

Harold Baggenstoss
Post 1260

February, 2020
Volume 87, Issue 2



FROM THE COMMANDER

BY BRUCE MALTERUD

Comrades,

With Jan. slipping by us it is time for our Feb. meeting already. Tuesday, Feb. 4th at 7:00 p. m. Bemidji Eagles Club rooms. Hopefully the weather cooperates and we don't get any more snow for awhile. Do to the snow storm on the 17th and 18th of Jan. I had to cancel my trip to the cities for the state Mid-Winter Conference, which is always quite informational.

You probably seen in the paper where I presented a check and an award to Jake Antencio, a senior at Trek-north High School. Jake received this award for his efforts in the Voice of Democracy Program. This program is offered to 10th, 11th and 12th graders where they can earn dollars towards scholarships up to \$30,000.00. We had no one that competed in the Patriots Pen competition, this is for the 7th, 8th and 9th graders. The VFW is a big supporter of our youth in the communities.

This past year we provided Military Honors for 22 fallen soldiers. There were a lot more but, those are the ones that we held honors for. And to mention, if anyone wants to get involved please contact one of us and we will set you up in a uniform. We sure could use some more help as some of us getting at the age where we just can't do it any more. It means so much to the family and we're happy to help out as much as we can. Call myself or Kelly Booge at 218-308-1171.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Adjutant's Corner 2
- Veteran Service Officer 3
- Chaplain's Corner 4
- Spot Light On 5
- Veteran's Employment Rep... 5
- Post Auxiliary 6
- Activities Last Month 7
- Points of Contact 7

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Next Two Months Meetings

March 3rd

April 7th

This week, the House overwhelmingly passed the VFW-supported Veteran HOUSE Act of 2020. This bill would expand eligibility for the Department of Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program to veterans discharged under other-than-honorable (OTH) conditions. Veterans with OTH discharges make up only 3% of the veteran population, but they compose 15% of the homeless veteran population. The bill was introduced by Rep. Scott Peters (D-Calif.) who is working to get more veterans off the streets, "Expanding housing assistance and services to these men and women would allow homeless veterans who have slipped through the cracks access the support they have earned through their service to our country," said Peters. The HUD-VASH program is an incredibly valuable tool for veterans who are in need of stable housing.

On the lighter side; Little Ole was in the garden filling in a hole when his neighbor peered over the fence. Interested in what the cheeky-faced youngster was up to, the neighbor politely asked, "What cha doing, Little Ole?" "My goldfish died," replied the boy tearfully, without looking up. "I've yust buried him." The neighbor was concerned. "That's an awfully big hole for a goldfish, isn't it?" Little Ole patted down the last heap of earth, then replied, "Dat's because he's inside your dumb cat."

Bruce Malterud, Commander
218-766-3898

Mark your calendars! Next meeting is Tuesday, February 4th!!

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

February 22

Birthday - George Washington (1732-1799) was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He served as commander of the Continental Army during the American Revolution and became the first U.S. President.

February 23, 1942 - During World War II, the first attack on the U.S. mainland occurred as a Japanese submarine shelled an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing minor damage.

February 23, 1991 - In Desert Storm, the Allied ground offensive began after a devastating month-long air campaign targeting Iraqi troops in both Iraq and Kuwait.

2

ADJUTANT'S CORNER

NOTICE: VFW website: www.vfwpost1260.org. All updated information is available concerning our local VFW Post #1260 as well as our state and national information.

VFW Post #1260 Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 7th

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Eagles Club

Feb. 2 – Ground Hog Day.

Feb. 14- Valentine's Day.

Feb. 17- Presidents' Day.

Feb. 26-Ash Wednesday.

Bring another veteran to our meeting.

Harold Baggenstoss

VFW Post #1260

P.O. Box 1271

Bemidji, MN 56619

VFW Post Adjutant

ckapphan@paulbunyan.net

218-243-3060



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VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Beltrami County

The Minnesota Veterans Preference Act (VPA)

Veterans Preference Categories

**Should not be considered legal advice*

Nondisabled Veteran's Credit

[MN Statute 197.455, Subd. 4](#)

10 Veterans Preference points may be awarded for local government positions

Disabled Veteran's Credit

[MN Statute 197.455, Subd. 5](#)

15 Veterans Preference points may be awarded for local government positions

Direct Appointment to State Jobs

[MN Statute 43A.111](#)

Authorization to directly appoint a 30% service-connected disabled Veteran to a state job

Veterans Preference in State Jobs

[MN Statute 43A.11](#)

After minimum qualifications for a vacant position are met, disabled Veterans are considered ahead of Veterans who are considered ahead of non-Veterans. The top five recently separated Veterans must be granted an interview for the position by the hiring authority.

Recruitment of Veterans in State Employment

[MN Statute 43A.09](#)

Special emphasis shall be given to recruitment of Veterans and protected group members to assist state agencies in meeting affirmative action goals to achieve a balanced work force.

