

Harold Baggenstoss
Post 1260

April 2021
Volume 88, Issue 4



FROM THE COMMANDER

BY BRUCE MALTERUD

Comrades,

Meeting coming up on April 6th, 2021 at the Bemidji Eagles Club rooms 7:00 p.m.

We will have election of officers that evening, nominations are still open till the meeting when election is held. Any member who wants to get involved please do so at this meeting, we would welcome any one we need your help.

Hopefully in the month of April we will be able to conduct our poppy program again by distributing the cards to the businesses. And in May offering the individual poppies to the public. We all know that we lost our program last year to the covid-19, which cost us a lot of revenue to help our veterans in need. Please keep in mind that it takes a lot of us to make the poppy program a success any help would be appreciated.

On Wednesday, the Senate passed VFW-supported H.R. 1276, *Strengthening and Amplifying Vaccination Efforts to Locally Immunize All Veterans and Every Spouse Act (SAVE LIVES Act)*, previously titled the *Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans' and Caregivers' COVID-19 Immunizations Now Expanded Act of 2021 (VA VACCINE Act of 2021)*. The Senate version would expand on the VA VACCINE Act to include all veterans, their spouses, and caregivers when VA has the vaccine supply to do so. "Vaccines are our best shot at ending this pandemic," said Sen. Jon Tester, D-MT. "Unanimous passage of the Saves Lives Act brings us one step closer to our goal of providing free vaccination services to every veteran, spouse, child and caregiver at VA."

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Post leadership voting this month!

Next Two Months Meetings

May 4th

June 1st

Also on Wednesday, the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021 was introduced by Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester (D-MT) along with 16 senators. The VFW-supported bill would add hypertension and MGUS (monoclonal gammopathy of undete) to the list of presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure. VA has yet to add these to the list even though science shows they meet a stronger evidentiary standard than some of the previously approved conditions.

I sure hope that everyone enjoyed the winter so far, as we sure could get a big snow storm yet but know more bitter cold nights. I am ready to move on with our more every day life that we are use to.

Now on the lighter side: Two elderly couples were enjoying friendly conversation when one of the men asked the other, "Fred, how was the memory clinic you went to last month?" "outstanding," Fred replied. "They taught us all the latest psychological techniques – visualization, association-it made a huge difference for me." "That's great! What was the name of the clinic?" Fred went blank he thought and thought, but couldn't remember. Then a smile broke across his face and he asked, "What do you call that flower with the long stem and thorns?" "You mean a rose?" "Yes that's it!" He turned to his wife..."Rose, what was the name of that clinic?"

Bruce Malterud
Commander

Mark your calendars! Next meeting - Tuesday, April 6th.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

April 24, 1800 - The Library of Congress was established in Washington, D.C. It is America's oldest federal cultural institution and the world's largest library. Among the 145 million items in its collections are more than 33 million books, 3 million recordings, 12.5 million photographs, 5.3 million maps, 6 million pieces of sheet music and 63 million manuscripts. About 10,000 new items are added each day.

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, April 6th

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Eagles Club

Apr 2nd – Good Friday

Apr 4th – Easter / Passover Ends

Apr 5th – Gold Star Spouses Day

Apr 6th – VFW Post #1260 General Membership Meeting / US enters WWI (1917)

Apr 9th – National Former POW Recognition Day / US Force on Bataan Surrender (1942)

Apr 12th – Ramadan Begins

Apr 28th – US Forces invade Dominican Republic (Operation POWER PACK) 1965

Bring another veteran to our meeting.

Harold Baggenstoss
VFW Post #1260
P.O. Box 1271
Bemidji, MN 56619
VFW Post Adjutant
Curt Anderson,
anderscu@gmail.com
(502) 263.9802



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Beltrami County

3 MN Veterans Homes to get federal funding, construction could begin in the fall

The proposed Veterans Homes in Bemidji, Montevideo and Preston have been in the works for years.

MELISSA TURPINEN

MAR 31, 2021

The state of Minnesota will receive federal funding this year to build its three proposed State Veterans Homes.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently released its State Home Construction Grants Fiscal Year 2021 Conditional Approvals, which includes funding for the new Veterans Homes in Bemidji, Montevideo and Preston, said the office of Gov. Tim Walz said in a news release.

"As a veteran myself, I recognize the obligation we have as a state and a country to deliver on the benefits our veterans have earned," Walz said in a statement. "We are pleased to be able to expand our State Veterans Homes into three new communities to serve our elderly veterans living in all corners on the state."

The three new Veterans Homes are expected to receive more than \$80 million in federal VA funds, the release says. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs will complete the Federal VA grant application process by June 30 to obtain the funds.

"The approval of federal funds will allow us to now move forward with construction. The planning and design process is nearly complete and now with this exciting news, those final touches can be made," Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) Commissioner Larry Herke said in a statement.

The future Veterans Homes are being built with a combination of federal grants (65%) and state and community money (33%). In 2018, the Minnesota Legislature allocated \$33 million toward the projects.

"These homes will be life-changing for Minnesota veterans who will receive excellent care closer to home," state Rep. Bob Dettmer, R-Forest Lake, who is the former chair of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, said in a statement.

U.S. Rep. Michelle Fischbach, R-Minn., cheered this news. Two of the proposed Veterans Homes, in Bemidji and Montevideo, are within the Seventh Congressional District, which she represents.

