

Harold Baggenstoss
Post 1260

May, 2020
Volume 87, Issue 5



FROM THE COMMANDER

BY BRUCE MALTERUD

Comrades,

Due to Governor Walz extended stay at home I am canceling the May meeting. However, I will be calling an executive meeting in order to take care of business. It is tentatively set for the same date as our regular meeting, time may change.

There is not much to write about this month as we were at the stay at home order this past month as well.

In the middle of the COVID-19 crisis, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced an abrupt end to its decades-old policy of allowing veterans’ advocates to review proposed benefit decisions for the veterans we represent. For the VFW, this dubious

policy change will have dire consequences for the veterans we serve, further eroding their rights to representation when seeking benefits and sewing mistrust with the VA system.

The policy dates back to 1957 and offers advocates two business days to provide an independent quality check on VA decisions, helping veterans receive accurate benefits the first time. Every year, the VFW catches errors in up to seven percent of

all the ratings we review, often fixing them before they reach the veteran. On April 24, VA wants this to stop. In explaining the abrupt change, VA wrote that our independent review was obsolete because of the “feedback loop” to fix errors through the Appeals Modernization Act.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Next Two Months Meetings

Barring Social Distancing
Restriction:
June 2nd
July

However, this so-called "feedback loop" means that veterans first receive bad rating decisions, then must recognize any errors and fill out more bureaucratic paperwork to try to get it fixed. For decades, we have been able to fix problems up front to the benefit of both our veterans and VA. We need to call our state representatives and put a stop to this order. I picked this out of E-Blast mail that I receive from Dept. of Mn. VFW.

During these hard times and stay at home order is going to put a burden on our Relief Fund not being able to offer Poppies to the public this year. We will be trying something different this year at a later date.

In the mean time what's on the Lighter Side?

SENIOR MOMENTS, Handling a \$20-dollar bill to a beggar and asking for change.

Testing the smoke alarm by toasting bread on the highest setting.

Writing a reminder note and then forgetting to read it.

Enough, Commander Bruce.

Mark your calendars! May meeting cancelled, Next meeting is Tuesday, June 2nd!!

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

May 16, 1862 - During the American Civil War, Union General Benjamin Butler, military governor of New Orleans, issued his "Woman Order" declaring that any Southern woman showing disrespect for Union soldiers or the U.S. would be regarded as a woman of the town, or prostitute. This and other controversial acts by Butler set the stage for his dismissal as military governor in December 1862.

May 18, 1980 - Mount St. Helens volcano erupted in southwestern Washington State spewing steam and ash over 11 miles into the sky. This was the first major eruption since 1857.

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, June 2nd

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Eagles Club



NO SCHEDULED MAY MEETING BECAUSE OF COVID- 19

May 10- Mother's Day.

May 16- Armed Force's Day.

May 18- Individual Poppy Donations???

May 25- Memorial Day

-Assemble Poppy Card.

-Poppy Card (Donations) Helping Veterans in Hospitals. ?

VOTE- For VFW Post #1260 Officers for 2020-2021.

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

Dixon
Chiropractic
Dr. Jason W. Dixon, D.C.

1900 Division St. W Ste #7, Bemidji
P: 218.444.7800
www.bemidjichiro.com

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Beltrami County

Message from VA Health Care

Attention Veterans: If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms such as cough or difficulty breathing, or if you are feeling sick or ill with other symptoms, your first step is to CALL the VA Health Care System at:

- **Minneapolis:** 612-467-1100
- **Fargo:** 701-239-3700 extension 2319
- **St. Cloud:** 320-252-1670, or 800-247-1739
- **Sioux Falls:** 605-336-3230 or 605-336-5001

The medical staff will advise you on next steps based on your symptoms. In a medical emergency, call 911.

MDVA COVID-19 Update

As we respond to COVID-19, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) remains committed to serving Minnesota Veterans and their families. We are following CDC, CMS and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidance. Changes in our operations continue to provide a safe environment for both the Veterans and families we serve and our employees.

