



# AMERICAN LEGION POST 330 NEWSLETTER

Hayfield, Minnesota  
May/June 2025

## **A Message from the Legion Commander, Vince Reynolds - Hayfieldmnlegion.org**

In 1919, The American Legion was founded on four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Each of these pillars encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its service members, their families, the youth of America and ordinary citizens. Sometimes it's good to reflect on the foundation and reason why the American Legion was established. Since 1922, Rothie Post has supported all four pillars and I feel that we continue to hit the mark on all of them today.

With summer right around the corner, we start getting into our busy time of the year. This summer will be busy with Memorial Day commemoration, field of flags, a flag retirement ceremony, parades, and local celebrations. With all of those events, we continue to look for ways to improve the post, the club, and support the four pillars within our community. If you have an idea of how we can further the American Legion's mission (and are willing to spearhead the effort) please bring it up at the next meeting.

The Post is at 100% for membership renewals for 2025. Thank you all for that! The membership goal set by National requires us to add new members each year. We have added four so far this year but are two short of the National goal. If you know a local veteran who might benefit from membership, reach out to them and maybe bring them to a meeting or event.

We are awarding two \$500 scholarships this year to graduating Hayfield seniors who are pursuing a post-secondary education program.

We had four of our members take part in the Honor Flight on April 23. They were Stan Arendts, Craig Bauman, Gene Christians and Jim Jensen. The trip was organized out of the Adams Post. If any Vietnam Veterans are interested in a future flight, let me know and I will point you in the right direction.

Looking ahead to August, this year we are honored to host the 2025 State of Minnesota Junior Division II American Legion Baseball tournament. The tournament will bring in teams from all over the state. We have not yet identified what our role will be, but it's a great opportunity to showcase our local athletic facilities and we expect to have increased traffic in the club.

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

We welcomed a new member Corey Foster from Dodge Center.

We awarded two \$500 scholarships to two qualifying HHS seniors. Names to be disclosed later in May.

Jeff Krekling gave an update on SAL Field. The field is ready to go for another very busy season of baseball!

Paul O'Brien from the city of Hayfield gave a presentation on the new playground equipment being installed at the Hayfield City Park.

We will once again be placing flags in yards for the four flag holidays this summer. The holidays are: Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July and Labor Day. The cost is \$25.00 for the whole summer. If you are interested in having the SAL place a flag in your yard, please contact Curt Heydt, Kasey Krekling, or Fred Kindschy.

SAL meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm.

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

Lace up your sneakers for a busy season of spring and summer Legion Family activities! The Auxiliary will be hosting BINGO nights at the Legion Monday nights, starting May 17. Please join us for fun playing, selling cards or calling BINGO Monday nights this summer! Please reach out if you're able to help on any of these nights.

Thanks to organizers Leah Milburn and Michelle Towey, as well as participants who helped to make the Puzzle Challenge fundraiser for our Scholarship program a success! We had 15 teams competing and raised \$540 to support Hayfield ALA Unit scholarships for area Seniors. Three \$300 scholarships will be awarded at the May 14 AAA Banquet at the High School.

"Flanders Field" is in place in the Legion dining hall, and crosses are available for purchase to honor or remember someone important in your life. Orders can be made through May 13, using forms included in the last newsletter or available at the Legion Club, for a cost of \$5 per cross.

May is Poppy Month. Will you wear the poppy to honor fallen service members? Please watch for poppies in our communities and donate to support programs for our veterans, active-duty service members and their families. Our area Kindergarten students will learn the significance of the poppy during a classroom presentation in May, and poppy coloring books are available in our Legion Club. National Poppy Day is the Friday before Memorial Day, May 23, 2025.

Please plan to observe Memorial Day in our community with cemetery honors, Memorial Day program at Veteran's Memorial Park, and dinner at the Legion Club, at times as listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

A sincere thanks to Diane Boley who has done an exceptional job serving as Auxiliary Chaplain. She has decided to step down from this role, and our Unit is seeking someone to serve in this capacity. Please consider whether this is a position in which you'd be willing to serve.

