heroes with the donation of 5,000 wreaths at Arlington.

In 2005, after a photo of the stones at Arlington adorned with wreaths and covered in snow circulated around the Internet, the project received national attention. Individual wreath laying began in 2007 at veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond. By offering sponsorships to the public, WAA hopes that one day a wreath will be placed at every veteran's resting place for the holiday season.



Through this nationwide program, company president Morrill Worcester seeks to recognize Veterans, active duty military and their families. His goal is to remind the public to **REMEMBER** the Veterans, **HONOR** their service, and **TEACH** younger generations about the value of their freedoms and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms.

Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, Maine donates ceremonial wreaths to each state, representing each branch of the service and POW/MIAs. By 2016 over 1.2 million sponsored wreaths were placed at 1250 participating locations. This was accomplished with the help from hundreds of fundraising groups, corporate contributions, and donations of trucking, shipping and thousands of helping hands.

Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association has taken the responsibility of hosting the National Remembrance Ceremony at the Post Chapel, Fort Harrison. Simultaneous wreath ceremonies at all locations coordinate with the WAA ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. A min-
 —National Remembrance Ceremony continued on Pg. 8



Post 7407 Vet Day Parade called Huntley Project Schools Sixth Grade Flag Day Parade.

The parade was from the school to downtown Worden, MT. After the parade VFW members had front seats at the school assembly. All Vets were recognized. Post 7407 presented awards to the Post winners of VOD and Patriot's Pen essays. Martha Carstensen won the VOD and Tarin Croy won the Patriot's Pen essay. Each were given \$100 and a certificate. Both girls are from Worden, MT. After the assembly, the Auxiliary served cupcakes and hot chocolate to all the sixth grade students.

Deadlines

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

June 15, 2017 Aug-Sept-Oct-Nov
 October 15, 2017 Dec-Jan-Feb-Mar
 February 15, 2018 Apr-May-June-July

Coming Events

JUNE 14-17 | STATE CONVENTION BILLINGS

SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS:

DISTRICT #3 REED POINT	APR 1	08:00-10:00
DISTRICT #1 POLSON	APR 8	08:00-10:00
DISTRICT #5 SIDNEY	APR 8	10:00-12:00
DISTRICT #6 JORDAN	APR 9	10:00-12:00
DISTRICT #4 BELGRADE	APR 22	10:00-12:00

COMMANDER'S REPORT



JACK HAWLEY

Comrades,
I am writing my final letter for my term of office. I am so very humbled that you let me be your State Commander this past year. Everywhere I went I was given the upmost in hospitality and friendship you Veterans and Auxiliary are just a Super Class Act. When I traveled out of State they were talking about Montana and it made me feel so proud of you and what you have accomplished and what you will accomplish before the State Convention in June. The State of Montana is leading the nation in membership as of this writing and by golly, we will be leading the nation at the end. That will only add to all the First's that you have accomplished this year for the Veterans of Foreign Wars for your Posts, Districts, and the Department of Montana. Please do me a favor, give our new incoming State Commander Chuck Carroll, and next year's incoming State Commander Joe Fletcher, and everyone that follows the same hard work and dedication you gave me. We work as a team to be successful and it takes every ones effort to accomplish our goals. We have 45 out of 73 Posts that have already accomplished 100% in membership. We have three Districts 2, 5, and 6 that have accomplished 100% in membership. I know at the State Convention in June I will be telling you that Montana is not only 100% in membership but that every District is 100% which I believe would also be a first.

At the midwinter meeting I was given the go ahead to continue a 10% discount on your Life Legacy membership that would entitle you \$40 off a Bronze, \$80 dollars off a Silver, and \$120 off a Gold Legacy Life membership. You must go through the Department Quartermaster to get this discount because the Department of Montana is giving the discount not National.

Our State raffle is doing really good, but we must continue to sell tickets. We still have 7 more guns to give away. Send your sold tickets to Tim and make sure you get them in before the last Friday of each month.

There is still a lot of hard work ahead of us the next 4 months and I will continue to get around and visit you. I am so proud of all of you and the hard work that you have displayed throughout the year. Continue to focus on our mission, which is helping our veterans and the communities we live in. Do not forget those veterans that are in nursing homes, hospitals, and assisted living places, as they would cherish a visit from you. I look forward to the District meetings in April and seeing everyone, but as you know I will not be able to attend each one because some are on the same day. But I will be to as many as possible.

My last wish is that every District be 100%, every post be 100% and the Department of Montana be 100% plus and be the number one State in the nation when I go to New Orleans. God bless all our Veterans and protect our young Men and Women who wear the uniform and are in harm's way.

Jack Hawley
State Commander

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



CHARLES CARROLL

On January 20, 2017 we witnessed the legal transfer of power and responsibility from President Obama to President Trump. In my opinion the absolute highlight of the whole ceremony was the humble, reverent and honest rendition of our National Anthem by Miss Jackie Evancho. She sang the song the way that it was written, from her heart and infused with respect for her country. Unlike many performers she did not try to make the moment "about her", but rather of a genuine love for her country. I for one applaud this gracious and courageous young lady. Please join me in wishing the New Administration the best of luck in guiding our great nation through the next 4 years.

The VFW has partnered with Sports Clips franchises in support of "Help a Hero" scholarship program. Sports Clips donated over 3 million dollars for this worthy cause, supporting nearly 600 veterans with higher education goals. I would ask that when you need a haircut, stop in and support their wonderful program. They are committed to assisting Veteran causes and we need all of the help we can get

from corporate America. I urge you to visit VFW.org and review all of our corporate sponsors. We have some dynamic leaders in many of our corporate America assets. Please support these fine companies who are dedicated to assisting Veterans causes.

The VFW National leadership has been lobbying the Department of Defense for several years to allow all honorably discharged veterans, regardless of their length of service, access to online use of Military Exchange facilities. The DoD just authorized "Online Shopping for Vets": **On Friday January 13, 2017** the Department of Defense announced that beginning November 11, 2017, all honorably discharged veterans will be granted online shopping privileges though the online military exchange. Veterans will now have access to all merchandise except for uniforms, alcohol and tobacco products. To read more about the program click here: <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Releases>.

Commander Jack Hawley has worked tirelessly throughout the State to bring us to goal with getting new and reinstated members. As has been stated in many formats over the years we need to boost our membership back to viable levels. Last year we mourned the loss of 258 VFW members just in Montana and we lost several hundred members because they chose to not renew their membership. As former Commander In Chief Richard Eubanks pointed out "The

—SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 10

STATE OF MONTANA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OFFICERS • 2016-2017

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Harold Wheeler, Teacher's	5312 3rd Ave. S. Great Falls 59405	217-5194
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Trustees: Willie Zeller, Ed Viig and Dave Johnson		
By-Laws Committee:	Ray Lutz, Joe Murnion, Charles Carroll Art Widhalm	

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



JOE FLETCHER

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary,
Where did the time go? It only seems like a few days ago that we were in Helena at our State Convention and now Mid-Winter is behind us, now looking forward to Billings and then on to National. I must be getting old faster than I did a few years ago or time has sped up. Just returned from Miles City where I was privileged to attend the 85th Anniversary Celebration of Post 1579 – An absolutely outstanding event. Fantastic job by the Post, Canteen Manager, and Auxiliary. You folks know how to make your guest feel welcome and appreciated. Thanks again. By the way, I will have another “Cuban” any time I am in town.

