As I write this you should know that this will be my last article as Commander and that a new slate of officers have been elected at the 94th Annual Department Convention held at Spenard Post 28 in Anchorage. To the new Commander and new Officers of the Department of Alaska I congratulate you and wish you well on the new endeavors that you are going to encounter during the next year.

At this time I would like to thank all of the people that helped to make this past year one of the most memorial years of my life, but the newsletter is not big enough nor is my memory long enough to list all of those people. To all of you members of the American Legion I wish to again Thank-You for an outstanding year.

Thank-You to Spenard Post 28, and to Convention Chairman Kirk Waldhaus for hosting an outstanding 94th Convention.

I need to give a special Thank-You to Gene Franks and Peggy Bateman for keeping me out of trouble and reminding me of all of the deadlines and other appointments that I needed to attend and keep up with.

To my traveling companions President Bev and Commander Dave it has been a memory filled year and I promise that I will keep in touch with you both.

Well I better go for now and let the others say a few things’

Thanks again for an outstanding year.
From the desk of the Second Vice Commander

By Ernest L. King Sr.
Department

Congratulations to all the new Department Officers for 2013-2014. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me in my run through the chairs of the Department of Alaska. It is both an honor and a pleasure to serve you and the organization. I assure you that I will do everything I can to serve honestly and well.

May and June are busy months, not just for the American Legion but also for Americans in general. The weather is getting nice and people are starting to travel this great land recreating. Here is a short list of some things to think about for the months of May and June.

Memorial Day May 27th, please do your part to vote for the Commander in Chief.

D-Day observance – June 8th. We are losing more of this Great Generation everyday. If you know a WWII vet especially D-Day veterans, do your part to support through your post or pay for themselves so if you can afford to donate through your post to these programs, please do. If you can volunteer some time this year or next, also please do. For more info contact the Department HQ.

Flag Day – June 14th. This day commemorates the anniversary of congress adopting the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States on June 14th, 1777. President Wilson proclaimed it as a national observance in 1916. If your Post is anything like mine, people from all walks of life drop their unserviceable flags off there throughout the year. Proper disposal of worn flags is one way to show respect for those who have given all to defend it. The Boys Scouts of America are active in this program and if you have a local troop in your area it is a great way to help them learn Flag Etiquette and earn a merit badge.

June 14th of the 70’s “if you’re old enough to die for your country, you’re old enough to vote for the Commander in Chief”. In closing I ask, as always that you keep your American Service Members stationed throughout the world, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan, in your thoughts and prayers.

2nd Vice Cont from Page 1

PLEASE use the term “retiring the colors”, we don’t burn them.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY UNITED STATES ARMY 14 JUNE 1775
Greetings,

The time is moving very as gain more light with warmer weather. It is almost time for us to look for our yard tools to prepare for this year’s spring break up. By the time you receive this letter the American Legion 2013 Department Convention at Spenard Post 28 in Anchorage has already come and gone with a blink of an eye.

During the last couple of months we have had a few issues that always comes around during this time of the year and needs our undivided attention. As we know, March is the month that national has set for us to be at 90% on the membership and April is set for 95%. Alaska is a little behind on the barometer for all of the entities within our department’s American Legion Family. There is on single magic formula that we can use to help us get back on track as far as our membership goal is concern but, we must try and to start somewhere within each Post.

There is several different ways to increase our numbers for the post and department. As usual it goes like this we find the eligible veteran and invite them to the post, give them the quick rundown of some of the programs that we sponsor in our post and to go as far as the national programs. The object is to show them the good that all of give to the organizations and the support that we have for the veterans and their families. Hopefully by then they will be interested enough to sign up and begin their time as an American Legionnaire.

We know that this is all theory but who knows it could work and if it does, then the real work comes into play and that is to RETAIN the member that signs up. You could let them know that the members can renew their membership over the computer using the on-line membership renewal by going through www.legion.org/renew. They can contact The American Legion National Headquarters with any questions by phone at 1-800-433-3318 or the net at cs@legion.org.

