

CADENCE

ALBERT WOOLSON

"Taps are sounded, lights are out, the soldier sleeps."

A HISTORY MYSTERY

Northland Vietnam Veterans
Memorial Foundation
Interview with
Vietnam Veterans
Essay Winner

Veterans Memorial Hall

FLAG SOIREE

"How to Work with Your Financial
Network Investment Adviser
Representative"
Neill Atkins

THE
OFFICIAL

FREE GUIDE
FOR OUR TWIN PORTS VETS!

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one of the flags from the "Flag Soiree" held at the Depot in Duluth



Dwight Nelson

WHY ARE YOU A MEMBER?

As I have been reading and editing the contributions to this months' publication from the Posts and organizations, there seems to be a recurring theme: the need to fill a void created by the loss, over time of local veteran leaders; for an increase in participation by the membership - Volunteers. Reasons are given that times have changed, that our personal lives have gotten more complicated and busy, that the Posts have lost touch with the needs of the membership, that the Posts are run by little clichés, and that people just don't care about their community. Have we become more self-centered than previous generations? I will admit that these are reasons, but they are just reasons for you to sit back and do nothing - instead of pitching in and helping out in some way that the organizations would benefit, either from the knowledge or experience that you might have or just by putting in a few hours. If one person gathers wood we have a campfire, if everyone gathers wood we have a bonfire.

Or are you a member; that we just carry your name on the books, that the state carried with a Veterans Bonus, that the GI Bill carried to give you an education, that the VA carried so you could buy a home, and that the VA Clinic carries to give you medical care. These are all benefits that are yours because of a group of volunteers. Volunteers do these things because it is the right thing to do. So don't worry, because in the end a group of volunteers will carry you once more, to lay you to rest, and fold the flag and give it to your family. Why? Because you once volunteered to serve this nation and we will stand by you for doing that one selfless act years ago.

I feel that I am a very lucky person that over the last three decades I have meet some wonderful, generous, giving people. I am privileged to have worked with them in the many organizations, committees, and projects. And I look at the Duluth Hall of Fame, the many recipients over the years who have made Duluth a beautiful city in so many ways. And so much of that was done by the veteran volunteers. If you look for the negative and bad in anything you will find it. All of these people looked for the positive and good, and they found it. And great things were accomplished because they worked together and didn't expect someone else to do their work for them. So what do you say? Can you lend a hand, give a few hours, improve the Post or organization in some way, and be an active part of this great veteran family?

In this issue there are a few new contributions I hope you will enjoy. We have added a Letters to the Editor, the Northland Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation, and the UWS Workshop.

We have also added Pauline Davies in Advertising Sales. You will also be able to read CADENCE on line at: www.nvva.us.

When you patronize any of the advertisers in CADENCE, please tell them that you saw their ad in CADENCE and that you appreciate their support of the veterans, the guards, the reservists, and their families. Their advertisements subsidize the Posts and organizations that participate in this publication so that they will not have to bear the full cost of producing and mailing CADENCE out to their memberships.

Disabled America Veterans

CADENCE

Editor:

My first and lasting impressions upon attending my first State of Minnesota Disabled American Veteran Conference were favorable indeed. I was given a great opportunity to meet and mingle with fellow veterans whose interests were in serving Veterans like themselves. From the National office holders, State officers and the myriad of people from politicians to the Veterans Administration Medical staff, fellow DAV'ers, and a host of supporting organizations whose primary interest were in supporting and serving Veterans. Well, I must say I came away impressed. People were professional in their approach, but much more than that, they genuinely cared.

I think it is easy to underestimate the importance and significance your single individual membership with the DAV carries with it. It is true, a single person can get lost in the crowd however, when a individual attaches themselves to an Organization such as the DAV, well, an individual becomes a local Chapter which then becomes a State organization speaking to every State government, attaching itself to the DAV National Organization going to Washington, DC to remind all people to never forgot those who so willingly gave of themselves in order to keep our nation free. When the DAV combines with other organizations, then that one individual become a force. A dynamic group of caring, dedicated people looking out for the best interests of fellow Veterans.

Please always be diligent in seeking out other veterans, encourage them to belong.

Remind them, "There are never alone, they mean something"

Barney Revier, Adjutant of DAV
Chapter #6, Gilbert W Nordmann

Deac:

What the heck were you thinking wasting away with the City of Duluth? This publication isn't good - it's phenomenal. When is the celebratory party for the first publication? I'm so proud - I'm weeping over my computer. Again, great job!

Chris

Absolutely
gorgeous!
Great Job...
Thanks, and thanks
for the initiative!

Denise...

Great stuff Dwight!
Thanks! Regards,
Erik

*Congratulations Deac.
It really looks good. - John*

Dwight

Thanks for your hard work putting out the first admirable issue of the Cadence. Thanks for a great effort. I was not disappointed in the results. You have a right to be proud. We have received many compliments on the Cadence's first issue.

Keith

EXCELLENT, Deac....
CONGRATULATIONS!

Dennis

Dwight:

Awesome!

That was the words of my boss about "Cadence"
I E-mailed it to her and she wanted to see if she could get it.
She is a new associate member of NVVA...

Durb

*The Layout
and Design
of your publication
is simply wonderful!*
Congratulations to your
Art Director and Editor!
Bill

CADENCE

A Great Publication
and Great Way to
Advertise your Business!

Call today for
more information!

218-213-5544



Albert Woolson

"Taps are sounded, lights are out, the soldier sleeps."

Henry Woolson's were the last to gaze upon the fruit of their triumphs.

We were the last generation in the last city to meet the last veteran of the Northern Army of that historic bloody war. We in Duluth were the last people in the north to observe a Memorial Day with a man who had been in the war that the holiday was established to honor.

lic functions. And in 1953, he was inducted into the Duluth Hall of Fame as Duluth's outstanding citizen. Whenever he was asked a question his reply was always: "If the David Wisted says it's ok, then it's all right for me."

He had fourteen children through two marriages, eleven grandchildren, sixteen great-grand children at the time of his death, and four great-great-grand children. Albert Woolson reported to his Commander-in-Chief on August 2, 1956

(Excerpts from Last of the Union Blue, by Steven Aaron Passon and a column by Jim Heffernan)

What did he experience in his lifetime?

1847

Albert Woolson was born

1847

The War with Mexico was going on

1848

Wisconsin was admitted to the Union

1858

Minnesota was admitted to the Union

- The Studebaker Company went from producing covered wagons to hard top sedans
- We went from entertainer Jennie "The Swedish Nightingale" Lind to Marilyn Monroe
- We went from President James K. Polk to President Dwight David Eisenhower
- We went from the Pony Express to F-94C Starfire jets
- We also fought the Spanish-American War, WW I, WW II, and Korea
- We went from John Phillip Sousa's marches to Buddy Holly's rock n roll
- We went from a telegraph to telephone extensions in Duluth: Randolph, Market, and Jackson

Since 1940 Albert Woolson had been the honored guest of the David Wisted American Legion Post 28 and sat at the head table during their pub-



In 1956 **LIFE** magazine covered the funeral of Albert Woolson, the Civil War's last Union Soldier. He was 109 years old at the time of his death.

These are the melancholy words that brought to a close a great parade in American history. Something deeply and fundamentally American passed into eternity, for the great Army of the Republic was a living link that bound Americans intimately to a great morning of national youth. As long as the army existed - - even though it was at last embodied in one incredibly old man, who stood alone without comrades since March 22, 1953 - - the great day of tragedy and of decision was still a part of living memory. There was an open door to the past, and what we could see through that opening was magically haunted, because all that was visible there was strangely touched by the light of the future.

The Civil War, the greatest tragedy in American history, was both an end and a beginning for the Nation.

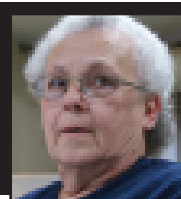
But when the final handful of dust drifted down on Albert Woolson's casket, and the last notes of the bugle hung high against the sky, the final human tie with this era was gone forever.

The memory of Albert Woolson cannot easily be dissected from his two and one-half million comrades-in-arms who passed on before him, for their story is the saga of a Nation split by internal civil war, father against son, and brother against brother. He and his comrades, north, east, and west, rode into American history along the paths of scarred terrain and the debacle of Southern as well as Northern institutions.

These men who had fought for the preservation of the Union were but common men of the nineteenth century, but as fate would have it their lives were surrounded with the agony of Manifest Destiny, Civil War and the Reconstruction of a torn Union. Their eyes had seen the glory... and Albert

NORTHLAND VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

Meetings 4th Monday of the month at 6pm • 101 West 2nd Street



Kathy Camps
President

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It has been said that any organizing is only as good as its membership. There is a lot of truth to that. I also believe that the commitment of that membership is also a great factor in the success of said organization. We have a very committed core group that has remained dedicated to our motto "Dignity Through Unity" and continues to be the backbone of NVVA. However, they cannot do it all, nor should they be expected to.

Our wonderful President, Kathy, is not only our president, she is our Blues Chair, and is a valued member of the Color Guard. Her dedication is very commendable. It is not easy keeping this Board in line. Any board can be tough, this board must be like herding feral cats at times!

Not long ago we had a conversation about our history of the "Bluesfest", the roll of our members who actively volunteer, and the other community volunteers that we depend on each year. It seems that over the years we have the same super core group of dedicated members there from beginning to end. Many of us take time off from work to make this major fund raiser a success. Yet many of our members either never come, or have do so on a limited basis.

That's okay as some just cannot for whatever reason, but we need, as an organization, to appreciate those who do make the commitment. Remember Blues started out as a one-day event and it was easy to staff every shift. Over the years there have been more days added. Now the event goes from Thursday to Sunday, with some of our members having to be involved from Wednesday to the following Monday and beyond. That really stresses the base to fill all the slots and it seems that everyone wants Saturday afternoon. We understand that is the prime shift, but let's remember we have a whole lot of other shifts to fill.

This is an important commitment for all volunteers and we need to be supportive if we can. By

POW/MIA JULY REPORT

Navy Pilot Missing in Action from the Vietnam War is Identified

He is Lt. Cmdr. Ralph C. Bisz, U.S. Navy, of Miami Shores, Fla. On Aug. 4 1967, Bisz took off in an A-4E Skyhawk from the USS Oriskany to bomb an enemy petroleum depot near Haiphong, Vietnam. As he neared the target, his aircraft was struck by an enemy surface-to-air missile and crashed near the town of Hai Duong in Hai Hung Province. No parachute was observed and no emergency beeper signal was received.

