

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

the Montana VETERAN



Glacier Park - Bear Grass



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Vietnam War veteran awarded overdue medals

BILLINGS – Nearly 50 years after performing the heroic deeds that garnered him medals including the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, Vietnam War medic Gary Booth of Billings finally received what he'd earned Wednesday – with the help of U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont.

Tester told a crowd he has awarded overdue medals to more than 900 Montana veterans during his two terms in the senate. Booth's story – which Tester plans to read into the Congressional Record next week – "is the longest citation I've ever done," he said, "which speaks to what you've done in theater."

In attendance were several members of Gary's family, staff of the Billings Gazette and Post 6774 Life member Jerry Weitz, Past Commander/Service Officer and T. J. Smith, Life member and Purple Heart recipient.



U.S. Sen. Jon Tester congratulates Gary Booth after presenting him with several medals honoring his Vietnam service.
Photos provided by Billings Gazette

Congressional Citation

Mr. President,
I rise today to honor Gary Booth, a lifelong resident of Billings, Montana and a decorated Vietnam veteran.

Gary, on behalf of myself, my fellow Montanans, and my fellow Americans, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your service to this nation.

Gary was born on July 25, 1944 in St. Anthony, Idaho to Francis and Fern Booth. He was welcomed by his older brother Edwin, and joined by his younger brother William shortly thereafter. His father Francis bought, sold and transported produce all across the west – an occupation that brought the family to Billings in 1948.

So Billings became the town that Gary grew up in, attending the Lockwood School from grades 1-9, before graduating from Billings Senior High in 1962.

After high school he tried his hand at farming and auto repair, before going back into the family trucking businesses. But he wasn't settled long before he got the call; it was September 30th of 1965 and he was being called for duty.

Gary answered the call, but stuck to his principles, enlisting as a conscientious objector. This meant he would protect and serve, while forgoing the aid of a firearm. So he was shipped off to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, where he went through basic training, as well as an additional 10 weeks of advance medic training. After that, he joined the Fourth Infantry Division at Fort Louis, in Tacoma,

Washington where he continued to train until his comrades shipped out from Seattle in June of 1966.

He and the rest of the Fourth Infantry Division reached the eastern coast of Vietnam about a month later, in late July, arriving at the Port of Qui Nhon (QUINN-YAWN). From there they trekked more than a hundred miles to the west-coast city of Pleiku (PLAY-COO), which would serve as their base of operations as they patrolled the dense jungle spanning the border between Cambodia and Vietnam.

This was in November, and for the next few months Gary and his fellow soldiers cycled through weeks of search and destroy missions in the jungles of Pleiku, punctuated by brief stints back at the larger artillery base, where they kept watch and took whatever opportunity they could to "rest."

It was towards the end of the day, during one of these search and destroy missions, when the sun was about to set, that Gary and his comrades came across an open clearing in the jungle where they decided to set up camp for the night.

It was now February, months had passed since their arrival, and they had fallen into a routine. Part of the company would stay back and set up camp for the night, while a few soldiers-known as "Ops"-took up observation posts and two patrol squads headed out to secure a 100-yard perimeter around the clearance.

Before the soldiers disbursed, Gary gave everyone a prodigious reminder. "If anyone needs me," he yelled, "holler 'Doc,' instead of 'Medic.'" This was because the

CONGRESSIONAL CITATION continued on page 9

Deadlines

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

- October 15, 2016 Dec-Jan-Feb-Mar
- February 15, 2017 Apr-May-June-July
- June 15, 2017 Aug-Sept-Oct-Nov

Coming Events

- AUGUST 13 | COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING POST 1087**
- SEPT 10 | DISTRICT #6 GLENDIVE**
- SEPT 17 | DISTRICT #4 BOZEMAN**
- SEPT 17 | DISTRICT #1 EUREKA**
- SEPT 18 | DISTRICT #5 GLASGOW**
- SEPT 24 | DISTRICT #2 FAIRFIELD**
- OCT 1 | DISTRICT #3 HARDIN**
- NOV 3-6 | WESTERN CONFERENCE, HONOLULU, HI**

COMMANDER'S REPORT



JACK HAWLEY

Comrades, Greetings to one and all. I just got back from the State Convention and I would like to congratulate all of the VFW and Auxiliary members from posts 10010 and 1116 for putting on an outstanding convention. I would also like to congratulate our VFW All State Posts, job well done. It's not easy to achieve that award without hard work and dedication. I would like to see a lot more All State Posts and Districts this year. While I'm congratulating I would like to welcome our new State Jr. Vice Commander Joe Fletcher, Judge Advocate Kenny Herrmann, District 1 Commander Virginia Rose Arnold, District 4 Commander Brian Rumsey, District 5 Commander and National Council Member Art Widhalm and all of the State and District officers and wish them a fun and prosperous year. It's not official yet but I would also like to congratulate the Commander and Quartermaster from Post 5748 Joliet for becoming All-American. It just shows you the smaller posts that do the work can achieve the highest award, fantastic job. I would like to thank Dean House for a great year unfortunately the

numbers didn't add up for all the hard work that was done. Every program was done but the membership was not there. That leads me into the program I put together, that I feel will give you, the members something to work for. Everything in my program is very achievable, it only takes hard work and effort on your part. I have made myself, Tim Peters, Art Widhalm, Chuck Carrol, and our newest Jr vice Commander Joe Fletcher available to help you, all we need is a little notice. I will be out there in the trenches with each of you getting the job done. An article in this addition explains my program. It is very important for you to get started 1 July and don't look back until you have achieved your goal. I will be doing a lot of traveling this year but that's not unusual some of it official and some of it to come out and visit your posts throughout the state. Because of my schedule I am going to be missing District 4 and 6 in the fall I apologize now but it's hard to be in two places at the same time. I will be at Districts 1, 2, 3, and 5 and I'm looking forward to seeing all my friends. Quartermasters don't forget to bring your paperwork so that you can be inspected at your District meeting. I will be looking for ideas on how we can get our membership back to where it should be. Along with getting our membership up let's also work on getting our Life members to become Legacy Life members. I know it's a bit of a commitment to your Life members,