At the National Convention there was a member that had signed up hundreds of new members, and his secret that he shared was “he just ask them to join” and he has had very good success. So with May being the target for the 100% membership goal, I must once again ask for you and your post look at the of members that had not renew the dues and those who has lapsed and give them a call and just ask them to renew their membership, and maybe they might know of another member or veteran who would like to sign up with the American Legion and help us support our military veterans.

Now by the time you receive this newsletter, the Department of Alaska will have had the department convention and the slate of 2013-2014 officers will have already been installed into their offices. You will have to ask any of those that attended or call to find who was honored with what seat of office and where the next convention will be at. I am confident that the news will readily available. Now during the month of May, don’t forget that this is the month for Mother’s Day on the 12th so I would be ready a day or two ahead. Also during this month there is Armed Forces Day on the 18th and Memorial Day on the 27th. At some locations there will be a few schools that will have graduation for the class of 2013. Congrats to these young adults who will go on to college or may be to work, and to those that might be entering the armed forces in one of our military branches, they are our future!

Then in June the department will conduct the Boy’s State and Girl’s State programs and I hope that there will be a good turnout for this year’s attendants. Also in June on the 14th that is Flag Day, and then on the 16th this being Father’s Day. After all of the dates I just mentioned the calendar shows that Summer will begin on June 21st. Remember that this is the time that our children will be more active with all of the sun light we will have so be on the lookout while you’re on the road driving. All levels of our post legion family leadership should con- stantly focus on projecting the proper image of The American Legion within the community, in the programs sponsored and services provided, and also on the appearance of each post home and their surrounding grounds. The Post home appearance can be perceived as a reflection of the attitude, the initiative and the civic awareness of the post family and their membership. The post reflects the outward image of the whole organization of The American Legion to the citizens in their community. A lot of this information is in the Post Officer Guide and Manual of Ceremonies and if you do not have a copy you can find this at; http://www.legion.org and go to me- dia then to the publications section. There is a lot of good and helpful information that you can research. Have a safe summer and may we all have a great year and remember, see a veteran thank them veteran and remind everyone how we got our freedoms.

New Law Establishes Burn Pit Registry: The President has signed legislation requiring the Department of VA to establish a registry for service members and veterans who have lived and worked near open burn pits in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere overseas. The provision is part of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans Benefits Improvement Act.

The new law seeks to deter- mine the number of veterans that have exposed to burn pit smoke so the VA can track their medi- cal histories and to keep them apprised of new treatments for associated conditions. Troops deployed in support contingency operations and stationed at a location where an open burn pit was used will be eligible to register as well.

The measure also requires the VA to provide a casket or urn for veterans with “NO KNOWN” next of kin and provide funds to care for a military cemetery in the Philippines.

VA Announces New Online Resources for Funeral Directors: The VA has announced the availability of an online funeral directors resource kit. Funeral Directors nationwide may use the kit when helping Veterans and their families make burial arrangements in VA National Cemeteries.

The website was created to enable funeral directors to find the most pertinent information to help families plan burials and apply for VA memorial benefits. It has links about eligibility, ben-efits and services. The website is available at www.cem.va.gov/ cem/funeraldirector.asp.

Did you know that the VA maintains 3.2 million gravesites in 131 VA national cemeteries and interred more than 118,000 Veterans and family members in fiscal year 2012. To make burial arrangements at the time of need at a VA National Cemetery, call the National Cemetery Schedul- ing Office at 800-283-1995 or 800-488-3840.

Summary of VA Benefits: You may be eligible for VA benefits, if you are a uniformed Service member; Veteran; or spouse, child, or parent of a deceased or disabled service member or Veteran.

Disability Compensation: Service-Connected disability compensa- tion is a tax free benefit paid to Veterans for a disability or disabilities that either: Arose during service, was worsened or aggravated by service, is presumed by VA to be related to military service. To receive dis- ability compensation, you must have been discharged under oth- er than dishonor- able conditions.

P EN- SION: Pension is a tax free benefit paid to “WARTIME” Veterans with limited or no in- come, who are either aged 65 or older or who are permanently and totally disabled due to a non- service connected cause. Seri- ously disabled or housebound Veterans receiving Pension may also qualify for an additional Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefit.

