

GOPHER OVERSEASER

Volume 79, NO. 1

Official Publication of the Veterans of Foreign Wars - Department of Minnesota Celebrating 104 Years 1921-2025

February 2025 - May 2025

Gordon Kirk Past Dept. Commander 1923-2025



Gordon W. Kirk passed away on March 2, 2025.

He was born March 23, 1923, in Helena, MT. The family (parents, brother and sister) moved to St. Paul, MN in 1933.

Gordy joined the US Army February 22, 1943, and bravely served on the front lines as a Quartermaster with the 3rd Army, 4th Armor Division (Patton's Vanguard) in the European Theater from 1943-1945. During this time, U.S. service members were segregated.

He was assigned to a trucking company under General George Patton. Landing at Omaha Beach six days after D-Day, Kirk served in Europe for the rest of the war. During the Battle of the Bulge, his company was tasked with delivering troops to the front lines near Bastogne in the dead of winter, enduring frostbite and regular bombing by German planes.

In addition to landing on the beaches of Normandy, he was involved in campaigns in Northern France, the Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge), Rhineland, and Central Europe. It was during the Battle of the Bulge when he spent three cold nights sleeping under his truck that he suffered frostbite to his hands. He reminisced about arriving at Dachau

KIRK - Cont. on Page 6

State Convention June 5-8, 2025

By Cheryl Burton, Department Office Manager

Our VFW State Convention is all about wrapping up business, celebrating our accomplishments and planning for the 2025-26 year. This year, our Convention will return to the Best Western Plus in St. Cloud, MN. We want to thank VFW Post 428 for hosting our Annual State Convention this year. Upon arrival you can take advantage of a variety of restaurants near the hotel.

THURSDAY, June 5th

For those of you arriving early, remember we will not have Officers' Training this year. The incoming Commander would like to get acquainted with the incoming District Officers on Saturday afternoon at 2:15

pm in the Huskey Room. There will be department committee meetings all day. That evening, the VFW and Auxiliary Council of Administration meetings will be held to summarize and close any business for 2024-2025 year.

FRIDAY, June 6th

First thing, in the morning of the Convention, the Commander will be teaching a seminar, "Commanding with Purpose: Leadership in the VFW". He welcomes all VFW and Auxiliary members to attend. Right after the seminar, we celebrate the accomplishments of our organization

Convention - Cont. on Page 7



2024-2025 State Commander David Staehlin

Member of
VFW Post 8752
Cottage Grove, MN

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

Through the Winter and with Spring right around the corner, your VFW Department leadership team has busy fulfilling our mission. At our January Midwinter Conference in Brooklyn Park, we took care of business with some training and our in-person Council of Administration and committee meetings. In the Bylaws Committee meeting, our four immediate past State Commanders, Judge Advocate, and I met to take an initial look at proposed amendments to our Department Bylaws. The spirited discussion was proof that the committee members weren't just rubber-stamping proposals but truly take an active interest in having a well-functioning Department that is prepared for the future.

In February and March in Alexandria, I had the pleasure of attending the Minnesota VFW Youth Hockey Tournaments for both the A Bantam and AA Bantam Boy's tournament and the U15A Girl's tournament. It was fun to watch these young athletes display their energy and talents. Many parents and players thanked us for

COMMANDER - Cont. on Page 10

VFW & Aux. Leaders at Nat'l Legislative Meeting

Minnesota's VFW and Auxiliary officers traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the 2025 VFW

Washington Conference. While there they met with Minnesota's Congressional leaders or their staff.



(l to r) Nathan Morgan- MN VFW Legislative Rep., Dr. Jim Tuorila-VFW Nat'l Surgeon General, Jean Keogh- MN VFW Auxiliary Chaplain, Ed Keogh-MN VFW Sr. Vice Cmdr., Dave Staehlin-MN VFW Cmdr., MN Congressman Tom Emmer, Karen England-MN VFW Auxiliary Pres., Theresa Hooegeveen-MN Auxiliary District 2 Sr. Vice, Dale Hooegeveen-MN VFW Nat'l Council Rep.

"Preserving and Extending Veterans Rights, Advocating a Strong National Defense, Promoting Patriotism and Serving Local Communities" - Veterans of Foreign Wars Founding Principles

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Save The Date!!

Minnesota Veterans Day on the Hill April 9, 2025 St. Paul	VFW State Baseball Tournament July 30 - Aug. 3, 2025 St. Cloud, MN	National Fall Legislative Conference September 8-11, 2025 Washington, DC
State Convention June 5-9, 2025 Best Western Kelly Inn St. Cloud	National Convention August 9-13, 2025 Columbus, OH	Fall Conference September 19-21, 2025 Crowne Plaza Plymouth, MN

Upcoming VFW Events
Red Events are Department Events

Top News

**** Official Notice **** **Proposed Bylaws & Resolutions**

Proposed changes to the Department of Minnesota Bylaws will be announced in the Dept. General Orders and via Dept. E-Blast.

Additional Resolutions and Bylaw changes must be submitted via postal mail, email or faxed (651-291-2753) to the Department Headquarters and received no later than 4:30pm May 1, 2025. Bylaws and Resolutions submitted shall be specific and definite as to the Section, paragraph and line to be amended with exact wordings and deletions. Robert's Rules of Order allows Resolution and Bylaw changes to be amended if the amendments are within the scope of the proposed change.

The Department Judge Advocate is available to assist with the wording of a proposed change before it is submitted. Contact Mary Thompson via email at trar34@gmail.com. Proposed Bylaws and Resolution changes will be voted on at the State Convention in St. Cloud June 5-8, 2025.

Jacqueline "Jackie" Reth **Past Dept. President 1997-1998**



Jacqueline "Jackie" Reth, age 85, passed away on Monday, January 20, 2025.

Born March 26, 1939 in Waterloo, Iowa, Jackie married Ernest Reth in 1961 and moved to a farm in the Mazeppa, MN area. Together they had one daughter, Mindy.

When her husband died, she moved into Mazeppa and ran her own in-home daycare service. Jackie referred to those she helped raise as "her kids" and continued to keep in contact with them for many years.

An avid reader, she either had a book in hand or tucked away in her purse. Jackie counseled her many cookbooks as she prepared delicious meals for friends and family.

A Life Member of Swanson-Owen VFW Post 9647 Auxiliary in Oronoco, she rose through the ranks in the District 1 Auxiliary to become District President and then Department Auxiliary President in 1997.

Jackie moved to Suffolk, Virginia in 2005 to be closer to her daughter. This allowed her to spend the last twenty years in priceless visits, conversations and memories (old and new) they shared together.

She will be deeply missed by her family and friends. She will be remembered by her kindness, infectious laughter and all things panda.

A celebration of life will be held May 10, 2025 at the Oronoco VFW Post 9647 starting at 11am. Bring your stories and memories to share.

Breaking News

Al Lipphardt CIC to Visit



2024-2025 VFW Commander-In-Chief Alfred "Al" Lipphardt will be the National VFW representative visiting during the MN VFW 2025 State Convention.

Al served in the US Army from 1965-1979 including two tours in Vietnam, 1967-1968 and 1970-1971.

He joined the VFW in 2002 at Post 12002 in North Fulton, GA where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership.

He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department levels ending with Department Commander from 2014-2015. Nationally, he has served on the Legislative Committee, the National Security and Affairs Committee and the Council of Administration.

Retired, Al remains active in the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain, GA, American Legion, DAV, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the VFW National Home for Children along with other organizations.

He and his wife Carol live in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

VA Homes Get \$80,000

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) received a donation of \$80,000 from Charles McLaughlin VFW Post 906 in Hutchinson. This is the third year in a row that Post 906 provided a donation of this level to our eight State Veterans Homes located in Bemidji, Fergus Falls, Hastings, Luverne, Minneapolis, Montevideo, Preston and Silver Bay. Each Home will receive \$10,000.

"Our Homes are dedicated to making sure Veterans truly feel at home," said MDVA Commissioner Brad Lindsay. "A donation of this size is essential in helping to make sure our Veterans are provided the best in recreational programming and quality services, an enhanced physical environment and improved daily experiences with each other."

Funding will be used to:

- Create a memorial wall on the grounds of the three newest Minnesota Veterans Homes in Bemidji, Montevideo and Preston where current and future residents will be recognized.
- Develop and deliver new resident activities and enhance existing programming.
- Purchase equipment designed to elevate residents' quality of life.

Each Home will determine how to apply the funds to best serve Veterans' needs.

VFW State Commander David Staehlin shared that supporting the Minnesota Veterans Homes is an important part of the VFW's mission and that the commitment from Post 906 is unprecedented.

Minnesota VFW Office Locations

Department Headquarters:

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B5 Veterans Service Building
20 West 12th Street
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Auxiliary Headquarters :

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Publications Committee:
David Staehlin, Commander; Edward Keogh, Jr., Sr. Vice Commander;
Charles Hawkins, Sr., Jr. Vice Commander;
Mary Thompson, Judge Advocate; Ken Schroepfer, editor

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Upcoming deadlines are July 15, November 15, and March 15

To: VFW National Headquarters
Data Entry Department
406 West 36th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Please Note the below address change: (Please Print)

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2024-2025 Department Officers

Senior Vice Commander

By Ed Keogh, State Senior Vice Commander

Our membership year is coming to an end very soon. Please actively recruit, retain, and reinstate members. Your Post can order membership recruitment information by visiting www.vfw.org. You can request membership materials by visiting the National website www.vfw.org, clicking on "Membership Quick Links" then select the Membership Recruiting Brochures Order Form. Use the drop-down menu to select items you need.

Please sign up for VFW Action Corps. To sign up visit www.vfw.org go to the black bar on the top of the page, click on "Advocacy", then look to the right and click on "Action Corps Weekly". You will be directed to a form to fill out. Once

signed up you will receive weekly updates on legislation issues, POW/MIA recovery information etc. You will also be able to submit requests to your local legislators on very important issues with just a click of a button "Take Action".

Please continue to submit Community Service reports on the "Dashboard". Your Post must submit a report every quarter. Again, refer to the Dept. website for more information. If you have any questions regarding membership of community service, please contact me.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our Department of MN Convention June 5th – 8th, 2025.

Adjutant/Quartermaster

By Barry Henriksen, State Adjutant/Quartermaster

First, I want to pay my respects to the one and only Gordy Kirk. We will all deeply miss Gordy's wisdom, dedication, and presence. He dedicated his life to service, and the VFW was his passion. We owe it to Gordy to continue the mission in his honor. As a member of the 4th District, I had the great opportunity to spend even more time with Gordy. I will treasure it. My wife Kris shares my sadness at his passing.

We found out about Gordy while we were in Washington DC for the annual Conference. While in DC our Minnesota contingency met with your MN Congressional delegation. We went over the VFW National Legislative priorities. We stressed the importance of "Honoring the Contract". Over the next year we will be watching to see how our Representatives vote, and whether they sponsor or co-sponsor veterans' legislation. Our legislative work is crucial for veterans and their families. Also, while we were in DC we found out that Commander-In-Chief (CIC) Al Lipphardt will be our National Representative for the State Convention. This is a great honor. It also becomes a great responsibility. He is coming here because he expects we will be at 102% by our convention. The CIC can only attend three conventions due to scheduling. We were picked because we are

at 98.5% in early March. But the next 3.5% is tough work. We need every post and every member to work membership up to the State Convention. Let's put a big smile on the face of Al "The Real Deal" Lipphardt and State Commander Dave Staehlin by achieving 102% membership by June 4!

Please make your arrangements to attend the State Convention. Let's give a big thank you to Commander Dave Staehlin and a great welcome to incoming Commander Ed Keogh. St. Cloud is a great location. Having the Commander-In-Chief as our National Rep is also a great reason to attend. I can't remember the last time we had the current CIC at our State Convention!

The Joint Award Session will be riveting this year. As of March 7, we have over 80 posts at 100% or better that have qualified for All-State. Only 20 can achieve this honor. Don't miss this event!

It is an honor and privilege to serve our great Department of Minnesota. Thank you for all that each one of you does. Please call me for assistance with audits, Dashboard, or any other Adjutant/Quartermaster issues. Remember that Officer Training will be conducted at the Fall Conference. Details will be coming out at the State Convention.

Junior Vice Commander

By Charles Hawkins, Sr., State Junior Vice Commander

Greeting Comrades Brothers and Sisters.

Well, we are getting close to the end of our year. For me, it has been an absolutely wonderful year! I've been able to travel far and wide over our great state as I meet with fellow comrades.

One time I had to leave Minnesota and travel through North Dakota to get to a meeting at Post 3817 in East Grand Forks. Now, that was a very interesting trip. I haven't made it to every post yet. But, there's still time.

When I visit these far and distance posts, I'm greeted with great comradery and kinship from all. I've seen friends that I haven't seen in years. I know that they have been watching me as I make my travels.

On one such journey, I had the opportunity to meet all of the Jr. Vice Commanders from all of the other

Departments. What a memorable experience. We were able visit and make plans for our upcoming years.

