Past National Commander Honored for Changing The World

Harry W. Colmery changed the world. The American Legion past national commander drafted the Servicemen’s Re-adjustment Act of 1944 – the GI Bill – which propelled the United States to superpower status, launching an era of U.S. prosperity that continues today. Colmery can be credited for such phenomena as averting economic disaster when millions of U.S. troops returned home from World War II, democratizing higher education, making home ownership affordable for average Americans, driving forward racial equality, establishing an all-volunteer military, revolutionizing health care for service men and women, and helping the American dream into an American reality for generations.

Until 2013, however, Colmery’s legacy was rarely remembered. That year the GI Bill became law, Colmery was immortalized. More than 200 veterans, military personnel, family members and business leaders attended dedication ceremonies for the Harry Colmery Memorial Plaza near the Kansas state capital building. The plaza features a statue of Colmery saluting men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces, with a panel of bronze figures behind him depicting the civilian professions they would assume after discharge. The American Legion’s Department of Kansas worked with volunteers and the Colmery family to raise funds and design and construct the memorial park.

“Harry Colmery represents the best of what it means to be an American veteran, an engaged citizen and servant to our country, state, nation and others,” National Commander Dale Barnett told the crowd. “(He) saw it as his personal duty to fulfill what we in The American Legion call an ‘individual obligation to community, state and nation.’ He fulfilled that duty at every level, from his local church, Boy Scouts, the Topeka Chamber of Commerce, the state Bar Association and The American Legion, to name just a few. And, as he was doing so, Harry Colmery just happened to shift the course of human history.”

American Legion Past National Commander and current Department of Kansas Adjutant Jimmie Foster said, “He was a living example of every founding principle of The American Legion – support for veterans, strong national security, mentorship for youth and American patriotism.”

Now, his legacy is cast in bronze so that future generations will understand that one individual can accomplish for his community, state and nation.

“In all the years that our family has witnessed grateful veterans expressing their appreciation for the GI Bill… and how it transformed their lives, we simultaneously wondered how to preserve that story so that it might inspire others,” Mina Steen, a granddaughter who worked closely with the memorial committee throughout the project, told a crowd at the ceremony. “Our prayer is that it will stand over time, commemorating a great human effort and political decision that served our veterans and country ever so well. Grandfather would be very pleased.”

By Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjudant.
To my Nebraska American Legion Family. I am honored to be writing my first letter to you as State Commander. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me as your 2016-2017 Commander. It is indeed an honor. I am Beth Linn from Scottsbluff, Nebraska and I am a 15 year member of Wright – Irion Post 5 in Scottsbluff. I am also a member of Auxiliary Unit 324 in Stapleton and a Legion Rider with the Central Sandhills Chapter out of Broken Bow.

I grew up on the family farm located south of Gandy, Nebraska. I graduated from Stapleton Public Schools in 1981 and attended Frontier School of the Bible in Lagrange, WY, for a year before entering the Army in 1983. I did One Station Unit training to become a Military Policeman at Ft. McClellan, Alabama. I then was stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia and Whar-dens in 1985. I chose this theme because it has been my family’s motto for the last several years. It has made us stronger as a family. We don’t give up and we support each other. The Nebraska Legion Family has become part of that strong support group. You have prayed for my family, you have given us shoulders to lean on and you have cried with us. The love and strength you have given me is immeasurable. The Legion helps our veterans in so many ways. Operation Comfort Warrior, Soldiers’ Wish, Temporary Financial Assistance, National Emergency Fund, Child Welfare Fund, The Legacy Fund and many other ways. But most veterans do not know how many ways we support them. We do not inform the public enough about what we do. We need to change this. This was one of the main concerns I was told when I was sitting outside of the state. I do not know all the answers but I am willing to look. We help around the world. We reach out to others to get the needed information and guidance to help our veterans and their families. More than once I have been contacted by individuals who are not part of the Legion Family but know that I am a Legionnaire to assist a Veteran or a Veteran’s family member who are in need. I have contacted National to obtain the needed contact information of the Legion Post in their area. Across this country, people have received their benefits because someone reached out. We will continue the fight for our veterans to receive the benefits they are owed. We do not back down. We will not stop. This is what we do. This is why we are Legionnaires. The oath we took does not expire. National Convention is in Cincinnati, Ohio this year. This will be one of the first things I attend. Please contact me if your Post, County, or District has an event you would like for me to attend. If I am unable to attend, I will send my Senior Vice-Commander or the Area Vice Commander.

Don’t Give Up, We’ve Got This Beth Linn, Department Commander

American Legion Department of Nebraska Senior Vice Commander Beth Linn spoke during the dedication on Memorial Day, at the new Veterans Memorial Monument in the City Park in Curtis. “All gave some, some gave all and some continue to give,” Linn said, pointing out three World War II veterans Bob Burrow, Ward Schick and Virgil Towne, seated in a place of honor for the dedication. Provided by Connie Jo Discoe, McCook Gazette.
It’s History
By Department Historian Jennifer Salak

Last month I wrote about Past National Commander Galbraith’s challenge to evaluate our Legion programs to prepare for the future. In June I had the privilege of attending several sessions of the 76th Annual Cornhusker Boys State held on the University of Nebraska’s main campus. What I experienced in that short amount of time was not only inspiring but a testament to the importance of promoting this extremely popular Legion program and continuing to send young Nebraskans to Lincoln to learn about government, leadership and teamwork.

Boys State was started in 1935 by two Illinois Legionnaires—Hayes Kennedy (Department of Americanism Chairman and Loyola Law Professor) and Harold Card (Boy Scout Chairman and Junior High School Teacher). During that time, camps known as Young Pioneer Camps were popping up all over our country teaching young people that democracy had outlived its usefulness and should be replaced with fascism—a form of government in which an extremist right-wing dictator rules over society. Kennedy and Card were so disturbed by these camps that they decided to start their own programs to provide the warmth of several blankets. It was here on these fairgrounds that the structure of the modern-day Boys State was born. Boys were divided into towns, learned about various government positions from prominent members of the community, held elections and participated in extracurricular activities like sports, band, choir and journalism.