Air Force Major Remains Found in Laos Air Force major Barclay B. Young was one of 14 men aboard a gunship that took off March 29, 1972, from Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand on a mission over southern Laos, Department of Defense officials said. It was struck by an enemy surface-to-air missile and crashed. Search and rescue efforts were stopped after a few days because of heavy enemy activity in the area.



some miracle Kathy has managed to fill out the slots again this year – great job! To all you volunteers, thank you for your time and efforts. After all, this is your organization. NVVA is only as strong as its membership's ability to help the organization when it needs help.

Why do this every year for twenty years? It is because that is where we raise much of the funds to operate the organization and support the organizations that we have traditionally supported. If you are not aware, we got into Blues along with Charitable Gambling to help build the Northland Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Once that was completed we needed to establish the Northland Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation, to help maintain what was built.

A wonderful by-product has been that the Memorial Foundation has provided over \$50,000.00 in scholarships for descendants of Vietnam's Era veterans to continue their educational endeavors. We have made major contributions to the Silver Bay Veterans Home, and we make monthly contributions to help provide activities for the residents there.

DAHA, the Carlton County Van program, the DAV Van at TOPC and high school proms (for as many as eleven schools) have been given contributions over the years. MACV-Duluth was founded and has been supported over its ten-plus year history by NVVA. MACV has a major effect on the lives of veterans in forty-two counties from all generations and now has been the first veterans group to step forward to assist in the creation of Duluth Veterans Place. NVVA has supported many areas of the community with a major commitment to veterans.



To volunteer to help serve at the Bluesfest this year contact:
NVVA President, Kathy Camps at 727-5740



erans. This is the tip of the iceberg of what we have done.

Now, with the ending of NVVA's involvement in charitable gambling, the Bluesfest has taken on a major role in our ongoing community support programs. So if you volunteer, or if you just come and buy a beer or wine from us, you now know where your money is going. When you participate this year and see anyone in a maroon shirt, thank them for their commitment to making this important event a success. Most importantly, when you see Kathy running around stop her and thank her for her efforts, and she might even appreciate a hug.

NVVA continued on page 6



JULY 2008 ATTENTION TO ORDERS

Submitted by; Durbin M. Keeney

Independence Day is truly a very big day for all Americans. I will never criticize anyone as to how they spend that day, but being part of the Cloquet Parade with my fellow veterans and a picnic with my family works well for me. To have a better understanding of how important that day really is for all of us, I must take some time to reflect on why we can do just that. We need to take the time to remember how we earned our freedom. Sometimes we just have to stop and realize that "freedom is not free."

A couple of weeks ago I was with my Executive Director, Kathy Vitalis, in D.C. for the National Coalitional for Homeless Veterans annual conference. As most of you know, I have the great privilege of working for the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) as the MACV-Duluth Regional Director. This affords me the blessing to be able to take a small part in working on national issues.

This year I was able to give input to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, leaders of HUD, HHS, VA, and DOL. We met with Congressman Oberstar and his staff. We addressed how HUD's definition of homelessness prevents providers in our communities from working with men and women when they need our help. The current definition has become so limited that we have to let them become homeless in the extreme, when we could have prevented the situation at an earlier, less drastic stage. We are now working through his office with Chairman Frank, and Sub-Committee Chairwoman Waters to change this definition. This will not only help veterans, but will provide a major change in other people's lives all around the country. It would improve people's lives and be cost efficient at the same time.

I don't say this to pump myself up. I am humbled that a kid from East Cleveland can have any impact at all. This is a great country and we need to be grateful for the blessings that we have. It amazes me that we only take one day a year to honor and remember what happened on that important day in Philadelphia. The last day we were in D.C. we went to the National Archive and viewed the great documents that our forefathers signed on that faithful day. As we approached the domed room where you get to look at the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, it seemed to me that so many people don't have a clue as to what is behind those great words on faded parchments.

For me, I had to focus on what happened that very important day. We need to understand it, and to do that we need to look at what had happened in Philadelphia in 1776. Let's understand that this was not the first meeting, and what was about to happen had been simmering for many years, and somehow, someway, the world would become different when that meeting was done.

The King and the British government felt that they had the right to more and more of the Colonists' resources. Consider for a minute that in that very building, only a few feet from where they met, the King's Court tried and hung a man for making disparaging remarks about the King and his new wig. Where did they hang him? Just outside of the closed window where Thomas Jefferson sat during that faithful time. This went on while they were debating

the future of the Colonies. The room was hot and so were the debates. Can you imagine our Congress in a closed room all day with summer heat and humidity, wool clothes, no air conditioning, and chamber pots? The debates were sometimes fierce with political intrigue, and it all ended in a very close vote. One of the most interesting parts of this story is that the owner of the largest media outlet in the Colonies was in the room, without press leaks of information! Imagine that today?

They made historic decisions that changed the world forever. I firmly believe that they did not have an idea of the consequences of their actions. Benjamin Franklin stated, "We must all hang together, or surely, we will all hang separately!" These courageous souls made it possible for everyone of us to enjoy this Independence Day with the freedoms that we so love. We can do it because they were willing to give their all for future generations to be free.

I know that the Independence Day has passed for this year. Unless someone reminds us, we will go on planning the next three-day holiday with little or no thought to how important it is to all of us. Truth be told, we simply cannot do that. The gift that they gave us is too important. Let me ask you a few questions: When was the last time that you read any of these very important documents? Now I will not sit here and say that I have taken the time to reread all the great writings of our history. I promise you that I will take more time to do so in this next year.

**This is a great country
that has given me my
freedoms and has
allowed me to live
the life I am living.**

It is a long way from Eddy Road in East Cleveland, where I was a kid. I want to say that I never regretted where I came from and to say the least, it is amazing that I am still here after these past sixty years. The journey goes on. It has been one of ups and downs, good and not so good health, great opportunities taken and opportunities squandered. Truth be known, there have been times when I have questioned what had God had in store for me. I have to admit that there have been times in my life when I have taken my freedoms for granted. However, the older I get and the more I travel, and see other places in this world, I become even more humbled by this great Country of ours, and those that were willing to make that unbelievable commitment of all they owned, including their families, for an ideal. Sometimes it just makes you sit back and say - WOW!

Over the years I was blessed to know a man named George Duggans. He was the President of Vietnam Veterans of America back in the late 1990's. Once, we were in Kansas City for a National Conference. At one point George became very still, and so did the room of over seven hundred Vietnam veterans, and believe me that was no easy task. Another five hundred veterans had joined us that day.

This room was packed. I watched as George had, what I believe, an epiphanal moment and when he broke the silence he said such simple words. He said, as if it were our marching orders; "The next twenty years are ours." It was like he spoke directly to me, and those words seared my hearth and become a commitment of my soul to live out that vision. For a moment there was not a word, we looked at each other and understood what we had to do. It was about that time we opened MACV-Duluth. George answered to the final Commander's call a few years ago, but his words live on.

We had to use our freedoms and abilities, and make a commitment to those we serve, our fellow veterans. We understood what General Washington, our first President and Commander-in-Chief said; "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

We must be willing; all of us, to take care of these men and women that are serving today. When we met with Congressman Oberstar he put it this way: "for every dollar we spend on this war we should put a dollar and a half aside for the long term care needs of these soldiers, and veterans." I would bet that he never had met George Duggans, but he gets it. The real question is, do you? I am not asking you to make a total life's commitment, but what I am asking is to remember those in the past that made a commitment to our freedoms. You will be surprised at the impact that can have. Jefferson understood that. So did Franklin, Duggans, Oberstar, even this kid from East Cleveland, and so do so many others. Remember, most of us were products of the sixties and we were going to change the world. Let's start at home with protecting the freedoms that are embedded in the great documents of the past and, in this next year, do our best to live out those values.

As we do that, we don't want to forget what Washington said, and take care of their dependence on us here at home. This is a great Country! Today it is great to be a veteran in Minnesota. Let's keep it that way for those that are deployed, those who will be deployed, and for all who will come home to their families.

We are now planning for only fundraiser the Bayfront Blues Festival. It goes from August 7th to August 10th. Designs for the shirt are being worked out and the volunteer lists are being put together. If you are interested in volunteering, give me a call at 218-727-5740.

Kathy Camps - President, N.V.V.A.

**NVA ANNUAL
PICNIC**

August 17th • Sampo Beach,
Little Grand Lake in Saginaw

A two-year term that expires January 4, 2010

Today, I attended the first meeting of the MN Dept of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Care Advisory Council. The meeting went very well..... being there you came out feeling good.....also very confident that great things are to come from this....

"The council is a nine member advisory group appointed by the Governor, with a mission of providing the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs with information and professional expertise on any and all aspects of the delivery of quality long term care to veterans. The council will develop a strategic plan for Minnesota veteran's homes, provide recommendations to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and advise on clinical performance and quality improvements. The council will also study current issues and trends in the long term care industry."

Commissioner Clark Dyrud along with Deputy Commissioner of Healthcare Gill Acevado and Deputy Commissioner of Programs and Services Michael Pugliese briefed the newly formed council on the scope and responsibility of the department. Together with Council Chair Kathryn Roberts the role of the council was clearly defined.

Deputy Commissioner Acevado briefed the focus and framework of the MN Veterans Homes under MNDVA, and the direction and desired goals with timelines of the strategic planning process.

Some of the newly appointed members of the council are very familiar with the structure history and workings of the MNVHs. Several have extensive previous direct experience in the process such as Tom Mullon. And some along with Tom were also members of the Governors Commission on Veterans Long Term Health Care which recommended the change in governance with occurred on Nov 19th 2007.

It was obvious that the Department of Veterans Affairs is committed to being there to educate and assist the entire council on the workings of MNDVA and the Veterans Homes across the state. Deputy Commissioner Acevado made it clear that they will look to the council for input on issues as they move forward working together. Additionally it was noted that the Veterans Service Organizations are key stakeholders in this process and we as well as others and will play part in the process.



Below are
listed the members
of the council.....

