



## American Legion Davis-Darrow-Meyer Post 112

### Elk River, Minnesota

Website: [elkriverlegion112.com](http://elkriverlegion112.com)

Volume 38, Issue 3

### Commander's News

#### May-June 2022



To all members of the Post #112 family,

I hope all is well with you. The last newsletter was lacking a message from me because of a death in my immediate family. The death was of our oldest son, Steven, 4 days short of his 41<sup>st</sup> birthday. He overdosed on an opiate. This is not unique, as thousands of people die because of these drugs. Mary and I have experienced what drugs do to individuals and their families. We appreciate all the kind words and prayers from many of the membership. Thank you so very much.

This will be my last newsletter. I have decided not to seek reelection as post commander. I know that whoever is elected will do a good job.

As a post we have gone from a potential sheriff's sale to shut down of our post because we couldn't pay our bills (so the bank was going to cancel the mortgage), to where we are today. The work and efforts of our membership bought us another chance with the bank. This all took place within my first year as commander. This will not happen again. As of today, we make all of our payments, have a good relationship with the bank, our city and county. This was not an easy accomplishment.

The past years that I served as your commander were a learning process for me, and a pleasant one. I could go on and on telling all of our accomplishments. For one example, I offer the fact that Post #112 had the American Legion National Commander visit our post 2 years in a row. Do you know any other post so privileged? The state American Legion is very proud of what we have done over the last 9 years. The many renovations of the post and bar are also something to be proud of. The membership numbers of the Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL are all rising. I believe we have the best volunteers and leaders of these components in all the Legion. The attitude and morale of the post is really another thing to be proud of.

In closing, I will say without a doubt, that the opportunity you gave me to serve as your commander has not only been an honor, but one of the best things to happen in my life. Thank you all!

For God and country,

Tom Kulkay, Post#112 Commander

## 1st Vice Commander

Greetings to all my Legion Friends at Post 112. Spring is here and I can't wait for warmer days so we can go riding.

All of us at Post 112 have been working very hard to make sure everything we do is for the good of the American Legion, our Veterans and the community. It's hard to please everyone, but we are doing our best. We want to see this Legion Post succeed now and for future generations. If anyone has questions, ideas or just wants to know what is going on, feel free to share and participate at the post membership meetings every first Thursday of the month.

I am so proud of this post and everyone involved.

Bless you all.

At your service,

Vaughn Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Auxiliary

Hello Members,

These last few months have been busy with Volunteer opportunities like fish fry, ice cream sundaes and the soup and pie sale. Now onto upcoming activities like Poppy Day (May 13<sup>th</sup>), Memorial Day ceremony and the potluck at the ERX Motocross for the flag ceremony June 14<sup>th</sup>. We also need volunteers to work the tractor pull at the fairgrounds in Elk River and then the county fair July 14-17<sup>th</sup>.

To volunteer contact Lisa at the post 763-441-3150 or email her at [operations@elkriverlegion112.com](mailto:operations@elkriverlegion112.com).

Michele Smith,

1<sup>st</sup> Auxiliary Vice President/Membership

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander

Hello and think spring.

By the time you read this, the last Friday fish fry will have happened. We can't thank those who helped enough. Several volunteers will receive the **Royal Order of the Tater Medal** with an **Oak Leaf Cluster** for wrapping 4000 plus baked potatoes. Also awarded will be several **Coleslaw, Cocktail and Tartar Sauce Commando Badges**.

So now we can rest up a little, then focus on the upcoming summer events. The first being our Memorial Day ceremonies. All groups of the legion post will be involved so if you're looking for a way to help, we would sure appreciate your assistance. Stop in at the bar and ask to have your name added to the volunteer list.

I would also like to invite all members of Post 112 to stop by on May 30<sup>th</sup>, sign in and possibly win a door prize. Some of us are going to start a pool to see how many of the 300+ members will attend the activities. So if you aren't too busy on Memorial Day, come on down.

