



THE SOUTH DAKOTA *LEGIONETTE*

Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities

A Word from the President

by Elvira Moen, Department President



"Thanks to Our Veterans, Freedom Rings in South Dakota"

Congratulations to us! We were awarded \$1000.00 by the National American Legion Auxiliary for meeting the goal of having at least one paid membership in every unit. Go Team South Dakota! Now it's time to work on meeting membership goals in each of our units.

Our Christmas Gift Shops are completed – thanks to all of you who made this a joyous occasion for our veterans through your generous donations of gift items and your assistance with the selection, wrapping and mailing of these items at no cost to our veterans. Hilmer and I are looking forward to the Christmas Party Tour beginning on December 2nd at the Hot Springs State Home. The tour continues December 4th at Fort Meade and December 9th at the Hot Springs VA. On the east side of South Dakota, The Human Service Center party will be on December 12th, followed by the Sioux Falls VA on December 14th. You are all invited to join us at any of the Christmas Parties and help our veterans celebrate the birth of Christ and this joyous holiday season.

Don't forget that December 7th is Pearl Harbor Day. *The 11th Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Flaming Fountain Veterans Memorial at the State Capitol in Pierre is on December 11th at 11:00 am.*

On December 16th the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony will be held at Arlington National Cemetery and more than 1200 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad. *The Black Hills National Cemetery in Sturgis. and the Hills of Rest Cemetery in Sioux Falls will join in this wreath laying ceremony.*



Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive

Benefiting homeless and at-risk Veterans and Military Families

Education *by Jacki Omland, Dept. Chairman*

The Education Program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's role in providing quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion, and support of education beyond high school, especially for military and veteran's children.

Enhance respect for the sacrifices of our military heroes among school children by scheduling Veterans in the Classroom programs at local schools.

Create a panel of Veterans. Veterans need not be public speakers, but have a wealth of information and experiences to share.

Promote American Legion Auxiliary scholarships and award local scholarships at the department and unit levels. Check out our website at <http://www.sdlegionaux.org/> for a list of national and department scholarships and the forms for each of them. Note the deadlines on each form.

Build a relationship with your local schools – focus attention on "Give 10 to Education". This program is only limited by the Imagination of each unit. Contact teachers in your area for needs.

Assist and support veterans pursuing high education and vocational education.

Help a veteran get in touch with a student veterans group at nearby colleges and universities. Provide these student veterans with information on career and life skill topics.

Assist and support military children with educational opportunities.

Encourage junior members to contact their school guidance counselor and

volunteer to mentor children of military personnel and veterans. Inform schools of a free tutoring website for military children: www.tutor.com/military Organize a classroom recognition event for military children to share the accomplishments of their relative who is serving.

Box Tops for Education- Encourage unit members to save Box Tops for Education and present them to local school. Maybe a contest is in order who can collect the most in a Unit.



December Guide

Dec. 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
 Dec. 16: Wreaths across America
 Christmas Parties at Unit meeting
 Hold Unit Rehabilitation meeting
 Dec. 25: Christmas Day



Christmas Parties

Ft. Meade VA - December 4th at 1:00 pm

Hot Springs State Veterans Home - December 2nd at 1:30 pm

Hot Springs VA - December 9th at 1:30 pm

Human Services Center - December 13th at 5:00 pm

Sioux Falls VA - December 14th at 2:00 pm

come and share Christmas spirit with our veterans; they love to see you!

Stand Down - Rapid City



"The Bunker"



To honor veterans for Memorial Day since 1998, Ken Luebke from Rosholt digs a "bunker" in his yard in the country, along with a "hooch" made of 2 ponchos, that look like a tent. Ken is a combat veteran who can tell stories of digging and sleeping in this every night in Vietnam. He uses sand bags filled with dirt from a hole that is dug and old tree branches to make this bunker. It is built under the yard light by the American and POW flag. Some veterans, family and friends help with this project each year. The bunker is dug, sand bags filled, then the bunker is put together. During this time, stories are told, (maybe about wartime) and friendships renewed. Supper is served followed by a bonfire. People from the community have driven in the yard to view the project and then Ken will explain what this all means.

Ken builds this bunker each year as a tribute to the veterans of the infantry. He said, "People don't realize what soldiers went through, not to mention being shot at and mortared". He will do this every year as long as he can. The special event has taken place every year since 1998, rain or shine. This year it happened to be raining.

The number of people that help with this project varies each year from 10-25. Last year was a special event for Ken because his squad leader, when he first arrived in Vietnam 49 years ago, flew in from New Jersey to participate in this tribute. They have been special friends the past 15 years, attending military reunions together.

