



# NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

April 2018



## National Contest Winners

It was May 5th that National awarded our state Voice of Democracy winner Krista Wamhoff with a \$2,000.00 scholarship in D.C. Pictured with Krista is State President Carol Brosnihan and State Commander Larry Gerlt. In addition to the "Parade of Winners", the students had a full schedule but still some time for fun with new friends and family.



## Legislative Conference in D.C.

More than 500 members of this great organization met at the nation's capital the first week of March. The time in Washington D.C. allowed VFW leaders from each state to lobby their respective lawmakers and watch as the VFW's Commander-in-Chief Keith Harmon testified on Capitol Hill before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees on behalf of veterans and the VFW's priority goals. Pictured left to right is Nebraska National Councilman John Iossi, life member of VFW Post 3704 Mike Pensick, Nebraska House Representative Jeff Fortenberry and National Legislative Chairman Dick Morrison.







**STATE COMMANDER  
AND MEMBERSHIP  
CHAIRMAN  
LARRY GERLT**

Here we are – entering the 4<sup>th</sup> and final quarter of the membership year already! But the question is, are we like the Nebraska football teams of the Devaney and Osborne era or like the ones this past decade? Are we going to slog it out, score points, and make 100% membership for the first time in over a decade or fumble the ball on the goal line?

Many of you have worked hard to get your post to 100% or better—even my post with a goal of 424 is over by 7! Many more of you have positioned your post to make a 100% before the end of the membership year. But a few of you have sat back like armchair quarterbacks and “watched the game.” To those who have worked membership and are continuing to work membership, I give a heartfelt thanks.

We CAN make 100% if WE continue to work at it. Most posts have been provided a list of past VFW members to contact to help them replace lost comrades. Many have also been provided a list of their Unpaid. A lucky few have been passed a list of qualified leads – service members who separated from the military in the past 12 months and have an address near their post. If you haven't, and need a list of past members or your unpaid members, let me know and I will get you one.

We have the tools to make 100% as a Department. We are already at 95.32% and only need 725 more members to join/rejoin/pay dues to reach our goal. That may sound like an impossible goal, but it is attainable! Last year at this time, we needed 885!

We ARE winning! Do you have the will power, drive and initiative to make 100% and more? I do, but I can't do it alone. I need YOUR help.

Why is 100% + membership important? For 25 years, we have failed to make 100% as a National Organization. We have dropped from 1.8 to just under 1.2 million members. Congress is starting to “listen and heed what we say” less. I have been told by younger veterans we are a dying organization. Our total service hours are dropping and we are starting to help fewer veterans. We, as a Department must reverse this trend. It will, of course, take nearly all Departments reversing this trend to do it on a National level. But WE have to do our part! Help me help more veterans by working your hardest to make our department 100%!



**Gary E Bush Sr.  
Senior Vice  
Commander**

The first day of spring is upon us and the weather still doesn't know if it should be hot or cold—rain or snow. I have been busy getting information together to send to Department Headquarters for the upcoming 2018-2019 year. I would challenge all of you to dig deep and get involved in at least one additional program in the upcoming year. I have also been preparing for myself and Linda's homecoming. On April 5th through the 8th, I am off to join other Sr. Vice Commanders in Kansas City for training on how I can best serve you all. Finally, I will be back for state representative visits for two districts in April. See you all at State Convention.





## Kearney Awards Banquet

Student winners of the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy competitions shared their essays and received awards, backpacks and scholarships at VFW Post 759. Pictured below left to right is District 13 President Terrie Stokes, Post 759 Commander Mark Woodside, Patriot's Pen winners; Brooklyn Slaymaker, Cari Gangwish, Saylor Wilterding, Voice of Democracy winner Allison Muhlback, Youth Chairperson Genevieve Weitjes and District 13 Commander Jim Lutz.



Make your reservations today for State Convention. It will be on June 9th and 10th at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Omaha. The deadline for reservations is May 18th.

leave your  
**MARK**  
for the future-



VFW Life Members can now take the next step in ensuring veterans a better tomorrow by becoming a Legacy Life Member today. Be remembered for your service as a veteran and VFW member.

It's easy to get started:

- Choose from Gold, Silver or Bronze, each with its own prestigious benefits.
- Gold \$1,200
- Silver \$800
- Bronze \$400
- Legacy is tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed.
- Use the installment plan option to make quarterly payments.

