

American Legion Post 330 Newsletter

Hayfield, Minnesota
March/April 2025

A Message from the Legion Commander, Vince Reynolds - Hayfieldmnlion.org

Our 2025 membership drive went great! We are only waiting for one renewal for 2025, and we added three new members. Our new members are Matt Suby, Doug Kiser, and Carter Kylo. I appreciate everyone getting their membership renewed in a timely manner.

We are continuing to make improvements to the club. The next project in our sights is the front door remodeling. The primary purpose is to make it easier for members and guests to get in and out and to make it ADA compliant. We're still gathering information and putting together the costs. I hope to have a proposal to present and get membership approval at the March meeting.

Before we know it, we will be into our busy time of the year with Memorial Day and summer parades. If you are a regular marcher, make sure you get a hold of Tom Walerak to get a new gold honor cord to wear with the white shirts. If you have any other uniform needs, let Tom know so he can get you squared away.

A Message from the SAL Commander, Matt Nelson - HayfieldMNSAL.com

The SAL (Sons of the American Legion) Scholarship application is open. We will be giving away two \$500 scholarships to eligible graduating seniors from Hayfield High School.

We donated \$100 to a group working on restoration of Civil War headstones in cemeteries around the state.

We had 19 people on our tour of local Legions in January. Everyone had a great time!

Hayfield will be hosting the Junior Legion State Baseball Tournament this August. It should be a great event with a lot of good baseball teams playing from around the state.

We will be having a membership drive cookout in June. More information to come.

**Happy Birthday to the American
Legion on March 15th!!!**



A Message from the Legion Auxiliary President, Andrea Reynolds

As I look out the window today, we're clearly still in winter's grip, but days are getting longer, and it will be spring before we know it!

March is Community Service Month. Please remember to track the hours you donate to projects and services within your community! Chairperson Judy Kaczmarek gathers this information from all the members who log their hours and shares that with Department, reflecting the work done and impact made by our members. This is important, and our Unit numbers are part of the larger picture when the American Legion is lobbying in congress for our veterans. If you don't have a form for recording your hours, they can simply be written

down, emailed, texted or called in to Judy by the end of March.

Join in the fun on March 29th at the Legion for the Jigsaw Puzzle Challenge supporting the Hayfield American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to area High School Seniors.

Do you know a Junior girl ready for a life-changing week? Girls State Chairperson Leah Milburn will be sharing information with this year's Junior Girls to seek participants for Girls State to be held at Bethel University June 15-21, 2025.

April is Children and Youth Month. Chaired by Madison Weis, this committee serves our area youth with a Cookie walk at the Halloween Carnival, Flag Contest, and Veteran's Day program each year.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting! We're always excited to welcome new members as well. Reach out to your eligible friends and neighbors and bring them along to join! We meet the second Tuesday of every month at 7PM at the Legion Club in Hayfield.

Daylight Savings Time Starts Sunday, March

9th

Turn your clocks ahead one hour



A Message from the Auxiliary Membership

Thank you to all the Auxiliary members who have paid their membership dues for 2025.

You can pay your dues by sending a \$35 check to: Marcia Bungum – 27491 State Hwy 30 – Hayfield, MN 55940 **OR** by paying online by going to: www.mnala.org Thank you!

Jigsaw Puzzle Challenge

March 29th 2PM (please arrive by 1:45 for the contest) at Hayfield Legion/Village Pub

Join us for a puzzle challenge to kick off Spring. Put together a team of 3 to 4 people for an afternoon of fun. Your team will get 90 minutes to assemble a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle. The winning team gets a prize! \$15/person to participate includes a drink ticket. Pre-registration is required and money due on the day of the event. **Register your team today at <https://forms.gle/iQW6DkK2kDxBJtn99>** or scan the QR code



I have nearly completed the “**Vietnam Veteran of the Month**” articles for those individuals listed as Vietnam Vets on our Legion roster. If you were missed, it is probably because I could not contact you by mail or by phone. Or perhaps you originally “turned me down” and now you are willing to be interviewed. We do not want to miss anyone so please contact me. We will start the new group of **Lebanon/Grenada “Veterans of the Month”** early 2025, based on seniority by year of Legion membership. Frank Moon - PO Box 306-Hayfield, MN 55940 ... 507-259-8347.

Nancy Haukom February Veteran of the Month

Nancy (Jensen) Haukom graduated from Austin High School in 1969. She worked for Owatonna Canning Company for several months before signing up for a three-year enlistment in the WAC (Women's Army Corp), with a guarantee for training as a Medical Lab Technician.