Ken's wife Carol, daughter Jennifer help with this, every year, honoring Ken and his service to his country. His special granddaughter Mya was able to help this year. Carol Luebke is the Legion Auxiliary president of unit 48 in Rosholt..

In Memoriam

Unit 4 Mobridge Linda Naasz - August 2017; **Unit 6 Gregory** Opal Carley - October 2017; Pearle Janas - October 2017; **Unit 8 Pierre** Donna Betsinger - October 2017; Irene Camin - November 2017; Janet Kierzmann - October 2017; **Unit 15 Sioux Falls** Patricia Brown - July 2017; **Unit 20 Ft Pierre** Margaret Duffy - October 2017; **Unit 26 Stickney** Susie DeWaard - April 2017; **Unit 32 Belle Fourche** Dorothy Monahan - May 2017; Alice Petrankek - March 2017; Unit 50 Sisseton Lila Brown - October 2017; Lorraine Johnson - September 2017; **Unit 91 Dallas** Virginia Leibel - October 2017; **Unit 116 Alpena** Laura Jones - October 2017; **Unit 120 Isabel** Josephine Boldt - September 2017; **Unit 129 Waubay** Audrey Tiggelaar - November 2017; **Unit 138 DeSmet** Arlene Harris - October 2016; **Unit 139 McIntosh** Vivian Gannon - September 2014; **Unit 142 Tripp** Esther Guthmiller - October 2017; **Unit 146 Colome** Linda Wicker - October 2017; **Unit 148 Conde** Donna Boss - November 2017; **Unit 175 Baltic** Orpha Brende - April 2017; **Unit 180 New Effington** Darlene Sather - November 2017; **Unit 183 Tabor** Mildred Cimple - November 2017; **Unit 188 Lebanon** Roxy Jacobs - November 2017; **Unit 199 Garden City** Margaret Singrey - October 2017; **Unit 240 Martin** Gladys Beardt - October 2017; **Unit 259 Roscoe** Paula Bauer - October 2017; **Unit 278 Colman** Pat Landis - March 2017; **Unit 303 Hermosa** Laverne Hunsaker - August 2017; **Unit 500 Hartford** Dawn Carlson - July 2017

Veterans Honored at Ramona School

Veterans were honored at Ramona School by the students with pie and juice. Pictured are Kindergartners leading the Pledge of Allegiance before the program. Oldham-Ramona Students sang a few songs and Joe Riedel of the Wolf-Nelson Post #216 spoke during the ceremony.



Endorsement

At the November meeting, the Piedmont Valley Unit 311 endorsed **Susie Clyde** for the 2018-2020 South Dakota National Executive Committeewoman (NEC).



Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive

Benefiting homeless and at-risk Veterans and Military Families



Hosted by the
Department of South Dakota
American Legion Auxiliary

Welcoming "Buddy Baskets and Buddy Bags"

Buddy Basket Home-Warming Welcome Recipe:

Assemble a Laundry Basket/Waste Basket filled with: Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent, Household Cleansers, Rubber Gloves, Cleaning Sponges, Dust Pan w/Hand Brush, Light Bulbs, Flashlight, Batteries, Alarm Clock, Shower Curtain w/Rings, Bath Towel Set, Bathroom Tissue, Dishes, Eating Utensils, Dish Soap; Dish Towel Set
- Frosted with clear wrap, bow, and greeting tag

Buddy Bag Thank A Hero Recipe:

Assemble a Bag filled with: Personal Hygiene Products, Hand Towel Set, Shower Shoes or Slippers, Socks, Hat Gloves Scarf Set; Shopping or Salon Gift Card
- Sealed with a note or card of appreciation

Substitute, Homemade, or Single Household and Essential Items

Welcome: Bedding, Warm Apparel, Small Appliances, Thermos, Bottled Water, Sun Screen, Lip Balm, Bus Pass; Pre-Paid Phone Card

Monetary Donations: Checks payable & mailed to:
SD American Legion Auxiliary, Attn: Vets Relief Drive
129 North Main Ave. • Hartford, SD 57033

November 11, 2017 - January 31, 2018

FOR AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
SD DROP-OFF LOCATIONS/INFORMATION CONTACT:
Autumn Simunek at VeteransHRD@gmail.com,
605.890-3093 or visit SDLegionaux.org



Thank you for contributing to
South Dakota's Veteran Outreach Programs!
Serving Veterans, their Families and their Communities



December Prayer by Karen Layher, Dept. Chaplain



Loving
Father,

Help us remember

The **birth of Jesus,**

That we may share in

The *song of the angels,*

The gladness of the shepherds

And the *worship of the wise men.*

Close the door of hate and

open the door of love all over the

world. Let kindness come with every gift and
good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from

evil by the *blessing which Christ brings,* and teach us

To be merry with clear hearts. May the **Christmas** morning

make us happy to be *Thy children,* and the **Christmas**

evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,

forgiving and forgiven,

for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive Service-Learning Project Invite - Participation on a small or large scale welcome.