COMMANDER, continued on page 8

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



CHARLES CARROLL

Our recent State Convention is now in the record books. I was elected to represent you as the State Senior Vice Commander and I would like to thank all of those folks out there who supported my election to this position. I look forward to helping Commander Jack Hawley as he leads our Department during the next year. I am including some information that was shared at the Convention along with some data from one of the most recent VFW Action Corps initiatives. Our keynote speaker at our State convention was National Junior Vice Commander in Chief Keith Harmon. He had recently returned from a Middle East and European tour visiting with our members of the military on duty in various hot spots across the globe. He identified and explained several of our VFW Commander in Chief John Biedrycki's resolutions for discussion at our National Convention in Charlotte,

N.C. in July. The top 4 resolutions are:

1. End Sequestration
2. Support the Troops and their war against terrorism
3. Keep Defense budget relevant
4. Secure America's borders

He said that we must take a more proactive approach to our democracy and get involved with the process. When he was visiting with these young American military personnel they made it clear that the stark realities of sequestration and the effects of the draw down of all branches of service are catastrophic. These young folks are going into harm's way with outdated equipment, limited spare parts and a very unclear set of rules for engagement (ROE). As an example, before an air strike can be called in someone must evaluate the "potential collateral damage". We have our young folks in harm's way who cannot adequately protect themselves because of the bureaucratic red tape from our elected leaders in Washington DC. Our elected leaders are needlessly placing a burden on the safety of our Military men and women who are fighting a prolonged battle with Islamic Radical Extremists.

SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 8

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**Where Do My
Dues Go?**

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JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



JOE FLETCHER

First, let me thank all of you for your support and confidence in electing me as your Department Jr. Vice- Commander. I am truly humbled and grateful for this opportunity to

serve you and our fellow veterans. As we travel this year together, I will be doing everything I can to support our Commander to achieve the high goals he has set for our Department and I believe we can do it, so lets' climb aboard the super clipper and aim high. Hope to see all of you when we start our fall district meetings.

Joe Fletcher, Jr. Vice State Commander

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



JIM PORTER

WHAT A CONVENTION!!

Well Comrades, and Sisters in the Auxiliary, if you missed the Dept. Convention in Helena this year, you really missed out. The two VFW posts in Helena and East Helena

worked together, and boy do they work good together. The convention hotel was the Best Western Great Northern, and from the minute we arrived, we were made to feel as though they had been waiting all afternoon for just us to get there. It was terrific! There was a whole "boatload" of items for the silent auction and there were a whole big bunch of items for the ticketed items as well. For any of you that don't know, Mr. Darrel Watkins of Raynesford was the lucky winner of the Honda 500 Pioneer. I am happy to say that I was lucky enough to be the seller of the winning ticket. Believe me, it was quite a convention. Before I go any further, I want to congratulate Commander Jack Hawley, Sr. Vice Charles Carroll, Jr. Vice Joe Fletcher, Surgeon Frank Belgarde, Judge Advocate Ken Hermann, and, yours truly was re-elected as dept. Chaplain for

the coming year. All of the officers appreciate your votes immensely, and I especially want to thank you all for putting your faith in me to do a good job in 2016 - 2017. Thank you all very much. I pray I will not let you down. Needless to say, now that the convention is history, it is on to the Fall District meetings. I would just ask, as all the officers do each time, please consider trying to make your district meetings. There is so much good information that is handed out each time that by itself almost makes it worthwhile. You know, when you see the numbers of veterans that we are losing each year, it is really startling. For that reason, I ask you all you to carry an application or two in your pocket or your wallet. If you tell someone you'll get back to them, you have just lost another prospective member. The last thing, and this is really important too; if you have any sicknesses, hospitalizations, or deaths in your family or in your post or auxiliary, PLEASE, let me know so I can send a "get well" card or a card of condolence. Thanks again to all of you that voted or attended the dept. convention. Annie & I, as well as all of the Dept. Officers, wish you all a very safe & happy summer. Take care & May God bless each of you and your families.

Jim Porter
State Chaplain

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Veterans and Military Support Programs

What is "Veterans & Military Support Programs"? It consists of the following programs: Unmet Needs, Operation Uplink, VFW's "Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarship" and Military Assistance Program.

All too often, deployments mean incredible financial and emotional hardships for military members and their family. The VFW's Veterans & Military Support Programs are here to offer the support and assistance needed to endure these hardships.

The VFW Unmet Needs program provides up to \$5,000 in financial assistance to service members and their family who face unexpected financial difficulties as a result of military service. The program assists with the costs associated with basic needs and does not require repayment. Qualified applicants must have served on active duty within the past 72 months. Grants can be used for but are not limited to: mortgage and rent payments, home and auto repairs, insurance or utilities, food and clothing. Ineligible expenses include, but not limited to: credit cards--- personal, military or store; loans---personal, student or payday; bank fees; legal or educational expenses; cable, internet or secondary phone; IRS or military debt, or debt owed to a friend/family member; bills due to excessive use or mismanagement. Unmet needs also stands ready to assist military families who are victims of natural disasters with grants of \$300-\$500.