Brad Bennett, of Duluth, is an advisory member of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Minneapolis, is the recipient of two Purple Heart awards from serving in Vietnam and hosts a morning radio show, Straight Talk in the Morning, on KDAL-AM radio. He is appointed to a three-year term that expires January 3, 2011.

James Birchem, of Little Falls, is a member of the American Legion and president and CEO of Eldercare of Minnesota, which owns four nursing homes and eight assisted living facilities. He is appointed to a three-year term that expires January 3, 2011.

Dr. Kenneth Hughes, of St. Paul, a licensed general physician with experience in orthopedic injuries, elder care, psychiatric aid, and nursing home care. He is a recipient of both the Bronze Star with Valor and Purple Heart awards from the U.S. Army. He is appointed as the clinician member of the council to a two-year term that expires January 4, 2010.

Continued on page 8

A HISTORY MYSTERY

What is this staff?
What was it used for?
What is missing?

Every Memorial Day, when the David Wisted – Zenith City, American Legion Post pulls out its flags and banner for the cemetery ceremonies and the annual parade, this staff is in the storage box along with the flags and poles. The metal plates down the shaft are from the Annual National conventions. The first plate is dated Minneapolis 1919 and the last plate is dated Boston 1940. Also, what was threaded onto the top brass piece?

Send your responses to:

Cadence Mystery?

P.O. Box 161456 • Duluth, MN, 55816
or E-mail: deac805@cpinternet.com



ELECTED OFFICERS 2007 - 2008

Commander
Tyler Witzke
525-3591

Vice-Commander
Joseph Behl
722-7692

Adjutant (appointed)
John H. Witzke
525-3591

Chaplain
Anthony L. Ohlin
525-6745

Historian
Neill A. Atkins
628-2000

Service Officer
Dwight "Deac" Nelson
624-4362

Sergeant At Arms
Warren L. High
722-9409

Finance Officer
Dwight "Deac" Nelson
624-4362

Executive Committee:
(Three Positions)
Robert J. Woods Jr.
(1 years)
626-1922

Julia Eszlinger-Jensen, of St. Paul, is a retired colonel with the U.S. Air Force and has extensive experience in both the military and health care field. She is a licensed registered nurse and member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Association of Military Surgeons of the United States and Minnesota Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. She is the former commander and chief nurse at the 109th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron of the Minnesota Air National Guard, and later Scott Air Force Base in Illinois and Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. She is appointed to a two-year term that expires January 4, 2010.

Tom Mullon, of Eagan, is a member of the American Legion and was formerly the director of the Federal Veterans Administration Medical Center and administrator of the Minneapolis Veterans Home. He has 42 years of experience in the health care industry and is an active member of several veterans' organizations. He is appointed to a three-year term that expires January 3, 2011.

Kathryn Roberts, of Shoreview, will serve as chair of the council. She is president and CEO of Ecumen which employs over 4,000 staff and operates independent and assisted living housing, care centers, home health care and a wide variety of community-based services in 90 communities in the mid-west. Prior to joining Ecumen, Roberts held a number of leadership positions in state government and non-profit organizations. She holds a Ph.D. in educational administration from the University of Minnesota. Roberts is appointed to a four-year term that expires January 2, 2012.

Ronald Sanford, of Edina, is chief operating officer of Elim Care, Inc. in Eden Prairie. Elim Care is a faith-based, non-profit corporation serving older adults in Minnesota, North Dakota and Iowa. He has over 20 years of leadership experience in the long-term care and older adult services field. Sanford is appointed to a two-year term that expires January 4, 2010.

H, Michael Tripple, of St. Paul, has over 30 years experience with health care facilities including

nursing homes, home health care agencies, and assisted living facilities. He is familiar with state and federal licensure and certification regulations and worked for a number of years as the division director for the licensure and certifications programs section for the Minnesota Department of Health. He holds a juris doctorate degree from William Mitchell College of Law. Tripple is appointed to a four-year term that expires January 2, 2012.

Diane Windham, of Woodbury, is a management analyst for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. She holds a Master of Arts degree in clinical psychology from the American School of Professional Psychology in Bloomington and serves as guardian for a resident of the Minneapolis Veterans Home. She is appointed as the public member of the council to a four-year term that expires January 2, 2012.

Randy Tesdahl, American Legion
Department Service Officer, Department of MN

David Wisted-Zenith City Post 28 has had many generations of excellent members and officers. One of the interesting things about this post is that three generations of the Witzke family have served their country and gone on to serve this post. Back in the 50's Vern Witzke became a member of Post 28, after his service in the Navy during WWII. John Witzke became a member of this post in the early 70's, after his service with the Navy during the Vietnam War. Tyler Witzke served in the Air Force and supported the no fly zones of Iraq in the late 90's, and continued the support of South Korea in 2002. He then signed up with Post 28 only three years ago. Tyler Witzke is the current Commander and John Witzke is the current Adjutant of Post 28.

During the year Post 28 is involved in many community events. These include the Duluth Hall of Fame, Spring ROTC awards and scholarships at UMD, the Memorial Service at Park Hill Cemetery on Memorial Day, and the Memorial Day Parade. We also support American Legion programs throughout the year.

We look forward to another year of service to the community and its' veterans. We would like to encourage our members to pay their 2009 dues and feel welcome to attend our post meetings. (Dates and times are listed above)

Commander Tyler Witzke, Adjutant John Witzke

MEETING SCHEDULE:

September 25, 2008

November 20, 2008

January 29, 2009

March 26, 2009

May 28, 2009

Meetings at 6pm

Meeting places to be announced



V.F.W. Post 6320 donated four terrific bicycles for the 80th Annual Crossing Guards Recreation Day.

The boys and girls who won the bikes were overwhelmed. This year the lucky recipients were Sylvia from Grant, Samantha from St. John's, Braden from Lakewood, and Brett from Bayview - **READ MORE ON PAGE 10**



Dwight Nelson,
V.F.W. Commander
Joan Morgan,
Auxiliary President
Ralph Talerico,
Quartermaster

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARSPOST 6320

Post Meetings (2nd Monday of the month) are held at the Post Home • 5103 Ramsey Street



From the Quartermaster of Post 6320:

Most of you, if not all of you, should already know that the club is closed and the Auxiliary has disbanded. I have heard rumors that myself, Commander Nelson, and a few others are responsible for the problems we have. I'm here right now to clear that up.

The club has gone from earning over \$8,000 a month to about \$4,000 a month with expenses and suppliers' costs increasing monthly. Many say it is because of the smoking ban, the increase in DUI laws, the cutting of business hours, or just the fact that there is nothing to do at the club. Those are all correct reasons, but one reason the club has survived as it has is because of the same people that are being accused of bringing it down. They are the main supporters, and are responsible for what activities we have had.

Let's stop all the bickering and petty arguing and concentrate on what is good for the order. Ladies should transfer to one of the other Posts in the area

even if it is just for the financial support and cancer benefits. I would hope that the membership will rally together with a positive attitude and work for the benefit of the VFW. But if you are going to bail out of what you wrongly believe is a sinking ship, then the post membership should go where they can do the most good. Please, though, don't drop out.

I have always had the best intentions for this post, and so have the others that have been behind me. If you are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem. The merger is a solution. If you don't like the way something is run, then come speak your mind. I mean at a meeting, not on a bar stool, after you have had your liquid encouragement. Please do what you can. There are over 3,000 veterans in this area that should have the same benefits that we have had. One way to insure those benefits is strength in numbers. Let's find ways to get them signed up. Otherwise, this organization is as good as done.

The club is closed at 6320 and the bills are caught up except for the annual building insurance

and real estate taxes. At this time I will tell you that we are trying to lease the building so we can keep paying these bills and utilities. I think we should sell the building and invest the money for the future. But if we can just make it these next few months I believe something good will come of this. Please do what you can to help and give us your insight as to what you think we should do.

Sincerely,
Ralph Talerico , Quartermaster, Post 6320

Gentlemen and Ladies of V.F.W. Post 6320

Our time for the August Post meeting on August 11th has been changed to 6:00 PM

It has been another busy month for Ralph, Chuck, and I in putting our house in order. We are in the final stages of closing the books on the Club. We have opened up the building for several groups interested in leasing the facilities from us. This would bring income in, instead of spending Post monies to keep the Club open. So if you can't get "hammered" at the Post's expense, my heart bleeds for you. This is a trend that the VFW is looking at the national level: "Should the VFW be in the liquor business with today's mores?" We will have to wait and see what other Posts will do about it.

I am not very pleased with the meager turn out for the Post Clean up and the Post meeting. It wasn't unexpected, but it was still disappointing. It is no wonder that the Post has fallen on such hard times when you, the members, don't give a d__n. One bright spot is that the Post is solvent and we are still doing community projects like the bicycles for the School Patrol. The look on those young faces was worth everything that this Post has gone through over the last months. If you could have seen the joy and enthusiasm in their..... Oh yeah you weren't there, as usual.

There will be a second Clean-up effort, at the Post, for the basement on Saturday, August 23rd, starting at 9:00 a.m. Sorting and boxing the Post memorabilia, tossing out the collected junk, and readying the building for lease or sale. We are looking at holding a rummage sale on Sunday, September 7th. So stay tuned for further information. If you, or your family, have any donated items at the Post that you would like to have, contact Rico at 724-3854 or Deac at 624-4362 and you can pick them up on August 23rd at the Post.

Thank you,
Dwight Nelson, Commander Post 6320

Calendar of Events

August

Monday 11Post Meeting 6:00
Saturday 23Field Day at the Post 9:00

September

Sunday 7Rummage Sale
Monday 8Post Meeting 6:00

Duluth Senior Expo Announces Headline Sponsor

DULUTH, Minnesota — Officials from the Duluth Senior Expo announced that HUMANA will be the headline sponsor for the sixth Annual Senior Expo on Thursday October 16th. Thousands of seniors, caregivers and their families attend the day-long event at the DECC in Duluth each year. A busy day of fun, information and entertainment is featured that includes seminars, keynote speakers, entertainment and information on goods and services for seniors.

In addition to providing invaluable marketing assistance, Humana will offer expo attendees FREE parking at the Expo!

"We're pleased to have Humana on board," said co-producer Tracy Lundeen. "They will make great partners and we're excited to have them, their services and resources available to our attendees. This just makes the Duluth Senior Expo even better in 2008."

