

# VFW Nebraska Genmail

CALENDAR OF EVENTS As of 05-25-2018

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## June 2018

8-10 State Convention The Comfort Inn & Suites 7007 Grover St Omaha, NE.  
30 Cut Off (For All Awards Fall Council Oct 5-6, 2018) All State Commander  
& QM/ Top Dist Cmdr

## July 2018

21-25 National Convention Kansas City Mo  
28 Aircraft Carrier get together in North Bend. Anyone who served on an  
Aircraft Carrier is invited. Contact Jerry Halladay 402-719-1014.



## Homecoming in October Information:

Homecoming and Fall Council will be October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in Ogallala at Front Street  
Steakhouse.

The meal will be \$10.00 per person and will include hamburgers, brats, cowboy beans, chips  
and cobbler.

More information will follow.....



# State Convention Announcements

## Military Funeral Honors Program

On Friday at 3 pm the Nebraska Army National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program Office will have representatives discuss the program. The program provides reimbursement to those honor guards which partner in providing Military Funeral Honors. The Department is prepared to handle the logistics and paperwork for your Posts. It is a great way for your Posts to earn some extra funds.

**2 Convention Corporation  
members will be elected  
this year**

**A 1 year member as well as a  
3 year member will be elected on  
Sunday in Omaha.**



# NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Sacrifice.

## Veterans' Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2018

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Holden Armstrong

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[holden.armstrong@nebraska.gov](mailto:holden.armstrong@nebraska.gov)



Pete Ricketts, Governor

## Korean War Veterans Can Apply to Receive Ambassador for Peace Medal

MAY 21ST, 2018 (LINCOLN, NEB.) — The Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs is now accepting requests from Korean War veterans who wish to receive Ambassador for Peace medals. The medals were created by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs in the Republic of Korea to thank American soldiers for their bravery, sacrifice, and courage in the Korean War and as peacekeepers afterwards. The medals will be presented by Governor Pete Ricketts at a special ceremony on Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Eligible veterans must have:

- served in Korea between June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1950, and July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1953, or
- participated in UN Peacekeeping operations in Korea before January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1956.

Requests must be submitted by June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018, for those wishing to be presented with a medal at the ceremony. The application is available at [veterans.nebraska.gov/korea](http://veterans.nebraska.gov/korea). For assistance in the process, please contact the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"The Korean War is often referred to as the 'Forgotten War,'" said Governor Ricketts. "I am working with the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs to let our state's veterans know they are not forgotten. They are still, and will always be, heroes."

This year marks the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the treaty that ended the war.

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## Combat Boots Too High Heels



I am on a recruiting mission for sponsors to assist with advocating our message of “Zero” homeless Veterans in our communities. I am representing Nebraska and have a fantastic opportunity to have “our” voice heard, state and nationally. For myself, Veteran homelessness has been personal, after deployment in 2003, I returned, and found myself homeless. I lived in my van parked on the streets until I was able to work, save, rent a home and bring my family together again. My military training made me a survivor and not a victim of the streets.

Hi, my name is Sandy Gessler, I served in the US Army in 1975, North Dakota National Guard and Nebraska Army Reserve (172<sup>nd</sup> Support Battalion, Transportation “A” Company Omaha NE). I am a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War, and have held offices as Post Commander, Historian and participate as an Honor Guard. I medically retired from the service in 2012 with a 100% disability, after serving 18 years and over four decades. So yes, this mom and grandma wore combat boots! I have volunteered within my community to better the lives of homeless Veterans.

**MS. Nebraska, Sandy Gessler**

**Contestant in MS. Senior America 2018**

**October 14-18, 2018, in Atlantic City, NJ**

The MS. Senior America 2018 pageant is about the Age of Elegance, a woman’s beauty within, service to her community and in my case, country.

**I am asking for your sponsorship (donation). My goal is to raise \$4000.00 and all donations not used for pageant expenses and travel, will be donated to a Veteran charity in Nebraska**

Donations can be deposited in any US Bank, Account “MS Senior America” 1630-7148-8575

or mailed to Sandy Gessler 1223 N 9<sup>th</sup> St, Norfolk, NE, 68701.

