

Harold Baggenstoss  
Post 1260

September 2024  
Volume 91, Issue 9



## FROM THE COMMANDER

BY JOHN NAASTAD

Comrades,  
We are knocking on Autumn's door. September is right around the corner and that means kids going back to school, leaves changing colors, cooler temperatures, and flag retirement. Hopefully, Bruce Malterud has been busy catching plenty of walleyes for the annual flag retirement. We will be discussing the flag retirement day at this next post meeting September 3rd. Thanks to the success of Kate Warner's Eagle Scout project in collecting flags at Lueken's North and L&M Fleet, we have a lot of flags to retire this year. And when I say a lot, I mean A LOT. This is not hyperbole. We may have to start the day with the flag retirement ceremony and then move to rifle cleaning while the flag retirement continues throughout the day just to get through all the flags we have collected. At this point, we are looking to do the flag retirement in September, either September 15th or one day in the last weekend of September. We may need a good 15 to 20 people to fold flags, clean rifles, and tend the fire...and to eat Walleye; nudge, nudge Bruce! More to follow.

A few items I would like to highlight for those not able to attend our monthly meetings. First, our 9th district meeting will be held September 14th in Thief River Falls, Post 2793. If you are close by that area, stop in, participate and say hi. Our very own Post Senior Vice Kelly Booge took over as the 9th District Commander assisted by our own Post Adjutant/Quartermaster, Curt Anderson as District Senior Vice. Second, our VFW State fall conference this year will be in Willmar on September 20-22. If you thought about attending but have not yet booked a hotel room, you may be out of luck. The schedule looks like the heavy lifting for us is on Saturday with classes. If you can make it, please stop in and participate. Third, if you have kids or grand kids that are in 6th through 12th, we have two competitions that they could participate in, the Voice of Democracy for 9th through 12th and Patriots Pen for 6th through 8th. Contact our Adjutant/Quartermaster, Curt Anderson, and he can hook you up with all the details on what to submit. Lastly, the state VFW put out guidance for our official VFW caps. While there are no official rules, it is customary to only wear VFW or military pins with our official VFW caps on the left side only. Nothing should be on the right side where the Cross of Malta is located.

WWW.VFWPOST1260.ORG



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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

**District 9 Meeting:**

**Sept 14th**

**Fall Conference:**

**Sept 20-22**

**Next two meetings:**

**October 1st**

**November 5th**

I did receive a recommendation this last month concerning how we should handle the multitude of businesses that contact us asking to be added to our VFW Website. The recommendation was to only allow those that are VA accredited. I will contact the VA and research this process to see what the legalities are about "VA accreditation" for businesses. I know individuals can be accredited, but I am not sure if a business can be accredited. I will bring this up for discussion at our next post meeting, but if you are not able to attend and would like to have your voice heard, please let me know.

I did hear from Bruce Malterud that I was a little amiss in not including any jokes into the newsletter, so this one is for you Bruce:

Ole and Sven went on a fishing trip to Canada and came back with only three fish.

Ole says, "The way I figger it, Sven, each of them fish cost us \$400.

Well, at dat price it's a good ting we didn't catch any more of em than we did," says Sven.

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: **September 3rd, 2024** at 7:00 pm at the Eagles Club.



Sep 2 – Labor Day/V-J Day (1945)

Sep 3 – Post 1260 Meeting, Eagles Club, 7:00 P.M.

Sep 8 – Grandparent's Day

Sep 11 – Global War on Terror Begins (2001) / Patriot Day

Sep 14 – 9th District VFW Meeting, Thief River Falls /VFW Auxiliary Anniversary org 1914

Sep 15 – US Forces land at Inchon (1950)

Sep 16 – 8th Army breaks out of the Pusan Perimeter (1950)

Sep 17 – US Constitution approved (1787)/Constitution Day

Sep 18 – U.S. Air Force/Air National Guard Birthday

Sep 20 – POW/MIA Recognition Day

Sep 20-23 – MN VFW Department Fall Convention, Willmar, MN

Sep 22 – 1st Day of Fall

Sep 25 – Gold Star Mother's Day

Sep 29 – Gold Star mother's/Families Day/VFW Anniversary Est 1899

**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?".

**PATRIOT DAY, SEPT. 11.** Per Presidential Proclamation, Sept. 11 is designated as "Patriot Day." The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States.

