

# American Legion Post 330 Newsletter

Hayfield, Minnesota

July/August 2023

## A Message from the Legion Commander, Vince Reynolds [hayfieldmnlegion@gmail.com](mailto:hayfieldmnlegion@gmail.com)

We are moving forward with renovations at the Club and things are going well. At this time we are focused on bringing the kitchen up-to-date and into code compliance. We are also looking forward to our partnership with the Village Pub Lounge, LLC. The membership voted 34 to 6 in favor of entering into a management agreement with Weston Koski & Kevin Linbo. We had a great turn-out at the informational meeting the week prior to the vote as well as at our June membership meeting. Having a solid number of members present at these meetings, really helps establish a solid course for the Post.

The functions and events of the Post will not be impacted by this agreement. We will continue to have monthly Post, Auxiliary, and SAL meetings at the regular dates and times. The Lions and Boy Scouts will be able to continue their meetings in our building. We will be maintaining the gambling and the liquor license. We felt it is important that we control all aspects of the building and operations. At whatever point our arrangement ends, we need to be able to open the doors the next day and continue to function. Other than a couple of new pictures on the wall and a couple of dart boards in the Legion Clubrooms, the changes will be few.

We are entering the 2024 membership drive very soon. Our membership numbers, wrapping up the 2023 year, were amongst the highest in the state! When you receive your membership renewal notification soon, please try to send it in as quickly as possible.

I want to say a special "Thank You" to the SAL for their efforts to flood our community with American flags flying on every street and country road. Keep up the great job guys!

Follow our Facebook page for information & updates on our renovation project!

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

We are placing about **450 flags** in our communities this year during the four summer flag holidays. "Thank You" to all that have supported this project.

We sponsored **Harry Kerr, a Vietnam Veteran**, to come to Hayfield High school and talk to the student body as part of the **Memorial Day celebration**. We donated \$250 towards the Purple Heart Chapter 7110 in honor of Mr. Kerr.

The **SAL Field** is up and running this summer. It is being used many times a week.

We sponsored "Hit, Pitch, Run" at the High School again this spring. We had a good turnout of kids.

We donated \$100 to buy a meal for the **four golfers** competing at the **State Tournament**.

We are looking into buying **SAL Grave Markers** for SAL members who have passed away.

Please consider joining the **SAL (Sons of the American Legion)**. We can always use new voices and support. SAL meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Legion Clubroom. The next meeting will be July 5<sup>th</sup>.

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## A Message from Auxiliary Membership Chairperson, Marcia Bungum

One thing of note is that our **dues** will be increasing to **\$35** for the **2024** year. We want our members to understand that this is out of necessity and not for our Unit's profit. We send \$18 to National, \$12 to Department, \$2 per member to District and the Unit keeps \$3 per member for postage & other administrative tasks. We appreciate your continued membership.

## A Message from the Auxiliary President, Leah Milburn

It is hard to believe this will be my last Newsletter as President. It has been a tremendous honor to be part of such a wonderful Unit! But I leave the Unit in very capable hands. The new 2023-24 Officers are listed below:

|                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| President            | Andrea Reynolds              |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice | Leah Milburn                 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice | Darcy Lee                    |
| Treasurer            | Deb Towey                    |
| Sergeant at Arms     | Aimee Larson                 |
| Executive Board      | Betty Moon &<br>Sue Anderson |

In May, our Unit awarded three \$300 Scholarships to graduating seniors from Hayfield High School. The Scholarship winners were: Reese Bauman, Taylor Dick, and Avery Towey. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

The Memorial Day event was well attended and **"Thank You"** to all our Auxiliary members who helped lay the wreath for the Gold Star families. **"Special Thanks"** to Cece McCloud, Andrea Reynolds, and Barb Oakland for helping in the kitchen with the Fried Chicken Dinner.

Our Hayfield Unit was a big winner at the District Convention taking home seven awards. Our Auxiliary received awards for: Education (Lori Kindschy), Leadership (Pat Nelson), National Security and Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation (Mary Wildeman), Memorial (Diane Boley), Music (Deb Nordland), and Poppy (Andrea Reynolds). Great job to all our Chairpersons and the work they do. We also won first place in the Wearable Poppy Item that Barb Oakland submitted on behalf of our Unit.

Wishing you and your families a great rest of the summer!

Listed below are Veterans who have passed away recently:

### **Stuart Ellingson from Kasson**

(We did a Military burial for the family at St. John's at Sargeant).

### **Richard Burkhart formerly from Hayfield**

(No Military Rites)

Our sincere thoughts and prayers go out to Stuart & Richard's families and friends.

## A Message from the Clubhouse Manager, Sally Mindrup

First off, sorry to Sue Anderson ... she works hard on the Newsletter and she usually has to wait for me. This last article from me is no exception.

There's no menu this time. The Village Pub will be having an every day menu so that will be good.

Our Memorial Day Chicken Dinner went over great, good chicken and salads. A **"BIG Thank You"** to my grandson, Jake, for doing all the chicken.

This is really kind of a sad time for me. I enjoyed working and cooking for the Legion. I've made some good friends and had some good times. I'm so blessed with my kids and grandkids for all the help over the years. Tiger, the youngest at 13, said it's really not fair that he didn't get to help much. And when Calli started, she was a nervous wreck waiting on teachers. -How embarrassing!! She turned out to really like to wait on people. Again, **"Thanks"** to my kids and grandkids. Then there's Diane, **"Thank You"** for always pitching in, especially when I needed help. You are a good friend. She even learned how to bartend. I don't think she really wanted to learn, but she does a good job.