For more information call  
1.800.963.3180.

**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

become a **LEGACY LIFE** member



# MIA Update

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has announced the identification of five American service members who had been missing in action from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

-- **Marine Corps Pfc. Arnold J. Harrison**, 19, of Detroit, Mich., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried March 2, in Dallas, Texas. Harrison was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division. On Nov. 20, 1943, Harrison's unit landed on the small island of Betio in the Tarawa Atoll against stiff Japanese resistance. Over several days of intense fighting, approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors were killed. Harrison was killed on the first day of the battle.

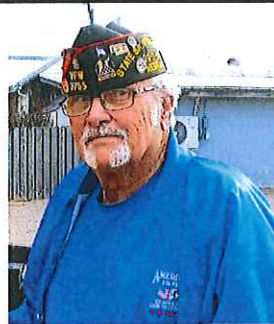
-- **Army Pfc. Lamar E. Newman**, 19, of Griffin, Ga., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried March 2, in his hometown. Newman was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. In November 1950, his unit took part in a defensive operation in the vicinity of the village of Kujang, North Korea. The division suffered heavy losses, with many soldiers going missing or being killed or captured. Newman went missing on Nov. 27, 1950, near the village of Kujang as a result of heavy fighting.

-- **Army Pfc. Leroy W. Bryant**, 22, of Autreyville, Ga., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried March 9, in Columbus, Ohio. Bryant was a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. On Feb. 6, 1951, Bryant's unit was tasked to determine the location and strength of enemy forces in the town of Yonghyon-ni, South Korea. They were attacked by enemy forces and forced to withdraw. Bryant could not be accounted for after the attack and was declared missing in action. Bryant's name later appeared on a list of Americans who died while in custody of communist forces, informally known as the "Christmas List." Following the war, a returning prisoner from Bryant's regiment reported he was

told Bryant died while being marched north to prisoner of war Camp 1, located along the Yalu River, near the village of Changsong.

-- **Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class George H. Gibson** was assigned to the USS Oklahoma, which was moored off Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when Japanese aircraft attacked his ship on Dec. 7, 1941. Gibson was one of 429 crewmen killed in the attack. Interment services are pending.

-- **Army Lt. Col. Robert G. Nopp**, an OV-1C pilot, was assigned to the 131st Aviation Company. On July 13, 1966, Nopp flew a night surveillance mission from Phu Bai Airfield over Attapu Province, Laos. Flying through heavy thunderstorms, radar and radio contact were lost with the aircraft, which was not uncommon due to the mountainous terrain in that part of Laos. When the aircraft did not return as scheduled, search efforts were initiated, but no crash site was found. Interment services are pending.



**Gary E Bush Sr.**  
for  
**State Commander**  
**Department of NE**  
**2018-2019**

## **Anchors Aweigh and Westward Ho**

**I am a Vietnam Veteran that served in the U.S. Navy from 1965 to 1968. I am a gold legacy life member of VFW Post 3755 in Ogallala and a life member of the National Home. I will serve with honor and pride and I would appreciate your vote.**



## Fundraiser in Broken Bow

Custer County Post 3576 conducted their annual Pancake Feed fundraiser on February 19th. The funds raised are used for college scholarships for students who have family members that are part of the post. In addition to the pancake feed fundraiser, the post also sold raffle tickets. Deb Bryner donated a quilt that she made in honor of her father in law. The proceeds from this raffle were donated to the Custer County Vets Memorial Board. The winner was Ginny John who is pictured with her quilt in the bottom photo. The other raffle was a first prize of \$2,000 dollars and second prize of \$1,000 dollars. The first prize winner was Tania Kreitman pictured below with District 11 Commander Ken Yount, Post Quartermaster Kelvin Kreitman and Post Commander Del Moninger. The second prize winner was Ternie Wright. The weather could have been a little better, but people braved the cold weather to come out and enjoy fellowship and pancakes, eggs and ham.



