

Harold Baggenstoss
Post 1260

March, 2020
Volume 87, Issue 3



FROM THE COMMANDER

BY BRUCE MALTERUD

Good day veterans,

It is a fine day as I write this months letter. A lot of snow to deal with this winter but not that much cold weather like it use to be or just how tough it really was. Of course I walked to school every day also and it was up hill both ways. Spring is not to far away, we can look forward to that and the weather looks good for the coming meeting on Tuesday March 3rd, at 7:00 p.m. so will see you at the Eagles club rooms that evening. Our March meeting will be the nominations for newly elected officers. A very important meeting to nominate officers for the 2020 & 2021 year. If anyone wants to join our ranks, please encourage them to do so or jump in yourself. We are all here to help out and coax you along. Nominations in March and the April meeting we will have the election with installation of the newly elected officers in May.

March 7th the 9th District meeting will be held in Pelican Rapids, so if any one is interested in going just contact one of the officers. We will pay your registration fee which includes your lunch. This is a one day meeting which we are usually home by 5:00 p.m. In April, the 25th and 26th our district meeting will be held in Dilworth, which we will nomination and election of officers for the district. I'll bring it up again in the April news letter.

Blue Water Navy (BWN) Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 (PL 116-23) extended the presumption of herbicide exposure, such as Agent Orange, to Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Next Two Months Meetings

April 7th
May 5th

Here are seven of the symptoms there are 14 in all.

●**Chronic B-cell leukemia:** A type of cancer that affects your white blood cells (cells in your body's immune system that help to fight off illnesses and infections)

●**Hodgkin's disease:** A type of cancer that causes your lymph nodes, liver, and spleen to get bigger and your red blood cells to decrease (called anemia)

●**Multiple myeloma:** A type of cancer that affects your plasma cells (white blood cells made in your bone marrow that help to fight infection)

●**Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma:** A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue (a part of your immune system that helps to fight infection and illness)

●**Prostate cancer:** Cancer of the prostate (the gland in men that helps to make semen)

●**Respiratory cancers (including lung cancer):** Cancers of the organs involved in breathing (including the lungs, larynx, trachea, and bronchus)

Soft tissue sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma): Different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues.

On the lighter side, A Sunday school teacher asked, " Little Ole, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" " No " replied Little Ole. "How could he, with just tew worms?"

Bruce Malterud, Commander

Mark your calendars! Next meeting is Tuesday, March 3rd!!

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

March 22, 1972 - The Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed by the U.S. Senate and then sent to the states for ratification. The ERA, as it became known, prohibited discrimination on the basis of gender, stating, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex," and that "the Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article."

March 23, 1775 - Patrick Henry ignited the American Revolution with a speech before the Virginia convention in Richmond, stating, "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"

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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, March 3rd

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Eagles Club

Mar. 3- Regular Meeting Date. **Nomination of VFW Post #1260 Officers- 2020-2021.**

Mar. 7 – VFW Dist. #9 meeting – Pelican Rapids Post # 5252.

Mar. 8 – Daylight Saving Time Begins.

Mar. 17- St. Patrick's Day.

Mar. 19- Spring Equinox.

Mar. 20-22- VFW State Hockey Tournament, Thief River Falls Post #2793

Bring another veteran to our meeting.

Harold Baggenstoss

VFW Post #1260

P.O. Box 1271

Bemidji, MN 56619

VFW Post Adjutant

ckapphan@paulbunyan.net

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VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Beltrami County

Documentary STALAG LUFT III – ONE MAN’S STORY Screening at the Historic Landmark Center in St Paul

A NINE-YEAR LABOR OF LOVE BY A NIECE DETERMINED TO TELL THE STORY OF HER UNCLE, WWII PRISONER OF WAR AND AIRMAN OF THE “MIGHTY EIGHTH”

February 2020

A remarkable story of grit and grace that spans almost 100 years. Stalag Luft III – One Man’s Story is screening at the Landmark Center F.K. Weyerhaeuser Auditorium February 29th at 2 p.m. 75 Fifth St. West, St. Paul, MN 55102. The film chronicles the journey of former St. Paul, MN resident Charles Woehrle as he relives his harrowing story flying in the Mighty Eighth, and as a prisoner of war in Stalag Luft III – the Nazi prison camp made famous by the iconic 1963 Hollywood film “The Great Escape.”