The Duluth Senior Expo features over 100 exhibitors showing products and services of interest to seniors. The event also features a birthday celebration and recognition ceremony for area centenarians presented by the City of Duluth. Free health screening services are available including hearing tests, blood pressure tests, glucose, and more.

Each person attending will receive a complimentary Northland Senior Resource Guide. This 40-plus page, full-color magazine is filled with resource information for seniors around the region and will be an invaluable resource for seniors that can be utilized year round.

For more information visit:
duluthseniorexpo.com or call
218-727-1177 or 800-299-7173

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Duluth School Police Patrol, I would like to thank V.F.W. Post 6320 for the donation of four terrific bicycles for the 80th Annual Crossing Guards Recreation Day. Drawing names for the bike winners is the highlight of the afternoon and the boys and girls who won them were overwhelmed. *This year the lucky recipients were Sylvia from Grant, Samantha from St. John's, Braden from Lakewood, and Brett from Bayview.* For some of these students, it may be the only time they have a chance at owning such a nice bicycle.

Your ongoing support through the years is much appreciated, especially your donation of bikes for 19 consecutive years. The anticipation for the drawing builds during the event as the bicycles are displayed. Please let all the members of Post 6320 know of our appreciation for your support.

Yours truly, Officer Sharon Montgomery

Director of School Police, Duluth Police Department

NOTICE OF SPECIAL VOTE

At our monthly meeting on August 11 we will vote to merge with VFW Post 137. We have to vote again because there was an error in the wording of the first merger vote.

ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

Also, there will be more information about the sale of the Post building and a possible vote will be needed to sell the properties.

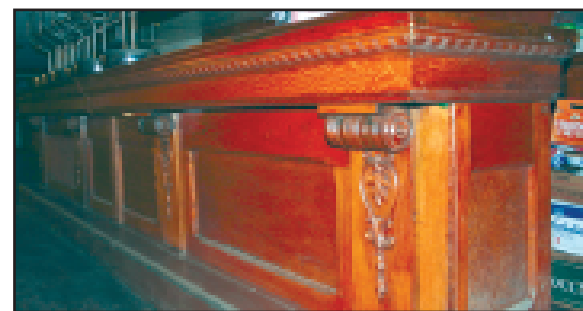
I hope to see many of you there. Commander Dwight Nelson

FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE

BUILDING AND 2 LOTS



19 FT. SOLID OAK BAR



Salvaged from the Spalding Hotel when it was demolished for the renewal of the downtown. We will take offers up to September 30. *You have the responsibility of removing and transporting it.*

FOR INFORMATION CALL:

Ralph Talerico, Quartermaster 724-3845
or Dwight Nelson, Commander 624-4362



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NORTHLAND VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Interview with Vietnam Veterans

By William E. Bacon • April 30, 2008

I recently had the opportunity to interview my uncle, Leroy Kelly, from International Falls about his service tour country in the Vietnam War. I was very honored and proud to have conducted this interview with a relative who had served our country. I learned a great deal.

Uncle Leroy was 21 years old when he was drafted into the United States Army. He served our country from June 15, 1966 until his discharge on June 14, 1968. He was a member of Operation Pershing in Vietnam, First Cavalry Division.

I asked my uncle a series of questions in a recent interview about his experience in Vietnam and I received the following responses:

What did you do while in Vietnam?

My uncle's civilian occupation was a field lineman. He was involved with basic communication between base camp and infantry entailing the duties of stringing wire for telephone communications and operating switchboard connecting company infantry with base camp. After leaving Vietnam, the balance of his tour was being stationed in Fort Carson, Colorado, performing carpentry and building duties as assigned until finishing his tour of duty.

What was Vietnam like? It was sort of desolate and primitive with a lot of monsoon type weather.

What hardships did you face? My uncle said that he really had no hardships during his service. He thought he was well taken care of.

How did the war affect you? Leroy said he became a more mature adult and accepted his responsibilities without question. He was proud to serve our country in any way that he could.

When you came back, was there anything different and how was it different?

Unlike today, Leroy said he knew he would not be drafted again and was happy to be home. Things were not a whole lot different at home in International Falls, but he said there was a lot of protesting going on all over the country which he was not involved with.

Were you emotionally hurt and how?

Leroy responded by saying that he had no ill effects from his service in Vietnam. He did not sustain any injuries while serving. He did not have any ill feelings toward our country and has not suffered emotionally in subsequent years. After it was all over, he was glad to be home and just "let things be".

Were you scared? Leroy said that he was more concerned than scared. The fear of the unknown created some concern.

What did the Vietnam War teach you?

When called upon to serve our country, Leroy said that he did so without question. A person does not question things like that at such a young age and you do as you are told. However, when reflecting back over the past 37 years or so, he has learned a lot about our purpose and reasons for the

Have you ever visited the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C.?

NO. However, recently the Moving Wall was brought to International Falls in July 2007. It was a very moving experience for Leroy as well as our whole town. It was quite an impressive memorial, a memorial that every United States citizen should see.

Would you like to return to Vietnam as a visitor and why?

When specifically asked if he would like to return to Vietnam as a visitor, Uncle Leroy responded by saying no. He really had no desire to return to Vietnam. He said he had witnessed and experienced enough. There were no unresolved issues for him. However, he said it would be interesting to see how the country may have changed in the last 37 years. He was very glad to return home and to have proudly served his country along with thousands of others.

What are your personal feelings about the Vietnam War?

My uncle stated he really did not think we solved anything in the Vietnam War. He understood the whole purpose was to prevent the spread of Communism and everyone was trying to do the right thing.

But it was like going up stream without a paddle and we really did not resolve anything. However, he did not feel it was a waste of his life. More importantly, he felt it was an experience that few people were allowed to have and he is very proud of that.

In closing, while speaking with my uncle, I learned a lot about Vietnam. It helped me understand more about the war and how difficult it was on the soldiers.

I feel my uncle is a very courageous man and I have a great deal of respect for him as well as thousands of others who have served our country to maintain the freedoms we have. We must never ever take any of this for granted.



Bacon Family • Father - Brent and Mother - Elizabeth

war. Although this war was considered long and controversial and a war that we did not win, lessons are always learned. First and foremost, we must never forget those that served, were injured, or lost their lives for this country. At the time, the government thought they were doing the right thing and were in the middle of a very difficult situation. Leroy said he learned to persevere and become a responsible adult. He learned to work with others to try to bring a positive result and also do the very best job he could and carry out his responsibilities.

Did you receive any medals? My Uncle Leroy received the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service with Bronze Service Star, the Vietnam Campaign Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

Have you been in contact with any Vietnam Veterans? Not those he served with. However, locally, yes. Also Leroy is Senior Vice Commander of VFW Peter Graham Post #2948, International Falls. He is a member of the Color Guard and does volunteer work locally. He was instrumental with helping with the Moving Wall and setting up guards for it.

As time goes on and each Cadence publication comes out, I'll try to lay out a map to your benefits. These are benefits that you earned for serving in the United States Military! Never question whether you deserve them or not, and never let anyone tell you that you don't! Allow the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to make the decision. Of course the best place to start is with the County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) when asking about your earned veterans benefits.

When you come in to inquire about certain benefits that are available through the VA Regional Office (VARO) and decide to file for them, we will also explain to you the advantages of using the CVSO along with a National Service Organization (NSO) that is recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (which are also known as a Power of Attorney, or POA).

There are 66 NSOs that are recognized by the Secretary. In our St. Paul VARO we have seven NSOs that have office space inside and work closely with the VARO. They are the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the State of Minnesota.

The CVSO of course is right here in your local area and the NSO is down in St. Paul. By using the CVSO it will save you a lot of money because you will not have to drive to St. Paul to see your NSO or

the VARO. Plus we can get you the information you are asking about in a timely manner.

If you choose not to use the CVSO and NSO, imagine spending the time needed to research which forms are needed for submittal and then taking the time to repetitively fill them out, and then figuring out what evidence you need to submit. After a few weeks, or possibly months, of compiling the materials and packing them up, you march on down to the post office to mail out your package because you know the journey to St. Paul will cost more than 42 cents (yes, we'll even mail it out for you).

So now you wait. Eventually, you receive mail from the VARO asking for more evidence and you have to reply to their letter. You take another few weeks to question yourself on what was originally submitted and what in the world are they talking about dates or medical treatment and statements for people who you served with. Then as you go through the bureaucratic red tape offered up by VA they come back with an answer and you find you've been denied a disability claim. What do you do next? Maybe you'd just throw up your hands and walk away in defeat.

I understand the frustration associated with claims and that's why we are here to help you.

What's the greatest thing about us?

Our service is free to the veteran, eligible spouse, children and parents!

We do all the paperwork, we know what to submit,

we track your claim as it goes through the bureaucracy, and we do know what to do if it comes back denied!

I can't say it enough! Use the CVSO and NSOs! Both are highly trained professionals that will assist you in filing claims for VA disability compensation, rehabilitation and education programs, pensions, death benefits, and many other programs. Additionally, the NSOs are accomplished experts in developing and taking action with veterans' claims through in-depth review of medical histories in conjunction with sound application of current law and regulations.

The work of service officers also involves important matters like helping a veteran get outpatient treatment or gain admission for inpatient care at a VA medical center.

Hopefully after reading this you will decide to come in, talk to us and see if there are any benefits that you might be missing! Call and schedule an appointment today!

ST. LOUIS COUNTY HAS OFFICES IN

- Duluth 725-5285
- Ely 365-8203
- Hibbing 262-6090
- Virginia 749-7110
- Carlton County 384-9172
- Lake County 834-8326



VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL



This time, I want to talk about the Flag Soiree! The event was quite a success. Throughout the week we had different visitors from all over the country and state. **The stars of the show were the 1818 twenty-star flag, which was unveiled on Thursday, and the 150-year old Minnesota state flag.** Also of special significance

was an embroidered roster from the Spanish-American War. We once again thank Mr. Mars on behalf of the community for his donation of a national treasure to Veterans' Memorial Hall.