Gregory Crow, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander

And Retired fish fry potato wrapper

## Election of Officers

**All members of the Post and Auxiliary are encouraged to attend the May 5<sup>th</sup> membership meetings at which time the Election of Officers will take place.**

**Your vote is important!**

## Adjutant's Corner

The view out my window is one with snow on the ground. Really, on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Well, we love the four seasons even if they are all in one day. Your Post had a very busy and successful 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Lenten Fish Fry. We served a total of 2903 meals this year. That calculates to an average of 415 dinners each Friday. As most of you know, that's a lot of work. If it wasn't for our dedicated and wonderful volunteers it wouldn't happen. Thank each and every one of you for your time and service. A big thank you goes out to all of our employees. These nights were extremely busy and our professional bartenders handled the heavy crowds. Also a big thank you to Eric for having the kitchen ready for us each week and keeping the inventory ordered and stocked. On Sunday May 15, we will be hosting a volunteer and employee appreciation dinner starting at 5PM.

On May 18 the Honor Guard, along with the Walz family will be presenting the SFC Jodie Walz musical scholarship to a graduating senior.

During the fish fry season we have also been working on a few great events for the Post 112 starting with Memorial Day weekend. The Rock On trucks should be arriving Friday evening to be on display through Monday evening. Our Riders will escort them in again. We are waiting on the time. Also, in coordination with Mayor Dietz, he is resurrecting the parade that was last held in 1984. We have four of our members that are serving as the Grand Marshalls. They are WW2 Veterans, Doug Stillwell, Bill Hadley, Bud Adams, and Korean War veteran Robert Koehler. The parade will start after the ceremony at Veterans Park on Highway 10 and proceed to the Rivers Edge park downtown where we held it last year. All Post 112 members and veterans that reside in Elk River are invited to participate and march in the parade. A reminder to all of us the meaning behind Memorial Day. The day is to honor those that sacrificed their lives for our nation. Saying "Happy Memorial Day" does not honor them and the families can sometimes be offended. Here are some options. "In Memory of Many, in Memory of All", "Never forget, ever Honor", "Fallen but not Forgotten". More details will be coming out about the day and will be shared as things get buttoned down.

Another event that is set to go this year, is Post 112 hosting our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony at the ERX Race Park. They are allowing us to use the Chalet that is by the racetrack closest to HWY 169. There is plenty of parking with all one level of flat surfaces, which will make it safer for our members. We can burn our flags on the track and members can observe from the Chalet on bleachers. They are excited to donate the location for us to use at no cost. They are a big supporter of Veterans and their causes. Thank you to Mike Leistico for the barrel donations for this event. We are marketing on Bob 106 weekly of the events and happenings at Post 112. Stay tuned.

### **Membership**

The Post membership is 308 which is 95.3% of goal. The Auxiliary membership is 129 which is 104% of goal

New Members:

Post Members

Chris Douglas  
Richard Harter  
Darin Jackson  
James Norrix  
Steven Rhodes  
Dennis Stevenson

Post Members

Scott Groe  
Cathy Harter  
Michael Lachinski  
Adam Nosbush (PUFL)  
Rob Rydberg  
Gerald Warner

SAL

Tim Edgeton  
Brady Flynn  
Robert Quiram  
Timothy Thein

Auxiliary

Mary Edgeton  
Constance Quiram  
Lori Crow  
Ella Flynn –Junior Member  
Hailey Flynn –Junior Member  
Karen Tesch

# Memorial Day May 30, 2022

Plans are well underway for this year's Memorial Day celebration. The "Traveling Viet Nam Memorial" and "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Memorial" trucks, provided by RockOn Trucking, will again be on display starting Friday, May 27th through Monday, May 30th.

The Honor Guard Cemetery Schedule is:

6:00AM - Lakeview Cemetery	6:15AM – Nowthen Memorial
6:25AM - St. John's Lutheran	6:45AM – Vernon
7:40AM – Otsego	7:55AM – St. Andrews
8:20AM – Meadowvale	9:00AM – Orono
9:20AM – Bailey Station	9:35AM – Veteran's Park Hwy 10 Elk River

An added feature this year will be the Mayor's Memorial Day Parade led by the Honor Guard from Veteran's Park to Rivers Edge Common. A Grand Marshal float honoring Veterans; Bud Adams, Bill Hadley, Robert Kohler and Doug Stillwell will follow the Honor Guard. The Elk River High School Band along with Auxiliary members will also participate.