For the July/August issue of the “Alaska Legionnaire” June 17th is the deadline for all stories and/or photos to be submitted. All material must be into Department Headquar- ters no later than 5:00 pm. Please be reminded that only those articles that are typed, preferably sent via e- mail or provided on a diskette will be considered for publication. Faxed articles will not be considered. As always, the editorial staff can edit all submissions. Photos are also being sought for publication. They should be clearly marked and must be originals for good quality camera reproductions. Anyone interested in submitting an article and/or photo, or anyone interested in advertising in an upcoming issue contact the Alaska Legionnaire office at 1550 Charter Circle, Anchorage, Alaska 99508 or call (907) 278-8598 or email us at legion@anch.net. Please request a return receipt for any emails you send to us, in order to verify that it was received

By Alvin Diaz
Department First Vice Commander & Membership Chairman
By Elexzanderia Carr
Department Chaplain

O God, Almighty and Merciful, we remember before you in this moment our departed comrades. We recall with Reverence the good deeds they accomplished. We honor these beloved who fought a good fight in a just cause—comrades both in war and in peace who have served this Country with dignity and with honor. May they rest in Peace and may we consecrate our hearts and lives to you our God and to this our Country

And TO The ideas And principles and hope of those whom we honor, who have served faithfully and are now at rest. Amen

Taps
Alfred Mongin Post 4
Mary Martin Post 11
Peggy Huber Post 11
Wallace Jacobs Post 13
Clint Buckmaster Post 13
Guy Allee Post 15
Louis Landry Post 16

Dale Felton Post 20
Robert Mitchell Post 20
Lester Bergren Post 20
Loyd Pike Post 22
Jerry Shrum Post 28
Joe Warren Post 28
Gary Smith Post 29

Earnest Morgan Post 29
Lance Thompson Post 30
Robert Roseberry Post 33
Charles Baker Post 33
John Little Post 33
Kenneth Glazebrook Post GU01

ORATORICAL NEWS

“Heroes to Hometowns” is a transition program for severely injured service members returning home from OEF/OIF. “Heroes to Hometowns” establishes a support network and coordinates resources for those servicemembers. Last year The American Legion’s Heroes to Hometowns Program assisted over 1,100 veterans.

If you are a servicemember, veteran, or family member of a servicemember or veteran who has been severely injured, please fill out the Heroes to Hometowns assistance request form.

Heroes to Hometowns can provide:
• A Welcome-home celebration
• Temporary Financial Assistance
• Pro-bono financial planning
• Housing assistance
• Home and vehicle adaptation
• Government claims assistance
• Entertainment options
• Family support
(If you are not severely injured and are in need of general transition assistance or support, you may also fill out the request form or contact your American Legion department service officer (DSO) or your local American Legion post.)

Contact Heroes to Hometowns:
National Security / Foreign Relations Division
heroestohometowns@legion.org
Office: (202) 263-5773

ALERT!

About Heros to Hometowns

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By Jan Scott
Department Chair
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Patrick Henderson from Haines
Victoria Joslin from Delta
Joanna Daniels from Ninilchik
Eugene Shestakov from Anchorage

All students did an excellent job which challenged the six judges in choosing a winner. Eugene Shestakov from Anchorage won and will be representing Alaska in Indianapolis, IN at the National Contest April 19-21, 2013.

I would like to thank every person at every level who volunteered to make this experience available to our youth. As with all of the American Legion Programs, they happen only with members donating their time and talents. Every participant leaves having expanded their personal knowledge about our United States Constitution and the experience of public speaking.

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**National Executive Committeeman**

By Jim Pisa  
*National Executive Committeeman*  

**“From the Doghouse”**

Still Serving: It’s Who We are:  
The American Legion is the voice of 2.4 million American Veterans and service members. The American Legion’s positions represent the views of its members and are based on our Four Pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

Congratulations: To all our newly elected officers for the 2013 - 2014 year. I know “WE” as a department will have a good year, not only in post activities but “MEMBERSHIP” as well. I would like to thank all our members for showing their great Alaskan hospitality to all our National Officers and aides and to our guest from the Republic of China (Taiwan), Veterans Affairs Commission Hans Song and Nick Chang.  