Operation Uplink connects military members and hospitalized/nursing home veterans with their loved ones, free of charge.

The VFW's "Sports Clips Help a Hero" program provides service members with financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive debt. Scholarships of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to eligible applicants. Applications are accepted January 1- April 30 for fall semester and August 1 - November 15 for spring semester. Applicants can receive assistance for each semester but must apply each time. Applications and additional information can be found online at HelpAHero@vfw.org.

The Military Assistance Program (MAP) is the outstretched hand between the VFW and the local military, offering support to military members, their unit and their family during all phases of deployment. Through local VFW channels, MAP sponsors morale-boosting events such as homecoming celebrations, send-offs and other special events. VFW and Auxiliaries adopt hundreds of military units around the world. They develop supportive, ongoing relationships with the unit and their families to help deliver the vast network of resources the VFW has available for the military community.

If your Post uses any funds from your Veterans Relief Fund, please report the amount and where used to me by phone or e-mail me at the address below. Thank you for what you do for our military and veterans.

More information about these programs can be found online at uplink@vfw.org, unmetneeds@vfw.org, HelpAHero@vfw.org, and map@vfw.org. You can also contact Montana Program Chairman, Art Widhalm at 406-524-3761/406-942-0668 or email chiefhunter2u@yahoo.com.

On Friday, March 4, 2016 MSG U.S. Army and Montana National Guard retired Errol Eileraas had his uniform unveiled to the applause of family, friends and fellow vets. His bride Betty Ann at his side like always. Errol's uniform is the 13th to be so honored at the Anaconda Deer Lodge County Court House. The Anaconda American Legion Post 21 Honor Guard provided the colors.



Photo by Anaconda Leader Reporter Kathie Miller

What is a Legacy Life Member?

A Legacy Life member is another level of the VFW life membership program. It is intended to give our life members a way to leave a lasting legacy to the VFW. Future generations will know you not only for the sacrifices you made as a veteran but for the contributions you made as a member. **That's a legacy to be proud of.** When you become a Legacy Life Member, you are helping us strengthen the VFW where "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS". There are 3 prestigious levels of Legacy Life Membership are available, (Gold, Silver, or Bronze). Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life Members. Once your Legacy Life Membership begins, an annual endowment in you name will be made to your Post, Department, and the organization. You will feel confident knowing your contributions to our organization are helping not only today's veterans but the veterans of tomorrow. Future generations will know and remember you for the sacrifices you've made during your time in uniform in addition to the contributions you've made as a VFW Legacy Life Member. You will always be a member of your Post even after you're gone. Now Legacy Life memberships can be purchased for deceased life members, this is a great way to honor our past life members and keep them on the rolls of your post. If you are a life member and are interested in this program simply contact your Department Headquarters at (406)324-3992 for an application.

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

LEGACY LIFE HONOR ROLL

Kelly W. Kvigne	Gold Post 276	Ronald R. Mcleod	Bronze Post 1448
Lawrence Cunningham*	Gold Post 1087	Troy A. McDowall	Bronze Post 1579
Bradley A. Damron	Gold Post 1087	James A. Ussin	Bronze Post 1634
Jack A. Hawley	Gold Post 1087	Kenneth C. Handl	Bronze Post 2154
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Anthony G. Morris	Gold Post 1087	Robert Franczek	Bronze Post 2252
William M. Rose	Gold Post 1087	William J. Metteer	Bronze Post 2252
Gerald E. Van Every	Gold Post 1087	James L. Amundson	Bronze Post 3107
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John R. Fish Jr.*	Gold Post 1448	Reid B. Coldwell	Bronze Post 3107
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William D. Pirrie III	Gold Post 1723	Earl Fuhrman*	Bronze Post 3107
James C. Aho	Gold Post 2252	Floyd R. Hopstad	Bronze Post 3107
Duane Barrett*	Gold Post 3107	Byron M. Lindsay	Bronze Post 3107
Norman K. Dahl*	Gold Post 3107	Gerald F. Myers*	Bronze Post 3107
Albert Franzen	Gold Post 3107	Marvin J. Olson	Bronze Post 3107
George Kolstad	Gold Post 3107	Steve Page	Bronze Post 3107
E.C. Buster Lenoir*	Gold Post 3107	Kenneth E. Page*	Bronze Post 3107
Russell O. Lenoir	Gold Post 3107	Leon H. Pearce	Bronze Post 3107
Gerald L. Murch	Gold Post 3107	Harold A. Potter*	Bronze Post 3107
Edwin V. Swanson*	Gold Post 3107	Marvin L. Potter	Bronze Post 3107
Walter E. Watts	Gold Post 3107	LeRoy R. Stein*	Bronze Post 3107
Arthur J. Widhalm	Gold Post 3107	William H. Sugg, Jr.	Bronze Post 3107
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Kenneth C. Williams*	Gold Post 3177	Felice H. Wilson	Bronze Post 3107
Charles Oelschlagler	Gold Post 3596	Edwin M. Yohn	Bronze Post 3107
Leslie L. Poland	Gold Post 4099	Edwin M. Zamborowski	Bronze Post 3107
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Gary L. Race	Gold Post 4725	Joe M. Halversen*	Bronze Post 4099
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Ken R. Utter	Gold Post 6786	Alfred J. Adolph	Bronze Post 4925
Gary O. Borland	Gold Post 7311	Daniel C. Barta	Bronze Post 4925
Charles M. Handley	Gold Post 7311	Jack L. Burger	Bronze Post 4925
John T. Freetly	Gold Post 7407	Loren R. Erbe	Bronze Post 4925
Terry W. Lambert	Gold Post 8292	Harry Kowalczyk	Bronze Post 4925
William I. Mackley	Gold Post 8292	John G. Leggett	Bronze Post 4925
George F. Fryett, Jr	Gold Post 9040	Paul R. Megead	Bronze Post 4925
Elmer D. Bernard	Gold Post 10010	Douglas H. Parrott	Bronze Post 4925
William R. Bovee*	Gold Post 10010	Henry A. Plott	Bronze Post 4925
Michael C. Buckley	Gold Post 10010	Will D. Juhl	Bronze Post 6774
Lyle F. Pedersen	Gold Post 10010	Donald R. Kendall	Bronze Post 6774
Timothy C. Peters	Gold Post 10010	Clifford E. Schleusner *	Bronze Post 6774
Ruthie M. Buttrick-Best	Gold Post 15027	Robert J. Sutton	Bronze Post 6774
Melvin W. Kieninger	Silver Post 1448	Howard J. Aemisegger	Bronze Post 6786
Dale J. Bender	Silver Post 3107	James H. Follensbee	Bronze Post 6786
Roy P. Christenson*	Silver Post 3107	Leo A. Howe	Bronze Post 6786
Lee E. Erickson	Silver Post 3107	J. P. Hume*	Bronze Post 6786
Kenneth K. Kautz	Silver Post 3107	Francis L. Utter	Bronze Post 6786
Otto J. Otnes	Silver Post 3596	Thomas H. Armstrong	Bronze Post 8292
Ludwig J. Rigler	Silver Post 10010	Paul E. Coble	Bronze Post 8292
Dennis G. Dreyer	Bronze Post 276	Edward J. Boucher	Bronze Post 10010
Dean House	Bronze Post 276	John R. Buckley	Bronze Post 10010
Kenneth A. Herrmann	Bronze Post 276	LeRoy S. Johnson	Bronze Post 10010
Robert Sammon	Bronze Post 276	Melvin V. Johnson*	Bronze Post 10010
Laureen A. Hawley	Bronze Post 1087	Dale A. Person	Bronze Post 10010
Paul T. Quinn	Bronze Post 1087	Robert J. Russ*	Bronze Post 10010
Harold D. Floyd	Bronze Post 1087		
Michael L. Lawson	Bronze Post 1448		