MINNESOTA STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES

Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries remain open for visitors who should practice social distancing.

Effective Monday, March 30 at 8 a.m., we will be adopting restrictions similar to those taking effect at all VA National Cemeteries.

Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries will be open for direct transfer or direct interment ONLY. Access to the Cemetery Administration Offices will be limited to Cemetery staff only. Cemetery Administrators are available to discuss this situation and respond to questions.

For more information, visit our [website](#).

MINNESOTA VETERANS HOMES

The Minnesota Veterans Homes are striving to keep families informed of the situation at the Veterans Homes and any changes in our policies. We have established a COVID-19 Information Line for families of Minnesota Veterans Homes Residents. They can call this number any time to hear a recorded message from an MDVA leader who will provide the latest general updates. The message will be updated every day. **The numbers are: 651-757-1599 OR 1-833-454-0147.**

This number does not accept messages. If families have specific questions about a Resident, they should call the Minnesota Veterans Home directly and speak to their care team.

The Minnesota Veterans Homes are continuing a practice of infection control, similar to actions taken during past highly contagious periods for influenza and norovirus. A Restricted Visitor Policy remains in effect.

We are also temporarily revising guidelines related to admissions, leaves and passes. These changes reflect guidance provided by CDC and CMS and an aggressive strategy of containment and contagion control in our Homes. These protect our vulnerable Veterans and allow us to maintain the integrity of our mission to care for and protect the health of our Veteran Residents and staff.



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

WHY WE'RE CALLED THE "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA"

Greetings Fellow Veterans, Friends, and Family,

It's been a while since I've done this. I'm only here for a visit on this page.

Praying for all in this Pandemic time. It's a worrisome thing as no one quite knows what to do. I guess that's why it's called a Pandemic panic.

Sharing with you Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him(Jesus) and He shall direct thy paths." In all truths amid this confusion, remember to pray diligently with belief. Jesus has purchased and paid for our fears that we have when He went to the cross. "PRAY IN FAITH BELIEVING".

I leave you with a thought from Pastor Jeffress out of Texas. He said "get a sheet of paper and list all of your fears in one column. Then go back to the top of the page and across from each fear, pray for it!"

Good bye for now, Veterans. Pray for our Nation, our President and all our leaders. God has a plan for your life.

Chaplain Jerry

"Evil takes away life and freedom, prayer takes away fear."



SPOT LIGHT ON....

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN 55155

Press Release

New Minnesota Veterans Homes unfunded in VA budget

St. Paul, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) was notified that none of Minnesota’s new State Veterans Homes projects (to be located in Bemidji, Montevideo and Preston) will receive federal funding this year. The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently released the State Home Construction Grants FY2020 Conditional Approvals.

“While we are disappointed that none of our new homes’ projects secured critical federal support in this funding cycle, we recognize that Minnesota is competing with other states’ projects for the same pool of federal money,” said MDVA Commissioner Larry Herke. “We remain committed to these projects and will continue to pursue these funding requests going forward.”

Because demand for grant funds exceeds available funding, the VA maintains a rolling project funding priority list. The list is updated annually and projects that do not receive funding remain on the list until they are funded, or the applicant withdraws the application. The VA prioritizes funding for safety concerns at existing homes, funding for states which have not previously applied, and for those states with the highest “unmet bed need.”

The VA conditionally approved 22 projects in seven states for a total of \$122.5 million that includes only one new construction project: a 64-bed facility in Post Falls, ID.

With 22 projects now approved, the list of projects seeking federal VA funding is now shorter. The three new Minnesota Veterans Homes projects – seeking \$79 million total – are ranked the 39th, 40th and 41st projects on the FY 2020 Grants Priority List Group 1. The total value of Priority Group 1 applications on the FY 2020 Grants list is \$512.6 million.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVE



Arrow Printing
Contact Steve Krueger at 218-751-1564 or stop by at 1375 Washington Ave. South – Bemidji.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Army's New Missile Prototype Strikes 50-Mile Test Target in Just 91 Seconds

4 May 2020
Military.com | By Matthew Cox

The U.S. Army's experimental long-range missile just completed its latest test to show it's just as effective at attacking enemy targets much closer than its maximum range of 310 miles.

