

Boyd Yochum Elected As State Commander



Pictured is Commander Boyd Yochum and his wife, Jackie, with their family.

Boyd Yochum of Ashland was elected and installed as the Commander of the Nebraska American Legion during the 106th Annual Convention held June 20 - 23, 2024, in Kearney.

Yochum is eligible for The American Legion through his service in the US Army. He has been a member of The American Legion and Post 129 for 25 years. Yochum has served as Department Senior Vice-Commander, Area B Vice Commander, District 7 Adjutant, and Post Adjutant.

Boyd and his wife, Jackie, reside in Ashland. He has three sons, a step-son, a step-daughter, and eight grandchildren.

Other officers serving for the 2024 - 2025 year are Department Senior Vice Commander Judy Walters of Ainsworth, Area A Vice Commander Michael Sheridan of Elkhorn, Area B Vice Commander John Arias of Grand Island, Area C Vice Commander Tom Crisman of Crete, Area D Vice Commander Scott Bell of North Platte, National Executive Committeeman Jim Costello of Bellevue, and Alternate National Executive Committeeman John-Henry Pearcy. District 1 Commander Gary Sones, District 2 Commander Gerald Bouska, District 3 Commander Nick Tramp, District 4 Commander Kent Holmes, District 5 Commander Geoffrey Florom, District 6 Commander Burdette Chappell, District 7 Commander Adam Schweitzer, District 8 Commander Rich Klinger, District 9 Commander Amie Moores, District 10 Commander Charles Tuttle, District 11 Commander Robert Eyer, District 12 Commander Martin Neal, District 13 Commander Michael Coffey, and District 15 Commander Ronnie Hindmand.

From the desk of Department Adjutant Dave Salak




involvement with the Men’s College World Series.

Jim and I will be sure to keep all of you updated as to the 2025 season when it rolls around.

The Nebraska American Legion just completed its third year as just one of eight organizations to be a Team Host to the Men’s College World Series. Adjutant Dave Salak and Alternate National Executive Committeeman Jim Costello take the lead in working directly with the team to ensure their time in Omaha is memorable. This year, we hosted the Florida State Seminoles and met a lot of great coaches and talented ballplayers. We got our first team win this year and they played hard the entire time.

I want to send a personal “Thank You” to the Nebraska Printing Center who donated a beautiful banner for us to use to advertise the Nebraska American Legion



Homecoming Banquet

Department Commander

Boyd Yochum

Yutan Veterans Club, Yutan, Nebraska

Saturday, August 10, 2024

Yutan Veterans Club

1581 Yutan Road, Yutan, NE 68073

Come join Department Commander Boyd Yochum, Department President Amanda Washburn and Detachment Commander Eldon Kramer for dinner.

Social Hour is 5:00 p.m. and Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Price: \$25.00 per plate if RSVP'd before August 2, 2024.

On August 10, price per plate is \$35.00.

Contact Boyd Yochum for more details at 402-415-5954 or mail checks to:

Boyd Yochum

2909 Ken Del Drive

Ashland, NE 68003

Make checks out to "Boyd Yochum" and indicate how many tickets are desired and all the names of those attending.

Reminder: There will be a cash bar for all to enjoy during dinner.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

The Nebraska Legionnaire


150 NW 40th St, Unit A

Lincoln, NE 68528

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

2024 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 23,418 JUNE 15 TH TOTAL: 22.038 – 94.11%

DISTRICT 1- 102.54%	DISTRICT 8 - 97.33%	DISTRICT 15 - 96.21%	DISTRICT 5 - 96.16%	DISTRICT 7 - 94.77%
DISTRICT 12 - 93.65%	DISTRICT 3 - 93.44%	DISTRICT 2 - 93.09%	DISTRICT 6 - 92.26%	DISTRICT 10 - 90.67%
DISTRICT 13 - 90.65%	DISTRICT 11 - 90.32%	DISTRICT 4 - 89.96%	DISTRICT 9 - 87.13%	





Commander's Corner

Boyd Yochum
Department Commander



Thank you for all the support and inspiration I have received over the past 18 months, It has been great traveling around our great state, making new friends, and finding out where old friends come from. Nebraska is a diverse state, with farm country, hay country, ranch country, and a couple metro areas. I still have a few districts to visit, but in the past 18 months have managed to visit all four Areas and most of the districts.

The American Legion Family includes The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Riders. All of our family members must work together with a common goal.

This year, my motto is simple. **Character, Values, and Integrity.** With all the darkness in the world, how we conduct ourselves matters. We need to be open and honest, understand facts, be givers and not receivers, and recognize sincerity and truth.

We do not need to agree with all ideas, but we do need to agree on the values and motivations the American Legion stands for.

What we stand for is clearly stated in the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion. "For **God** and **Country**, we associate ourselves together; for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the **Constitution of the United States of America**; To maintain law and order. To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent **Americanism**; To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in **All Wars**; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; To make right the master of might. To promote peace and goodwill on earth; To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of **justice, freedom** and **democracy**.

Auxiliary: To participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of the American Legion.


To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness;

Sons: To adopt in letter and spirit, all of the great principles for which the American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country."

We end every meeting with, "is there anything for the good of the American Legion?" We look forward to a great 2024 – 2025 year, with all Legion Family members working together as one team, for the good of The American Legion.


God Bless our Legion Family.


“Character, Values, & Integrity”



Rider's Rally

John Arias





Fellow Riders I hope everyone is well and enjoying the warm weather riding in Poker Runs and other ALR Events. I attended the Kearney ALR Poker Run and enjoyed the ride. It was not hot or cold and we didn't get any rain. It was well attended, and it appeared everyone enjoyed the ride.

Working for the Nebraska Department of Transportation and us working 4/10's gave me a chance to finish my 2024 Legacy Run Across Nebraska Road check. The route is good, and the only bridge work is in Ogallala and the Medal of Honor Hwy 20 has a bridge closed west of Bassett. Hopefully it will be done before July 14th. I will post this on my Facebook page.

The route is Day One we will plan on leaving Lincoln on July 12th at 9:00 a.m. We will travel on Hwy 6 to our first fuel stop in Hastings at Pump & Pantry which has 91-octane. Our next stop will be Holdrege for lunch, where is still to be determined. I will ask at the summer Convention to see if anyone will feed us a free will donation meal. Our fuel stop will be in McCook then heading to Ogallala for the night.

Day two we will leave Ogallala at 8:30 a.m. since we will be heading to Bridgeport for our first fuel stop, then Alliance or Chadron for lunch, both have 91-octane fuel. We will have to stop in Gordon to top off since the ride to Valentine has a detour and no 91-octane fuel.

Day three we will leave at 8:30 a.m. because of the detour and stop in Atkinson, which only has one station with 91-octane fuel. Then we will stop in Norfolk for lunch. After lunch we will head to Columbus through Valparaiso and finish our Legacy Run in Lincoln.

I will plan 30 minutes for fuel stops and at least one hour for lunch. I will contact law enforcement to get escorts through the bigger towns. I hope to see a lot of Riders on this Legacy Run.

The flyer for the ride will be on the Nebraska American Legion Facebook page.

I hope there is a good attendance at the State Romp in Chadron on June 29th. I still haven't seen much on it but I hope it will be a good ride. I need an ALR Chapter to step up and host the 2025 State Romp. Please let me know before the end of the year. I will bring this up at the Summer Convention and our ALR Meeting on June 22nd.

Hope to see you all soon. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION

Department Headquarters Office


Physical/Mailing Address:
150 NW 40th Street, Unit A, Lincoln, NE 68528
Phone Number.....(402)464-6338
FAX.....(402)464-6330
Business Hours.....8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (CST), Mon-Fri
Web site.....<http://www.nebraskalegion.net>
E-Mail Address.....dsalak@nebraskalegion.net
Editor.....awashburn@nebraskalegion.net

Department Officers

Commander.....	Boyd Yochum, Ashland
Senior Vice Commander.....	Judy Walters, Ainsworth
Area A Vice Commander.....	Michael Sheridan, Elkhorn
Area B Vice Commander.....	John Arias, Grand Island
Area C Vice Commander.....	Tom Crisman, Crete
Area D Vice Commander.....	Scott Bell, North Platte
Adjutant.....	Dave Salak, Lincoln
Programs Director.....	Eric Martin, Lincoln
Chaplain.....	
Historian.....	Jennifer Laux, Omaha
Judge Advocate.....	William Harris, Omaha
Finance Officer.....	Mark Novak, Dawson
Sergeant-At-Arms.....	Kenneth Schmid, Bellwood
Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms.....	Gene vonForell, Crawford
Service Officer.....	Levi Bennett, Lincoln
National Executive Committeeman.....	Fred Craigie, Lincoln
Alternate NECman.....	Jim Costello, Bellevue

District Commanders

Dist. 1.....	Gary Sones, Rushville
Dist. 2.....	Gerald Bouska, Atkinson
Dist. 3.....	Nick Tramp, Allen
Dist. 4.....	Kent Holmes, Alliance
Dist. 5.....	Geoffrey Florom, North Platte
Dist. 6.....	Burdette Chappell, Kearney
Dist. 7.....	Adam Schweitzer, Fremont
Dist. 8.....	Rich Klinger, Omaha
Dist. 9.....	Amie Moores, Elwood
Dist. 10.....	Charles Tuttle, Nelson
Dist. 11.....	Robert Eyers, Jansen
Dist. 12.....	Martin Neal, Hickman
Dist. 13.....	Michael Coffey, Sterling
Dist. 15.....	Ronnie Hindmand, Lincoln



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If you would rather receive the Nebraska Legionnaire by email or view it online, send in this form. The email and online edition of the newspaper is usually available a week or so before the paper arrives in your mailbox. All we need from you is your email address.