This inaugural Boys State was so successful that at the 1935 national convention, the program was sanctioned by The American Legion as an Americanism Program and other departments were encouraged to start their own programs. Nebraska held its first Boys State at the University of Nebraska in 1938. Although some things have changed since 1938 (for example, the fee to sponsor a young man ranged between $10 and $12.50, and boys were required to pass an entrance exam), the basic premise of the program remains the same—learning about government, leadership and teamwork through hands-on experiences.

The 76th Annual Cornhusker Boys State Program truly embodied the concept of learning by doing. Students gained a greater understanding of government by talking with state legislators, visiting the state capitol, debating issues, campaigning and holding elections. They received advice on becoming leaders in their schools and communities from guest speakers like U.S. Senator Ben Sasse, Governor Pete Ricketts, UNL coaches Mike Riley, Amy Williams, Tim Miles and John Cook and motivational speakers Dr. Joanne Owens-Naustria and Scott Backovich. Students also learned about teamwork throughout the week and during their visit to the Nebraska National Guard Base in Lincoln. For a look at the class of 2016, visit www.cornhuskerboysstate.org.

The reasons for wanting to go to Boys State varied for each student—they want to learn more about government, their fathers and brothers attended, they heard from classmates how fun it was, they might get selected to attend Boys Nation in Washington DC, etc. However, at the end of the week-long program, most will agree that it was a life-changing event. The Boys State Program started in the 1930s as a response to extremist ideologies trying to undermine the democratic way of life. Even though 80 years have passed since the first Boys State was held, the program remains just as popular today as does its importance considering our nation and democracy continue to face threats from hostile extremists. As Legionnaires, it is up to us to ensure our youth have the opportunity to learn about government, leadership and teamwork through hands-on experiences.

VA Announces Telemental Health Clinical Resource Centers During Telemedicine Association Gathering

VA is a leader in Telehealth, caring for more than 677,000 Veterans through telehealth in fiscal year 2015. Telemental health expands VA capacity.

MINNEAPOLIS – As the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) works to improve Veterans’ access to health care, its telehealth services play an integral role in that process, said Dr. David J. Shulkin, VA’s Under Secretary for Health. Dr. Shulkin spoke today to members of the American Telemedicine Association attending the group’s 2016 conference in Minneapolis, where he also announced the establishment of five VA Mental Health Telehealth Clinical Resource Centers to provide enhanced mental health access and services to Veterans in remote locations.

VA is recognized as a world leader in the development of telehealth services that are now mission critical to the future direction of VA care to Veterans. VA uses health informatics, disease management, care and case management and telehealth technologies to facilitate access to care and improve the health of Veterans. VA currently services more than 677,000 Veterans through telehealth; that amounts to approximately 12 percent of the 5.6 Million Veterans who receive healthcare from the VA.

VA’s Mental Health Telemedicine Clinical Resource Centers will provide Veterans in underserved areas with enhanced access to mental health services through virtual care. The centers will provide Veterans access to 18 mental health providers in 18 remote locations. The resources will enable VA mental health providers to deliver a broader range of mental health services to Veterans in remote locations.

VA Telemedical Service at a glance

Chief Telehealth modalities include Clinical Video Telehealth (CVT), the use of real-time interactive video conferencing, sometimes with supportive peripheral technologies, to assess, treat and provide care to a patient remotely. Home Telehealth (HT), a program into which Veterans with chronic conditions (e.g., diabetes, congestive heart failure, etc.) are enrolled that applies care and case management principles to coordinate care using health informatics, disease management and technologies such as in-home monitoring, messaging and/or video technologies; and Store and Forward Telehealth (SFT), which uses technologies to asynchronously acquire and store clinical information (e.g., data, image, sound and video) that is then forwarded to or retrieved by a VA provider at another VA location for clinical evaluation.

Since fiscal year 2003, VA has provided Veterans with access to mental health services through more than 1.8 million telemental health encounters.

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VA’s national Store-and-Forward Telehealth programs operationalize this definition to cover services that provide this care using a clinical consultation pathway and a defined information technology pathway to communicate the event/encounter between providers, as well as enabling documentation of the event/encounter and the associated clinical evaluation within the patient record.

VA Telehealth Services are available for more than 45 specialty areas of care. Top areas for VA telehealth services are mental health services, rehabilitation including audiology and speech pathology, retinal imaging, primary care, weight management, cardiology, and dermatology.

If Legionnaires have questions they can contact their Post Service Officer or my office at 402-420-4021

Steve Burger, State Service Officer

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Straight Talk
Steve Burger, Department Service Officer
The recipients of District Citizenship Medal Awards were honored at the Saturday, June 25 meeting of the Department Convention. They are listed as follows with Post: Front row (1-r) Alvin Semin, Dwight Post 110; Stan Brodine, Elm Creek Post 316; Howard Davis, Arapahoe Post 96; Steve Bartos, Lincoln Post 3; John Prochazka, Wilber Post 101; Kevin Nordhagen, Omaha Post 1; Stanley Dryak, Niobrara Post 224. Back row (1-r) Glen Kotschwar, Chadron Post 12; Tom Sherman, Tecumseh Post 2; Wayne Eggert, Hallam Post 294; Jesse Wiseman, Homer Post 97; Larry McCracken, Alliance Post 7.