**OPERATION HONOR FLIGHT**: In the last Legionnaire we reported on the Honor Flight that was being headed up by Ron Travis from Susitna Valley Post 35 in Wasilla. You all have responded with great interest in this worthy project with many WWII Veteran’s names. The program is also open to Alaska Territorial Guard and Korean War Veterans. But as with any program, getting names is not the hard part, financing the project is the hard part.  

If you’re Post, Unit, Squadron or Rider Chapter would like to donate or volunteer for a fundraising project contact Ron Travis at ron.travis@flhonorflight.org or call toll free 1-877-560-8542 for more information. If you are attending the department convention, Ron will be in attendance to answer all your questions.

The movie “Honor Flight One” Last Mission” will be showing at the Century 16 Regal Theater located at 301 East 36th Ave, in Anchorage on May 19th at 3:00 pm. This is a fund raiser for the Honor Flight trip. Tickets will be available at the movie theater or go to www.tugg.com for ticket info.

At present time fourteen (14) Veterans have applied to travel on the Honor Flight. A tentative date for October 2013 is being planned for the trip.

Veterans can add Veteran status to Alaska Driver’s licenses: Military Veterans who have retired, or have been Honorably Discharged can now add their Veteran’s status to their state driver’s licenses or state ID cards. To add the status, veterans “MUST” show the proper documents, such as military retiree ID card or discharge papers (DD-214) to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

There is a $5.00 fee if the Veteran wants to surrender a current license or ID card and receive the status addition. This Veterans status to your driver’s licenses will be useful if you are at a place of business that offers a Veterans discount.

American Legion Baseball has started. If your Post is sponsoring a team, get out to the ball field and watch our young men play ball. The schedule can be found on the Department website www.alaskalegion.org.

Alaska Legion Riders: New Officers have been elected and the riding season is here. The Annual Riders ROMP will be held at Con Miller Post 30 in North Pole in June. To all our Riders a safe riding.

**MAY/JUNE**

- May 5 Child Welfare Foundation Board of Directors Meeting Indianapolis 4 pm
- May 6 - 7 Commission on Veterans Committee Meetings - Indianapolis
- May 8 - 9 NEC Meetings - Indianapolis
  - May 8 100% Membership Due
  - May 12 Mother’s Day Check with your local Post on Activities
- May 15 Peace Officers’ Memorial Day
- May 18 Armed Forces Day
- May 27 Memorial Day
- Check with your local Post for activities
- Department Offices Will be closed.
- June 8 -14 Boys State
- June 8 - 14 Girls State
- June 14 Flag Day
- June 16 Father’s Day Check with your local Post for Activities
- Jack Henry Post / Unit 1 Wednesday Taco’s 5:30 - 7:30
  - Friday night Steaks 5:30 - 8:00
  - Strictly Swing
  - Brought to you by Back 2 Basics Dance Company
  - Every 3rd Friday of the Month
  - 7 pm for lesson and 8 - 11 pm for open dance
  - $5 for the lesson and/or dance
- Legion, Auxiliary and SAL are fee just show your card.
  - Seward Post 5
  - Taco Tuesday
  - Friday Night Steaks
  - Food served most nights at Post
- Matanuska Valley Post 15
  - Taco Monday
  - Friday Night Steak
- General Buckner Post 16 Family
  - 1st Saturday Auxiliary Dinner 6 pm
  - Taco Tues 5 pm
  - Friday Burger & Brew 6 - 8 PM
  - 3rd Friday Steak night 6 PM
- Post 20
  - Sunday Breakfast 10 - 1
  - Sunday Football
  - Every Friday is Steak night with an added Special Dish
  - 6 pm to 8 pm
  - Every Sunday Breakfast menu dishes
  - 10 am to 1 pm
  - Every Friday Aux. Unit 20 sponsors the Friday Night Raffle
  - 12 pm to 8 pm
  - Post 20 drawing (sign up once a day to enter) every Saturday
  - must be present
  - Post 20 membership drawing (no sign ups) every Sunday must be present 2 pm
- Spenard Post 28
  - Monday night food 6 PM
  - Wednesday Burgers, Chicken, Tacos 6 - 9 PM
  - Thursday Red Solo Cup Night 9 PM
  - Friday Steak and Seafood 6 - 8:30 PM
  - Saturday Night Food 6 - 9 PM
  - Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday Karaoke with James 9 PM

**Calendar of Events**

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**Saturday Night Food 6 - 9 PM**

**Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday Karaoke with James 9 PM**

*Images not included in the text*
Program Description
A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is a gold-embossed paper certificate bearing the official signature of the current President of the United States, to honor the memory of deceased honorably discharged Veterans.