☐ I no longer wish to receive a printed copy of the Nebraska Legionnaire.

Name: _____

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Mail this form to The American Legion, 150 NW 40th Street, Unit A, Lincoln, NE 68528, or you can email the information to awashburn@nebraskalegion.net



It's History

Jennifer Laux
Department Historian





Straight Talk

Levi Bennett
Department Service Officer






Figure 1. Assault troops approach Omaha Beach, June 6, 1944 (photo courtesy of The National WWII Museum, 2024).

This year, June 6th, 2024, marked the 80th anniversary of D-Day. According to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, The D-Day operation of June 6, 1944, brought together the land, air, and sea forces of the allied armies in what became known as the largest amphibious invasion in military history. The operation, given the codename OVERLORD, delivered five naval assault divisions to the beaches of Normandy, France. The beaches were given the code names UTAH, OMAHA, GOLD, JUNO, and SWORD.

The invasion force included 7,000 ships and landing craft manned by over 195,000 naval personnel from eight allied countries. Almost 133,000 troops from the United States, the British Commonwealth, and their allies, landed on D-Day. The U.S. advanced on the UTAH and OMAHA beaches, the U.K. advanced on the GOLD and SWORD beaches while Canada took JUNO beach. Casualties from these countries during the landing numbered 10,300. By June 30, over 850,000 men, 148,000 vehicles, and 570,000 tons of supplies had landed on the Normandy shores.

Fighting by the brave soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the allied forces western front, and Russian forces on the eastern front, led to the defeat of German Nazi forces. On May 7, 1945, German General Alfred Jodl signed an unconditional surrender at Reims, France. Every five years, a major celebration is conducted in Normandy, France to honor those veterans who stormed the beaches to defend democracy – a celebration attended by American Legion Family National Leadership. This year, according to organizers, was likely the last year the commemoration would be attended by living veterans of WWII. Of the 16.4 million Americans who served in WWII, roughly 100,000 are still with us (Department of Veterans Affairs, 2023). This somber fact reminds us that with each veteran who passes, his or her story passes with them.

In an effort to preserve these stories, the Library of Congress created the Veterans History Project nearly 25 years ago. The purpose is to “collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of U.S. military veterans and Gold Star Families so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand their service.” Anyone can participate in the Veterans History Project – all you need to get started is a computer to download the forms, a tape recorder or video recorder, and time to listen to a veteran. The website provides a complete field kit on how to conduct interviews and submit the information to the Library of Congress. Although our WWII veterans are dwindling, we have millions of veterans of other wars and conflicts who have so much left to tell. Let’s spend some time with those veterans and record their stories so we can understand what it was like for them and gain a better perspective on all they sacrificed for the freedoms we enjoy still to this day. For more information about how to get started, visit <https://www.loc.gov/programs/veterans-history-project/how-to-participate/vhp-field-kit/>.



Figure 2. Members of the 101st Airborne Infantry Division and the 4th Infantry Division crowd aboard an LCT on the way to Utah Beach, June 6, 1944 (photo courtesy of The National WWII Museum, 2024).

PACT Act Information

During a recent event I attended I was asked several questions about the PACT Act and what does it mean for veterans?

History

The act was first introduced on June 17, 2021, by Representative Mark Takano (D-CA), with the title of, The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, later known as the Honoring our PACT Act of 2022, and now most often referred to as the PACT Act. This Act provided for \$797 billion to significantly improve healthcare access and funding for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances during military service. Both the House and Senate passed the bill and President Biden on August 10, 2022. Hence the date (August 10, 2022) often referred to in publications with information on the PACT Act. Those who submitted a claim prior to August 10, 2023 (extended to August 14, 2023) will receive an effective date of August 10, 2022, which will result in them receiving retroactive benefits; this does not mean those who have not submitted a claim are barred from submitting claims or enrolling in VA health care. If you have not submitted a claim and believe you are eligible or want to find out more information about the PACT Act, I encourage you to reach out to your local CVSO. If you don’t know your local CVSO, ask your Post Service Officer, he or she can provide you the contact information for your local CVSO.

What did the PACT Act do for veterans?

The PACT Act expanded access to VA health care and disability compensation benefits for veterans who were exposed to burn pits, herbicide exposure (Agent Orange), and other toxic substances.

Where are we now?

As of May 19, 2024, there have been 1,327,220 PACT Act claims completed with 995,749 claims approved in favor of the Veteran, which is a 75% approval rate on initial PACT Act claims submitted to VBA, this includes 19,064 survivors’ claims. The average days for completion of a PACT Act claim is currently 166.3 days, with 37% of PACT Act claims being completed in under 125 days. 297,694 unique Veterans have enrolled in VA health care under provisions of the PACT Act. Currently nearly 40% of claims being submitted to VBA are related to PACT Act, with VBA having an inventory nearly 395,000 pending claims. During April 71,000 PACT Act claims were submitted, and 90,000 PACT Act claims were adjudicated, demonstrating some gaining momentum with PACT Act claims. However, due to current inventory of claims, both PACT Act and Non-PACT Act related claims (555,000 Non-PACT Act claims), totaling over 900,000 pending claims, the current rate of gaining approximately 20,000 claims per month, will still mean that many veterans will be waiting nearly 6 months and some even longer to have their claims adjudicated.



BE A BUDDY

CHECK IN ON YOUR FELLOW VETERANS





POW/MIA

Boyd Yochum
POW/MIA Liaison





COL Samuel Chapman Maxwell was born in Fremont and entered the U S Air Force from Omaha, Nebraska. Maxwell was a member of the 357th Tactical Fighter Squadron. On September 12, 1968 he piloted an F105D Thunderchief (Thud), tail number 59-1762, call sign “Wolf 3” on a reconnaissance mission over Quang Binh Province, North Vietnam. After arriving in the target area, Maxwell checked in with the Airborne Battlefield Command and Control Center (ABCCC) that was controlling all air operations. ABCCC provided Wolf flight with current weather and mission data before handing the flight over to the Forward Air Controller (FAC) who would direct the mission.

At 1731 hours, Wolf flight was directed to attack a line of small boats sailing on the Song Ron River 15 miles South of Mui Ron Ma. Wolf 3 initiated his strafing run on the boats and was seen firing at the target when his aircraft was hit by intense and accurate ground fire. Other flight members also saw the Thunderchief hit the ground and explode on impact. In the chaos of the battle and the impending darkness, the other pilots did not see if Sam Maxwell had been able to eject from his crippled aircraft.

His aircraft crashed into jungle foothills 2 miles east of the Song Ron River, 8 miles west of the coastline, 15 miles south of Mui Ron Ma and 31 miles northwest of the major port city of Dong Hoi; loss coordinates 175200N 1062300E (XE480772). A visual and electronic search and rescue (SAR) mission was immediately launched, but found no trace of the downed pilot. At the time the search effort was terminated, Sam Maxwell was declared Missing in Action (MIA).


The Defense Intelligence Agency further expanded Maxwell’s classification to include enemy knowledge category 2; confirmed knowledge, lost in area under conditions that may reasonably expect to be known by the enemy, and were connected with an incident which was discussed, but not identified by names in enemy news media.

Military authorities were horrified in 1973 that hundreds thought to be POWs were not released. It is now clear, Maxwell was not among those thought to be alive.

On October 19, 1989, the Central Identification Laboratory – Hawaii, (CILHI – now DPAA), identified the remains of Colonel Samuel Chapman Maxwell, missing from the Vietnam War. Shortly thereafter, they were returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

In 1992, a National Security Agency (NSA) correlation study of all communist radio intercepts pertaining to missing Americans was presented to the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs. This was finally declassified and made public. According to this document, three North Vietnamese radio messages were intercepted and correlated to this incident. The NSA synopsis stated an American F-105D aircraft crashed and exploded. No parachute or beeper signal was noted.

Colonel Maxwell is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, His name is also inscribed along with all his fallen comrades on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.



S.A.L. Notes

Eldon Kramer
Detachment Commander



Greetings from the Detachment of Nebraska Commander Eldon Kramer.

Welcome American Legion Family members. It has been an honor to serve the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Nebraska for one year, as I have met many new friends. Let us remember that membership is very important in our organization, let's not recruit members without the know-how of our organization and upholding the four pillars.

Over the last year, Nebraska Sons were doing awesome until we reached about February and then our membership started going downhill. Let your squadrons understand that we have a fiscal year August to July. Even though your membership is good until December 31st of that year, it helps the adjutants move forward without chasing membership all year. If your Squadron is a zero Squadron, we will be discussing closing your charter in the upcoming year.

2024 2025 is going to be a great year. Detachment Officers and Committee Chairman are going to have to look forward to working even harder than they did last year. We look forward to having the assistance of Post Commanders guiding their squadrons by dealing with membership numbers. It's very important that you pay your dues before December 31st so your membership does not expire. You will have to re-enlist for the LIT insurance and all the other benefits that apply to your membership. Remember the sacrifice that was paid for your membership and to represent as a proud possessor of a priceless heritage. Gentlemen, remember to use a very great tool that we have. Visit <https://mylegion.org>, it has lots of information on there to help you with your job as an officer in your Squadron.

I would like to congratulate all the Squadrons in the state of Nebraska that are over 100%, very outstanding job gentlemen. Keep up the good work! Looking forward to serving you as your Detachment Commander for another year. Gentlemen, let's get that Triple Nickel this year. I need your help to get it.

National Convention in New Orleans

The 106th Annual National Convention will be held August 24 - 29 at the New Orleans Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana. Committee meetings, the Nebraska Legion Caucus, and the Tri-Stack Party with North and South Dakota will all be held on Sunday, August 25.

The general session begins on Tuesday, August 27 and will conclude at approximately noon on Thursday, August 29.