**NEBRASKA**  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS



**We're working to  
better serve the men  
and women who  
bravely served us.**

**CNAs in our veterans'  
homes now start at  
\$14.04/hr,  
with paid training and great  
state benefits.**

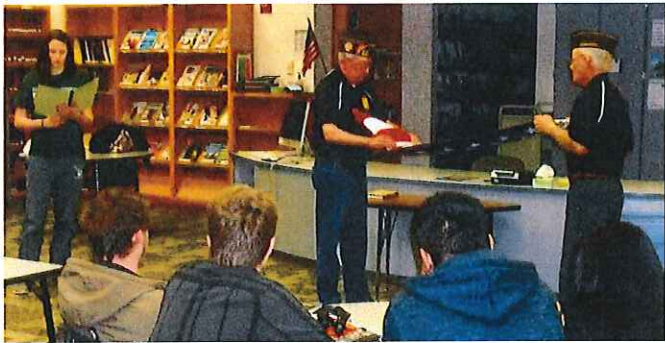






## History Class in Flag Folding

Dodge VFW Post 8597 members Casey Jones and Francis Bayer conducted a flag folding demonstration at Howells-Dodge High School. Junior Erin Prusa assisted by reading the significance of each fold. The floor was opened to the students for a question and answer period afterwards. Pictured above left to right are Casey Jones, Erin Prusa and Francis Bayer.



**1872** The first Arbor Day was held in Nebraska City, Neb. More than 1 million trees were planted.

**2010** The Arbor Day Foundation surpassed more than 1 million members.

**2001** The oak tree was voted as America's National Tree.

**1972** The Arbor Day Foundation was formed to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Arbor Day.

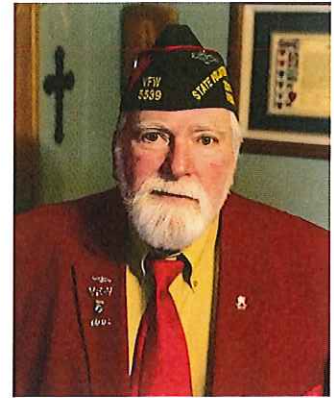
**2005** The first Nature Explore Classroom was constructed at Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City.

**1990** The Arbor Day Foundation began working with the U.S. Forest Service to plant

**2010** The Arbor Day Foundation passed a milestone of planting 20

**VOTE FOR  
MIKE DUNN  
STATE SURGEON  
2018-2019**

**Pride Runs Deep  
Committed to Veterans**



U.S. Navy Submarine Veteran 1970-1975

Legacy Life Member of Post 5539 Harvard

All State Team Captain 2012-2013

Served as VFW District Commander 2010-2013

District Sr. Vice, National Aide-de-Camp

Life member Military Order of the Cooties, DAV, American Legion and U.S. Submarine Veterans

Endorsed by 9 Past State Commanders and several past and present District Commanders

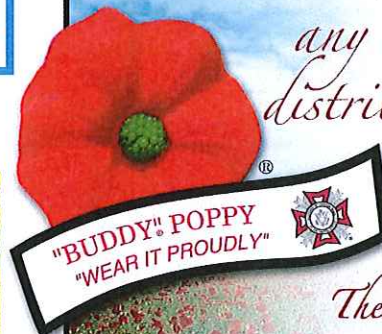
Your Support and Vote is Appreciated!

## REMEMBER:

Show your *support*

*any time* of the year by

*distributing* **Buddy Poppies.**



*The flower of remembrance  
They Gave, Will You?*

Honor the Dead by Helping the Living





## Calendar of Events

### April 2018

(T-4) Trustee Quarterly Report to Department (Jan 1 to March 31)

#### 1 Easter Sunday

1 Eagle Scout State Entry to Department

8 Dist 10 mtg in Omaha Post 2503 to host. Award Banquet for VOD & PP at 12:30, mtg to follow.

Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep: John Liebsack**

8 Dist 7 mtg in North Bend Post 8223 to host at the Post at 1:30 lunch to follow Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep: Jerry Chlopek**

8 Dist 13 mtg in Harvard Post 5539 to host at 2:00. VFW to meet at the Community Center, Auxiliary to meet at the Methodist Church. Light snacks to follow.