### 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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Katina K. Schroeder,  
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## 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

Throughout history, military veterans have played a vital role in defending our nation and upholding the values of freedom and democracy. From the trenches of World War I to the jungles of Vietnam, and the deserts of the global war on terrorism, veterans have faced unimaginable challenges and hardships, yet they have always remained dedicated to their mission of protecting our country.



During World War I, American service members faced trench warfare, chemical weapons, and the horrors of modern warfare. And during World War II, America was once again called upon to defend democracy and defeat tyranny from the beaches of Normandy to the islands of the Pacific.

In Korea, America faced another challenging conflict as we fought to defend South Korea from communist aggression. The veterans of the Korean War endured harsh conditions, intense combat, and the challenges of fighting in a distant and unforgiving land.

In Vietnam, America once again answered the call to defend freedom and democracy. The veterans of the Vietnam War faced a different kind of conflict, marked by guerrilla warfare and a challenging political landscape. Despite facing criticism and challenges upon their return home, these veterans served with honor and distinction, carrying out their duties with courage and dedication.

One of the most solemn duties of military veterans is to never forget those who have been taken as prisoners of war or who are missing in action. The commitment to bringing these service members home and providing closure to their families is a sacred obligation that all veterans hold dear. The POW/MIA flag serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by these brave individuals and the enduring commitment to never leave anyone behind.

We are honored to work alongside these courageous men and women. We are constantly inspired by their strength, resilience, and unwavering devotion to their mission. It is a privilege to serve those who have sacrificed so much for our nation. We must always remember and honor the contributions of these brave individuals and ensure that their legacy lives on for future generations.

~Chalet~  
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## SPOT LIGHT ON....



### The Siege of Fort Henry

September 11-13, 1782 at Wheeling, West Virginia

A force of about 300 Wyandot, Shawnee, Seneca, and Delaware Indians laid siege to Fort Henry, an American outpost at what is now Wheeling, West Virginia, accompanied by a force of 50 British Butler's Rangers. The siege is commonly known as "The Last Battle of the Revolutionary War", despite subsequent skirmishes involving the loss of life which took place in New Jersey later in 1782.

The large force of Native Americans gathered on the Sandusky River under the direction of Simon Girty. Girty had been captured by Natives as a child and grew up in their society, gaining notoriety for his savagery towards settlers. This force met with the Butler's Rangers and the entire company was put under the direction of Captain Pratt.

As the force arrived at Fort Henry the Zane family, under direction of Colonel David Shephard, was charged with defending the fort. The defending force was made up of 40 men and boys protecting the 60 women and children from the surrounding area who had come to the fort for protection.

Girty and Pratt demanded surrender but Shephard refused, resolving to fight to the death in order to protect the people within his fort. The settlers were prepared to handle this siege because a similar force of Native Americans and British had attacked the fort before and burned all of the homes and buildings to the ground. Between the former siege and this one the wooden model cannon that previously rested on the barracks had been replaced by a real one, in addition the homes of the settlers had been rebuilt, including that of Ebenezer Zane. His home contained a store of surplus ammunition and arms and it had been decided to occupy it in case of another attack.

Source: <https://revolutionarywar.us/year-1782/siege-fort-henry/>

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### HOT OFF THE PRESS

VA Crisis Line's Switch to 988, Press 1, a Success, Watchdog Finds

Military.com | By Patricia Kime  
Published August 28, 2024

The transition of the Veterans Crisis Line to the three-digit "988, press 1" option proved to be a success, although the Department of Veterans Affairs should improve staff support and supervision, a VA Office of Inspector General review has found.

The VA, along with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, switched from a 10-digit number to 988 in July 2022, with the Veterans Crisis Line accessed after dialing the three-digit number and pressing one.