Delegates and alternates were voted on at Department Convention. Nebraska will be staying at the Hilton Garden Inn across from the convention center. Contact Adjutant Salak with any questions.

Department Headquarters will be closed throughout the National Convention dates. The entire staff will be in New Orleans during that time. If you should need anything during that time, please email Dave, Eric, or Amanda and they will get back to you as soon as they can.

\$ 200


EARLYBIRD

NEBRASKA LEGIONNAIRES BE AN EARLY BIRD FOR 2025!

The Department Membership Committee is again this year sponsoring an Early Bird Drawing.

All regular members (those who pay their dues annually or are multi-year members) whose 2025 dues are paid and received in Department Headquarters by September 3, 2024 will be in a drawing for five \$200 prizes this year!

HELP US BUILD MEMBERSHIP MOMENTUM!!

BE IN THE DRAWING!!

Non-political Organization

This is a reminder that The American Legion Family is a non-political organization. Do not wear your cover, branded shirt, or any other branded item at any political rally or at any campaign event. Furthermore, any Post holding a political forum must extend an invitation to all those running for office and remember to remove any trademark items from view. Contact Adjutant Salak with any questions.

Sons of The American Legion Membership As of June 15, 2024		
District	2023 Members	2024 Members
1	321	309
2	622	619
3	222	228
4	376	343
5	157	151
6	1,374	1,347
7	713	711
8	848	824
9	324	302
10	369	352
11	1,134	1,113
12	242	235
13	134	126
15	144	135
Total	6,992	6,795

2024 Department Convention - Kearney



The 106th Annual Convention was held in Kearney June 21 – 23. Commander Percy presided over the Joint Session. Pictured (L to R) Sons NECman David Rippe, National Sons of The American Legion Vice Commander Terry Harris, Commander Percy, Department President Lisa Moore, Detachment Commander Eldon Kramer, Leading Candidate for National Sons of The American Legion Commander Joseph Navarrate, and ALR Liaison John Arias.



The Cody Kerr award was presented to Charles and Lambert Zoubek of Wilber. Pictured (L to R) PDC Dan Benes, Charles Zoubek, Lambert Zoubek, Commander Percy, PDC Gary Wooten, and PDC Don Suchy.



The Crowbar Award was presented to Senior Vice Commander Boyd Yochum. Pictured (L to R) Boyd Yochum and Commander Percy.



Commander Percy presented citizenship medals to outstanding Legionnaires in the different Districts. Pictured front (L to R) District 7 recipient Kade Bussen, District 10 recipient Bill Riley, District 2 recipient Gerald Bouska, District 12 recipient Doyle Meinke, and District 13 recipient Al Armstong. Pictured back (L to R) District 1 recipient Chad Schneider, District 11 recipient Gary Wooten, District 3 Commander Nick Tramp accepting for Ken Hanel, District 4 Commander Steve Stanec accepting for Larry Hansen, District 5 recipient Geoffery Florom, and District 15 recipient Ronnie Hindmand.



Commander Percy presented the 2024 Teacher-of-the-Year Awards. Pictured (L to R) Commander Percy, High School Teacher Michael Zarate of Lexington Schools, Jolene Rose of Arthur County Schools, and Amy Wiese of Friend Schools.



Commander Percy presented District 1 Commander Gary Sones with a 100% District pin and a red jacket for his District reaching 100% at convention. Pictured (L to R) Commander Percy and District 1 Commander



Past Department Commander Dan Benes installed the newly elected Department and District officers.



Joseph Wiezorek of North Platte Post 163 was chosen as the Nebraska Membership Recruiter of the Year plaque. Pictured (L to R) Senior Vice Boyd Yochum and Joseph Wiezorek.



Louisville Post 353 presented certificates of continuous membership to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Henry Mueller, 60 years, and Commander Bill Worlein. Pictured bottom (L to R) Commander Bill Worlein and Tom Schram, 50 years.

Niobrara Post 224 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership to James Scott. Pictured (L to R) James Scott and Gary Moody.

Dwight Post 110 presented 50 year certificates of continuous membership to its members. Pictured (L to R) Commander Ken Kotera, Roger Ehlers, and Chuck Lavicky. Not pictured are James Cass and Jerome Novacek.

LegionCare: \$1,000.00 Accidental Death Benefit at NO COST* To You

Anyone enrolled in LegionCare will be covered for as long as they maintain their membership in the Legion Family – TAL, ALA, & SAL. The LegionCare program will continue to cover you for \$1,000 of AD&D coverage. If the accidental loss occurs when on official Legion Family Business, we will cover you for \$5,000 of AD&D coverage.

For more information, Visit www.theLIT.com or call toll-free at 1-800-235-6943.

Maynard Jensen
Memorial Scholarship



The Nebraska American Legion selected 10 recipients of the Maynard Jensen Scholarship. The Maynard Jensen scholarship began in 1989 as “The American Legion Scholarship” and it was renamed in 1992 in memory of Past Department Commander Maynard Jensen of Aurora.

Jensen was a World War II Navy Veteran who served in the invasion of Normandy and then in Southern France. He served as the Nebraska American Legion Department Commander from 1971-72. Jensen also served on numerous Department Committees within The American Legion.

For the 36th consecutive year, the Nebraska American Legion has done its part in helping Nebraska students with scholarship money. The recipients of \$500.00 scholarships are Erica Heiman of Osmond; Catarina Ketteler of Atkinson; Logan Salak of Columbus; Kyra Bargmann of Bancroft; Claire Himmelberg of Lawrence; Owen Schultz of Doniphan; Dominic True of Osmond; Cory Gubbels of Stuart; Nolan Van Slyke of Wahoo; and Eva McCreery of North Platte.

Edgar J. Boschult
Memorial Scholarship

The Nebraska American Legion has selected four recipients of the 2024 Edgar J. Boschult Memorial Scholarship. The Edgar J. Boschult memorial scholarship is awarded to full-time students in the University of Nebraska system that are enrolled in military science courses or to honorably discharged veterans attending the University of Nebraska full-time.

The Edgar J. Boschult Scholarship was created in 1947 in memory of Edgar J. Boschult. Boschult was a veteran of World War I and Past Department Commander of the Nebraska American Legion. Boschult returned to serve his country in World War II and was killed in action on November 8, 1944.

The recipients of \$500.00 Scholarships are Ayden Briseno Miranda, Grand Island, NE, UNL (Air Force ROTC); James Delahunty, Ogallala, NE, UNL (Army ROTC); Grady Henexson, Eagle River, AK, UNL (Navy ROTC); and Lincoln Thomas Kohler, Excelsior, MN, UNL (Marine Corps ROTC).

Membership Minute
Steve Bartos, Chairman

The 2024 Department Convention is now history, and we must move forward into the 2025 membership year. I don’t suggest that we stop trying to renew the remaining 2023 members for 2024, but --- realistically --- retaining the 2024 members and building the 2025 count has to be our focus.

At the convention, Dave Bruckner (Area B) was re-appointed to serve a 4-year term on the membership committee. The Area A member’s spot is vacant. Rich Baxter (Area D) and I are the other members.

While I think we actually had a fairly good year for 2024, so did most departments nationally. Some had very good years. And just about everybody made it past us at the end of the race. We finished in 30th place last year. But we’re currently in 48th place out of 55 departments. And 7 departments have reached 100% of goal.

While there seems to be plenty of gloom, it doesn’t have to be doom!!

Districts 5, 8 and 15 have exceeded 95% of their 2024 goals. And --- for the first time in many years --- we had a district achieve 100% of its membership goal. It can be done! I certainly congratulate Gary Sones and all the Legionnaires in District 1 for making that happen (102%). In recognition of that achievement, Gary was presented a bright red sport coat at the Department convention. Could it be that we started something? Could it be that maybe there will be more red sport coats in the future?

The 2025 membership year is going to bring some changes and some challenges. We have a dues increase taking affect, but we cannot allow that to be an excuse for failure. The migration of members to Post Everlasting never takes a break. We just need to do a better job of selling our product and convincing current members to renew and non-members to join.

Although much fewer than I expected, we’ve had about 400-500 members take advantage of the new 3-year renewal --- some for 24-25-26 and some for 25-26-27. That’s going to front-end-load some early returns, but should pay off in the long run. The good deal for renewing for 3 years at the 2024 rate has now expired, but I encourage everyone to keep promoting the 3-year renewal option.

Our Headquarters Post 500 continues to puzzle me. On May 31st, they had renewed or enrolled 105% of their goal --- and their goal was basically calculated the same way as all of our posts (with a few extras tossed in). For some reason, the Post 500 Legionnaires are steady members but don’t always respond real well to opportunities to transfer. Keep trying to get them into your local posts; that’s really where we want them.

Once again this year, the Department Membership Committee is sponsoring an Early Bird Drawing. All regular members (those who pay their dues annually or are otherwise current as a result of taking advantage of the 3-year renewal option) whose dues are paid by September 3rd will be entered in a drawing. Five members will be selected to receive a \$200 prize each.

Have a nice summer!

2024 Cornhusker Boys’ State



Grant Ruma of Creighton Prep High School was elected as the 2024 – 25 Boys’ State Governor and awarded the Bob Riddle Traveling Governor’s Trophy. Pictured (L to R) Grant Ruma and Boys’ State President Doug Boldt.



Each town nominated an outstanding citizen. Pictured (L to R) Program Director Dave Salak, Clark Smith, Adam Cruise, Matthew Pollard, Shae Murphy, Ritwik Gupta, Jed Bettcher, Andrew Wiese, Tucker Ingram, and Boys’ State President Doug Boldt.



Four young men were selected to represent our state during Boys’ Nation. Pictured (L to R) Hunter Warnke (alternate), Kolby Cameron (alternate), Nikolai Khots (delegate), and Grant Ruma (delegate).