General Program Requirements
This benefit may not be requested for a living Veteran.

Any family member or loved one of a deceased Veteran honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces is eligible for a PMC.

Certain National Guard and reserve members may also qualify.

Commissioned Officers of the Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration families are considered to be active duty members and Veterans, once discharged.

Eligible recipients include the next of kin and loved ones of honorably discharged Veterans. More than one certificate may be provided.

Your Next Steps
The following information will lead you to the next steps to apply for this benefit.

Application Process
When requesting a PMC, please use our official application form (VA Form 40-0247) available at http://www.cem.va.gov. If you are unable to download the form you may send a simple written request that includes the name of the deceased Veteran, a copy of the military discharge document (normally DD-214); the name, mailing address and telephone number of the requester; and the number of copies requested.

The completed application or request may be faxed or mailed to the following:

Toll Free Fax Number: 1-800-455-7143
Or:
Memorial Programs Service (41B)
Department of Veterans Affairs
5109 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-3903

To request additional copies of a PMC that has already been sent, or to request a correction to the PMC that was already sent, please fill in and sign the yellow form that was included with the certificate and return it to our office via fax or U.S. Mail.

Program Contact Information
If you have questions:
Visit https://iris.cushelp.com/ to search Frequently Asked Questions or ask a question on-line
Call 1-800-827-1000
Call 1-800-829-4833, if you are hearing impaired

To apply for additional Veterans' benefits and view your benefit status, open an eBenefits Premium account. eBenefits is a one-stop source for information on Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and services. With a free Premium level eBenefits account, Veterans and Servicemembers can conduct self-service transactions such as checking claim status information, GI Bill enrollment, and obtaining copies of civil service preference letters, DD214, and other personal information. For further information and to register for a free Premium level account, visit http://www.ebenefits.va.gov.

S.A.L National Commander Visits Alaska Detachment Convention

Chris Huntzinger of Penbrook Squadron 730 in Harrisburg, Pa., was elected national commander of the Sons of The American Legion Sunday during the organization’s 41st national convention in Indianapolis.

“I plan to promote the heck out of this organization,” Huntzinger said after assuming the SAL’s highest office. “Positive exposure is going to do wonders. We don’t have a problem getting new members. If we educate them, they will stay and we can be a viable force in the organization.”

Huntzinger, 55, is a 23-year member of the SAL. He helped charter the Penbrook squadron, which has grown from 16 to 600 members over the years. He went on to serve as detachment commander in 2001 and 2002 and as a national executive committeeman from 2003 to 2008. He has held numerous other offices at every level of the SAL.

The new commander announced that the Fisher House Foundation is his fundraising project this year. His eligibility in the SAL is established by his father, Paul Huntzinger, a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. His grandfather, Phillip Huntzinger, Sr., served in the Army during World War II.

A servicemember receives a commendation for selfless bravery in the heat of battle. An honor guard member presents the American flag to a grieving family member. A family tree boasts decades of military service through the generations.

Those are all images that sum up thoughts of honor and remembrance. Given the immense interest in those subjects, The American Legion has launched a special web page — www.legion.org/honor — that features stories, photos and videos of bravery, courage and sacrifice. There is also resource information that will help you find a museum, memorial or cemetery to visit; details about securing medals and citations; and opportunities to share your family’s story of military service.

Other highlights of the web page include:
Inspiring and educational stories. Did you know that an 87-year-old Legionnaire is still serving with his post’s honor guard? Or that Fort Jackson in South Carolina has a museum that traces a recruit’s basic training from the initial haircut through graduation? Those stories, and others from past issues of American Legion Magazine, are available.

