



VA acts on Gulf syndrome after Minn. resolution



Jeremy
Wolfsteller

Filing deadline moved back 5 years

PHOENIX — A Minnesota American Legion resolution passed at the national level of The American Legion has resulted in the VA extending the disability deadline for the illness called Gulf War syndrome.

The VA had planned to end the presumptive disability for certain illnesses connected to the 1991

Persian Gulf War on Dec. 31 of this year.

Department of Minnesota Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller wrote the resolution. It calls for eliminating the deadline altogether. He said the VA and Congress keep backing it up another five years.

Sure enough, about a week and a half after Resolution No. 21 passed

at the 102nd National Convention, the VA announced it would extend the deadline to Dec. 31, 2026.

Department Adjutant Mike Maxa said this serves as a prime example to Minnesota veterans of what The American Legion does.

“The American Legion continues to advocate for our veterans,” he said, “and as long as this organization exists, we will continue to have the backs of our veterans.”

The National Academy of Medicine says Gulf War syndrome — typically, a chronic multisymptom illness that is difficult to explain medically — affects about 200,000 of the 650,000 veterans who served in Desert Shield/Storm.

“Our government cannot turn its back on our veterans or make it difficult to obtain the care and benefits we have earned. There is no time limits or crystal ball on when

a service-connected ailment may stike due to exposure of toxins to complete the mission,” Maxa said.

Wolfsteller said he hopes The American Legion can get Congress and the VA to eliminate the deadlines altogether before 2026 arrives.

It was one of three Minnesota resolutions passed at the National Convention in Phoenix. Wolfsteller wrote all three, and the

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Fall Conf. reports for action

Got questions? It's a time for answers

MAHNOMEN — The Fall Conference is set for Oct. 21-23 at Shooting Star Casino.

Questions about myLegion.org? Want to learn about suicide prevention? Or get training on charitable gambling? How about mentorship, membership, volunteerism and resolutions? What about tips on media and communication?

These and other questions will be answered at the Fall Conference. It is The American Legion's annual school of instruction.

“We hope it is the kind of event you can talk about when you get home,” said Commander Tom Fernlund in his greeting.

The program is printed on Page 7.

The gambling seminar at 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21, is an opportunity for gambling managers to fulfill state requirements for continuous training on charitable gambling.

Look closely at 10:15 a.m. Friday, Oct. 22. National Executive Committeeman Bill Barbknecht will introduce Vincent James “Jim” Troiola, a candidate for national commander from New City Post 1682, N.Y. (To be sure, it's not New York City, but New City. It's 18 miles north

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'Keep our heads high'



Above: Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Michael Barrett shakes the hand of then-National Commander Bill Oxford as he comes on stage Aug. 31.

Right: Barrett pauses while speaking about serving in Afghanistan and the U.S. military withdrawal.



Marine sergeant major's speech motivates at 102nd Nat'l Convention

By Tim Engstrom

PHOENIX — In the hallways of the Phoenix Convention Center, back at the hotel lobbies and in the restaurants and banquets the afternoon and evening of Aug. 31, pretty much everyone was talking about an excellent speech by a bald-headed Marine at the 102nd American Legion National Convention.

Near the end, he covered that head with his Legion cap and said this:

“Upwards of 20 veterans die by suicide every single day. This is a call to action. We are veterans. We are Legionnaires. Just tell us where we are needed next. And if you haven't already, add to your basic daily routine, conduct Buddy Checks. Make sure your buddy, your brothers, your sisters, are OK.”

It was given by retired Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Michael Barrett. He began with this statement: “The world is a dangerous place, and it's not getting any nicer. The stressors on all of us are immense, and they are exponentially greater if you are haunted by past experiences and other overwhelming challenges.”

Barrett served as a sniper in the Persian Gulf War and is a veteran of leading Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a member of Post 18 in Bloomington, Indiana, he has worked hard on veteran issues, particularly combatting suicides.

He brought up the 11 Marines, one soldier and one sailor killed in the Aug. 26 suicide bombing in Kabul. He does not wish on anyone the

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Paul Dillard of Texas elected Legion national commander

PHOENIX — The American Legion elected a new national commander in early September on the final day of the 102nd National Convention.

Paul E. Dillard of Texas is a member of Lake Kiowa Post 265. His theme for the coming year is “No Veteran Left Behind.”

The Texas delegation at the convention marched around the convention hall as Elton John's “Rocket Man” played on the speakers.

Dillard thanked departing National Commander Bill Oxford for a job well done and noted he was the

longest-serving national commander in American Legion history. That also meant Dillard was the longest leading candidate in American Legion history.

Both had to go two years because the 2020 National Convention was canceled.

“I hope this is a record that will never be broken,” he said.

In addition to thanking Team Texas, he congratulated new Auxiliary President Kathy Daudistel of Kentucky and new Sons of The American Legion Commander Michael Fox of

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Paul Dillard and his wife, Donna, step toward the stage on Sept. 2. They are trailed by members from the Department of Texas.

American Legion statement on attacks in Afghanistan ...

James W. "Bill" Oxford, national commander of The American Legion, issued the following statement about the Aug. 26 terrorist attacks in Afghanistan:

"As an organization of wartime veterans, The American Legion profoundly feels sorrow for the needless loss of life that occurred today. The United States has been blessed by the caliber of the men and women who served there. While we fully support their service, we recognize that nation-building is not the role for the U.S. military. It is time for us to leave and to evacuate all Americans, allies and their families as safely and efficiently as we can. We also support any efforts to strike back hard against those who committed these ruthless acts."

All-Family Events Calendar

- Oct. 4-7:** Fall Meetings at Legion HQ, Indianapolis
- Oct. 15-16:** Minnesota American Legion Baseball Committee Fall Meeting, Clearwater Post 323
- Oct. 21:** TAL & ALA DEC meetings, Shooting Star Casino, Mahnomen
- Oct. 21-23:** Fall Conference, Shooting Star Casino, Mahnomen
- Oct. 22:** SAL DEC meeting, Shooting Star Casino, Mahnomen
- Dec. 4:** Pearl Harbor Rally, Montgomery Post 79
- Feb. 5:** Sweetheart Rally, Pine Island Post 184
- Feb. 22-March 2:** Washington Conference, Hilton
- March 9:** American Legion Birthday
- March 12:** TAL & ALA DEC meetings and Appreciation Rally, Forest Lake Post 225
- March 18-19:** SAL Spring Conf., East Grand Forks Post 157
- April 11-14:** National Commander's Tour
- April 23:** President's Testimonial, Osseo Post 172
- May 1-5:** Spring Meetings at Legion HQ, Indianapolis
- June 18:** Commander's Testimonial, Moose Lodge 1400, Waite Park
- June 24-26:** SAL Detachment Convention, Legionville
- July 13-16:** Department Convention, Willmar

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Should U.S. government add women to draft?

PHOENIX — Women and men should be required to sign up for the draft, and not just men.

That was the topic of a presentation by Past American Legion National Commander Denise Rohan of Wisconsin before the Legion's National Security Commission on Saturday, Aug. 28. She is the director for Selective Service in Wisconsin.

Many Americans know the country has an all-volunteer military, but many don't know men ages 18 to 26 are required to sign up for the Selective Service System, aka "the draft." At one time, they would register at the local Post Office. These days, most young men sign up when they get their driver's license or by going online to sss.gov.

"Hopefully, we would never need to implement the draft," Rohan said.

Recently, the Supreme Court declined to hear a case claiming the all-male draft is unconstitutional. In 2015, the Pentagon opened up combat roles for women.

Rohan told how Congress, in 2016, issued a commission



Past National Commander Denise Rohan of Wisconsin speaks Aug. 28 before the Legion's National Security Commission. She also is the director for Selective Service in Wisconsin. Presently, in America, only men 18-26 must sign up for Selective Service.

to look at bringing women into Selective Service, and with the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017, gave that commission two charges, one of which was reviewing the Selective Service System.

After 2 1/2 years of research, in March 2020, it issued a report called "Inspired to Service." The report defined "service" among other actions and, notably, it called for men and women to sign up for Selective Service.