The Memorial Day Ceremony at Rivers Edge Common will begin at 10:30AM. Following the ceremony, everyone is invited to the post for a brat and hot dog lunch (Kids 12 and Under Free) served by Post and Auxiliary members. There will be live music for your listening pleasure. At noon the flag will return to Full Staff. A tent providing information on the Memorial trucks will be set up and also have activities and handouts for children.

**We look forward to seeing you and your family along with friends and neighbors to this great community event. A Day of Remembrance and Honor for those who protected our freedom and liberty.**



## Legion Riders

As I type this on April 18th the snow is falling and the temperature is in the 20's. Not exactly motorcycle riding weather. Facebook posts show many Minnesotans still riding snowmobiles in the Arrowhead region with another 4 to 6" inches forecast in that area.

The Riders have moved the monthly meetings to the second Thursday of every month at 7 pm at the Post unless we schedule a dinner ride on that evening. The Riders have scheduled a group ride on April 23rd to the St. Augusta Legion for an event for the St. Cloud Stand Down organization. Kickstands up at 1100 at Post 112. Hopefully the weather cooperates.

The next Riders meeting On May 12 will begin at 1800 with the Pledge at Post 112 and a ride to Big Bore Restaurant in Hanover. Another ride planned for May will begin after the Coffee and Donuts with the Commander on May 15th.

Memorial Day weekend will be very busy with the Riders escorting the Memorial Semi trucks to the Post on Friday May 27th, a fundraising ride for the Magnus Veterans Foundation on May 28th, escorting the Honor Guard to the area cemeteries and participating in the Memorial Day Parade on the 30th. You will also find the Riders Members volunteering at the upcoming Tractor Pull, Flag Day at ERX and the County Fair.

The Riders will not be serving Breakfasts on the third Sunday of every month through the summer of 2022. We plan on

resuming the breakfasts in the fall with another Breakfast and Bingo and of course the Breakfast with Santa in December.

The Riders were honored to donate a scholarship to Parker Elementary School Patrol for a Patrol member to attend the week long training at Legionville. That makes four scholarships from our Post to Parker Elementary.

Please pray for safe travels and safe weather so we can continue to build the comradery of the Post and the Legion Riders. There are many positive events that are happening at the Post. Come check it out.

Todd Jagodzinski, .ALR Director



## Auxiliary

Happy Spring to all,

First and foremost, I want to start with a sincere and heartfelt thank you to all of the Auxiliary and Legion members that helped with the Lenten fish fry. It was wonderful to see the kids and grandkids so willing to help also. Every one of you was so gracious with your time and talents which made it a great success. The community enjoyed the return of the hot fudge sundaes and root beer floats too.

Each year April is set aside as Military Child Appreciation month, officially known as the Month of the Military Child. With its creation in 1986 by then Defense Secretary, Casper Weinberger, the pentagon along with other military organizations and the American Legion Auxiliary use the month to recognize military children for their sacrifices and bravery on the home front. Purple symbolizes a combination of the colors of each branch of the military. The "Purple Up" theme is used over the course of the month.

May, as you know, is Poppy month with poppy day being May 14<sup>th</sup>. We always appreciate the community's support for veterans with their donations.

On Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> will be "Hillbilly's Hero Fun Run. This event is one of our SAL members, TJ Hill's National Honor Society project. This is a fun run/walk that is connected to the Jeff Hill Legacy Fund with 100% of proceeds going directly to Air Force ROTC Cadet Scholarships. This will be a great way to get some exercise.

Memorial Day is coming soon and we are in need of volunteers. If you are interested in being in the parade handing out flags, assisting in the information tent or helping serve lunch we would love to have you join in.

