

Harold Baggenstoss  
Post 1260

August 2024  
Volume 91, Issue 8



## FROM THE COMMANDER

BY JOHN NAASTAD

Comrades,

As usual, the 4th of July week proved to be a busy time for Post 1260. We started off July with our color guard helping to present the Colors at the Bemidji VA Home dedication ceremony along with other area color guards from VFW's, American Legion's, and Red Lake, Leech Lake, and White Earth color guards. It was a little windy during the ceremony, but overall, it was a perfect day for the ceremony followed by tours of the new facility. If you have not seen the new VA Home, stop in and ask to tour the facility. It is nicely laid out with a lot of community and personal spaces. We ended 4th of July week by presenting the Colors at the Bemidji Jaycees first annual Veterans Picnic at the waterfront, Veronen's Resort at Bad Medicine Lake, and the Bemidji Parade.

If anyone is interested in participating in our color guard, let Bruce Malterud know. We can use all the help we can get and you can help as much or as little as you are able or time allows. Bruce has done a great job of coordinating with area churches and funeral homes to make sure we have the honor guard bear honors first so we are not standing throughout the whole service.

Looking forward to the next couple of months, we have our rifle cleaning and flag retirement in September (date TBD), VFW district 9 meeting in Thief River Falls on September 14th and then the following weekend, we have the VFW Fall conference in Willmar on September 20th – 22nd. If you would like to attend either of these, please let us know.

125 Years! The Veterans of Foreign Wars was founded 125 years ago on September 19, 1899 by 13 Spanish-American war veterans and was originally called the American Veterans of Foreign Service. In 1914 the name was changed to Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW is the oldest combat veterans organization in the nation. Do you want to know more about the history of the VFW, check out the 125 little known facts at <https://www.vfw.org/vfw125>.



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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

**District 9 Meeting:**  
**Sept 14th**

**Fall Conference:**  
**Sept 20-22**

**Next two meetings:**  
**September 3rd**  
**October 1st**

We continue to get requests from businesses that ask to be added to our website that will “assist” veterans in their VA claims. While we try to add businesses that could actually help a veteran and that do not duplicate too many times what we already have, we also try to ensure they are not claim sharks. Regrettably, there is only so much we can find out from a cursory review of their website. If at any time you feel any business we have listed in our links section is not reputable, please let us know and we will remove them.

One area of business I have been working on is to get the VFW fall conference here in Bemidji for September, 2026. I have been working the RFP with the Sanford Center, area hotels, and the Visit Bemidji organization. No one single hotel can accommodate the entire requirement for hotel space so we are splitting the rooms up across multiple hotels. Visit Bemidji may be able to kick in a little funding to help lower the overall cost and to add some additional packages for area attractions. If Bemidji is able to get the bid, this could add Bemidji on the yearly rotation for VFW conferences.

Lastly, for those that attended Bruce Malterud’s thank you celebration on July 18th, thank you for attending! I think Bruce had a good time!

Commander John Naastad

## ADJUTANT’S CORNER

**NOTICE:** VFW website: [www.vfwpost1260.org](http://www.vfwpost1260.org) . All up-dated information is available concerning our local VFW Post #1260 as well as our local, state, and national information. Also, please check our VFW Post 1260 Facebook Page at: <https://www.facebook.com/BemidjiVFWPost1260>.

**Next meeting:** VFW Post #1260 Meeting Date: **August 6th, 2024** at 7:00 pm at the Eagles Club.



August 1 – Air Force Day  
August 2 – Operation Desert Shield Begins (1990)  
August 4 – Defense of Pusan Perimeter begins (1950) Coast Guard Birthday  
August 6 – Post 1260 Meeting, Eagles Club, 7:00 P.M./ A-Bomb dropped on Hiroshima (1945)  
August 7 – 11 – Beltrami County Fair  
August 7 – Purple Heart Day/ Vietnam War Began (1964)  
August 9 – A-Bomb dropped on Nagasaki (1945)  
August 10 – Agent Orange Awareness Day  
August 14 – World War II Ended (1945)/ Navajo Code Talkers Day  
August 15 – Japan accepts unconditional surrender terms (1945)  
August 16 – Airborne Day  
August 17 – Birthday of Civil Affairs Branch (1955)  
August 19 – National Aviation Day  
August 21 – Senior Citizens Day / Civil War officially declared over (1865)  
August 22 – Sep 2 – Minnesota State Fair  
August 26 – Last Army combat ground forces depart Vietnam (1972)  
August 29 – Marine Corps Reserve Birthday  
August 30 – US Forces withdraw from Afghanistan (2021)

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN THEMES.** The 2024–25 theme for the Voice of Democracy will be “Is America Today Our Forefather’s Vision?” and the Patriot’s Pen theme will be “My Voice in America’s Democracy?”.

**Minnesota VFW Charitable Association 2025 RAFFLE CALENDAR** – Calendars are now available. Please see Curt Anderson for one. They are \$20 dollars a calendar if interested.

### VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship”

The 2025 Spring Semester will open August 1, 2024, and will run through November 15, 2024. The application is available online only at [vfw.org/Scholarship](http://vfw.org/Scholarship).

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Beltrami County



## DON'T FEED THE SHARKS



[DontFeedTheSharks.org](http://DontFeedTheSharks.org)

### What we think a "Claim Shark" is:

- A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to "assist" or "consult" veterans with filing their VA benefit claims – this practice is illegal!
- Claim Sharks are not VA accredited, meaning they aren't required to adhere to the well-established professional and ethical standards of VA accreditation, so their advice can often be misleading or even fraudulent.
- Like a "Loan Shark," once you're in, you can't get out, and may be subject to new and hidden fees whenever you get a new rating, no matter who does the work.

### Some of their predatory practices are:

- Promising or guaranteeing an increased disability rating or percentage increase.
- Advertising expedited VA claims decisions.
- Requesting login credentials to access a veteran's personal information through secure VA websites like eBenefits or VA.gov.
- Using confusing tactics or ambiguous language to mislead claimants or coerce them into signing a contract.
- Telling veterans to forego VA exams and offering health consultations within their own network of doctors.

### Who we think the Claim Sharks are:

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| ➤ Trajector Medical      | ➤ Veteran Care Services    |
| ➤ Veteran Benefits Guide | ➤ REE Medical              |
| ➤ Veterans Guardian      | ➤ VA Claims Academy        |
| ➤ VA Claims Insider      | ➤ Vet Assist               |
| ➤ Telemedica             | ➤ Just4Veterans            |
| ➤ Patriot Angels         | ➤ Veterans Disability Help |

### Veterans can protect themselves by:

- Always working with VA accredited representatives.
- Attending all exams ordered by VA.
- Not signing contracts.
- Not agreeing to fees or payments from future benefits.
- Not agreeing to pay for medical consultations or opinions.
- Not providing access to Protected Health Information or Personal Identifiable Information.

### Who is NOT a Claim Shark?

- VA accredited veterans service organization representatives, like the VFW
- VA accredited claims agents
- VA accredited attorneys
- Attorneys assisting with Camp LeJeune lawsuits who do not charge excessive fees



*Olson-*  
**SCHWARTZ**

FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE

## 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



Friends in Christ, I write this article mid-July after a very busy, yet wonderful first half of the summer of 2024. The second half, on paper doesn't look busy, but it will be I am sure. That's okay, I just need to remember to take care of myself. My hope for each of you is that you are enjoying your summer as well.

Just a few items for this article. First and foremost, I would like to personally thank everyone who had a hand in the poppy operation this year. Your efforts led to an incredible amount of money that will be used for other operations throughout the year. Each of you that donated your time, talent, and treasure are to be commended. My wife and I were in North Carolina over the Memorial Day weekend, and we met many like VFW members doing the same things as us. It was a joy talking with them, they enjoyed my accent. Of course, I told them, they were the ones with the accent. :-)

Secondly, after our wonderful summer we will become bombarded with election information. I know our elected officials are trying to work out a way to keep us from getting misinformation or disinformation. However, the best way is for each one of double check the source for accuracy. Many of us remember how rumors can harm or destroy things, same deal with misinformation or disinformation.

Lastly and related to the previous point, make sure you vote or prepare yourself to vote. There are many more options than before to vote. I remember my first deployment, I voted in early October via mail. If you think you won't be able to vote in person on the 5th of November, consult the secretary of state's webpage. There are so many different ways to vote. [Office of the State Of Minnesota Secretary of State](#)

Enjoy the rest of your summer and beginning of fall.

Kent Porter

Chaplain, VFW Post 1260

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## SPOT LIGHT ON....

### \*\* NEWSLETTER INPUT REQUIRED \*\*

Comrades,

We are looking for your input on the future of the VFW newsletter. We have had discussions at our monthly meetings if we should or should not continue to send out the monthly newsletter by mail every other month because of the rising cost of printing and mailing services.

If we continue to send out the newsletter, we will need to find additional businesses to sponsor the newsletter to offset the costs. If we can publish our newsletter by email, Facebook, and our Post website, we can eliminate up to \$300 in newsletter costs every other month for printing and mailing charges.

Please let us know if you wish to continue receiving the monthly newsletter by mail every other month.

You can either send a letter directly to our post office box or email me at [johnnaastad@hotmail.com](mailto:johnnaastad@hotmail.com).

If you are fine with receiving an electronic copy of the newsletter, please send me an email so we can verify your email address with your VFW membership information. With over 200 Post 1260 members, we only have about 90 valid email addresses. We drastically need to update our national database with only a 46% accuracy rating.

Thank you for your support

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V F W  
NATIONAL HOME

## BECOME A CENTENNIAL MEMBER

The VFW National Home will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in 2025, and we want you to be part of it. That's why we are inviting you to join our Centennial Membership.