Source: <https://bringmethenews.com/minnesota-news/3-mn-veterans-homes-to-get-federal-funding-construction-could-begin-in-the-fall>



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

(Easter)

Almighty God, Source of all life, by whose power our Lord Jesus Christ was raised from the dead; we praise You, we give You thanks for this great victory over sin and death. The resurrection of Your Son, our Savior, has opened to us the door of abundant and everlasting life.

Our despair is changed to triumph, our fears to hope. We are grateful. Accept our thanks, O Lord, and may we prove our gratitude by selfless service in behalf of all those who need our love and care. May we show them the Risen Christ in all we do. In His living Name we pray.

Amen.



SPOT LIGHT ON....

VFW District 9 Meeting in Bemidji



VFW Post 1260 hosted the 9th District VFW in Bemidji on March 6th. Even in the mist of COVID restrictions and protocols, the 9th District meeting was well attended.



State Jr. Vice Commander Dale Hoogeveen represented the Department of Minnesota VFW (pictured above with Post 1260 Commander Bruce Malterud).

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVE



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HOT OFF THE PRESS

Deepest-Ever Shipwreck Dive Locates Navy Destroyer That Sank During Epic WWII Battle

2 Apr 2021
Military.com | By Gina Harkins

Two former Navy officers have located wreckage of a U.S. ship that sank in the Philippine Sea 76 years ago in what's being hailed the deepest shipwreck dive in history.

A large section of the USS Johnston, a Fletcher-class destroyer, was found 21,180 feet beneath the surface, Cadanan Oceanic and the Naval History and Heritage Command announced Thursday. The ship sank off the coast of Samar Island on Oct. 25, 1944, during World War II's Battle of Leyte Gulf, an intense struggle with Japanese forces that heavily out-matched the Johnston's crew.

It's believed that portions of the wreck were discovered in 2019, when a remotely operated vehicle found pieces of a Fletcher-class destroyer on the edge of an undersea cliff. Most of the ship was beyond the vehicle's 20,000-foot depth limit though, and researchers weren't sure if the parts belonged to the Johnston or another destroyer, the Hoel, which was lost in the same battle.

Now the bulk of the Johnston has been discovered, including its bow, bridge and midsection, with the hull's "557" clearly visible, researchers said in a news release.

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
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 6 Mi S on US #71- 3 Mi W on US #9
 Formerly "The Blue Moon"

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

April 26, 1986 - At the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukraine, an explosion caused a meltdown of the nuclear fuel and spread a radioactive cloud into the atmosphere, eventually covering most of Europe. A 300-square-mile area around the plant was evacuated. Thirty one persons were reported to have died while an additional thousand cases of cancer from radiation were expected. The plant was then encased in a solid concrete tomb to prevent the release of further radiation.

POST AUXILIARY

Thanks to everyone that attended, and helped with, the District Meeting held in Bemidji on March 6th. Everything went well, and we had a good turnout – considering we are still dealing with the pandemic.

This month at our meeting we will be electing the officers for the upcoming year. Are you interested in being nominated for an office? Do you know someone in the Auxiliary you feel would be a good asset as an officer? We would love to have you at the meeting to be a part of this election. No final decisions have been made about our annual Poppy Drive yet. This topic will definitely be discussed at this month's meeting, and we would appreciate your input. The Poppy Cards to businesses, and our individual Poppy Drive close to Memorial Weekend is the biggest fund raiser we have each year. It would be difficult to see it cancelled again this year. However, the health and safety of our members is our first concern. As decisions are made, we will get information out to you.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 6th at 7:00 p.m. at the Bemidji Eagles. We hope to see you there. Please take good care of yourselves, and be safe.

Best Regards,

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

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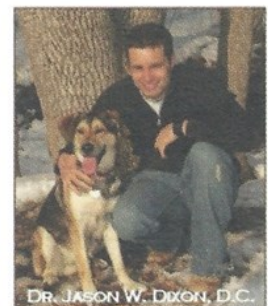


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ACTIVITIES THIS PAST MONTH



Commander Bruce Malterud and Quartermaster Kelly Booge Presents Cedrik Barrett with a \$250.00 scholarship from VFW Post 1260, Two were unable to attend which received scholarships of \$250.00 each. All three from Kelliher High School.

Not in attendance: Tera Schuh-Dietrich-\$750; Trinity Schuh-Dietrich- \$250



OUR DAILY COMMITMENT

Hours served: 121
Members volunteered: 49
Total dollar: \$910

Current Members: 223

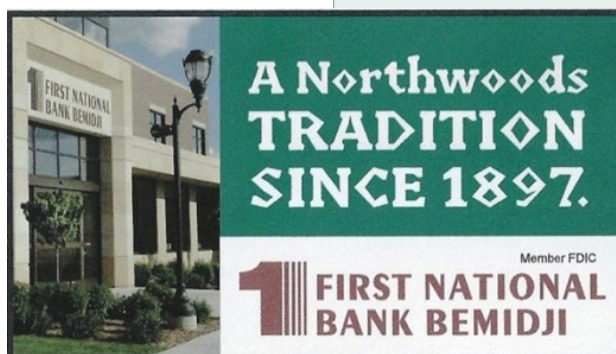
2021 TAPS

POINTS OF CONTACT

Commander	Bruce Malterud	218-766-3898	bmjm@paulbunyan.net
Adjutant	Curt Anderson	502-263-9802	anderscu@gmail.com
Quartermaster	Kelly Booge	218-308-1171	kelbooge@paulbunyan.net
Sr. Vice Commander	John Naastad	651-283-8657	johannaastad@hotmail.com
Jr. Vice Commander	Mike Gutz	218-308-3927	
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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- *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