Coming up in June is our 6<sup>th</sup> District Convention. It will be held at Post 443 in Ironton, Minnesota. These events are fun and informative. Let me know if you are interested in attending.

This year the National Convention will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin August 26<sup>th</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be a fun and interesting event, so mark your calendars for a road trip.

Honored to serve,

Cathy Artman, Auxiliary President



## Sons of the American Legion

The SAL is gearing up for a busy summer in support of the TJ Hill's National Honor Society project, the "Hillbilly Run" and the American Legion Baseball team.

Memorial Day will find us involved in many of the activities. Volunteers are always welcomed to lend a hand as the tractor pull and Sherburne County Fair will soon follow Memorial Day.

Meetings are held at 10:00AM every third Saturday of each month at the post following coffee with the Commander. We encourage you to join the SAL team.

Glen Haugen, SAL Commander

### **Meeting Schedule**

May 5 – Post and Auxiliary meetings 7:00pm

May 12 – Riders 6:00pm

May 21 - SAL 10:00am

June 2 – Post and Auxiliary meetings 7:00pm

June 9 – Riders 7:00pm

June 17 – SAL 10:00 am

## **Poppy Day**

The Auxiliary has set **May 13, 2022** as Poppy Day in the Elk River area. Volunteers will again be distributing poppies at several retail stores from 9:00AM to 5:00PM.

**New this year will be a Poppy drive-up tent located on the east side of the Legion building** at 525 Railroad Drive. The hours will also be from 9:00AM to 5:00PM.

Poppies will be available throughout the month at the Legion and Memorial Day Activities.

### **Entertainment**

Friday May 6 – Inside Straight 7-11pm

Friday May 20 – The Mojo Roosters 7-11

Monday May 30 – Memorial Day,

Scott Fraser 12:30 pm – 4:00pm

Bingo every Wednesday 6:30pm

Horse Races every Thursday 5:00pm

Meat Raffles every Friday and Sunday 5:00

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### **Memorial Day Cemetery Honor Role Registration**

**Veteran Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Branch Served** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Served** \_\_\_\_\_

**Conflict Served** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cemetery** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Death** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please remit by 5/11/22 to: American Legion (c/o Adjutant) 525 Railroad Dr. Elk River, MN 55330 or Email to: adjutant@elkriverlegion112.com**

# Photo Tribute to Commander Kulkay



## Birthday Dinner March 13, 2022

The highlight of this year's dinner was the presentation of painted rocks featuring a poppy and the words "Thank You" painted by a scout group.

It all began on March 8<sup>th</sup> when 4 members of the Auxiliary met with 26 young members of a scout group at their craft night with a focus on community service.

The project was a fun filled evening painting rocks.



Prior to painting, Honor Guard members John Salk, Vaughn Smith and Greg Crow shared flag etiquette information and demonstrated folding of the flag explaining the meaning of each fold. Each scout received an American Flag pin.

We were honored to have 5 scouts attend the Birthday dinner to present the rocks to our Veterans thanking them for their service.



Commander Kulkay accepted this Flag painting, donated by Allan and Rachael Whiteoak at the birthday dinner. The painting was done by a family member and has a poem written by Allan inscribed on it. It can be viewed just outside of Koehler Hall.





Post 112 sponsors the Elk River American Legion Team each year. On April 7<sup>th</sup> at the monthly meeting, the team presented a sponsorship trophy and photo of the 2021 team to the post. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, Vaughn Smith and Past Commander, Mike Beyer presented the 2022 sponsorship funds to the team.

The game schedule has not been finalized yet so stay tuned for its publication.



In recognition of "Military Child" month, Auxiliary members Sheryl Hookum, President Cathy Artman, Marilyn Kuiper and Sharon Mendenhall, updated the display case.

The Military Child's table was prepared by Carol Heath.



The chefs manning the kitchen for the last Lenten Fish Dinner were, Glen Haugen, Adam Nosbush, Keith Quammen. Denny Heath and Mike Leistico.

Well done and great job to all the chefs who manned the kitchen for the dinners!