A 1,200-plus database of places to visit. We have collected names and addresses of more than 1,200 museums, memorials, monuments and cemeteries where veterans are honored. They are compiled in a database, searchable by state and category. We will continue to update the database with entries. To suggest an addition, send an email to honor@legion.org or call (317) 630-1298.

A virtual tour. It’s impossible to visit all of the sites dedicated to veterans and wars. However, we have collected and published photo galleries ranging from Arlington National Cemetery to U.S. memorials in Europe to memorials and museums around the United States.

We invite you to share your stories about military service, your family’s military legacy and other connections to the Armed Forces. For example, here is one family’s military and American Legion legacy story:

“I wake up every day thankful for the generations before me who served this country and kept us safe. My grandfather, Richard Paige, served in the Navy during the Korean War and has been a member of The American Legion ever since. My younger brother, Scott, is a Sergeant (11B) in the Army currently on his second deployment to Afghanistan with the 173rd Infantry. Scott exemplifies what it means to be the Volunteer State and is a member of Post 107 in Soddy Daisy, as am I. Our family enjoys giving back to our community through the works of (the) Legion because we have felt their generosity and sense of patriotism ever since I was a delegate to Boys State in 2002.” — Kevin Beavers, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Honor and Remembrance

3. Review the categories and select the most appropriate one.

4. Have questions? Send an email to honor@legion.org.

Additionally, we want to honor those who have passed on. Families are encouraged to submit obituaries of veterans by going to www.legion.org/honor and clicking on “In Memoriam” on the right-hand side. Once you fill in the deceased’s name, the obituary and upload a photo (optional), just hit the save button. There is no charge.

2. Click on “Share Your Story” in the upper-right hand corner.


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Huntzinger, 55, is a 23-year member of the SAL. He helped charter the Penbrook squadron, which has grown from 16 to 600 members over the years. He went on to serve as detachment commander in 2001 and 2002 and as a national executive committeeman from 2003 to 2008. He has held numerous other offices at every level of the SAL.

The new commander announced that the Fisher House Foundation is his fundraising project this year. His eligibility in the SAL is established by his father, Paul Huntzinger, a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. His grandfather, Phillip Huntzinger, Sr., served in the Army during World War II.

A servicemember receives a commendation for selfless bravery in the heat of battle. An honor guard member presents the American flag to a grieving family member. A family tree boasts decades of military service through the generations.

Those are all images that sum up thoughts of honor and remembrance. Given the immense interest in those subjects, The American Legion has launched a special web page — www.legion.org/honor — that features stories, photos and videos of bravery, courage and sacrifice. There is also resource information that will help you find a museum, memorial or cemetery to visit; details about securing medals and citations; and opportunities to share your family’s story of military service.

Other highlights of the web page include:
Inspiring and educational stories. Did you know that an 87-year-old Legionnaire is still serving with his post’s honor guard? Or that Fort Jackson in South Carolina has a museum that traces a recruit’s basic training from the initial haircut through graduation? Those stories, and others from past issues of American Legion Magazine, are available.

A 1,200-plus database of places to visit. We have collected names and addresses of more than 1,200 museums, memorials, monuments and cemeteries where veterans are honored. They are compiled in a database, searchable by state and category. We will continue to update the database with entries. To suggest an addition, send an email to honor@legion.org or call (317) 630-1298.

A virtual tour. It’s impossible to visit all of the sites dedicated to veterans and wars. However, we have collected and published photo galleries ranging from Arlington National Cemetery to U.S. memorials in Europe to memorials and museums around the United States.

We invite you to share your stories about military service, your family’s military legacy and other connections to the Armed Forces. For example, here is one family’s military and American Legion legacy story:

“I wake up every day thankful for the generations before me who served this country and kept us safe. My grandfather, Richard Paige, served in the Navy during the Korean War and has been a member of The American Legion ever since. My younger brother, Scott, is a Sergeant (11B) in the Army currently on his second deployment to Afghanistan with the 173rd Infantry. Scott exemplifies what it means to be the Volunteer State and is a member of Post 107 in Soddy Daisy, as am I. Our family enjoys giving back to our community through the works of (the) Legion because we have felt their generosity and sense of patriotism ever since I was a delegate to Boys State in 2002.” — Kevin Beavers, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Honor and Remembrance

3. Review the categories and select the most appropriate one.

4. Have questions? Send an email to honor@legion.org.

Additionally, we want to honor those who have passed on. Families are encouraged to submit obituaries of veterans by going to www.legion.org/honor and clicking on “In Memoriam” on the right-hand side. Once you fill in the deceased’s name, the obituary and upload a photo (optional), just hit the save button. There is no charge.