Donald Nelsen

The following is a partial list of Prisoners of war and Missing in Action over years. The Revolutionary War: 18152 POW and 4895 MIA. The War of 1812: 20,000 POW and 695 MIA. The Civil War: Union: 194,743 POW/MIA the Confederacy: 214,856 POW/MIA. World War II: 124,079 POW and 30,314 MIA. Korea: 214,856 POW/MIA. Vietnam: 12,000 POW and 1426 MIA. The War of 1812: 20,000 POW and 695 MIA. The Revolutionary War: 18152 POW and 4895 MIA. The War of 1812: 20,000 POW and 695 MIA. The Civil War: Union: 194,743 POW/MIA the Confederacy: 214,856 POW/MIA. World War II: 124,079 POW and 30,314 MIA. Korea: 214,856 POW/MIA. Vietnam: 12,000 POW and 1426 MIA.

No Medal – Just Home

Athletic Committee Chairman Jody Moeller presented Ken Meyer a special award for his years on the Athletic Committee and his dedication to the American Legion baseball program.

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Robert “Bob” Swanson was the recipient of the Cody Kerr Award for his work on behalf of veterans and the American Legion. Past Department Commander Jim Sidel made the presentation.

No Medal – Just Home

Past Department Commander Doug Boldt and Mike Reimers presented Area B Vice-Commander Shannon Kotschwar with the Crowbar Award “just because.”

Don Nelsen

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No Medal – Just Home

GOD PLEASE WATCH OVER AND PROTECT OUR TROOPS

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Robert “Bob” Swanson was the recipient of the Cody Kerr Award for his work on behalf of veterans and the American Legion. Past Department Commander Jim Sidel made the presentation.

No Medal – Just Home

Past Department Commander Mike Reimers passes the van keys and credit card to Department Commander Beth Linn.
American Legion Family and Friends

I hesitate to mention names as I may leave someone out, therefore I want to thank everyone that made our NNCCSAL fundraiser, held during our state convention in Kearney Nebraska, a huge success. To those that donated items for the silent auction, raffles, purchasers and donors, the support shown was fantastic. A special thank you to those that have received and received buzz cuts and of course the “Barber of Callaway”. Finally that group of individuals that has stepped up to serve on the campaign committee to help make this endeavor possible.

Your continued support has been overwhelming and makes me realize that I have made some very special friends through this organization. All of this is proof positive that there is no challenge that we cannot take on. Service to our Veterans, children, communities and state will always be a priority. Working together WE can and WILL make a difference! Thank you again.

Danny Smith
Candidate for National Commander

Sons of The American Legion

American Legion Night at I-80 Speedway

We have received 4,000 tickets to be handed out for American Legion Night at the Races at I-80 Speedway on Friday, August 5. We want everybody to have an opportunity to enjoy the races. To obtain free tickets please call John at Department Headquarters 402-464-6338 and I will make sure that you are provided with all the tickets you need. We hope that you all have a great night at the races.

Special Note: For information pertaining to American Legion Baseball go to: www.ne legionbaseball.net

Legionnaires

I see this time and time again when attending funerals. At no time is the wearing of a Legion cap in a place of worship permitted unless you are part of the Color/Honor Guard or the Commander of such detail. The cap is to be removed when entering the place of worship and held over your heart. One other habit of members regarding Cap Etiquette and funerals:

• At the graveside, the hat is held in a position while attending the entire service unless you are part of the Color/Honor detail or Commander of such detail. Non-legionnaires looking at some Legionnaires with hats on and others with hats off would easily get the impression we don’t appear to know the rules. All of us need to comply with these standard rules so that we appear uniform at these functions.

• Dave Salak

Uniform Cap Etiquette

□ The left side (emblem side) of the cap is reserved only for the Legion emblem, city, county, district, or state leadership.

□ The right side of the cap is reserved only for your name, number, and unit affiliation, such as Past Commander.

□ Caps insignias or badges for past or present officers

□ Consecutive membership insignia, membership stars, and/or authorized Legion or military service decorations

□ Names or nicknames of individual members cannot be used on caps.

□ The Legion uniform cap should be worn by its members only when in attendance at Legion meetings or ceremonies or as official guests at patriotic or other civil functions or by individuals when officially representing The American Legion on public occasions.

□ A member is considered to be in uniform if wearing an official Legion uniform cap. Therefore it is not proper to wear the cap while eating a meal at an official Legion or civic luncheon or dinner.

□ The cap should be worn in a place of worship only by the Guard of Honor, Color Guard, and Commander of same while in marching order or standing guard. When returned to and seated in pews, the cap should be removed. When posts marches in formation into a place of worship should uncover at the door, hold the cap with the right hand over the heart until the arrival in the pews and command to take seats, remaining uncovered during the entire service. At the close of the service, upon command, the post shall arise, the members holding the cap with the right hand over the heart will march out of the place of worship and recover after marching through the door.

□ Legion members not in formation will uncover upon entering the place of worship and remain uncovered during the entire service and will recover after leaving the place of worship.

□ When at a funeral, the cap should be held over the heart as one approaches the casket and is not at any time worn in a place of worship (except by the Guard of Honor, Color Guard, or Commander of same while in marching order or standing guard.) At the graveside, the cap should be held in the right hand over the heart during the entire service.

In cold and inclement weather, the cap should not be worn.

□ In Legion meetings, the cap should be worn except during moments of the Pledge of Allegiance, and when standing in silent reverence in memory of departed comrades, when the cap should be held with the post or commander over the heart.

□ Female members of the Legion should wear their caps in the manner prescribed for female personnel of the armed services.

Please send in your photo to the Name of the individual, and where they are located.

American Legion Family and Friends
“Morality, Ethics, Leadership

What about someone who stands out among the crowd of onlookers, seeming straight, tall, and oozing with confidence and self-assuredness. Hey, maybe that image fits, you...or you...or maybe you just sitting there...wondering...could I? Should I? Will I? Can I? Well, get off that self-imposed throne of yours—no, not your toilet—yes, you! And not only that—orthodoxy? To be continued.