We hope to see you at our next meeting, and that you'll invite eligible friends and neighbors to join our Auxiliary! We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7PM at the Legion in Hayfield.

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#### Flander's Field Reminder

For a donation of \$5 each, the Auxiliary is offering individual crosses to be designated "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" any individuals on our Flanders Field wall display. (Veterans and non-veterans) Forms were included in the previous mailing or are available at the Post Clubrooms. You can mail your requests to Andrea Reynolds, 70776 220th Ave, Hayfield, MN 55940

**Please print clearly!**

#### A Message from the Auxiliary Membership Chairperson, Marcia Bungum

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](http://www.mnala.org) Thank you!

Enclosed with this Newsletter you will find this year's information about the "Field of Flags."  
*Your continued support is appreciated.*

## POST 330 MEMORIAL DAY

The Hayfield American Legion will be holding **Memorial Day Services** at area cemeteries on **Monday, May 26th** at the below approximate timeframes:

### CEMETERY APPROXIMATE TIME SCHEDULE

8:05 AM	Trinity at Waltham
8:25 AM	St. Michael's at Waltham (Coffee)
8:50 AM	Greenwood S. of Brownsdale - Hwy. 56
9:15 AM	Waltham S. of Waltham - Hwy. 56
9:35 AM	St. Johns S. of Sargeant (Coffee)
10:10 AM	Evanger
10:25 AM	West St. Olaf
11:10 AM	Fairview, Hayfield
11:30 AM	Memorial Day Program in Hayfield at Veteran's Memorial Park with fried chicken lunch at the Post to follow.

In case of inclement weather, the program will be moved to the Hayfield High School Gym. A chicken dinner will be served at the Legion from 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM. The bus for the "**Legion Marchers**" will leave the Legion at 7:30 AM.

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

Listed below are the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and SAL members that are known to have passed away since the last Newsletter:

- Arlan Arlan Sharberg
- Vic Dvorak

Our sincere sympathy to their families & friends.

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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 next year, based on seniority by year of Legion membership. Frank Moon - PO Box 306-Hayfield, MN 55940 ... 507-259-8347.

# **“Field of Flags” - Saturday, June 21, 2025**

Hayfield American Legion Post 330 is proud to again sponsor a “Field of Flags” during the Hayfield Fire Department Chicken Fry and Dance. This “Field of Flags” will be located on the lawn at Hayfield's Field Crest Care Center on Highway 30. **A short ceremony will be held at that location at 11:00 AM on Saturday, June 21, 2025.**

These flags are dedicated to all Americans - not just for our Veterans. Please help us by dedicating a flag to someone special in your life or for a family member ... living or deceased. If you would like a flag placed at the “Field of Flags,” **we are asking for a \$20 donation.** (Other contributions will be accepted also). **Please send your donation in the enclosed envelope, along with the form at the bottom of this page to:**

**Hayfield Legion Post 330 – PO Box 448 - Hayfield, MN 55940**

**Checks can be made payable to: Hayfield Post 330**

If you have questions, feel free to contact Mike Stasko at 507-696-1406 or Commander, Vince Reynolds at 507-251-6919.

Volunteers are needed to help set up the flags (June 18<sup>th</sup> at approximately 4:30 PM) and take them down the week after.

-----Cut and Return-----

Dedicate flag(s) to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dedicated by: \_\_\_\_\_



## **Rodney Peterson - May Veteran of the Month**

Rod Peterson graduated from Albert Lea High School in 1976 and attended the University of MN Waseca.

Peterson joined the 135<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the Army National Guard at Albert Lea in June 1977. He did his Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. and his AIT in Infantry at Fort Benning, GA. He's proud of his 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish with Automatic Weapons in the post-wide competition.

In April 1980, Rod successfully completed the year-long OCS, (Officers Candidate School) at MN State Officers School located at Arden Hills, MN. He was commissioned as an Infantry Second Lieutenant and assigned to the 135<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion.