Rohan said the Selective Service System could quickly handle the change. She said the agency director says, "The agency remains nimble on this issue."

She also said there is a need for 18-year-olds to better understand Selective Service and influence other teens to sign up.

Forty-one states, four territories and the District of Columbia have driver's license-based registration. The nine without it are California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Wyoming.

And of the 41 states with it, most are written to say "all males." That means laws in many states would need to be changed to be gender-neutral, she said.

So would aspects of the Solomon Amendment that deny educational assistance to males who have not registered with Selective Service.

Adding women to Selective Service is a resolution The American Legion approved two years ago at the 2019 National Convention in Indianapolis.

Minnesota has 3 resolutions pass at convention

Continued from Page 1

Department's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee first approved them before they went to the Department Convention, then to the National Convention.

Here are the other two:

- Resolution No. 22 pushes the VA to add a list of in-network emergency providers to its "locator tool" website. This would allow veterans and their families to find in-network emergency rooms when emergencies strike and know the VA will cover the costs if notified within 72 hours.

He said the MISSION Act, passed in 2018, provides a framework for the VA to set up a network of emergency room providers, but it has not updated its locator tool since regulation changes in 2019.

"This will improve the quality of care the Veterans Health Administration provides to enrolled veterans when they have a medical emergency and go to a non-VA emergency room that is in-network," Wolfsteller said.

- Resolution No. 20 calls on the Veterans Health Administration to amend a regulation to include medical emergency transportation for both air and land.

Under the present regulations stemming from the MISSION Act, the language for the emergency care network via Optum has essentially left hundreds of thousands of veterans with unpaid emergency medical transportation bills.

The three were among 12 resolutions that passed at the



Department Service Officer Jeremy Wolfsteller, left, and Department Chaplain Kelley Adelsman attend a convention committee meeting in Phoenix on Sunday, Aug. 29, to hear proposed resolutions. Two of Wolfsteller's resolutions from the Veterans Health Administration side and a third from the Veterans Benefits Administration side were approved at the Phoenix convention.

National Convention. They range from preventing Gold Star spouses from losing benefits when remarrying to making the VA work with the Department of Justice and Inspector General to prevent and prosecute predatory claims.

A resolution stemming from Nisswa Post 627, approved by the 6th District Convention and the Minnesota Department Convention, didn't make it out of the review committee at the National Convention.

The resolution, written by Past 6th District Commander Paul Edwards, sought to clarify the word "political" in the Constitution and use a more apt term for modern times, "non-partisan." The committee said it wanted the existing language and new language in the "resolved" clause.

Edwards does not plan to re-submit the resolution next year because, he said, the American Legion HQ plans to have a FAQ on its website about political vs. partisan.

"We will see how it goes. The thing is, I got them talking about it," he said.

He said he does plan to re-write and submit similar resolutions for district and department constitutions.

Read the resolutions

The 12 resolutions passed at the 102nd National Convention can be found online at:
www.legion.org/library/253593/phoenix-convention-resolutions-digital-archive

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Dillard challenges posts to reach 103 percent

Continued from Page 1

California.
 "We will work side by side promoting our pillars and our themes," he said.
 Dillard will award his membership incentive pin to any post, district, county, division or department commander or membership director who achieves 103 percent of their assigned membership goal for 2022. He also called for everyone to reach 91 percent retention of 2021 members.



Past Department Commander Mark Dvorak, at microphone, indicates Minnesota's support for Paul Dillard of Texas on Sept. 2, as Past Department Commander Mike Schaffer holds a flashlight for the convention spotlights.

"We must make personal contact," he said.
 Dillard quoted a Wall Street Journal article about the demise of The American Legion. It said: "Old members are dying off and the young ones aren't interested."

That story printed in 1971. Fifty years later, The American Legion is here.
 "The media reports were wrong then, and they are wrong now," he said.
 For his project, the commander hopes to raise \$2 million for the Veterans and Children's Fund.
 Veterans face isolation, lack of decent housing and other struggles, but the most tragic, he said, is suicide. He said veterans have a 50 percent higher risk than their non-serving peers.
 "No issue is more important than this," he said.
 Dillard joined The American Legion in 1969. After graduating from Whitesboro High School, he entered the Navy and served in Vietnam through four campaigns, including the Tet Offensive. He was discharged

honorably from the Navy Reserve before attending Grayson County Junior College and East Texas State University.
 For years he worked in Tennessee before returning to Texas, where he took a job as a sales representative with Sherman Foundry and became its airplane pilot. He made a career change when he entered the insurance business and eventually forming Dillard & Gann Insurance.
 He has served as commander, vice commander, adjutant and judge advocate for Post 265. He has coached American Legion Baseball and served as the post Boys State chairman.
 He has served many roles at the district and department levels. He was commander of the Department of Texas in 2007.

On the national level, Dillard has served as Alternate National Executive Committee member, consultant to the Insurance Committee, Distinguished Guest Committee, Children & Youth Committee, and Media and Communications Council. He has served as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, chairman of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and chairman of the Legislative Commission. He was elected as national vice commander in 2013.
 He married his wife, Donna, in 1983. They have two sons, William and Jonathon, and they are both married, too. Paul and Donna have two grandsons. Donna has been an active member of Auxiliary and served in many leadership roles. She was elected Department of Texas president in 2017.

National Vice Commanders

These five were elected national vice commanders at the 102nd National Convention:
 Jerrold Wilson of Harrison, Ohio
 Angel O. Narvaez of Carolina, Puerto Rico
 Michael F. Mitrione of Fredericksburg, Va.
 James T. Higuera of Downey, Calif.
 Cory D. Bates of Coventry, R.I.

Nat'l Constitutional Officers

The following six were appointed at the 102nd National Convention:
 Adjutant: Daniel S. Wheeler of Richmond, Va.
 Treasurer: Shawn T. Long of Greenwood, Ind.
 Chaplain: Stanley K. Hamamoto of Colorado Springs
 Historian: Robert B. Gilmore Jr. of Peoria, Ariz.
 Sgt-at-Arms: Michael W. Griffith of Pottsboro, Texas

Speaker: Veterans know causes greater than selves

Continued from Page 1

responsibility of standing at the door knocking to tell a family their loved one has died.
 He has attended more than 300 funerals, memorial services and dignified transfers in the past 20 years.
 "Being angry and frustrated and letting it harbor and consume your every thought and, subsequently, your every conversation accomplishes nothing," Barrett said.

"Keep our heads high," he said. "We can only control the situations that were right in front of us. We followed orders and we did our duty. We allowed a nation of people to experience 20 years of prosperity in contrast to what they knew what life could be like."

"They feel every note of the national anthem vibrate through their body while standing at a position of rigid attention."

Loss, he said, never gets easier, but it can be used to build determination.
 "All that we have suffered and all that we will endure now, we must all be together to be stronger and more resolute in our daily efforts to serve and to give more," he said.
 Everyone in the Legion and all of the country's veterans are going to be asked to give more, to address the problems facing veterans, and, he said, there is only one correct response: "Where do you need me?"
 "It's easy to sit in front of a TV and scream 'What the hell?' about a decision," Barrett said.
 He said he can only speculate about what went into the decisions to leave Afghanistan suddenly: Tens of millions of displaced human beings caused by 20 years of unrelenting war, \$6.5 trillion bill "that's going to come due," and the incalculable cost of 800,000 human lives, of which 7,000 were American.