HWIC (head woman in charge), or the HMIC (head man in charge)...

"Trust in the Lord, with all thine heart, and lean not on thine own understanding. In all thy ways, acknowledge Him, and He will set straight thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5,6). Now you and I know that God Himself did not say this, but guess who did, along with dictating an entire book of the Bible’s Old Testament? Not sure, huh? How about if I throw out this “bone”: he was the richest and wisest man on the planet at one time. Still not sure? OK. How about I give you one of the letters of his name, like “S”?

You got it! Solomon. You know: the guy with many wives and concubines and children? He was also the son of David, Israel’s greatest king. Even the queen of Sheba came to verify his reputation. Solomon also admonished that “…all is vanity…” (Ecclesiastes 1:2). Note: …from a man with all those wives to support. Would your wife (or husband for the reverse situation) go for that? Solomon learned a hard lesson from his appetite not being held back: he sinned against God by lustfully after his wives’ and concubines’ gods, to his ultimate demise. No wonder the Lord said in Deuteronomy 31:1 that “…in that day will I cut off from before your eyes your strength, and your princes, and your pleasant things, of all the good things that thy fathers had in the land of Egypt: for ye knew not any God, but served every vanity.

Are almost always bad men [or bad women]." (Sir John Dalberg-Acton, 8th Baronet from 1837 to 1869, England). This is not to say that any of us—Lord forbid—would dare tarnish the reputation of America, like mom, apple pie, and so on—but really, we know, there’s a war of words going on over our nation’s future, featuring a cross-section of issues, like: genderless restrooms, homosexual marriage, congressional ineffectiveness, nonpresidential leadership, religious contentions (i.e., Muslims versus everyone else, and each other), worldwide political candidates lack of citizen power (i.e., loss of our republicanism), and so on. Where will it all lead, if people like us Legionnaires don’t step up and not only continue our pledge to uphold the ideals of America, like mom, apple pie, and so on—badly, we ALL know about God, country, and family. Our America has/is/will be open to different faiths, such as Islam, Hindu, Hari Krishna, besides the ole standbys of Lutheranism, Catholicism, Baptists, Methodism, Judaism, and Atheism. We, as Americans, are told to blow down our noses at those different from us because our fore-parents came to this land to forge a new nation where EVERYONE is free to worship his or her deity, as long as EVERYONE shows respect to the other’s faith. If God, Christianity’s Creator, shows no respect of persons (Acts 10:34), who are we to pass judgment on another’s beliefs?

Actually, that judgment between good and evil, or simply right and wrong, to express our firm awareness of morality and ethics, is now called into question to deal with an unprecedented crisis that may threaten our way of life as never before. It’s not the first time we are up against presidential election, genderless restrooms, homosexual marriage, mercy killings, Obamacare, or the war against ISIS. It’s much more grave than all of these. It deals with...each of us...being true to what you KNOW to be true.

Taylor is coming in America when we’ll be tested, as Legionnaires, to maintain our faith in the Lord amidst increasing calls for equality for everyone, no matter any one’s faith, and no matter any one’s traditions, in accordance with Holy Scripture’s depiction of our last days heading into the end times (2 Peter 3:3). To be a leader of human thinking in these trying times, especially among our fellow Legionnaires, is to stand the test of others’ call for compromise, tolerance, complacency, me-diocriety, and selfishness. It has been foretold, in Scripture, of this trial for all of us in the coming years (Romans 8:35). The close watch for those who are brewing as mentioned with the generally less restrooms, etc. The testing is here and now. But with God’s grace and provision, a way will be made for all believers to withstand the struggle, and persevere (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Dr. William Jackson
Department Chaplain

COMMANDEVERS NOTES

We have another state convention behind us. My goals for this year in the 100th membership by December 31st, and I am challenging all squadrions to increase their membership by 5+ members and show national that Danny Smith is the best candidate for national Commander. As we all know it takes a lot of money to run a campaign, if every squadron does a fund-raiser in support of Danny, it will take his job a lot smoother. Big or small we can all do our part. Remember Nebraska will be under a microscope while Danny is running.

Keep up the good work and always remember. Our motto is for God and Country.

I do plan on visiting with all Commanders and Adjutants in each District time and date to be set by District Commanders.

My motto for the year is MARCHING FORWARD and as an organization together we can do great things for our community, state and nation.

In closing, remember that any time you have a problem, don't be afraid to ask for help. Remember you have a counter part in the American Legion that can help you with that or give me a call or email and either I will or one of my advisors will come out and give you a hand.

Detachment Commander
Bobby G Baker Phone 402-791-2126 Email JBaker1111@wmconnect.com

S.L. Notes
Keith Kearns Detachment Commander

Outgoing S.L. Commander’s Letter: I would like to start out by thanking all of the Members of The American Legion for having the faith and trust to let me serve these past two years as your Commander. These have been a full two years and they have moved by so quickly it is hard to believe the time has passed. This past year especially. It all started in Kearney at the 2015 Convention and ended in Kearney as well. I almost could say it felt like no time had passed at all. As your commander I have had the privilege of working this past year with Commander Mike Reimer and President Barb and they have been inspiring in watching all that they have done for veterans and The American Legion Family. I hope that many of you were able to attend the convention in Kearney, we had a good meeting followed by a very educational training session. The members who were able to attend participated in a program that helped build understanding of The American Legion, its purpose and touched a little bit on the Four Pillars. Those members that attended were able to take part in some good question and answer and learn more about our great organization.

With this year’s convention we are seeing great changes with a new commander and he has some great ideas to move this organization into the future. Bobby Gene Baker who has served as the Eastern Area Vice-Commander was elected to be our commander and he has a great leadership team under him to help our S.L. members across the state. With going into a new year, we need to get an early start on membership. This past year we went into the home stretch trying to get up with those last few members to get new-takers taken care of and it is always much easier if we take care of our membership early. I know this can sometimes be a challenge, but your S.L. leadership can be a great help with ideas and suggestions of ways to stay up on this important part of your squadron duties.