Rod was promoted to First Lieutenant in April 1983, and shortly thereafter attended the Officer Infantry Basic long course. He held numerous positions in the 135<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Rochester, from rifle platoon leader to Battalion XO. He took part in many training opportunities, culminating in attending the Army War College, and attaining a Masters degree in Strategic Studies. Peterson was promoted to Captain in Sept. 1985 and Major in December 1990. Rod assumed command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Mankato with the rank of Lt. Colonel in 1998. As an Infantryman, Rod is very proud of being awarded the Expert Infantryman badge.

In 2002, Peterson retired from the Army National Guard, after 25 years, and then spent another 8 years with the Army reserves where he was promoted to full Colonel. Rod served thirty plus years. His service gave him opportunities to deploy to numerous military bases, plus service in ten countries including Germany, Norway, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Qatar.

In 2003, Rod was sent to Iraq supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom as Deputy Corp Distribution Chief. He was charged to oversee the distribution of most of the materials, supplies, fuel, ammunition, parts, and equipment for the theater. He earned numerous awards, medals, and honors while serving, including the Bronze Star medal for meritorious service in a combat zone.

He graduated from the Wm. Mitchell College of Law and worked in numerous positions, including his own private Law practice while still serving in the National Guard.

Rod and Teresa were married April 13, 1985, and they have three children: Robyrta, Bailey, and Zachary.

## **Tom O'Connor - June Veteran of the Month**

Tom O'Connor graduated from Hayfield in 1976 and worked at number of jobs before enlisting in the Army for three years in 1981. Tom came from a military family with three brothers also serving! He did his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in the heat and humidity of June, July, and August!

Tom was sent to Fort Lee for training as a Cook and graduated second in his class! He was transferred to Fort Jackson where they prepared three meals a day to 1,500 Basic Training troops of the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

O'Connor's next assignment was cooking for the 61<sup>st</sup> MP unit at Fliegerhorst Kaserne, a WWII German underground Air Base. Tom qualified for "security clearance" here. They did considerable training at Hohenfels, a huge facility used for training NATO troops. They fed their men "T" Rations under temporary tents.

He was given an "early out" in May 1984, and went to work for Hormel in Austin. While on "Strike" in August 1985, a recruiter signed Tom up for the Army Reserve with "Charlie Med" at Rochester, which was composed mainly of medical personnel. Much of their work was supporting Regular Army troops from Alaska. From 1985-1990 they did their summer training at Camp Ripley and Fort McCoy.

O'Connor was a Dining Facility manager and was promoted to E-6 (Staff Sgt). However, there were no "spots" for E-6, so he took a reduction to E-5 and was assigned to Fort Snelling with the 114 MASH Unit.

From 1994-1999, Tom was with the 1133<sup>rd</sup> Iowa National Guard at Mason City training to support the 81<sup>st</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. He then moved to training for driving, 18-wheel six-speed automatic tractors and trailers to and from California.

O'Connor's next assignment was at Fort Letterkenny, PA. He was able to tour Washington DC and Gettysburg while stationed there. He recalls the emotion of standing on top of Round Top Rock and looking down on the Civil War battlefield!

In October 2000 he transferred to the 417<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company at Faribault. While on Active Duty in February 2003 his unit was called to support Fort McCoy, WI. In 2003, O'Connor was extended six months while in charge of the firing ranges until 2004.

Tom retired in March 05, as an E-6, with a total of 24 years in the service. Tom raised one son Jordan.

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

May 2025

June 2025

May 5	BINGO @ Legion @ 7PM	June 1	Flag Retirement Ceremony 1 PM
May 7	SAL Mtg. @ Legion @ 7PM	June 2	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
May 12	BINGO @ Legion @ 7PM	June 4	SAL Mtg. @ Legion @ 7 PM
May 13	Legion & Aux. Mtgs. @ 7 PM	June 9	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
May 19	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM	June 10	Legion & Aux. Mtgs. @ 7 PM
May 26	Memorial Day Programs NO BINGO Tonight!	June 16	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
		June 23	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM
		June 30	BINGO @ Legion @ 7 PM