Barrett said America has left the battlefield but should not leave the Global War on Terror.
 "We may want to be done with it, but they are not done with us."
 He described past attacks, among them: Tehran in 1979, Beirut 1983, Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988, World Trade Center 1993, USS Cole in 2000 and the 9/11 attacks of 2001. He said there have been another 32,190 terror attacks since 9/11, and that's not counting drug war and cartel violence.
 He said the history books are filled with Americans fighting and dying for their country, with a tally of more than 1 million who died in combat.
 "That alone should inspire every citizen to fight like hell

to not forget what it took to be here in the greatest country on the planet," Barrett said.
 Servicemembers today are much like the ones of the past, in many ways, obeying orders without hesitation while keeping their individual dignity. They will share ammo in a firefight, even if they are running low. They'll care for their gear keenly but might forget to brush their teeth. They have seen more suffering and death than others their age.
 "They feel every note of the national anthem vibrate through their body while standing at a position of rigid attention," Barrett said, "and they fail to hold back tears when 'Taps' are blown, and they are unashamed."
 "They are an elite class of Americans who has kept this country free for over two centuries."
 No one knows where they have to go next, but he said everyone at the convention knows

they are ready to leave tonight.
 Barrett spoke of remembering the fallen, honoring the casualties seen and unseen and respecting the Gold Star families for their sacrifices.
 "Indomitable in crisis, fearless in battle, generous in their nature and humble in their manner, may we never forget the men and women who intuitively know the joy and sense of purpose that only through the challenges and subordination to causes greater than self. We know what it means to keep company with the finest men and women in a world with the toughest conditions."
 "A minute doesn't pass where I am not wowed by the selflessness, the courage and the endurance of the 21st century hunter warriors," Barrett said.
 He said less than 1 percent of the nation serves in the all-volunteer military, in a country with endless other opportunities. He called on Legionnaires to do all they can to prevent further veteran suicides.




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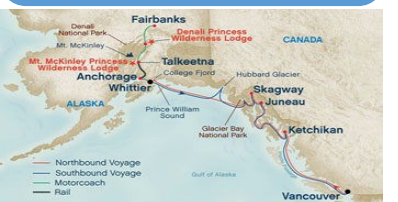
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Keeping and preserving our freedom is a commitment of our military and veterans. National Security is one of the Four Pillars upon which The American Legion was founded.

The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion our members recite before every meeting begins with the purpose: "To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy."

As stated on The American Legion website legion.org, the Legion believes national security is upheld by keeping a well-funded Department of Defense, a good quality of life for troops and a sensible transition between service and separation.

Our support and care for our troops and veterans is needed now more than ever. Our heroic military men and women have done everything and more that was asked of them to defend and sacrifice for those in need. We will always remember.

The groundwork for Minnesota American Legion Fastpitch Softball is happening and is an exciting opportunity for our

Commander's Column

Tom Fernlund



families and communities in our state. The program falls under the Americanism pillar that promotes teamwork, fitness, sportsmanship, active citizenship and brings families together.

Mike Arvidson from Parkers Prairie is chairing the Fastpitch Softball Ad Hoc Committee. Mike is experienced in setting up sports programs and has recruited other very talented volunteers that will help to ensure the softball program is successful.

The first few months as department commander has been a whirlwind experience. Many of the events and activities I attended, such as the signing into law the Veterans Restorative Justice Act at the Capitol and the groundbreakings for new Minnesota Veterans Homes in Preston and Montevideo, would not have happened without the tireless efforts of our American Legion Family.

I am honored to represent the Department of Minnesota and grateful to see so many other American Legion Family

members in attendance. I was at the National Convention in Phoenix during the groundbreaking for the Bemidji Veterans Home.

The veterans from all three communities worked tirelessly to support having the needed veterans homes in our state.

The American Legion Fall Conference is scheduled to take place Oct. 21-23 in Mahanomen. All American Legion Family members are encouraged to attend to learn more about our organization, get to meet members from around the state, ask questions and share experiences.

My bags stay packed and ready for traveling around Minnesota to meet and share experiences with the greatest American Legion Family.

Tom Fernlund is the commander of The American Legion Department of Minnesota.

Legion Riders donate \$174,000!

First of all, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Ted Berg. I am your incoming director of the Minnesota American Legion Riders.

I have been a Legion Rider for 15 years, past director for Post 132 in New Ulm and have been a road captain for the Minnesota Legacy Run for 10 years. I look forward to serving the ALR and the Legion Family as your director.

The last two weekends the Minnesota Legacy Run covered the state collecting for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. We had two great weekends of riding and raised \$174,000 for the scholarship that will be turned in at the National Convention in Arizona.

The scholarship pays the college tuition of children of killed or injured post-9/11 veterans.

North Route, Weekend 1

Two Harbors for the Kick-off Party and hospitality was at the start of our run. Then it was Silver Bay Veterans Home, Keewatin, our friends in Bovey,

Legion Riders

Ted Berg



Walker, Backus, Nisswa, Legionville, Royalton, Sauk Centre, Eagles Healing Nest, Zimmerman and Lino Lakes.

South Route, Weekend 2

We did Rushford, La Crescent, Eyota, Owatonna, Nicollet, New Ulm, Springfield, Fulda, Granite Falls, Montevideo, Spicer, Litchfield, Hutchinson and Hopkins.

I want to thank all the above for the hospitality and generous donations. Also special thanks to Oak Hills Living Center, Mike and Nina Schaffer and Theresa Berg, as they stepped up to help fill in for meal stops.

As I stated before, I look forward to the challenges ahead of us and work toward bringing the Legion Family back together.

It was a busy month in

September with Camporee the second weekend and the ALR Romp the third weekend.

At the Romp, we had our installation of officers and our first meeting for planning the next year.

Next year's Legacy Run is going to be later in August and only be a single run as we will be riding out to Milwaukee right after the run for the 103rd National Convention.

If you need to contact me for anything you can call or text me a 507-766-1143 or email tattootheo.tb@gmail.com

Ted Berg is the director of the Minnesota American Legion Riders.

Candidate coming to Fall Conference

As cooler mornings are here, it is time to go visit the snowbirds before they leave and tell them how we need them as members of the American Legion Family.

The 102nd National Convention was very good. Paul Dillard of Texas was elected national commander.

We had another wonderful time at Legionville to kick off the year with Commander Tom Fernlund and Membership Chairman Paul Hassing working hard on getting new members, while retaining those members who have belonged for many years.

Fall meetings will be Oct 2-7 in Indianapolis. Donna and I will be attending along with many great Legionnaires from Minnesota. We will be taking in the National President Kathy's Homecoming Oct. 7-9 at Covington, Ky., also. Donna will be serving as Northwest Division Girls Nation chair.

Fall Conference is coming up in Oct. 21-23 at Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen. Candidate for National Commander Vincent James Troiola from New York will be attending and one of our guest speakers. Everyone is welcome. This is a very good learning experience for all of us.

Veterans Day is coming soon Thursday, Nov. 11. I ask you all to do something special for your members. Please think about ordering coins from Tim Engstrom at Department Headquarters to give to your longtime members. Or if you have a school program,

National Report

Bill Barbknecht



how about the superintendent or mayor of your city?

I ask each of you to keep working to help our veterans and sign them up in the largest veterans organization in the nation. They need The American Legion as much as we need them.

Just returning from a very productive Legion Insurance Trust meeting. I want to share with you about the advantages to signing up for this free,

accidental death insurance, as well as other affordable and good insurance, car rental, long-term care insurance and more.

Bill Barbknecht of Underwood Post 498 is the Department of Minnesota's National Executive Committeeman.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Mail Call

How come Space Force isn't included?

I've received many 2022 calendars, especially from patriotic organizations. These include the birthdays of our first five branches of military service — but not the U.S. Space Force. It has been almost two years since its birthday of Dec. 20, 2019. Why don't they start including the U.S. Space Force?

Clark Peterson
 Hinckley Post 388

Are flags down for politics?

Learning that 13 servicemembers were killed by a suicide bomber, our president immediately had flags lowered to half-staff for six days.

Six days! Military combat deaths are not new. Every one is tragic. Special recognition for these 13 is inappropriate. Why did these 13 receive special recognition and honor? I suspect our

president has a guilty conscience for poor planning or political fallout and his first thought was: flags to half-staff. Why not half-staff every time a servicemember is killed?

Mr. President, we have Memorial Day. The one day we recognize and honor ALL our fallen servicemembers from all wars and conflicts. All get the same honor. We also have a Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor ALL killed in the line of duty.

Now, flags at half-staff are just another common occurrence. Half-staff flags need to regain their importance.

James A. Hovda
 Rice Post 473

Where are the vaccine warnings?