If you are from a Post that has yet to charter an S.L. Squadron, please give this a lot of thought. By involving your sons in The American Legion family, you share all the great things that we do with them. In a lot of cases, your sons may be helping out at Post functions anyway, I know this happens in small Posts across the State. In small towns, people just come together and help out. Let’s make this official, if you have a squadron, ask them to join, or better yet, get them a membership as a gift for a birthday, anniver-sary, or just because you love them type of thing. If your Post does not have a squadron, talk to your post leadership about the possibility of chartering a squadron. If having a squadron as part of your Post family isn’t something that would work at this time, you can always have your sons or grandsons join a squadron from a neighbor- ing Post. This strong support of the Legion family, and know they are part of the family when they are helping out around your Post. In closing, I want to again thank everyone for the chance they gave me to serve and hope that new opportunities will continue to allow all of us to serve our Veterans and Communities.

Keith Kearns
Past Detachment Commander

South Omaha Squadron 331 recently donated $500.00 to the Eastern Nebraska Veteran’s Home earmarked for their Activity Fund. Pictured (L-R) are: Jeff Smith E.N.V.H. Interim Administrator, Karl Frederickson, Pat Zymola Detachment Assistant Sgt-at-Arms.

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Pictured is Thomas Land-keet, Chairman of S.L. Squadron 15 Vice-Commander and S.L. Detachment Ser-gant at Arms) conducting a flag etiquette program for badgers at the Lutheran School in Nor-folk. He does this on an annual basis to promote patriotism in the schools.

Dr. William Jackson Department Chaplain

We NEED PICTURES AND STORIES

LET US KNOW WHAT YOUR POST, SQUADRON OR RIDERS ARE DOING. WE TAKE ITEMS FOR ARTICLES AND PIC-TURES BY E-MAIL TO cmdrdirection@wind-stream.net

YOUR POST, SQUADRON OR RIDERS ARE DOING. WE TAKE ITEMS FOR ARTICLES AND PICTURES BY E-MAIL TO cmdrdirection@wind-stream.net

Bobby G. Baker Phone 402-791-2126 Email JBaker1111@wmconnect.com

S.A.L. Notes
Keith Kearns Detachment Commander

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The The American Legion Riders

The 2016 riding season is in full swing and American Legion Riders chapters across the state are getting’ at it as usual, and in a big way! There’s not enough space on this page to list all the events and great causes your ALR chapters have sponsored, lead or participated in thus far. So, here are a couple highlights.

The Western Sandhills Post 34 and Hemingford Post 9 ARL chapters joined forces on Memorial Day at the yearly Hemingford Parade of Flags event. As reported by Casey Walton (Gordon Post 34 ARL & Assistant ALR Liaison – WEST), it was a sight to behold! Each circle of U.S. flags contained the names of fallen Veterans from the area. It was three city blocks long. What an awesome and beautiful tribute.

GREAT JOB to the GORDON & HEMINGFORD ALR Chapters! GOOD TEAMWORK!

As reported by Scott Spicher (Millard Post 374 ARL & Assistant ALR Liaison – SOUTHEAST), on June 14th (Flag Day) Millard Chapter 374 performed a flag replacement ceremony at Walnut Grove Retirement Community and then gave motorcycle rides to 20 residents. For many it was the first time they had ridden on a motorcycle and ranged in age from 57 to 94 years young! The residents look forward to the activity each year and talk about it for months afterwards. Even the first time they had ridden on a motorcycle and ranged in age

Ride as One, Band Together as One....for Those Who Served and their families.

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Ride as One, Band Together as One....for Those Who Served and their families.