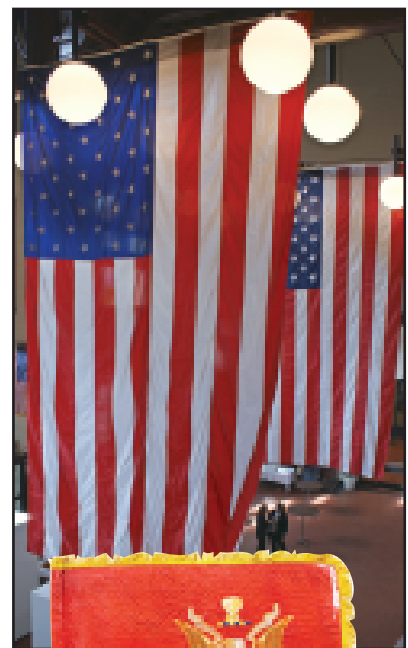
During the course of the event two spectacular flags were donated to us. One was an Imperial Japanese flag with the names of the twenty-six Japanese war criminals convicted at the Tokyo Trials, with a corresponding rice paper with the



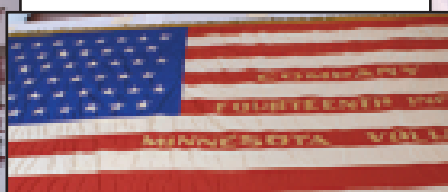
names in English. We later learned through some research that the flag was more than likely a souvenir that Japanese vendors sold to American GIs during the American occupation of Japan. This amazing piece was donated to us by Larry Strum of Carlton, MN in honor of all veterans

who have served this country. Another item that was donated was a World War I era American flag, which at one time belonged to Louis B. Gray. Mr. Gray served with the Company G of the 63rd Infantry. This flag was donated by Louis Gray's son Robert.

This event was a great way of showcasing many unique flags the public may have never seen before, and next year we will once again bring them out around Flag Day.



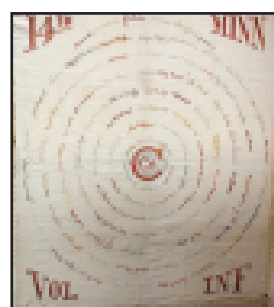
1918 Flag



Spanish American War Flag



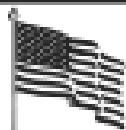
Korean War Flag



Spanish American War Banner



WW II 125th Field Artillery



WEST DULUTH POST, UNIT, and SQUADRON #71



Sentinel

vol. 27 • no. 8

GREETINGS FROM YOUR POST 71 COMMANDER

I'll start my new year as commander with my first article for the newsletter. I thank Past Commander Kenneth Oliver Jr. for the outstanding job he did as commander for the past two years. He will be tough act to follow.

I thank Gerald Privette for his many years of dedication to our Post as House Committee Chairman. Jerry is also a Past Commander and has served on just about every committee and board we have. He has donated countless hours to make Post #71 a better place.

It is people like Ken and Jerry that make our Post successful.

I look forward to the upcoming years and hope we can all work together to achieve great things. We have a stellar group of officers and chair people.

Please keep in mind the American Legion is a volunteer organization. It is owned by the members. All decisions regarding the Post are voted on by members. The only way to maintain success at Post #71 is when members get involved.

Here are some ways to get involved. Post meetings are on the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM. It would be nice to see some new faces.

Fall will be here before long. We will need people to help with the dinners, Omelette breakfasts, BINGO and other Post activities. Show up and help out. I dare ya.

Please keep our active military members, veterans and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Brian McFarland, Commander

Post News

We welcome the first issue veteran's news magazine, "Cadence". This magazine is the result of the vision and inspiration of Viet Nam Veteran and American Legion Post #28 Commander, Dwight Nelson. His admirable goal is to provide information about veteran's activities in the Twin Ports area in a condensed and more complete format. I hope you have reviewed the news magazine carefully. The news magazine included information previously found in our Sentinel. It was mailed to all American Legion family members on the Sentinel mailing list including those that were previously removed that received the Sentinel via their e-mail address. Duplicate mailings were eliminated. We joined the many other veteran organizations in the local area supporting this effort to communicate in a better way the veteran's activities in the Twin

Ports area. Your feedback about this effort is encouraged and welcomed. Provide your comments to us at the Post. Using the Cadence as our newsletter resulted in significant savings in bulletin costs the our membership. Advertisers assist in funding the newsletter.

During July the newly elected officers and assume the leadership of our Post. We want to assure them of our continued support. Our newly elected Commander, Brian McFarland, will provide the vision and leadership for at least the next year. See the list of officers and committees elsewhere in this issue.

We expect to see a great turnout for the annual Picnic at the Post, noon, Sunday August 3rd. You will want to be present for the annual Auxiliary sponsored style show and luncheon Friday, noon, August 1st.

Keith Bischoff - Editor

Duluth Combined Honor Guard

Greetings from the Honor Guard. As of July 7th, we have attended 114 funerals with six more funerals scheduled. This means we are at 120 funerals and just barely turned into the second half of the year.

This service is in addition to the many other civic functions we have attended in the past six months.

These figures may scare people from joining our ranks because of the commitment and dedication required of our men and women. It should not. If you are a veteran and belong to either the American Legion or the Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts and are interested in assisting the Honor Guard by helping to preserve a long tradition of honor, respect and civic responsibility, please contact me at jcmars1@charter.net.

Believe me there is nothing more powerful than to be involved with a family in their time of grief and to be able to provide a service which honors their loved ones service to country, not mention the floodgate of emotion felt by all. When we provide that final salute and present that American flag to the family, it is truly overwhelming for them. They are so appreciative of what we do it makes all our sacrifices of time worth while.

If anyone is interested in joining our ranks, our by-laws require the attendance of nine meetings annually and one function a month. If you are willing and able to do more it would be very much appreciated. We are now published in the new newsletter, "Cadence", thanks to Dwight Nelson. In the future I will recapitulate some of the military history items covered in the past. This time I decided to add a special poem written by a friend and me about the Honor Guard. I feel it speaks volumes about what we do.

If you wish articles on military history topics or other military topics, please contact me at the email address above.

Our next unit meeting will be at American Legion Post #71, August 12th at 1900 hours. Officers will meet at 1830 hours.

John Marshall, Commander

POST #71 Leadership 2008-2009

Brian J. McFarland	Commander
Kirk Glass	1VC
Wilson W. Spence III	2VC
Brenda J. Haase	Chaplain
Raymond L. Galazen	Executive Committee
Alvin F. Berg	Executive Committee
Robert G. Dunnweber	Executive Committee
Jerome H. Svee	House Chairman
Carl D. Hendrickson	Finance Officer
Gerald W. Privette	Sgt at Arms
Merwin G. Moder	Adjutant

Auxiliary Unit #71 Leadership

Mary Hendrickson	President
Diane R. Martinek	1VP
Suzanne J. Baker	2VP
Tamara K. Opland	Secretary
Bonita J. McMillan	Treasurer
Barbara K. Slaviero	Sgt at Arms
Jean Moder	Executive Board
Beverly Strongitharm	Executive Board

Sons of American Legion Squadron #71 Leadership

Michael A. Slaviero	Commander
Jeffery Baker	1VP
Lawrence Yadowsky	Adjutant
Lawrence Yadowsky	Finance Officer
Sgt at Arms	Dennis Lane

Post 1038 Auxiliary 451

We have now concluded the processing of 2008 memberships not totaling 1038, down 60 from 2007. We ended the year at 94% of our goal of 1100 members. We were 62 members short of the goal of 1100 members. Our dues were increased to \$35.00 for 2009 to cover the increases in National and MN Department dues.

The dues notice for 2009 has been sent to all members and we are now receiving their dues. We have received about 280 so far. We thank you for being an early bird. You get a special Early Bird Stamp on your membership card.

Members, please cover your dues ASAP.

Members should now consider applying for a Paid Up for Life membership this year since the charge is based on the current 2008 dues of \$30.00 a year. After January 1st 2009, the PUFL will be based on the 2009 dues rate of \$35.00 per year. The savings would be significant.

We hope that you are encouraging newer veterans serving now to come and enjoy the comradery and membership privileges of our Post. Every member is important to our American Legion Post #71.

We had no new or transferred members joining Post #71 in July 2008:

We remind each Post #71 member they are entitled to no cost \$1,000 accident insurance policy. However, they must complete and mail in an application to be eligible.

We had no new American Legion Auxiliary Unit #71 member joining during July 2008. We ended the year with 38 members short of our goal of 489 members.

No new Sons of the American Legion (SAL) members joining in July. Membership in the SAL is open to sons of veterans. This is an opportunity to participate in the benefits of American Legion membership and support the activities of this fine veteran's support organization.

Please welcome all these new members to the American Legion family. Please continue to support our American Legion Post #71. When was the last time you visited your Post? Do it now and share in the benefits.

Have you asked a veteran if they belong to a veteran's organization? Why not try the American Legion? Always carry a membership application. They are available at the Post bar.

"Remember it isn't the price you pay to be a member, it's the price you paid to become eligible."

Mary Krieger - Membership Secretary

UNIT #71 AUXILIARY GREETINGS,

It's hard to believe we are entering the last full month of summer. I hope you have purchased your ticket for the August 1st, Salad Luncheon/Style Show held during Spirit Valley Days. The August 3rd picnic at our Post should also be a fun event. It's a great opportunity to talk to old and new friends from Post 71.

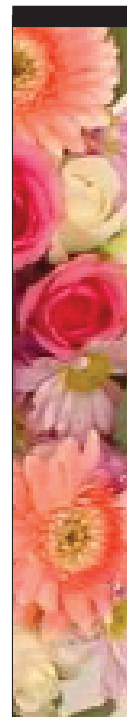
The close of Department Convention on July 19 meant state and local officers officially took over their newly elected positions for the ensuing year. I look forward to my second term as your Auxiliary President. I'd like to wish a fond farewell to my outgoing Post 71 Commander Ken Oliver, Jr. He was

a great guy to work with in Post activities this year. Welcome aboard to our new Commander Brian McFarland and his officers. I know we will have a great working relationship in the coming months. Mike Slaviero and the SAL have also worked hand-in-hand with the Auxiliary. We truly are an American Legion Family.

Enjoy the "lazy, hazy days of summer" and don't forget to patronize our Post bar when you are in West Duluth.