If you watch TV for more than an hour each day, you are bombarded with ads for various medicines or medical devices, and with each ad there is a disclaimer or warning not to take or use this item if you have certain condition or if certain

problems appear.

Why is it that with the COVID-19 vaccines there is no disclaimers or warnings? Has the pharmaceutical industry developed the "perfect vaccine"? There is absolutely no possible side effects? This must be some sort of new miracle wonder drug!

But yet there are reports of thousands of people being severely harmed and a lot of people are dying for it but yet we have no warnings! Why? Why is it that Big Pharma is immune from litigation? Just asking?

Earl Pederson
 Renville Post 180

Editor's note: Thanks for asking. We at The Minnesota Legionnaire don't have an answer and respect everyone's freedom to choose. Still, we do know if we Google "vaccine disclaimer," a fact sheet from the Food and Drug Administration pops up about the Pfizer vaccine, and it lists who should not get the shot and known side effects. Searches for "fda vaccine fact sheet" gives results for the other shots. Maybe that helps you out.

The Minnesota Legionnaire

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Official publication of
 The American Legion
 Department of Minnesota

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Name of Deceased	Age	Date of Death	Branch	Era	Cont. Years	Post
Bachmeier, Jacob G.	96	8/23/21	Army	WWII	51	East Grand Forks Post 157
Barry, Vernon G.	95	8/10/21	Navy	WWII	70	Austin Post 91
Baumann, Arnold G.	73	5/17/20	Army	WWII	11	Willmar Post 167
Beccue, Boyd A.	73	9/11/21	Army	Vietnam	46	Willmar Post 167
Billings, Richard H.	90	8/10/21	Army	Korea	36	Stewartville Post 164
Bissonette, Mark A.	91	9/14/21	Army	Korea	25	Stewartville Post 164
Bohlman, Raymond J.	91	8/29/21	Army	WWII	68	East Grand Forks Post 157
Bonorden, LeRoy	77	8/10/21	Navy	Vietnam	28	Austin Post 91
Cameron, Richard D.	86	8/15/21	Army	Korea	47	Albert Lea Post 56
Carlson, Wendell L.	90	8/16/21	Army	Korea	45	Willmar Post 167
Christians, Paul B.	71	8/21/21	Navy	Vietnam	51	Hayfield Post 330
Christiansen, Kenneth R.	80	6/23/21	Navy	Cold	3	Stewartville Post 164
Christopherson, Arnold H.	88	8/17/21	Army	Korea	33	Cambridge Post 290
Colgrove, Michael E.	81	8/30/21	Army	Korean	42	Park Rapids Post 212
Condon, Philip L.	79	7/27/21	Air Force	Vietnam	37	Stewartville Post 164
Cool, Gerald L.	87	8/25/21	Air Force	Korea	42	Little Falls Post 46
Demuth, Robert J.	94	8/7/21	Navy	Korea	41	Worthington Post 5
Dilley, Virgil A.	99	8/27/21	Army	WWII & Korea	76	New London Post 537
Draper, Bruce E.	71	8/21/21	Army	Vietnam	4	Roosevelt Post 371
Easterday, Harold W.	94	9/5/21	Navy	WWII	75	Paynesville Post 271
Elton, Burnham T.	87	5/25/21	Air Force	Korea	5	Bloomington Post 550
Elton, James A.	85	8/6/21	Army	Vietnam	41	Stewartville Post 164
Epling, Eugene	73	7/31/21	AF & Army	Vietnam	35	Flensburg Post 136
Fromdahl, Christian W.	73	4/10/21	Army	Vietnam	4	Rochester Post 92
Geske, Robert R.	90	8/25/21	Air Force	Korea	66	Deerwood Post 557
Giese, Thomas H.	73	8/9/21	Army	Vietnam	7	Mora Post 201
Gonsior, Richard S.	90	7/20/21	Army	Korea	24	Clarrisa Post 213
Hoban, Donald B.	100	8/8/21	Army	WWII	68	Austin Post 91
Honer, Lawrence L.	91	9/18/21	Army	Korea	47	Breckenridge Post 53
Hull, Louis E.	92	8/3/21	Army	Korea	35	St. Paul Bus. & Prof. Post 450
Huset, Morgan J.	79	8/14/21	Army	Vietnam	54	Middle River Post 444
Ide, Victor C.	96	8/5/21	Navy	WWII	57	Glencoe Post 95
Johnson, Robert J.	91	11/5/20	Army	Korea	69	Thief River Falls Post 117
Johnsrud, John L.	92	8/12/21	Army	Korea	64	Albert Lea Post 56
Juntunen, Merton H.	89	8/21/21	Army	Vietnam	15	Cloquet Post 262
Katula, Anthony F.	95	8/6/21	Navy	WWII	15	Winona Post 9
Kessler, Robert L.	68	8/21/21	Army	Vietnam	36	New London Post 537
Kissel, John	98	6/20/21	Army	WWII	53	Bloomington Post 550
Kjeldergaard, Ralph A.	69	8/30/21	Army	Vietnam	27	Swanville Post 313
Knapp, Daniel F.	80	5/15/21	Marine	Vietnam	41	Finlayson/Sandstone Post 151
Koster, Gary	89	8/2/21	Air Force	Korea	16	Worthington Post 5
Kraushaar, Richard	89	9/3/21	Army	Korea	40	Austin Post 91
Laing, John E.	77	5/4/21	Army	Vietnam	12	Albany Post 482
Larsen, Carlyle R.	85	8/21/21	Army	WWII	66	Madison Post 158
Lentz, Frederick J.	91	8/14/21	Army	Korea	61	Swanville Post 313
Lien, Edward A.	71	5/19/21	Army	Vietnam	46	Middle River Post 444
Litzinger, George P.	79	9/4/21	Navy	Vietnam	41	East Grand Forks Post 157
Lovold, Dean L.	87	6/18/21	Army	Vietnam	2	New London Post 537
Maciej, Donald J.	87	8/17/21	Army	Korea	42	Bowlus Post 642
Manisto, John A.	91	8/14/21	Air Force	Korea	29	Cloquet Post 262
Mercil, Virgil M.	95	7/18/21	Army	WWII	64	Thief River Falls Post 117
Myster, Cletis E.	99	7/28/21	Air Force	WWII & Korea	52	Hayfield Post 330
Nelson, Conrad G.	93	3/31/21	Navy	WWII, Korea	46	Bloomington Post 550
Nordberg, Dennis A.	88	8/24/21	Army	Korea	22	Monticello Post 260
Olson, James	84	12/11/20	Navy	Korea	47	Stephen Post 390
Parriott, Earl L.	89	8/11/21	Army	Korea	66	New Richland Post 75
Paulson, John J.	90	8/19/21	Air Force	Korea	58	New Ulm Post 132
Pfeffer, Michael W.	72	8/15/21	Army	Vietnam	39	New Richland Post 75
Poepping, Ronald T.	79	8/18/21	Army	Vietnam	7	Cold Spring Post 455
Poole, Kenneth L.	90	8/5/21	Army	Korea	66	Thief River Falls Post 117
Porter, Keith A. Jr.	84	9/16/21	Navy	Korea	42	Albert Lea Post 56
Post, Kenneth F.	93	8/30/21	Navy	WWII	26	Northfield Post 84
Rake, Orvis P.	95	8/31/21	Navy	WWII	45	Albert Lea Post 56
Roeser, Stanley W.	92	9/4/21	Navy	Korea	64	Litchfield Post 104
Rossman, Theodore J.	78	8/28/21	Navy	Vietnam	56	Breckenridge Post 53
Ruff, Raymond J.	94	7/27/21	Army	WWII	25	Osseo Post 172
Ruhland, Thomas W.	87	8/18/21	Army	Korea	23	Eden Valley Post 381
Schirmers, Stephen A.	99	11/17/20	Army	WWII	73	Avon Post 538
Schneewind, Donald A.	81	9/7/21	Air Force	Vietnam	33	Waconia Post
Schommer, Ronald J.	77	8/24/21	Air Force	Persian Gulf	11	Waite Park Post 428
Searles, Donald E.	91	8/18/21	Army	Korea	71	Ashby Post 357
Seehafer, Gordon G.	81	9/12/21	Army	Vietnam	7	Milaca Post 178
Shepherd, Raymond R.	77	12/22/20	Air Force	Vietnam	14	Hackensack Post 202
Shouts, Howard G.	95	NA	Navy	WWII	28	Bloomington Post 550
Siemer, Raymond A.	86	8/21/21	Army	Cold	1	New Ulm Post 132
Simanski, Robert L.	83	8/28/21	Navy	Cold	38	Red Wing Post 54
Stein, Joseph	67	8/16/21	Navy	Vietnam	41	Flensburg Post 136
Sullivan, Marc H.	73	9/3/21	Navy	Vietnam	23	Richfield Post 435
Thomas, Manley W.	80	9/3/21	Navy & MM	Vietnam	40	Red Wing Post 45
Tomashek, William R.	94	8/29/21	Army	Korea	68	Winona Post 9
Troska, David A.	82	8/10/21	Air Force	Vietnam	15	Glencoe Post 85
Tweeten, Morris T.	95	8/7/21	Army	WWII	76	Spring Grove Post 249
Valentin, Arnold M.	86	9/8/21	Army	Korea	5	Park Rapids Post 212
Valtinson, William S.	89	9/2/21	Army	Korea	33	Park Rapids Post 212
VeVea, Norman F.	90	7/28/21	Navy	Korea	41	Thief River Falls Post 117
Wells, Charles E.	89	8/31/21	Army	Korea	46	Northfield Post 84
Wisdorf, Leo J.	89	8/9/21	Army	Korea	41	Windom Post 206
Zimmerman, Brian L.	50	8/4/21	Army	Persian Gulf	11	Mora Post 201
Zvanovec, John J.	81	7/30/21	Marines	Vietnam	47	Cambridge Post 290