2. Click on “Share Your Story” in the upper-right hand corner.

By: Beverly Eads
Department President
“Angels All Around You”

This is my farewell letter to a wonderful year as your Department President. This has been a great time in my life. Meeting new friends and places let alone all the wealth of information I learned for the Auxiliary. A SPECIAL THANKS to all my officers, 1st Vice Marge Blankenship, 2nd Vice Ashley Purcell, Secretary Linda Schmitt, Chaplain Jackie Ockert, Historian Penny Mazonna, Sargent at Arms Barbe Wolfkoff, E-Board Dee Thomas Debbie Gilchrist for all their hard work. A congratulations to 2013-2014 new officers may they have the best year ever! I would like to Thank everyone for allowing me to represent them this year it was the best!!! LOVE to all!!!

May is The American Legion Auxiliary’s Poppy Month. Be proud of this month, it’s the start of spring in Alaska, fishing, camping, gardening, bar-b-ques and always helping Veterans and their families. What better way to provide for a Veteran than with an income. Income? YES!

Two months ago I finally met with the Therapy Co-coordinator Dee Athmos, she works for the Domiciliary and VA, and asked if the Veterans could or would like to, make poppies for the Auxiliary, and in return they would be profitable for their Recreational Therapy Program Needs. Dee told me she would give me the rest of the supplies on hand and in two weeks I was notified they were all completed 200 beautiful poppies. I gave her the rest of the supplies and I know they will be complete by The Dept Convention in August, so all of you can see them. Then we can decide on more! How much cost for each? And how many do we need?

Remember every month is Poppy Month! You can receive donations all year long. June – Flag day, July – 4th of July – August Silver Salmon Derby or Bar-B-Que, September – 9-11, Just a few for you to ponder on. Come up with your own and involve The Legion and The S.A.L. Veterans residing there at that time. Every day she would have each Veteran make at least one poppy per day and see how it went. I gave her 1/3 of the supplies on hand and in two weeks I was notified they were all completed 200 beautiful poppies. I gave her the rest of the supplies and I know they will be complete by The Dept Convention in August, so all of you can see them. Then we can decide on more! How much cost for each? And how many do we need?

As I sit here watching the snow fall on this beautiful spring day in April, I’m struck with the thought about how much there is to do and how short time is getting to get everything finished before Department Convention just a few short weeks away. This is always an exciting time of year. I can’t wait to get the preliminary work finished so that I can see all of you and spend time catching up.

Congratulations to General Buckner Unit 16 in Homer for reaching 146.40%, Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6 for 130.00%, Nome Unit 19 for 111.25% and Spenard Unit 28 for 101.35%. Jack Henry Unit 1 (2 members away), Susitna Valley Unit 35 (12 members away), Seward Unit 51 (11 members away), Matanuska Valley Unit 15 (13 members away) and Dorman H. Baker Unit 11 (8 members away) are the next Units in line to join the century club! Way to go all of you! Keep up the good work. I have total faith that you will reach that 100% mark real soon!

For the rest of the Department of Alaska, membership is beginning to really slow down, it is not even coming in as a trickle at this point. So now is the time to begin getting that extra step to start the flow again. Pick up the telephone and start calling your members. Remind them that we need them in this wonderful organization and even more important, our veterans and their families need them. Even though the news media has seemed to have forgotten that we still have service members in harm’s way, we can’t – we need all of our members to help us to be able to continue our support. Set up a phone tree on a Saturday afternoon – get three or four members from your Unit together and split up your membership roster among you – start making those phone calls. Send out postcards letting the member know how important they are and that we need them to please pay their dues. If you have members that forgot to pay dues in 2012, remind them of that also. Postcards work wonderfully for this task. It just takes a little bit of your time and a little bit of effort to get those remaining members to bring their dues current. Won’t you please just volunteer an hour or two of your time on a Saturday afternoon and make a few phone calls or write a few postcards? I know you all can do this.