Please join the South Dakota Dept. of American Legion Auxiliary in providing a comfortable holiday season for our veterans, military members, and their families in need. Participation in the Veterans' Holiday Relief Drive service-learning project to aid homeless and at risk military heroes *may begin any time* through January 31, 2018. Unit 71 from Hot Springs launched the relief drive on Veterans' Day.



Member to Remember

Madonna Hildebrant is a member of Donald A. Lewis Unit 148 of Conde, SD. Although a fulltime caretaker of her husband Lynn, she remains a very important member in our Unit as the membership chairman, a BIG job! Unit Conde has many nonresident members and others in Long Term facilities. Madonna always add a personal note to each renewal notices. She held many unit offices and was District President for two terms. As an active member of the Unit, she manages to still helps with Memorial Day Services, reading the names of the deceased Veterans and contacting young Junior auxiliary members to hang wreaths on the crosses at the program and the cemeteries.



The Pledge of Allegiance

October 24, 2017: The Hershman-Gordon Unit 159 American Legion Auxiliary from Wolsey, SD did a short program with the first graders at Wolsey-Wessington School to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Thirty children recited the Pledge of Allegiance before Nancy Clouser told them that Francis Bellamy wrote it in 1892. It was recited by school children in Columbus Day that year. Other interesting facts about the Pledge of Allegiance and Flag Etiquette were presented to the class. At the end of the program, the Auxiliary members of Unit 159 distributed flags to each student.



"Thanks to Our Veterans, Freedom Rings in South Dakota"

The goal of WAA is to Remember and Honor our veterans through the laying of Remembrance Wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud. www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org has educational resources available for download and their theme for 2017 is "I'm an American. Yes, I am!" based on the song by Rick Charette.

I'm an American. Yes, I am.

I love my country. I love my land.

With you and me together, we each play a part.

We can make a difference with love in our hearts.

We are many. We are one.

We are shining in the sun.

We're united standing tall.

With liberty and justice for all.

I'm an American. Yes, I am.

I hold the world's future here in my hands.

Gonna sing and shout it! It's great to be free.

Every single person has dignity.

I'm an American. Yes, I am.

I promise that I will do what I can.

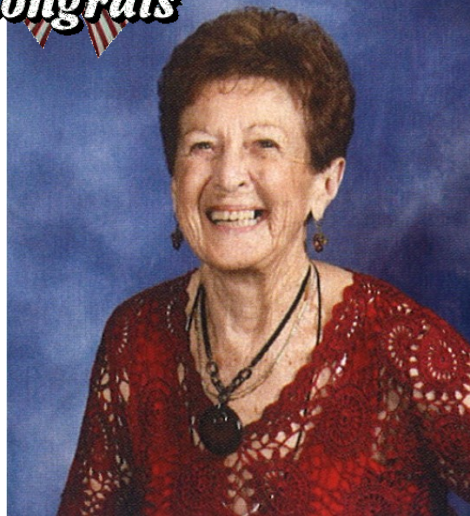
I'll stand up for freedom. Live my life without fear.

Going to make a better world, I know we'll persevere.

As we celebrate Christmas and enjoy spending time with our family, it is important to remember that we should never take anything for granted. Peace, security, and the ability to gather with our friends and family members around us at Christmas should always remind us of our veterans who spent their working lives to give us these crucial everyday comforts.

Hilmer & I wish all of the American Legion Family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thanks to our Veterans, Freedom Rings in South Dakota! *Elvira Moen, Dept. President*

A Special Member to Remember



Our Auxiliary Unit - Roy L. Hall Post #58 from Columbia would like to nominate Florence Krege as "A Member to Remember".

Florence has been a member of the Legion Auxiliary for 61 years - since 1956! She has been a vital part of our organization from the start.

She has willingly given of her time and efforts to the benefit of everyone in our community.

She is very approachable and loves to help out the youth in our area.

When it comes to events in our Legion, she is the first to show and the last to go! Florence is a very dedicated member of our Auxiliary.

Department Secretary: Laurel Stringer, 129 North Main, Hartford, SD 57033 Phone: 605-461-3389 or email at southdakotaala@gmail.com

Visit the SD ALA Website at www.sdlegionaux.org

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Essays and Poems for Veterans' Day

Pike-Wagner American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2 of Tyndall, SD displays last year's Americanism essays and poems for the Veterans' Day program at the Tyndall School, Monday November 6. Poppy posters were also shown to the attendees.