What's happening?

11 members are going to Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS — The Fall Meetings for the National American Legion take place Oct. 2-7.

Eleven Legionnaires from the Department of Minnesota will be in attendance. Most serve on various national committees.

The Fall Meetings bring together department commanders and adjutants from across The American Legion, and they bring together members of national-level committees to conduct their business and get to know any new members. This includes the National Executive Committee.

The meetings are at the American Legion Headquarters and at the Indianapolis Sheraton hotel.

Watch next month's Legionnaire for coverage.

Hosp. Assoc. to meet at Mahnomen

MAHNOMEN — The Minnesota American Legion Family Hospital Association Committee's annual meeting takes place at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21, during the Fall Conference at Mahnomen's Shooting Star Casino.

There are two positions on the committee to be filled, one American Legion Auxiliary member and one American Legion member. Nominations are made from the floor during the annual meeting.

New cemetery dedication is on Oct. 13

REDWOOD FALLS — The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs invites veterans and their families and friends to the groundbreaking ceremony for the Redwood Falls State Veterans Cemetery.

The event is planned for 10 a.m. Oct. 13 at 33752 Noble Ave., exactly 2.6 miles east of Redwood Falls Post 38. There will be shovels, refreshments and a progress update.

"Our event celebrates Minnesota's commitment to providing veterans a dignified, respectful eternal resting place close to their loved ones that recognized and honors their service and sacrifice to our nation," said Commissioner Larry Herke and Deputy Commissioner Brad Lindsay in a letter.

In October 2020, the MDVA received word of a \$5.9 million grant from the VA's National Cemetery Administration to go toward building the new

cemetery. Many of the grants typically go toward expansion, rather than new land, so the news was well-received among the Minnesota veterans community.

Redwood County purchased the 77-acre property in Paxton Township. Funding in the state bonding bill reimbursed the county for the cost of paving the road.

The groundbreaking will be live-streamed at the MDVA Facebook page.

Got 2nd Amend. bingo cards?

FRIDLEY — Fridley Post 303 has Second Amendment bingo at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, sponsored by Capra's Sporting Goods.

There will be eight games at \$500 and two coveralls worth \$1,000, at \$60 for the packet. Contact the post ahead of the day to register.

Baseball Committee set to meet

CLEARWATER — The Minnesota American Legion Baseball Committee plans to hold its Fall Meeting at Clearwater Post 323.

The Fall Meeting takes place 3 to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16.

The committee meets to discuss the 2022 season and possibly the 2023 season, meet with tournament hosts, select Minnesota American Baseball Legion Hall of Fame inductees, determine other honors and set the location of the Spring Meeting, which happens in late March.

Anyone with nominations for the Hall of Fame may contact their district baseball director. They are listed on Page 10 or at minnesotalionbaseball.com.

The Fastpitch Softball Ad Hoc Committee is meeting Oct. 2 in Sauk Centre to organize.

New Germany Post 601 celebrates 75

NEW GERMANY — New Germany Post 601 plans to celebrate its 75th birthday on Wednesday, Oct. 20.

The fun starts at 5 p.m. at the New Germany Community Center. Tickets are \$30. Participants will enjoy chicken or beef dinner and hear from guest speaker Maj. Emily Cano, a combat veteran, along with other activities.

Get tickets by calling Stan Heldt at 952-657-2169 or emailing m.taylor19401@gmail.com.

Grant program to support veterans' art

WASHINGTON — The Mid-America Arts Alliance has



Larry Herke

What's happening?

Continued from Page 5

a grant program called Creative Forces Community Engagement targeted at the art created by servicemembers and veterans.

These awards will provide arts programming to military-connected people across the country, supporting arts engagement programs taking place in medical, community or virtual settings. The deadline to apply for these new grants is Dec. 15.

Creative Forces Community Engagement projects will require at least one partner and be led by or include at least one organization with a history of creative or artistic programming. Partnerships among arts organizations and veteran and military service organizations are highly encouraged. Funding will support projects beginning on or after July 1, 2022. Awards of \$10,000 to \$50,000 will be available in two tiers, emerging and advanced.

The grant program is funded in conjunction with the National Endowment for the Arts.

Apply at www.maaa.org/creativeforces.

St. Cloud VA offering flu shots for free

ST. CLOUD — During this flu season, flu shots for St. Cloud VA Veterans are available at most scheduled VA appointments, at convenient walk-in and drive-thru flu shot clinics, and through the VA Community Care Network.

The medical provider says, in a news release, an annual flu shot is an important part of staying healthy and is more important than ever during the combined flu season and COVID-19 pandemic.

VA flu shot clinics are for enrolled veterans only and shots are free. Walk-in flu clinics do not require an appointment. Flu-shot only appointments cannot be scheduled.

Veterans who get a flu shot outside of VA or the VA's Community Care Network are asked to inform their care team.

There were drive-thru flu shots available in September, before the Legionnaire came out.

According to the St. Cloud VA, walk-in flu shot clinics are available in October at these locations and times:

St. Cloud VA Medical Center, Bldg. 96:

- Tues., Oct. 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Thurs., Oct. 7, noon to 4 p.m.
- Sat., Oct. 9, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Tues., Oct. 12, noon to 4 p.m.
- Thurs., Oct. 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

VFW Post 936, 1102 Third Ave. East, Alexandria:

- Fri., Oct. 15, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Montevideo VA Clinic, 1025 N. 13th St., Montevideo:

- Mon., Oct. 4, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Flu shots also are available through VA's Community Care Network.

Eligible veterans can receive free flu shots at more than 69,000 Community Care Network retail pharmacies and urgent care locations.

Veterans can use the VA locator to find a VA facility, in-network retail pharmacy or urgent care location near them by visiting: <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>.

Want to be a peer-recovery specialist?

ST. CLOUD — A workshop is planned to enable veterans to become a certified peer-recovery specialist.

The Minnesota Recovery Connection's Recovery Coach Academy offers training that is worth \$1,300 but is free for veterans. It is made possible through a State Opioid Response Grant and the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

The training takes place 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in sessions ranging Nov. 1-5. All training is at Camp Ripley.

MRC's website is minnesotarecovery.org. Its phone number is 612-584-4158. If you are interested, call and ask for an application.

Need help with employment?