Let me congratulate all who have worked so hard to attain 100% in your post and district membership goals. Some of you are just inches away from the goal line. Keep up your hard work and if there is anything I can do to assist, please call me.

A word about membership, it is

the strength of our organization and I understand it sometimes is like that is all we talk about, but it is extremely important to our future as an organization but also important as our leadership educates and encourages our elected officials to do what is right for America's Veterans. It seems like there is a war in Washington DC against veterans and especially those who served for a career and retired.

Please reach out to our younger veterans and encourage them to become members of this great organization. I know there are some who do not meet our eligibility requirements; however, there are large numbers of them who have been deployed to war zones and meet our requirements for membership. There are to my count, approximately 18 Montana Army National Guard Armories around the state and most of them have been deployed before. Contact their full time Readiness NCO and see if you can attend a weekend drill and address them at their morning formation for a few minutes. They are a treasure chest waiting to be opened.

Hope to see all of you at the upcoming spring district meetings.

**Joe Fletcher
Jr. Vice State Commander**

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



JIM PORTER

My fellow officers, Comrades, and Auxiliary members,

Well, the Mid-Winter is over, and for those of you that were not able to make it, you missed a good one. There was a whole lot of good information that was brought up and passed out. I will not go in to detail, as the representatives from your post and your district will let you in on it I am sure. Now on to the District meetings and then on to the Department Convention in Billings. The Red Lion is the convention hotel, so make your reservations early and ask for the V.F.W. rate when calling. There is a slate full of new officer candidates for the upcoming year. The top three chairs will be moving up and there are a few besides that. They will need your votes so please consider

making the convention in Billings. Comrades, we are losing members at a faster pace than we are signing up new members. We have to try & turn this around. Whenever you talk to someone about joining the V.F.W., please ask them if they would consider the “life payment plan.” Wouldn't you like to leave a legacy to your post, department, and national, even after you have gone to meet your maker? For as long as the Veterans of Foreign Wars is in existence, they will remember your name & your post. Enough said! Just one more thing once again, if you have any deaths, sickness, or illnesses in your post or family, please, let me know so I can get an appropriate card on the way. In the meantime, and until we meet again, take care, stay warm, drive careful, and may God Bless each of you & your families.

Jim Porter, State Chaplain

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East Helena Post 10010

The Montana POW/MIA Association presented East Helena Post 10010 with a certificate for their generous donation to the Wreaths Across America event to place memorial wreaths at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery at Fort Harrison.



Left to right: Richard Synder, Linda Juvik, Dick Juvik, and Dave Johnson, VFW 10010 Post Commander.

Local VFW Post Donates to Cemetery

A \$1,000 check was presented on January 31st to the Veterans Alliance of Southwest Montana from Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 12112 in Belgrade. The check will be used to build more burial plots for veterans and their spouses, six columbariums and more, on the east end of the Vietnam War Memorial in Sunset Hills Cemetery. The whole project will cost \$250,000 dollars.

With this check, the veterans have raised \$14,000. The city is also looking at partnering in the project and for every columbarium built, a certain percentage will be paid back by the Department of Veterans Affairs. With these changes, the area will be built to national veteran's cemetery standards. “We already have several veterans who have passed, whose families are waiting to enter their veterans in this cemetery so it's important that we get this moving and that we get this set up and running,” said James Matter Jr., commander of VFW Post 12112.

According to statistics released January 31st by the Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans make up 11 percent of the population in Montana, with the largest percentage living in Southwest Montana.

Veteran's Day Ceremony at Post 7886 Jordan, MT 11-12-16

A crowd of approximately 150 enjoyed a prime rib dinner with all the trimmings provided by Ryan Grocery & Processing. A fine band provided music for entertainment and dancing.

Jordan: definitely a place to stop when traveling Eastern Montana.

Jerry Weitz, designated driver and appointed photographer

Guest Speaker
Chuck Carroll, Cmdr. Post 6774 Blgs.
Sr. Vice Cmdr., Dept. of Montana



Pictured L-R: Chuck & Jim Ryan, Post 7886 Cmdr., Korean Air Force Master Sgt. Vet and Prominent Businessman; Ron Merwin, Cmdr. Post 5652 Ronan, Master of Ceremonies; Joe Murnion Post 7887, Post and Honor Guard Cmdr.

What is a Legacy Life Member?

A Legacy Life member is another level of the VFW life membership program. It is intended to give our life members a way to leave a lasting legacy to the VFW. Future generations will know you not only for the sacrifices you made as a veteran but for the contributions you made as a member. **That's a legacy to be proud of.** When you become a Legacy Life Member, you are helping us strengthen the VFW where "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS". There are 3 prestigious levels of Legacy Life Membership are available, (Gold, Silver, or Bronze). Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life Members. Once your Legacy Life Membership begins, an annual endowment in 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

Ronan VFW Auxiliary 5652

In November, the Ronan VFW Auxiliary 5652 purchased an American Flag, 5'x8' for the Lake County Extension Agency at the Montana State University.



Pictured: Ron Merwin, VFW; Jessie Merwin, VFW Auxiliary; Jack Stivers (middle) from the Agency accepting the flag, Margaret Fay, VFW Auxiliary and Dale Morgan, VFW.