At the time, VA officials believed they would see an increase of 122% to 154% in calls and moved to hire additional personnel to ensure there would not be any issues with the transition, according to a report published Thursday by the VA's top watchdog.

Calls did increase, but only by roughly 27%, and the line was equipped to handle the demand, according to the inspector general. But the office found that the responders could still use more support, especially after they handle a traumatic case, including suicide.

The VA inspector general found that roughly 72% of the staff said they were aware of support services provided by the VA following trauma, known as "postvention services," and the same percentage felt they were supported by their supervisors to get that help.

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

## POST AUXILIARY

### THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

September 22, 1776 -

During the American Revolution, Nathan Hale was executed without a trial after he was caught spying on British troops on Long Island, his last words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

September 22, 1862 -

President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves in territories held by Confederates as of January 1, 1863.

September 24, 1957 -

President Dwight Eisenhower ordered the National Guard to enforce racial integration of schools in Little Rock, Arkansas

American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) was born in St. Paul, Minnesota (as Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald). Best known for *This Side of Paradise*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Tender is the Night*.

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Hope you had a wonderful Labor Day weekend with time to get together with family and friends – and with our Veterans. Doesn't hardly seem possible we are heading into fall already.

Remember "Patriots Day" is September 11th. It is also known as a day of remembrance for those killed on September 11, 2001. It is very appropriate to have a ceremony of remembrance on this day. A moment of silence should be observed at 8:46 a.m. to commemorate the day and time of this attack.

Additional special days in September include POW/MIA Remembrance Day, and Gold Star Mother's Day. Go to the VFW Auxiliary website at [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org) and read more about these special remembrances, and have a look at all the other information available on our website.

As of the writing of this newsletter, we are still not certain of the date of our Flag Retirement Ceremony. As soon as a final decision is made, we will get the information out to you all. This ceremony is a solemn and respectful way to retire all the flags we have collected over the year. Hope you will be able to attend and will also be able to stay for the fish fry and potluck picnic. Please bring a dish to share. As always, you are encouraged to continue to accept flags that need to be retired. We will continue to gather them throughout the year and will retire them next year at our annual ceremony.

As we head into fall and winter, we need to remember our local veterans in the nursing homes and our veterans now living in the VA Home. We can be working on projects for them during the upcoming holiday seasons

If you are an annual member, please send in your annual dues of \$35 now so we can get that taken care of. If you are a life member, you are encouraged to send in your donation to the "no bake sale". Remember we need to keep our dues paid and remain strong as an organization so that we can petition our legislators for the needs of our veterans and their families. It is up to us to continue that good work.

Our meeting is the first Tuesday evening of each month at the Bemidji Eagles at 7:00 p.m. Bring your ideas and willing spirit, and we can do great things for our local veterans and their families.

Thank you, and take care.

Margaret Booge, President

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## ACTIVITIES THIS PAST MONTH



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.

### OUR DAILY COMMITMENT

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

Current Members: 222

### 2024 TAPS

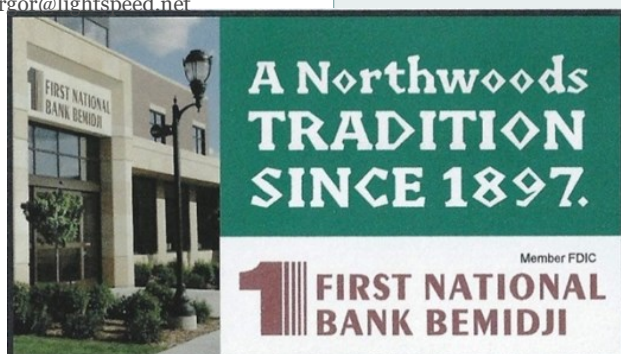
Jerry Wraa, Sr.  
Ronald Stephani  
George Munyer

## POINTS OF CONTACT

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Color Guard Commander	Bruce Malterud	218-766-3898	bmjm@paulbunyan.net
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Chaplain	Kent Porter		gikent@yahoo.com
Asst Chaplain	Vacant		
Veterans Service Officer	Shane Gustafson	218-333-4177	shane.gustafson@co.beltrami.mn.us
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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