Just recently, I traveled to Washington, D.C. along with our Department VFW and Auxiliary officers for the Fall Legislative Conference. We were kept busy with various meetings about the VFW's efforts to address veteran's benefits.

We had an opportunity to meet with our congressional representatives or members of their staff to discuss the needs of our veterans. Nearly all agreed with our concerns.

While in Washington, we visited all of the various offices at VFW Headquarters. It was so great to match faces to the names of those who we message or talk with.

It won't be long before we will be having our State Convention in St. Cloud. If you haven't made your

Judge Advocate

By Mary Thompson, State Judge Advocate

Greetings, Comrades!

This has been an incredible year for the VFW so far!

It has been both an honor and a privilege to serve as your State Judge Advocate. Over the past year, I have taken a deep dive into our Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures, gaining valuable knowledge and experience. This journey has been both rewarding and enlightening. I have thoroughly enjoyed traveling to our Districts as your Department representative and meeting the great comrades, brothers and sisters of our MN VFW and Auxiliary.

As I write my final Gopher Overseer article as your Judge Advocate, let's explore a topic that has not yet been fully integrated into our National Bylaws. In today's digital age, social media has become a powerful tool for communication, networking, and organizational engagement. However, with this increased connectivity comes the responsibility to maintain professionalism and uphold the values of the organization we represent. Our National VFW Bylaws Section 902, Item 6 highlights our conduct to ensure productive and respectful discourse within our VFW

community.

Social media platforms serve as valuable spaces for discussion, guidance, and information sharing. VFW-affiliated pages are intended to foster constructive engagement, not to be misused as platforms for personal attacks. Targeting individual members through negative or disparaging comments risks turning these forums into arenas for personal grievances rather than spaces for meaningful dialogue. Such behavior not only undermines the integrity of the discussion but can also lead to harassment, silencing differing perspectives through hostility rather than respectful discourse. As technology continues to evolve, so too must our approach to digital interactions, keeping in mind the principles of respect, service, and unity that define our mission.

As my journey within the Department continues, I will always be available to mentor and will always support any and all of my fellow comrades, brothers and sisters

I look forward to visiting and building a network with each of you. See you at our Department Convention, June 6-8 in St. Cloud!

MN VFW Charitable Association

By Ken Schroepfer, Association President

The 2026 Raffle Calendars have arrived. The pre-order form is available in the latest Department General Orders. Please order in multiples of 25 calendars. When filling out the pre-order form, specify whether you want to pick calendars at the Convention or when

you can pick them up. If you want calendars before the convention, we need to know that so we can get them to you sooner.

Calendars **CAN NOT** be shipped out through the USPS. They can be delivered through FEDEX or UPS. To deliver them,

we need a valid street address NOT a PO Box.

The next regular meeting of the Charitable Association will be held at the State Convention on Thursday June 5 at 2:30pm in the Huskey Room. This meeting is open to all members of the MN

VFW. There will be two Board of Director positions that need to be filled. They are three-year positions and are open to any member of the VFW in good standing. For more information or to apply, contact Ken Schroepfer at handiman47@hotmail.com.

Minnesota Auxiliary News



**STATE PRESIDENT
VFW Auxiliary**

Karen England

Member of
VFW Post 8729 Auxiliary
Lake City, MN



"Preserving and Extending Veterans Rights, Advocating a Strong National Defence, Promoting Patriotism and Serving Local Communities" - Veterans of Foreign Wars Founding Principles

As I write this, I have just returned from the Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. It was a tremendous and overwhelming experience, and I was honored to stand side-by-side with my Minnesota VFW Comrades and Auxiliary Brother & Sisters who were in attendance.

There were fourteen of us in attendance, and we did the "divide and conquer" to make sure that we visited with nine of our representatives (or their staff) in Washington D.C. to promote and demand that they support the VFW Legislative Priorities. I enjoyed meeting with Michelle Fischbach and Tom Emmer personally, and the staff support for Tina Smith, Angie Craig, and Brad Finstad.

We were able to sit in the Chambers and support our National Commander-in-Chief Alfred ("Al") Lipphardt as he testified before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees on behalf of veterans. He brought the voice of veterans across the Nation to Congress. It was an experience I will never forget.

That is only one of the amazing opportunities I have had this year by representing our organization across the State and the Nation serving as the Minnesota VFW Auxiliary President! I cannot believe that the year ends in only a few short months.

At the Legislative Conference, I also (along with Commander David Staehlin) had the honor of escorting Minnesota's winner, Ashton Jenzen (from Waseca) in the Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners. She is such a wonderful and thoughtful young lady who aspires to work with disabled youth as a teacher.

I will have attended meetings in all 9 Districts by the end of my year. And I have enjoyed a lot of time visiting and laughing with all of you (friends) who continue so tirelessly with our mission! The humility and selfless work that you are doing is incredible! And of course, we all

know that this is the reason why we are here! To support the veterans always and in all ways!

Our Auxiliary is celebrating 100 Years of service to veterans this year. I designed a pin to commemorate the centennial landmark and it is shown below.

We have continued all year to



raise funds for Believet™ Canine Services of Northfield, which is my joint project with Commander David Staehlin. Sam Daly (the founder) and his staff and volunteers are absolutely amazing! I am so thrilled to have been an up-close witness to the life changing results for so many veterans – and likely many more into the future! They are truly fulfilling their Mission Statement: Freedom for Veterans, Dogs with a Mission.

It has been an honor to serve with Commander David Staehlin this year. He has a passion for the cause and is so knowledgeable about parliamentary procedure and Robert's Rules of Order, which has been a great fit with my perspective as an attorney.

Thank you to my home Post and Auxiliary Bernard Flesche #8729 in Lake City for your continued and unwavering support. Thank you to all of you in the Department of Minnesota Auxiliary for entrusting me with this absolutely wonderful opportunity to serve as your Auxiliary President!

Thank you to all of my VFW comrades, who are the reason we are here, and for the chance to represent Minnesota this year and doing everything I can to support you - always and in all ways!

National District Council

By Frankie Bill, Member Area E

Comrades and Members, we are winding down the 2024-2025 VFW Auxiliary Program year. As we inch closer to celebrations, recognitions, and special acknowledgments; please take a moment to pause and celebrate the wonderful achievements each and every one of you have contributed. Every day, you have all demonstrated incredible ways of enriching and expanding a Veteran's life, their family members, and your greater community. I am excited to see so many of our local Posts and Auxiliaries highlighted during the upcoming Department Convention in St. Cloud this June. This excitement will continue as we see Minnesota celebrated on the National stage in Columbus, Ohio later in August.

The National Midyear Conference was held in Cancun, Mexico this past February. The all-inclusive resort accommodated approximately 375 guests for the arrival of the VFW Auxiliary. The Council of Administration (CoA) included messages from special guests and updates on the financials covering investments, operating budget, budget reviews, and audits. Also discussed were proposed Resolutions, as well as broader transparency for all members to

have access to CoA materials which are now posted on MALTA. We also heard from the National Guard candidates who represent the Eastern Conference. To round out the business session, we heard progress updates from the Program Ambassadors. Minnesota had a nice representation from VFW Auxiliary officers, members, and VFW comrades.

Finally, I want to express my sincere gratitude to be able to represent the Department of Minnesota, VFW Auxiliary for the past four (4) years as your National District Council Member for Area E. It has been an honor and privilege to serve two terms (2021-2023 and 2023-2025) on the National level. I extend my best wishes and very delighted to pass the torch to our next capable representative for our beloved Minnesota Auxiliary members.

Department Commander, David and Department President, Karen are finalizing preparations to host the State (Department) Convention this June in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Like many of you, I, too, look forward to a productive convention filled with program award recognitions and celebrating the hard work of each and every one of you. See you there!



(l to r) Frankie Bill - NDCM, Area E; Laurie Dale - Aux. Dept. Secretary/Treasurer; Julie Stoehr - Aux. Dept. Sr. VP; Karen England - Aux. Dept. President; Shannon Reigel Post 1757 Aux. member; Sonia Tatge - Aux. Big Ten Musician

Treasurer/Secretary Chair

By Laurie Dale

At the National Convention in Louisville July, 2024, the members voted to adjust the number of delegates allowed for representation on the National level. The delegate breakdown is as follows:

District Convention
One (1) Delegate AND One (1) Alternate for each fifteen (15) members or fraction thereof.

Department Convention
One (1) Delegate AND One (1) Alternate for each thirty (30)

members or fraction thereof.

National Convention (change)
One (1) Delegate AND One (1) Alternate for each thirty-five (35) members or fraction thereof.

All members must be in Good Standing as of December 31.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the Department Office.

MN Auxiliary Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 8am - 4pm

Phone: (651) 291-1759

email: treasurer@vfwamn.org or secretary@vfwamn.org

Personal emails, phone numbers, messaging systems/apps of our Office

Staff will not be used for Auxiliary business.

Claims and Service Office Report

By Jon Gohn, Claims Director

VFW Leaders Head for East and SE East Asia

March 14, 2025

WASHINGTON — On the heels of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Washington Conference, two official delegations comprised of senior VFW and Auxiliary leaders and supporting staff depart this weekend for separate command visits in East and Southeast Asian countries.

Accompanied by VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci, and together with VFW Auxiliary National President Brenda Bryant, Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt will embark on a six-day tour of Taiwan to meet with government leaders and the Veterans Affairs Council to bolster our longstanding friendship grounded in shared democratic ideals, mutual learning and a commitment to caring for those who sacrificed in defense of our respective nations. Among the activities planned is a diplomatic engagement with the President of Taiwan, Lai Ching-te, as well as tours of the PanChiao Veterans Home and Taipei Veterans General Hospital.

“The VFW has long enjoyed a robust relationship with our veterans’ affairs counterparts in Taiwan,” said Lipphardt. “And this year, I am honored to meet with President Lai Ching-te to discuss our nations’ common pursuit of and dedication to freedom, peace and democracy. It’s through the selfless acts and courage of our nations’ defenders, and the fulfillment of our duty to honor and care for them, that these ideals are able to be realized.”

Meanwhile, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Tim Peters, together with Assistant Adjutant General Brian Walker and VFW Washington Office Public Affairs Director Rob Couture, will spend two

weeks traveling to Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) field sites in Thailand and Vietnam and meeting with U.S. military personnel, veterans and VFW members in South Korea and the Philippines.

“DPAA’s mission has always been near and dear to my heart,” said Peters, “that’s why I’m excited to meet with the teams in Thailand and Vietnam to see their work firsthand. Their dedication to accounting for every service member missing in action is truly remarkable.”

The VFW’s annual overseas missions fulfill critical organizational national security and foreign affairs objectives. Travel missions abroad enable senior leadership to strengthen ties with host nation governments, witness field operations and understand the needs of the DPAA and gauge the welfare of U.S. troops and veterans stationed and living outside the United States and its territories. Leveraging the VFW’s powerful advocacy platform in Washington, D.C., lessons learned from each visit are brought to administration officials and members of Congress to ensure the DPAA is fully funded each year and troops and veterans, including those working as Department of Defense (DOD) civilians, are properly taken care of, able to execute their missions, and can access the benefits and services afforded to them.

Thanks to VFW advocacy after past overseas visits, legislation to overhaul the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Foreign Medical Program was introduced by Rep. Jeff Van Drew (R-N.J.) during the 118th and current Congresses, while the DOD decided in 2024 to continue providing mail privileges to military retirees living abroad.

that these reforms are aimed at strengthening VA services for Veterans.

Among the rumors he challenged was the claim that VA health care would suffer. Collins categorically denied this, stating that the department has reinforced health care and benefits by safeguarding 300,000 mission-critical positions to ensure uninterrupted services.

Another rumor he addressed was that Veterans’ benefits were being cut. “They’re not,” he said, explaining that VA had redirected nearly \$98

2024 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report

March 15, 2025

Matthew Miller
Executive Director, Suicide Prevention

We recently released our 2024 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, which, in addition to data, highlights seven strategies we’re taking to support Veterans.

In this story—the first in a series of two—we’ll talk about the first two strategies we’re taking throughout the next year and beyond to meet Veterans where they are and with the resources they need.

Promoting secure firearm storage

With firearms being the most common means of suicide among Veterans, discussions about secure firearm storage are critical. Research shows a suicide crisis is usually brief, and securely storing firearms puts time and space between a Veteran and a firearm.

This can allow thoughts of suicide to decrease before a Veteran can access a firearm. It’s also important to remember most people attempting suicide won’t change their method if their attempt is interrupted. Meaning if a Veteran in crisis is trying to access a gun, a barrier could save their life as they’re less likely to try another means.

Keep It Secure provides Veterans, their families and communities with resources and information on how to securely store firearms. In addition, VA distributes free cable gun locks through VA medical centers, community organizations and local law enforcement agencies (find VA locations through our Resource Locator).

VA also offers VA S.A.V.E. training, which is a free, brief, online or in-person course that will help you provide care and compassion if you come across a Veteran who is in crisis

or having thoughts of suicide.