Mary Hendrickson

Auxiliary Unit President



**May they rest
in Peace
July 2008**

**Frank T. Watezak
Milton J. (Bud) Mitchell
Donald R. Payne
Ryan D. Hietala
Mike Radakovich
Ann Sheridan
Ruben L. LaFrinier
Helen Petoletti
Dorothy Lazzaro
Isabella D. Brennan**

The Military Funeral

A small squad of men, in military dress, form a line among the head stones. Their feet rustle the newly fallen leaves of the old maple overhead. Their commander gives a command of attention. He speaks softly for the duty of the squad is a solemn charge owed to one of their comrades, to one of our fellow citizens who took up arms for this nation. They listen quietly to the service and prayers, each with their own thoughts, each with their own memories.

They raise their old rifles with a replica of the old snap which they learned to please their drill sergeants and fire off a volley, and then another, and finally a third. The reverberation of the volleys is an

echo of the din of battle, a reminder of what has happened to bring them here. Taps is heard as if in the distance, a call to rest in peace that can no longer be disturbed by canon fire. The flag that has been draped over the sarcophagus is carefully folded with the precision, to form a triangle of blue. The commander gently offers the flag to the grieving loved ones saying.

"On behalf of the Government of the United States, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and a grateful nation it is an honor to present to you this flag. This is the flag that your loved one served under. He served honorably and faithfully. May he now rest in peace. I offer condolences to you, your family, and friends from the Honor Guard. May God bless you"

Chaplain's Report

During October we sent sympathy card to the families of Post #71 members: Frank T. Watezak, Milton J.(Bud) Mitchell, Donald R. Payne, Ryan D. Hietala, Mike Radakovich and Ann Sheridan.

Please notify the Post when our comrades are ill or have special needs.

Brenda Haase - Post Chaplain

Drum & Bugle Corps

We wish to encourage new members to join our group. The D&B Corps practices are held Wednesdays evenings starting at 7:00 PM. Anyone interested in joining the unit can call Brenda at 628-7292 or leave your name and phone number at the Post. You need not be a member of any veteran's organization to participate. All are welcome to join us. You will be contacted.

Brenda Haase

DBC - Sec/Treasurer

Saturday Night Dinner Crew Meeting

**Thursday, September,
4th at 6:00 PM**

All volunteers that would like to be on a cooking crew are welcome.

Department & District Events

NM Department Convention

July 18-19 • Bloomington, MN

**- WANTED VOLUNTEERS -
Sunday
BINGO ATTENDANTS**

please see...

Michelle Olson or Susan Johnson



- August 21 International Falls
- August 22 Duluth

I believe that is good to be a veteran, and it is very good to be a veteran in Minnesota

Last month you were able to see the announcement of “Duluth’s Veteran Place.” Over the next few months we will keep you informed on its progress and how you can be part of the future home of MACV-Duluth.

The project will consist of two buildings on Ramsey Street in Spirit Valley. One is currently an eight-plex at 5201, a vacant lot in between that has a two car garage on the back of the lot, and a four-plex at 5209.

Our plan is to take 5201 and do a gut-rehab. When it is completed, it will have eleven one-bedroom apartments with supportive services and one

transitional handicap accessible unit. The vacant lot will become a parking lot with green space and an American and POW flag flying from a flagpole. The garage will be relocated behind the smaller building.

At 5209 we will also do a gut-rehab. The first floor will have office space and a conference room, and the upstairs will have transitional housing for four veterans.

This kind of project takes a lot of people working together. We have Jeff Corey and the Duluth office of the Minnesota Land Trust as the developer. Next month we will talk about the funding plan and where

we go from here.

In the first six months of this year, we have worked with over two hundred veterans and their families, which exceed the 169 veterans that we worked with all of last year. We have begun planning for the Duluth-based Stand Down and have added a new Stand Down in International Falls, with both events happening in August. We have also hired a Discharge Planning staff person working in the St. Louis County Jail. It has been a very good year so far. As I have said, it is good to be a veteran in Minnesota.

Durb

SILVERBAYVETERANSHOME



What does summer on the North Shore mean? Well, fishing of course! Our 16th Annual Lake Superior Fishing trip was a huge success. The fish were biting and more importantly, the residents were catching lots of fish – 69 to be exact!

On June 30th, 12 charter boats left the Knife River Marina at 6:00am for a half day of fishing. We had 49 residents from the Veterans Home in Silver Bay, Minneapolis, and Hastings. In addition, we had a “full house” of residents on a scenic ride that left at 9:00 a.m. Upon return to the marina, the fish were cleaned and we enjoyed a shore lunch of fresh trout and salmon. Area charter captains from the area donate their time for this wonderful experience.

THE BOATS THIS YEAR INCLUDED:

- Rainbow’s End
- Summer Heat
- White Water
- The Office
- Advantage
- People’s Choice
- Rain or Shine
- Reel Escape
- KC II
- Happy Hooker
- Hooker Too
- C-Bob

We had over 80 donations for this event (hint, hint - it’s still not too late) and over 350 volunteer hours. We had volunteers representing the 8th District American Legion and Auxiliary, Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary – Grand of Minnesota, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and the Northland Vietnam Veterans Association. This activity is our crown jewel event here in Silver Bay. It was the brain child of Jim Latvala (Rainbow’s End) and Dan Smestad. We have next year’s trip slated for Monday, June 29th.

In addition to our Lake Superior fishing trip, we have weekly fishing trips to Lax Lake and later this summer we will be going to Vets on the Lake in Ely for a weekend of fishing. We also take advantage of our beautiful setting. We have had a number of veteran-sponsored BBQ/Picnics including the DAV Arrowhead Region (June 13th), the Area 2 Cooties (July 12th), the Submarine Vets (July 19th), and the 8th District American Legion and Auxiliary (August 6th).

If you haven’t been to the
Veterans Home lately,
give us a call and we will gladly
give you a tour of this facility,
where we are proud to serve our
Veterans and their spouses.



Ward C. Wallin
Volunteer Program Administrator

AIRFORCE ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 226

The Bong Flyer



MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO ATTEND!

The next quarterly chapter dinner/program will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2008

6:00 p.m. at Northstar Aerospace in the Duluth Airpark. John Eagleton will give a tour of the plant starting at 6:15. A catered dinner will follow the tour, by Lubiani Catering. For reservations, please call John Seely at 715-378-2525 or e-mail jcseely-char@centurytel.net.

Northstar Aerospace specializes in aircraft seats, precision-machined components, parts and assemblies for the aerospace industry. They are committed to excellence in quality, service and response in meeting the needs of its customers.

Northstar Aerospace started in 1993 as a precision CNC machining and manufacturing business.

In 2002 Northstar Aerospace re-located into a new, state-of-the-art, atmospherically controlled 20,000 square-foot production facility, allowing expanded capacity for growth. Further expansion completed in 2007 added another 20,000 square feet to our facility.

From initial conception to Just-in-Time delivery, Northstar Aerospace is equipped to provide the highest quality components and products with unparalleled efficiency and service.

Northstar Aerospace is a community partner of the Richard I. Bong Air Force Association chapter, and John Eagleton has been an active member in Chapter 226.

AFA Chapter Member Receives Certificate of Appreciation

The Richard I. Bong AFA Chapter recently awarded longtime member and supporter Earl Rogers a

Certification of Appreciation for his dedication and success in the Chapter Community Partner membership program. Earl is a past Minnesota State AFA President and had served in other leadership capacities in the local AFA Chapter.

Chapter Members Visit Silver Bay Vets' Home

Led by AFA Bong chapter member Mike Robbins, members of the Bong chapter treated nine veterans living at the Silver Bay Minnesota Veterans Home to a smelt fry on May 15, 2008 at the Northern Lights Roadhouse & Pub in Beaver Bay MN. We picked up the veterans at the home in the home's van, and escorted them to lunch. Judging by the lively conversations it was a hit. **Several good stories from WWII were heard, and it's still apparent that these ladies and gentlemen are still justifiably proud of their service.** Many thanks should be directed to the proprietors of the Northern Lights Roadhouse, as they not only provided the finest smelt fry imaginable, but gave us a substantial discount on the bill in honor of the veterans. This has become an annual event, and a most enjoyable one.

Duluth Composite Squadron Auxiliary of the United States Air Force

July 10, 2008 • RELEASE IMMEDIATELY

For further information contact:

KEITH M. BISCHOFF

• 626 N. 46th Ave West. • Duluth, MN 55807

On Sunday July 6th, 2008, nine seniors and one cadet from the Duluth and Grand Rapids Composite Squadrons participated in a Unit Based Search and Rescue Exercise at Duluth International Airport, MN. They made up one ground and two air teams that conducted grid, route and electronic searches and photo missions in the Cotton MN area. LtCol Keith

Bischoff served as Incident Commander. Major Charles Schumacher, Lt Pat Lawler, and Capt Mark Johnston planned, coordinated and assisted in conducting search operations.

A benevolent Twin Cities baseball enthusiast has donated 50 tickets to the MN Twins baseball games that will be used at various times by the unit seniors and cadets along with visits to various museums and other attractions in the Twin Cities this summer. Major Edwin Culbert hosted several senior, cadet, and potential cadet members on trips to the Minnesota Twins Baseball games June 5th and July 2nd. In June the group also conducted a tour of the University of MN campuses while in July they visited and toured the 133 Air Transport Wing, MNANG Air Museums at Fort Snelling,

Major Charles Schumacher, Major Edwin Culbert, Capt Mark Johnston and SM John Feth participated in the recent Group II Search and Rescue Exercise held June 14 – 15 at St. Cloud, MN flying the MN Wing Cessna 182T during air team operations. The 100 MN Wing CAP mission support staff also conducted like missions, photo imaging and ground search sorties during the one day exercise. The Civil Air Patrol is open to anyone interested in supporting our community Search and Rescue, Aerospace Education, or Cadet Programs.



Duluth Squadron Cadet Erin Ansell attended the MN Wing Air Academy at Mankato, MN in July to participate in the airplane pilot and glider solo encampment program. She received ground and flight training leading to her soloing.

Five additional unit cadets attended the MN Wing Cadet Encampment at Camp Ripley, MN June 13 – 22 where SM John Feth served as Tactical Officer. Three senior and eight cadet Duluth Composite Squadron members participated in the Monday May 26th Memorial Day Parade on Grand Avenue in West Duluth. Although the weather was threatening, the parade drew an unusually large number of spectators.