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Labor has launched a new monthly series of career workshops to provide employment assistance to spouses of transitioning military service members. Of the 200,000 servicemembers who transition to civilian life annually, about half have spouses.

Offered by the department's Veterans' Employment and Training Service, the workshops are part of the Transition Assistance Program series intended to help military spouses to plan and succeed in achieving their employment goals. TAP is a cooperative with the departments of Defense, Education, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs, the Small Business Administration and the Office of Personnel Management.

Part of the Transition Employment Assistance for Military Spouses' curriculum, the workshops' launch follows a successful two-phase pilot that began in 2020. Register for TEAMS workshops at www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/tap/teams-workshops.

VETS' instructors will lead these virtual workshops at varied times each month to benefit military spouses stationed worldwide. Military installations interested in hosting live, in-person workshops may send email requests to MilSpouse@dol.gov.

Classic cars coming to the Buffalo Post

BUFFALO — Buffalo Post 270 hosts the October Cruise In from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2.

Dash plaques will be given to

the first 150 vehicles registered. The outdoor barbecue will be in full swing, and participants are asked to bring a donation of nonperishable food items for donating to the local food shelf.

The band Deep Fried Tweeters will perform starting at 1 p.m.

Buffalo Post 270 also will have a fundraiser for its baseball program from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 10. Called North to Alaska, it offers bingo, superbingo, raffle, paddlewheel and a silent auction.

Training on myLegion.org available for districts 6 & 9

PARK RAPIDS — There will be a training session on myLegion.org for members of the 6th and 9th districts. It is planned for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 30 at Park Rapids Post 212.

Jennifer Havlick and Linda Dvorak from the Department Training Committee will be present to assist and answer questions and concerns. District and post commanders, adjutants, membership directors or anyone else wanting to learn about myLegion.org are welcome to attend.

If you are going to the Fall Conference, Dvorak and Havlick will offer training there for any member present. See the Fall Conference schedule on Page 7 for times, dates and location.

The two will have other myLegion.org training sessions around the state in coming months.

Burn pits are the new Agent Orange

First, as a OIF veteran with two deployments and who worked in burn pits during my first deployment I'd like to say thank you to The American Legion and our partner veteran service organizations for their relentless advocacy pressuring both VA and Congress to establish a presumptive illness list associated with serving in and around open-air burn pits and operating around environmental hazards during deployments to the Middle East.

It's time our government recognizes servicemembers have been returning home from their deployments being diagnosed years later with medical conditions associated with environmental exposures. Open-air burn pits are what many Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are referencing as the new-era Agent Orange for those who served in the Middle East from 1990 to present.

What I'm referencing here is on Aug. 2, the VA provided the following during a public announcement:

"The Department of Veterans Affairs will begin processing disability claims Aug. 2 for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas — if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service."

Now after seven years of

VA & Rehabilitation

Jeremy Wolfsteller



VA administering a burn pit registry with over 250,000 veterans reporting the same symptoms and medical conditions and decades from the time service-members started operating in and around open-air burn pits veterans will be compensated.

These conditions VA concluded had significant relationship to the toxins or particulate matter pollution based on their "first iteration of a newly formed internal VA process to review scientific evidence to support rulemaking, resulting in the recommendation to consider creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on VA's evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report and other evidence."

The VA is starting with respiratory conditions stating that asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis must be chronic in nature and diagnosed within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service. I interpret this to be 10 years from a servicemember's last deployment to Southwest Asia theater of operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990, to present or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001, to present.

It's important to note that

Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the airspace above these locations.

This is only the start of VA's environmental hazard presumptive Illness list as Secretary Denis McDonough stated, "VA will continue to use a holistic approach in determining toxic exposure presumptives moving forward."

Veterans and survivors who believe they may be eligible for the newly established presumptive conditions are encouraged to apply through their CVSO or their VSO POA Office. For more information on the new presumptive conditions, visit our website at:

www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/

Jeremy Wolfsteller offices at the Minneapolis VAMC and is the service officer for the Department of Minnesota.

It's a spooky breakfast

ANOKA — Anoka Post 102 plans to host the Halloween Post Parade Pancake Breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon on Halloween, Oct. 31.

Tickets in advance or at the door cost \$7 each. Children 6 and under eat for free.

Enjoy pancakes, sausage, milk, juice and coffee. The post home is at 400 W. Main St.

The parade is at 1 p.m. Oct. 30.

You're invited to the
Groundbreaking Ceremony
for the
**Minnesota State
Veterans
Cemetery**

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m.
33752 Noble Ave., Redwood Falls

Celebrate this project milestone
while learning more about Veterans programs,
services and employment opportunities.

You can also virtually view the groundbreaking at
[Facebook.com/MinnesotaDepartmentofVeteransAffairs/](https://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaDepartmentofVeteransAffairs/)

For those who attend in person, we'll follow the latest
COVID-19 safety guidelines from the
Minnesota Department of Health.



Fall Conference Program

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

There is still plenty of time to sign up!



October 21-23, 2021
Shooting Star Casino
Mahnomen, Minnesota

Thursday, Oct. 21

2 p.m. Gambling Seminar
 3 p.m. Start of Committee Meetings
 7 p.m. Department Executive Committee Meeting

Shooting Star Casino, Bejou Room

Robert Hart, Oak Park Heights, Legislative Committee Chairman

Friday morning, Oct. 22

8 a.m. Call to Order
 Advancement of Colors
 POW/MIA Chair

Invocation
 Pledge of Allegiance
 Preamble

8:05 a.m. Greetings:

Shooting Star Casino, Bejou Room

Tom Fernlund, St. Cloud, Department Commander
 Silver Star Post 428 Color Guard, Waite Park
 Ken Gibson, Jr., St. Paul, Department Sergeant at Arms
 Jim Kellogg, Taopi, National Security/Foreign Relations
 Kelley Adelsman, Pine Island, Department Chaplain
 Carl Moon, Walker, Department Vice Commander
 In unison, led by the Department Commander

Tom Fernlund, St. Cloud, Department Commander
 General Chairman of Conference, Detroit Lakes Post 15
 Larry Krosko, Commander, Detroit Lakes Post 15
 Terry Buraas, Grand Forks, ND, District Commander
 Carl Moon, Walker, Department Vice Commander
 Matt Brenk, Mayor, City of Detroit Lakes
 Julie Hanson, Mayor, City of Mahnomen
 Michael Fairbanks, Chairman, White Earth Nation

8:30 a.m. Quilts of Valor
 8:45 a.m. Volunteerism
 9:30 a.m. National Security/Foreign Relations

Kelley Adelsman, Pine Island, Department Chaplain
 Jim Kellogg, Taopi, Chairman
 Outstanding Enlisted Service Members
 Bill Barbknecht, Battle Lake, NECman
 Vincent James "Jim" Troiola, Candidate for Natl Commander
 Bob Mace, Waite Park, Chairman
 Linda Dvorak, New Prague
 Humana
 Mike Maxa, St. Paul, Department Adjutant

10:15 a.m. Introduction
 Reporting Nationally
 Bowling Tournament Update
 10:35 a.m. MyLegion.org
 10:45 a.m. Military
 11:30 a.m. Adjutants Updates
 11:45 a.m. Recess for lunch

Friday afternoon, Oct. 22

1 p.m. Commander's Comments
 1:10 p.m. Suicide Prevention Minn. Coalition
 1:45 p.m. Mentorship
 2:30 p.m. VA&R Post Service Officer Reports
 3:15 p.m. Adjutants Updates
 Announcements
 3:30 p.m. Recess

Shooting Star Casino, Bejou Room

Tom Fernlund, St. Cloud, Department Commander
 Andrea Sandberg, Minneapolis VA Healthcare System
 Jennifer Havlick, Two Harbors
 Sarah Schlicht, St. Paul, Dept VA&R Benefits Coordinator
 Mike Maxa, St. Paul, Department Adjutant

Other activities, Friday, Oct. 22

4 p.m. Hospital Assoc. Annual Meeting Bejou Room
 6:15 p.m. American Legion Auxiliary Grand March (Legionnaires encouraged to attend)
 Richwood/Ebro Pine Bend Room
 Richwood/Ebro Pine Bend Room
 (featuring the 9th District Band, cash bar available)