For the talent section of the pageant, I will be using sign language to the words of the Star-Spangled Banner song, if you would like me to perform at your event, please call or email me, if the date is not committed, I would love to! Phone (701) 520-5276 or Email [sgesslerz@hotmail.com](mailto:sgesslerz@hotmail.com) For more information of the pageant and myself, please go to [www.senioramerica.org](http://www.senioramerica.org), (click on State Queens, click on the state NE)



The Central Nebraska Veterans Home now under construction in Kearney will have a huge beautiful Veterans Memorial thanks to the efforts of Central Nebraska Communities that understand the sacrifices made by those who served in all branches of the armed forces. The city of Kearney and several local organizations and corporations have already pledged nearly \$850,000 toward the two-million-dollar project. Plans for a statewide fund drive were announced this week by the organizers of the project which is under the umbrella of the Kearney Area Community Foundation. Kearney chairman Bob Harpst said that the Central Nebraska Veterans Memorial Committee was established for the sole purpose of building and maintaining a fitting and eternal memorial to Nebraska's Veterans. The memorial is to be located at the new Veterans home which will be ready for occupancy later this fall. "It will serve as a tribute and as an integral part of the Veterans complex and the location and design of the memorial and site are ready for construction" Harpst said. The Veterans Memorial was designed to provide an educational and historical perspective to honor those who have served in all military branches of service from the Civil War to present day, including the Cold War. The design shows seven 16ft concrete monoliths, 8 ft wide covered with granite tiles. Each will have the symbol of one of the branches of service. Included are; Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, and National Guard. An eighth monument of equal size will represent POW/MIA soldiers from all branches. There will be a second ring of monuments located behind the service monuments and trailing down each side of the memorial which are the Conflict Monuments, which memorialize all conflicts since the Civil War. A plaza in the center is open for viewers and those who want to rest and meditate with a view of the monuments, enhanced by a backdrop of United States flags. The turf and concrete walkways will be stepped to create an amphitheater style of seating. The entire area will be landscaped to match the overall Veterans Facility site. Overall dimensions of the Memorial are 173 ft wide by 100 ft deep and will be located in the front and the right side of the Central Nebraska Veterans Home located at 56<sup>th</sup> St. and Cherry Avenue in Kearney. Fundraising for the Memorial includes an endowment that will cover upkeep in perpetuity. Contributions will be immortalized at the memorial entrance with a donor wall. Donor levels are: Purple Heart, \$5,000 to \$9,999; Bronze Star, \$10,000 to \$24,999; Silver Star, \$25,000 to \$49,999, Medal of Honor, \$50,000 to \$99,999; Presidential, \$100,000 and over. Volunteers are available to make presentations throughout Nebraska. Contact Persons are: Bob Harpst, (308)440-9106, rharpst@yahoo.com; Ross Finley, (308)627-5755, rossfinley@hotmail.com; Richard Pierce, (308)440-2489, dick\_p@hotmail.com. Donations are being accepted at the Kearney Area Community Foundation, 412 west 48<sup>th</sup> street Suite #12, Kearney, NE 68845. Website: [www.kearneyfoundation.org](http://www.kearneyfoundation.org). For depictions and information see Central Nebraska Veterans Memorial on Facebook or [www.CNVM.org](http://www.CNVM.org).

## MINUTES MID WINTER CONFERENCE

February 3rd, 2018 Minutes

Revised April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Cornhusker Marriott, Lincoln NE

Commander Larry Gerlt opened the Council meeting at 9:40 A.M. in due form. Adjutant Liebsack called the roll. Excused absent were State Judge Advocate Danny Kramer, State Chaplain Jerry Ludwig, State Chief of Staff Sam DeJohn and District 9 Commander Dionne Gorji. Absent also was District 4 Commander Ray Olson and arriving late was Past State Commander Doug Whitaker.

Commander Larry Gerlt introduced Sr. Vice Commander in Chief Vincent "B.J." Lawrence who addressed the group and Nebraska National Council member John Iossi.

Parliamentarian Jim Pierce to read the rules of conduct for the meeting. A motion was made by State Jr. Vice Commander Joe Smith to dispense with the reading of the rules. Motion seconded by Sr. Vice Commander Gary E Bush Sr., motion carried.