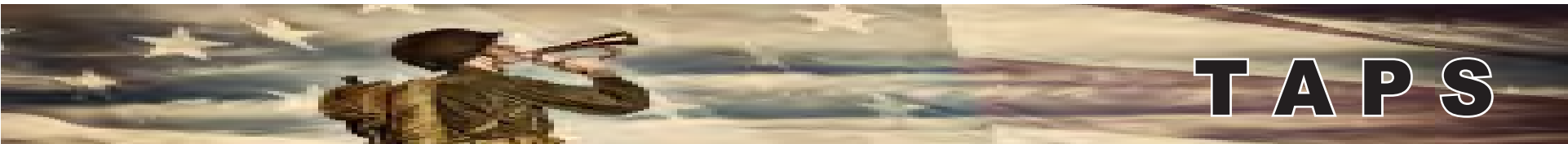
Ryder Potts was selected as the Coach Larry Frost Outstanding Athlete. Pictured (L to R) Athletic Director Marcus Donner, Ryder Potts, and Asst Athletic Director Landon Schmitt.



Gettysburg was selected as the top town during the 2024 Boys’ State Session.



The American Legion Samsung Scholarship Recipient was Ryder Potts of Perkins County High School. Pictured (L to R) Boys’ State President Douglas Boldt and Ryder Potts.



Absalon, Dennis, Crawford, Korea
Achterberg, Melvin, Oconto
Adams, Joseph H., Madrid, Vietnam
Anderson, James C., Havelock, Vietnam
Anderson, John D., Edison
Anthone, Albert, Millard, Korea
Antosh, Edward H., Yutan, Vietnam
Armstrong, Robert G., Kearney, SAL
Bailey, Darrell G., McCool Junction, Vietnam
Bailey, Roger L., Saint Paul, Vietnam
Baker, Richard, Vietnam, Atkinson
Baker, Roger V., Neligh, Korea
Ballard, Thurman A., Omaha, Korea
Bargen, Jerry L., Nelson, Vietnam
Barletto, Joseph, Oxford, WWII
Barnes, John H., Omaha, WWII
Bartels, Eugene, Wakefield, Korea
Bauer, Richard, Omaha, Vietnam
Bechtolt, Wilbur M., Havelock, Korea
Becker, Robert A., Columbus, Grenada-Lebanon
Beckmann, Vernon G., Columbus, Korea
Bednar, John, Millard, Vietnam
Benedict, Janelle D., Bellwood, Vietnam
Birkes, Donald R., Millard, Korea
Blincow, Jim, Bertrand, Vietnam
Blunt, Larry L., Chadron, Vietnam
Bockmann, Dale, Grand Island, Vietnam
Bodtke, Melvin, Beatrice, Korea
Boesen, Marvin C., North Platte, WWII
Boettcher, Dale E., Lincoln, Korea
Bolte, Alvin M., McCool Junction, Korea
Bond, Otis L., Syracuse, WWII
Brandl, Victor H., Humphrey, WWII
Bratberg, Monte C. Omaha, Vietnam
Brinkman, Elliot G., Fairmont, Vietnam
Brockhoff, Ralph, Syracuse, Vietnam
Brooks, Sherry J., Fort Calhoun, Panama
Browne Jr., William H., Lincoln, Korea
Brumond, Harold, Clay Center, Korea
Bruns Sr., Donald P., Sutton, Vietnam
Budd, John O., Hastings, WWII
Burglund, Carol J., David City, Vietnam
Buss, Jerry J., Beatrice, SAL
Campbell, Robert J., Seward, Vietnam
Caouette, Donald J., O'Neill, Vietnam
Carter, William C., Lincoln, Korea
Casper, Larry, Valley, Vietnam
Chalupa, Edwin, Sargent
Christensen, Donald L., Alma, Korea
Ciciulla, Carl, Millard, Vietnam
Clark, Max C., Millard, Vietnam
Cline Jr., Arthur K., Pender, WWII
Conger, Jack R., Neligh, Korea
Copley, Jerrold W., Lincoln, Vietnam
Costello, David J., Omaha, Vietnam
Courtney, John P., Hemingford, Vietnam
Crites, Robert E., Howells, Vietnam

Crumb, Vernon D., Papillion, Vietnam
Cull, Leigh S., Wayne, Korea
Cunningham, Dean M., Lincoln, Korea
Deichert, Otto L., South Sioux City, WWII
Dejohn, Sammy J., Millard, Vietnam
Denker, Donald, O'Neill, Korea
Dexter, Don, Chambers, Korea
Dieriex, David F., Rushville
Dobbins, Bob, Grand Island, Vietnam
Dockhorn, Glenn R., Comstock, Vietnam
Dorf, Melvin L., Virginia
Downing, Robert, Norfolk, Korea
Doyle, Larry W., Bartley
Dugan, Garold M., Greeley, Vietnam
Dunkin, Donald L., Ohiowa, Vietnam
Eberly, Forrest L., Cody, Vietnam
Effle, Gerald L., Verdigre, Vietnam
Eklund, R. G., Osceola, Vietnam
Ellison, Donald, David City, Korea
Etter, Ralph D., Wayne, Korea
Exley, Kenneth, Crawford, Vietnam
Faris, Billy Joe, Plattsmouth, Vietnam
Fiala, Dennis J., Dwight, Vietnam
Ficke, Robert D., Pleasant Dale, Korea
Fisher, Fred T., Bennet, Vietnam
Foulk, Philip E., Central City, Korea
Franzen, Dale D., Wayne
Fritzen, Lenhart, Virginia, WWII
Fry, Wayne E., Millard, Vietnam
Fujan, James F., Prague, Korea
Fulk, Ray D., Gering, Vietnam
Furasek, Raymond J., Dwight, Vietnam
Gallant, James A., Scribner, Vietnam
Gana, Ervin L., Hickman, Korea
Gans, Darwin D., David City, Korea
Garner, Jack L., Crawford, Korea
Gehlsen, James L., Spencer, Vietnam
Giggins, Richard J., Papillion, Korea
Gimeson, Merle W., Grant, Korea
Gonka, Charles B., Columbus, Vietnam
Graf, Kenneth C., Holdrege, Korea
Greguras, Clarence E., Brainard, Vietnam
Grimminger, Gwyer, Grand Island
Gross, Patrick M., Wayne, Vietnam
Grosshans, Richard L., Aurora
Gute, Vern J., Omaha
Gutz, Arnold, Osmond, Korea
Hall, James G., Fort Calhoun, Vietnam
Hansen, James, Valley, Korea
Hansen, Ralph, Seward, WWII
Harding, Frank E., Mullen, WWII
Harr, Maynard E., Ainsworth, Korea
Harris, Charles M., Bellwood, Lebanon/Grenada
Harvey, David L., Benson, Korea
Hastings, Virgil, Nebraska City
Hauberg, Richard, Talmage, Vietnam
Havranek, Leonard R., Prague, Korea
Hazel Jr., George A., Gretna, Vietnam
Heiden, Marlin, Kearney, Korea
Hein, Robert, McCook, Vietnam
Henn, Joseph M., Petersburg, Vietnam
Herman, Kenneth E., Omaha WWII
Hightree, Lyle D., Decatur, Vietnam

Hoffman, John S., Burwell, Vietnam
Holliday, Robert A., Wilsonville, Vietnam
Hoover, Albion, Vietnam
Houchens, Kenneth E., Lincoln, Korea
Huelskamp, Raymond L., Omaha, WWII
Humphrey, Charles A., Mullen, Vietnam
Hunke, Kenneth, Dodge, Korea
Hunt, Richard, Blair
Hurlbert, Allen R., O'Neill, Vietnam
Hurlbert, Gerry L., Carroll, Vietnam
Hurley, John M., Broken Bow, Vietnam
Hurst, Claude, Ashland, Korea
Inman, Calvin, Wolbach, SAL
Jackson, Gary, Norfolk, Grenada-Lebanon
Johannes, Marilin M., Columbus, Vietnam
Johnson, Bruce, Ainsworth, Korea
Johnson, Merlin E., Ceresco, Korea
Jones, Jack L., Kearney
Jones, Lonnie E., Ruskin, Vietnam
Jones, Lonnie E., Ruskin, Vietnam
Kamarad, Duane, Grand Island, Vietnam
Kasl, Richard R., Wilber, WWII
Kaspar, Larry C., Dorchester, Vietnam
Keim, Franklin, Chadron, WWII
Keller, David M., Omaha, Vietnam
Kellogg, Wilma E., Palmer, WWII
Kittridge, Jerry, Greeley, Korea
Klipphahn, Glenn A., Millard, Korea
Klostermeier, Steven F., DeWitt, Vietnam
Kohl, David L., Norfolk, SAL
Kosch, Gerald F., David City, Vietnam
Kraft, Donald E., Omaha, Korea
Kramer, Don, Millard, Vietnam
Kraus, Marvin H., Friend, Vietnam
Kretz, George, Schuyler, SAL
Kroll, Leo A., Grand Island, WWI
Krull, Gary L., Glenvil, Vietnam
Kruse, Leonard W., Millard, Vietnam
Kruse, Richard, Leigh, Korea
Kryzak, Ronald J., Millard, Vietnam
Kudrna, Kenneth, Hay Springs
Kuehner, Richard, Grand Island, Korea
Kugler, William W., Wayne
Ladd, Alan D., Kearney, Vietnam
Lampe, Gerald, Chadron, Vietnam
Lamprecht, Laverne, Hooper, WWII
Langemeier, Eugene H., Stapleton, Vietnam
Larson, Lyle, Pender, Vietnam
Larson, Peter L., Omaha, WWII
Lee, Kenneth, Albion, Korea
Leiding, Gordon L., Orchard, Korea
Lingo, Ward, North Platte, Korea
Litten, Robert D., Swanton, Korea
Lopez, Salvador L., Millard, WWII
Loseke, Fritz L., Columbus, Korea
Lutz, Richard R., Sutherland, Korea
Mach, Edward G., Omaha, WWII
Machacek, Robert, Dorchester, Korea
Magdefrau, Marlan C., Norfolk, WWII
Maher, Thomas J., Millard, WWII
Maris, Delbert, McCook, Korea
Martin, Benjamin O., Pender, Korea
Masin, Bradley J., Ord, SAL
May, John, Bellevue
McArdle, Joe M., Newcastle, Panama
McCarthy, Daniel T., Jackson, Korea
McClintick, Ellis B., Papillion, WWII
McDonald, George P., Alliance, WWII
McFarland, Thomas W., Utica, Korea

