



American Legion Davis-Darrow-Meyer Post 112 Elk River, Minnesota

Website: elkriverlegion112.com Phone: 763-441-3150

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A LEADER FOR TOMORROW

Kenzie Hackenmueller, age 13 and Junior Auxiliary Member at Post 112, just returned from an incredible trip to Washington DC with roughly 40 of her classmates from Salk Middle School and a handful of parents. While there, they visited more than 25 historic places and attractions over five jam-packed days.

Students traveling in this group were invited to participate in an essay contest that addressed three questions. The students who wrote the four winning essays were awarded with the opportunity to participate in the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

1. Why do you feel Arlington National Cemetery is important to our nation?
2. What significance does participating in the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier have to you?
3. What obligations do we have as patriotic citizens to support and/or question our wars?

Kenzie's Response:

Arlington National Cemetery is a very important part of the U.S. It honors many who have served in the U.S. military, including those who have not been identified. The land Arlington National Cemetery is on has history too. It is built on the land of the top general of the United States, Robert E. Lee, from before the Civil War. When he switched sides to the Confederacy the U.S. decided that his land with his house would now become a cemetery for those whom his army killed and for his soldiers as well. When the land itself has history then the place itself has history, good and bad, old and new, weird and common. It is the largest place of the people, for the people, and by the people in the U.S.A.

To me participating in the Wreath Laying Ceremony would be an incredible opportunity to honor and respect the many, many, fallen, unidentified soldiers who gave their lives for their country and beliefs. I would love to be a part of a ceremony to honor those soldiers. It would mean to acknowledge their sacrifice and to thank them for it. My grandpa served in the Navy; he survived his time in the military, and I am very thankful for that. I want to be a part of a ceremony that honors and thanks all those who died and may not have been identified and weren't given the chance to live a life with their family or even to make a family like my Grandpa did.

It is our responsibility as U.S. citizens to both support and question the wars we are participating in. To follow through with these responsibilities we must pay attention and be knowledgeable about the war. To know why we are fighting in this war. We also need to get our opinion(s) out there, politely, and non-violently, because if you don't agree with what is happening you need to act otherwise it won't change by just being unhappy about it.

In short, act on things you are unhappy about. If you, and many others, don't agree with the U.S. participating in a war then you are putting people in extreme danger. After reflecting on my trip to Fort Snelling Cemetery, I realized that we need to be mindful, aware, and knowledgeable about the wars in the world otherwise we could just be sending soldiers to fight, and possibly die, for something you don't believe in. Thank you for providing me with this opportunity and for your consideration.

Kenzie is the daughter of Nettie and Andy Hackenmueller and the granddaughter of Sharon and the late Robert Hackenmueller.

***The Elk River American Legion Family Congratulates Kenzie on her success.
She exemplifies today's youth as tomorrow's leaders.***

Commander's News July – August 2024

Good day!

As your “new” commander, I hope all is well with all my friends at Post #112! First, I’d like to express my gratitude to retiring Commander Vaughn Smith. He did a great job as our commander, and we appreciate his service to the post. Vaughn will assume the rank of 1st Vice Commander.

We made it through to Memorial Day. All the cemeteries (11!) were visited without issues, although the rain didn’t hold off. The rain also forced the mayor’s parade to, once again, move indoors to the Furniture and Things arena. Mother Nature seems to like to mess with our mayor!

The next event was our June 14th Flag Day flag retirement ceremony. Thanks to all the volunteers that helped with the burning of these flags. Thanks, too, to the Legion Auxiliary for supplying the delicious food.

The Sherburne County Fair will be here very soon. We will again be operating the Beer Garden there. The signup sheet is at our post bar for anyone who wants to help us out. This is a very important fundraiser for the post. The honor guard will be marching in the County Fair parade.

The post has instituted our summer hours, so we’ll be closed on Mondays. Check our Facebook page to see any other changes.

We don’t have a membership meeting in July, and the Auxiliary has no meetings in July and August.

Please enjoy your summer, but if you can support the post, we will still have the kitchen and bar open Tuesday through Sunday. Thank you for your help.