Building and sustaining community collaborations

Our mission is to reduce Veteran suicide, but we can’t do it alone. That’s why we partner with groups across the country to reach as many Veterans as possible. Community-Based Interventions for Suicide Prevention (CBI-SP) works with nearly 2,500 local coalitions nationwide. Together, we provide resources and services in places where more than 70% of Veterans live.

CBI-SP focuses on identifying at-risk Veterans, promoting care transitions and enhancing safety planning. We recently launched new initiatives to address suicide among American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans who have some of the highest suicide rates among those who receive VA care.

CBI-SP has provided \$4 million in cooperative agreements to increase reviews of health records to gather information to help prevent future Veteran suicides.

Through a partnership with the National Shooting Sports Foundation, we work with firearm retailers and range owners to encourage secure firearm storage practices. This provides effective actions Veterans and their loved ones can take during times of suicide crises to potentially save lives.

Ongoing and future efforts in Veteran Suicide Prevention

Supporting Veterans is a mission we all share. VA alone cannot end Veteran suicide. Together, we can create a compassionate, supportive network to empower Veterans, and to reassure them that help is available, they are valued and there is hope. Stay tuned for our next article, which highlights the next five strategies we’re focusing on in 2025.

VA Secretary Doug Collins Addresses Vets Benefits

February 20, 2025

VA Secretary Doug Collins released a video from his office today addressing misinformation circulating about Veterans’ benefits and VA health care. In a direct and candid message, Collins refuted several rumors he described as “whoppers.”

Collins began by reaffirming VA’s commitment to prioritizing Veterans. “We’re putting Veterans number one back at the VA,” he said. He acknowledged that changes can generate friction, but emphasized

million toward Veterans’ care and services rather than reducing them.

Finally, Collins addressed the rumor that VA was laying off Veterans Crisis Line responders. “We did not lay off any Veteran Crisis Line responders,” he stated firmly, assuring that those answering crisis calls remain in place to support Veterans in need.

Collins concluded by urging Veterans to seek information directly from VA rather than relying on misinformation circulating in political discourse. “When you want the truth, come to me, not the Whopper line up on Capitol Hill.”

Veterans are encouraged to visit news.va.gov or contact their local VA offices.

Veterans Claim Service

Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Bldg.
1 Federal Drive, Room G900, Saint Paul, MN 55111
Phone: (612) 970-5669 FAX: (612)970-5404

email: vfw.vbaspl@va.gov

We’ll Help with YOUR Veteran Benefits

Message From Your National Council Member

By Dale Hoogeveen,
National Council Member

I recently returned home from attending the annual Washington conference held in our nation's Capital region. This event gives the leaders of the Department of Minnesota the opportunity to meet with our United States Representatives and Senators or their staff members to advocate for the legislative priorities put forth by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Our efforts this year were focused on six priorities which are:

Unaddressed Toxic Exposures

Passage of the PACT Act of 1922 included a provision for the VA to continuously review toxic exposures and to announce annually in the Federal Register those exposures selected for formal evaluation. We're asking Congress to monitor the VA to ensure compliance.

Transition Assistance Program

We're asking for a uniform program across all services and military installations to ensure accredited representatives participate to educate separating service members and to assist with filing a claim for benefit.

Exploring Alternative PTSD Treatments

VA relies almost exclusively on pharmaceuticals for the treatment of PTSD. Veterans are willing to confront their mental health challenges however there is not a one size fits all solution. We're asking for VA to be given additional tools such as hyperbaric oxygen therapy, medical cannabis and other treatment programs.

Predatory Claims Companies

This priority is carried forward as we urge Congress to prohibit the exploitation of veterans and survivors by charging for a service your county veteran service officer and our VFW claims office provide at no charge. Call our claims director, Jon Gohn, 612-970-5669.

GI Bill Parity

When our active-duty force was downsized a number of years ago, many critical missions were transferred to the reserve components resulting in continual deployment of those reserve and National Guard units. They currently do not earn GI Bill benefits equal to active-duty forces. That is unacceptable, we're asking for legislation to create equity for all service members.

Retirement and Military Personnel

Military pensions continue to be offset by any disability compensation received from the VA. Another gross inequity as compensation is awarded for two entirely different reasons. The military pension is earned by 20 or more years of honorable service, disability compensation if awarded

KIRK - Cont. from Page 1

one day after it had been liberated.

After being discharged on December 19, 1945, he returned to St. Paul where he got married and had three children.

Gordy was instrumental in creating the Twin Star VFW Post 8854 on February 10, 1964. He rose through the chairs at the post, district and department levels to become the first VFW member in Minnesota of African American decent to attain the office of Department Commander from 1995-1996.

He was a life member of Brooker-Edmund Post 724 in St. Paul. Gordy served as the VFW's Hospital Representative from 1997 to 2019 where he advocated for Veterans who need assistance at the VA Medical Center. He was elected to be the Chair of the Big 10 Conference from 2000-2001.

At the age of 101, when he passed, Gordy was remembered as a "leader and advocate for both the veteran community and the state he considered home."

for harm suffered in the performance of military duties. We've been trying to pass the Major Richard Star Act for too many years now, bill has over 400 cosponsors but has not been brought to a vote.

Ashton Jenzen from Waseca, MN was awarded the \$1,500.00 Department of Arkansas and Auxiliary Les Thone Memorial Scholarship for her outstanding effort in the Voice of Democracy Program. State Commander David Staehlin and Auxiliary President Karen England had the privilege of escorting her in the final Parade of Winners. Because of legal liability issues, concerns for addressing medical needs of the students and the desire of our primary sponsor, Mr. Prasad Reddy, CEO of Twisted X, the national council of administration voted to end the Washington trip for our VOD winners. Our Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen national winners will continue to be recognized by the Commander-in-Chief and National Auxiliary President - likely in their hometowns! In lieu of the Washington trip, the VFW will be sending these students to the Spirit of America Youth Leadership Program at their Valley Forge campus for an educational and engaging experience. VOD will continue to be a premier VFW program, please ensure students, parents, teachers and administrators are made aware of this most rewarding opportunity.

Please continue to recruit, retain and reinstate lapsed members as we pursue Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt's membership goal of 102%. Our commander, David Staehlin, deserves to be recognized as an All-American!

Veterans Day on the Hill

Wednesday, April 12, 2025
St. Paul Nat'l Guard Armory,

Nat'l Legislative Report

March 26, 2025

WASHINGTON — In a presentation before the House of Representatives, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, the VFW testified on the following House Bills:

H.R. 530, ACES Act

The VFW supports this legislation that would authorize a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAEM) on the prevalence and mortality rates of certain cancers in U.S. Armed Forces fixed wing aircrew members, and on any association between these cancers and exposures to various materials and environmental conditions in this military occupational field.

The VFW makes two recommendations. First, it recommends adding deadlines to enhance accountability and to ensure a timely product. Specifically, the VFW favors setting deadlines for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to enter into an agreement with NAEM and to deliver a final report to the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs. Second, the VFW recommend a subsequent study focused on rotary wing air and ground crews.

H.R. 647, Ensuring Veterans' Final Resting Place Act of 2025

The VFW supports this legislation to authorize VA to provide an urn or commemorative plaque as personal property to the next of kin of a decedent who died/dies on or after January 5, 2021, but who is not interred in either a private cemetery or in a national, state, tribal, or county veterans' cemetery. Current

law prohibits additional burial benefits for the veteran decedent after the next of kin chooses the urn or commemorative plaque option. However, qualified family members retain eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery, which creates a situation in which the entire family could not be interred together. The VFW agrees that future interment of an urn alongside eligible family members is an appropriate option for VA to provide so survivors may choose how to best memorialize their loved ones.

H.R. 2137, Review Every Veterans Claim Act of 2025

The VFW supports this legislation that would amend Title 38 U.S.C. Section 5103A(d) to limit the authority of the Secretary to deny a veteran's disability claim solely on the basis of missing a compensation and pension examination. VA has made the disability claims filing process significantly easier for veterans, except for this practice of denying a claim. Veterans miss appointments for many reasons and would benefit from a less harsh process. This legislation is a positive development and should facilitate continued improvements.

The VFW has assisted countless veterans who had to reapply for benefits because they missed examination appointments. Restarting a disability claim solely for this reason is burdensome and unnecessary. In such a case, the VFW recommends returning the claim file to the work queue with a specific flag denoting "missed medical examination." This method would enable the veteran to resume processing the claim at the point of the missed appointment instead of starting over from the beginning.

Convention Committee Report

By Scott Bill and the Convention Committee Team

Good day comrades and auxiliary members.

Spring is here and it is time to start booking your hotel rooms (you can find all the details on the MN VFW website (rooms, banquet, tentative schedule etc.). Please remember you can purchase your banquet tickets on our website using a credit card vs checks if you so choose. Any questions, please contact State QM.

The team continues its search for new locations for our members.

2025-2026 upcoming Conferences and Convention

1. Summer Convention- St. Cloud, MN - Granite (June 5-8)
2. Fall Conference- Crowne Plaza, Plymouth, MN (September 19-22)
3. Midwinter Conference 2026- Marriott Northwest, Brooklyn Park, MN (January 15-18)

2025 Kelly Inn in St. Cloud

St. Cloud offers many fun restaurants and activities; especially in the summer when you are not in classes.

My hope is we get a large crowd at our Department Convention since it is such a nice time to get together again with friends/comrades. I look forward to seeing individuals I may only see a few times a year.

The Convention Committee will be working hard behind the scenes to ensure you have the best experience possible.

The team can't wait to see you all again this summer. Have a wonderful spring.

On behalf of the entire Convention Committee, we appreciate your attendance at these gatherings.

For those of you have participated in past conferences and conventions, we are always looking for ideas of sites that can meet our needs.

2025 State Convention - June 5-8, 2025



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS - DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA



VFW STATE CONVENTION

June 5-8, 2025

Best Western Plus Kelly Inn, 100 - 4th Ave S.
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Tentative (1-15-25)

THURSDAY, June 5

9:00 - 10:00am	Pre-Con & Convention Committee	Huskey Room
10:30 - 11:30am	VFW Internal Affairs Committee	Huskey Room
11:30 - 1:00pm	Lunch	Restaurants
NOON - 4:00pm	VFW Convention Registration/Credentials	Main Lobby
1:00 - 2:00pm	VFW Finance Committee	Huskey Room
2:00 - 6:00pm	Veterans Home Displays/Commander's Project	Main Lobby
2:00 - 6:00pm	Commander & President Joint Project	Main Lobby
2:30 - 4:30pm	MN VFW Charitable Association	Huskey Room
6:00 - 8:00pm	VFW Council of Administration	Opportunities Suite/ Civic Center

FRIDAY, June 6

7:00 - 4:00pm	Veterans Home Displays/Commander's Project	Main Lobby
8:00 - 9:00am	Commanding with Purpose: Leadership in the VFW Seminar (Joint Session)	Opportunities Suite/ Civic Center
8:00 - 2:00pm	VFW Convention Registration/Credentials	Main Lobby
8:45 - 9:15am	VFW Riders Arrive at Convention	Kelly Inn Front Lobby
9:30 - 11:30am	Joint Awards Session	Grand Ballroom
11:30 - 1:00pm	Lunch	Restaurants
11:30 - 1:00pm	PDC & PDP Luncheon	TBD
1:00 - 2:00pm	VFW Committee Meeting Assignments	
	1. National Security/Foreign Affairs/POW	University A
	2. Bylaws/Rituals/Rules	Opportunities Suite Civic Center
	3. Gen. Resolutions/Extension/Membership	Huskey Room
	4. Finance/Internal Affairs	Boardroom
	5. Legislative/Veteran's Service	University B
2:30 - 4:30pm	Gambling Meeting	Opportunities Suite/ Civic Center
6:00 - 7:00pm	Joint Memorial Service	Grand Ballroom

SATURDAY, June 7

8:00 - 1:00pm	VFW Convention Registration/Credentials	Main Lobby
8:00 - 3:00pm	Silent Auction	Opportunities Suite Lobby Civic Center
8:00 - 3:00pm	Veterans Home Displays/Commander's Project	Main Lobby
9:00 - 3:00pm	Open VFW Convention	Opportunities Suite/ Civic Center
Noon - 1:00pm	Lunch	Restaurants
1:15 - 2:15pm	VFW All Caucuses Districts 1-9	Opportunities Suite/ Civic Center
2:15 - 3:45pm	Incoming District Officers Meeting (Ed Keogh)	Huskey Room
4:00 - 5:00pm	Catholic Service	University A
4:00 - 5:00pm	Non-Denominational Bible Study (State Chaplain Scott Hansen)	University B
6:00 - 6:45pm	Social (Cash Bar)	Poolside Area
6:00pm	Hospitality Rooms closed during Banquet	
6:45pm	Banquet Doors Open	
7:00pm	Banquet	Grand Ballroom

SUNDAY, June 8

7:30 - 8:30am	VFW Convention Registration/Credentials	Main Lobby
9:00 - 11:00am	VFW Convention	Opportunities Suite/ Civic Center

Immediately after Joint Installation of Officers
Closing Business Sessions for the VFW & Aux Conventions

8:00 - 10:00am	VFW Council of Administration	Opportunities Suite/ Civic Center
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Jan Owens PNP to Visit



Past National President (2009-2010) Jan Owens will be the National VFW Auxiliary representative visiting during the MN VFW Auxiliary 2025 State Convention.

