

Harold Baggenstoss
Post 1260

February 2021
Volume 88, Issue 2



FROM THE COMMANDER

BY BRUCE MALTERUD

Comrades,

We will be having our regular membership meeting on the 2nd of February, the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Membership will practice social distancing.

I have been notified that the state hockey tournament is planned for the first week of April in Moorhead this year. If our local hockey team can beat Roseau we will be in the state play off, go Bemidji.

Bemidji VFW will be hosting the 9th District meeting at the Eagles on March 6th, pending no changes in the covid restrictions.

VFW Post #7052, Kelliher, MN. have been now consolidated with the Bemidji VFW and we want to welcome all of those members to the post. With the consolidation the members of Kelliher post requested that we honor their request of three scholarships to students that have enrolled in college. That request was honored and on Jan. 11th, Quartermaster, Kelly Booge, and myself went to Kelliher and presented a scholarship for \$500.00 and two for \$250.00. All three recipients have also signed up to join the military service.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

***9th District Meeting in
Bemidji—March 6th***

Next Two Months Meetings

March 2nd

April 6th

I hope that everyone is being careful and stay healthy, I have been told and received in the mail notices that Sanford Health and the VA will notify me in writing and a phone call as to when I will be able to get the vaccine for covid-19. So I guess we will be patient and wait to see what happens next. Till then, God Bless You, be safe and stay healthy

On the lighter side;

Several men are in the locker of a golf club. A cell phone on a bench rings and a man engages the hands free speaker function and begins to talk. Everyone else in the room stops to listen. Man "Hello" Women Honey, it's me. Are you at club? Man "Yes" Women I am at the mall now and found this beautiful leather coat. It's only \$1000.00. Is it OK if I buy it? Man "Sure, go ahead if you like it that much." Women I also stopped by the Porsche dealership and saw the new 2014 models. I saw only one that I really liked. Man "How much?" Women \$200,000. "Man OK, but for that price I want it with all the options." Women Great! Oh, and one more thing—the house I wanted last year is back on the market. They're asking \$950,000. Man "Well, then go ahead and give them an offer of \$900,000. They will probably take it. If not, we can go the extra 50 thousand if it's really a pretty good price." Women OK. I'll see you later! I love you so much. Man "Bye! I love you, too." The man hangs up. The other men in the locker room are staring at him in astonishment, mouths agape. He turns and asks: "Anyone know who this phone belongs to?"

Commander

Bruce Malterud

Mark your calendars! Next meeting Cancelled - Tuesday, February 2

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

February 15, 1898 - In Havana, the U.S. Battleship Maine was blown up while at anchor and quickly sank with 260 crew members lost. The incident inflamed public opinion in the U.S., resulting in a declaration of war against Spain on April 25, 1898, amid cries of "Remember the Maine!"

February 15, 1933 - An assassination attempt on newly elected U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt occurred in Miami, Florida. A spectator deflected the gunman's aim. As a result, Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak was shot and killed instead. The gunman, an Italian immigrant, was captured and later sentenced to death.

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, February 2nd

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Eagles Club

Feb 2 – Groundhog Day

Feb 14 – Valentine's Day

Feb 15 – Presidents Day

Feb 17 – Ash Wednesday

Mar 6 – 9th District Meeting, hosted by Post 1260, 1 pm -TBD

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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VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Beltrami County

Desk of the Commissioner - January

January 14, 2021

2021 is off to a quick start with the convening the Minnesota Legislature on January 5. At MDVA, we welcomed the opportunity to provide an agency introduction to the Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee on January 7 and will present to the House Labor, Industry, Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy Committee on January 19. This is the first step in the process to inform the Legislature about the agency, our priorities and mission to serve Minnesota Veterans.

This year's Legislative session is focused on creating the budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 biennium. MDVA is also working with the Legislature on agency policy initiatives and is fortunate to have historically received bi-partisan support for the work we do on behalf of Minnesota's Veterans.