I’d like to personally recognize and thank our new bookkeeper, Ann Sampson. She has helped show us how we can repair past financial issues and demonstrated how we can best go forward. Thank you to Lisa, Kelly and Sharon Mendenhall for all the help they’ve given me.

Keep happy, smile and enjoy life!

For God and country,

Tom Kulkay, Post commander

1st Vice

I would like to thank everyone for your helpful support while I was sorting out this Commander thing. I actually had fun doing it and I learned a lot too. I did my best with the small amount of time I had. I am still willing to help when I can. Please let me know if you have any concerns and remember the membership meetings are on the first Thursday of the month. We welcome your attendance and thoughts.

Vaughn Smith
1st Vice

Membership

Transfers into Post 112:

Noelle Racette
Jerald Loss
Stephen Cismowski
Richard Klingler

New Members: (Legion)

Richard Weber
Josh Wiemann

New Members: (SAL)

Darrel Dittberner
Tommy Tidd
Danny Anderson

Post Chaplain

JUL to AUG 2024 Newsletter

The following is a 15 APR 2024 to 18 JUN 2024 summary of Post Chaplain duties performed:

Personal Visits, Home, Assisted Living	192
Messaging, Text, Phone	130
Letters of Condolences	2
Chaplain Support AL Events, Spiritual Counseling	73
American Legion Chaplain's Calendar: Independence Day 4 JUL, Korean War Armistice 27 JUL, National Convention AUG	

Continuing weekly and monthly vet visits and Sunday Worship services including communion at the Wellstead Senior Care and Assisted Living Centers. Also, continuing weekly and monthly vet visits to five local Guardian Angels Campuses. Currently assigned 80 total vets to visit at least monthly on four different Senior Care and Assisted Living Centers. Continuing hospice spiritual services with two families.

Paul Deneson,
Chaplain

Post Service Officer

The following is a 15 APR to 18 JUN 2024 summary of Post Service Officer duties:

Personal Visits	18
Messaging, Text, Phone	20
Coordinated Vet request for service assistance	1
Coordinated Vet request for personal support	1*

*Special thanks to President Michele Smith and Auxiliary for taking the lead and continuing financial and personal support along with other veteran agencies for an Iraqi Vet making progress towards increasing self-independence.

Completed Fourth Veterans Benefit Review with spouses for Anoka, Wright, Benton, and Sherburne Counties on 9 MAY 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Again, special thanks to President Michele Smith and Auxiliary for their support in inviting, coordinating, and advertising of this event. Event advertised on the Post 112 Face Book Account. 100 Printed Poster announcements delivered to local Assisted Living and Senior Care Centers, and Elk River Community businesses and service locations. The Wellstead sent an email to vet residents families announcing the event. Note:

Reviews conducted with spouses	37 (with 14 spouses!)
Follow-up Reviews to be conducted with Sherburne County CVSO	15
Follow-up Reviews to be conducted Wright County CVSO's et.al.	2
Follow-up Reviews to be conducted Anoka County	2
VA and Vet Support Agencies attended	8

Special thanks go to Smith's, Mendenhall's, Greg Crow, and the Auxiliary for providing lunch. (I apologize if I forgot someone).

Paul Deneson,
Post Service Officer

Adjutant

Steady as we go!

The last Quarter has been a real busy one, especially for our building. New HVAC, the roof was replaced, health inspection was completed, and Keith Quammen completed a much-needed renovation of the Finance & Commander office space.

The Auxiliary has been providing “food” support for many of our functions. The Riders and SAL continue to have their fund raisers including BBB’s and the recent smelt fry. Lisa and staff continue to tirelessly keep the bar and restaurant rolling. At the District Convention on behalf of the Post, Jerry Takle accepted a “100% Membership Award”.

Memorial Day was a success although the rain tried to douse our spirits. The idea of the day remained the same as we honored our fallen.

Change of the Guard, so to speak, took place at the June 6th member meeting with Vaughn Smith stepping back into the 1st Vice position and Tom Kulkay accepting the Commander position.