LEGACY LIFE HONOR ROLL

William J. Reneau	Gold Post 209	Lee E. Erickson	Silver Post 3107
Dean House	Gold Post 276	Kenneth K. Kautz	Silver Post 3107
Kelly W. Kvigne	Gold Post 276	Felice H. Wilson	Silver Post 3107
John G. Pearce	Gold Post 276	Otto J. Otnes	Silver Post 3596
Lawrence Cunningham*	Gold Post 1087	Thomas H. Armstrong	Silver Post 8292
Bradley A. Damron	Gold Post 1087	Ludwig J. Rigler	Silver Post 10010
William A. Darby	Gold Post 1087	Eric Dunn	Bronze Post 209
Joe R. Fletcher	Gold Post 1087	Ross A. Beagle	Bronze Post 276
Jack A. Hawley	Gold Post 1087	Dennis G. Dreyer	Bronze Post 276
Arthur P. Marshall Jr.	Gold Post 1087	Fred Hamilton	Bronze Post 276
Anthony G. Morris	Gold Post 1087	Kenneth A. Herrmann	Bronze Post 276
William M. Rose	Gold Post 1087	Robert Sammon	Bronze Post 276
Gerald E. Van Every	Gold Post 1087	Charles F. Davis	Bronze Post 1087
Thomas A. Pouliot	Gold Post 1116	Harold D. Floyd	Bronze Post 1087
Daniel P. Antonietti*	Gold Post 1448	Laureen A. Hawley	Bronze Post 1087
John R. Fish Jr.*	Gold Post 1448	Paul T. Quinn	Bronze Post 1087
Melvin W. Kieninger	Gold Post 1448	Eugene E. Olson	Bronze Post 1116
Ronald R. Mcleod	Gold Post 1448	Michael L. Lawson	Bronze Post 1448
Ronald R. Peterson	Gold Post 1448	Troy A. McDowall	Bronze Post 1579
Carrol D. Koenig	Gold Post 1634	James A. Ussin	Bronze Post 1634
William D. Pirrie III	Gold Post 1723	Kenneth C. Handl	Bronze Post 2154
James C. Aho	Gold Post 2252	Robert P. Seely	Bronze Post 2154
Duane Barrett*	Gold Post 3107	Michael J. Bennett, Jr	Bronze Post 2252
Norman K. Dahl*	Gold Post 3107	Robert Franczek	Bronze Post 2252
Albert Franzen	Gold Post 3107	William J. Metteer	Bronze Post 2252
George Kolstad	Gold Post 3107	James L. Amundson	Bronze Post 3107
E.C. Buster Lenoir*	Gold Post 3107	Lance A. Bender	Bronze Post 3107
Russell O. Lenoir	Gold Post 3107	Charles Bradford Jr.	Bronze Post 3107
Gerald L. Murch	Gold Post 3107	Reid B. Coldwell	Bronze Post 3107
Edwin V. Swanson*	Gold Post 3107	Michael K. Corey	Bronze Post 3107
Walter E. Watts	Gold Post 3107	Earl Fuhrman*	Bronze Post 3107
Arthur J. Widhalm	Gold Post 3107	Floyd R. Hopstad	Bronze Post 3107
Wilmer F. Zeller	Gold Post 3107	Michael J. Lenoir	Bronze Post 3107
Kenneth C. Williams*	Gold Post 3177	Byron M. Lindsay	Bronze Post 3107
Charles Oelschlager	Gold Post 3596	Gerald F. Myers*	Bronze Post 3107
Leslie L. Poland	Gold Post 4099	Marvin J. Olson	Bronze Post 3107
James G. Porter	Gold Post 4669	Steve Page	Bronze Post 3107
Robert W. Moran*	Gold Post 4725	Kenneth E. Page*	Bronze Post 3107
Gary L. Race	Gold Post 4725	Leon H. Pearce	Bronze Post 3107
Irwin D. Bangen	Gold Post 5159	Harold A. Potter*	Bronze Post 3107
Orville M. Bjorge	Gold Post 5159	Marvin L. Potter	Bronze Post 3107
Joun C. Bras	Gold Post 5159	LeRoy R. Stein*	Bronze Post 3107
Steven L. Buck	Gold Post 5159	William H. Sugg, Jr.	Bronze Post 3107
Hugh R. Butler	Gold Post 5159	Manley L. Tiffany	Bronze Post 3107
Russell J. Carey	Gold Post 5159	Edwin M. Yohn	Bronze Post 3107
Donald A. Carr	Gold Post 5159	Edwin M. Zamborowski	Bronze Post 3107
Roy M. DeLong	Gold Post 5159	Everett E. Crum Jr.	Bronze Post 4099
Donald M. Decker	Gold Post 5159	Troy H. Garza	Bronze Post 4099
Larry J. Douglass	Gold Post 5159	Joe M. Halversen*	Bronze Post 4099
Rachel R. Fisher	Gold Post 5159	Louie A. Kuylen	Bronze Post 4099
Lyle T. Fisher	Gold Post 5159	Harold E. Lorenz	Bronze Post 4099
Randall E. Giese	Gold Post 5159	Eugene N. Ronningen	Bronze Post 4099
Derwin F. Halvorson Jr.	Gold Post 5159	Stanley K. Rosaen	Bronze Post 4099
Henry F. Hanson	Gold Post 5159	Lawrence R. Troutd	Bronze Post 4099
Lloyd G. Heinselmann	Gold Post 5159	Vernon E. Wilson*	Bronze Post 4099
Victor Holmberg	Gold Post 5159	Paul L. Holmgren*	Bronze Post 4762
Robert L. Jackson II	Gold Post 5159	Alfred J. Adolph	Bronze Post 4925
Howell K. Joiner	Gold Post 5159	Daniel C. Barta	Bronze Post 4925
Thomas W. Magera	Gold Post 5159	Jack L. Burger*	Bronze Post 4925
Zachary Malinak	Gold Post 5159	Loren R. Erbe	Bronze Post 4925
Alan J. McCoy	Gold Post 5159	Harry Kowalczyk	Bronze Post 4925
Daniel M. Oberlander	Gold Post 5159	John G. Leggett	Bronze Post 4925
Stephen M. Sedladko	Gold Post 5159	Paul R. Megeed	Bronze Post 4925
Victor J. Stobie	Gold Post 5159	Douglas H. Parrott	Bronze Post 4925
Jerry A. Sutton	Gold Post 5159	Henry A. Plott*	Bronze Post 4925
Joel W. Thomas	Gold Post 5159	Ronald J. Merwin	Bronze Post 5652
Clifford S. Tolman	Gold Post 5159	Will D. Juhl	Bronze Post 6774
James L. Wellington	Gold Post 5159	Donald R. Kendall	Bronze Post 6774
Clayton H. White	Gold Post 5159	Clifford E. Schleusner*	Bronze Post 6774
Ted H. Wilburn	Gold Post 5159	Robert J. Sutton	Bronze Post 6774
D. B. Zimmer	Gold Post 5159	Howard J. Aemisegger	Bronze Post 6786
John C. Fay	Gold Post 5652	Terry Beezley	Bronze Post 6786
Richard L. Osborn	Gold Post 5748	James H. Burns	Bronze Post 6786
John T. Freetly	Gold Post 6774	James H. Follensbee	Bronze Post 6786
Paul R. Harper	Gold Post 6774	Leo A. Howe	Bronze Post 6786
John C. Lattimer*	Gold Post 6774	J. P. Hume*	Bronze Post 6786
Russell H. Mobraaten	Gold Post 6774	Patrick L. McKeever	Bronze Post 6786
Francis E. Croucher	Gold Post 6786	John C. Mueller	Bronze Post 6786
Robert T. Schwegel	Gold Post 6786	Thomas H. Price	Bronze Post 6786
Ken R. Utter	Gold Post 6786	Francis L. Utter	Bronze Post 6786
Gary O. Borland	Gold Post 7311	Dale F. Wassmann	Bronze Post 7311
Charles M. Handley	Gold Post 7311	Carl M. Carver	Bronze Post 8292
Barton W. Lawson	Gold Post 7311	Paul E. Coble	Bronze Post 8292
Edward A. Viig	Gold Post 7311	Carl J. Graham	Bronze Post 8292
Terry W. Lambert	Gold Post 8292	Charles R. Thompson	Bronze Post 9040
William I. Mackley	Gold Post 8292	Edward J. Boucher	Bronze Post 10010
George F. Fryett, Jr	Gold Post 9040	John R. Buckley*	Bronze Post 10010
Elmer D. Bernard	Gold Post 10010	LeRoy S. Johnson	Bronze Post 10010
William R. Bovee*	Gold Post 10010	David F. Johnson	Bronze Post 10010
Michael C. Buckley	Gold Post 10010	Melvin V. Johnson*	Bronze Post 10010
Lyle F. Pedersen	Gold Post 10010	Dale A. Person	Bronze Post 10010
Timothy C. Peters	Gold Post 10010	Robert J. Russ*	Bronze Post 10010
Ruthie M. Buttrick-Best	Gold Post 15027	George C. Stump Jr.	Bronze Post 10010
Dale J. Bender	Silver Post 3107	Roy E. Jordan	Bronze Post 15027
Roy P. Christenson*	Silver Post 3107		