The American Legion Riders

Anderson, Darrel K., Decatur, Illinois
Baldus, John H., Lincoln, Nebraska
Baroch, Patrick E., St. Paul, Vietnam
Beem, Elmer H., Sutherland, Nebraska
Behmer, Duane, Norfolk, Nebraska
Bily, Ferdinand J., Omaha, Nebraska
Bitten MD, Dan G., Gordon, Nebraska
Blie, Kenneth R., Ogallala, Nebraska
Bolmeier, Wayne P., Lincoln, Nebraska
Boylejack, Michael D., Lincoln, Nebraska
Borgmeier, Charles A., Lincoln, Nebraska
Boslaup, Byron L., Lincoln, Nebraska
Bouwens, Oscar L., Lincoln, Nebraska
Brockmann, Thomas R., Antique, Nebraska
Brooks, John D., Lincoln, Nebraska
Breiten, Larry C., Broken Bow, Nebraska
Catania, Salvatore F., Plattsmouth, Nebraska
Catania, Sebastian J., Omaha, Nebraska
Christie, Robert G., Elkhorn, Nebraska
Clark, Jerry G., Fremont, Nebraska
Coleman, Wilbur G., Pleasant Dale, Nebraska
Conner, Charles E., Lincoln, Nebraska
Denton, Lyle E., Lincoln, Nebraska
Dinges, Emanuel A., Lincoln, Nebraska
Doppheide, Jerome C., Butte, Montana
Drohle, Jerome A., Lincoln, Nebraska
Eigle, Daniel W., Chadron, Nebraska
Engel, Louis R., Doniphan, Nebraska
Engel, Robert G., Chadron, Nebraska
Engel, Walter, Gering, Nebraska
Field, Duane G., Winslow, Nebraska
Folck, Glenn D., Plainview
Frei, Richard C., Norfolk, Nebraska
Gerron, Warren G., South Omaha, Nebraska
Godchin, Chas. M., Lincoln, Nebraska
Graf, Marvin R., Wymore, Nebraska
Graves, Jay C., Omaha, Nebraska
Green, Jonathan E., Sutton, Nebraska
Hajek, John P., Odell, Nebraska
Hall, Merlin R., Wahoo, Nebraska
Halvorsen, Forrest, Syracuse, Nebraska
Hansen, Robert W., Lincoln, Nebraska
Hansen, Russell E., St. Paul, Nebraska
Hargrave, Frank J., Omaha, Nebraska
Hettle, Elmer L., Lincoln, Nebraska
Hemenway, Oscar, Norfolk, Nebraska
Herrington, James J., Beatrice, Nebraska
Hilmer, Edward D., St. Paul, Vietnam
Hinrichs, Elmer H., Holdreth, Nebraska
Hopkins, Carrol W., Burwell, Nebraska
Hunter, Glenn, Decatur, Nebraska
Johnson, Arland, Columbus, Nebraska
Jones, Robert L., Sutherland, Nebraska
Keith, Brian H., Omaha, Nebraska
Kelly, Leo J., Beatrice, Nebraska
Kleievann, Delbert J., Columbus, Nebraska
Koop, Marvin, Wood River, Nebraska
Kreitman, Verle, Bassett, Nebraska
Laferla, Frank C., Omaha, Nebraska
Laser, Harold W., Pleasant Dale, Nebraska
Lauer, Thomas M., Omaha, Nebraska
Leroy, J. C., Beatrice, Nebraska
Lockhart, William L., Millard, Nebraska
Mangelsden, Victor L., Oseola, Nebraska
Maresch, Duane C., Omaha, Nebraska
Markitan, Frank J., Columbus, Nebraska
Mathews, Cecil K., Wymore, Nebraska
McAfoos, C. H., Omaha, Nebraska
McPhatter, Jr. John T., North Omaha, Nebraska
Merten, Donald J., Albion, Nebraska
Mickey, David H., Lincoln, Nebraska
Miller, Donald V., Omaha, Nebraska
Milone, Sam A., Ralston, Nebraska
Moore, Charles L., Albion, Nebraska
Morey, Robert B., Lincoln, Nebraska
Morgan, Ellis N., Summer, Nebraska
Murphy, Richard, Niobrara, Nebraska
Nagel, Willard, Beaver Crossing, Nebraska
Nelson, Wilfred R., Potter, Nebraska
Nielsen, Russell H., Plattsmouth, Nebraska
Nieman, Ray R., Custer, Nebraska
Ohms, Jeane L., Omaha, Nebraska
Olmsted, F. "Wayne", Friend, Nebraska
Opg, Alvin, Lincoln, Nebraska
Parke, Jr. Wilbur L., Kearney, Nebraska
Paschold, Harold F., Firth, Nebraska
Patterson, Marvin J., Beatrice, Nebraska
Patterson, William, Gordon, Nebraska
Procksh, Thomas L., Lincoln, Nebraska
Rabeler, Henry, Rushville, Nebraska
Rembolt, Delbert, Grand Island, Nebraska
Renner, Raymond H., Crete, Nebraska
Rhode, Rick Y., Lincoln, Nebraska
Robison, Donald D., Kearney, Nebraska
Rowland, Jess W., Lincoln, Nebraska
Schaffer, Arthur J., Norfolk, Nebraska
Schiebinger, Robert D., Lincoln, Nebraska
Schuster, Harold E., Lincoln, Nebraska
Schwartz, William L., Omaha, Nebraska
Scott, Wayne F., Lincoln, Nebraska
Seacrest, James C., Lincoln, Nebraska
Sevlin, Alan E., Omaha, Nebraska
Shihlan, Richard, J., Lincoln, Nebraska
Sisler, Marvin L., Brainard, Nebraska
Skandadore, Charles, Gordon, Nebraska
Smith, William N., Omaha, Nebraska
Smolinski, Richard H., South Omaha, Nebraska
Sobczyk, Edward T., Omaha, Nebraska
Stacy, Richard J., Kearney, Nebraska
Stalnaker, Maurice, Norfolk, Nebraska
Stanley, Eugene, Cortland, Nebraska
Steinbrugger, Keith, Franklin, Nebraska
Stessman, Ted J., Omaha, Nebraska
Stoll, Louis, Beatrice, Nebraska
Suiter, Sr. R., Omaha, Nebraska
Turner, Billie, Lincoln, Nebraska
Ullman, Richard J., Beatrice, Nebraska
Urkoski, Kenneth J., Monroe, Nebraska
Watson, Arwood R., Lincoln, Nebraska
Weaver, Donald D., Beatrice, Nebraska
Weerts, Michael G., Beatrice, Nebraska
White, Ted L., Millard
Wichert, Gerald G., Norfolk, Nebraska
Wills, Herbert, Winslow, Nebraska
Willson, Lewin R., Fremont, Nebraska
Wright, Raymond L., West-

In last months TAPS John Masonbrinck of Shubert Post 222 was listed as Korea and should have been Vietnam.

The Nebraska Legionnaire-July/August, 2016

Page 7

2016 GRAND ISLAND VETERANS’ HOME 19TH ANNUAL CAR & BIKE SHOW Sunday, September 11
$10 Show Vehicle Entry Fee - No Admission Fee
Event Registration: 1 to 5 p.m. Car & Bike Show: Presentation/ Awards: 3:30 p.m. Call (402) 366-6322, ext. 322 for a registration form.
All shows vehicles must stay parked until 4:00 p.m. Rain date is September 18, 2016

TAPS

Millard Post 374 ALR on June 14th (Flag Day) performed a flag replacement ceremony at Walnut Grove Retirement Community and gave motorcycle rides to 20 residents.

More details of these events are discussed in Brian’s report above.
American Legion, Anderson Post 25, Wymore, Nebraska, Vice Commander Ken Wellensiek, is shown presenting 50 year membership certificate to Vietnam veteran Eugene Caspers.