McLaughlin, Michael R., Humboldt, SAL
McMillan, Loren K., Gordon, Korea
Merriam, Wallace G., Blair, WWII
Meyer, Dean, Campbell, Korea
Meyer, Leonard, Scribner, WWII
Micheels, Marvin, Benson, WWII
Miller, James A., Beatrice, Vietnam
Milligan, Dale R., Fremont, WWII
Mills, Gorden R., Ansley, Korea
Minarick, Eugene L., Morse Bluff, WWII
Morava, Timothy L., Crawford, Vietnam
Muff, David R., Crete, Vietnam
Mullins, Tommy R., Norfolk, SAL
Nejezchleb, James, Lawrence, Korea
Nelson, Arthur W., Lincoln, WWII
Neujahr, Raymond, Lincoln, Korea
Nicholson, Donald, Tryon, WWII
Nienaber, William H., Lindsay, Vietnam
Norris, Raymond L., Lincoln, Vietnam
Obermier, William C., Utica, Vietnam
Ohlrich, Clair A., Brunswick, Vietnam
Ohnoutka, Robert L., Weston, Vietnam
Olmsted, Arlen L., Lincoln, Korea
Ostlund, Gordon L., Franklin, WWII
Overton, Errol E., McCook, Vietnam
Paul, Bill, Gordon, SAL
Paulsen, Kenneth E., Beaver Crossing, Korea
Payne, Eldon R., Havelock, Vietnam
Peterson, Raynor, Newcastle, Vietnam
Pollard, Larry M., Nehawka, Korea
Poppe, Lavern O., Grant, Korea
Powell, Jackie D., Kenesaw, Korea
Powers, Edward E., Trenton, Vietnam
Pribnow, Roger D., Norfolk, Vietnam
Priess, Robert R., Grand Island, Korea
Ratigan, Jim, Millard, Vietnam
Raymond, James, Omaha, Korea
Read, Ronald A., Ashland, Korea
Reeves, Mike, Central City, Vietnam
Reiners, Donald E., Indianola, Vietnam
Rempe, Elmer J., Superior, Korea
Robertson, Gary L., Columbus, Vietnam
Robertson, Randall D., Orchard, Vietnam
Robinson, Allen V., Thedford
Rogers, Thomas A., Lincoln, Vietnam
Rogers, Will L., Millard, Vietnam
Ronnau, Dalcyce F., Lincoln, Korea
Ronnau, Dalcyce F., Lincoln, Korea
Rose, Larry, Wauneta, Vietnam
Rossignol, Raymond R., Gering, SAL
Rotter, James A., Lincoln, Korea
Rundback, Carl L., Tryon, Korea
Russell Sr., William J., Omaha, Grenada-Lebanon
Sander, Dennis, Columbus, Korea
Sanne, Richard, Neligh, WWII
Sasek, Daniel O., Sargent, Vietnam
Schaaf, Francis G., Grand Island, Vietnam
Schact, Elden L., Orchard, Korea
Schaefer, Jadahn, Columbus, Gulf War
Schaefer, Lynn M., Valentine, Korea
Scheer, Orvin, Arlington, Vietnam
Schneider, Leon J., Gretna, WWII
Schroeder, Dean A., Lincoln, Korea
Schroeder, Duane W., Wayne, Vietnam
Schubert, Clayton H., Wilcox, Korea
Scranton, Elvin, Plainview, WWII

Seckman, Jack, Schuyler, Korea
Seglin, Steven G., Lincoln, Vietnam
Semin, Frank J., Omaha, Korea
Shields, Patrick A., Millard, Vietnam
Siems, Duane, DeWitt, Vietnam
Simonson, Don, Gretna, Korea
Sindelar, Terry A., Lincoln, Vietnam
Sirek, Hoyt D., Orchard, WWII
Skalak, John J., Columbus
Skoumal, Chuck, Millard, Vietnam
Smyth, John T., Greeley, Vietnam
Soncksen, Arthur, Hayes Center, Korea
Spangler D., Arlon, Jackson, Korea
Springer, Wayne E., St. Paul, Korea
Stofferahn, Kenneth, Lincoln
Strom, Curt, Bloomfield, Vietnam
Svitak, Richard, Central City, Vietnam
Swanson, Lowell L., Dalton, WWII
Swinney, Lee, Lincoln, WWII
Tate Sr., John F., Columbus, Korea
Teinert, Edward L., McCool Junction, Korea
Temme, Frederick A., Wayne, Korea
Terkelsen, Paul C., Millard, Korea
Thimgan, John F., Grand Island, Korea
Thompson, Orville L., Omaha, Korea
Timmerman, Norman A., Indianola, Vietnam
Tippery, Elmer R., Decatur, WWII
Tomlin, Max E., Cambridge, WWII
Tomsen, James K., Hildreth, Vietnam
Trofholz Jr., Edward A., Columbus, Korea
Tronshynski, William, Atkinson, Vietnam
True Sr., Robert M., Plattsmouth, Korea
Tryon, James L., Nelson, Vietnam
Turk, Norbert J., St. Paul, WWII
Utemark, Norval L., West Point, Korea
Vanek, Robert R., Weston, Vietnam
Varner, Melvin, Seward
Vasina, Kevin M., Colon, SAL
Velasquez, Terrence J., Millard, Vietnam
Vernon, James E., Crete, Korea
Vostrez, Donald, Wilber, Korea
Vowell, George, Norfolk, Vietnam
Walgren, Robert G., Wauneta
Walker, J.H., Kearney, Vietnam
Warneke, Jerome C., Nelson
Watkins, Kenneth C., Millard, Korea
Weamire, George H., Friend, Vietnam
Weaver, Larry, Kearney, Korea
Wessling, Jerald L., David City, Korea
Wiberg, Donald L., Loup City, Korea
Widger, Marlin E., Wauneta, WWII
Wiese, David J., Lindsay
Wiese, Eugene L., Lindsay
Wiese, Richard A., Lincoln, Korea
Wigert, Gerald L., Hallam, Korea
Williams, Jerry L., Lincoln, Vietnam
Williams, Jerry L., Lincoln, Vietnam
Winberg, Robert L., Mullen, Vietnam
Wisecup, Harold R., Herman, Vietnam
Wittig, Allan R., Wayne, Korea
Worthing, Greg, Venango, Vietnam
Wortman, Leonard, Ruskin, Korea
Wright, Donald E., Neligh, Vietnam
Wright, Joseph M., Omaha, Vietnam
Young, Larry E., Sargent, Vietnam
Young, Larry, Comstock, Vietnam
Zikmund, E.T., Omaha, WWII

Correction: Wayne Fitro and Eugene Kremlacek of Weston are alive and well.

Events Calendar

July

20 - 27 Boys' Nation - Washington D.C.
26 - 28 Membership Workshop - Indianapolis, IN

August

15 - 19 American Legion World Series - Shelby, NC
24 - 29 National Convention - New Orleans, LA

September

2 Labor Day - Office Closed
21 - 22 Children & Youth Conference - Indianapolis, IN
27- 29 Americanism Conference - Indianapolis, IN

Check www.nebraskalegion.net under the meetings tab for upcoming National, State, and District events.

Mail Call

Dear American Legion,

I am writing you to express my sincere gratitude for being selected as the recipient of the Maynard Jensen Scholarship. I was honored to learn about this and want to give my appreciation for your support. I want to personal thank each of you for helping me make this possible to pursue my dream. I will be attending the University of Nebraska-Omah and majoring in Medical Imaging. Sincerely,
Logan Salak



Gordon Post 34 presented a certificate for 70 years of continuous membership to Donald Belsky. Pictured (L to R) Donald Belsky, Senior Vice Boyd Yochum, and District 1 Commander Gary Sones.



Lincoln Post 3 presented certificates for continuous membership. Pictured (L to R) John Brehm, 50 years; Richard Reiman, 50 years; Marvin Wilson, 50 years; Robert Taylor, 70 years; and William Eckles, 50 years.



Saint Paul Post 119 member James Leschinsky was presented with a Quilt of Valor on his 82nd birthday. He is a 58 continuous year member.



Elwood Post 290 presented Quilts of Valor to its members. Pictured front (L to R) Melinda and Dennis Seberger, Dick and Lana Bennett, and Susan and Terry Lerdall. Pictured back (L to R) quilt makers Marty Kleppinger, Kay Landreth, and Kathy Beck.



Wilber Post 101 presented Quilts of Valor to its members. Pictured front (L to R) Jon Zajicek, Tom Janecek, and Robert Kasl. Pictured back (L to R) Rick Homolka. Lynn Erb, and Rudy Homolka.



Sidney Post 17 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership to James Deiner. Pictured (L to R) Commander Les Larsen, Denis Tuzicka, and James Deiner.



Kearney Post 52 presented a certificate for 70 years of continuous membership to Samuel Reinke. Pictured (L to R) Commander Mark Dissmeyer and Samuel Reinke.