* Deceased

Total 189

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Membership Report 2016

Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year*	Percent	Div	RS	City	State	N/R LM	Prior Annual	Retention
209	1	264	18	1	43	326	315	103.49%	3		MISSOULA	MT	7	54	53.70%
276	1	111	1	1	42	155	152	101.97%	5		WHITEFISH	MT	1	42	97.62%
1430	1	28	0	0	3	31	35	88.57%	10		HAMILTON	MT	0	4	75.00%
1507	1	46	0	0	5	51	56	91.07%	9		STEVENSVILLE	MT	0	5	80.00%
1548	1	204	2	0	21	227	236	96.18%	4		LIBBY	MT	3	29	79.31%
2252	1	291	7	2	75	375	384	97.65%	2		KALISPELL	MT	5	79	73.42%
2986	1	109	1	0	7	117	129	90.69%	6		POLSON	MT	0	19	42.11%
3596	1	183	0	0	22	205	221	92.76%	4		PLAINS	MT	0	36	63.89%
4042	1	88	3	2	9	102	105	97.14%	7		BIGFORK	MT	1	11	72.73%
5159	1	31	0	0	1	32	29	110.34%	10		HOT SPRINGS	MT	2	5	100.00%
5514	1	117	0	0	0	117	117	100.00%	6		TROY	MT	1	1	100.00%
5556	1	21	0	0	3	24	23	104.34%	10		NOXON	MT	0	2	100.00%
5652	1	61	1	0	11	73	73	100.00%	8		RONAN	MT	0	15	73.33%
6238	1	19	0	0	8	27	27	100.00%	10		SUPERIOR	MT	0	8	100.00%
6697	1	14	0	0	1	15	15	100.00%	10		DARBY	MT	0	1	100.00%
6786	1	96	3	0	14	113	122	92.62%	6		EUREKA	MT	0	24	66.67%
	1	1683	36	6	265	1990	2039	97.59%					20		%
497	2	112	2	4	9	127	127	100.00%	6		HAVRE	MT	0	10	80.00%
1087	2	651	38	13	102	804	777	103.47%	1		GREAT FALLS	MT	3	112	77.68%
1703	2	35	3	0	13	51	47	108.51%	10		LEWISTOWN	MT	0	11	81.82%
2484	2	30	0	2	3	35	35	100.00%	10		SHELBY	MT	0	3	100.00%
3997	2	11	0	0	0	11	17	64.70%	10		CHESTER	MT	0	2	0.00%
4047	2	33	0	0	9	42	42	100.00%	10		FORT BENTON	MT	0	7	100.00%
4109	2	56	0	2	10	68	68	100.00%	8		FAIRFIELD	MT	0	11	100.00%
4198	2	42	0	0	1	43	40	107.50%	10		BELT	MT	1	1	0.00%
4620	2	30	0	1	5	36	36	100.00%	10		CHINOOK	MT	0	5	100.00%
4669	2	42	1	1	8	52	46	113.04%	10		BLACK EAGLE	MT	2	8	100.00%
4744	2	28	0	0	1	29	29	100.00%	10		HARLEM	MT	0	1	100.00%
7655	2	71	1	0	7	79	85	92.94%	8		CONRAD	MT	0	8	87.50%
8952	2	47	1	0	3	51	50	102.00%	10		SUNBURST	MT	1	1	100.00%
	2	1188	46	23	171	1428	1399	102.07%					7		%
1025	3	20	0	0	0	20	19	105.26%	10		REEDPOINT	MT	1	0	100.00%
1543	3	10	0	0	5	15	15	100.00%	10		BRIDGER	MT	0	5	100.00%
1551	3	27	1	0	5	33	32	103.12%	10		HARLOWTON	MT	0	5	100.00%
1634	3	141	1	0	16	158	177	89.26%	5		BILLINGS	MT	0	22	68.18%
2154	3	40	4	0	16	60	60	100.00%	9		LIVINGSTON	MT	1	21	71.43%
3177	3	47	3	0	5	55	57	96.49%	9		LAUREL	MT	0	11	36.36%
4725	3	31	4	0	11	46	52	88.46%	9		RED LODGE	MT	0	22	59.09%
4762	3	44	1	0	2	47	48	97.91%	10		COLUMBUS	MT	0	3	66.67%
4925	3	35	1	0	11	47	42	111.90%	10		ROUNDUP	MT	2	9	100.00%
5748	3	26	10	0	7	43	35	122.85%	10		JOLIET	MT	1	13	84.62%
6774	3	219	3	0	52	274	304	90.13%	3		BILLINGS	MT	2	83	68.67%
7311	3	48	0	0	6	54	68	79.41%	8		ABSAROOKEE	MT	0	21	47.62%
7407	3	29	1	0	13	43	42	102.38%	10		WORDEN	MT	0	15	100.00%
7481	3	31	0	0	0	31	35	88.57%	10		HARDIN	MT	0	2	0.00%
	3	748	29	0	149	926	986	93.91%					7		%
689	4	35	0	0	7	42	53	79.24%	9		DEER LODGE	MT	0	9	77.78%
903	4	32	0	0	9	41	46	89.13%	10		BOZEMAN	MT	0	11	81.82%
1116	4	52	0	1	4	57	64	89.06%	9		HELENA	MT	1	6	83.33%
1448	4	74	4	0	27	105	102	102.94%	7		BUTTE	MT	0	31	103.23%
1723	4	23	0	0	3	26	28	92.85%	10		ENNIS	MT	0	3	100.00%
1876	4	94	2	0	21	117	129	90.69%	6		ANACONDA	MT	0	25	80.00%
3648	4	19	0	0	2	21	20	105.00%	10		BASIN	MT	0	1	100.00%
3831	4	31	1	1	10	43	42	102.38%	10		PONY	MT	0	11	100.00%
4603	4	30	3	0	3	36	38	94.73%	10		WHITEHALL	MT	0	7	57.14%
7621	4	26	1	0	7	34	33	103.03%	10		THREE FORKS	MT	0	9	66.67%
8292	4	43	0	0	1	44	43	102.32%	10		MAXVILLE	MT	1	2	100.00%
9040	4	37	2	0	16	55	64	85.93%	9		DILLON	MT	1	28	60.71%
10010	4	278	16	1	52	347	338	102.66%	3		EAST HELENA	MT	5	62	64.52%
12112	4	24	4	1	6	35	32	109.37%	10		BELGRADE	MT	0	9	77.78%
	4	798	33	4	168	1003	1032	97.18%					8		%
173	5	17	0	0	2	19	23	82.60%	10		SCOBEY	MT	0	3	66.67%
3107	5	218	3	0	37	258	256	100.78%	3		GLASGOW	MT	2	41	95.12%
4018	5	16	0	0	2	18	18	100.00%	10		PLENTYWOOD	MT	0	2	100.00%
4067	5	54	0	1	14	69	68	101.47%	8		MALTA	MT	0	12	91.67%
4099	5	156	2	1	23	182	178	102.24%	5		SIDNEY	MT	1	21	100.00%
4813	5	47	0	0	3	50	49	102.04%	10		CIRCLE	MT	1	1	100.00%
7887	5	4	1	0	7	12	11	109.09%	10		RICHEY	MT	0	6	100.00%
8869	5	25	0	1	2	28	28	100.00%	10		MEDICINE LAKE	MT	0	1	100.00%
	5	537	6	3	90	636	631	100.79%					4		%
1125	6	110	0	2	15	127	127	100.00%	6		GLENDIVE	MT	1	18	100.00%
1579	6	170	4	1	24	199	196	101.53%	4		MILES CITY	MT	0	22	86.36%
1595	6	47	0	0	2	49	49	100.00%	10		BROADUS	MT	1	2	100.00%
1849	6	30	0	0	6	36	35	102.85%	10		FORSYTH	MT	0	5	100.00%
7885	6	43	0	0	1	44	44	100.00%	10		EKALAKA	MT	1	0	100.00%
7886	6	47	0	0	0	47	46	102.17%	10		JORDAN	MT	2	0	100.00%
	6	447	4	3	48	502	497	101.00%					5		%
15027	99	473	24	7	78	582	610	95.40%	2		HELENA	MT	3		%
	99	473	24	7	78	582	610	95.40%					3		%
	5874	178	46	969	7067	7194	98.23%						54		%