The service's new Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) quickly closed the 85 kilometers, or 52 miles, and struck its target during an April 30 test at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, according to a recent Army news release. Prior to this latest test, PrSM hit targets at 240 kilometers and then at 180 kilometers, Rafferty said. Next year, the Army will hold four additional test fires of the prototype. It's made by Lockheed Martin, which is currently the only company vying for the contract, according to the release.

The new missile is scheduled to begin replacing the ATACMS, a surface-to-surface missile, in 2023 and is initially intended for stationary targets such as airfields, Gen. John "Mike" Murray, commander of the Army Futures Command, said in the release. An upgraded capability, on track for 2025, is being designed to engage moving targets. 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!

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

The situation around the world at the moment is so far removed from anything we have ever dealt with before, it is hard to wrap our mind around it. We are being asked to stay in our homes and practice "social distancing" due to the Corona Virus. Many businesses are currently closed, and we are not sure how, or when, things will return to normal. It is very important that we all take good care of ourselves and our families.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

May 19, 1943 - During World War II in Europe, Royal Air Force bombers successfully attacked dams in the German Ruhr Valley using innovative ball-shaped bouncing bombs that skipped along the water and exploded against the dams. The dams had provided drinking water for 4 million persons and supplied 75% of the electrical power for industry in the area.

May 20, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act opening millions of acres of government owned land in the West to "homesteaders" who could acquire up to 160 acres by living on the land and cultivating it for five years, paying just \$1.25 per acre.

And important that we give our friends and fellow veterans a call to make sure they are doing OK in this time of uncertainty. In the face of that uncertainty, and because we want to do our part in keeping everyone safe, we have decided to cancel our May VFW Auxiliary meeting that had been scheduled for May 5th.

At this moment, we are not sure what will be happening with our big Poppy Drive of doing both the Poppy Card distribution to local businesses, and our individual poppy drive closer to Memorial Weekend. As decisions are made, we will let you know what is going to happen.

We did nominations for new officers at our March meeting. If we are able to meet in May, we will do both election and installation of our new officers at that time.

Please take good care of yourselves, and be safe.

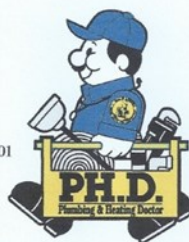
Best Regards,

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

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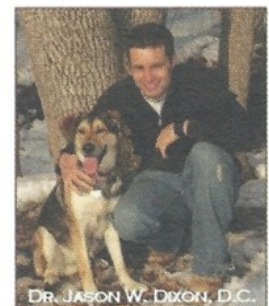


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ACTIVITIES THIS PAST MONTH



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

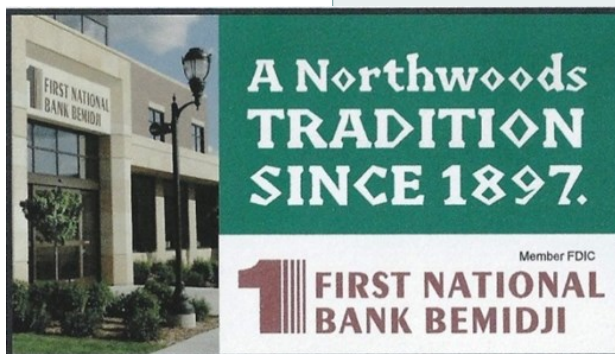
Jake Atencio wins local VFW Voice of Democracy Program. a check and an award was presented to him by Commander, Bruce Malterud

POINTS OF CONTACT

Commander	Bruce Malterud	218-766-3898	bmjm@paulbunyan.net
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



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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