Butte Post 51 presented certificates of continuous membership to Harold Reiser for 60 years and Leo Schulte and Wayne Luber for 50 years. Pictured (L to R) Harold Reiser and Leo Schulte.



Valparaiso Post 371 presented Quilts of Valor to its members. Pictured (L to R) Dennis Kliment, Clyde Nelson, Larry Nelson, Manny Bartek, and Arnold Krafka.



Morrill Post 10 presented Quilts of Valor. Pictured top Ron Goodschmidt, Melvin Groskoph, George Lara, Lawrence Lessert, Jerry Lucas, Larry Morgheim. Pictured bottom (L to R) Edward Schwindt, David Shaw, Dan Spencer, Bob Vanderklisch, Maynard Wells, Mary Welsch and Tom Welsch.



Dorchester Post 264 presented certificates of continuous membership to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Commander Raymond Rezabek and Robert Kasl, 70 years. Pictured bottom (L to R) Commander Raymond Rezabek, Loren Vyhnaelek, and Darryl Novak, 50 years.



Atkinson Post 86 presented certificates for 50 years of continuous membership to its members. Pictured (L to R) Dr. John Alden and Robert Mosel.



Curtis Post 95 presented certificates for 60 years of continuous membership to Gerald Huntwork and Allan Anderson. Pictured (L to R) Adjutant RJ Christensen and Gerald Huntwork.



DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT - AMANDA WASHBURN



Greetings, Nebraska Auxiliary Members!

My name is Amanda Washburn, and I want to say thank you for electing me as the 2024 - 25 Nebraska ALA President. I am so excited to share this next year with you all and to see the wonderful things that our organization can do to help our active-duty military, veterans, and their families. I am a third-generation ALA member and have had the honor of being able to

belong for 31 years.

The theme that I have chosen this year is "Always Remembering Their Service" or ARTS. I had the opportunity to help with the 2023 National Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) in Saint Louis, and that week really changed my life. The veterans who get to attend the festival are such amazing people, and they use the arts to help with their physical and mental scars from their time in the service. If you ever get the chance to attend a local festival, I highly recommend it.

Membership year 2025 is just getting ready to kick off, and we hope it will be a great one. It will take all of us working together to grow our organization and keep remembering those who made it possible for us to belong.

Membership goals have been a hot topic the last few years, and I am sure that you want to know what that magic number will be this year. At the National Workshop for incoming Department Presidents and Department Secretaries, it

was shared that membership goals would be chosen differently this year. They took our Department membership total as of the 2023 National Convention membership target date and then gave us the opportunity to choose the percentage increase. Our base number was 15,186, and we decided to do a 2% increase to that number to make our 2025 membership goal 15,490.

I think that this is an attainable goal for Nebraska. This year's unit goals were set by taking your unit membership total as of June 8th and then adding half of your unpaid members to that number --- with a minimum of two added members. We think that this will be attainable for every unit. Please reach out to your unrenewed members and see why they decided not to renew. Ask them why they joined the ALA. That could be what it takes for them to remember their "why" and all of the great things our organization does to help in our communities.

I look forward to visiting many

of you this year, and I ask that you please send me invitations to the activities that you are holding. I got new tires not too long ago, and I hope to burn the tread right off of them traveling around the state and seeing our wonderful ALA members this year.

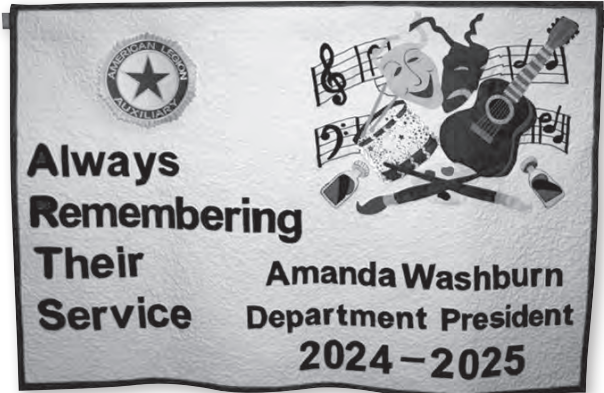
The projects that I want to support this year are NVCAF and Gifts For Yanks Who Gave.

I want to thank everyone who has been supporting me over the years, especially my parents (Doug and Barb Washburn), my brother (Shaun) and his family, my

extended family and friends, and --- of course --- my American Legion Family. I would not be here if it wasn't for all of you.

If you have any questions, please call Headquarters or email me at amandafaye33@gmail.com or call me at 402-480-1472. The 2025 Nebraska Leadership team is looking forward to a great year, and we need your help to make it a success.

Amanda Washburn
Department President



NATIONAL PRESIDENT IN NEBRASKA



The Department of Nebraska ALA is pleased to announce that National President Lisa Williamson will be visiting our state August 3 – 5. Make plans to come meet her as she enjoys meeting members of the American Legion Family as she travels. Her tentative itinerary includes:

Saturday, August 3

BINGO at Czech Days, Wilber – 7:00 pm

Sunday, August 4

Czech Days Flag Raising, Wilber – 11:00 am

Czech Days Parade, Wilber – 2:00 pm

Evening meal at Kearney Post 52, Kearney – 7:30 pm

Monday, August 5

Visit Central Nebraska Veterans Home, Kearney – 7:45 am

Tour Department Headquarters, Lincoln – 10:00 am

Tour Fisher House, Omaha – 11:30 am

(Updated information will be available on the Nebraska ALA website – nebraskalegionaux.net)



2024 - 2025 Department Officers. Pictured (l to r) are NEC Vicki Ozenbaugh, President Amanda Washburn, Vice President Ruth Hietbrink, Historian Vicki Cyboron, and Chaplain Lori Reimers. Not pictured are Secretary Roxanne Hiatt and Treasurer Jacki O'Neill.

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT - LISA MOORE



The road is long with many a winding turn that leads us to who knows where — "He Ain't Heavy; He's My Brother" — The Hollies

My road has led me to many places this past year, and what a trip I have had. The fabulous people I met; the amazing places I have visited. Everything was out of a dream.

It was a thrill, honor, and privilege

to be your President. I was able to make it to events in Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, and 13.

From my homecoming in September to Girl's State in June, the ride was an extremely miraculous rollercoaster. The State Fair; the Eisenhower Pilgrimage in Abilene, Kansas; celebrating Veteran's Day with a parade in Kearney; and the Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield, Illinois. Mid-Year and District Conventions in the spring (with weather and all). Fort McPherson was a privilege. Of course, there were meetings and business to be taken care of in between. Thank you for the hospitality along the way and the memories that I will take with me.

Stepping down is always bittersweet. No different for me. As I say "goodbye" to the Presidency, I say "hello" to many

new challenges and experiences. Know that I will always be a cheerleader for all of you.

I'll be around. I can't wait to go back to District 10 as a member and enjoy the company of old friends who are like family. I have missed you all!! My husband is excited that when I have plans on the weekends, they are going to be with him.

It has been my honor to serve as your President for 2023-2024.



Lisa Moore
Department President '23-'24

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



2024 LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

Saturday, August 10, 2024

Ashland American Legion Post 129
1541 Silver Street, Ashland, NE 68003

Registration – 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm
Opening Ceremony – 12:30 pm
Training – 12:45 pm to 4:00 pm

Plan to come enjoy an afternoon of learning and fun!

Followed by Commander Yochum, President Washburn, and Commander Kramer's Family Homecoming. See the first page of The Legionnaire for details.

NATIONAL SECURITY

It has been a wonderful year in Nebraska for National Security. I have enjoyed serving as the Department Chair and hopefully provided units and members with a variety of ways to support our veterans and military as well as the POW/MIAs.

As we end the 2023-2024 Auxiliary year and get geared up for the 2024-2025 year, continue to work on the National Security program (and all Auxiliary programs). Please continue to donate blood; wear RED on Fridays; send care packages; share the POW/MIA Empty Table story; recognize our Gold Star mothers, sisters, or families; present Blue Star Banners and Quilts of Valor; and challenge your units to try something different for National Security.

At the 2024 Department Convention, the Millard Unit #374

was drawn as the winner of this chair's \$25 Award for submitting the year-end report by the deadline. There were 17 in the drawing. Millard President Karen Brink has selected the First Responders Foundation as the recipient of this award. It is a Nebraska founded foundation based in Omaha. Check it out at www.firstrespondersfoundation.org. Congratulations, Millard Unit #374!

One last thought regarding National Security. As you begin to plan your 2024-2025 Auxiliary year, put into your Auxiliary calendar any of the above-mentioned ideas or check my article from the 2023-2024 ABC Book for additional information to continue promoting National Security.

*Vicki Ozenbaugh
National Security Chair*

HONORARY DEPARTMENT JUNIOR PRESIDENT

2024-2025 Honorary Department Junior President Shia Rasmussen is from St. Paul.

Shia's theme is "Coming Together like Birds of a Feather." Her project is providing bird feeders and bird feed for the Nebraska Veterans Homes.

*Shia Rasmussen
Jr. President*



NORFOLK VETERANS HOME

After working together it's amazing what we can accomplish for our Veterans. With help from the Norfolk Veterans Home Foundation, we raised funds for the Scifit Stepper, with the majority of contributions from Norfolk and Plainview American Legion Family's. The remainder of funds being donated by District #2 Auxiliary Units (spearheaded by District #2 President Corrine Janovec) Stanton, Battle Creek, Bristow, Newman Grove & Madison, so far with others pending. Also a private contribution from "The Great Unknown."

*LaRee Kubes
Norfolk Veterans Home Chair*



Scifit Recumbent Stepper has adjustable seat for safe and easy access. The seat is also removable for wheelchair accessibility.