MID-WINTER MEETING

— AND —

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY & PATRIOT'S PEN BANQUET





MID-WINTER MEETING — AND — VOICE OF DEMOCRACY & PATRIOT'S PEN BANQUET



Students win VFW essay, speech contest on patriotism

Reprinted with permission, YCN, November 18, 2016

WORDEN — Huntley Project School students have won awards from the VFW in a patriotism contest. Senior Hanna Carstenson won the speech division called “Voice of Democracy,” and Nicole Downey placed second. Sixth grade student Tarin Croy won the essay division, called “Patriot’s Pen.” Lilly Zimmer placed second.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7407 sponsored the local contest and High School Principal Mark Wandle announced the winners on Friday, November 11 during the school’s Veterans Day program.

The winners will now compete in the statewide contest, Wandle said.



Huntley Project High School student Nicole Downey, placed second in the Voice of Democracy contest. Here, she received her award from Major Charles Noland of VFW Post 7407.

(Photos courtesy of Jonathan McNiven)

VFW Auxiliary 5652 of Ronan

The VFW Auxiliary 5652 of Ronan chose “Safe Harbor” for 2016, October 29 “Make a Difference Day” recipient. Safe Harbor was recognized for doing so much for our community. We presented Safe Harbor with a Certificate of Appreciation and \$100.



Pictured from left: Trustees of the VFW Auxiliary, Jessie Merwin & Peggy Cote-Smith, DeeAnn Richardson, Executive Director of Safe Harbor & Margaret Fay, President of the VFW Auxiliary.

Awards and Remembrances at Fred Moodry Intermediate School in Anaconda

“On the very chilly, windy Monday night of December 19, 2016 at the Fred Moodry Intermediate School in Anaconda, over 400 friends, Vets and family members observed a dual ceremony. First, a remembrance ceremony was conducted for the 8 Anaconda warriors who were killed in Vietnam: Patrick J. Fleming, USMC; John E. Laipple, USA; Raymond G. Kriskovich, USA; David A. Anderson, USA; Ronald J. Moe, USA; Wayland D. Stembridge, USA; Robert J. Thomas, USA and Eugene F. McNally, USN.)



What followed as the pinning of the Army Commendation and Bronze Star Medals for Michael A. Nazer. Nazer served in the U.S. Army’s 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam from 1968-1969. He was never presented the awards until 47 years later.” 2LT Teryn Green of the Montana

Army National Guard was the pinning officer, while Col. MTANG Ret. Don Clark read the citations. Honor Guard provided by Anaconda American Legion Post 21.

(Photo by Anaconda Leader Reporter Kathie Miller)

On December 16, 2016, Helena VFW Post 1116 was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for the Post’s generous donation to Wreaths Across America. Mark Colton of the Montana POW/MIA Awareness Assn. presented the Certificate on behalf of the association. Montana POW/MIA Awareness Assn. works locally with Wreaths Across America to place wreaths at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery, Fort Harrison.



VFW Post 1116 members (left to right): Mark Colton, Doug Brown, Angelina Sinrud, Tom Eckerson, Bob Leaf, Bob Moes and Tom Poilott.

Allison G. Reinhardt from Bozeman comes in 5th place at National Voice of Democracy competition in Washington D.C. in February. Allison also received a \$5,000 scholarship. Allison was sponsored by Belgrade Post 12112.

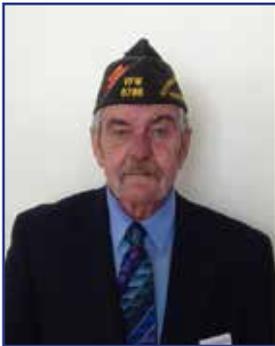


Pictured are Jack Hawley, State Commander and Allison Reinhardt

VOTE!

Bob Schwegel
VFW Post 6786

Candidate for:
Department Jr. Vice-Commander



1SG, US ARMY (RET)
ELIGIBILITY-VIET NAM, KOREA

Positions Held

POST: All State Commander (2 yrs.)
All State Quartermaster (2 yrs.)

DISTRICT: Commander (District 1)

DEPARTMENT: Department Service Officer (15 yrs.)
Youth Activities Chairman (4 yrs.)

NATIONAL: Veterans Care Committee (3 yrs.)
Veterans Service Committee (3 yrs.)
Legislative Committee (3 yrs.)
Resolution Committee(s) (17 yrs.)

Recruiter Incentive Program

Recruit 10 members: Receive a \$10 VFW Supply Gift Certificate.

Recruit 25 Members: Receive a Special Gift from the State Commander.

Recruit 50 Members: Receive a Bronze Legacy Life Membership or Life Membership or \$250 Gift Certificate from the VFW Store.

Recruit 75 Members: Receive a Silver Life Legacy Membership or Life Membership or \$500 Gift Certificate from the VFW Store.

Recruit 100 Members: Receive a Gold Life Legacy Membership or Life Membership or \$1,000 Gift Certificate from the VFW Store.

Posts Recruit 10 New Legacy Life Members : Receive \$250 for your Post.

Posts Recruit 25 New Legacy Life Members: Receive \$500 for your Post.