AWARDS: Stalag Luft III – One Man’s Story has received 2 Audience Choice Awards for “Best Feature Documentary” from the 20th Port Townsend Film Festival and the 39th Breckenridge Film Festival. Many of the feature docs at both festivals have screened at Sundance, Toronto, Tribeca and SXSW. Stalag also received “Best of Fest” at the 42nd Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival.

Quotes: Tom Brokaw - “Stalag Luft III – One Man’s Story is a love letter from a niece who wants future generations to know how much we owe the Greatest Generation.”

“Charles Woehrle saw the worst in man, and because of it, embodied the best in man. By the time one has finished with this film, there is a feeling of standing among giants.”— RAYMOND T. RIVARD, EDITOR SUN CURRENT

“The best visual effects of a WWII air battle and reenactments in a documentary that I have ever seen.” - Sherry Meek, Twin Cities PBS

Stalag Luft III – One Man’s Story told by WWII U.S. Eighth Air Force Bombardier Lt. Charles Woehrle, one of 10,000 prisoners of war in Stalag Luft III. At age 93, this remarkable man and gifted storyteller take us from Pine City, Minnesota to war-torn Europe as he relives his experiences with vivid detail supported by reoccurring reenactment imagery of his B-17 getting shot down(VFX), capture by the Nazis, the 70 mile forced march in below zero weather, and the home front. He survived two long years of uncertainty and tremendous hardship as a prisoner of war. A saga filled with grit and grace, Charles Woehrle of the 'The Mighty Eighth' is one of the countless heroes from the Greatest Generation who has much to teach us about war and about life.

[Movie Trailer.](#)

Filmmaker Louise Woehrle “I witnessed the impact my Uncle Charles had on people wherever he went and knew his stories could touch many more lives if I could document them in a film.” Through private screenings and festivals I have witnessed a healing impact of the film on family members whose loved ones couldn’t talk about the war. “

Although Charles Woehrle is the subject of the film, director Louise Woehrle insists it is not a tribute film

about her uncle but rather a human story that shows us how one man made choices to overcome his challenges and great adversity through creative thinking, kindness, and compassion.

About the Filmmaker: Louise Woehrle is a multi-award-winning filmmaker including a regional Emmy Award whose various films are culturally diverse with a global reach. A passionate storyteller, Ms. Woehrle’s mission is to shine a light on stories that need to be told with the hope they will inspire and serve as catalysts for change. [Whirlygig Productions website.](#)



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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

Personal Readiness Dimension Spiritual



1. Volunteer your time and talents.

It can enhance your self-esteem and your sense of connection with others.

2. Know your personal values.

They play an important role in your life as they guide your behaviors and influence your decisions.

3. Increase your sense of purpose and identity.

Take actions that renew energy and reinforce a commitment to yourself and others.

4. Be responsible.

Asking and accepting help when needed makes you stronger and enhances resilience.

5. Have integrity - Do what's right.

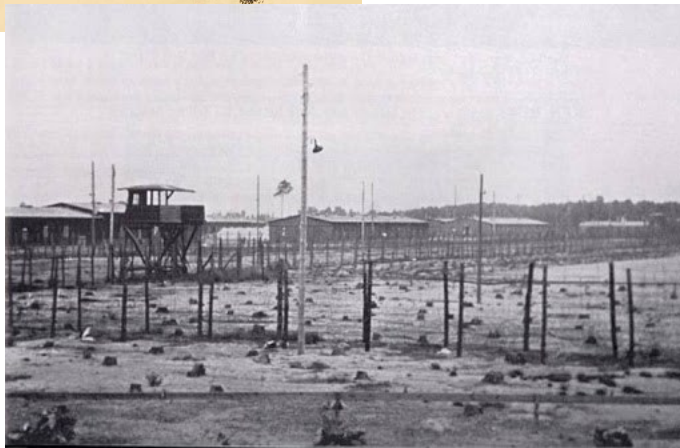
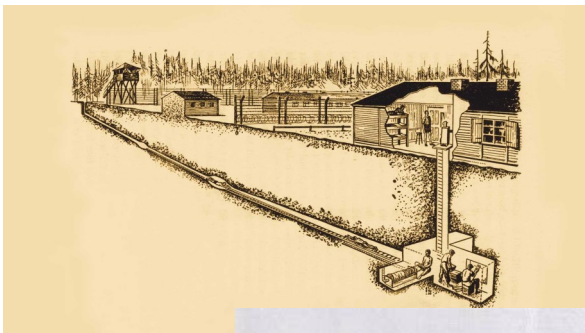
Live by the Army Values. This act builds strong character, fosters a culture of trust and supports unit cohesion.

