



Post Commander: Cliff Barker
Unit President: Jamie Barker
Squadron Commander: Cort Pahl
Chapter Director: Doug Sargent

Vol XLIV, No 11

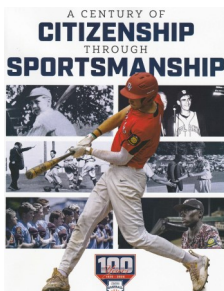
June 2025

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www.legion.org
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www.sal.legion.org

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL TURNS 100



This summer in Milbank SD, American Legion Baseball will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of its birth in the summer of 1925. That summer, Legionnaires in Milbank decided that the young men of the community needed an activity and formed a baseball team.

This year, teams from North Dakota, Minnesota and Nebraska will join with the Milbank team on July 11-13 for a tournament to celebrate formation of that first team and the growth that came from it.

To the left you see a special edition bookazine put together to celebrate that 100th anniversary. The central figure in the book is Bob Feller, then known as "The Heater from Van Meter", Van Meter Iowa of course. The bookazine will be available through Emblem Sales for \$10.

All Legionnaires are welcome to come to Milbank and help celebrate.

IMPACT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Sometimes we wonder what effect The American Legion might be having outside of Ames. National is now publishing that information.

VA Benefits: \$21 Billion in disability benefits was gained by veterans in 2024 due to American Legion service officers.

VA Benefits: 54,105 veterans that received free representation and assistance in 2021-2024.

Youth Programs: 114,722 young people participated in American Legion programs in 2024.

Operation Comfort Warrior: \$3.2 million in grants has been disbursed since 2007 for comfort items for disabled military personnel.

Grassroots Advocacy: 786,654 contacts made to legislators to assist in passage of the Legion's priorities.

Blood Donations: 96,691 Units in 2024.

Temporary Financial Assistance: Over \$18 million in grants through 2024 to stabilize the homes of veterans with minor children.

National Emergency Fund: Over \$10.7 million in disaster aid.

That is the tip of the iceberg over the 105 years of The American Legion. Be proud.

Iowa Legislature—Mixed Results

The Iowa American Legion submitted two proposals to the Iowa Legislature this year. Now that they have gone home for the rest of the year, we can report mixed results, won one and lost one.

On the winning side, we requested an increase in the funds allocated to the Military Homeownership Assistance Program to assist military members and veterans in purchasing a home.

That fund was running out of money each year in April. We request-

ed an additional allocation of \$250,000 which was approved.

The other side of the ledger was not a victory. We requested an allocation for a matching grant to assist the veterans service organizations in expanding service office staff.

That request was approved unanimously in the House but ran into opposition in the Senate and was not included. We will return with that request next year and between now and then may ask you to help educate the Senators.

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Post Commander Cliff's Comments

As Commander I would like to start off this month with a resounding Thank You to everyone for another successful steak dinner season. From the volunteers prepping and in the kitchen, to the servers on the floor, and all of you that come out for a great meal,

I want you all to know it couldn't be possible without you. For the most part weather never interrupted a single dinner, and our sales remain steady. We'd love to have more of you come out so let me be the first to extend the invitation for this fall when they begin again.

What did happen though, was that for 6 of the 9 nights we were without our most valuable helper, **The Dumbwaiter**. It's back up and running at the ripe old age of 40, but to be sure, it was missed. That's why I want to give a sincere Thank You to the runners we had for steak nights and for Wednesday

night meals.

Having a younger set of legs bringing food up and down the stairs dozens of times a night meant more to us than you might know.

Next I would like to say welcome to all of the new members, you've all seen some younger or newer faces in the post, lets make sure we make them feel welcome. Ames is a special post with the amount of activities we do, and some of these newer members are bringing an enthusiasm with them that I look forward to working with.

We've already had some conversations about new programs, and even revamping of old ones to better suit what our community will need from us, the Legion Family, in the coming years. Nothing is going to be perfect all the time, but the spirit of not giving up is apparent.

May is usually a transition month, graduations and weddings, vacations and the returning of our members that go south for the winter. I'm looking forward to the summer and all the opportunities it's going to hold.

As always, if you need me for anything, questions or comments, reach out. Those of you that may not be regular visitors, look at our calendar on the back page, and if an event looks like a reason to come back to the Post, then by all means come on in.

Feel free to join us on July 4th, the post will be open and the grill will be going. I have a request though, I want you all to remember back when the Legion would walk the 4th of July parade as a family. There will be a float entry, so consider walking with us. Let's show Ames just how massive the Ames Post, Unit, Squadron, and Chapter really is.

Unit President Jamie's Comments

Summer Greetings! I must begin this article with Gratitude for everyone who helped plant flowers at the Veterans Memorial Park which our Auxiliary has adopted again this year. It looks so nice after the winter and spring rains to honor our veterans. I'd also like to thank everyone for helping at Memorial Day for the placing of wreaths and participating in the parade as well as some that served lunch for the Legion. We have a great crew and we always welcome others to join!

We also held our Joint Memorial Service and for the second year, we included reading of names of some veterans who've died by suicide. Some of the family members who stopped and talked to Ron Kobeluch during his time outside the post on Saturday mornings, wrote their loved ones name in a book. We included those names as part of the service to now include "[White Star Fam-](#)

[ilies](#)".

As we remember them, we also remember to consciously Be The One. Online information is available online right here: <https://www.legion.org/betheone>. On **June 17th**, the 6th District Auxiliary is facilitating a training and the Highland Park Unit in Des Moines will be hosting the event. Be sure to sign up if you are interested. I've got the details to share at our June meeting.

[Flag Day](#) is June 14th. If you have a worn flag, please remember to replace it. Let's honor the Red, White and Blue and fly them proudly! Maybe you can teach a youngster the [Pledge of Allegiance](#)! Or listen while they recite it to you! Years ago, I noticed my grandson using his left hand during the National Anthem and it was a nice opportunity to talk about our flag and some etiquette.

June is the month we have our election of officers. The nominating committee

report is given on the next page. (We will hold Joint Installation with the Legion and Sons on **Monday, July 14.**)

June is also a month of education opportunities for our youth. June 1st -6th is Junior Camp at the Christian Conference Center in Newton and we have sponsored 3 junior members from our Unit. The Juniors Department Convention will be held on Friday, June 6th and Juniors don't have to have attended camp to attend the convention. Also, we have Girls State from June 15-20 at Drake University in Des Moines. Our unit is sending a citizen from Johnston High School and we wish her the best of luck as she runs for an office! Inauguration is held on June 20th and you are welcome to attend!

We hope to have you join us for our meetings on the first Tuesday at 6:30pm. The more input we get, the better an organization we can become!

Squadron Commander Cort's Comments

The summer months are upon us and that means a slight slow down in squadron activities. But that is kind of by design as summer means a lot of family and personal activities for our members.

In May, your squadron learned that its membership goal is currently at 103%. I'm very encouraged by our strong membership footing. We of course always welcome even more new members, so please get the word out. Per-

haps you have new family members who are eligible to join. I signed up my grandson this year and a young man from our air rifle club recently joined. It would be pretty special to hit the 105% of goal mark with a few more new memberships.

It is the squadron's turn to name the recipient of June's 50/50 Raffle proceeds. Money will go towards grave markers at the Ames Cemetery. Over the years, the original markers have

had it kind of hard, especially from lawn mowers. I'm grateful we have proceeds like that to help with such a worthy cause.

At our June meeting we will elect new Squadron Officers for the coming year. Please consider attending and even throwing in your hat to be considered for an officer position. It's not too late! I'm grateful for what our squadron has accomplished this past year and look forward to great things ahead.

Clubroom News

We are so excited for the warmer weather and the fact that Summer is almost here. We will still have some of great weekly specials going on throughout the Summer so please stop in join us. We know summer's get really busy with lots of activities but we would love to see you. Come cool off and enjoy a meal or drink with your friends at the Post.

Curbside Meals-please check the Facebook page and the weekly updates for our full menu each week

Wed. June 4-Steak Night

Wed. June 11-Burger Night

Wed. June 18-Creamy Tuscan Chicken

Wed. June 25-Grilled Pork Chops

These meals are available for pickup or dine-in from 5-6:30pm. Call anytime after 2pm to order, 515-232-9870.



Kudos-Thanks to all who helped out over the last month to make everything happen around the clubroom. It is greatly appreciated. Tom Fowler, Russ and Vicki Belz, Paul Madsen, Sandy Deacon, Mike Deacon, Marty Kelly, Greg Hobbs, Ken Woodley, Bill Donovan, Julie Rinard, Colten Christensen and Rodger VanVoorhis.

Legion Riders

Hello everyone, as I am writing this the weather is far from great to be riding but better days are coming. We are standing strong at 48 total members for our group in case anyone was wondering. We have several rides coming up in the next couple of months.

On June 14 we are riding to the Welcome Home Memorial in Albia, kick stands up at 10 am from Zylstra Harley Davidson.

Our District 6 Legacy ride is July 12 and will start here in Ames at Zylstra Harley Davidson and end in Winterset. Posts along the way include Nevada Post 48, Woodward Post 211, Adel Post 464, Earlham Post 158. Kick stands up at 10 am, please plan to come out and send off the riders. Money raised from this ride will be donated to the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation and be presented at the National Convention to the Legion Riders National Director. Last year Iowa raised \$4,000

Wreaths Across America can drive will be June 21 from 9-11.

Have a safe month.

Medical Loan Closet Closing

After a review of the Post's Medical Loan Closet Program, the Post Executive Board has determined it is the best interest of the Post to close the Medical Loan Closet.

This decision was driven primarily by insurance liability and sanitary concerns, but also by the fact that most insurance coverage, including Medicare/Medicaid, now covers these items and by a lack of storage space at the Post.

Effective June 1st, we will no longer accept used medical equipment/items and we will no longer issue any medical equipment. We will keep a couple of items on hand, such as a wheelchair and walker for use in the Post.

Boys and Girls State—You should Visit



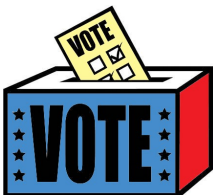
Boys State and Girls State will both be held in June, Boys State is June 22-27 at Camp Dodge, Girls State is June 15-20 at Drake University. Both programs encourage visitors.

Inauguration of the Girls State officers will take place in the Sheslow Auditorium beginning at 5:30 on Friday June 20. It is an excellent ceremony.

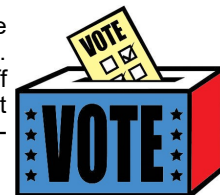


Legionnaires Day at Boys State is Wednesday June 25. Entry at Camp Dodge requires a current drivers license or official ID. The program that day begins with a tour of the Gold Star Museum and continues through the general assembly at the Freedom Center.

Nominating Committees Report—Elections Held at June Meetings



Elections for the 2025-2026 Officers for the Post, Unit and Squadron will be held at the June meeting of each of the organizations. The reports from the nominating committees are below. If you would like to run for an office and don't see your name below, contact Commander Cliff Barker for the Post offices, Ann Rehbein or Sandy Deacon for the Unit and Commander Cort Pahl for the Squadron. All members are eligible to hold any office. You see a couple of vacancies in the lists. Thank about taking one of those positions or any other position.



Post

Commander: Cliff Barker

1st Vice: John Baldwin

2nd Vice:

Adjutant: Doug MacCrea

Finance: Randy Freel (final year)

Sgt At Arms: Dylan Ehler

Chaplain: Ricky Thompson

Historian: Ricardo Castrodad

Executive Board: Bob Bellinghausen,

Keven Brace, Tony Thacker, Kristen Gronlund

Unit

President: Jodi Mann

1st VP: Linda Henderson

2nd VP: Cara Fila

Secretary: Sandy Deacon

Treasurer: Ann Rehbein

Chaplain: Keri Guy

Historian:

Sgt At Arms: Kerri Peterson

Past President: Jamie Barker

Exec Board: Sharon Bellinghausen, Michelle Talbott, Jan Schmidt, Kathy MacCrea, Joyce Elliott

Squadron

Commander: Russell Belz

1st Vice: Dave Preston

2nd Vice: Keven Brace

Adjutant: Mike Deacon

Finance: Randy Freel

Sgt At Arms: Cliff Barker

Chaplain: Roger Elliott

Historian: Doug MacCrea

Executive Board: Steve Malmquist, Bob Bellinghausen, Stan Elliott, Marc Gourley

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JUNE

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 BINGO	2 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 5:30 LEGION RIDERS 6:30	3 TACO TUESDAY AUXILIARY REGULAR 6:30	4 WINESSDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL STEAK NIGHT	5 \$2 DOG NIGHT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE 6:00	6 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	7
8 BINGO	9	10 TACO TUESDAY SAL REGULAR 6:30	11 WINESSDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL BURGER NIGHT	12 \$2 DOG NIGHT LEGION REGULAR 7:00	13 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	14 FLAG DAY
15 BINGO	16 VFW POST MEETING 7:00	17 TACO TUESDAY	18 WINESSDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL TUSCAN CHICKEN	19 \$2 DOG NIGHT STORY COUNTY @ COLLINS 7:00	20 FIREBALL FRIDAY MUNCHIES NIGHT	21 WAA CAN COLLECTION 9:00—11:00 AM
22 BINGO	23	24 TACO TUESDAY	25 WINESSDAY WEDNESDAY CURBSIDE MEAL PORK CHOP	26 \$2 DOG NIGHT 40&8	27 FIREBALL FRIDAY SALAD & SOUP BAR 5:00-6:30 MUSIC BINGO 7:00—9:00	28
29 BINGO	30		Find us on Facebook at American Legion Family of Ames, IA Post 37			