Districts that obtain 100% in Membership after 31 December 2016 but before 1 June 2017: Receive \$500 for your District.

Districts that obtain 100% Membership after 31 December 2016 but before 1 June 2017, All Posts that are 100% in that District: Receive \$125 for their Post.

MEMBERSHIP DRAWING

All members who recruit ten (10) or more New, New Life or Reinstated Members will be eligible for four (4) cash drawings of \$100.00 at the State Convention. **Cutoff date April 30, 2017.**

Montana VFW
Gun Raffle



Monthly Gun Raffle

October to June 2017

12 - Rifles, Pistols and Shotguns
1 Per Month, 2 in Jan and 3 in June
Tickets \$10 each or 3 for \$20

Department Gun Raffle

Winners so far:

OCTOBER	Ruger, American Predator	Cal. 6.5 Creedmoor	ALAN MEHL, CRANE
NOVEMBER	Tikka, T-3 Lite	Cal. 300 WSM	RICK MOOK, HELENA
DECEMBER	Savage, Model 11	Cal. 243 Win	DANNY HENDERSON, GLENDIVE
JANUARY	Ruger, American Rim Fire	Cal. 17 HMR	LINDSEY LAWRENCE, SIDNEY
JANUARY	Ruger, AR-556	Cal. 223/556	VEIKKO BAKKILA, EUREKA
FEBRUARY	Smith & Wesson, SD40VE	Cal. 40 Pistol	JODY SEPT, MILES CITY
MARCH	Ruger, American Rim Fire	Cal. 22 LR	
APRIL	Mossberg 500	Cal. 12 Gauge Pump	
MAY	Remington, Model 700 SPS	Cal. 7MM Mag	
JUNE	Remington, 870	Cal. 12 Gauge Pump	
JUNE	Smith & Wesson, SD9VE	Cal. 9MM Pistol	
JUNE	Ruger, AR-556	Cal. 223/556	

12 Guns In All - Good Luck!

See Your Local
VFW for Tickets

Drawings held on last Friday
of each month.

TAPS

Montana VFW comrades who have transferred to Post Everlasting

Post	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Post	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
209	George	M	Gratzer	3596	Clyde	D	Terrell
209	Harve	D	Murray	4099	Fred		Ramus Jr.
209	Barry	M	Williams	4198	Barney	L	Williams
276	Robert	A	Hatlen	4762	Vernon	W	Sanders
276	Billy	M	Paul	4813	Dale		Bond
497	Joseph		Stuker	4813	Ivar	B	Lund
1025	Ben	J	Raisland	4925	Ray	A	Hickey
1087	W	W	Pirtle	5514	Carmon	J	Powell
1125	James	V	Christensen	6774	Marion	V	Coleman
1548	Donn	A	Dinneen	6786	Arthur	R	Peter Sr
1548	Ray	L	Finley	7311	William	A	Dempster
1548	Michael	D	Grunerud	7407	Burton	K	Allen
1551	Jack	H	Smith	7407	David	L	Fox
1579	John	N	Nelson	7621	Edward	P	Covey
1579	Fred	A	Thoeny	7621	Patrick	R	Underwood
1634	Virgil	E	Miller	7655	Donald		Buffington
1723	Francis	H	O'Donnell	7655	John	N	Howell
2154	Arthur	B	Bohleen	7655	Alfonse		Signore
2252	Curtis	O	Peterson	7887	Delford	E	Milne
2484	Raymond	F	Hall	9040	James	H	Anderson
2484	Ray	W	Zell	9040	Garth	L	Haugland
2986	Homer	L	Andersen	9040	Chester	W	Huxtable
2986	John	E	Cramer	10010	John	R	Buckley
2986	Jean	A	Turnage	10010	Laurence		Mayotte
3107	Casper	O	Holter	10010	John	F	Miller
3107	Leroy	D	Johnson	12112	Donald	L	Omdahl
3107	William	W	Silver	15027	William	C	Howard
3177	William		Staudinger	15027	William	W	Waddell

—SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued from Pg. 2

VFW is the gun and the members are the ammunition, and you don't want to run out of ammo during the battle". With your help we will achieve all of our recruiting goals if we all work together. Please indulge me as I visit a topic that has been discussed at various levels of leadership throughout this fine organization and needs to be addressed here. Choices – our lives are one continuous choice from getting up, to what we eat, our recreational outlets, etc. Once upon a time we all chose to serve our Nation as part of the Military (maybe the choice was being drafted or perhaps court ordered) but we joined. Most of us chose to do our jobs well and many returned to civilian life and prospered. Joining the VFW and/or other Veteran's service organizations was a choice as well. Why did you join the VFW? Was it just to say you belong to the greatest combat organization in the World or did you join for what it stands for? Did you choose to join to become a statistic or to become involved in veteran support roles? Yes the number of members we have does give us a significant block of representation when it comes to elected local, State or National leaders, but is that the only thing that is important? In March we will be nominating members for elected and appointed positions within our Post leadership categories along with various District officers this spring and for State positions in June. If you are a member in good standing you are qualified to become an Officer. We know that everyone leads busy lives, but is it possible that you could choose to give some of your time to your home post or other levels of leadership? You may not be able to attend every Post meeting or function, but you can choose how much you want to participate and what you are able to do. If we are doing something that interests you, please know this -- that you are welcome to be a part of this project. None of us will turn down a volunteer who wants to help. Conversely, do you have an idea for a project that would ben-

efit your post or the veterans that we serve? Perhaps you have some recruiting ideas that you could share with us. We have over 7,000 VFW members in Montana, which represents a huge number of individuals who have some great ideas – we just need your input. What about any volunteer work that you do in the community? Please share that information with us too. Last year the following information was gathered from various reporting sources, and I'm sure that it is only the tip of the iceberg. **8.6 million hours contributed by VFW members serving Veteran's needs, \$49.8 million either in donated funds or in-kind donations supporting VFW service projects or perhaps the nearly 67,000 favorable VA claims filed on behalf of VFW members.** I am asking each of you to make the choice of getting involved with your VFW organization as much as time permits. You will never know if once you are involved where that will lead you and how much fun you can have in getting together with your comrades and friends. We all have something in common; we chose to join the greatest military veterans' organization in the world. Help us to be more successful. Help us to recruit new members. We are less than 80 new or reinstated members from being 100%. Please choose to help us to achieve our goals and to help serve you. As we move forward with our lives, please embrace the change in our elected leaders, both at State and National levels, but continue to hold them accountable... after all you are the employer. Use the resources available to you to interact with those officials. Sign up for Action Corps and don't be afraid to write letters to our elected representatives expressing your appreciation for a good job or your displeasure if that is how it applies. Please keep our deployed troops in your prayers. God bless you and God bless America.

Chuck Carroll
State Sr. Vice Commander

—NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY, continued from Pg. 1

ute of silence is observed to remember the fallen, the prisoners of war, the missing in action, and to honor those who have served and are serving in this great nation's armed forces. Past ceremonies at the chapel involved local Boy Scouts and Venture Scouts Posting the Colors and leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Memorable features of the ceremony included the opening and closing prayers, guest speaker and posting a ceremonial wreath for each branch of the military service. Each wreath is decorated with a red velvet bow, an American flag and service flag to represent a branch of service. A POW/MIA wreath is posted next to the branch of service wreaths.