**Rep: Gary Bush**

15 Dist 4 mtg in Imperial Post 4688 to host at the Post at 12:00mt. Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep: Joe Smith**

15 Dist 3 mtg in Norfolk Post 1644 to host at 12:00 reg \$5.00 Meeting at 1:00 . Auxiliary same time and place. Lunch to follow. **Rep: John Liebsack**

15 Dist 11 mtg in Broken Bow Post 3576 to host at 2:00. Reg fee \$2.00 evening lunch Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep: Dan Kramer**

15 Dist 15 mtg in Columbus Post 3704 to host at 1:30 entertainment to follow. Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep: Jerry Chlopek**

22 Dist 1 mtg in Gering Post 1681 to host at 1:30.

Lunch at 12:30 \$5.00 reg. fee. Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep: Gary Bush**

22 Dist 6 mtg in Beatrice Post 1077 to host at 2:00, pot luck to follow meeting. Auxiliary same time and place. Election of officers at this meeting. **Rep: Joe Smith**

27-28 Grand MOC/MOCA Convention Grand Island

29 Dist 9 mtg in Seward Post 4755 to host at the Post at 2:00. Lunch to follow. Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep: Larry Gerlt**

30 Post Service Officer entry to Department

### May 1 - Cut off For Election Reports!!!

1 Americanism, Community Service, Youth and Loyalty Day — Post Scrap Books to Department

1 Blood Report

## April Calendar Winners...

1	\$40.00	Cindy	Inman	1864
2	\$40.00	Linda	Bogatz	24
3	\$40.00	Terry	Owens	3284
4	\$40.00	Scott	Johnson	3178
5	\$40.00	Robert	Juedes	798
6	\$40.00	The Veeping Room		3765
7	\$40.00	Rays Auto Sales		3276
8	\$40.00	Tera	Beglin	3093
9	\$40.00	Gerald	Thoene	2829
10	\$40.00	Lauren	Garcia	1436
11	\$40.00	Arnold	Lammers	3098
12	\$40.00	PJ & Lorna	Book	2686
13	\$40.00	Pat	Book	2688
14	\$40.00	Russ	Zeeb	3162
15	\$40.00	Matt	Starkey	3764
16	\$40.00	Spencer	Meyer	3876
17	\$40.00	Michael	Hoffman	2835
18	\$40.00	Karl	Fredericksc	967
19	\$40.00	Rick & Con	Brunes	2255
20	\$40.00	Shawn	Nolte	717
21	\$40.00	Carol	Navinux	652
22	\$40.00	Rick & Con	Brunes	2255
23	\$40.00	Henry	Staack	3760
24	\$40.00	George	Matuella	84
25	\$40.00	Mary	Arneal	2202
26	\$40.00	Davenport	Legion	1234
27	\$40.00	Mark	Parsons	1384
28	\$40.00	Cheri	Rych14	404
29	\$40.00	Tessa	Layton	3883
30	\$40.00	Kevin	Krull	3931



Share what is going on in your posts and communities.  
Please send news for the VFW Nebraska Newsletter to Department Headquarters at 2431 N. 48th Street in Lincoln, NE 68504 or better yet email to [jodys@vfwne.org](mailto:jodys@vfwne.org).

Find us on the web at  
[vfwne.com](http://vfwne.com)

**Membership for  
Nebraska as of  
March 26th...**

Dear State VFW,  
Thank you so much for choosing me as the 9th place winner at the State VOD contest. I had such an amazing day! I learned so much about Nebraska's history at the capitol tour. What

a thrill it was to visit the Governor's Mansion. We felt very spoiled staying at the Cornhusker Hotel. And I was exceptionally honored to be recognized at that amazing banquet that evening! Thank you again!  
-Sam McArdler

*Thanks from our award winners...*

Dear Nebraska VFW,  
I really appreciate what all of you contributed to that special weekend. The Governor's Mansion, Capitol building, and the Cornhusker Hotel were a pleasure to explore and see. I thoroughly enjoyed the rich history. The food, awards, and cash prize was very nice of you guys. I cannot imagine the effort you all put into it. Thank you so much.

A Grateful Recipient,  
Dylan Conover

*with gratitude...*

Post	Dist	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent
District Totals	1	422	12	5	127	566	636	88.99%
District Totals	3	1038	3	7	218	1266	1324	95.61%
District Totals	4	799	5	4	185	993	1058	93.85%
District Totals	6	898	12	14	233	1157	1172	98.72%
District Totals	7	770	15	4	232	1021	1077	94.80%
District Totals	9	1403	33	11	338	1785	1885	94.69%
District Totals	10	3292	112	84	710	4198	4311	97.37%
District Totals	11	814	15	14	199	1042	1055	98.76%
District Totals	13	887	13	1	160	1061	1119	94.81%
District Totals	15	685	8	1	126	820	838	97.85%
District Totals	99	643	33	53	163	892	1025	87.02%
State Total		11651	261	198	2691	14801	15500	95.49%