* Deceased Total 130

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



**ALL AROUND CHAMPION
DALLAS MITTLESTADT**

**Dallas Mittlestadt
would like to thank
VFW Post 6774
and Auxiliary
for their donation
to Future Rodeo
Champions.**

OPT-OUT!

Opt-Out of the home mailing of the *Montana Veteran*. If you received this USPS delivery of the paper, your request to stop receiving the *Montana Veteran* by mail is not in our on-site database.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please email us at montanavfw@gmail.com. Please let us know your name, Post number and email address and we will add you to our database. Please put Opt-Out in the subject block of your email.

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

New Bold Incentives for a New Program Year

Our new State Commander Jack Hawley, has set forward a new incentive program for recruiting new members. Please take advantage of this program and help yourself, Post, District and Department. We have been steadily decreasing our membership numbers over the past 7 years. In 2007 the Department had more than 10,000 members and now we have just over 7,000. If we keep up this trend we will be down to only about 4,000 members in 10 years and we will have about 20 less Posts. Remember the more members we have the stronger your Post is and the bigger our voice is in the state legislature. We need to continue to protect our veteran and military benefits in the state and national legislature and we can better do that with more members. **Please help us by signing up more members!**

Our goal this year is to achieve 100% in membership by 31 December 2016. That way we can spend the second half of the year increasing our numbers. Let your members know that we are asking them to renew their dues **now** instead of waiting until their dues expire. They will not lose any of their membership time by renewing early they will just be extending their membership by an entire year. Please pass the word.

2016-2017 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 \$250.00 for your Post.

Posts Recruit 25 New Legacy Life Members – Receive \$500.00 for your Post.

Districts that obtain 100% in Membership by 31 December 2016 – Receive \$1,000 for your District.

Districts that obtain 100% Membership by 31 December 2016, All Posts that are 100% in that District - Receive \$250.00 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.



VFW Post 7407 marked 307 graves with Flags at cemeteries in Ballantine (Worden) and Huntley. Services were held in both. From left to right the guys are John Kirkosa, Dale Bilyeu, and Curt Schatz. Members of Post 7407 are in background with the colors. Photos by Jonathan McNiven of the Yellowstone County News

Stillwater veterans Memorial Day ceremony by Absarokee Post 7311 and Columbus Post 4762 honor guards.



VFW Post #2252 Scholarship Recipients



VFW Post #2252 Men's Auxiliary, Frank Andrade, congratulating Carson Brown, this year's \$1,000 scholarship recipient from Glacier High School.



VFW Post #2252 Men's Auxiliary, Frank Andrade, congratulating Hannah Holderbaum, this year's \$1,000 scholarship recipient from Flathead High School.



On May 8th, VFW Auxiliary 5652 President, Margaret Fay, had the honor to present Gladys Disney of Polson, her 60-Year VFW Auxiliary Membership Pin, Patch and Certificate of Appreciation.

STATE CONVENTION IN HELENA

Delegates waiting for the Joint Session to start on the first day of the State Convention.



Governor Steve Bullock addressing the Joint Session.