Commander Larry Gerlt called for reading of the minutes. State Jr. Vice Commander Joe Smith moved that the minutes be approved and not be read as they were mailed out in the general mailing. Sr. Vice Commander Gary E Bush Sr. seconded the motion. Motion passed without opposition.

Commander Gerlt called for the reading of the budget report from State Quartermaster John Liebsack. State Inspector Roger Broeker made a motion to approve. Seconded by District 10 Commander Chris Beaty, motion passed.

Commander Gerlt called on Sr. Vice Commander in Chief B.J. Lawrence to discuss VFW Riders. Motion to have Council member represent Nebraska against letting nonmembers wear VFW patch was made by State Adjutant/Quartermaster John Liebsack. Seconded by State Jr. Vice Joe Smith, motion passed.

Commander Gerlt discussed his National Home project. His goal is to raise \$2,500.00 for the VFW National Home. A motion was made by District 6 Commander Steve Calkin for the Department to give \$500.00 towards this goal. Seconded by District 13 Commander Jim Lutz, motion carried.

Commander Gerlt discussed having the Nebraska VFW Newsletter sent to each Post. State Jr. Vice Commander Joe Smith moved that 2 copies be sent to each post. Seconded by District 13 Commander Jim Lutz, motion passed.

After a break for lunch, Membership report by Commander Gerlt and awards were presented by Deputy Membership Chairman Jim Pierce.

Leaders of the Top District Commanders in the two membership divisions received a check for \$50.00.

**Division 1 :**                **Districts 1, 7, 11, 13, 15**

District winner is: **District 15, Cmdr Don Hilger with 95.35%**

**Division 2 :**                **Districts 3, 4, 6, 9, 10**

District winner is: **District 6, Cmdr Steve Calkin with 94.03%**

Commander Larry Gerlt called for the Inspection report and awards were presented by Inspector Roger Broeker and Jim Pierce.

District Commanders 100% District inspected by November 1st, received a Polo shirt and a certificate.

District Commanders were: **District 1 Commander Thomas Arends, District 3 Commander Steven Pojar, District 6 Commander Steve Calkin, District 7 Commander Jerry Halladay, District 9 Commander Dionne Gorji and District 10 Commander Chris Beaty.**

District Commanders 100% District inspected by January 1<sup>st</sup>, received a cap and a certificate.

District Commanders were: **District 11 Commander Ken Yount and District 15 Commander Don Hilger.**

Convention Corporation member Barry Caster reported on the upcoming dates of Convention and Conferences.

Reports given:

District Commanders, VOD, Patriot Pen, Youth Activities and Teachers by John Iossi; Buddy Poppy report by Dale Wittrock; Americanism & Loyalty Day report by Jerry Chlopek; Hospital Chairman Mike Medina; Legislative Federal Richard Morrison; Legacy/Life Membership Chairman Bernie Brosnihan; National Home Chairman Joe Smith; Parliamentarian Jim Pierce; Photography Dan Petersen; POW/MIA Chairman Dave Beran; Scholarship by Jerry Chlopek; Sports/NE Riders Ron Packard; Veterans Home Board Joe Smith; Volunteer Veterans Chairman Mike Dunn and Womens Veteran by Anne Ream.

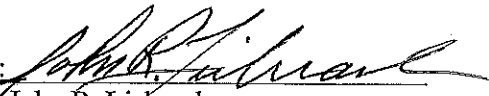
Quartermaster Liebsack announced ad rates for 2018-2019 office, delegate registration forms and deadline for election reports.

District 13 Commander Jim Lutz made a motion for the Department to send \$250.00 to Patriotic Productions for the women's flight they are putting together. Seconded by District 15 Commander Don Hilger, motion passed.

Next meeting will be the State Convention June 8<sup>th</sup> thru the 10<sup>th</sup> in Omaha at the Comfort Inn and Suites.

Meeting closed in due form at 3:00 p.m.

Attest:

  
John R. Liebsack  
State Adjutant & Quartermaster  
Department of Nebraska, VFW

Date:

4-25-18