

# American Legion Post 330 Newsletter

Hayfield, Minnesota

January/February 2024

**A Message from the Legion Commander,  
Vince Reynolds**  
[hayfieldmnlegion.org](http://hayfieldmnlegion.org)

The year **2023** has been a **fantastic year** for Rothie Post 330! The remodeling project was a major success. I just want to **"Thank" everyone** again for their help and support in making that happen. In addition to providing man and woman power to physically get the job done, the **SAL purchased the new cooler in the bar** and the **Auxiliary purchased a heater/AC unit** for the kitchen. Our collaboration with the Village Pub is going well and we will continue to strengthen our relationship in the upcoming year. Having our Club open seven days a week gives us much more exposure and the increased proceeds from charitable gambling enable us to support our community projects at a higher level than ever before.

Our **membership** across the board **has increased** due to the members of the community seeing the Post, Auxiliary, and SAL as important components of the community. With an increased membership, we have a greater reach into our community and can play a more productive role in helping to advance **ideals of citizenship and patriotism** ... two things that I feel need a major push in today's society. I see the American Legion and the principals we stand for as more important today than perhaps at any other time in our lifetimes. As a percentage of the population, there are fewer and fewer who have worn the uniform. That means those of us who have, need to be that much louder and be a constant reminder of the sacrifice it took to build this great country of ours.

Happy New Year!

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**A Message from the SAL Commander,  
Matt Nelson**  
[HayfieldMNSAL.com](http://HayfieldMNSAL.com)

The SAL has had another busy year. If any members are still in need of a SAL hat or shirt, please let me know.

We are working on placing **SAL Grave Markers** on deceased SAL member's graves.

We donated **\$\$** to **Share Christmas, Hayfield Holiday Fest**, and the **Cancer Auction**.

We are offering a **"FREE" family meal** at the Village Pub/Legion to families that receive a meal voucher this Holiday season.

SAL is purchasing an **AED machine** for the Legion.

Our **Liver and Onions Dinner** was a huge success again this year. We served about 280 people. **"Thanks" to all** who showed up to support us.

Our next meeting will be at 7 PM on January 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Legion. Please consider joining the SAL (Sons of the American Legion). We can always use new voices and support.

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**Interested in purchasing a Paver?**  
Pick up an order form at the Legion  
**OR**  
Download order form at  
[hayfieldmnlegion.org](http://hayfieldmnlegion.org)

**A Message from the Auxiliary President,  
Andrea Reynolds**

And just like that, it's 2024! The holiday season was full to the brim with exciting events, including Auxiliary-hosted **Family Bingo** for Hayfield's Holiday Fest, with every seat filled! Our Unit also celebrated with a Holiday party, and **collected food items** for donation to the Hayfield Community Food Pantry.

**January** brings **National Security** month, headed by Chairperson, Mary Wildeman, and **Legislation** month headed by Chairperson, Deb Towey. February brings us **Americanism** month, and our new Chairperson, Sandy Krekling, will be busy promoting the essay writing contest in our schools. We look forward to hearing what our students have to say about "**What Freedom Means to Me.**"

This year we will be trying something new to raise funds for our Scholarship program for graduating Seniors. Watch for details of an event in the coming months!

As you make your list of goals for 2024, I hope you include attending our monthly meetings at 7:00 PM, the second Tuesday of the month, at the Legion in Hayfield, and that we see you soon!

Wishing you a Healthy and Blessed New Year!

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**A Message from the Legion Chaplain,  
Frank Moon**

We held a "**Military Ceremony**" for non-member, Richard Pollock, on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our sincere sympathy to his family and friends.

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**LEGION, AUXILIARY, & SAL  
UPCOMING EVENTS  
JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2024**

JANUARY 2024

Mon., January 1<sup>st</sup>

- Customer Appreciation @ Legion 1-4 PM

Wed., January 3<sup>rd</sup>

- SAL Monthly Meeting @ Legion @ 7 PM

Thurs., January 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>

- Bingo at the Legion @ 7 PM

Sat., January 6<sup>th</sup>

- District Mid-Winter @ LeRoy Post 164 @ 10 AM

Tues., January 9<sup>th</sup>

- Legion & Auxiliary Monthly Meetings @ Legion @ 7 PM

Fri., January 12<sup>th</sup>

- Hayfield Community American Cancer Society Dinner by the Pub @ Legion starting @ 5 PM

Sat., January 13<sup>th</sup>

- Cancer Auction at the Oaks starting @ 5 PM

FEBRUARY 2024

Sat., February 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Forest Lake hosting Sweetheart Rally