Post 3107 Glasgow & 4067 Malta receiving Teacher of the Year awards.



Post 1087 receiving 1st Place Buddy Poppy award.



(L-R): Dean House, Keith Harmon, Pam Musgrave, Harold Wheeler

Post 1448 receiving 1st Community Activity award



(L-R): Keith Harmon, Mel Kieninger, Dean House



**State Officers
Take the Oath of Office during the Installation**



**Post 1548 receiving
Second Place in Community Activities**



(L-R): Virginia Arnold, Keith Harmon, Stella Sharp

**Jack Hawley from Great Falls Post 1087
Takes the Oath of Office as our new State Commander**



(L-R): Jack Hawley and Keith Harmon

**Post 3107 receiving
Patriot's Pen Award**



(L-R): Keith Harmon, Leroy Tiffany, Dean House

Convention Awards

National Home

- 3rd Place Post 209
- 2nd Place Post/Auxiliary 1087
- 1st Place Post 2252

Community Activities

- 3rd Place Post/Auxiliary 5514
- 2nd Place Post/Auxiliary 1548
- 1st Place Post/Auxiliary 1448

Buddy Poppies

- 3rd Place Post/Auxiliary 1579
- 2nd Place Post/Auxiliary 10010
- 1st Place Post/Auxiliary 1087

Recruiter of the Year

Jack Hawley

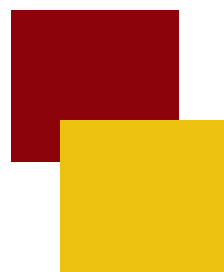
All-State Posts

- Post 2252 Kalispell (Captain)
- Post 1551 Harlowton
- Post 1595 Broadus
- Post 4099 Sidney
- Post 5514 Troy
- Post 5748 Joliet
- Post 6697 Darby
- Post 7407 Worden

**Corky Meagher receiving
VOD Chairman Award**



(L-R): Keith Harmon, Corky Meagher, Dean House



—COMMANDER, from page 2

but it's well worth it in the end. I feel so good that I am leaving a little piece of my Legacy to my post and the next generations. I have only been the State Commander for a short time so this letter will be short. The next one should be full

of all kinds of good news. God bless all of you, our men and women that are still in harm's way defending the United States of America.

Jack Hawley, State Commander

—SR. VICE COMMANDER, from page 2

We are waging a battle with Washington now concerning adequate health care. Politicians, pundits and politically-motivated organizations are using the national crisis in access to care at the Department of Veterans Affairs as justification to dismantle and privatize the VA health care system, with some even proposing that veterans be charged for their service-connected care. The VFW says no! Veterans must not stand idle as politicians who never served or use the VA health care system dictate when and where veterans can receive care.

For almost 117 years, the VFW has worked tirelessly to identify issues veterans face when accessing their earned benefits, and has worked with Congress to ensure a grateful nation fulfills her obligation to those who sacrificed to defend her. In the past two years alone, the VFW has collected direct feedback from more than 20,000 veterans regarding their experiences receiving VA and private sector health care. Their message is clear: "Improve, don't dismantle the VA health care system."

Take Action: Contact your Members of Congress and let them know that action on the battle field must be fought by battle field commanders who know what it will take to win, and not second guessed by arm chair quarterbacks who have never been in harm's way and furthermore that VA health care reform must be based on the needs and preferences of veterans, not political rhetoric. I urge you to get on a computer and log on to VFW.org and sign up for **VFW Action Corp.** Weekly you will get an update from VFW Headquarters on what our legislators are or *are not* doing in support of Veteran's Causes. Occasionally it will ask you to just sign a petition that the VFW has authorized for transmittal to our elected representatives. Please sign up. So as is stated above, please get more involved. **We must take a more proactive approach to our democracy and get involved with the process.**

Recently a Department of Montana VFW delegation journeyed to Eaton Rapids Michigan to visit the VFW National Home for Children and to inspect the Montana Farmstead. The National Home campus is situated on 160 acres and has 42 single family homes that are assigned to needy families after a significant vetting process. Part of the land that the campus sits on is leased out to area farmers. The Montana Farmstead is situated about 1/3 of a mile from the main campus and serves as the headquarters for 4H activities and storage of all of the maintenance vehicles, the first responder fire engine and the recycling barn. Residents who have attained the age of 14 are allowed to train and become members of the VFW National Home, Volunteer Fire Department. Last year the National Home assisted nearly 4800 veterans and

their families. Not all of the people who contact the National Home hotline need the full resources of the Campus Home but there are counselors, case managers and other dedicated professionals who assist any qualifying veteran or their family, **AND THEY DON'T STOP UNTIL SOMETHING IS DONE TO HELP THAT FAMILY.** Currently 43% of the residents of the National Home are two parent families. The grounds are inviting and meticulously kept. Nearly all of the buildings on the campus are brick structures and the amenities are kept up to date. As residents move out a team of maintenance folks descend on the house, refurbish it and bringing it up to existing standards for insulation, windows/doors, furnaces etc. There is a world class day care on site for residents' use along with a vast array of recreational activities, including a gym, Conference Center, Computer and Science Labs, a lake for fishing, Museum, 4H barns, several miles of hiking trails, a Chapel and much more. The families identify to their counselors and support staff, what they need and want to accomplish, i.e. college degree, advanced training in a specific trade, etc. The campus is self-contained, with their own water treatment plant, fire station, security personnel, recycling station and a natural gas reclamation site. Families may live on campus for up to 4 years, during which time they are provided, housing, education, daycare, basic needs (food, clothing), recreation and a case manager who oversees the program on an individual family basis. School age children attend the local schools in Eaton Rapids. The VFW National Home for Children serves as a living memorial to America's veterans by helping our nation's struggling military and veteran families. It is also a facility where you can have a great deal of pride, because all of the monies used to keep this campus going, are from folks just like you. They do not receive a single dime from the government or Federal/State sources. For inquiries into how you or someone you know could be helped by the National Home, please call the Military and Veteran Family Helpline at 800-313-5200 or by email at help@vfnationalhome.org. If you are in a position to donate to this worthy cause, I urge you to do so. Another area in which you could help is a lifetime membership to the National Home which is just a onetime payment of \$35. For details, please call 866-483-9642 or go to www.HelpHopeHonor.us or at info@vfnationalhome.org.