Jan was elected National VFW Auxiliary President for 2009-2010. She continues to serve the Auxiliary as a member of the National Budget Committee. In addition, she is serving as the District 5 Trustee for the VFW National Home.

She currently makes her home in Conway, SC and enjoys family time at the beach.

Jan continues her Life Membership of North Myrtle Beach Auxiliary 10804.

Convention - Cont. from Page 1

at the Joint Awards Session. Find out who excelled in all the great VFW programs. Special awards will be announced including All-State Post Commanders and All-State Post Quartermasters. Special awards will also be announced for the Auxiliary Hospital Volunteer of the Year. We will also celebrate the Public Servant Award Citation Winners.

In the afternoon, the VFW Committees will meet. A gambling session will be held for anyone interested. The Auxiliary opens their Convention including awards for local Auxiliaries and Districts for their good work during the past year. Friday evening ends in the annual Joint Memorial Service that brings us the opportunity to honor VFW and Auxiliary members we have lost over the past year. Please attend as this is always a memorable event.

SATURDAY, June 7th

The VFW and Auxiliary Conventions meet to conducting their official business. This will include nominations for 2025-26

State Officers and discussion of Bylaw proposals for the upcoming year as well as National By-Laws and Resolutions. Decisions made at these meetings will not only direct our organization locally but guide our State Officers as they head to the National Convention in July. The Annual Silent Auction will be held in the Opportunities Suite Lobby area.

The Banquet Menu will be available soon. There is limited seating for this banquet as the room capacity is 280 people, first come, first served. Again, if you have any questions, please direct them to VFW Post 428 is the hosting Post this Convention.

SUNDAY, June 8th

This year's busy Convention, will conclude with the election of VFW and Auxiliary Officers that will lead us into the New Year. The Officers will be installed immediately after the Convention Sessions. Please attend and support the 2025-26 State Commander and State President joint reception. The Joint Reception will be held at the St Cloud, Granite VFW Post 428.

2025 State Convention
Saturday, June 7th, 2025
Tickets \$50/person (No Refunds)
Reception 6:00pm Dinner 7:00pm
Deadline: Saturday May 9, 2025

Menu: To be Determined.

Tickets will bear a table number and orders will be filled as received.
Tickets will be reserved under the name designated on the order form.
Assigned seating and tickets will be available at the Registration Desk

HOUSING RESERVATIONS

VFW State Convention 2025
Friday, June 6 -- Sunday, June 8
Best Western Plus Kelly Inn
100 - 4th Ave. S., St. Cloud, MN 56301
For Reservations call 1-320-253-0606

Room Block: **VFW 2025 State Convention**
You MUST say "VFW 2025 State Convention" or the Reservation Desk will tell you that there are no rooms
Room Rate: \$114/night + tax
(Standard King OR Two Double Beds)
Check in: 3pm Check out: 11am

DEADLINE -- May 9, 2025

Reserve online at vfwmn.org/news/convention

Make Checks Payable to: **GraniteVFWPost#428-Quartermaster**

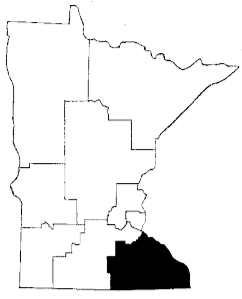
Mail Check & Reservation Form to: **Granite VFW Post 428**
c/o Quartermaster
9 - 18th Ave. N.
St. Cloud, MN 56303-4545

Please Reserve _____ Tickets at \$60/person Midwinter Conference Banquet Dinner.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Post/Auxiliary # _____ District # _____

News from YOUR District Commanders and Presidents!



**Lowell Lyman, Commander
First District**

My fellow Veterans and Auxiliary members,

According to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Loyalty Day originally began as "Americanization Day" in 1921 as a counter to the Communist's May 1 celebration of the Russian Revolution.

On May 1, 1930, 10,000 VFW members staged a rally at New York's Union Square to promote patriotism.

Through a resolution adopted in 1949, May 1st evolved into Loyalty Day. Observances began in 1950 on April 28 and climaxed May 1 when more than 5 million people across the nation held rallies. In New York City, more than 100,000 people rallied for America. In 1958 Congress enacted Public Law 529 proclaiming Loyalty Day a permanent fixture on the nation's calendar.

We must realize that our freedom is truly unique, and that is why we take pride in it. Woodrow Wilson once said: "America was established not to create wealth but to realize a vision, to realize an idea - to discover and maintain liberty among men." America was built on that ideal, and we have maintained it for over two centuries!

This land is "the land of the free" because of the many freedoms we enjoy ... the freedom of religion ... of speech ... of assembly ... but what it all comes down to is that we have the freedom of choice.

We have the choice to go to college or not, or to choose a career

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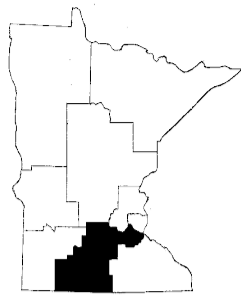
**Kristian Kohn, Auxiliary
President First District**

As we come to the close of another remarkable year, we reflect on the accomplishments and milestones achieved by our VFW Auxiliary District 1 members. Our committed members have worked tirelessly to support veterans, their families, and our community, and it's time to celebrate our shared successes and set our sights on the year ahead.

This year has been a testament to the dedication and hard work of our auxiliary members. From organizing impactful community events to providing essential resources for veterans, we have made significant strides in our mission. Some of our key achievements include:

- Veteran Support Initiatives: We

DIST. 1 AUX. - Cont. on Page 15



**Maria Maldonado, Commander
Second District**

Greetings from Second District,

It is incredible to realize how fast this year has passed. We have had a busy year thus far, and we have achieved significant milestones. We have successfully completed all the post inspections, and our district continues to work on our membership goals. Eleven of our 31 posts have reached or exceeded 100%. For those that are close to achieving this milestone, let us continue to work hard on our membership drives and make one final push. There remains ample time to attain 102% and more!

Kindly remember our annual VFW Day of Service in May 3, 2025, as well as our Buddy Poppy distribution dates May 16-17, 2025. If you have not yet ordered your poppy cards, I urge you to do so at your earliest convenience.

I am so proud of our Second District team, I could not have asked for a better group of officers, chairpersons as well as our most important team members, our Posts. Our District Convention and Loyalty Day on April 26, 2025, at Prior Lake Post 6208. Look forward to seeing you at our Department Convention.

It has been my honor to serve with all of you!



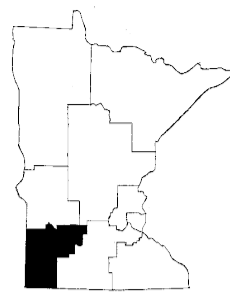
**Becky Selleck, Auxiliary
President Second District**

Hello from District 2 Auxiliaries, As we welcome the arrival of spring, we reflect on how quickly this program year has passed.

District 2 held its winter meeting on January 18 at Chaska Post 1791, where we proudly honored our Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teachers of the Year winners. We are especially proud that our Patriot's Pen winner and two of our Teachers of the Year also represented the Department of Minnesota.

I know our Auxiliaries are working diligently on year-end reports, and I look forward to reviewing them to see the incredible work being done in our district to support veterans and strengthen our Organization.

Every day, I am inspired by the dedication of our members. The success of our VFW Posts and Auxiliaries relies on teamwork, commitment, and continued growth. I am grateful for a strong, supportive team that builds on each other's experience and strengths. Together, we honor the past while shaping the future.



**Merle Rabenberg, Commander
Third District**

Greetings from the VFW Third District.

It has been a both a mild and a harsh winter down here in Southwest Minnesota. If the wind wasn't blowing 50mph and -21 below, it was 40 above. There was no in between.

The Minnesota VFW Midwinter Conference was good and we had good attendance. It was good to see everyone from the other districts.

Our Third District meeting was on January 4th at the Redwood County VFW Post 2553 where we recognized all our contest winners.

April 5th will be our next district meeting at the Westbrook Community Center hosted by VFW Post 5098. Now is the time to plan your Memorial Day and Flag Day festivities. Our Wilmont Post 2603 we will be giving away about nine bicycles on June 14th 2025 during our flag burning ceremony.



**Diane Rabenberg, Auxiliary
President Third District**

Greetings from District 3!

This year has gone so quickly. It's already time to get our year end reports completed, and then on to our district convention April 5th in Westbrook. We will be electing and installing officers at the meeting.

I want to thank all of our Department, District, and Auxiliary 2024-2025 officers and chairmen for their diligence in making this last year so successful! And I know our new officers will continue in their footsteps.

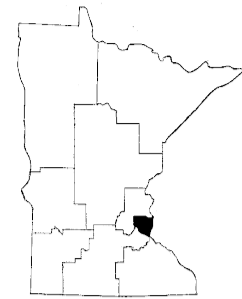
After our meeting, there will be a Quilts of Valor presentation that we are all looking forward to attending. Until then, we are striving to support our veterans, Always in All Ways!



**Carol Kratz, Auxiliary
President Fourth District**

We held a fundraiser of hotdish on a cold day. It turned out to be the day of a MN snowstorm, but our loyal members attended and we raised some money for District 4. Good job to all.

District Sewing: We've been meeting at the North St. Paul VFW each 2nd & 4th Thursday 10am to noon. We've created many items such as wheelchair bags, cell phone bags, seat belt cushions, pencil bags, and



**Sean Gustafson, Commander
Fourth District**

Happy Easter, Passover, and Springtime, Fighting Fourth!

Hope you all had tremendous Holidays and are gearing up for Memorial Poppy Season. Huge Congratulations to Woodbury, our #1 Post for Strength, followed very closely by St. Paul 1171, White Bear, Roseville, and Mendota all over the Commander's Goal of 102% and N. St. Paul and Cottage Grove at or over 100%. Wow you've put some amazing work into making this the number one district in MN (and top 5 in our division Nationally)! Keep it up! Please feel free to ask these top posts what they are doing if you're looking for ideas.

On a sadder note, we lost Gordy Kirk in early March. He was 102, a World War II Vet who was in the Battle of the Bulge with General Patton, and was the first African American Department Commander, 4th District Commander, and Post Commander at several District Posts. He truly was the best of us and will be sorely missed. May he Rest in Peace.

Finally, we are nearing the end of the year (Jul. 24-June 25) for the VFW. As always, we would sure love your presence at our District Meeting on 26 April (8am Memorial, 9am Meeting) at Roseville, and at the State Convention, 4-8 June at the St. Cloud Convention Center (more info elsewhere in this paper and in our General Orders).

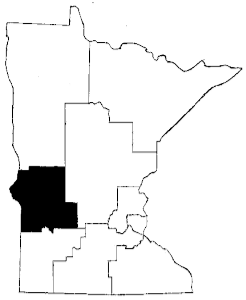
If you're looking for a worthy cause to donate to, you couldn't do much better than Believet Canine Service Partners out of Northfield, MN, our Department Commander and Presidents Project. Read more elsewhere in this paper.

a few fleece blankets. These items have been and will be donated to area veteran's homes or VA hospitals, as needed. Come and enjoy these few hours with each other. We often go to lunch after a busy morning.

My special project is the Veterans Rest Camp at Big Marine. Donations are appreciated and if you have already donated towards this project, I appreciate it. Otherwise, you can still make a donation and make your check payable to the 4th District VFW Auxiliary, earmarked DVRC and send to our District Treasurer Joanne Brown, 1390 Birchview Dr., Maplewood 55119 or bring it to our District Convention on April 26th.

Year End Reports are expected by month end. Our District is over 100% in membership.

Congratulations all for your hard work this past year.



Lee Christopherson, Commander
Fifth District

Greetings from the 5th!

I sit here writing my comments to the great members of this fine organization and reflecting on the events of the past year in our district, I am amazed of the all the hard work that these small posts are doing to keep the legacy of there posts alive. Here is an example: a post is struggling to keep the membership numbers. The commander went in front of their membership and asked if they would entertain the idea of consolidation. Members knowing well their post numbers are falling and consolidation would be the right thing to do, they all agreed on sticking it out. We all still want to fight for our small post.

As of March 1st, the 5th District has lost 21 great members in our ranks. The hardest part in losing members is that we must recruit their replacement in the membership.

I would like to acknowledge a few great posts in our district. I would like to thank Post 936 in Alexandria and Chris for stepping up and running the VFW Hockey Tournament.