By the time you receive this newsletter Department Convention will be here. This year Spenard Post, Unit and Squadron 28 are our hosts. We will be joined by American Legion National Commander James Koutz, American Legion Auxiliary National President Peggy Thomas and Sons of the American Legion National Commander Chris Huntsazer. I hope that you all take a moment to say hello and to thank these wonderful representatives of our organization for their dedicated hard work on behalf of our veterans. They work very hard for all of us and I’m sure they would appreciate acknowledgement for a job well done!

Finally, one more item of note – immediately following convention on May 2 - 6, the newly elected Department of Alaska Auxiliary President, 2nd Vice President and myself will be on a flight to Indianapolis for the Department Leadership National Conference. This is the first year for this conference as it was previously the National Membership Workshop and then in October was the Presidents’ Secretaries Conference. National decided to combine both conferences into the Department Leadership National Conference in an effort to make attending these conferences more convenient and cost effective for the Departments. On my way back home from the conference I am actually going to stop off in Idaho for a few days to visit my folks, daughter, grand-daughters and to check up on Neb’s mom. I will be back in the office on May 16th. I will be in contact though so if you need me, call or e-mail and I will get right back to you. Please surprise me when I get home and have tons of membership for me to process! Thank you and THINK SPRING!!!

Scholarship Donation

These scholarships are awarded to 15 students annually who excel in academics and volunteer in their communities.

From the DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

By Past Dept. President, Linda Gunvalson
May is The American Legion Auxiliary’s Poppy Month. Be proud of this month, it’s the start of spring in Alaska, fishing, camping, gardening, bar-b-ques and always helping Veterans and their families. What better way to provide for a Veteran than with an income. Income? YES!

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From the SECRETARY’S DESK

By Linda Schmitt, Auxiliary Secretary

To make a donation or to volunteer for one of the above opportunities, please contact Linda Schmitt the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska VAVS Representative and Department Secretary/Treasurer at 688-0241 or via e-mail at aladapak@gci.net.

Poppies Report

Poppies Report
By Past Dept. President, Linda Gunvalson

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VA Voluntary Service Needs List

REQUESTED DONATIONS:
General Purpose Fund (4401) – Veteran Services
Coffee Program (GPF 4401)

Donations for Bus Passes for Domiciliary residents
Donations for Taxi Vouchers for Veteran patients in CBBCs
Social Work Service Bus and Taxi vouchers (GPF 4401)

Social Work Veteran Assistance for Low Income Veterans (GPF 4407)
Women Veterans Program (GPF 4413)
Fisher House – Gift Cards
Homeless Veterans Domiciliary Resident Recreation Fund

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:
Greater Volunteers – Front Door Assistance for Veterans
Volunteer Drivers for Wheelchair Vans
Volunteer Drivers for Fairbanks, Kenai, Glenallen, and Wasilla Office Assistants
Pharmacy Clerk
Escort/Information volunteers
Shuttle Drivers for VA Parking Lot

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GRAND DU ALASKA

GRAND CORRESPONDENT
ALVIN R. DIAZ

Attention 40 & 8 members, Grand Chef de Gare Ted Williams along with members of the Grand du Alaska conducted this year’s Grand Promenade, in held in Kenai, AK on April 6th and to everyone’s delight was a great success. As we gain light and heat towards the summer month, the new Grand Chef Billy Smith from Fairbanks LOC 1159 and ask that you give your support to our new Grand Chef Billy. We need to continue our search and invite new members to join our 40 & 8 organization. You can contact the 40 & 8 Grand du Alaska by writing to the correspondent in Kenai. Have a great summer!!!

NATIONAL COMMANDER INCENTIVE PINS AND AWARDS/ns

MEMBERS THAT

40 & 8 GRAND DU ALASKA

GRAND DU ALASKA GRAND CORRESPONDENT
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