Our presentation to the Senate committee included an introduction to our leadership team where I was joined by Healthcare Division Deputy Commissioner Douglas Hughes, Programs & Services Deputy Commissioner Brad Lindsay, Chief of Staff Mike McElhiney, and Legislative Director Ben Johnson. They each provided an overview of their areas of responsibilities, noting goals and priorities for next two years.

We shared a map of our physical locations, noting that our team works collaboratively with County Veterans Service Officers in each of Minnesota's 87 counties to have a local presence.

Chief of Staff McElhiney reviewed our Strategic Plan including four goals:

1. Ensure a seamless continuum of support that addresses the evolving needs of Veterans
2. Increase Veteran awareness and participation in MDVA services
3. Be exemplary stewards of resources
4. Develop, sustain and retain the quality of our workforce

Deputy Commissioner Lindsay focused on our work to end Veteran homelessness, with the goal of becoming the fourth state in the nation to do so. While we have achieved that goal in six of 10 areas in Minnesota, hard work remains in the more populated areas of Ramsey, Hennepin and St. Louis counties and in the St. Cloud area. We made great progress in the last two years, housing 538 Veterans in 2019 and 427 in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic aggravated the homelessness situation for many Veterans.

<https://mn.gov/mdva/blog/#/detail/appId/1/id/463137>



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

The story of the Four Chaplains



On the evening of Feb. 2, 1943, USAT Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 U.S. troops, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

Once a luxury coastal liner, the 5,649-ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. Dorchester, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward a U.S. base in Greenland. Coast Guard cutters Tampa, Escanaba and Comanche escorted the convoy.

Hans Danielsen, the ship's captain, was concerned and cautious. Earlier, Tampa had detected a submarine with its sonar. Danielsen knew he was in dangerous waters even before he got the report. German U-boats were constantly prowling these vital sea lanes, and several ships had already been sunk.

Dorchester was now only 150 miles from its destination, but the captain ordered the men to sleep in their clothing and keep life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship's hold disregarded the order because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable.

On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., a periscope broke the chilly Atlantic waters. Through the cross hairs, an officer aboard U-223 spotted Dorchester. After identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire a fan of three torpedoes. The one that hit was decisive and deadly, striking the starboard side, amidship, far below the water line.

Alerted that Dorchester was sinking rapidly, Danielsen gave the order to abandon ship. In fewer than 20 minutes, Dorchester would slip beneath the Atlantic's icy waters. Tragically, the hit had knocked out power and radio contact with the three escort ships. Tampa, however, saw the flash of the explosion. It responded and rescued 97 survivors. Escanaba circled Dorchester, rescuing an additional 133 survivors (one died later). Comanche continued on, escorting the remaining two ships.

Aboard Dorchester, panic and chaos had set in. The blast had killed scores of men, and many more were seriously wounded. Others, stunned by the explosion, were groping in darkness. Those sleeping without clothing rushed topside, where they were confronted first by a blast of icy Arctic air and then the knowledge that death awaited.

Men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, overcrowding them to the point of capsizing, according to eyewitnesses. Other rafts, tossed into the Atlantic, drifted away before soldiers could get into them.

In the midst of the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness: Lt. George L. Fox, a Methodist minister; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, a Jewish rabbi; Lt. John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister.

Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers. They tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded, and guide the

Continued on Spot Light, page 5...

SPOT LIGHT ON....

disoriented toward safety. "Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live," said Wyatt Fox, son of Reverend Fox.

One witness, Pvt. William Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying," Bednar recalled. "I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage.

Their voices were the only thing that kept me going." A sailor, Petty Officer John Mahoney, tried to re-enter his cabin but was stopped by Rabbi Goode. Concerned about the cold Arctic air, Mahoney explained that he'd forgotten his gloves.

"Never mind," Goode responded. "I have two pairs." The rabbi then gave the petty officer his own gloves. Later, Mahoney realized that Goode hadn't been carrying two pairs of gloves, and that the chaplain had decided not to leave Dorchester. By this time, most of the men were topside, and the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more life jackets to hand out, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. Rabbi

Goode did not call out for a Jew, and Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic. Nor did Rev. Fox and Rev. Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to those next in line. "It was the finest thing I have ever seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains' selfless act.

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains, braced against the slanting deck, arm in arm. They were heard praying and singing hymns.

Of the 902 men aboard Dorchester, 672 died. When the news reached the United States, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and the heroic conduct of the four chaplains.

"Valor is a gift," Carl Sandburg once said. "Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes." That night, Rev. Fox, Rabbi Goode, Rev. Poling and Father Washington passed life's ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness.

In 1944, the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously to the chaplains' next of kin, and in 1961, President Eisenhower awarded a special Medal for Heroism, a one-time award authorized by Congress and intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

Story of Valor from the American Legion Chaplain Handbook

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVE



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Washington Ave.
South – Bemidji.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

These Are the Official
Space Force Ranks

29 Jan 2021

Military.com | By Oriana
Pawlyk

The U.S. Space Force finally has an official rank structure for its enlisted members and officers, a service spokesman has confirmed to Military.com.

A leaked memo first posted on the popular Facebook page detailed the new ranks, which nearly mirror Air Force ranks.

Instead of "airman," junior enlisted members between E-1 and E-4 will be called specialists, according to the document. The Army is the other service with a specialist rank, for troops in the E-4 paygrade.

While the Air Force has staff and technical sergeants, the Space Force E-5 rank will be known as sergeant, followed by technical sergeant for E-6. Officer ranks -- second lieutenant to general -- will remain the same as its sister service. The new rank structure takes effect Feb. 1, the memo states.

The most senior member is the Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force, an E-9 rank, the memo adds. Chief Master Sgt. Roger Towberman, the senior enlisted adviser to the service, will officially assume that title effective next week, the spokesman said.

There will be no changes to benefits entitlements, according to the memo.

Source: military.com



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

February 15, 1989 - Soviet Russia completed its military withdrawal from Afghanistan after nine years of unsuccessful involvement in the civil war between Muslim rebel groups and the Russian-backed Afghan government. Over 15,000 Russian soldiers had been killed in the fighting.

February 17, 1865 - During the American Civil War, Fort Sumter in South Carolina was returned to the Union after nearly a year and a half under Confederate control. The fort had been the scene of the first shots of the war.

February 17, 1909 - Apache Chief Geronimo (1829-1909) died while in captivity at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He had led a small group of warriors on raids throughout Arizona and New Mexico. Caught once, he escaped. The U.S. Army then sent 5,000 men to recapture him.

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POST AUXILIARY

Greetings Everyone,
As I write this article near Christmas Day, we are continuing in the strange life that is "the Covid pandemic". We share sincere sympathy with anyone who lost a friend or family member to Covid in 2020. And we pray that 2021 will bring us back to more normal living. We are still working to find volunteer opportunities for our Veterans and their families

in the midst of fairly tight rules and restrictions. Please continue to look for ways to help out where ever you can so our veterans will know we are working for them however we can.

We have again made the difficult decision to cancel the VFW meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2021. We will check into whether or not our getting a Zoom account is feasible. And if no other info comes up, we will just hope to be back to meeting in person in February.

Hopefully you had the chance to put together small care packages or goodie bags, or wrote some cards, or did something to help our veterans and their families through the holiday season. It is amazing how small a gesture can make a world of difference to someone having a tough time.

As we enter 2021, let's all come into the year with a renewed zest for living and a renewed commitment to help our veterans and their families, and to make our VFW Auxiliary group as strong as we possibly can. I miss you all very much, and look forward to seeing you soon. Please continue to take care, and know you are in my thoughts.

Margaret Booge
President, VFW Auxiliary 1260

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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

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	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



OUR DAILY COMMITMENT

Hours served: 169

Members volunteered: 27


Total dollar: \$626

Current Members: 247

2021 TAPS



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- *Patriotic Activities*
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- *Membership*
- *Help to obtain benefits*
- *Legislative Service*
- *Buddy Poppy Promotion*

HAROLD BAGGENSTOSS
POST 1260

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 rue 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, whomever.