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Across South Dakota



Macey Linke and Carsyn Weich from Gertie Belle Rogers Elementary school received the Good Deed Award for raising money for families who have lost their homes due to fire and gave money to Mitchell Fire and Rescue team to be used accordingly. Presented by Sharon Broghammer.

Members of the Piedmont, Lead, and Spearfish Unit s enjoyed an evening of "Sip-n-Paint" creating fields of poppies.

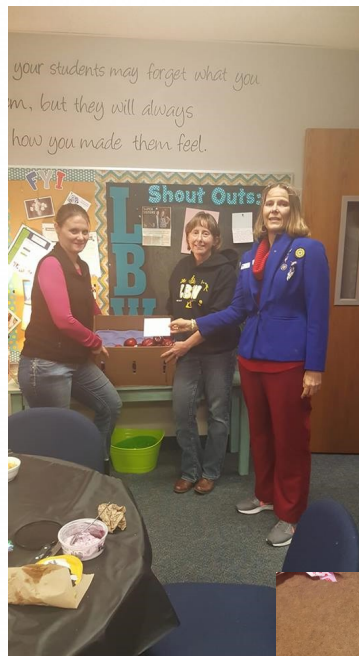
Dell Rapids ' Juniors made poppy ornaments.



Members of the Spearfish Unit participated in a Unit ALA Mission workshop and made Veterans' Day gifts.

Sharon Broghammer, Mitchell delivering Apple's to LB WILLIAMS Elementary School for teachers appreciation education week.

The Lead and Hermosa had a craft day preparing Christmas gifts for Ft. Meade.



Thank You Veterans



Veterans 'Day Programs

Below: Piedmont Valley Elementary School in 2nd grade with Mary Wranek grandson Keegan, SAL member and Helen Riedlinger.

Oldham-Ramona Students sang a few songs and Joe Riedel of the Wolf-Nelson Post #216 spoke during the ceremony.

Hermosa Elementary School (flag pole and right students soldiers on the wall)

Right top two: Spearfish Unit 164 and The Spearfish Senior Center Line Dancers at the Massa Berry Clinic in Sturgis

Right—3rd picture: Ft. Meade VA program - the Spearfish Unit 164 and the Spearfish Senior Center Line dancers





Christmas Gift Shops



Left: Sioux Falls VA

Below: Hot Springs State Veterans Home



Below: Hot Springs VA



Below: Ft Meade VA



The National American Legion Auxiliary did a blog on how Dell Rapids Unit #65 made Poppy ornament. Go to <https://alaforveterans.wordpress.com> or google American Legion Auxiliary Blog



Teresa Huntimer, of ALA Unit 65 in Dell Rapids, S.D., along with a host of others from her unit, put together many of these poppy ornaments for their unit's recent Veterans Supper. The ornaments soon will adorn their unit's Christmas tree. Huntimer said she got the poppy ornament idea from Pinterest.

On a scale of easy, moderate, or difficult, this poppy ornament project is easy – but adults may want to supervise young children doing the project.

One ornament can be crafted in as little as five minutes! Here's what you need:

- Clear ornaments made of plastic or glass. The ornaments are usually found at stores selling holiday decorations, or at craft stores. Make sure you buy the ornaments which have the top stem parts that can be removed and later put back into place securely.
- Tinsel of any color or level of shine you want. **TIP:** Christmas tree garland is a good option because it is less likely to leave as much of a mess as tinsel strips can. Also, be sure that the color of the tinsel or garland contrasts with the color of the poppies.
- Scissors, if you choose to use the garland. **TIP:** Having an adult cut the garland for the younger children is recommended. But if young children are allowed to do the cutting, consider giving them safety scissors to use. Also, supervise the children while they're cutting.
- A straw or chopstick.

Ribbon or string. **TIP:** If using glass ornaments, be mindful of the strength of the ribbon or string you choose.

Steps:

1. Uncover the opening of the ornament by taking off the top stem.
2. Put some tinsel or snips of garland in the ornament. Use the straw or chopstick to help get the tinsel or garland snips down to the bottom of the ornament.
3. Twist, roll, or scrunch the crepe paper poppies so they are narrow enough to fit into the ornament through the opening at the top. Use the straw, chopstick, or your fingers to get the poppies in the ornament.
4. Use the straw or chopstick to open up the poppy petals inside the ornament.
5. Cover the ornament opening with the top stem, making sure the stem is tightly in place. Insert string or decorative ribbon into the top stem, and tie the ends of the string or ribbon together so the ornament can be hung. If the ornament won't be hung but will be on display, insert the decorative ribbon or string for added flair.

There's your poppy ornament! Make enough to decorate your tree, to give as gifts to family and friends, or to use as a poppy item to distribute for donations that can be used for the welfare of veterans, active-duty servicemembers, and their families.