I ask you to keep all of those young folks who are in harm's way in your thoughts and prayers and ask the Good Lord to return all of our men and women in uniform home safely. God Bless you and God Bless America.

**Charles Carroll,
Sr. Vice State Commander**

East Helena Students and Teachers Honored at Loyalty Day Awards Program

by Donna Schroder

Over 995 students from the three East Schools took part in the VFW #10010 Auxiliary and Post sponsored Loyalty Day Program on May 5, 2016. The students entered the Loyalty Day Contest, the younger students drew a picture and the older students wrote essays. The Director of Voluntary Services at V.A., Terri Casey was the Master of Ceremonies. Auxiliary President Carol McMaster, Sr. Vice Jean Boucher, Secretary Bea Steen, Treasurer Lucille Stump and Historian Donna Schroder all took part in the Loyalty Day Award Ceremony.

Mayor James Schell read the Loyalty Day Proclamation at the ceremonies. Employees at Ft. Harrison V. A. volunteered to judge the essays and VFW Auxiliary members judged the art entries. After the Teacher's Day Proclamation was read a gift was presented to the teachers in appreciation of all their hard work. A new movie was presented to each school in memory of Auxiliary member Ellen East and a new American Flag was presented to each Principal.

In addition to the individual trophies, a Traveling Trophy was awarded to the grade with the highest percent of participation at each of the schools.

2016 Traveling Trophies were awarded to:

- Eastgate School - 1st Grade Class
- Radley School - 3rd Grade Class
- East Valley Middle School - 6th Grade Class

Students that received trophies:

Eastgate School	Kindergarten	Brady Bright, Sara Dearing, Kelsey Schaeffer, Tavarus Fleming, Jarrett Fuller, Caedyn Kralicek, Elijah Ballard and Jack McIntosh.
	1st Grade	Olivia Peterson, Avery Peterson, Dempsey Hadley, Isaiah Kalous, Mabel Bruno, Hailey Younkin and McKynzie Hail.
Radley School	2nd Grade	Damien Roberts, Hailey Nguyen, Wyatt Schmaus, Erin Hardy, Aiden Blackburn, Elliot Ophus and Rori Schoenfeld.
	3rd Grade	Corbin Ivers and Margaret Bruno.
	4th Grade	Lily Cottrell.
	5th Grade	Isabelle Surginer
EVM School	6th Grade	Rylie Schoenfeld
	7th Grade	Christopher Shields
	8th Grade	Molly McGinley



**EASTGATE SCHOOL
K-1ST**



**RADLEY SCHOOL
2ND- 5TH**



**EVM SCHOOL
6TH- 7TH**



TAPS

Montana VFW comrades who have transferred to Post Everlasting

Post	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Post	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
173	Laurence	J	Fouhy	3596	Roland	O	Powell
173	Wesley	D	Robson	3596	Robert	W	Williamson
209	William	F	Creighton	3596	Everett	L	Young
276	Arne	J	Jacobsen	3831	Robert	A	Thomas
497	William	F	Arvin	3997	Carl	O	Wood
497	M	F	Clancey	4042	Ted		Langton
497	Donald	E	Kenny	4047	Floyd	E	Chenoweth
497	Laverne	L	Pomeroy	4067	Eldon		Barnard
689	Robert	A	Steinberger	4067	Jack	M	Campbell
903	Thomas	E	Diamond	4099	Lyle		Peterson
1087	Marvin	M	Brewster	4109	James		Cowan
1087	Walter	T	Kelly	4109	Albert	T	Tesch
1087	Merton	D	Mader	4725	Mencel	L	Carey
1116	Maynard	A	Olson	4762	Arden	S	Riemann
1125	John	M	Berres	5159	Claire	L	Mcdougale
1125	Clarence	J	Heinrich	5514	Leo	E	Gilman
1448	Bert	W	Markovich	5514	Vernon	M	Osborne
1448	Thomas	P	Mc Intee	6774	Dean	C	Graham
1507	Joseph	B	Antanavage	6774	William	J	Mcmullin
1507	Joseph	H	Burnham	6774	Leslie	J	Morse
1507	Thomas	J	Carmello	6774	Michael	E	Rix
1507	Gordon	F	Escene	6774	Wilmer	E	Schuh
1548	Joseph	L	Dilla	6774	John	N	Schwehr
1548	Oscar	L	Erlandson	7311	Wayne	A	Pearson
1548	Robert		Groom	7481	Sam		Maier
1548	Terry	V	Harbst	7481	Lawrence		Vandersloot
1548	Gordon	A	Lindsey	7621	Lynn	R	Montgomery
1548	Paul	W	Rexroad	7655	Al	D	Burger
1548	Raymond	L	Seeman	7655	Earl	W	Duncan
1579	James	L	Johnson	7655	Roy	D	Fladstol
1634	Dale	D	Smith	7655	John	J	Stibel
1723	Edward	C	Clark	7887	George		Winhofer
1723	James	H	Kuhn	8869	Clarence	J	Bakken
1876	John		Allick	9040	William	W	Hawkins
1876	Mike	F	Donahue	9040	Jay	F	Nelson
2252	Jerry	L	Dressler	10010	Ralph	E	Cook
2252	Bruce	W	Metz	10010	Terrence	L	Ren
2252	Darrell	T	Micklewright	10010	Lester	J	Sodja
2986	Lilburn		Knutson	10010	Victor	J	Stipcich
3107	Lloyd	T	Eide	10010	Edward	W	Walter
3177	Kenneth	C	Williams	12112	Duane	C	Carlton
3596	Glenn	E	Hadley	15027	Ed	R	Berckmoes