A remembrance wreath in memory of the 43 Montana service members killed since 9/11, while fighting the nation's wars in the Middle East is placed last. One by one, their names are read. With each name, hometown, military branch, rank and age when they perished, Scouts place a white carnation in the Gold Star wreath. The patriotic ceremony closes with the Retiring of the Colors. The ceremony is typically not long, but is very moving.

The 2015 wreath placing ceremony was started at Montana State Veterans Cemetery, Fort Harrison, where more than 2900 veterans are buried. Association members set up specially built wood stands in the center circle on Heroes Road, where 146 vibrant green wreaths were placed by volunteers the first year. 227 wreaths were placed in 2016. An inspiring sight through the efforts of veteran's organizations, business and individuals, who had the power to make a difference and actually did it.

Many members of Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association are veterans, all are patriotic citizens. Fortunate to be living in a military community, they want to pay a debt of honor to the fallen. Currently in the early stages of fundraising, the success of the WAA mission is dependent entirely upon financial support like yours. They are hopeful that 2017 will be no exception.

Wreaths are \$15 each. The association would like to ask that you consider becoming a wreath sponsor. As a sponsor, you will receive positive recognition and in a unique way be part of the REMEMBER, HONOR and TEACH national mission. Share in this opportunity to remember our American military heroes – one wreath at a time. All it takes is hard work and dedication to the WAA Program.

Sponsors may make a check out to "Wreaths Across America" and send it to the address below. Memorial wreath sponsorships are solicited throughout the year, and wreaths will be placed in December on National Remembrance Day. Proceeds from funds raised by the association will be dedicated to statewide veterans' charitable causes. If you have any questions about sponsorship opportunities or the association, please contact:

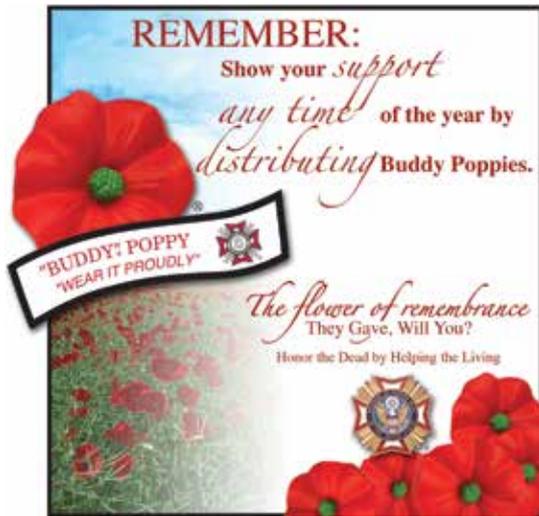
Linda Juvik
Location and Fundraising Group Coordinator
Montana State Veterans Cemetery, Fort Harrison (MTSVCH) Location
Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association (MT0010P) Fundraising Group
P.O. Box 7693, Helena, MT 59604
ohmswtohm@msn.com | ph: 406.442.0493

New Legacy Life Member

January 20, 2017 - Helena VFW Post 1116 Commander Doug Brown presenting Life member Gene Olson with a bronze Legacy Life membership from the members of the Post at their monthly luncheon at Jorgenson's Restaurant. Gene became a new Legacy Life member under this year's Legacy Life membership discount program. Any life member that would like to become a Legacy Life member between now and June 30, 2017 can send their payment to Department headquarters and receive a 10% discount. The program has been so successful it has been extended from December 31st to June 30th. If you are a life member and you are interested in becoming a Legacy Life member or upgrading to a higher level, just contact our State Quartermaster and he will help you take care of it. Congratulations to our newest Legacy Life member, Gene Olson.



**We
Support
Our
Veterans**



Department Service Officer

Here in Montana, we work diligently to keep up with the new processes of doing business with the VA. Our investment into a paperless claims management system has paid off! Our agency has been invited to participate as a pilot site utilizing a new paperless claims submission program called Digit to Digit (D2D).

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) currently receives a large number of Veteran and Survivor claims and evidence is submitted and managed by our agency as the Veteran Service Organization acting on behalf of Veterans by way of a Power of Attorney (POA) relationship. Currently, all of the claims and evidence we manage is sent as paper submissions to VA via fax. To better manage the claims, last year we partnered with a software vendor to implement Vetraspec, a claims management system.

D2D is a data delivery service built to enable accredited service organizations to electronically submit data and related attachments from its claim management system to VA systems using a standardized and centralized method. It will reduce the time to submit VA claims and eliminate costs associated with filing paper claims by establishing secure and direct data transfers between the VA and accredited organizations.

The time savings will be tremendous! What used to take weeks, from submission by our organization to receipt by VA, will soon be immediate. We anticipate beginning this process in early January 2016. If you have never filed for VA benefits in the past, I encourage you to contact one of our Service Officers about beginning the process.

The goal of our 10 Montana Veterans Affairs Service Offices staffed with accredited Veterans Service Officers is to assist all veterans and their dependants with their VA benefits. Please contact us for more information.

Listed below are the MVAD/VFW offices throughout the state:

Belgrade..... (406) 388-4601
 Billings..... (406) 248-8579
 Butte..... (406) 533-0910
 Great Falls..... (406) 452-2265
 Havre..... (406) 265-4225
 Helena..... (406) 495-2080/2081/2082
 Kalispell..... (406) 755-3795
 Lewistown..... (406) 538-3174
 Miles City..... (406) 232-1203
 Missoula..... (406) 542-2501

Thank you for your service to our great country!

Daniel Arnold
 Department Service Officer

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

Veteran Service Offices

Helena Armed Forces Reserve Center
 1956 Mt. Majo • PO Box 5715 • Helena, Montana 59604
 Phone (406) 324-3740 • Fax (406) 324-3745

Administration Offices

FOSTER, Joe -Administer Phone (406) 324-3741 jofoster@mt.gov
HALL, Lee Ann -Budget Analyst Fax (406) 226-7459 Phone (406) 324-3740 lehall@mt.gov
RYCHALSKI, -Admin. Support/Benefit Tech Phone (406) 324-3743 jrychalski@mt.gov

Cemetery Offices

HALL, Tom -Cemetery Program Manager Phone (406) 324-3742 Cell (406) 202-0530 thall@mt.gov
WIGERT, Shawn -Groundskeeper Cell (406) 202-1297
HOLMLUND, Kurt -Cemetery Sexton Fax (406) 232-2019 Cell (406) 951-1325 kholmlund@mt.gov
AASVED, Curt -Cemetery Sexton Fax (406) 543-2360
PAUL, Brady -Groundskeeper Fax (406) 543-2360 Cell (406) 396-8009 caasved@mt.gov

Veteran Service Offices (Locations and Counties)

BELGRADE

Mahn, Janine -Service Officer II jmahn@mt.gov
Edwards, Earl -Service Officer I eedwards@mt.gov
 350 Airport Road
 Belgrade, MT 59714
 Phone (406)-388-4601
 Fax (406) 388-4602
COUNTIES: GALLATIN, PARK, S. MADISON, SWEET GRASS