On January 22, 1970, Nancy reported to Fort McCellan, Alabama (near Anniston) for her basic training. She remembers it being chilly and rainy much of the that time. They did much the same as the male recruits with lots of marching, calisthenics, KP, and the gas chamber, but no weapons training! She was promoted to E-2 upon completion of basic and had a brief leave back home.

Haukom's next assignment was to Fort Sam Houston, TX in late May 1970 for Medical Tech training. Many Vietnam veterans with serious burns came through this post. Nancy was promoted to E-3 upon completion of her training.

She was transferred to Fort Belvoir, VA and worked in the DeWitt Army Hospital lab for six months. She was then attached to Vint Hill Farm Station dispensary, an Army security facility and home of the Morse Code Interceptors, whose assignment was to monitor messages from all over the world. Nancy was the Lab Tech for the facility, so she "did it all". In January 1971, she was promoted to Specialist 5.

A highlight for Nancy was to be among five WACs who conferred with Brigadier General Mildred Bailey regarding their concerns, discrimination, and opportunities with WAC.

Haukom remembers a bomb scare in 1972 which caused a "lock down" of the post. At that time, she was supposed to be meeting her mother and her sister at the airport! It caused considerable stress until they were cleared to leave the post!

Nancy was released from active duty as a Spec-5 and used the GI Bill for additional schooling. She briefly attended Austin Community College taking prerequisites for a major in Medical Technology. Haukom changed majors and attended Rochester Community College to earn her RN degree, and she worked for St Marys Hospital/Mayo Clinic in Rochester for 35 years. During this time, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from St. Catherine College in St. Paul.

Nancy met Larry Haukom at the Austin American Legion while at a Vietnam Appreciation event. They were married in August of 1975, and raised two daughters: Lisa and Laura.

Doug Kiser March Veteran of the Month

Doug Kiser graduated from Hayfield High School with the class of 1970. In December he, and Wayne Otterbein, (from Waltham), signed up for a three-year enlistment in the army on the "Buddy System". They reported to Fort Campbell, KY for Basic Training after Christmas. The guys were immediately split up into two different companies! It turned out that Bob Wildeman (from Sargeant) was also stationed there with a different training company

Kiser finished Basic Training and had a short leave back home before reporting to Fort Leonard Wood, MO for his AIT (Advanced Individual Training) as a Company Clerk. Upon completion of his training Doug was promoted to PFC. He received a number of additional "shots" since he was destined for Vietnam, through Fort Ord, CA. Upon arriving at Fort Ord, the army had lost his medical records, so he received all the shots again!

While waiting for his "shipping out" orders, the military had begun reducing the troops being sent to Vietnam, so Kiser was sent to Fort Dix NJ. After more processing for European duty, along with more shots, since his medical records didn't show that he'd received them. . . again! Doug flew 26 hours to England, then to Baumholter, Germany with an assignment to the 78th Engineer Company located at Rheinland Kaserne near Ettlingen, Germany.

The company needed a new mail clerk, so this became Doug's assignment. He would go into town every day to pick up the mail and return to the base for sorting and distribution. With that job completed, he would take a deuce and a half truck to a distribution center to pick up supplies for the mess hall kitchen, then return to his mail room for the rest of the day.

Kiser was promoted to Spec-3 in mid-1971, and flew home for Christmas that year. He used some 3-day passes to do some local sightseeing while stationed near Ettlingen.

Doug's brother was in a serious accident in the spring of 1973, so Doug requested, and was granted, an "early out" to go home to help his dad with the farming. He mustered out at Fort Dix in June of 1973 as a Spec 3.

Doug married Angie Perrigo on Aug 11, 1984 and they raised three children: Heather, Megan, and Nate.

Steve Wiste April Veteran of the Month

Steve Wiste graduated from Adams High School in 1969, and went to work for Osmanson Brothers Construction of Adams.

Steve's lottery number was 27, so it was only a matter of time before his being drafted. So, he looked up the Air Force recruiter, and enlisted in the Air Force for four years.

Wiste reported to Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas for his Basic Training. He was attached to the 37th Training Wing. Since he was in good condition from his work on road construction, the physical training was not difficult for him! Steve got his first stripe when he completed Basic in early January 1970. He used his leave time to go home to Adams and see his family.

Steve reported to the 4756th Engineer Squadron at Tyndall Air Base at Panama City, Florida for On-The-Job Training on heavy equipment including motor graders, loaders, dozers, trucks, and mowers. Wiste was promoted to Airman First Class in January 1972.

Wiste was stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base for the rest of his enlistment, although he did put in for a transfer...which was turned down!

Steve came home twice during his enlistment, and his dad made a trip down to see him while he was in Florida, otherwise he stuck pretty close to the base.