Major Gary Lemasters and LTC Keith M. Bischoff attended the MN Wing sponsored National CAP Check Pilot Course held at Flemming Field, South St. Paul, MN Saturday, May 30. During that same weekend, Major Charles Schumacher, Major Edwin Culbert, and Capt Mark Johnston received and delivered training at the MN Wing sponsored Advanced Aircrew Course at Anoka MN.

Welcome to our Community Partners

For information on becoming a Community Partner please contact **Earl Rogers**

- Allison & Associates
- Northstar Aviation
- Duluth Airport Authority
- Duluth Travel Agency, Inc.



2009 Aerospace Education Partnership Campaign

Yes, I want to become a Partner/Investor in the Bong Chapter AFA Aerospace Education and Cadet Recognition Program.
Please note my name and contribution level as indicated below:

- ____ Shares at \$20 per Share
- ☐ Please list me as a (Half) of (Full) Classroom sponsor. Class sponsorship is \$94
- ☐ I would like to help "hands on" in these programs

Name _____

Address _____

Please make your check payable to
Richard I. Bong Chapter AFA and send to: **Jim Armstrong**
724 Maple Grove Road • Duluth, MN 55811-4525



"How to Work with Your Financial Network Investment Adviser Representative"

From: Neill A. Atkins • Contact: atkinsn@financialnetwork.com • 218.740.2284

One of the keys to achieving long-term objectives is planning. You need to know what you want to achieve...and then map out a strategy that will help you achieve it.

Fortunately, you don't have to go it alone. As your Financial Network Investment Adviser Representative, I do much more than just suggest life, annuity and investment products. My role is that of a professional problem solver who can help you identify the most cost-effective ways to meet your financial objectives.

I provide a full range of services, including working with you to:

1. Review your individual situation and personal objectives. Why is this important? For one thing, your situation and needs are different from those of your neighbors. What's right for them may not be appropriate for you. Plus, the more I know about you, the more precise and on-target my recommendations will be. That's why it is important for me to get a clear understanding of who you are and what you want to achieve.

As a result, I will ask questions about – and I may even appear to be a bit nosey about -- your hopes, dreams and objectives, the things that really matter to you. By the way, all information will remain strictly confidential.

2. Analyze & review your needs. I will work with you to identify and prioritize your objectives, then help you establish benchmark goals. This is important because we live in a world in which there are unlimited choices, but only limited resources. For instance, you may want to retire in comfort, make sure your children can graduate from college debt-free, and vacation in a different European country every winter. However, your resources may say that you cannot do it all.

As your Financial Network Investment Adviser Representative, I can work with you and help you focus on what is most important to you. Then we can look at available resources and decide which goals are realistic, which need to be adjusted and scaled down, and which simply must be abandoned.

3. Develop and implement a strategy to help you achieve your goals. Based on the information you share, I'll provide specific recommendations. Some may be process suggestions (meet with your attorney to draft a revised will, set up a trust), while others may be product recommendations (adjust your insurance coverage, commit a specific amount of money to an annuity for long-term accumulation each month).

4. Coordinate your financial activities. If you wish, I can serve as your financial quarterback to help you design a personalized plan and coordinate the work of other advisers. These may include your attorney, your accountant, and your financial institution.

5. Monitor progress, providing ongoing service as your needs and situation change over time. Planning is not a one-shot deal. Strategies need to be adjusted periodically. I will work with you over the years to help keep your program on track with your changing needs.

Your role is also crucial. The key to getting maximum value from our relationship is communication and candor. You should consider doing the following:

1. Get acquainted. Understand the need for us to establish and maintain an ongoing relationship. That's why I recommend that you contact my office and arrange a meeting to discuss the full extent of available services and to review your situation.

2. Educate me. I certainly can anticipate many of your needs, but I will not assume anything. That's why it is so important for you to be candid about providing information.

3. Educate yourself. You also need to ask a lot of questions. Be nosey. Ask for details and explanations about recommendations and how certain plans may work. Remember, the only dumb question is the one you do not ask.

4. Make it a team effort. We need to work together to get the best results for you. Listen carefully to recommendations, but remember -- all final decisions are yours. Make sure you are comfortable with the outcome.

Recommendation: Find out more. Contact my office to arrange an appointment and find out how we can help you achieve your objectives.

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARSPOST 137

COMMANDERS' COMMENTS

Congratulations on the
first issue of Cadence!
What a great vehicle to sound
the message of the veteran community!

VFW 137 is in a constant state of change and so far, with the help of a few people, we have been able to hold onto our Post Home. It will take extra help from all of you to keep us functioning and we are in great need of people to help in the following areas:

- Volunteer Part-Time Bartenders-work on your schedule....even one shift a month would help, so call 727-1912 after 5:00 p.m. and ask for Brenda or Mike to help.
- We need volunteers to help in the kitchen with meals. Call me (Brad Bennett) at 722-4589 if you can volunteer a few hours of cooking, serving or cleaning up.

- We need a couple people to clean our Post Home once per week....vacuum, dust, clean bathroom, etc. If you have a few hours to volunteer, call me at 722-4589.

I am hoping that I will only be the temporary Commander of Post 137 until we can get the MN State Dept of VFW to agree to the merger with Post 6320 and eventually get into a new and improved Post. At that time, we will elect all new officers and start a new history for the VFW Post in Duluth. But until then, I will do the best I can to keep us operating for the good of all veterans. It will take each of you to help, so please volunteer a little of your time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Post meeting is the second Wednesday of each month

Every 2nd Sunday of the month from Noon to 3:00 p.m. Old Fashion Farm Breakfast \$7.00

Bring your friends & relatives!

BRAND NEW ADVENTURE... Brunch of steak, eggs, hash browns, toast, juice

Our Post Home can be rented by members and non-members for wedding receptions and parties. Just call 727-1912 for information. If there is no answer, please leave a message and we will get back to you.

Respectfully Submitted • Brad Bennett, Commander • Home Phone: 722-4589

from the QUARTERMASTERS' DESK

Attention all dues paying members! As you know, you send your annual VFW dues direct to VFW National Headquarters. Most of you do that when you receive your Dues Renewal Notice, and we thank you for that. What we need is for all of you to do that. Get the VFW Spirit, don't put it off. Now some of you feel it's great to wait until December 31st before you do it. But let me tell you that sending your dues in early helps the whole VFW, the National Headquarters, the Department of Minnesota VFW, the VFW 8th District, and your VFW Post 137. When your dues are received at National they split it up - so much stays at National, so much to Department of Minnesota, so much goes to the 8th District, and the balance goes to your Post. All of your \$30.00 goes to our great VFW programs. So, get in the VFW Spirit and make it a habit to be an early bird.

National has two Life Membership Plans for you to become a Lifer. One plan calls for you to make twelve monthly payments, and the other allows you to make twenty-four payments. This is a great way to become a Life Member - then, no more dues to pay! How about that? Give this some serious consideration. If you have any questions about becoming a "lifer", please call either Chick Hendrickson at 624-2097 or our new Quartermaster Mike Torre at 391-1945. Yours in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Chick and Mike. Thanks much!

from the QUARTERMASTERS OFFICE,

I just want to take a moment and thank all the volunteers in the club, kitchen and post who are helping us keep it all going on a daily basis and if anyone wants to volunteer or help out give the post a call. We can always use a person or two to help out.

Thank you again

CADENCE

COOTIE COMMENTS

Pup Tent #5 and our Ladies Auxiliary: Lister Cooties; are you aware that our monthly Scratch has been changed from the Second Tuesday to the Second Thursday? 1:30 is Scratch Time. The Ladies, as of this writing, will still meet on the second Tuesday at 2:00 P.M.

Our second annual Area Cooties visit to the Minnesota Veterans Home in Silver Bay was a great success. We had a wonderful barbecue cookout providing the residents with some great hot dogs, polish sausage and brats. The Cooties also enjoyed the festivities! It's wonderful being a Cootie - our purpose is to "Keep Them Smiling in Beds of White".

**NOW
LOOKING FOR
Volunteers
& New Members!**

VFW 137

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\$7 STEAK & EGG BREAKFAST
Sunday, 10a.m to 2p.m.

I was privileged to attend this year's VFW MN Department convention. It was not as well attended as it was three years ago when I last participated. There were only about 144 members in attendance, and of the 29 Posts in the 8th District, only about six were there when we had to vote. When it came time to vote, I felt kind of like a small power broker as I had 22 votes for post #137, and had people trying to get my votes. I hope I represented you well.

Our new State Commander is Stan "The Crusher" Kawolski. He is, as I understand, the last WW II state commander. He is really a special man with more energy and charisma than most commanders. He knows everyone, and everyone knows him, or at least, wants to. He has made MACV his "Commander's Project" for this year.

Another observation that I made was that the vast majority of the leadership are Vietnam Veterans. There was a smattering of other veterans there as well. It is a sign of changing times. Now, can we continue to be a successful organization for veterans in the 21st century? To do so we need to become more responsive to the needs of

our members. We need to determine where we are going and what direction that will be. We need to come together to address these questions.

One of the big issues that will be studied this year, with a recommendation to be brought back at next year's Department Convention, is liquor liability at the Posts and whether we should be in the bar business at all. What some are suggesting is to contract these services out to others. This will be interesting to see how it progresses.

There are some attempts by National to consolidate several committees that will have a very positive effect on the actions of the Posts. This will mean maybe all youth-related programs, or all relief-related programs, become larger groups with subcommittees. The idea is to cut reporting and costs. I for one would like to see a review of programs to see where we need to focus on and not just consolidate existing programs.

Lastly, some of us would like to see changes in Department conventions and meetings. We must focus on the needs of our members and all veterans in general. The Convention could start on Friday and end on Sunday instead of starting on Wednesday and lasting through Saturday. We should have more informational speakers and instructions on how to improve your Post. The window for the future of the VFW is limited. We need to be proactive. After all, it is our organization.

Dear Sisters,

As you have noticed we have joined ranks and are now sending out our messages together under the great efforts of Dwight Nelson and his dedicated crew. Thank you so much, Dwight!

In the first issue many of us were informed of the disbanding of the VFW Post 6320's Ladies Auxiliary. With this follows the question, "what happens to my membership?" Pick a post and join it! If we're talking 137, welcome aboard!

Come in and fill out a membership card. As August is the beginning of the 2009 membership, please fill out a card as a transferring member. If you have paid your 2009 dues you are done. If you have yet to pay for 2009, then to keep your continuous membership (your "continuous since" line) going you will need to bring a signed statement from your Auxiliary President and Treasurer stating your length of membership and election date to membership.

Our meeting is held on the first Tuesday of the month (August 5, 2008) at 7:00 p.m. During these meetings, we discuss ways to be of service to our organization as well as our community. I'd like to say thank you to all you ladies who came out and made a difference in a soldier's life and the life of their family. While there's still a lot to overcome, we have helped pave the way.

I truly hope we can continue to give service to all who are preserving and protecting the rights and privileges we so treasure. As with this new forum, I hope that many of you will join ranks with our ladies to serve our servicemen and veterans as well as our community. Every heart, soul and hand is always welcome and needed in this great opportunity to show our appreciation and dedication.

Thank you for all your help and commitment

Angie Gibbons, President
VFW, Post 137 Ladies Auxiliary

68th Paducah Reunion

Wed., August 20, 2008

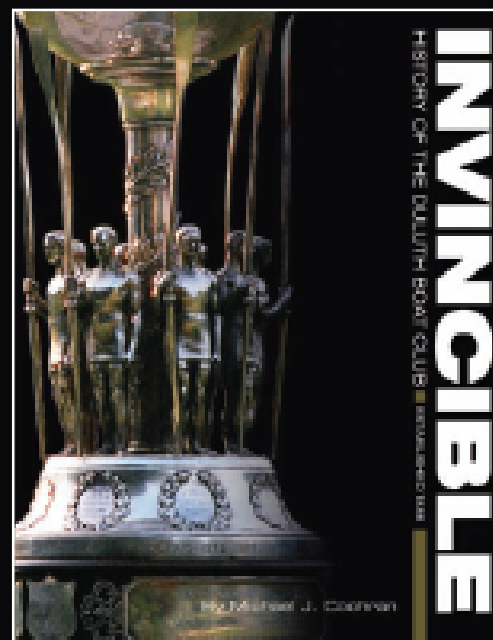
MR. D'S 5622 Grand Avenue
NOON to 3pm

The Paducah group and the YP61 are looking for members or spouses of the 49th & 50th Division, 10th Battalion, U.S. Naval Reserve to join them at their reunion.

Please call Steve Balach (218-626-1749) for information or to sign up. Lunch will be on your own.

**HONORARY CHAIRMAN-PAST DEPT.
COMMANDER FOR VFW
JOE JANNETTE**

Please bring pictures taken during your tour of duty to be donated to Veterans Memorial Hall for preservation and to be added to their Internet site.



During the early 20th century, the Duluth Boat Club was the greatest water sport organization in the world and dominated the sport of rowing. Invincible is a stunning limited-edition volume that chronicles the history of the Duluth Boat Club from its beginning in 1886 with 128-pages of fascinating text and 180 beautiful, historic photographs.

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Family Matters

Supporting the families of veterans



Workshop times

- Session One
August 21, 2008
11:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Rothwell Student Center
- Session Two
August 21, 2008
4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Rothwell Student Center

Cost

\$20.00/half day

\$30.00/full day

Includes light refreshments
Meals on your own

Who Should Attend?

Veterans
Family Members
Friends
Teachers/Instructors
Clergy
Social Service Professionals
Health Professionals
HR Professionals

CEUs Available

0.4 CEUs for each session
(4 contact hours)

Supporting the families of veterans

For a large number of service people, returning home from war and rejoining families and society proves to be a daunting challenge. Fundamental personal changes experienced by veterans and their family members often are not addressed. In these sessions we examine information and resources to help veterans and their families deal with the life changes and challenges of homecoming.

Morning session topics

- **Health care conditions common to returning veterans**
Dr. Markon has been deployed in Afghanistan and will cover common medical problems of returning veterans, and the effects of these problems on parenting and families.
- **"We are not victims"**
Jeff Hall addresses issues commonly faced by those returning home from war, including the process of family reunification. Effective coping strategies by both family members and veterans will be covered.

Afternoon session topics

- **Communication issues for veterans and their families**
Jay and Susan Wolterstorff discuss practical solutions for reuniting and communicating within families who have been traveling along the very different and separate paths of war and the home front.
- **Practical self-defense**
Kim Mattevi presents a "toolbox" for self-defense and escape from unsafe environments and situations.
- **Community resources for veterans and their families**
Durbin Keeney and Kevin Langdon provide an overview of services and available resources within our community for military families and veterans.

www.uwsuper.edu/community



UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
Superior

Presenters

Jeff M. Hall, M.S.W., LCSW, Major (Ret), Northern Tier OIF/OEF Outreach Coordinator.

Durbin Keeney, Regional Director, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.

Kevin Langdon, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.

Dr. Clyde Markon, M.D., Colonel, USAR, Civil Affairs and Medical Director, Twin Ports Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic.

Kim Mattevi, Owner/instructor On Alert Self-Defense and Mattevi Martial Arts Academy. Fourth degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and Karate. Certified personal trainer and rape prevention instructor.

Jay R. Wolterstorff, M.S.W., Associate Professor, Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Superior.

Susan L. Wolterstorff, M.S. Ed., Certified Health and Wellness Coach/Counselor.

Exhibit space available ~ Contact Kevin Langdon at klangdon@uwsuper.edu or 218-340-2533.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

Gilbert Nordmann Chapter 6 ★ PO Box 16142 ★ Duluth, MN 55816-0142

Building Better Lives for America's Disabled Veterans

VA reaches out to vets with mortgage problems

WASHINGTON (June 12, 2008) – Many home owners have found it difficult recently to pay their mortgages, but quick intervention by loan counselors at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has actually reduced the number of veterans defaulting on their home loans.

“VA is reaching out to veterans -- both those who use our home-loan guaranty program and those who don't take advantage of our guarantees -- to keep people in their homes,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. “I'm proud of our solid record of success in helping veterans and active-duty personnel deal with financial crises.”

Accounting for much of this success are VA counselors at nine regional loan centers who assist people with VA-guaranteed loans avoid foreclosure

through counseling and special financing arrangements. The counselors also can assist other veterans with financial problems. VA counselors have helped about 74,000 veterans, active-duty members and survivors keep their homes since 2000, a savings to the government of nearly \$1.5 billion.

Depending on a veteran's circumstances, VA can intercede with the lender on the veteran's behalf to pursue options -- such as repayment plans, forbearance, and loan modifications -- that would allow a veteran to keep a home.

To obtain help from a VA financial counselor, veterans can call VA toll-free at 1-877-827-3702. Information about VA's home loan guaranty program can be obtained at www.homeloans.va.gov.

IRS URGES DISABLED VETERANS to seek economic stimulus funds

FOR ASSISTANCE PLEASE CONTACT JERRY UECKER AT 218-391-8800

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) says that disabled veterans have until Oct. 15 to file claims for economic stimulus payments.

The IRS is launching a campaign this summer to contact those who are eligible, but have failed to file claims. They include people receiving benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for disability, pension or survivors' benefits. The agency will send special letters to those eligible with directions on how to make the claim, a sample tax form and a tax form that can be completed and mailed to the IRS. This will be the second special mailing to eligible disabled veterans.

As many as one in four disabled veterans and retirees have not yet filed a claim for economic stimulus payments Congress authorized in February.

Disabled veterans who do not normally file a tax return are eligible for the payments, but they will need to file a tax return before Oct. 15 in order to qualify for the stimulus funds. Once the tax return has been filed, the IRS will calculate eligibility and the payment amount. Even though some disabled veterans do not normally file a tax return because their benefits are not taxable, must file a return in order to receive the payments.

The stimulus payments of up to \$600 (\$1,200 for married couples filing joint returns) have no effect on federal benefits received and are not taxable. In addition, filing a tax return to receive a stimulus payment does not mean that disabled veterans will have to start filing tax returns again.



DAV Officers

Senior Chapter Officers 07/08

Commander:.....Bruce Solem
218-525-1709 or BSERL@msn.com

Sr. Vice Cdr & Sr. Chapter OfficerJerry Uecker
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Adjutant:.....Mary Smestad
218-525-3669 or positivesolution@qwest.net

Chapter Email:davduluthmn@gmail.com

Please Come to our Meetings: We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, except January, in the RUTH MANEY ROOM, at the Duluth Depot (506 West Michigan Street), at 6:30 p.m. Contact any officer with items you would like to see addressed at the meeting.

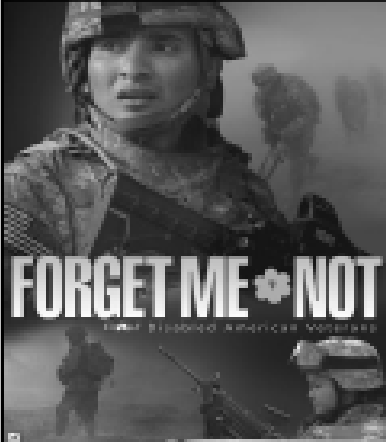
SUMMER PICNIC

August 23, Saturday

Enger Tower

12:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Chapter 6 Forget-Me-Not Fund Raising Drive.



DAV Forget-Me-Not Day

They didn't forget their duty...
Please don't forget them.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
Forget-Me-Not Day Contributions
Help Local Disabled Veterans

July 30th-August 2nd.
Gilbert Nordmann, Chapter 6
PO Box 16142 Duluth, MN 55816-0142
daviduluthmn.org

Any and all funds raised during the Drive are used to directly help Veterans or their families. Not one dime is used for regular Chapter expenses. We are asking for your support. We need volunteers to help collect donations. If you can help, please call one of our Chapter officers. If you cannot help collect funds, please consider making a personal, family, or group donation. We have included a self-addressed envelope for your use. Thank you in advance to all Veterans, DAV members or not, who can help.

My Donation in honor of the Chapter 6 Forget-Me-Not is \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

PLEASE COME TO OUR MEETINGS: We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month except January in the Ruth Maney Room, Duluth Depot at 6:30 PM. The depot is at 506 W Michigan Street. Contact any officer with items you would like to see addressed at the meeting.

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