As a token of our appreciation, we are making this special offer **available to current and nonmembers**. When you apply between April 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025, we offer the following benefits:

- Exclusive Centennial Membership Pin
  - 10% Off Souvenirs and Apparel
  - Reduced Guest Lodge Rate
  - Exclusive Member-only Apparel
- <https://vfwnationalhome.org/centennial-member/>



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## HOT OFF THE PRESS

VA Warns Congress that Benefits Payments Are at Risk Due to Projected \$15 Billion Budget Shortfall

Military.com | By Rebecca Kheel  
Published July 18, 2024

The Department of Veterans Affairs expects to be nearly \$15 billion short of what it needs to pay for benefits and health care this year and next, in part because more veterans are using VA services than expected, officials told Congress this week. An increase in benefits claims driven by the PACT Act could leave VA benefits accounts \$2.9 billion short this year. Meanwhile, health care accounts could be nearly \$12 billion short next year because of higher-than-expected staffing and prescription drug costs, among other factors.

In a statement Thursday morning, the VA said it is working with the White House and Congress to address the budget shortfalls in a way that doesn't harm veterans.

"Right now, due in large part to the historic PACT Act, VA is delivering more care and more benefits to more veterans than ever before," VA Press Secretary Terrence Hayes said in a statement about the budget shortfall. "These results are life-changing for veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors, and VA will continue to push to make sure that they get the care and benefits they deserve."

But a slideshow shown to Congress that was obtained by Military.com warned of potential disruptions to benefits payments if there's insufficient funding by the end of the fiscal year.

Source:  
<https://www.military.com>

## POST AUXILIARY

### THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

August 16, 1777 - During the American Revolutionary War, the Battle of Bennington, Vermont, occurred as militiamen from Vermont, aided by Massachusetts troops, wiped out a detachment of 800 German-Hessians sent by British General Burgoyne to seize horses.

August 16, 1896 - Gold was discovered in Rabbit Creek, a tributary of the Klondike River in Alaska, resulting in the Great Klondike Gold Rush.

August 16, 1977 - Elvis Presley was pronounced dead at the Memphis Baptist Hospital at 3:30 p.m., at age 42.

August 18, 1920 - The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, granting women the right to vote.

Our August Auxiliary meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6th. Our business meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Bemidji Eagles. However, we encourage and invite you to come one hour early. At 6:00 p.m. we will be working on craft projects for our nursing home vets, and for our veterans living in the new Bemidji VA Home. Hope you can come help us out. It is fun for us to do, and it is wonderful to see the joy it brings our vets.

We are looking forward to a full year of projects we can help with and again starting our big push to recruit new members. We did an excellent job of recruiting in the past year, and the new members are helping in many ways. Remember, if you are an annual member, you can send in your dues now and be done for the entire fiscal year. If you are a life member, you can send in your donation to our "no bake bake sale".

The grand opening of the new Bemidji Veterans Home took place in early July. The Volunteer Coordinator and staff at the home are going to be working on ways we can help them out as we move forward.

We hope to have a flag retirement ceremony and fish fry again this fall. We will get final information out to you soon.

Looking forward to seeing you at a monthly meeting soon. Please be sure to make the most of these beautiful warm days we are having. Get out and do something fun and worthwhile for yourself, and for our veterans.

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

# Hill's

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## ACTIVITIES THIS PAST MONTH



### OUR DAILY COMMITMENT

Hours served: 722  
Members volunteered: 79  
Total dollar: \$287

Current Members: 222

### 2024 TAPS

Jerry Wraa, Sr.  
Ronald Stephani

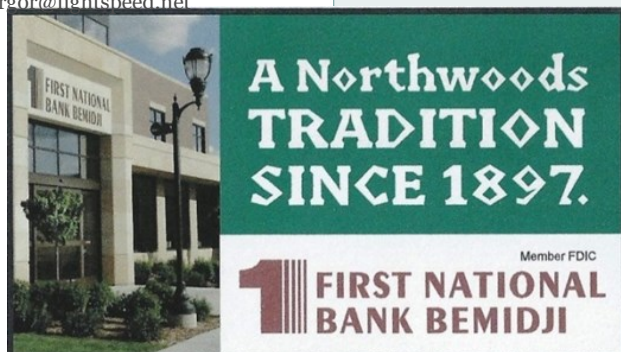
This past week we celebrated Bruce Malterud's service to the VFW. We had about 50 people attend from the VFW post and auxiliary along with DAV and American Legion members.

## POINTS OF CONTACT

Commander	John Naastad	651-283-8657	johnnaastad@hotmail.com
Adjutant	Curt Anderson	502-263-9802	anderscu@gmail.com
Quartermaster	Curt Anderson	502-263-9802	anderscu@gmail.com
Sr. Vice Commander	Kelly Booge	218-308-1171	kelbooge@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Commander	Joshua Kojetin	763-370-6083	joshkojetin@gmail.com
Color Guard Commander	Bruce Malterud	218-766-3898	bmjm@paulbunyan.net
Surgeon	Vacant		
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: <https://linkvet.org/app/custom/education>  
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 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.

HAROLD BAGGENSTOSS  
POST 1260