Pastor Ken Harris with Thrivent Associates in cooperation with Bubba Chambers at the Rosemount VFW have been facilitating a faith-based support group held at the VFW. They have asked me to canvas our members to see if any of you are interested in meeting at Post 112 on Tuesday evenings. Please contact me if interested. 763-213-6952

In closing, I again implore you all. We desperately are in need of Afghanistan and Desert Storm Veterans. Leadership positions cannot continue to rotate between the same individuals and expect changes that represent a young generation. I can’t do it alone. I am asking all of you to help us recruit new members. Family, friends and all those you know that served in the Gulf War Era are welcome.

Thanks everyone for everything,
Joe Lund, Adjutant

Riders

Todd is on vacation so no news this issue, but he promises lots for the next newsletter.

Auxiliary

Hello Everyone,

Our Auxiliary year 2023-2024 is coming to a close. The Auxiliary does not have meetings in July or August. So, enjoy the time off. We will see you in September!

I would ask you to think about some projects/activities for the Auxiliary to be involved with for the upcoming year. We have numerous programs such as Americanism, Community Service, Children & Youth, Education, Legislation and Service to Veterans to name a few. Things one can do as an individual could include donating blood, serving as an election judge, participating in community events, volunteering at Post & Auxiliary events, fund raising walks/runs etc. As a Unit we have made fidget blankets, made quilts for the new Veterans Homes, worked with Girl Scouts, promoted an essay contest and girls state, held bake sales and the list goes on. It is always fun to have new projects, so please put on the creative hats. Other good sources for ideas are magazines, Pinterest and You Tube. Send me ideas to: msmith6519@gmail.com

We do have volunteer opportunities for the Sherburne County Fair July 18th thru 21st. Job duties range from security, id/wristband, money taker, and beer servers. Everyone seems to have a good time too. To volunteer call Lisa at 763-441-3150 or signup at the bar.

The Craft and Bake Sale will be coming up October 26th and at the September 5th member meeting we will be collecting school supplies for CAER.

See you all in the Fall,

Michele Smith,
ALA Unit 112 President

Auxiliary 1st Vice President

I want to thank everyone who assisted in various events in the last year and for making an effort to turn in your volunteer hours each month. I have emailed out the vendor and craft forms for the October Craft sale. Returning vendors will have priority.

Wishing you all a wonderful safe summer.

Diane Telfer, Membership Chair

Calendar & Post Activities

Summer Post Hours:

Closed Mondays

Tuesday-Thursday 3pm-close

Friday-Sunday 12pm-close

July 1st – July 8th the Post will be closed.

Reopening July 9th at 3pm

(The staff can enjoy the holiday and maintenance and cleaning will take place)

July 18-21 Sherburne County Fair.

Volunteers are needed and can sign up at the bar.

August 1st – Post membership mtg 7:00pm

September 7th – Post 112 Annual Golf Tournament

October 5th – 1st Annual Ribfest hosted by Post 112. Neighboring Legions are invited to participate.



Placing the Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



The 1st stop on the tour was the World War II Memorial. Kenzie was impressed with the grand size of the Lincoln Memorial.





On May 4, 2024, a donation of \$2000 was made to Parker Elementary for Safety Patrol Legionville Scholarships which are funded by the Post, Riders, Auxiliary and the SAL. Pictured are Michele Smith, Auxiliary President, Molly, Avry, Easton, Bennett, Commander Vaughn Smith and Glen Haugen SAL Director.



May 10th was again a successful Auxiliary Poppy Day. Poppy Chair, Mary Murphy recruits DECA students to distribute poppies in the mornings followed by Auxiliary members in the afternoons. Jane and Brenda were all smiles on a cool and windy day. Joe Lund was the first to arrive at the tent in the parking lot manned by President Michele Smith.



On Memorial Day the Honor Guard took a break from visiting 11 cemeteries to have breakfast at the post. Rain forced the ceremonies to take place at the Furniture and Things Event Center. Doug Stillwell made the trip from Wisconsin to attend the event. Raphael Mc kraljic joined him for lunch.



The 6th District Convention was attended by Brenda Breyen, Michele Smith, Roberta and Jerry Takle. On behalf of Post 112 Jerry accepted the award for 100% Membership and presented it to Commander Vaughn Smith