MEMBERSHIP

As you read this, American Legion Auxiliary units nationwide will be winding down the 2024 membership year and starting to work on renewing and recruiting members for 2025. In that spirit, shown below are some ideas found online for increasing membership. Maybe one or two of them will resonate with your unit:

1. If your unit prints or e-mails a newsletter to members, consider highlighting a different member each month. These members might be compelled to share their respective articles with friends, family, and/or colleagues, which might ultimately bring in some new members for your unit.

2. Host a "bring a friend" meeting and encourage your members to each bring someone. Even if the friend isn't interested in joining, this is a great way to show off what your unit accomplishes over the course of the year.

3. Offer an alternate meeting

time to attract individuals with different schedules. You may find that your regular meeting time is leaving out a whole group of people, so switch up your times to attract more people. (But keep in mind that your meeting time may be codified in your Standing Rules.)

4. And always remember to thank your members regularly. There are different ways to accomplish this as well:

a. Create a video thank you message and post it on your website and/or social media.

b. Publish a list of all the events, services, and educational opportunities that were made possible through your membership fees and volunteer service and post it on social media.

c. Hold a yearly event to simply "have some fun" while also saying thank you to your members.

d. Send handwritten thank you notes to your members. In our digital age, a personalized note is even more

Remember to send your assignments a couple weeks before the month they are due.							
2024-2025 CENTERPIECE AND TRAY FAVOR ASSIGNMENTS							
Month	Grand Island VA Med Center 10 Centerpiece	Central NE Veterans Home 215 Tray Fav	Bellevue Eastern NE VA Home 24 Centerpiece	Norfolk VA Home 20 Centerpiece	Western NE VA Home 13 Centerpiece	Western NE VA Home 90 Tray Fav	Omaha VA Med Center 75 Tray Fav
Aug.	#290 Elwood	#52 Kearney		#175 Jackson	#17 Sidney	#17 Sidney	
Sept.	#290 Elwood	#218 Exeter		#283 Platte Center	#200 Bayard	#200 Bayard	
Oct.	#288 Farnam	#141 Hampton	#222 Shubert	#307 S Sioux City	#10 Morrill	#12 Chadron	
Nov.	#335 Davenport		#243 Plymouth		#10 Morrill	#364 Naponee	#222 Shubert
Dec.	#141 Hampton	#209 Franklin	#222 Shubert	#357 Brunswick	#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	#240 Milligan
Jan.	Girls State '24	Girls State '24	Girls State '24	Girls State '24	Girls State '24	Girls State '24	Girls State '24
Feb.		#288 Farnam					
Mar.							
Apr.							
May							
June							
July							
Please read the ABC book under "Service to Veterans." Some facilities have restrictions as to what you can use for decorations. If you have any questions, please contact the facilities contact person.							
Service to Veterans Chair: Maria Atterberry, 704 Rochelle St, Elwood, NE 68937 - 308-325-2863							



2024 Cornhusker Girls State Governor, Swara Dasari, from Omaha.



Congratulations to our American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation Senators for 2024 Annelise Barga, from Adams, and Sarah Lange, from Raymond.

2024 CONVENTION RECAP

June 20-23
Kearney Holiday Inn

REGISTRATION

81 Units
28 Delegates-at-Large
92 Delegates
4 Junior Members
Total Registered—124

AMERICANISM ESSAY WINNERS

Class I – Kreightyn Janata, Howells Unit #155
Class II – Lauren Reiff, Callaway Unit #59
Class III – Ewan Guenther, Shubert Unit #222
Class IV – Cayle Grossart, Wolbach Unit #236
Class V – Alyssa Malchow, Deshler Unit #352
Class VI – Brayden Myers, North Loop Unit #285

HISTORY BOOKS

1st – Gretna Unit #216
2nd – Pleasant Dale Unit #354
3rd – Broadwater Unit #312

PRAYER BOOKS

1st – Lincoln Unit #3
2nd – Jackson Unit #175
3rd – Deshler Unit #352

POPPY CENTERPIECES

1st – Danbury Unit #276
2nd – Gretna Unit #216
3rd – Broadwater Unit #312

POPPY POSTERS

Class I – Kwynn Graham, Valentine Unit #90
Class II – Joslyn Kollmorgan, Palisade Unit #133
Class III – Tenley Panowicz, Loup City Unit #48
Class IV – Caroline Davis, Beatrice Unit #27
Class V – Neltje Reiff, Callaway Unit #59
Class VI – Jazmyne Diaz-McCall, Davenport Unit #335
Class VII – Emme Price, Loup City Unit #48

GIRLS STATE STAFF



Thank you to the volunteers who spent June 2-8 providing a great week of learning about government at ALA Cornhusker Girls State 2024.

*Loree Hendrickson
Membership Chair*

CRETE MEMBERSHIP



At its June meeting, Crete American Legion Auxiliary Unit 147 President Gerry Johnson presented Continuous Membership Awards to four members. Receiving certificates were Barbara Lorenz (5 yrs.), Pat Philip (5 yrs.), Roberta Strain (50 yrs.), and Diana Pomajzl (60 yrs.).

HALLAM MEMBERSHIP



Hallam Unit 294 presented continuous Membership Certificates to Alene Thomas (20 years) and Bonnie Krueger (55 years) at our Memorial Day dinner. Certificates were mailed to Vera Albers (35 years), Stacey Birkett (35 years), Carol Kerns (15 years), Laurie Vocasek (65 years) and Joan Buhrmann (70 years).

HISTORY

When you think of your personal history, what do you want people to know about you? Do you want them to know where your family came from? What did you do in your life? What have you accomplished?

How about turning those questions into the history of your Unit? Go even further and find the history of your Post Family. I challenge you this year to learn two new things about the history of your Unit and Post Family.

Vicki Cyboron
Department Historian '24-'25

FINANCE

I'll be the Chair of the Finance Committee for the upcoming fiscal year beginning August 1st.

I've been an Auxiliary member for 35 years, joining on the service of my father, who served in the Army in World War II. I currently belong to West Point Unit #70.

I enjoy working with finances as I've been an accountant at a CPA firm and love numbers! I look forward to the duties of Chairman. A fundraising project is in the works, so watch for details after department convention!

Eileen Gentrup
Finance Chair '24-'25



The District 11 Past Commanders and Past Presidents met in Milligan for lunch on June 14th. It was their first meeting in five years. Pictured (l to r) are: Lucille Capek, Alice Vieselmeier, Sharon Brozkovsky, Allen Songster, Vicky Thompson, Cindy Lukan, Deb Albers, and Vicki Ozenbaugh

2023-2024 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

Department Officers

President	Amanda Washburn	5230 N 148 St, Lincoln, NE 68527
Vice President	Ruth Hietbrink	735 Washington St, Sterling, NE 68443
Historian	Vicki Cyboron	2454 7th Ave, Boelus, NE 68820
Chaplain	Lori Reimers	2011 24th St, Central City, NE 68826
Secretary	Roxanne Hiatt	2421 S 58th St, Lincoln, NE 68506
Treasurer	Jacki O'Neill	1018 Gordon Dr, Lincoln, NE 68522

National Committeeperson

Vicki Ozenbaugh	515 Rd. 18, Ohiowa, NE 68416
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District Presidents

One	Vicki Kotschwar	90 Mann Rd, Chadron, NE 69337
Two	Corrine Janovec	PO Box 661, Plainview, NE 68769
Three	Laura Novak	1006 Dakota St, Emmersn, NE 68733
Four	Terri Poley	PO Box 531, Sidney, NE 69162
Five	Eva Crawford	PO Box 188, Mullen, NE 69152
Six	Justina Birkel	PO Box 64, North Loup, NE 68859
Seven	Nancy Patras	810 6th St, Columbus, NE 68601
Eight	Lindsay Brown	20 S 41st St, Council Bluffs, IA 51501
Nine	Lana Bennett	706 Ontario Ave, Elwood, NE 68937
Ten	Deanna Tuttle	4805 Porter St, Nelson, NE 68961
Eleven	Cindy Lukan	5210 S 40th Apt 28, Lincoln, NE 68516
Twelve	Lois Johnson	711 S 20 Rd, Unadilla, NE 68454
Thirteen	Michele Tegtmeier	310 Otoe St, Burchard, NE 68323

Department Chairmen

Advisory	Barbie Meyer	2455 Riverdale Rd, Riverdale, NE 68870
Americanism	Cei Kauth	PO Box 97, Belden, NE 68717
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Barbie Meyer	12455 Riverdale Rd, Riverdale, NE 68870
Cavalcade of Memories	Vicki Cyboron	2454 7th Ave, Boelus, NE 68820
Children & Youth	Julie Schnitzler	6355 N. Winchester Ave, Kenesaw, NE 68956
Community Service	Nancy Niemann	3100 Trudy Ann Cir, Raymond, NE 68428
Constitution & Bylaws	Donna Schweer	320 Meridian Rd, Bruning, NE 68322
County Government	Pam Biernbaum	866 So 866 Ave, Belden, NE 68917
Distinguished Guest	Vicki Ozenbaugh	515 Road 18, Ohiowa, NE 68416
Education	Cathy Webber	201 18th Ave, Franklin, NE 68939
Finance	Eileen Gentrup	1565 N Road, Beemer, NE 68716
Girls State Advisory	Ashlyn Wilkes	6582 S Steele St, Centennial CO 80121
Girls State	Vicki Ozenbaugh	515 Road 18, Ohiowa, NE 68416
Gold Star	Lori Reimers	2011 24th St, Central City, NE 68826
Junior Activities	Cyrs Bauermeister	85803 553rd, Pierce, NE 68767
Leadership	Tina Nelson	503 N Brown Ave, Clay Center, NE 68933
Legislative	Barbara Washburn	455 Co Rd 7, Ashland, NE 68003
Membership	Loree Hendrickson	511 Road 3, Unit 1, Shickley, NE 68436
Music	Louise Wheeler	PO Box 733, Osceola, NE 68651
National Security	Lisa Moore	318 N Railroad, Wilber, NE 68465
Parliamentarian	Bonita Dickenson	1710 19th Ave, Lot 42, Sidney, NE 69162
Past Presidents Parley	Vicki Ozenbaugh	515 Road 18, Ohiowa, NE 68416
Poppy	Elsa Knight	1805 Ryons St, Lincoln, NE 68502
Publicity	Meri Hietbrink	4816 Kinsley St, Lincoln, NE 68524
"The Star" Editor	Lorene Bartos	7441 San Mateo Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516
Service to our Veterans	Maria Atterberry	704 Rochelle St, Elwood, NE 68937