Saturday morning, Oct. 23

8 a.m. Reconvene
 Salute to Colors
 Invocation
 Pledge of Allegiance
 8:15 a.m. Writing a Resolution
 9 a.m. Greetings:

Tom Fernlund, St. Cloud, Department Commander
 Ken Gibson Jr., St. Paul, Sergeant at Arms
 Kelley Adelsman, Pine Island, Department Chaplain
 Carl Moon, Walker, Dept. Vice Commander
 Paul Edwards, Brainerd
 Patti Coleman, Circle Pines, Department President, MN ALA
 Marsha Bible, St. Paul, Department Secretary
 Kathy Daudistel, National President
 (escorted by Raleen Tolzmann, Cleveland, NEC)
 Tim Weaver, LaCrosse, WI, Minn. Detachment Commander, SAL
 Ted Berg, Hanska, Minnesota American Legion Riders Director
 Bill Barbknecht, Battle Lake, NECman
 Paul Hassing, Montgomery, Membership Director
 Teresa Ash, St. Paul, Chairman
 Greg Colby, Northfield, Dept Judge Advocate
 Mike Maxa, St. Paul, Department Adjutant
 Tom Fernlund, St. Cloud, Department Commander
 Closing Remarks and Conference Wrapup
 Benediction
 Retirement of Colors
 Adjournment

9:30 a.m. NEC Report
 9:45 a.m. Membership
 10:15 a.m. Media & Communications
 11 a.m. Post Assets & Politics
 11:30 a.m. Final Thoughts
 Commander's Project Update
 Closing Remarks and Conference Wrapup
 Benediction
 Retirement of Colors
 Adjournment



2021 Fall Conference Official Registration

Mail to:
 American Legion Post 15
 810 W. Lake Drive
 Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Registration sliding fee:

Registration received by Oct. 7: \$15
 Registration received after Oct. 7: \$18
 Registration at the door: \$25

Only the pre-registered will receive a booklet and be ticketed for a door prize.

Registration fees are for each person attending, except for Junior SAL and Junior Auxiliary members. Please copy and send a separate form for each person attending. All delegates, alternates and guests must pay the registration fee.

Checks only; credit cards not accepted. Please indicate "Fall Conference" on the memo line. Please make checks payable to:

American Legion Post 15

Conference dates:
 Oct. 21-23, 2021

Headquarters hotel:
 Shooting Star Casino
 777 SE Casino Road
 Mahnomen, MN 56557

Contact the hotel directly for your reservations:
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District Post Unit Squadron

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Delegate _____ **Alternate** _____

Guest _____ **Del.-at-large** _____

(One person per form, please.)

Enlisted servicemembers to be honored on Oct. 22

Continued from Page 1

of the Bronx.)
 He served as Department of New York commander in 2010-11 and as a national vice commander in 2016-17. At the national level, Troiola chaired the Veterans Employment and

Education Committee and the National Legislative Commission and served on the Membership and Post Activities Committee, National Security Commission, and the Committee on Children and Youth. He and his wife of 46 years have

two children and three grandchildren. The Fall Conference is hosted by Detroit Lakes Post 15.

A highlight of the annual get-together is the Outstanding Enlisted Service Members presentation by Jim Kellogg, chairman of the department's National

Security & Foreign Relations Committee. Meet the best of the best the Armed Forces in or from Minnesota.

Quilts of Valor plans to make a presentation to several members, and the Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary have organized a grand march, with

Legionnaires encouraged to attend.

If you haven't seen the 9th District band play, this is the chance. It performs after the grand march.

Auxiliary National President Kathy Daudistel will be there during Saturday morning greetings.



Author Robert Frank speaks at the World War II History Round Table on Sept. 14. His presentation included a slide that poked fun at historians, who are known to avoid numbers. It said, "Math: A Terror Weapon Among Historians." Frank presented several statistics that show how deadly the war in Asia was.

America's 'forgotten ally'

China during World War II fought the other front in the struggle against the Japanese Empire

By Tim Engstrom

ST. PAUL — Contrary to popular belief, World War II did not start Sept. 1, 1939, when Nazi Germany invaded Poland from the west.

Author Richard B. Frank, who spoke Sept. 14 at the Dr. Harold C. Deutsch World War II History Round Table, says the war really began on July 7, 1937, with a minor clash between Japanese and Chinese troops at the Marco Polo Bridge outside what is now Beijing.

This is considered the start of the Second Sino-Japanese War, but, Frank argued, it really is a war that fuses with World War II and does not end until Japan's surrender to U.S. forces.

Japan had held Manchuria since 1931 and, after the bridge incident, expanded into Chinese lands. As they did so, they faced Chinese resistance in a war that wasn't officially declared until December 1941. "China is the forgotten ally," Frank said.

Many historians refer to the Pacific Theater of World War II as the Pacific War, and Frank said it should be termed the Asia-Pacific War. Japan was fighting more than Americans in the Pacific. It had a second front in China.

Frank joked that historians are afraid of mathematics.

He said the death toll from the Asia-Pacific War is 25 million at a conservative estimate. The combatant deaths are about 6 million, with 19 million non-combatant deaths.

Among noncombatants in Japan, there were about 1 to 1.2 million deaths. This includes civilians killed in the atomic bombs. There were 17.8 to 18 million non-Japanese noncombatants.

Chinese noncombatant deaths tallied 12 million between July 1937 and August 1945. Frank divided 12 million by the 2,963 days of war to reach an estimated average of 4,000 Chinese noncombatants

killed per day.

Other non-Japanese non-combatant deaths totaled 5.8 to 6 million between December 1941 and August 1945. He divided that number by the 1,346 days of war to reach a similar estimated average of 4,000 deaths per day.

By Frank's count, by Jan. 1, 1945, deaths of non-Japanese noncombatants equaled more than 36 Hiroshimas and Nagasakis.

"Europe cannot reach a 3-to-1 ratio of noncombatants deaths like in Asia, and the most significant toll is in China," he said.

The Japanese invasion of

of China cut off munitions and supplies, drove the Nationalists out of the coast and into the interior and, most notably, dried up a key source of revenue for the Nationalist government — customs duties.

"How do you wage war without money? Well, you don't," Frank said.

They were forced to print money and issue credit. The loss of customs duties was the greatest damage done to the Nationalist cause.

In June 1941, Hitler attacks the Soviets, and the United States assumes Germany will win. At the same time, Japan moved into Indochina, taking several European colonies.

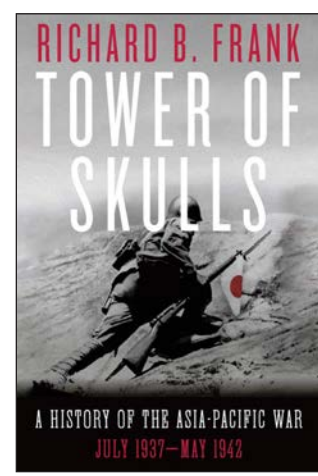
The U.S. and U.K. realized that keeping Chinese Nationalist President Chiang Kai-shek in the fight was critical, so that Japan couldn't open a second front on the Soviets. He talked about the Hump Route and the effort to supply a blocked-off China from India.

Prior to the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, Japan had been negotiating with the U.S. to end American military, economic and moral support for the Chinese Nationalists.

American oil had been fueling 75 percent of the Japanese war machine, Frank said. "Our oil killed 5 million Chinese," he said.

In the summer of 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt and Secretary of State Dean Acheson implemented an oil embargo on Japan in retaliation for invading Indochina. The Japanese prime minister, in October, resigned. He was replaced by Gen. Tojo Hideki, and FDR feared the new military-led government would have a stronger anti-American sentiment.

Read Frank's book "Tower of Skulls: A History of the Asia-Pacific War July 1937-May 1942" to find more details. Read his book "Downfall: The End of the Imperial Japanese Empire" to learn about Japan after its 1941 apogee.



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The SAL Update:



At the Phoenix Convention Center, Past Detachment Commander Dave Vulcan is the "1" in a 100 sign that marks the American Legion Auxiliary's centennial.