I can't forget Megan. **"Thank You"** for putting up with Brooklyn, and with me.

I keep thinking of more people to say **"Thanks"** to. This is to Deb Towey, receipts and deposit slips, and that's as far as that's going. She knows & I know!!!

A **"BIG Thank You"** to all my Legion friends for putting up with me this long. This isn't goodbye, I'm still an Auxiliary member and 500 Card Chairperson and I will help out when needed.

I got a fortune cookie last night and it said "There will be a change in your job." I guess that's true. Seriously, **"Thank You All"** for the good years. Especially Dave K. for talking me into the job. So many more names I could add, but there's just too many of you so I'll just say... "You know who you are!"

*Sally*

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Please submit articles for the  
September/October Newsletter  
to Sue Anderson by August 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **Tom Eckert July Veteran of the Month**

Tom Eckert graduated from La Crescent High School in 1968 and entered the US Army in February 1969. He had Basic Training and AIT at Fort Lewis, WA, followed by Army Armor School at Fort Knox. Eckert remembers sleeping on the ground beside his tank, and waking up with 3 inches of snow on his sleeping bag! He recalls sitting in the barracks one evening and asking if anyone wanted a "pop" from the PX. This resulted in loud laughter and catcalls. Of course, for the northern boy "pop" was slang for Coke, Pepsi etc., but the southern boys only knew Coke and Pepsi as "soda." From then on, even though only 19, he was known as "Pop" by his buddies!

In January 1970 Tom was sent to Seoul, South Korea and assigned to the 8<sup>th</sup> Army/United Nations Command Honor Guard Company, made up of soldiers from the United States, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Great Britain, and Turkey. Their mission was to provide security to the Commander in Chief of the 8th US Army (General "Iron Mike" Michaelis), which included guard duty at his personal residence and along the DMZ. A secondary mission was to provide ceremonial Guards of Honor for visiting dignitaries. As a bonus they were assigned to guard the famous U-2 spy plane (Dragon Lady) during one of its pit stops in South Korea! Tom recalls watching it roll out of the hanger in the pre-dawn hours, fire up, and lift off, still gives him a chill. During his 13 month stay in Korea, he had one 10 day R & R to Tokyo, Japan.

He left Korea in January 1971 and landed at Sea-Tac International Airport in Seattle, WA then travelled back to Fort Lewis to be discharged in Feb. 1971. They were warned to not wear their uniforms home and to find a baseball cap to cover their obvious military haircuts because of the ongoing Viet Nam War protests at airports!

Eckert used his GI Bill to attend Brown Institute Broadcasting School in Minneapolis. That led to an announcer job at KAUS radio, followed as a weatherman at KAAL television in Austin. Eventually he earned his BA degree from Concordia College in St. Paul, and went to work for the United States Postal Service. That career continued for 31 years with stops at Winona, Rochester, Lewiston, Kasson, St. Louis Mo., and Hayfield.

Tom married his high school classmate, Julie, while living at Hayfield and they now reside on a small acreage in a beautiful river valley outside of Dakota, MN. He was Post commander in 06-07 and is still a proud member of Post #330.

## **Dale Oakland August Veteran of the Month**

Dale Oakland graduated from Glenville High School in 1959, and worked construction for about six months before enlisting in the Air Force right after Christmas of 1959.

Dale had four weeks of Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base near San Antonio. He was selected for 39 weeks of "Tech" school right there at Lackland AFB in electronics. To begin with their classes would begin at 6:00, and then afternoons were a continuation of Basic Training. His first three months were basic electronics. The last six months of very intensive training was learning how to "scramble" and send secure voice messages. Oakland had to have top secret Crypto clearance to become a certified "Voice Operated Cryptographic Systems Operator and Repairman!" He was promoted to E-2 at the completion of his training.

Dale married Carol Mudra in October 1960 between Tech school and his permanent assignment. He was scheduled to be assigned to Guam in November of 1960, but at the last minute he was assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tactical Wing at Seymour Johnson AFB near Goldsboro, North Carolina,

His work area was inside a 20 X 20 foot reinforced concrete facility with a "safe" door that was opened every eight hours for a "crew change!" Their mission was to send and receive secure messages to about fifteen other bases in the United States.

Eventually, Dale became an "inspector," and visited other bases with facilities like theirs. Men from his crew were in Miami for an inspection assignment on April 17, 1961 when the "Bay of Pigs" invasion occurred. He was immediately put on Red Alert! Later, Oakland was on TDY to Nashville the day President Kennedy was shot (November 22, 1963). His plans to visit the Grand Ole Opry that evening were cut short as he was put on Red Alert again and ordered back to the base immediately!

Oakland recalls the "encrypter" he trained on was the size of three refrigerators, and by the end of his enlistment, it was the size of a small shoe box!

Oakland was released as an Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class in December 1963 and sold cars for Usem before going into business for himself as a Real Estate Appraiser.

Dale raised 3 sons: Raughn, Darin (deceased) and Scott. He married Barb Scholl in 2001.

Hayfield American Legion Post 330  
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**Regular Legion & Auxiliary Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Legion Clubrooms. Next meetings:**

**July 11<sup>th</sup>  
August 8<sup>th</sup>**

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**Regular SAL Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Legion Clubrooms. Next Meetings:**

**July 5<sup>th</sup>  
August 2<sup>nd</sup>**