P.R. Halligan Post 163 in North Platte celebrated the Legion’s birthday and Commander Scott Halsted presented seventy year membership certificates to three members. Pictured (l-r) Commander Scott Halsted, Jess Neilsen and Gene Mitchem. Not able to attend James Beckius.

Dodge American Legion Post 122 presented certificates of continuous membership awards to (l-r) Commander Gerald Schulte, Larry Faltine (50), Clarence Eikmeier (60), Gordon Pilmore (60) and Adjutant, Lenny Kempf. Not present is Ed Uher (70).

Emerson American Legion Post 60 Commander Mick Hassler presented a Certificate for 70 years of continuous membership to Erwin Larson.

Cowles American Legion Post 116 presented Financial Officer Stacy Rasser a plaque for her outstanding contributions to the post. Pictured (l-r) Adjutant Dwight E. Theobald, Financial Officer Stacy Rasser and Post Commander Denziel Tavenner.

Carroll Post 165 Commander Ken Hall presented WWII veteran Stanley J. Morris his 70 year certificate for continuous membership in the American Legion.

The Legion Chorus from Hartman Post 84, Columbus provided the patriotic music for the Post’s annual awards night which included an Honorary Life Membership for member Chuck Ha gel, a former U.S. Senator and Secretary of State.
Another highlight of the week was the visit and tour of the Nebraska National Guard Base.

Emma Good (Ainsworth) was the recipient of the Samsung Scholarship. Emma Redinger (Hastings) and Veronica (Roni) Korth (Hastings) were chairpersons of the Women’s Auxiliary to the National Guard, leading the march and giving the keynote address.

Lynne Wild at the Department Convention in Kearney.

Girls State was held June 5-11, 2016, on the UNL campus. 398 young women participated in the week-long program that was filled with debates, whistle-stop campaigns, a current events quiz, elections, a government visit, a Pan American Tour, State Capitol tour, and speakers.

One hundred fifty-nine Girls State citizens volunteered their time to make a difference as a part of the Service Learning activities. The other citizens were involved in Band, Choir, Places of Interest (Shelton Art Museum, Memorial Stadium, and a campus Scavenger Hunt), and Girls State Media.

All of the Girls State citizens had the opportunity to learn from community leaders and local and state government officials. Special presentations by American Legion Auxiliary members, like President Barb Washburn giving the Story of the American Legion Auxiliary, a Poppy Presentation by Department Poppy Chairman Janette Ritchie and Past National Historian Virginia Nelson, and the POW/MIA Table presentation by Past Department President Lynne Wild and Gayla Schmidt. 2015 Girls Nation Senators Kamryn Sannicks (2015 Girls Nation President and Kansas) and Lyndie and Lynne Wild were honored to attend this special week.

6. Our special guest will be Northwestern Vice President Lori Skallerud (Lincoln). She will be long remembered.

The Department convention report, I hope you will attend the Department Convention June 26-28 at the Outback Convention Center in Kearney.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska needs each and every one of you to reinforce our purposes. You are important to this organization through your volunteer work, your community support, your presence at meetings, and simply being a member.

Your monetary gifts will promote these programs.

I want to thank Barbara Washburn and Barbara Skillman for the foundation these two Past Presidents have set to move our organization in the right direction. Without that foundation, we cannot move forward with our strategic plan to meet our goals of the Centennial in 2019.

Our membership in this organization is a privilege. The American Legion Auxiliary of the Department of Nebraska needs each and every one of you to reinforce our purposes. You are important to this organization through your volunteer work, your community support, your presence at meetings, and simply being a member. Your monetary gifts will promote these programs.

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FARNAM

Leigh-Anne Lehmann of Eustis-Farnam School was the winner of the American Legion Auxiliary State Americanism Essay Contest for the 9th and 10th Grade Category.

HISTORY

Good Morning, Ladies.

So what did you do three hours ago that would cause you to want to remember and share it? I started this article trying to think of things that are truly important to us. Our Auxiliary was duly elected as the Department Historian. If the elections had taken another route this “history lesson” would not be known.

That is how we do as members of the American Legion Auxiliary is known — unless we share it with others. It’s time we take a “Slice” into the History apple and share what we do.

Begin to write your Unit and District “narrative history” for 2016-2017 by researching and creating a grand opening paragraph for your Unit narrative history report due to this Chair by April 15, 2017. That first paragraph will be when your Unit was chartered; who were your chartered members (list them); what were your dues; what programs were in place (list them); and who were your first officers (names). (District Presidents go back in time with your District and give a summary of each five years you have on record and bring it up through 2016-2017. Your District History will not have a charter or chartered members, but you may have per capita dues, maybe specific District programs/projects. Find what you can and get it gathered together and into one document in 2016-2017.)

The second paragraph will consist of current Unit Officers and Unit Chairmen for 2016-2017, what are your dues (Senior and Junior); and who you meet (day of week, time of day/night); and what programs your Unit gets involved in and what you do for your selected programs. Also, list those Unit members who have served beyond the Unit level; i.e., County, District, Department or National. List these officers and be honored that your Unit has been represented on multiple levels.

From here on out, you need to use margins and figures will be Unit meeting minutes. Keep records concise, accurate and updated. Be sure to use members’ names, describe your events/projects and share your successes and failures. We learn from them all. You will dedicate a paragraph to each month of the year as to what your Unit has accomplished, who you have honored, who you have served, what challenges did you meet and what impact you have had upon them. It is not as important to know what we have success with if we do not share what impact we have had upon whom to serve and provide for. Remember it is for others that we serve and it is important that we capture our history report due to this Chair by April 15, 2017. Historiography will start from May 1, 2016 through April 30, 2017. Narrative history will be on standard white paper 8.5” x 11”; Tahoma font size/12; left margin 1.25” and 1” for all other margins justified, single-spaced text (all do great things so be accurate as possible); double space between paragraphs and one-side please.