Thurs., February 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>

- Bingo @ Legion @ 7 PM

Wed., February 7<sup>th</sup>

- SAL Monthly Meeting @ Legion @ 7 PM

Tues., February 13<sup>th</sup>

- Legion & Auxiliary Monthly Meetings @ Legion @ 7 PM

Wed., February 14<sup>th</sup>

- Ash Wednesday
- Valetine's Day

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## **Dan Wilson Jan. Veteran of the Month**

Dan Wilson says his “growing up” years in Cloquet, Minnesota helped to prepare him for the challenges he would face in Vietnam. His explorations in the big woods surrounding their home, his encounters with the hobos who frequented their neighborhood and racing stock cars, all just for the thrill of it!

Wilson graduated from Cloquet, High School in the spring of 1966, and attended the University of Minnesota Duluth for two years. During that time, Wilson was a life guard and a Water Safety Instructor for the college which helped to cover his college tuition.

In the spring of 1968, with his draft notice in his hand, Dan enlisted in the US Navy for four years

. He reported to the largest naval base on the West Coast, Naval Base San Diego, for ten weeks of Boot Camp. Because of his excellent swimming ability, he came within 1/100 of a second of setting the record in the fifty-yard swimming competition at the base! He smiles, as he remembers putting on a friend’s dog tags and taking the swimming test for the fellow who couldn’t swim! When Wilson completed his 16-weeks of AIT, he was assigned to the USS New Jersey for a short time.

Dan was sent to Vietnam, landing at Da Nang, and spent some time at Sadec and Bo Dee. Wilson was helo-lifted to Saigon, and eventually made his way to Tan Son Nhut. He was assigned to Coastal Patrol 13 and later to the Inland Patrol using “Swift” boats, equipped with M-60 machine guns. Wilson navigated the rivers while searching for the location, and/or activity, of the Viet Cong. Dan had very high praise for the Montagnard troops, (usually 3 to 5 men), who would accompany him on these forays into the jungle. Dan received shrapnel in his shoulder and in one knee during action in Vietnam.

In 1971, Wilson left Vietnam, flying to Japan and into McClellan Air Force Base at Sacramento, CA where he was released from active duty as an E-4.

He worked as a manager for the Pamida Corporation, and eventually went into business for himself when he founded “The Rusty Nut”; making clocks out of old automobile hubcaps, which he marketed all over the world!

Dan married Bette Frantum from Albert Lea and they raised three children: Tarissa, Thomas, and Dusty.

## **Dave Santjer Feb. Veteran of the Month**

Dave Santjer graduated from Renville High School in 1968. At the time he had three older brothers who were serving on Active Duty or in the Reserves at Willmar.

Dave was among six seniors who all signed up together with the 825<sup>th</sup> Supply Reserve Company at Willmar, and left for Basic Training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina the end of June 1968. They were all assigned to the same training outfit. Santjer remembers the really hot, “sticky” weather, and the salt pills that were issued every noon! Another memory is when the drill sergeant had the platoon “police” the area for cigarette butts, bury them, and dig them up again! They were all in good physical condition and “survived” the rigors of Basic Training.

Dave graduated the end of July and had a ten day leave back home before reporting to Fort Lee, Virginia for Advanced Training in Supply Management. They had more free time now so they did some sightseeing in the area. There were also some fellows from New York in their unit, so they made some trips to see the city, and experience swimming in the salt water ocean, and riding the subway, a new experience for these boys from Minnesota!

Santjer finished his “supply training” in November of 1968, and was surprised to “fail” his eye test, and needing glasses. He hung around the base for several days before they told him he could leave. They would mail the glasses to him!

Santjer was released from active duty and reported to the 825<sup>th</sup> Supply Company at Willmar for monthly training sessions and summer camps at Camp Ripley, MN and Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. He made the rank of Spec 4 that winter back at Willmar. They also did some “Winter Survival” training in the Willmar area.

With his farm background Dave was shifted into the Motor Pool when the Sergeant discovered he could back up trucks, and semi-tractor trailers with precision! He fulfilled his six year obligation to military duty in June 1974 and was released from the Reserves at Willmar, with the rank of PFC.

Dave graduated from Canby Vo Tech in the Fertilizer and Agronomy program and worked for a time at Terra Inc. in Marshall. He was hired by Bill Reese to come to work for Reese Farm Center in April 1974.

Santjer served as mayor of Hayfield for twenty-five years, and was also a member of the Hayfield Fire department for twenty four years.

Dave married Ruth Dewitt of Canby in May 1971, and they raised four children: Amy, Bill, Joe, and Mark.



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