Post 1656 in Madison for all their events that they put on thru out the year to generate revenue for the post so they can donate to the veterans and the community. Truly I believe that the VFW has some great people,

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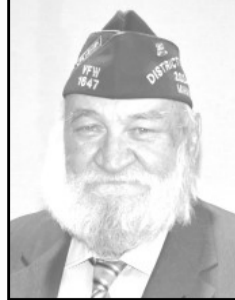
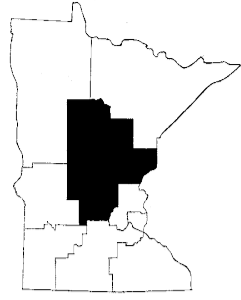


Cindi Nelson, Auxiliary
President Fifth District

Good day from District 5.

We were busy over the winter with several projects within our district's auxiliary's. Post 936 hosted the VFW State Invitational Bantam A and AA Hockey Tournament in February and the Girls U15A Hockey Tournament in March. As part of the President and Commander project for District 5 (The Montevideo Veterans Home), members from Auxiliary 936 worked their tails off in selling ads for the program books for these tournaments. Because the Bantam A and AA are a larger tournament and program book, the money raised from selling this book, after expenses, is going to the District 5 President and Commander Project. Cindi had a goal of raising enough for a recumbent bike and some mobile computer stations so they can be wheeled into the veteran's rooms so they can facetime their loved ones. When I visited the Montevideo Veterans Home back in fall, they only had one of the bikes and there is a waiting line to get on that one. I am so excited to see this

DIST. 5 AUX. - Cont. on Page 10



Donald Lohse, Commander
Sixth District

Greetings from the commander.

I hope this finds all VFW members in good health and spirits. At our December District Meeting, homage was paid to Past District Commander McCandless and Past District Commander Hovaness, by draping of our District Charter, following their untimely demise. Also, as the meeting was held on 7 December, an appropriate prayer was offered by District Chaplain Jim "Fatman" Dalziel, to honor those who passed on from the "Day of Infamy".

District Voice of Democracy winner Jessica Staton, sponsored by Post 8731, was congratulated, and presented a scholarship check.

At our February District Meeting, nominations for the upcoming election of officers was started, and will remain open until the District Convention on 26 April. It will be held in Browerville, Post 8391, at the community center at 0900, followed by a joint installation ceremony with the 6th District Auxiliary. Also, a delicious lunch will be served. We will also be having our District Loyalty Days ceremony.

As of February 15, all posts inspections are completed.

There are possible post consolidations being discussed by several of the posts in the 6th District. Assistance is being provided by District Senior Vice Commander Todd Robert's, District Quartermaster Ron Widell, and myself, District Commander Don Lohse.



Deb Wieshalla, Auxiliary
President Sixth District

Greetings from the 6th District!

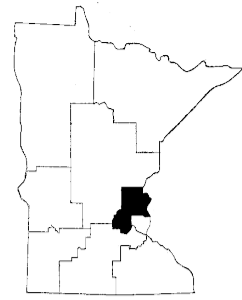
The 6th District embraced National President Brenda's Project of Operation Bottom Cover, as our District Project. We have been collecting and distributing diapers and wipes to our veteran families throughout June. Members can bring items to the next District Meeting, or give them to veteran families in their area.

Several auxiliaries have been holding events bringing awareness to veterans and their needs. Great Job everyone. As always, our auxiliaries are busy supporting our veterans and working on our auxiliary programs.

Veterans Day honored our heros with moving programs and tributes.

We have been honored to have Senior Vice Julie Stoehr, and Past Department Jane Zeibarth as our Department Reps. at our past two meetings. The weather wasn't the

DIST. 6 AUX. - Cont. on Page 14



Dennis Maddox, Commander
Seventh District

Greetings from the 7th,

We have another Midwinter Conference behind us, and as always, the highlight was the Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year winners. Thank you to the 7th District posts and auxiliaries that submitted entries for these important VFW programs. I would like to thank Jim Doten and Char Guse for volunteering to work on these programs. I would also like to thank Kyle Morton and Travis Eiklenborg for assisting with judging the entries. Our 7th District VOD entry from Leif Monson was one of the Dept. Runners-up. He has the ability participate again and stated that he would do so. Leif is a freshman at Elk River High School in Elk River, MN and was nominated by Elk River-Rogers Post 5518. It was my honor to have the privilege of escorting this fine young man into the banquet along with Peg Snoke, District 7 Auxiliary President. Congratulations Leif!

Thank you to Dist. Jr. Vice Cmdr., Kyle Morton and all those who helped with their efforts in putting on another 7th District Golden Dinner Fundraiser! This year's Golden Dinner took place at Coon Rapids Post 9625 on February 8, 2025. Thanks, once again, to Post 9625 for hosting this event!

As I'm writing this, our current membership for the District is 99.37%. This places the District in 6th place in the division nationally and 4th place in the Department which means we need 130 new or re-instated members submitted and processed through National by June 30, 2025. This is not an impossible task; there are many eligible veterans out there! There are currently 3 posts over 102% (2735, 6587 and 9625), 4 posts at or above 100% (494, 5518, 5919 and 6692) and the remaining posts are not far behind. Congratulations on their efforts! We still have time to get the District and the posts over the 102% mark. Please get out and RECRUIT, RECRUIT, RECRUIT! And remember, sometimes all you have to do is ASK!

The last District meeting was held on February 1, 2025, at Hopkins Post 425. Thank you, Cmdr. Lonnie Duff, members of the Post and Auxiliary, for your generous hospitality! Our Dept. Rep. was Mary Thompson, Dept. Judge Advocate.

The District Meeting/Convention will be on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 8:30 am at Charles R. Knaeble (Crystal) Post 494. The meeting will start off with our annual Memorial Service, followed by the business meeting, elections and closing with the installation of next year's officers. Our Dept. Rep. will be Charles

DISTRICT MEETINGS

- First District**
Apr. 27 Zumbrota #5727 @ 9:30 AM
- Second District**
Apr. 26 Prior Lake #6208 @ 8:30 AM
- Third District**
Apr. 5 Westbrook #5098 @ 10 AM
- Fourth District**
Apr. 26 Roseville #7555 @ 9 AM
- Fifth District**
Apr. 13 Alexandria #7902 @ 2 PM
- Sixth District**
Apr. 26 Browerville #8391 @ 9 AM
- Seventh District**
Apr. 12 Crystal #494 @ 8:30 AM
- Eighth District**
May 3 Vets on the Lake #2717 @ 9 AM
- Ninth District**
May 3 Bemidji #1260 @ 9 AM
- MOC**
May 3 St. Cloud #428 @ 9 AM



Don't forget to change your address when you head back North for the summer.



Peg Snoke, Auxiliary
President Seventh District

Brothers and Sisters of the Auxiliary and Comrades. Greetings from the 7th District.

This year is coming to an end way too fast. Year end reports and data is being compiled and awards will be given. Our April Convention is coming soon and there will be the election of new officers and then we will be headed to Department Convention to wrap up this exciting year.

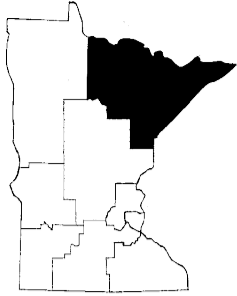
In February there was the Salute to Veterans which was a great opportunity to pass our valentines and visit with our Veterans.

To round out the year there will be hockey games, ball games and parties to celebrate the Auxiliaries 100 years.

What an accomplishment. Thank you to all of the auxiliary and district officers for a great 2024-2025 year.

Hawkins Sr., Dept. Jr. Vice Cmdr.

I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to thank everyone that gave me guidance and support as I went through the District 7 chairs and to thank all those that stepped up to make things happen within our District. My hats off to you ALL!



**Anthony Rechichi, Commander
Eighth District**

Greetings to all,

It's hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of the VFW year. It would be an understatement to say that this year has been a challenge. However, the men and women of the 8th District have tackled that challenge head on. I am proud of all the hard work everyone has put in to make this year a success.

Membership has been the primary challenge. Without new members, we have to rely on our current members doing everything and that's where the burnout begins.

Our Loyalty Day, Memorial Service and District Elections will be on Saturday May 3rd at Veterans on the Lake Resort in Ely Minnesota. A HUGE shout out to Post 2717 for stepping up and hosting Loyalty Days for the 3rd year in a row.

In closing, I would like to send out a HUGE thanks to Mary Thompson for her assistance throughout the past year. I would like to recognize all the post and auxiliary members for their hard work over the past year. I am thankful for what the line officers and chairmen have done. Your help and guidance was very appreciated. Lastly, I would like to be the first to congratulate all the incoming officers for the upcoming year. I wish you well at all levels of our organization and for what you do for our Veterans.



**Marlaina Hart, Auxiliary
President Eighth District**

Hello all from District 8,

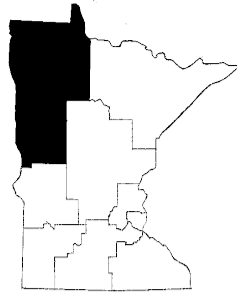
Happy Spring!! During our Christmas season, we had a lot of members helping veterans in our local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. We showered them with gifts, cards and student letters and visits.

Now as the Easter season is upon us, we are doing some of these same things again. These veterans really enjoy our remembrance of them on these special days.

The District 8 winter meeting went well as we honored our Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy winners with a breakfast before they read their winning essays. They all did a great job writing and reading their entries.

We are getting ready to honor our Vietnam Veterans with programs and dinners around District 8. Many different ways of honoring them are in progress.

Memorial Day Programs/Dinners are being discussed and planned. We need to honor those that fought and



**Kelly Booge, Commander
Ninth District**

Greetings from VFW 9th District commander.

This year is flying by!

The Bemidji Veterans Home is such a great place to visit. I have gotten to know some of the staff and a few of the residents. I attended the gift wrapping for the residents. The American Legion provided gifts and the residents picked out what they wanted to give to family. Then volunteers wrapped them and helped place them under the Christmas tree. I also attended, along with my better half Margaret, the New Years party given for the residents. What a wonderful time, and I feel the residents really enjoyed it.

The home is still a work in progress as to the operation and ability to help out, but there are opportunities to volunteer if you have the desire and time to give. Post 1260 and Auxiliary worked together to fund, deliver, and set up a NuStep T6 PRO Recumbent Cross Trainer Bike and a 72-inch adjustable Workbench. The residents of the VA Home make good use of both of these items and it is wonderful to see them enjoy them. The posts in the 9th are working to keep things going on an even keel. Post 612 hosted a fund raiser for Operation Zero. Unfortunately, I had prior commitments, but I know they did a great job. Everyone, keep up the good work.

I was fortunate enough to be invited to and attend the pheasant feed for the Fergus Falls Veterans Home veterans. It was a very well attended event and well worth the effort and miles to attend.

We are not doing as well as I had hoped on membership, but I know you are all still working hard. Don't give up!!! You as a post and we as a district can still meet 100% with a strong finish to the year.

I wish you all a very happy and Blessed Easter.

I look forward to seeing you all again at the Department of Minnesota Convention in St. Cloud.

I want to thank all of you for putting your trust in me as your leader. It has been a good year, and I look forward to continuing to serve in the future. Together we can improve our veterans' lives.

died to keep our great country FREE.

April is upon us and we are getting ready for elections to keep our great auxiliaries going strong. We need strong healthy auxiliaries to help our great veterans of this District.

Thank you to all the auxiliaries for all that you do! And all the different ways you help Veterans.

COMMANDER - Cont. from Page 1

sponsoring the tournaments. I offer a big "Bravo Zulu, Well Done!" to State Youth Hockey Chairman Jim Hesselgrave, Tournament Chairman Chris Borgerding, and volunteers from Alexandria Post 936 and its Auxiliary.

I encourage posts and auxiliaries to sponsor our youth hockey tournaments for \$2,000 per team, even if you don't have an interested local team. Additional teams across Minnesota would like to participate but need VFW post sponsorship. Non-sponsorship donations are also welcome. Donations and sponsorships can be sent to the Minnesota VFW Charitable Association at PO Box 17146, St. Paul, MN 55117 marked "Youth Hockey."

In early March, a delegation of Minnesota VFW and Auxiliary leaders attended the VFW Washington Conference meeting with many of our State Senators and U.S. Representatives or their staff to promote pro-veteran legislation. I, along with many of our delegation, attended VFW Commander-In-Chief Al Lipphardt's testimony before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees where National Commander Lipphardt demanded that Congress "Honor the Contract" by supporting veterans and

DIST. 5 AUX. - Cont. from Page 9

happen.

I also want to arrange a bus to stop at the posts within the district and offer a tour of the Montevideo Veterans Home. It's absolutely beautiful. I had changed the January District Meeting to the following week as it was 20 below without the wind. Safety first and the following Sunday was a smaller group but effective. Our next District meeting is April 13th at 2 pm in Alexandria (Post 936).

I can't wait to share the



**Shirley Quist, Auxiliary
President Ninth District**

Greetings from the Mighty 9th District,

We have survived the bulk of the harsh, cold winter and spring is just around the corner (I hope). The Midwinter Conference in January focused on a number of great topics for both the post and auxiliary. We met with veterans and their service dog from Believet, the Commander's and President's Project. An update was received from a representative of the Minneapolis Fisher House and how grateful families and veterans are for a place to stay when far from home. Lastly, a joint session was held regarding suicide awareness and prevention.