BILLINGS

Hald, Cheryl -Regional VSO cheald@mt.gov
Berge, Lindsay -Service Officer I lberge@mt.gov
Love, Amanda -Service Officer I alove@mt.gov
Vacant -Service Officer I
Vacant -Service Officer I
 2795 Enterprise Ave.
 Billings, MT 59102
 Phone (406) 656-0584
 Phone (406) 248-8579
 Phone (406) 259-5419
 Fax (406) 656-0617
COUNTIES: BIG HORN, CARBON, STILLWATER, TREASURE, YELLOWSTONE, MUSSELLSHELL, GARFIELD

BUTTE

Muhammad, Saajid -Service Officer II smuhammad@mt.gov
 600 Gilman Ave.
 Butte, MT 59701
 Phone (406) 533-0910
 Fax (406) 494-1273
COUNTIES: BEAVERHEAD, DEER LODGE, GRANITE, S. JEFFERSON, N. MADISON, POWELL, SILVERBOW

GREAT FALLS

Arnold, Dan -Service Officer II danarnold@mt.gov
Brunken, Kari -Service Officer I kbrunken@mt.gov
Hering, Candice -Service Officer I chering@mt.gov
 600 Central Plaza #300
 Great Falls, MT 59401
 Phone (406) 452-2265
 Fax (406) 453-5871
COUNTIES: CASCADE, CHOUTEAU, PONDERA, TETON

HAVRE

Loendorf, Judy -Regional VSO jloendorf@mt.gov
Mulonet, Steve -Service Officer I smulonet@mt.gov
 232 1st St. W.
 Havre, MT 59501
 Toll Free 1-877-265-VETS (8387)
 Phone (406) 265-4225
 Fax (406) 265-2666
COUNTIES: LIBERTY, BLAINE, GLACIER, HILL, PHILLIPS, TOOLE, VALLEY

HELENA

Ackerman, Kelly -Senior VSO kelly.ackerman@va.gov
Ingraham, Tim -VSO II timothy.ingraham@va.gov
Baranyai, Krystelle -VSO I krystelle.baranyai@va.gov
 Veterans Service Center
 Bldg. 3633 Veterans Drive, Rm. 110E
 PO Box 1007
 Ft. Harrison, MT 59636
 Phone (406) 495-2080
 Phone (406) 495-2081
 Phone (406) 495-2082
 Phone (406) 495-2083
 Fax (406) 495-2003
COUNTIES: LEWIS & CLARK, BROADWATER, N. JEFFERSON

KALISPELL

Keeler, Ryan -Regional VSO rkeeler@mt.gov
Collins, Carolyn -Service Officer I carolcollins@mt.gov
Zipp, Bryan -Service Officer I bzipp@mt.gov
 2989 Highway 93 North
 Kalispell, MT 59901-9801
 Phone (406) 755-3795
 Fax (406) 755-1039
COUNTIES: FLATHEAD, LINCOLN, LAKE

LEWISTOWN

Foster, Sue -Service Officer II suefoster@mt.gov
 505 W. Main, Ste. 217
 Lewistown, MT 59457
 Phone (406) 538-3174
 Fax (406) 538-3186
COUNTIES: GOLDEN VALLEY, MEAGHER, WHEATLAND, FERGUS, JUDITH BASIN, PETROLEUM

MILES CITY

Olson, Keith -Service Officer II keitholson@mt.gov
 VA Primary Care Clinic
 210 S. Winchester
 Miles City, MT 59301
 Phone (406) 232-1203
 Fax (406) 233-1217
COUNTIES: CARTER, CUSTER, DAWSON, FALLON, POWDER RIVER, PRAIRIE, WIBAUX, MCCONE, RICHLAND, SHERIDAN, DANIELS, ROOSEVELT, ROSEBUD

MISSOULA

Hahn, Kate -Service Officer II khahn@mt.gov
Cornelius, Peter -Service Officer I pcornelius@mt.gov
Hale, Steve -Service Officer I shale@mt.gov
 1911 Tower Street
 Missoula, MT 59804
 Phone (406) 542-2501
 Fax (406) 543-2360
COUNTIES: MINERAL, MISSOULA, RAVALLI, SANDERS

SEASONAL EMPLOYEES

Lantz, Jesse -Groundskeeper
 Missoula Veterans Cemetery
 Helena Veterans Cemetery

<p>WHITEFISH POST 276 Meeting 1st 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 406-452-2265 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. Men's Auxiliary meets 2nd Wednesday 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 – 7:00 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 Meetings, 3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m. (April-Sept.) 2:00 p.m. (Oct.-March) 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>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>	<p>A Cabin on the Kootenai River NW Montana – Hwy 2 – mm10 Troy, Montana</p> <p>Vacation cabin nestled in the trees. Available mid-April to mid-October. Dock available, bring your boat. (Catch a Trophy-Blue-Ribbon Trout) Boat Launch nearby. Float the river, swim, fish or watch the floaters & Outfitters drift by. Close to Kootenai Falls. Fire Pit & BBQ – Pets with special permission. \$100 deposit at time of booking. 3 RV sites also available.</p> <p>Call Dan at (520)425-6281 or (406)295-4164 or Email him at CabinOnTheRiver@aol.com or sigflo@aol.com</p>
<p>PLAINS POST 3596 Post Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesdays Auxiliary Meetings 2nd & 4th Mondays 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. Mens Auxiliary Meeting 1st Monday - 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>	

**VA Montana Health Care System
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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ALL - Please promote and publish this new incentive to every member possible in every manner, venue and publication available.

"POT O' GOLD" MEMBER DRAWING

Three (3) winners will be drawn and accompany the Commander-in-Chief on an all-expense paid trip to Ireland (Fall 2017) along with their spouse or guest.

For any new/reinstated member recruited between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017:

- You will receive one (1) chance for every five (5) new/reinstated members recruited
- You will receive ten (10) chances for every increment of 25 new/reinstated members recruited

*** Attention Post and District Commander:**

- > You will receive ten (10) chances in recognition of 85%+ post and district retention

Drawing will take place July 1, 2017

All awards are non-transferable

Senators and Representatives Contact Information

The Honorable Senator Jon Tester
311 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
Washington Phone (202)224-2644

The Honorable Senator Steve Daines
320 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
Washington Phone: (202)224-2651

The Honorable Representative Ryan Zinke
113 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Washington Phone (202)225-3211

On Pearl Harbor Day, family, friends and Vets gathered to honor the man and his uniform at the Anaconda Deer Lodge County Courthouse.



Retired and deceased MSgt., USMC Max Adams, a Veteran of WWII and Korea is the 16th to be so honored. His son Mike requested we display his dad's uniform which we were glad to do. Additionally, we had Navy Veteran and PH survivor Charlie Dowd in attendance (sitting), surrounded by fellow local Vets. Colors were performed by the Anaconda American Legion Post 21. DAV Cmdr. Mike Burt officiated.



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