Veterans Preference in MN Private Sector Employment

[MN Statute 197.4551](#)

A private, nonpublic employer is allowed, but not required to grant preference to a Veteran in hiring and promotion.

Discharge Hearing Process

[MN Statute 197.46](#)

No person holding a position by appointment or employment in the several counties, cities, towns, school districts and all other political subdivisions in the state, who is a Veteran separated from the military service under honorable conditions, shall be removed from such position or employment except for incompetency or misconduct shown after a hearing, upon due notice, upon stated charges, in writing.

Veterans Preference Enforcement

[197.481 - 2014 Minnesota Statutes](#)

A Veteran denied any Veterans preference right, either in hiring or discharge may petition the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs for relief.

For more details, refer to: <https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/employment/statelaws.jsp>



OUR SACRIFICE

<u>Conflict</u>	<u>Casualties</u>
American Revolution	50,000
Northwest Indian War	1,881
War of 1812	20,000
Mexican American War	17,435
Civil War—Union	646,392
Civil War—Confederate	~524,000
Dakota War of 1862	263
Spanish-American War	4,068
Philippine-American War	7,126
World War I	320,518
World War II	1,076,245
Korean War	128,650
Vietnam War	211,454
Afghanistan War	20,147
Iraq War	32,292

NOTE: There are other smaller conflicts not listed where service members sacrificed their lives

Afghanistan & Iraq source:

<https://www.defense.gov/casualty.pdf>

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

(Lent)

O God, by the example of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, You have taught us the greatness of true humility, and now have called us to watch with Him in His suffering. Help us to take the towel and basin and in humbleness of spirit to wash the feet of those who most need our ministry. Give us the graciousness to serve one another in all lowliness and thus fulfill the law of love on the Name of Your Servant, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(For Volunteers)

John Wesley once prayed, "O Lord, let us not live to be useless."

Let us offer our prayer:

O God, these good people have chosen not to be useless. They have volunteered their time and

talents. We thank You for their precious gifts of service. We pray that You would keep them steadfast in their volunteer work and ministry; that it will continue to be a blessing to others and to those who volunteer. Help us so to live as to add more joy to the world, and the glory of Thy Name.

Amen.



SPOT LIGHT ON....

The Battle of Iwo Jima (February 19—March 26, 1945)
26,000 Casualties, including 6,800 Dead



On Iwo Jima, site of a strategic air base located between the Mariana Islands and Japan, the Japanese carved out a network of underground fortifications aimed at turning the small volcanic island into a death trap for invading US Marines. When US Marine divisions invaded on February 19, 1945, planners expected a brief campaign. But for more than five weeks, Japanese forces mounted a fierce defense. The Japanese had to be rooted out of caves and other strongholds in merciless close-quarter assaults. The bloodbath horrified Allied military planners and American citizens, who feared a far greater slaughter during an invasion of Japan's home islands.

General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, the Japanese commander on Iwo Jima, recognized that he could not defeat an American landing. Instead, he planned a long and costly defensive battle to shake American resolve to continue the war and invade the Japanese mainland. The general placed weapons to rain deadly fire on the beaches, but concentrated his forces in the northern part of the island within underground bunkers and gun positions linked by miles of tunnels. This deadly isolationist web of defenses exacted a terrible toll.

US Marines immortalized the bloodiest battles on Iwo Jima with names depicting the brutal combat. The battles included "The Meat Grinder," where nearly 850 Marines died capturing a Japanese stronghold, and "Bloody Gorge," where Japanese defenders made their final stand. The US landing forces suffered 6,821 killed and 19,217 wounded. Although most in the 20,000-strong Japanese garrison were draftees, they refused to surrender, fighting tenaciously until only a few hundred remained alive to be taken prisoner.

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/>

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HOT OFF THE PRESS

The Case for Pulling US Troops
Out of Africa

24 Jan 2020
Military.com | By Dan DePetris

Daniel R. DePetris is a fellow at Defense Priorities and a columnist at the Washington Examiner.

On Dec. 24, The New York Times reported that Defense Secretary Mark Esper was conducting a reassessment of the global U.S. military force posture, part of which involved considering the withdrawal of some of the 6,000 to 7,000 U.S. troops stationed in Africa. The arguments for a troop reduction are compelling -- though that hasn't stopped Capitol Hill from throwing a fit over the potential drawdown of troops in a region of the world that is, at best, peripheral to U.S. interests.

The report quickly ricocheted on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers in both the House and Senate are asking the Pentagon to rethink a troop reduction in the U.S. Africa Command theater of operations. Reps. Adam Smith and Mac Thornberry, the chairman and ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, [wrote](#) a letter to Esper urging him to "carefully consider the adverse implications of reducing our force posture in Africa." That letter was delivered days after Sens. Lindsey Graham and Chris Coons [stressed](#) similar opposition to the idea.