There are two more District Meetings left before we close our year. New York Mills is host to our

delivering the services we deserve protecting them from funding and staff cuts that impact service delivery to veterans.

This year the Department has a real opportunity to meet our 102% membership goal. I congratulate District 4 for being the first—but certainly not the last—district to hit both the 100% and 102% goals. With over 87 Posts already at 100% and over 36 at 102%, we can meet this goal.

I encourage every member to think about who they know that is eligible for VFW membership but is not a member. It can be a family member, friend, someone with whom you served, etc. Invite them to join the VFW. Or refer them to us and we'll reach out to them. Share their names and contact information with us at quartermaster@vfwmn.us.

Finally, I encourage members to attend our State Convention in St. Cloud from June 6-8, 2025. Become an elected delegate for your post or attend as an observer. See your Department at work.

Please consider supporting our joint VFW State Commander and VFW Auxiliary Department President's joint project benefiting Believet Canine Service Partners. Send donations to the Minnesota VFW Charitable Association or the Department of Minnesota VFW Auxiliary.

final numbers from the Hockey Tournament Program ads and what a difference this will make to the Montevideo Veterans Home. We also will be talking about our year end reports and District Auxiliary Elections.

Our auxiliaries have begun planning Memorial Day festivities along with spring/summer events.

I look forward to our National Auxiliary President visiting our beautiful state in April. Come out and say hi.

In closing, let no Veteran be forgotten.

next District Meeting on March 15, 2025. We will be looking for individuals to step up to hold a chair and/or officer position. Our meetings include updates from our auxiliaries on activities supporting our programs.

We are proud of our 9th District Voice of Democracy entry, Harrison Roth – Roseau, VFW Post 8663, who placed third in the state of Minnesota. Harrison is only in the 9th grade and we look forward to hearing from him again in the future.

Each of our auxiliaries are working to increase membership to help support veterans and their families. We would appreciate a word of encouragement to your family members to join and support the programs and legislative priorities of the VFW. There is still time to join before this program year is over.

We are humbled to be a part of promoting the great programs helping veterans and their families – Always, in All Ways!

State Contest Winners



State Voice of Democracy Winner
Ashton Jenzen



State Patriot's Pen Winner
Zimal Kahn



K-5th Grade Teacher of the Year
Daria Dalager



6th-8th Grade Teacher of the Year
Katie Rotunda



9th-12th Grade Teacher of the Year
Matthew Helm

AWARD SPONSORS

We would like to thank everyone that gave generously as sponsors. These valuable scholarships are being presented to recognize each student's and teacher's outstanding achievements in these national scholarship and recognition competition.

1st place..... \$300.00 Patriot's Pen Scholarship
Provided by the Department of Minnesota
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Auxiliary Scholarship Award
 Zimal Khan

Sponsored by Prior Lake VFW #6208 & Aux., Prior Lake - 2nd District

2nd place..... \$200.00 Patriot's Pen Scholarship
Provided by the Department of Minnesota
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Auxiliary Scholarship Award
 Blaxen Ruediger

Sponsored by Roseau VFW #8663 & Aux., Roseau - 9th District

3rd place..... \$100.00 Patriot's Pen Scholarship
Provided by the Department of Minnesota
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Auxiliary Scholarship Award
 Reagan Sogla

Sponsored by Giese-Kelsey VFW Post #6913, Chatfield - 1st District

K-5th Grade Teacher of the Year..... \$300.00
Provided by Charles R. Knaeble VFW Post 494, Crystal, MN
 Daria Dalager, Wabasha-Kellogg Elementary School

Sponsored by Lake City VFW Post #8729 & Aux., Lake City - 1st District

6-8th Grade Teacher of the Year..... \$300.00
Provided by Keep-Zimmer VFW Post #1782, White Bear Lake, MN
 Katie Rotunda, Chaska Middle School East

Sponsored by Chaska VFW Post #1791 & Aux., Chaska - 2nd District

9-12th Grade Teacher of the Year..... \$300.00
Provided by 3 Diamonds Corporation, Spring Lake Park, MN
 Matthew Helm, Prior Lake High School

Sponsored by Prior Lake VFW Post #6208 & Aux., Prior Lake - 2nd District

"Special Thank You" to the following posts for donations towards students' and parents' hotel rooms and the banquet: VFW Post #1210 Hastings (\$5,000), VFW Post #1782 White Bear Lake (\$500), VFW Post #5555 Richfield (\$300) and VFW Post #9073 Randall (\$100). Thank you also goes to the Minnesota VFW Charitable Association and the MN VFW Auxiliary for their contributions toward the student awards.

Voice of Democracy Winners

1st place..... \$2,000.00 V.O.D. Scholarship
Provided by the Department of Minnesota
VFW Charitable Association

Ashton Jenzen

Sponsored by Sweet-Summers VFW #1642 & Aux, Waseca - 1st District

2nd place..... \$1,000.00 V.O.D. Scholarship
Hugo Matejcek VFW Post #3723, Owatonna, MN

Amber Sopoci

Sponsored by Bloom-Lahti VFW #1757 & Aux., Cook - 8th District

3rd place..... \$600.00 V.O.D. Scholarship
Betty Ann Heuer Memorial Scholarship
provided by her loving husband Don Heuer

Harrison Roth

Sponsored by Roseau VFW #8663 & Aux., Roseau - 9th District

4th place..... \$500.00 V.O.D. Scholarship
Provided by Nelson-Schofield VFW Post #4452, Cannon Falls, MN
 Margaret Farley

Sponsored by Vasatka-Goers WW II VFW #6690 & Aux., Mendota - 4th District

Runner-up... \$100.00 V.O.D. Scholarship (in no particular order)
Provided by Charles R. Knaeble VFW Post #494, Crystal, MN
 Lorlei Hartman

Sponsored by Lyle Russell VFW #1210 & Aux., Hastings - 7th District

Runner-up... \$100.00 V.O.D. Scholarship (in no particular order)
Provided by Charles R. Knaeble VFW Post #494, Crystal, MN
 Moriah Loween

Sponsored by Fort Chippewa VFW #936 & Aux., Alexandria - 5th District

Runner-up... \$100.00 V.O.D. Scholarship (in no particular order)
Provided by Charles R. Knaeble VFW Post #494, Crystal, MN
 Eden Messerli

Sponsored by Fairfax VFW #8459, Fairfax - 3rd District

Runner-up... \$100.00 V.O.D. Scholarship (in no particular order)
Lois Herman Memorial Scholarship
provided by her loving husband Don Herman

Leif Monson

Sponsored by Elk River-Rogers VFW #5518, Elk River - 7th District

Runner-up... \$100.00 V.O.D. Scholarship (in no particular order)
Provided by Prior Lake VFW Post #6208, Prior Lake, MN
 Jessica Staton

Sponsored by USS Dorchester VFW #8731 & Aux., Monticello - 6th District

Ft. Chippewa Post Scores a Hockey 'Triple-Double' Three Hockey Tournaments -- Two Days

By Jim Hesselgrave, VFW State Hockey Chairman

Another Successful Event Heart Felt Thank You

The 2025 VFW State Invitational Hockey Tournament(s) would not/could not be a SUCCESS without all the 'moving pieces' coming together. That was the case with the 2025 VFW State Hockey Tournament(s) in Alexandria. With that said, we would like to THANK the following:

VFW Post Team Sponsors

Two teams from:

Alexandria Post 936
Monticello Post 8731
Brainerd Post 1647 (plus partial sponsor of Buffalo U15A)
Coon Rapids Post 9625
Elk River-Rogers Post 5518

One team from:

Rochester Post 1215
Forest Lake Post 4210
Hoyt Lakes Post 8144
Zumbro Falls 1802 & Mpls. Post 246
LeCenter Post 1803
Waseca Post 1642
Detroit Lakes Post 1676
Fergus Falls Post 612
Thief River Falls Post 2793
VFW Sixth District (Post 1647)
Hopkins 425
St. Cloud Post 428 and Post 9433.

Specific thank yous to:

The Runestone Community Center – Obviously, one needs an ice arena to put on a hockey tournament. The VFW got that and more.
Jason Lattimer for scheduling the Tournament venue and ice times.

Vinnie and Mat Hennen for all their expert help in keeping the Tournament running, ice resurfaced and on time.

Cory Oberg and Amber Blakesley for their Technical support and Web Site postings.

Alyssa Hanrahan and her Great Team of Referees.

Claire Dutton for all her help with finding and contacting U15A Teams and helping with many Tournament particulars.

Alexandria Youth Hockey Association Volunteers for their Support and help during both VFW Tournaments.

Heartland Orthopedic Specialists for providing the Emergency Medical Support

North Star Academy for the use of their field house for both team banquets. A perfect venue for this event.

B.J. Anderson for his inspiring speech at the VFW State Invitational Bantam Tournament Banquet.

Fort Chippewa VFW Post 936 – Without a dedicated host VFW Post, the VFW Hockey Tournament Program would cease to exist. We would like to thank Post Commander John Loch and all of his VFW and Auxiliary volunteers as well as the Post Color Guard for the Presentation of Colors and show of Patriotism during both Tournaments.

Additional thank you to Post

HOCKEY - Cont. on Page 15

Alexandria A Bantam Tournament Champ

The 2025 VFW State A Bantam Invitational Hockey Tournament was held on February 7 – 9, 2025 in Alexandria, Minnesota and hosted by Fort Chippewa VFW Post 936. This year, the A Bantam Tournament had eight teams from across the State.

The following is a list of the A Bantam Teams and their VFW sponsors:

Team	Post
Alexandria	936
Minnesota River	1803
Dodge County	1802
Thief River Falls	2793
Detroit Lakes	1676
Andover	9625
Fergus Falls	612
Waseca	1642

Day one gave us eight well matched teams. The first day's matchups could have gone either way, with two overtime games.

FIRST DAY SCORES:

Detroit Lakes 4 – Minnesota River 5 in Overtime
Dodge County 5 – Andover 3
Alexandria 2 – Fergus Falls 1 in Overtime
Waseca 2 – Thief River Falls 4

Minnesota River, Dodge County, Alexandria and Thief River Falls proceeded to the Championship side.

Day two of the A Bantam Tournament had Minnesota River hanging onto an overtime win over Dodge County and a possible shot at a 'repeat' in the Championship Game.

Alexandria defended their 'home turf' by upsetting Thief River Falls and advanced to the Championship Game.

SECOND DAY SCORES:

Consolation Side:
Detroit Lakes 0 – Andover 2
Fergus Falls 4 – Waseca 1
Championship Side:
Minnesota River 5 – Dodge County 4 in Overtime
Alexandria 3 – Thief River Falls 1

THIRD DAY SCORES:

Consolation:
Andover 6 – Fergus Falls 2
Third Place:
Thief River Falls 7 – Dodge County 4

In the A Bantam Championship Game, a number one Minnesota River was pitted against number three Alexandria. A Great Game! Both of these teams were intent on taking the 'hardware' home with them. Minnesota River was strong all Tournament and it certainly looked like they would have a 'repeat' of 2024.... BUT, Alexandria had other plans. The game was tight until late in the third period, when Alexandria started to dominate the game. Minnesota River's 'open net' sealed it for Alexandria! Alexandria wins 4 – 2 and they are the 2025 VFW State A Bantam Hockey Tournament Champions. The VFW Cup will now travel to Alexandria.

Rochester AA Bantam Tournament Champ

The 2025 VFW State AA Bantam Invitational Hockey Tournament was held on February 7 – 9, 2025. This year, the AA Bantam Tournament featured seven teams from across the State. Normally, this is an eight team tournament, but we had a team back out two weeks before the beginning of the tournament. It was too late to pickup another team.

The following is a list of the AA Bantam Teams and their VFW sponsors:

Team	Post
Rochester	1215
Elk River	5518
Brainerd	1647
Buffalo	8731
Spring Lake Park	9625
Forest Lake	4210
St, Cloud	428



Alexandria 2025 VFW State A Bantam Invitational Boys Hockey Tournament Champions sponsored by Fort Chippewa Post 936

The AA Bantam Tournament featured several very competitive games including two 'overtime' games. 'First Seed' Rochester got a BYE.

FIRST DAY SCORES:

Rochester had a BYE
Brainerd 3 – Spring Lake Park 2 in two Overtimes
Forest Lake 7 – Buffalo 3
St. Cloud 3 – Elk River 7

The second day, a well rested Rochester 'walking' by Brainerd to go onto the Championship Game. Elk River battled with Forest Lake and showed their desire to win the Big Game.