Wiste remembers a very hot, sticky, day in Florida, when his crew decided to cool down a case of beer, using the CO2 from a nearby fire extinguisher. They got caught by the Commanding Officer and were chewed out royally, for their lack of discretion!

The need for additional troops in Vietnam was declining, so Wiste put in for an "early out", which was granted. He was released from active duty in July of 1974 as a Buck Sergeant. His first job was with Wilson Packing Company at Albert Lea, but he was soon hired by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, out of Austin, where he spent the next 43 years.

Steve, and his wife, raised five children: Steve Jr, Greg, Matt, Jenny, and Joe.

The Unknown Soldier

By Patty Aloom
Daughter of Col. John O'Grady
Presumed captured, North Vietnam, 1967

Some call me POW, some call me MIA

Some say I can't go home again, some say I chose to stay

I'm the unknown soldier, who you refuse to know

I'm the brother and the friend, you left so long ago

I'm the farmer from Missouri, a soldier from St. Paul

I'm my sister's hero, I'm a name on the Wall

I'm the unknown soldier, the one you left behind

I'm the country boy from Texas, who you never tried to find

I'm someone's long-lost daddy, my country's pride and joy

I'm a forgotten lover, and someone's little boy

I'm the ghost that haunts your past, I'm the living dead

I'm a sailor and a scholar, I'm the boy who lived next door

I'm the poet and the dropout you sent to fight your war

I'm the unknown soldier who dreamed you'd rescue me

I'm the man who understands, only death will set me free

How could you just forget me, should I forget you, too

You must try and bring me home, for I belong to you

I'm the unknown soldier, the one for who you cried

I'm the one that you can't face, the one they told you died

Some call me POW, some call me MIA

I'm the unknown soldier, laid to rest in this Hollowed Grave

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

DIC is a tax-free monetary benefit generally payable to a surviving spouse, child, or parent of Servicemembers who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, or to survivors of Veterans who died from their service-connected disabilities. Parents DIC is an income-based benefit for parents who were financially dependent on of a Servicemember or Veteran who died from a service-related cause.

Special Monthly Compensation (SMC)

SMC is an additional tax-free benefit that can be paid to Veterans, their spouses, surviving spouses and parents. For Veterans, Special Monthly Compensation is a higher rate of compensation paid due to special circumstances such as the need of aid and attendance by another person or by specific disability, such as loss of use of one hand or leg. For spouses and surviving spouses, this benefit is commonly referred to as aid and attendance and is paid based on the need of aid and attendance by another person.

Claims Based on Special Circumstances

Veterans may be eligible for other types of disability compensation once a disability has been determined to be service connected. Special VA disability compensation programs include: individual unemployability, automobile allowance, clothing allowance, prestabilization, hospitalization, convalescence, dental, and birth defects.

For more information on VA Compensation go to:

www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/types-compensation.asp

VA Compensation

Types of Compensation

VA disability compensation provides monthly benefits to Veterans in recognition of the effects of disabilities, diseases, or injuries incurred or aggravated during active military service. The program also provides monthly payments to surviving spouses, dependent children, and dependent parents in recognition of the economic loss caused by a Veteran's death during military service or, after discharge from military service, as a result of a service-connected disability. A summary of VA's disability compensation programs is below.

Disability Compensation

A tax-free monetary benefit paid to Veterans with disabilities that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service. The benefit amount is graduated according to the degree of the Veteran's disability on a scale from 10 percent to 100 percent (in increments of 10 percent). Compensation may also be paid for disabilities that are considered related or secondary to disabilities occurring in service and for disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though they may arise after service. Generally, the degrees of disability specified are also designed to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses.

Hayfield American Legion Post 330
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LEGION, AUXILIARY, & SAL UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2025

March 3 BINGO @ Legion @ 7PM
March 5 SAL Mtg. @ Legion @ 7PM
March 9 Daylight Savings Time Ends! (Turn
clocks "ahead" before going to
bed).
March 10 BINGO @ Legion @ 7PM
March 11 Legion & Aux. Mtgs. @ 7 PM
March 15 American Legion Birthday
March 17 St. Patrick's Day ~ BINGO @ Legion @
7 PM
March 24 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
March 29 Puzzle Party - Prizes for 1st Place Team
March 31 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM

April 2025

April 2 SAL Mtg. @ Legion @ 7 PM
April 7 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
April 8 Legion & Aux. Mtgs. @ 7 PM
April 13 Palm Sunday
April 14 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
April 18 Good Friday
April 20 Easter Sunday
April 21 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
April 28 BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM