

Harold Baggenstoss  
Post 1260

May 2023  
Volume 90, Issue 5



## FROM THE COMMANDER

BY BRUCE MALTERUD

Comrades,

Weather permitting we will have our meeting Tuesday May 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at the Eagles Club rooms.

May will be a busy month for us. With the distribution of poppies and Memorial Day. We will be having the Memorial Day program at Fern Township Cemetery 11:00 a.m on May 29th. I will need as many bodies as I can get to do the program. And for the individual poppies being offered to the public, please contact Margaret Booge. If anyone could give us a couple of hours of your time would be very helpful. This is our once a year big fund raiser so we can help our veterans and their families in need.

During the April meeting we held nomination for post officers for the year 2023/2024. there were no changes except for Jr. Vice Commander, Joshua Kojetin was elected for this position and Chet Wilander was elected for a three year term as trustee.

[WWW.VFWPOST1260.ORG](http://WWW.VFWPOST1260.ORG)



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

#### Next Two Months Meetings

June 6th

On the lighter side; Little Lena asked if she could give her own order to the waitress. She then ordered a steak and French fries. When the waitress ask how she would like her steak. Little Lena proudly replied, "Cooked."

Commander, Bruce Malterud  
218-766-3898

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*Mark your calendars! Next meeting - Tuesday, May 2nd.*

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#### ADJUTANT'S CORNER

**NOTICE:** VFW website: [www.vfwpost1260.org](http://www.vfwpost1260.org). All updated information is available concerning our local VFW Post #1260 as well as our state and national information.

**Date: Tuesday, May 2nd, 2022, at 7:00 pm at the Eagles Club**



May 1 – Loyalty Day  
May 2 – VFW Post 1260 Meeting, Eagles Club, 7:00 P.M  
May 5 – Cinco de Mayo  
May 8 – V-E Day (1945)  
May 12 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day  
May 14 – Mother's Day  
May 20 – Armed Forces Day  
May 26 – National Poppy Day  
May 29 – Memorial Day

Please continue to check our VFW Post 1260 Facebook Page, Instagram Page and Webpage as: <https://www.facebook.com/BemidjiVFWPost1260> , [https://www.instagram.com/vfw\\_post\\_1260/](https://www.instagram.com/vfw_post_1260/) and <https://www.vfwpost1260.org/> for updates.

VFW.org Member login

If you are having issues logging onto National's Online Membership System (OMS) please contact National for assistance at: 1-833-839-8387.

VOD and PP 2023-2024 Themes

The Voice of Democracy theme is: "What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?"

The Patriots Pen theme is: "How Are You Inspired by America?"

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*Beltrami County*



## Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

### **Veterans Homelessness Program receives 'Pillar of Excellence' Award**

**St. Paul, Minn.** – The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) has received the prestigious Abraham Lincoln "Pillars of Excellence Award" from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. MDVA was the sole winner in the category of "Eliminating Veteran Homelessness" in recognition of three new homeless Veteran initiatives: Operation OVER (Opening Veterans to Every Resource), Minnesota's Veterans Entering Stable Tenancy (MNVEST) and Veteran Supportive Housing Opportunities (VSHO).

This award recognizes outstanding state programs that support Veterans within their states. The 2022 awards were presented by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough at the mid-winter conference of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) last month.

This is MDVA's fourth Pillars of Excellence award since 2018. Previous awards have recognized the creation of a database of secure military discharge documents (2018), Veterans Application Tracking System (VATS) that streamlines the process of Veterans and their families receiving the educational benefits granted by the Minnesota GI Bill (2020), and delivery of services to Tribal Governments serving Native American Veterans (2021).

"This is the highest honor our department can receive," said MDVA Deputy Commissioner Brad Lindsay. "It is a credit to the fine staff on our Veteran Homelessness team who have worked tirelessly on new initiatives to eliminate Veteran homelessness in Minnesota."

The "Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence" Award was established in 2012 by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to recognize best practices from NASDVA members that have developed effective programs to address what are the current five top-line issues: Customer Experience with VA Benefits and Services, Eliminating the Claims and Appeals Backlog, Eliminating Veterans Homelessness, Delivery of ser-

vices to Tribal governments serving Native American Veterans, Suicide Awareness and Prevention and Innovative State Programs.



## 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	20,149
Operation Iraqi Freedom	31,994
Operation New Dawn	298
Operation Enduring Freedom	20,194
Operation Inherent Resolve	276
Operation Freedom Sentinel	620

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

Spring Greetings to all of you.

As I write this, we are half way through the Lenten season, the weather is getting warmer and the days longer. After many months of cold, I see more and more people getting outside to enjoy the weather.



Another event that I saw many people at was, the open house for the new Bemidji Veterans Home. I stopped by about an hour after it had opened thinking the crowd might be a little thinner. I was mistaken. There were so many people, that I was only able to seek out the new director, Kevin Gish, for just a second to thank him for coming to our previous meeting (March meeting). There were two media folks waiting to get some time with Mr. Gish, so I ended up talking with a few other folks, grabbing a cookie and coffee, and went about the rest of my day.

The enthusiasm for the new Veterans Home is incredible. I am also a member of a Veteran Motorcycle Group, when I brought up some of the information I learned from Mr. Gish's presentation, I was bombarded with so many questions by the other members, I had to write a few down so I could research the answers for them. I also hope anyone of you that was at the presentation can continue to spread the word about the new Bemidji Veterans Home.

There were so many good points during that presentation, but the item that struck me the most, was that even though they have a waiting list full of veterans who want to move in, there is a severe lack of medical professionals needed to open the facility at full capacity. If you know of any medical people interested, what an honor it would be to care of the veterans on a daily basis.

If you would like more information about the Bemidji veterans home or employment opportunities, please visit:

<https://mn.gov/mdva/homes/bemidji/> for more information.

Blessings to you and your family during this Lenten season and don't forget that He died on the cross and that He has risen.

Kent Porter, Chaplain, VFW 1260.



## SPOT LIGHT ON....



Korean Veteran receives, Quilt of Valor.

At a recent trip to Arizona, Life member and Honor Guard member Russell Fricke and his wife Arla were invited to the local community center in their park, where they have a home. He was greeted with a crowd and a meal. At the end he was called up front where he received the quilt that was made by a friend, Mary Almond.

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## HOT OFF THE PRESS

Some Private Companies  
Charge Hefty Fees to Help  
Veterans With Disability  
Claims

30 Apr 2023  
KFF Health News |  
By Michelle Andrews

When Glenn Janssen decided to file a claim for disability benefits with the Veterans Affairs Department last year, he dreaded the prospect of dealing with federal bureaucracy and paperwork. Janssen, 57, lives in Portugal with his wife and has worked as a government contractor since leaving the Army in 2004. The Gulf War-era and Louisiana National Guard veteran wanted to put in a claim for tinnitus and back and shoulder problems from his years in the service. But he worried that trying to manage the process from overseas would be a nightmare.

“I was too trusting, and I didn’t really read what I signed,” Janssen said. More than a quarter of the United States’ nearly 5 million veterans have a disability related to their military service, and they have various ways to file a claim for tax-free monthly disability payments.

Unaccredited companies face no such restrictions. Sometimes calling themselves “medical consultants” or “coaches,” these businesses advertise their fee-based services to veterans, suggesting they can provide quick turn-around times on claims and higher benefit checks than if veterans choose a VA-approved representative.

Source: military.com



### 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.

April 26, 1944 - Federal troops seized the Chicago offices of Montgomery Ward and removed its chairman after his refusal to obey President Roosevelt's order to recognize a CIO union. The seizure ended when unions won an election to represent the company's workers.

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.

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## POST AUXILIARY

Hello Fellow Auxiliary Members,

At our March meeting we had nominations for officer positions for the upcoming fiscal year. Again at the April meeting, we will ask if there are any more nominations for officer positions. After all nominations have been received, we will be voting for the leaders for next 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? Remember, you must either be at the meeting, or have turned in written notice that you would accept a position before you can be considered for it. We would love to have you at the meeting to be a part of this election. If you have questions, please give me a call at 218-556-9482.

It is that time of year again when we start to "ramp up" for our Poppy Days in late April and late May. This is our biggest fund raiser of the year. Please block off some time to help with this important project. We will meet at our home (6029 Little Bass Lk Rd NE) on Saturday, April 22nd at 3:00 p.m. to assemble the Poppy Cards, and get things ready for the individual distribution in late May. We will need to distribute the poppy cards to businesses that last week of April and first week of May. Can you help with that? Once we get the Poppy Cards assembled, we will have an early potluck supper together on April 22nd. By that date, I should know what days we will be doing our individual poppy distribution and can start the sign up for that as well. Please block off some time in your schedule to help us make this another "banner" year for our poppy distribution.

Remember – the construction phase of the new Bemidji Veterans Home is moving along pretty well. Hope you will consider coming to be a part of our Auxiliary group, and help us do all we can for our Northwest Minnesota Veterans.

Our monthly meeting in April is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4th at 7:00 p.m. at the Bemidji Eagles Club. Our May monthly meeting is set for Tuesday, May 2nd.

Hope to see you at a meeting soon. Best Regards,

Margaret Booge

President, VFW Auxiliary 1260

218-556-9482

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## ACTIVITIES THIS PAST MONTH

The VFW Post 1260 hosted their annual Pearl Harbor Dinner at the Bemidji Eagles Club



During the annual dinner, awards were given to the Teacher of the year, EMT of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, and Voice of Democracy 1st and 2nd place winners.



Teacher of the year

Pete Ofstedal

Blackduck High School.



### OUR DAILY COMMITMENT

Hours served: 136

Members volunteered: 48

Total dollar: \$387

Current Members: 208

### 2023 TAPS

Gary Peters

Terrance Clairmont

Kermit Bjerke

## 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	johnnaastad@hotmail.com
Jr. Vice Commander	Mike Gutz	218-308-3927	
Surgeon			
Chaplain	Kent Porter		gikent@yahoo.com
Asst Chaplain	Vacant		
Veterans Service Officer	Shane Gustafson	218-333-4177	shane.gustafson@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*