SECOND DAY SCORES:

Consolation Side:
Spring Lake Park had a BYE, but held a scrimmage with a AA Bantam

Team from Fargo.
Buffalo 3 – St. Cloud 2 in Overtime
Championship Side:
Rochester 6 – Brainerd 0
Forest Lake 2 – Elk River 5

THIRD DAY SCORES:

Consolation Game:
Spring Lake Park 4 – Buffalo 2
Third Place Game:
Brainerd 4 – Forest Lake 1

On Sunday, Rochester faced off with Elk River for the AA Championship. A great game with Elk River giving it everything they had. BUT, Rochester was the better team, winning the Championship Game and the VFW Cup 4 – 1. Congratulations to Rochester, the 2025 VFW State AA Bantam Invitational Hockey Tournament Champions!



Rochester 2025 VFW State AA Bantam Invitational Boys Hockey Tournament Champions sponsored by Whitlock-Sonnenberg Post 1215

Alexandria U15A Winners

Under a bright sun and cool temperatures, the 2025 VFW State U15A Invitational Hockey Tournament was off and running on March 7 – 9, 2025. This year, the U15A Tournament featured eight Teams from across the State of Minnesota. Six of these Teams returned from last year and obviously, we picked up two new Teams. The VFW U15A Hockey Tournament has become very popular with the Girls Teams in Minnesota and it has the potential for growth.

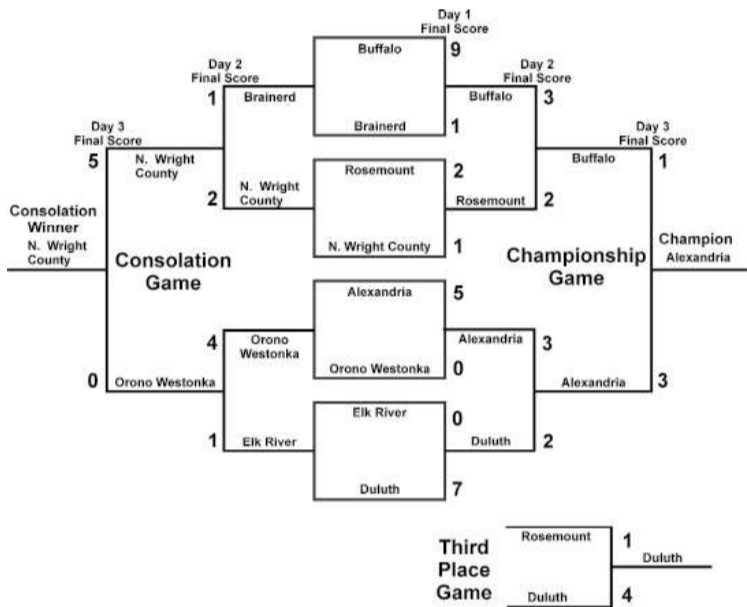
The following is a list of the U15A Teams and their VFW Sponsors:

Team	Post
Alexandria	936
Elk River	5518
Brainerd/Little Falls	1647
N. Wright County	8731
Buffalo	6th Dist & 1647
Rosemount	9433
Orono-Westonka	425
Duluth	8144

The Tournament featured Duluth, Alexandria and Buffalo, three of the top U15A Teams in the State. During the first day of competition, these three teams showed their desire to get into the Championship Game.

On Sunday, Buffalo faced off with Alexandria for the U15A Championship... The game witnessed a number of penalties (above normal) by both teams. Alexandria was leading 2 -1 after two periods. In the third period, neither of the teams really dominated play. Alexandria managed to score a third goal on crossing pass in front of the goal. Unfortunately, the Buffalo netminder didn't have a chance to make a stop. Alexandria keeps the VFW Cup with a 3 – 1 win over Great Buffalo team.

Congratulations to Alexandria, the 2025 VFW State Invitational U15A Hockey Tournament Champions!!!



Alexandria 2025 VFW State U15A Invitational Girls Hockey Tournament Champions sponsored by Fort Chippewa Post 936

Veterans Activities

by Jerry Brletich, Veterans and Youth Activities

The following is a list of recreational events that VFW members can participate in. Some are picked by just giving the names of our veterans and some are given by random drawings through a quick questionnaire or general personal information provided to the respective organizations putting on the event. All are FREE to all veterans – Lodging/meals/equipment – all you must do is get there.

If you are aware of other veterans events, please contact me, email to: Jerrybrletich@yahoo.com or call/text: 612-554-6466

Groups and Web sites to Check out Statewide

- www.fishingforlife.org
- www.warriorsandwalleyes.org
- www.davmn.org/events
- www.mnvetsoutdoors.org/events

Twin City Area

- www.golfforvets.org/events
- Coon Rapids Golf League all Summer (Hidden Haven GC)
- VFW State Golf Tournament August 2nd and 3rd at Majestic Oaks GC, Ham Lake MN
- Various Tournaments: Support the Troops, Wounded Warriors and DAV Tournaments.

Veterans / Youth Activities

VETERANS UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Visit www.vfwmn.org for Updates

Archery
2025
Open for Bids

Bean Bag
2025
Open for Bids

Bowling
2025
Open for Bids

Cribbage
2025
Open for Bids

Fishing
2025 & 2026
Open for Bids

Golf
August 2-3, 2025
Coon Rapids #9625

Horseshoes
2025
Open for Bids

Pistol
May 17, 2025
Hosted by Sauk Rapids #6992

Trap Shooting
August 2, 2025
Hosted by Rosemount #9433

YOUTH UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Visit www.vfwmn.org for Updates

Baseball
July 30 - August 3, 2025
Hosted by St. Cloud #4847

Hockey
Boys February, 2026
Hosted by Alexandria #936

Girls U15A March, 2026
Hosted by Alexandria #936

Veterans Fishing Activities

Vets on the Lake

Veterans on the Lake Resort is pleased to announce that they have hired Tony Rechichi as their interim manager. Many of you may know Tony as he has extensive experience volunteering at the Resort and has been on the Board of Directors for the last 5 years.

He is no stranger to veterans being a veteran himself. He served our country in the Air Force, and he is presently MN VFW District 8 Commander, VFW Post 2717 Commander, and a member of the Ely Honor Guard.

His passion for the Resort, its guests and especially our disabled veterans is commendable. As he transitions into his new role, he will temporarily step down as a Board Member.

Veterans on the Lake Resort is excited for this new season as it continues its mission to make the Resort a premier destination for its guests. They appreciate your continued support, for without it, they would not be able to give so many disabled veterans and guests the experience they deserve.

* Veterans * Free Fishing Excursion

Veterans on the Lake Resort is offering an all-expenses paid 3-day, 2-night, all-inclusive guided fishing experience at their resort on beautiful Fall Lake, 3 miles east of Ely, MN.

This offer is for a veteran(s) on the following dates: May 9-11 and May 23-25, 2025.

The veteran is responsible for transportation to and from the Resort, fishing license and alcohol beverages.

This experience is funded by the MN Dept of Veterans Affairs.

To make reservations contact the resort, by email at veteransonthelakeresort@gmail.com or phone at 218-365-6900.

Commander's/President's Project

By Sean Gustafson, Project Coordinator

Each one of us has faced Veteran suicide, some from a distance, many up close. Commander Dave and President Karen's Joint Project this year is making great strides towards reducing Veteran suicide and getting Vets off VA-prescribed opioids, which come with so many additional challenges. Sam Daly and the team at Believeet Canine Service Partners (www.believeet.org) are making headway every day, taking dogs (many of them rescues), training them intensely for 12-18 months, then giving them totally free of charge to our Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress (PTS). But the need is endless and resources are tight. It costs over \$40k to fully train a dog, and they need funding for this and to take care of the Vets while they are training with the dogs. They also need fosters of all kinds and help raising awareness.

We are almost done with the year. Please consider making a generous donation to the Commanders/President's Project, mailing them to "MN VFW Charitable Association, PO Box 17146, St. Paul, MN 55117." Donations can be made via Venmo or PayPal using links at the MN VFW webpage (please



specify Commanders/President's Project). Auxiliaries and their members are kindly asked to send their donations directly to the Department Office, Attn: Laurie Dale.

Please consider hosting an event of any kind this Spring or Summer to raise funds and awareness for Believeet. Contact me at 612-751-9918 or sean.gustafson@gmail.com, Deb Courts-Brown at 651-964-5748 or dcourtsb@comcast.net, or Tim Haugen at timhaugen74@gmail.com with questions or to invite us. There will be a presentation of checks to Believeet at our June Convention, if you would like to put your donation directly in the hands of Mr. Daly and his incredible organization.

Cootie Korner

By Todd "Tiny" Roberts
Commander of the Grand of MN



To my fellow Comrades and Auxiliary,
It has been a great honor to serve as the Grand Commander this year, as this will be my last article for this position. I want to thank all the Cootie and VFW members and Auxiliary for your support this past year.
This year has been so full of great things I was invited to attend, such as the Grand Opening of the Montevideo Veterans Home, Cootie Christmas at the National Home, and Tomb Trek in Washington DC. It has been an experience I will never forget.
I want to thank Pup Tent #62 for their hard work in raising money to provide 1,350 Valentine candy heart's to eight Veterans homes and three VA hospitals.
I am working with the Grand President, Deann Reynolds, on a project to raise money for new bingo systems and cards for the three new Veterans Homes in Montevideo, Preston, and Bemidji. If you are interested in getting a donation for us, please let myself, Jim Dalziel, or Randy Gunderson know, we would love the support.
The Grand Convention is being held in St. Cloud at Post 428 on May 3rd at 10:00 am if you can attend. We have a hotel and banquet information upon request. It would be a very LOUSY day to have the house packed with members to see me out the door.
As I am leaving this position as your Grand Commander, I am looking forward to serving you in a new capacity. I have put my name in and campaigning to be the next VFW Judge Advocate for the Department of Minnesota. I would really like to have your support.
Cooties, keep working on our fertile hunting grounds as membership should never stop.
Keep the hospital reports coming, and "Keep em Smiling in Beds of White".



Minnesota VFW Riders

By Chad Engen, President VFW Riders Post 8731



On The VFW Riders have been busy planning the 2025 lineup. This year we hope to raise more money for veterans than we have in years past.

On April 12th, at 4pm, we have a Benefit for Harmoniee. Harmoniee is the daughter of a veteran who was diagnosed with Retinoblastoma in her right eye. As a result, Harmoniee underwent a surgical procedure to remove her eye. She has designed her own prosthetic eye. The Benefit will have a silent auction, food, raffles, kids' activities, a band, and other events to help offset her medical expenses.

On April 27th, the VFW Riders will be attending and supporting a benefit for Amanda Weller. Amanda was in a motorcycle accident and suffered a severe brain injury. The benefit is from 11am to 4pm at Post 3289 in New York Mills.

The VFW Riders Summerfest

Ride will be held on July 26. Registration starts at 8am. The Ride leaves at 9am and will follow a different route than last year. That afternoon and into the evening we will have vendors, a silent auction, food, cold drinks and live music from GGGGGGGGGG. This year's raffle prizes include: a Polaris Ranger (main prize), 11 guns, a trip to Cragun's Resort and Hotel on Gull Lake for a Golf weekend, along with cash and gift cards. The \$20 benefit raffle tickets will be sold all day with the drawing at 8pm.

On June 6th, the VFW Riders will have a short ride into the State Convention in St. Cloud. This Gordy Kirk Ride will honor Gordy who passed away March 2, 2025.

For more information regarding the VFW Riders, their events or to purchase raffle tickets, please contact VFW Riders President, Chad Engen, at 701-566-2989.

DIST. 6 AUX. - Cont. from Page 9

most cooperative in February so our auxiliary representation was on the lower side, but we were able to get all our business transacted.

Our district meetings are always very informative. The chairmen have been doing a great job sharing the information about all the programs and upcoming events and deadlines.

Election of officers will be held at the next district meeting. I hope you are searching your hearts and are ready to make the commitment to hold an office, to lead our organization, mentor other members, and help grow, maintain, and make our VFW Auxiliary stronger.

The next district meeting will be on April 26 at Browerville, Post 6801. The Memorial Service will begin at 9am followed by the district meeting afterwards.

On a personal note, it has been my honor and privilege to have served as District President for the past two years. It has been a time of growth, development and education for me. I sincerely thank each and every member for their support and encouragement. To all those who have mentored me, I could not have done this job without you! What our auxiliaries do is just amazing. I look forward to continuing to serve our beloved veterans along side you.

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SERVICE**

DIST. 5 - Cont. from Page 9

and I am honored to be among them. Posts in the 5th are still busy doing breakfasts, luncheons, dinners and providing coffee & donuts to the veterans in the community. If you have a chance stop on in and partake in the events.

Let us talk District meetings. I highly encourage the members of the 5th District to be at the meetings especially Post Commanders. If any members from other fine districts would like to attend our 5th District Meetings, we will greet you with open arms. Also, 5th District members I would love to see you at the State Convention in June.

In closing, I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the various VFW functions. Stay Healthy.

Veterans Day on the Hill

Wednesday, April 12, 2025
Nat'l Guard Armory,
600 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN

10:00am - Doors open
11:30am - Lunch
1:00pm - March to Rally

Check your Department VFW and District General Orders for more information.