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Chairperson	Beverly Neel	57576 847 Rd, Wayne, NE 68787
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Veterans Administration Medical Center Representatives

Lincoln	Linda Varejcka	450 Conestoga Ave, Hickman, NE 68372
Omaha	Paula Pillen	6001 N 147th St, Omaha, NE 68116
Grand Island	Vicki Cyboron	2454 7th Avenue, Boelus, NE 68820

Veterans Administration Medical Center Associate Representatives

Hot Springs, SD	Karol Lockmon	PO Box 147, Rushville, NE 69360
	Vicki Kotschwar	90 Mann Rd, Chadron, NE 69337

Nebraska Veterans Home Chairmen

Central Nebraska	Kathy Fisher	3007 W 22nd St., Kearney, NE 68845
Norfolk	LaRee Kubes	205 W 10 St, Madison, NE 68748
Eastern Nebraska	Donna Smith	15103 S 84th St, Papillion, NE 68046
Western, Nebraska	Cecil Doshier	1960 Kings Road, Gering, NE 69341

Honorary Department Junior Officers

Honorary President	Shia Rasmussen	St. Paul
Honorary Vice President	Erica Fuchs	Arlington
Honorary Historian	Kendall Kasl	Dorchester
Honorary Chaplain	Cora Pankoke	Milligan

Depeartment Headquarters

Address: 150 NW 40th Street Suite B, Lincoln, NE 68528

Telephone: 402-466-1808

Email: neaux@windstream.net

Web: nebraskalegionaux.net

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

Hello. My name is Lori Reimers, and I am a proud member of the Lester Harder Post 42 Auxiliary. I am your Department of Nebraska Chaplain for 2024-2025.

Do give thanks every day for everything.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I come before You with a heart full of gratitude. Today, I offer my thanks for Your countless blessings, both seen and unseen. May my life be a continual expression of thanksgiving to You. Amen

Lori Reimers
Department Chaplain

DISTRICT 3

American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Third District President Beverly Neel presented a check for \$700 to Laura and Randy Nelson, owners of Dreamer's Place Veterans Equestrian Ranch in Wayne on Saturday, April 13th, during the annual clean-up days at the ranch.

The District President chooses a "President's Project" for her year and donations are sought from the units.

Funds were raised by generous donations of ALA units in the Northeast Nebraska counties of Burt, Cedar, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Thurston, and Wayne. A big "THANK YOU" for the donations.



BOOT CAMP CARNIVAL HELD IN GREटना ON LEGION FAMILY DAY

Unit 216 President Cindy Moore of Greटना wanted to complete a mission before her term ended --- to have her own President's Project focusing on a family-friendly flag education event. Moore has a passion for patriotism that often brings her to tears when she speaks about it.

After sharing her idea with others at the National Mission Training and with local leaders, she expanded her plan to include more than flag education. The Boot Camp Carnival would check several mission boxes: Americanism, Community Service, Education, and Public Relations (Legion Family & Be The One), as well as Children and Youth Month, Military Child Month, and National Legion Family Day. The event was sponsored by the Greटना American Legion Auxiliary, the Greटना American Legion, the Greटना VFW, Greटना Hometown Heroes, Kona Ice of Three Rivers, and the Midlands Community Foundation.

The free carnival began with a high school student singing the national anthem, the Boy Scouts leading the pledge of allegiance, a flag ceremony including the folding and explanation of the 13 folds, a brief history of old glory, as well as a flag retirement demonstration.

The event also featured a poppy-making station with the reading of "The Poppy Lady" book and kids receiving a Trish Ward (National ALA VP) Junior Patriot Poppy booklet, a postcard writing station with stickers to military soldiers, face painting and tattoos, American Legion Auxiliary Exchange pinko prize game, a hot dog lunch, Kona Ice treat, and a military truck.

The event also included a booth for Greटना Hometown Heroes, the Boy Scouts, and the Legion Family highlighting information about Be The One and membership applications. In the main hall, a medley of songs (with text) of the branch of services played on the big screen while in the small hall two videos looped about flag history and folding of the flag by members of Offutt Air Force Base. (These videos were made at the request of President Moore earlier in the year with Offutt so she could provide them to the Greटना school district for holidays and educational purposes.)

Moore created carnival games to represent each branch of service with a corresponding prize.

ARMY Game:
Paratrooper Drop
Prize: Paratrooper

NAVY Game:
Aircraft Carrier Landing
Prize: Red, White & Blue Sunglasses

MARINE CORPS Game:
Shooting Range
Prize: Dog Tags

AIR FORCE Game:
Flight School
Prize: Airplane

SPACE FORCE Game:
Spaceflight Training
Prize: Glow Sticks & Bracelets

COAST GUARD Game:
Life Preserver Toss
Prize: Pack of Lifesaver Candy.

After completing basic training, there was a graduation photo booth and all youth received a flag and flag etiquette book to take home.

Many parents were thrilled with the event and admitted they learned something, too. A parent later sent President Moore a text and a picture of her son who went home and showed his dad how to properly fold the flag. That was the goal of the day!

Cindy Moore
President - Unit 216
greटनाa216@gmail.com
402-672-2040

MONIES RECEIVED FOR WALLACE HALL RENOVATION

The Wallace American Legion Hall was constructed in 1993. Limited remodels have been completed during the past thirty years, and the building needs renovation. The Wallace American Legion Hall provides a meeting place for various activities. It is the only facility for rent in the Wallace community that will accommodate a larger group of people on one level.

The Wallace American Legion and Auxiliary applied to the Robert F. Hanich Charitable Trust (Adams Bank & Trust, Trustee) and is very thankful to the Robert F. Hanich Charitable Trust for granting them \$50,000. These monies will be used to help remodel floors, the kitchen, and the HVAC system.

The American Legion and Auxiliary once again thank the Wallace Community Foundation Fund which has worked with the American Legion and Auxiliary to provide funding for the bathroom handicap accessible remodel and the support for the Veterans Wall.



In Memoriam

Received March 10, 2024 to June 28, 2024

June C. Firnhaber.....	Lincoln.....	3	Patricia Suing.....	Crofton.....	128
Karen K. Huettmann.....	Lincoln.....	3	Marlene H. Schmidt.....	Crofton.....	128
Vivian J. Tank.....	Lincoln.....	3	Margaret Lutton.....	Ashland.....	129
Joy Reeves.....	Central City.....	6	Janice Reisen.....	Ashland.....	129
Dorothy Ray.....	Hemingford.....	9	Catherine L. Watson.....	Ashland.....	129
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Louise E. Andersen.....	Grand Island.....	53	Roberta Patras.....	Clearwater.....	267
Grace B. Dickerson.....	Newcastle.....	62	June Hayward.....	Humboldt.....	269
Lori J. Ruskamp.....	Pilger.....	69	Carol F. Nisley.....	Bennet.....	280
Marge Hagedorn.....	West Point.....	70	Betty Brown.....	Hayes Center.....	287
Loretta E. Wagner.....	Creighton.....	74	Evelyn Davis.....	Table Rock.....	288
Jean Bennett.....	Battle Creek.....	75	Verna L. Kalina.....	Table Rock.....	289
Nellie Johnson.....	Ainsworth.....	79	Janice Braasch.....	Shelby.....	296
Shirley Bates.....	Ainsworth.....	79	Shirley Kugler.....	Paxton.....	303
Marilyn SchAAF.....	Atkinson.....	86	Candace Fritz.....	Osmond.....	326
Joyce A. Colvin.....	Valentine.....	90	Irma Volcek.....	South Omaha.....	331
Margaret Seevers.....	Sargent.....	104	Rebecca Avello.....	Davenport.....	335
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Lavonne Martin.....	Craig.....	127			

DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY

20-27 American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation – Washington, DC

AUGUST

3-5 National President Visit
10 Legion Family Leadership School - Ashland
10 Department President & Commander Homecoming - Yutan
23-29 National Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana

SEPTEMBER

2 State Fair Veterans Day Parade
2 Labor Day — Department Headquarters Closed
10 Deadline for Star Articles — October/November Issue
11 Patriots Day
20 POW/MIA Recognition Day
29 Gold Star Family Recognition Day

OCTOBER

10 Columbus Day — Department Headquarters Closed
31 Halloween

FOR YOUR ADVANCED PLANNING

January 17-19, 2025 Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk

Thank you

Words can never come close to expressing the true, overwhelming gratitude I have for a dear member and friend --- Jacki O'Neill. Her sacrifice to step in and voluntarily offer her help to not only me but our organization while being occupied with a very important full-time job will always be a blessing to cherish.

From the christening of my new name, "Barbie," to the reminders of no "crabby attitudes," her ever-present support and encouragement can never be repaid. Again, "thank you" falls short.

Barbie Meyer
Past Dept. President, PPP Chairperson, and Advisory Committee Member.



EDITOR'S NOTE

Please send articles and pictures for future editions of "THE STAR" to Lorene Bartos, Editor at 7441 San Mateo Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516 or email to: ALATheStarNE@yahoo.com. Send photos as jpg attachments. Material for the next issue needs to be submitted by SEPTEMBER 10, 2024.