CONGRESSIONAL CITATION from page 1

North Vietnamese had figured out what “medic” meant, making the soldier who responded to that call instant high-value targets.

With that, the soldiers set off. But just minutes later, a familiar sound rang out. It was the click of a gun being chambered, the only warning the patrol squad received before being ambushed by a battalion four times their size.

The basecamp was soon under fire and as the machine gunners took up arms, the other soldiers sought cover behind a sparse line of trees. About 10 minutes into the firefight one of the machine gunners called for help; his weapon had been hit by enemy fire, dislocating the barrel of his gun and propelling shrapnel into his right shoulder.

Under heavy fire, Gary ran to his fellow soldier’s aid, bandaging his wounds as the gunner used his bare hand to hold the barrel of his broken gun in place and return enemy fire. After Gary had finished bandaging the gunner’s shoulder, he tied another bandage around the gun to help steady the barrel and protect the gunner’s hand from the intense heat.

Once Gary made his way back to the trees, another soldier began calling for help. This time it was an OP who had been shot in the lower back as he was returning from his observation post. Gary yelled at the man – who had stopped about 50 yards away from him – to take cover behind his tree, but the soldier was too injured to move.

So with bullets raining down and mortar bombs going off around him, Gary directed the nearest machine gunners to give him cover as he ran head first into the line of fire to retrieve his fallen comrade. Gary slung the injured man over his back and ran for cover. Once the pair was back behind the trees, Gary went to work bandaging the man’s wounds and, once he got the bleeding to stop,

called for help to get the man back to basecamp.

About 10 minutes later, Gary was called upon again. The machine gunner with the broken barrel had now taken a bullet to the foot. So Gary ran over and was tending to the wound when, all of a sudden, he felt a sharp pain pierce his left leg. He had taken a bullet directly to the femur. His leg was broken so, finding himself immobilized, Gary called for his fellow soldiers to get help.

There were a total of five medics dispersed among the platoon, so his comrades pulled him off to the perimeter of the basecamp while he waited for a fellow medic to arrive. The canopy was so dense that air support couldn’t reach the camp by helicopter, so the medic put a splint around Gary’s leg and covered him with a poncho. All he could do now was wait out the fight. When the fighting finally subsided the next morning, Gary’s poncho was covered in shrapnel and debris, but he was still alive.

The U.S. had prevailed, but only after eight soldiers had died and 39 more were wounded. Even more would die if the wounded weren’t evacuated quickly, so the soldiers went to work clearing space for air support to land. Every soldier carried with him a small amount of C-4, usually in the band of their sock. Each individual’s piece as then collected and combined to make an explosive large enough to blow a hold through the jungle’s thick canopy.

Finally, after surviving hours under siege – without ever setting hands on a firearm – Gary was air lifted out of the battle zone to the nearest base. From there he was shipped off to the Philippines, where he was confined to a body cast for about a week before being transferred to an army hospital in Japan. Gary spent the next three months recovering in Japan, with the help of his younger brother who, in a twist of fate, had been stationed as a medic at the very same place.

Eventually, Gary returned to Fort Louis in Tacoma, Washington, where he spent almost a year learning how to walk again. Once he recovered, Gary was medically discharged from the army with 60% disability. He returned to Billings, went into business with his father, and spent the next 43 years in the trucking industry.


Gary has been married to his wife Ellen, a fellow Billings native, for 42 years and together they raised their son Christopher, who Gary adopted when he was just three years old. Christopher and his wife Gale now have two sons of their own, making Gary a proud grandfather to Christopher Murphree – who served in Afghanistan as a member of the National Guard – and Donovan Arnold, a boy scout whose troop conducted a beautiful flag ceremony here today.

The family all still lives in Billings, where Gary volunteers at his local VFW post – Mark Curtis #6674. He and a group of fellow veterans perform flag ceremonies and 21 Gun Salutes at military funerals throughout the county. Gary has performed at nearly two dozen military funerals since joining the group in January.

I now have the profound honor of presenting Gary with his own set of military honors. For his courage and valor in battle, Gary Booth received the:

- Purple Heart
- Bronze Star Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- Combat Medic Badge 1st award
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon w/Device
- Vietnamese Service Medal with 1 bronze service star
- National Defense Service Medal

Gary, these medals serve as a small token of our country’s appreciation for your incredible service and profound sacrifice.

You are a true American hero. Thank you so much for your service. 

V.F.W. Post #7311 of Absarokee recently presented Certificates of Appreciation to Roger Hanson of Hanson's Auto Body Shop for work on the Honor Guard van and Matt Knight of Stillwater Mining Company for supporting the American Flag display on Woodard Avenue in Absarokee. The Post has also received generous support from the Absarokee Community Foundation, Nye Community Foundation and many smaller gifts from local businesses and private individuals. These donations go towards supporting veterans in need, paying expenses for Honor Guard participation in Military funerals, and support for local charities.