**Get Involved
Fight for Your Benefits**

Timely Tidbits

Never too Late

by Stacey Brown, Isanti County VSO



On December 11, 2024 Dehl D. Lindstrom was presented the Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony at the Cambridge-Isanti High School in front of friends and family.

For years, the community has had a decorated veteran living in their midst.

Sergeant (SGT) Dehl Lindstrom served in the US Army and was assigned to a remarkable unit, Company C of the 65th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. The 65th Infantry was initially a Puerto Rican National Guard unit mobilized for action in WWII, as well as the Korean War.

Dehl Lindstrom was born September 23, 1930. He grew up and went to school in Brahm, MN.

It was there that he enlisted in the US Army Reserves in 1951 and a year later was inducted into the active-duty Army, joining the 10th Replacement Company, 10th Infantry Division in Fort Riley, KS. Eventually, Dehl was transferred and assigned to the 65th Infantry Regiment as they continued their mission fighting in the Korean War.

He was on patrol late in the afternoon of July 16, 1953 in the vicinity of Kumhwa, Korea. The patrol was moving toward enemy lines. As they were approaching their objective, they were met with a barrage of enemy artillery and mortar fire. The patrol received heavy casualties stopping their advancement as everyone moved under cover wherever they could find it. While under fire, Dehl was able to treat and evacuate all of the wounded troops. After discovering that the radio operator was wounded, he immediately began calling for medical aid and reinforcements. For these actions, Dehl was awarded a Bronze Star with V pin for Valor.

When his tour of duty was up and he was discharged, Del came home to Brahm. He got married and together with his wife, raised three children. He maintained a quiet family life between raising the children, working at East Central Energy and volunteering with the Search and Rescue Unit of the Isanti County Sheriff's Office.

On April 13, 2014, veterans of the U.S. Army's 65th Infantry Regiment, was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony at Emancipation Hall at the U.S. Capitol.

Since then, members of the 65th Infantry Regiment and their families are being tracked down to recognize their efforts, their sacrifices and their courageous bravery.

Del was also awarded the Ambassador for Peace Medal from the Republic of Korea along with a other awards.

Who knew that there was a hero among us.

DIST. 1 AUX. - Cont. from Page 9

successfully supported initiatives from being part of the first honor flight from our area which heads to D.C. in April, to care packages for our deployed service members, to raising funds for veterans and their families in need and much more.

- Community Outreach: Our district organized numerous outreach events, including food drives, clothing donations, and educational seminars, benefiting hundreds of community members.

- Fundraising Success: Thanks to the generosity of our members and supporters, we raised substantial funds to continue our work and enabling us to continuing in our mission.

None of our achievements would be possible without the unwavering support and dedication of our volunteers. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each member who has contributed their time, energy, and resources throughout the year. Your passion and commitment have made a tangible difference in the lives of many.

As we move forward and look toward the year ahead, we are excited to build on the foundation we have established. Our goals for the upcoming year include:

- Expanding Programs: We plan to continue the work we have started this year and grow these programs to provide even more support and opportunities to serve our veterans and their families.

- Strengthening Partnerships: We aim to forge stronger partnerships with local businesses and organizations to enhance our reach and impact.

- Increasing Membership: We will launch initiatives to attract new members, fostering a vibrant and inclusive Auxiliary community.

We encourage all members and supporters to stay involved and continue contributing to our mission. Together, we can achieve even greater heights and ensure that our veterans and their families receive the support and recognition they deserve.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and support. Here's to another year of making a difference!

★★ WANTED ★★

Photos, captions and articles honoring our Senior Veterans

The Gopher Oversea'r will include articles honoring the contributions of our Senior Veterans (90+) in their service to our country.

The editor and staff of the Gopher Oversea'r are extremely pleased to publish any information as provided by a VFW post, friend or family member.

Send pictures, captions and stories to the VFW Office, Rice Street Station, PO Box 17146, St. Paul, MN 55117, attn. Oversea'r Editor or by email to Oversear@vfwmn.us

Photos will be returned upon request.

DIST 1 - Cont. from Page 8

to our liking. We have the choice to start a family. We have the choice to rally for another form of government or to support the government we have elected. We should beware of taking our freedom for granted. Others fear that our country has, what our country is and that is why they want to destroy it. We must cherish our freedom; we must protect it.

America has survived many trials externally or internally, and we will survive terrorism. Why? Because we care about our freedom. We care about protecting our country. The very freedom that allows us to question our form of government is the same freedom that makes our nation strong.

So, be proud of your freedom. Be proud of your country. Don't be afraid to scream, "I'm proud to be an

American!"

The purpose of Loyalty Day is to demonstrate our patriotism ... our support for our unique tradition of freedom. Showing our pride in America can be done on more than just Loyalty Day or the 4th of July ...we can demonstrate our loyalty throughout the year by helping our country and communities be the best that it can be.

We can do this by teaching our youth about what it means to be an American ... taking care of our veterans, who have protected our freedom, and their families ... showing respect for our flag ... voting in elections ... or helping the homeless.

Let's work together and show the world that we are proud of our freedom. We are proud of our country ... we are proud to be Americans!

HOCKEY - Cont. from Page 12

Auxiliary President Cindi Nelson and her Auxiliary members for putting together the Tournament Program Book for both the VFW Bantam and U15A tournaments. The Souvenir Program Book is something that all the Players can take home as a memory of the VFW Tournament.

A very special thank you to State Commander David Staehlin for spending the WHOLE weekend of BOTH Tournaments with all the VFW Volunteers. He left a lasting memory with all the players, coaches and family members. AND... it was DEEPLY APPRECIATED!!!

FINALLY, we (I), would like to offer Chris and Maranda Borgerding the THANKS of the Department of Minnesota Veterans of Foreign

Wars. Chris and Maranda worked endless hours organizing both the Bantam and U15A Tournaments. They paid attention to every detail! The 'endless' hours didn't end when the tournaments started. They would leave their farm about 6:00 AM every day of the Tournament(s) (after all their chores were done) and they made sure everything was taken care before, during and after each day. They are a very special and dedicated couple. The VFW is lucky to have volunteers like Chris and Maranda. Hopefully, the VFW can continue to find people like this to run all of our programs and to take on leadership positions.

Again, thanks to all and we will see you next year at the 2026 VFW State Invitational Hockey Tournament(s).

Bruce Olson, a former Marine, carries the Certified Military Advisor designation, providing dedicated support for both military and non-military members and their families.



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 A financial advisory practice of ameripriseadvisors.com/bruce.olson
 Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

Not FDIC or NCUA Insured | No Financial Institution Guarantee | May Lose Value
 The Certified Military Financial Advisors program is not affiliated or endorsed by the U.S. Department of Defense, or any other federal or state government program. For the most current rules, regulations and laws regarding benefits offered through the federal government or Department of Defense, please consult with their websites or contact the appropriate offices directly. Securities offered by Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC.



SUMMERFEST RIDE
VFW RIDERS
 POST 8731 ★ MONTICELLO, MN

8TH ANNUAL SUMMERFEST SATURDAY JULY 26TH, 2025

Memorial Day is May 26



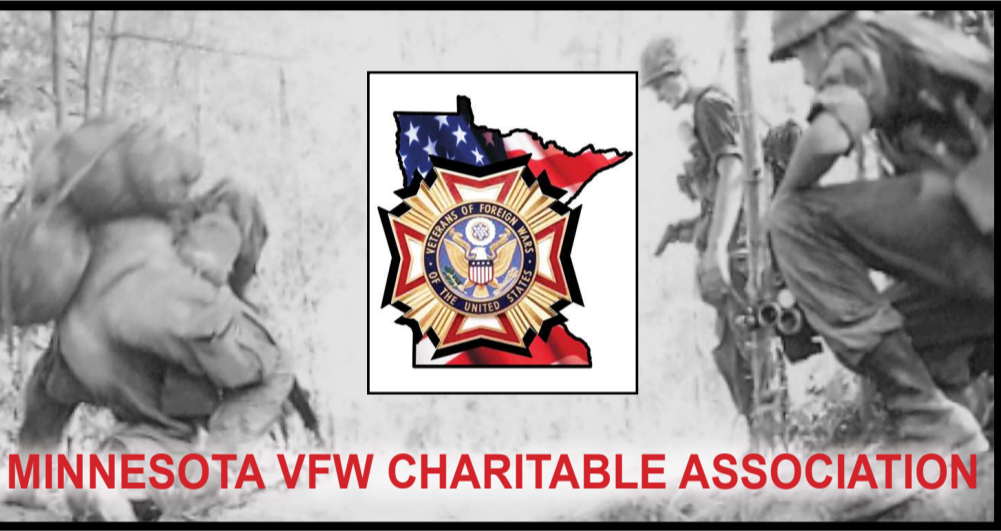
Every Post is urged to organize or participate in a Memorial Day Program in its community. Now is the time to start planning. Suggested programs and speeches are available through Department Headquarters. Posts wishing to have a Department Officer as a Memorial Day Speaker should first confirm a date with the desired speaker and the advise Department Headquarters of their acceptance.

Poppy Days 2025



Order Now!! There is still time to place your post's poppy order for 2025.

Poppy days are:
May 16-17, 2025



MINNESOTA VFW CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION

Please send more information about the MN VFW Charitable Association, its purpose and Programs.

___ Please accept my Tax Deductible Donation of: \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other: ___

Would you like to be an ANNUAL Donor? ___ (Yes or No)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Earmark for one of the following: ___ General Un-designated
 ___ VFW Outdoor Fund ___ Veterans Service ___ VFW Programs

AD rates for the Oversea'r

The Gopher Oversea'r is the only way to reach 100% of this Departments membership. It is the official newspaper of the Department of Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars. We publish our paper three times a year to nearly thirty thousand Veterans in Minnesota. Our paper is four columns wide and fifteen inches deep/tall. Please see rate chart below:

	Column Width	Column Depth/Height in Inches				
		one	two	three	four	five
1 column	2 1/4 "	\$40	\$80	\$120	\$160	\$200
2 column	4 3/4 "	\$80	\$160	\$240	\$320	\$400
3 column	7 1/2 "	\$120	\$240	\$360	\$480	\$600
4 column	10"	\$160	\$320	\$480	\$640	\$800

How To Provide Us With Your Ad
 The Gopher Oversea'r is published electronically on our computers in-house. Our editor imports your electronic file directly into the newspaper. We prefer you to send all ads in TIFF or PDF format. All necessary font and graphic files relating to the ad must be included with your file. Image resolution needs to be no less then 300 dots per inch (dpi). PDF files, please embed complete fonts (not subsets) and graphics. Please do not enable any password protection or security block when creating a PDF. Convert all RGB or CMYK color to a Grayscale format unless otherwise agreed on. All ads must be "Camera Ready". If they are not you will be charged an additional forty dollars.

Before you send us any money be sure to talk to the Editor and make sure space is available and your Ad meets the requirements above

The Deadlines for Ads in this years Papers are:
 March 15, 2025* July 15, 2025* November 15, 2025*
 *All dates are subject to change

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has been 'fighting' for Veterans since 1899. We have worked endlessly to gain the Benefits and Entitlements that Our Veterans deserve. The members of the VFW have placed their 'bodies and minds' between the enemies of this Great Nation to preserve the American way and the FREEDOM of not only the United States, but other nations as well.

With that said, the MN VFW Charitable Association is asking that you remember this Sacrifice through your Gift Giving and Donations.

There are a number of ways that you can Preserve the Memory and the Sacrifices of our Veterans for now and the future:

- * Designate your Donation to a Charitable Trust in the name of the MN VFW Charitable Association.
 - * Establish a Charitable Gift Annuity to the MN VFW Charitable Association.
 - * Simply make a donation to the MN VFW Charitable Association.
 - * Donate to the VFW Outdoor Fund.
 - * Donate through the MN VFW Charitable Association Annual Raffle Calendar.
- We certainly Appreciate the Consideration of the MN VFW Charitable Association in your Gift Giving Plans. Your Donation will ensure the future of the Programs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- For more information, please contact the Treasurer of the MN VFW Charitable Association at 651-291-1757 or email us at mnvfwcharitable@gmail.com.

Using the form attached, Donate to the VFW Charitable Association.
 * Establish a monthly or annual deduction to the MN VFW Charitable Association from your checking account or credit card.

Letters and Donations can be sent to: MN VFW Charitable Association, Rice Street Station, PO Box 17146, St. Paul, MN 55117

The MN VFW Charitable Association 2026 Raffle Calendar is Now Available



This year's calendar features photos of various Veterans Memorials located throughout Minnesota. This is the last calendar featuring Veterans Parks Memorials.

They sell for only \$20 each and your Post or Auxiliary will receive \$5 back for each Calendar sold...

Order your Calendars now- Email: mnvfwcharitable@gmail.com or Call 612-464-8839
 Order early, pickup either at your District or State Convention.

"Preserving and Extending Veterans Rights, Advocating a Strong National Defense, Promoting Patriotism and Serving Local Communities" - Veterans of Foreign Wars Founding Principles