The Trump administration is getting a lot of heat for even considering a force reduction in the Sahel, an area currently struggling with challenges including poverty, unemployment and terrorism. Esper will have to expend considerable time and attention explaining why such a reduction is necessary. However, the rationale for proceeding with the reduction is sound.

WELCOME

In appreciation of Military service, Schummer's Backwoods Bar & Grill offers all Active Duty and Veterans a 50% discount on selected food purchases at the Grill on the 2nd Tuesday of every month!

Backwoods Bar & Grill
 48220 Reserve Trail
 Bemidji, MN 56601 (218 751 1195)
 6 Mi S on US #71 - 3 Mi W on US #9
 Formerly "The Blue Moon"

POST AUXILIARY

At our February meeting, we will talk about potential new projects to work on. Please come join us in this discussion and add your ideas and expertise to the group. If you have some definite ideas of how we should be helping our veterans and their families – we would love to hear those too.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

February 24, 1582 - Pope Gregory XIII corrected mistakes on the Julian calendar by dropping 10 days and directing that the day after October 4, 1582 would be October 15th. The Gregorian, or New Style calendar, was then adopted by Catholic countries, followed gradually by Protestant and other nations.

February 27, 1950 - The 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, limiting the president to two terms or a maximum of ten years in office.

February 27, 1991 - In Desert Storm, the 100-hour ground war ended as Allied troops entered Kuwait just four days after launching their offensive against Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces.

Please remember to keep track of your volunteer hours throughout the month. At our meeting, we pass around a sheet for everyone to list their volunteer hours. Those combined hours get sent into state for their record keeping about volunteerism in regard to our veterans. If you won't be able to make a meeting, but have had volunteer hours for veterans, please just send me an e-mail or text message about your hours. That way all our efforts will be recorded.

Please continue to give some thought to becoming a member of our VFW Auxiliary. Our efforts for local veterans is a very worthy cause, and your participation only makes our group stronger and more able to assist more veterans. Our group meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Bemidji Eagles at 7:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you at a meeting soon.

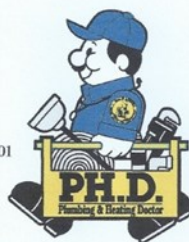
Best Regards,

Margaret Booge
 President, VFW Auxiliary 1260

6

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ACTIVITIES THIS PAST MONTH



OUR DAILY COMMITMENT

Hours served: 169
 Members volunteered: 27
 Total dollar: \$626

Current Members: 247

2019 TAPS

William Britton
 Harold Dosedall
 James Ghostley
 Wilber Kraft
 John Liapis
 John O'Boyle
 Merrill Thiel
 Dean Kondos
 Charles Noreen
 Edward Hellmann

Jake Atencio wins local VFW Voice of Democracy Program. a check and an award was presented to him by Commander, Bruce Malterud

POINTS OF CONTACT

Commander	Bruce Malterud	218-766-3898	bmjm@paulbunyan.net
Adjutant	Clare Kapphahn	218-243-3060	ckapphan@paulbunyan.net
Quartermaster	Kelly Booge	218-308-1171	kelbooge@paulbunyan.net
Sr. Vice Commander	John Naastad	651-283-8657	johnnaastad@hotmail.com
Jr. Vice Commander	Jim Johnson		
Surgeon			
Chaplain	Jerry Wraa	218-776-3949	jlwraa@gvtel.com
Asst Chaplain	Vacant		
Veterans Service Officer	Scotty Allison	218-333-4178	campbell.allison@co.beltrami.mn.us
Post Auxiliary President	Margarete Booge	218-751-3258	kelbooge@paulbunyan.net
Post Auxiliary Treasurer	Janie Malterud	218-854-7499	bmjm@paulbunyan.net
DAV Chapter #7	Thomas Annonson	218-251-3025	torgor@lightspeed.net

Support Numbers

Education: <http://www.mymilitaryeducation.org>
 Health Care: 1-877-222-8387
 Suicide Prev. Hotline: 1-800-273-8255
 Fargo VA: 1-800-410-9723
 Help Line: 1-855-VET-TALK
 VA Community Outpatient Clinic-Bemidji: 218-755-6360



Harold Baggenstoss
VFW Post #1260
P.O. Box 1271
Bemidji, MN 56619
Phone: 218) 243 3060
E-mail: ckapphan@paulbunyan.net



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WHAT THE VFW DOES FOR THE COMMUNITY

- *Youth activities, Voice of Democracy & Youth Essay*
- *Patriotic Activities*
- *Aid to Schools & Churches*
- *Membership*
- *Help to obtain benefits*
- *Legislative Service*
- *Buddy Poppy Promotion*

The purpose is fraternal, patriotic, historical, and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whosoever.

HAROLD BAGGENSTOSS
POST 1260