Once again, thank you so much for your State Government and all of this new information given to you which motivates me to be an active citizen. Girls State has been such an amazing experience that I am definitely considering taking an active role in the program in the future. Once again, thank you so much for this great opportunity! With gratitude, Nina Ong (South Sioux City).

A special thank you is extended to Barb Washburn, Department President for 2015-2016, the State Girls officer – Ashlyn Wilkes, Nicole Vancil, Vicki Colson, Chairman.

RANCHOS GIRLS STATE – 2016 Continued from previous page

The trip we took to Washington, D.C. was a wonderful experience. We learned so much, met many wonderful people, and had a lot of fun. A special thank you to all the teachers and staff who made our trip so enjoyable.

CORNHUSK GIRLS STATE – 2016

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EDITOR’S NOTE

Please send articles and pictures for future editions of “The Star” to Lorraine Bartels, Editor, 7441 San Mateo Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516 or email to ALATheStarNE@yahoo.com. Send photos jpg as attachments. Materials for the next issue need to be submitted by August 10, 2016.

2016-17 CENTERPIECE AND TRAY FAVOR CONTESTANTS

GI Med Center 10 Cntrpc GI Veterans Home 215 Tray Fav Belleview Eastern NE VA Home 20 Cntrpc Norfolk VA Home 20 Cntrpc Western NE Home 70 Tray Fav Omaha Med Center 75 Tray Fav

July August September October November December January February March April May June

#310 Gibson #163 N. Platte #303 Lewistown #346 Baykin #257 Eustis #141 Hampton #310 Gibson #6 Central City #209 Franklin #218 Ester #316 Etna #166 Bruning #141 Hampton #218 Ester #209 Franklin #218 Ester

#253 Lusilville #3 Lincoln #273 Brainard #156 Burchard #364 Naponie #136 Krajewski #172 Neleigh #204 Leigh-Anne Lehmann of Eustis-Farnam School was the winner of the American Legion Auxiliary State Americanism Essay Contest for the 9th and 10th Grade Category.

Leigh-Anne Lehmann of Eustis-Farnam School was the winner of the American Legion Auxiliary State Americanism Essay Contest for the 9th and 10th Grade Category.

The committee awarded 23 scholarships. The units awarded over $25,500 in scholarships. Many thanks to all of you units who gave 10 for Education and work in your schools to promote Education. Vicki Colson Chairman

Jackson Auxiliary Unit 175 sponsored an Americanism Essay Contest at Ponca Elementary School! Pictured are Unit President Jane Peters and Vivian Ainslie, who also lost brothers.

RISING CITY.

--- 1st Place for Class II (6th Grade), Holden Velez --- 2nd Place for Dillon with the students who received State Awards! test at Ponca Elementary School! Pictured are Unit President Jane Peters and Vivian Ainslie, who also lost brothers.

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2016-2017 DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

District 1
Bonnie Finley

District 2
Marlene Meyer

District 3
Adeline Hanel

District 4
Donna Bratt

District 5
Diane Donnelly

District 6
Vicki Cyboron

District 7
Ann Sabata

District 8
Sally Johnson

District 9
Lois Reiners

District 10
Nancy Griffiths

District 11
Judy Bespalec

District 12
Jody Schmale

District 13
Ruth Hietbrink

CONVENTION SNAPSHOTS
The Tiny Flower with a Big Heart, The Poppy

June 7th at Cornhusker Girls State was an exciting day for Katelyn Painter and me. Katelyn is a 10 year old student from Springview who was one of the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary Department Poppy Window Display winners.

My name is Maureen Beck. I grew up outside of Wilber, Nebraska and was a graduate of Doane College, and for the past five years have had the privilege to be the 6-12 Instrumental Music Teacher for the School District. Music has always been such an important part of my life. As long as I can remember, my family followed my dad and the various polka bands he plays in around the state of Nebraska to Czech Festivals, polka dances, and anniversaries, birthdays, etc. My sister and I always enjoyed dancing to the music with my mom. Both of my parents always encouraged me and my sister to do what we love, and I feel very fortunate to have their support as I share my love of music with my students, church family as the Minister of Music, and now with all of you! I believe that music has many facets, and relates and can be used within the American Legion Auxiliary in many ways. In visiting with our new President, Deb Albers, her theme this year is Slice with a Price. Although freedom is most definitely not free, we can celebrate our freedom through creating quality musical experiences and using music within our units. Music’s greatest quality is its expressivity and ability to convey emotions.

Music can be uplifting, used in tribute, or simply be used as a fun activity. I love to sing, but as an instrumental music teacher, I often work with students who don’t share those sentiments toward singing, so I challenge all of you to find fun ways to incorporate music within your meetings outside of just singing, play a game, create art from listening to music, invite youth performers from your community — which could also be an excellent recruitment tactic, too!

As Music Chairwoman, one of my goals is to introduce and include songs that are both familiar and unfamiliar during our honored monthly songs, July’s songs celebrate our country’s independence, while the songs for August celebrate the beauty within our great nation. I hope you enjoy these selections as much as I do! Have a great summer making music fun!

July Honored Songs: Hymn: The Battle Hymn of the Republic

Patriotic: The Star Spangled Banner

Scott Key Fellowship: God Bless America

Irvin Ross August Honored Songs: Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth

Patrician: America The Beautiful

Kransa Americana (Czech Waltz with a beautiful America)

Maureen Beck, Music Chairman

American Legion Auxiliary

I am very honored to be selected as the recipient of the Nurse’s Scholarship. This will allow me to pay for my schooling so I can become a nurse in the future!

Jenny Myers

I want to thank everyone who donated black robes to Cornhusker Girls State. What a difference that made for the girls. We were not cooking them. They all appreciated them as much as I did. Thanks again.

Renee Van Winkle

Girls State Chairwoman