Source: https://readyandresilient.army.mil/otherfiles/Personal_Readiness_Spiritual_TipSheet.pdf

SPOT LIGHT ON....

STALAG LUFT III - ONE MAN'S STORY

A saga filled with grit and grace, Charles Woehrle of the 'The Mighty Eighth' is one of the countless heroes from the Greatest Generation who has much to teach us about war and about life.



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HOT OFF THE PRESS

US Signs Deal with Taliban to End Afghanistan War, Bring Home Troops

29 Feb 2020

The Los Angeles Times | By David S. Cloud, Tracy Wilkinson

DOHA, Qatar—The United States and the Taliban agreed on a peace deal Saturday that calls for swift reductions in U.S. forces in Afghanistan in return for commitments by the militant group to reject foreign terrorists, a major step toward ending America's longest war. To shouts of "God is great," the accord was signed by U.S. and Taliban negotiators side by side in a luxury hotel ballroom in a scene once all but unthinkable. The sides agreed that the U.S. will cut its troop levels from around 12,000 today to 8,600 by early summer—and eventually to withdraw completely from Afghanistan if al-Qaeda and other terror groups do not reemerge there. Dozens of turbaned, bearded Taliban - some with smart phones, others fingering worry beads - took seats in the red-carpeted hall for the signing, many of them sitting in proximity to current and former U.S. officials, their longtime foes, for the first time.

Source: military.com

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!

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THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

March 24, 1934 - The Philippine Islands in the South Pacific were granted independence by President Franklin D. Roosevelt after nearly 50 years of American control.

March 24, 1989 - One of the largest oil spills in U.S. history occurred as the oil tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound off Alaska, resulting in 11 million gallons of oil leaking into the natural habitat over a stretch of 45 miles.

March 26, 1979 - The Camp David Accord ended 30 years of warfare between Israel and Egypt. Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed the treaty of mutual recognition and peace, fostered by U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

POST AUXILIARY

On Saturday, March 7th, we are scheduled for a District Meeting in Pelican Rapids. I hope some of you will be able to join us for this gathering of VFW members, and Auxiliary members. It is always good to share ideas with other Auxiliary groups, and see what other groups are doing to help veterans and their families.

In March we will be completing some Easter decorations to be taken to local nursing

homes. These small decorations help brighten the veteran's room, and help them remember we are proud of their service. Sometime this spring we will also be working on another batch of approximately 40 towel buddies to have ready to hand out to veterans. Please come help us out with these projects. It is fun to get together and do these projects with other Auxiliary members.

Also in March we start taking nominations for our officer positions for the coming fiscal year. Nominations will remain open through our April meeting, and then we will hold the elections. New officers will be installed at our May meeting, and will take office the beginning of July. Please give some thought to whether or not you may be willing to be nominated and run for an office in our Auxiliary.

Again – if you have ideas how we could better serve our local veterans and their families, please get in contact with us. The more informed we are, the better we can fulfill our purpose. Our meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Bemidji Eagles. We look forward to seeing you at a meeting soon.

Best Regards,

Margaret Booge
 President, VFW Auxiliary 1260
 218-556-9482

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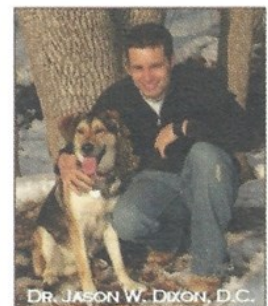


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ACTIVITIES THIS PAST MONTH



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
Merril 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
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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		
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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



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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