With Commander Tim Weaver at the point, SAL members line up in front of the SAL emblem at the SAL National Convention in Phoenix on Saturday, Aug. 28.



Casey Lenort, left, of Chaska Squadron 57 won two awards for community service scrapbooks. One was for his squadron in 2020 and the other for his district in 2021.



The Detachment of Minnesota delegation smiles for a photo at the Phoenix Convention Center on Saturday, Aug. 28.

Membership as of Sept. 13

Vice Commanders	2021 Results	2022 Goal	105%	Current at Dept.	Percentage	Placing
1st and 3rd	3511	3617	3798	443	12.25%	1st
2nd and 7th	2033	2095	2200	238	11.36%	3rd
4th and 5th	702	724	760.2	65	8.98%	
6th and 9th	2311	2381	2500	273	11.47%	2nd
8th and 10th	2016	2078	2182	212	10.20%	
Totals	10573	10895	11440	1231	11.30%	

Districts	2021 Results	2022 Goal	105%	Current at Dept.	Percentage	Placing
1st District	1578	1626	1707	82	5.04%	
2nd District	1196	1232	1294	142	11.53%	
3rd District	1933	1991	2091	361	18.13%	1st
4th District	359	370	388.5	21	5.68%	
5th District	343	354	371.7	44	12.43%	3rd
6th District	1493	1538	1615	214	13.91%	2nd
7th District	837	863	906.2	96	11.12%	
8th District	507	523	549.2	20	3.82%	
9th District	818	843	885.2	59	7.00%	
10th District	1509	1555	1633	192	12.35%	
Totals	10573	10895	11440	1231	11.30%	

Do you want to build a squadron at your post?

While the beginning of this headline may bring shudders to any parent or grandparent that has the pleasure of going through the "frozen" age with their youngsters, the message fits with what our goals should be within our organizations.

The act of building a snowman brings memories of a community coming together on a winter day for a central reason — fellowship. Often, we hear from longtime members questions of how to get some of the "younger" (adults can count in that younger term) involved and kept involved.

Or even perhaps, wondering a way to start a legacy where the

Membership Director

Matthew Verkuilen



whole family can be involved. The answer may be to sponsor a SAL squadron within your post! You may be amazed at how easy it can be, but more importantly how beneficial it is as you are working your programs. New squadrons are even matched with existing squadrons to serve as a mentor, thereby easing the onboarding process for the post.

For more information on starting a squadron in your area,

please contact us at mnsal@legion.org. We are happy to help you get started and are ready to support you along the journey!

Matthew Verkuilen is the membership director for the Detachment of Minnesota for the Sons of The American Legion.

102nd National Convention

In Phoenix, the camaraderie and the mission more than made up for the heat



Minnesota American Legion Family members had their photo taken with then-National Commander Bill Oxford beside the convention stage on Tuesday, Aug. 31, after Minnesota donated the largest amount by far to the Legacy Scholarship Fund. Minnesota gave \$174,000, while the next highest state was North Carolina with \$95,000. Missouri was third with \$82,100. The nationwide 2021 Legacy Run fundraiser total came to \$1.1 million. The local, state and national Legacy Run rides raise funds for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, which provide full-tuition scholarships to the children of killed or wounded post-9/11 veterans.



The Minnesota American Legion Foundation was recognized for donating \$20,000 to the World War I Memorial in Washington.



Minnesota Vice Commander Ray Eiden announces that Minneapolis Falldin Post 555 has donated \$100 to the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation.



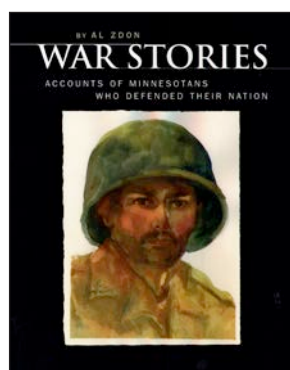
Past Department Commander and Delegation Chairman Mark Dvorak, on Tuesday, Aug. 31, announces a donation of \$1,000 to the National Emergency Fund.



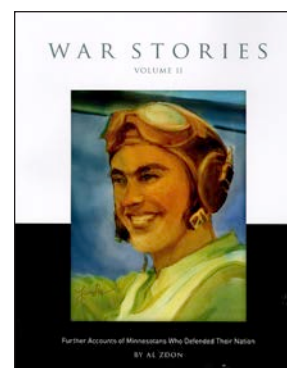
Fifth District Commander Wade Larson, center, had the honor of having his photo taken with then-National Commander Bill Oxford, left, and Illinois' Vincent M. Gaughan, president of the Veterans and Children's Foundation. A hat passed around the Minnesota area of the convention raised an additional \$84 for American Legion charities.

Early Christmas shopping?

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**War Stories
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**War Stories
Vol. 3
\$20**

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Smiles abound at Past Commander Mark Dvorak's get-together with the entire Minnesota American Legion Family on Sunday, Aug. 29, at the Phoenix Sheraton Hotel. Dvorak was the chairman of the American Legion Department of Minnesota delegation.



Adjutant Mike Maxa, left, and Delegation Chairman Mark Dvorak, right, pose with a Minnesotan who now lives in Alaska.



Tess Davis, chairwoman of the Department Americanism Committee, smiles as her photo is taken at the department get-together. Nearly everyone wore yellow.



Tom Schottenbauer smiles with Larry Otto at Mark Dvorak's get-together at the National Convention.



Past Membership Director Sy Fix, right, hugs then-1st District President Wanda Prescher as Linda Kelly smiles. Kelly is this year's ALA membership chairman.



Incoming 10th District President Linda Deschene and Zandra Davenport of the 8th District smile for a picture.



Membership Director Paul Hassing, the immediate past director of the Minnesota American Legion Riders, speaks as his wife, Jody, looks on.



With Adjutant Paul Orson at the point, members of the 10th District make an X for the Roman numeral for 10.



Garylee Davenport, Al Davis and Wes Thompson converse about baseball.



In humor, members of the 1st District line up against the wall to be arrested for, allegedly, breaking colors. The 2022 National Convention next year is slated for Aug. 26-Sept. 1 in Milwaukee. The following years are planned for Charlotte, New Orleans, Tampa and Louisville.



People at the get-together sing "God Bless America." From left are Lou Michaels, Robert Bristo, Dave Vulcan, Teresa Dvorak and Vicki Petry.



DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA Veterans Strengthening America

Committees for 2021-22

Cut these pages out and save them at home or the post for quick reference.

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Board of Publications

(The board, which oversees the Legionnaire, meets Sept. 29. Any officer changes will be reflected in the masthead on Page 4 of the next issue. This is the current lineup.)

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Chair	Terry Larson	toolooseto@aol.com
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	Betty Jass	bettyusaf@gmail.com



Photo by Shawn Davis

Members of The American Legion were at the Camp Ripley Open House on Sunday, Sept. 19. They had games for kids and handed out brochures to veterans. The Legion is thankful to all volunteers who help the organizations mission of veterans, defense, Americanism and youth.

Employment

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 Curt Norenberg cdn@umn.edu



Members Jan Ekert and Brad Pagel pose for a quick photo at Camp Ripley on Friday, Sept. 17. Pagel serves on the National Security & Foreign Relations Committee, and Ekert was at Camp Ripley representing the 7th District for National Security & Foreign Relations Weekend at Camp Ripley. Camaraderie is common among vets.

Photo by Tim Engstrom

Pheasant Feed

Chair Glenn Mueller glm01311962@gmail.com
 Vice Chair vacant

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Veterans 4 Veterans Trust Fund

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 (The remaining members of the V4V Trust Fund Board of Directors are from other veterans service organizations. Find its website at mnv4v.org.)

*under consideration, could change and not finalized

Note: American Legion Family Hospital Association will be printed next month.

Thank you!

Department Commander Tom Fernlund gives his sincere gratitude to all volunteers in this volunteer organization who give their time and efforts to make The American Legion Department of Minnesota so great. It truly is rewarding to see some of the differences made in the lives of veterans and youth across Minnesota.