Post Commander Gary Borland also presented The Crystal Apple award to Becky Frank, the Music Instructor at Absarokee High School, for being chosen Post Teacher of the Year. Becky has supported the V.F.W. with her Veterans Concert every fall and her willingness to play "Taps" for the Flag Burning ceremonies and at Memorial Day services. Her dedication to the Veterans is sincerely appreciated.

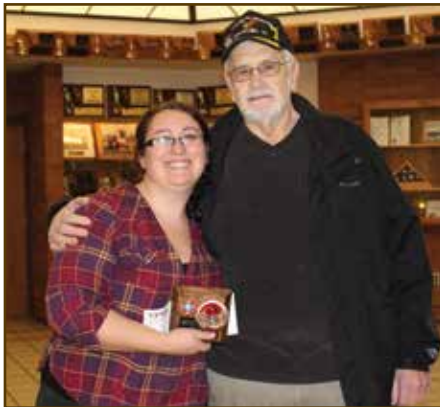


(L-R): Gary Borland, Gerry Brown, Joe Welten, Matt Knight, Dale Wassmann, Mick Dandley Barton Lawson



(L-R): Gerry Brown, Gary Borland, Joe Welten, Matt Knight, Mick Dandley, Dale Wassmann, Barton Lawson

Becky Frank, Teacher of the Year for Absarokee Post 7311 & District 13



(L-R): Becky Frank & Gary Borland



(L-R): Gary Borland, Roger Hanson, Ed Viig

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 use 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) 495-2080/2082
- 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

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 Phone (406) 324-3740 lehall@mt.gov
RYCHALSKI, -Admin. Support/Benefit Tech Phone (406) 324-3743 jrychalski@mt.gov

Cemetery Offices

Fax (406) 324-3745
HALL, Tom -Cemetery Program Manager Phone (406) 324-3742 Cell (406) 202-0530 thall@mt.gov
HOLMLUND, Kurt -Cemetery Sexton Fax (406) 232-2019 Cell (406) 951-1325 kholmlund@mt.gov
AASVED, Curt -Cemetery Sexton Fax (406) 543-2360 Cell (406) 396-8009 caasved@mt.gov
 Phone (406) 721-2995

Veteran Service Offices (Office Locations and Counties)

BELGRADE

Mahn, Janine -Service Officer II
 mvadbzmn@gwestoffice.net
Edwards, Eavl -Service Officer I
 eedwards@mt.gov
 350 Airport Road
 Belgrade, MT 59714
 Phone (406)-388-4601
 Cell (406) 539-1948
 Fax (406) 388-4602
COUNTIES: GALLATIN, PARK,
 S. MADISON, SWEET GRASS, GOLDEN VALLEY

BILLINGS

Herald, Cheryl -Regional VSO
 cheald@mt.gov
Gaffri, Jay -Service Officer I
 jgaffri@mt.gov
Bushnell, Stena -Service Officer II
 sbushnell@mt.gov
Berge, Lindsay -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
 Cell (406) 425-1429
COUNTIES: BIG HORN, CARBON, STILLWATER,
 TREASURE, YELLOWSTONE, MUSSELLSHELL,
 GARFIELD

BUTTE

Williamson, David -Service Officer II
 davidwilliamson@mt.gov
 600 Gilman Ave.
 Butte, MT 59701
 Phone (406) 533-0910
 Fax (406) 494-1273
 Cell (406) 560-4189
COUNTIES: BEAVERHEAD, DEER LODGE,
 GRANITE, 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
 Cell (406) 750-9951
 Fax (406) 453-5871
COUNTIES: CASCADE, CHOUTEAU, PONDERA,
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 Phone (406) 495-2081
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COUNTIES: LEWIS & CLARK, BROADWATER,
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 POWDER, PRAIRIE, WIBAUX, MCCONE, RICHLAND,
 SHERIDAN, DANIELS, ROOSEVELT, ROSEBUD

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 Fax (406) 543-2360
 Cell (406) 529-1312
 Cell (406) 560-4781
COUNTIES: LAKE, MINERAL, MISSOULA,
 RAVALLI, SANDERS

<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 7:00 p.m. Chicken & Steak Dinner – 1st & 3rd Sunday Breakfast – 2nd and 4th Sunday</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 1st Tuesday of the month 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.</p> <p>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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Three Forks Veterans Park gets Facelift by VFW Post 7621

The Three Forks Veterans Park recently got a huge upgrade from the members of VFW post 7621. The Park was officially established in 1951 to honor WWI and WWII veterans as well as any who served in peace or war from the Headwaters area. Post 7621 replaced the steel rails around the monument, created and installed signs, and purchased and installed a new flag pole proudly flying the US and POW/MIA flags. Additionally, the post purchased and installed five new flag poles to fly each of the different Service flags. The men of Post 7621 accomplished all the labor necessary to complete this project including setting flagpoles, trimming trees, and installing signs.



On 18 June the VFW Post 7621 held a flag dedication ceremony. The ceremony included raising of the new American Flag and POW/MIA flag, and singing the Star Spangled Banner. Each of the Service flags was raised in order, beginning with the Army flag and ending with the Air Force flag. Each service song was sung by the audience. Approximately 350 people attended the ceremony. The Ladies Auxiliary from American Legion Post 93 provided refreshments for all. In the coming year, VFW Post 7621 is planning to add an honor wall with more names of all who served from the Headwaters area.

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



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