



YELLOWSTONE POST 4
1540 BROADWATER AVENUE • BILLINGS, MT



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4-23

October - December 2023

Dates to Remember

- 10/6 – German American Day
- 10/9 – Indigenous Peoples Day
- 10/13 – Navy Birthday
- 10/15 – White Cane Safety Day
- 10/26 – Day of the Deployed
- 10/31 – Halloween
- Nov – Nat'l Veterans & Military Family Month; Warrior Care Month; & Nat'l Family Caregivers Month
- 11/1 – All Saints Day
- 11/2 – All Souls Day
- 11/5 – Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 11/7 – Election Day
- 11/10 – Marine Corps Birthday
- 11/11 – Veterans Day
- 11/23 – Thanksgiving Day
- 11/28 – Giving Tuesday
- 12/1 – USAF Auxiliary Day
- 12/6 – St Nicholas' Day
- 12/7 – Pearl Harbor Remem. Day
- 12/8 – 1st Day of Hanukkah
- 12/13 – National Guard Birthday
- 12/15 – Last Day of Hanukkah
- 12/15 – Bill of Rights Day
- 12/18 – Nat'l Wreaths Across America
- 12/21 – Winter Solstice
- 12/25 – Christmas Day
- 12/26 – 1st Days of Kwanzaa
- 12/31 – New Year's Eve



Montana 988 Suicide Prevention Project

Graphic design students at Montana State University (Bozeman, MT) have partnered with the university's Veteran Service office and the MT 988 Project to create suicide prevention-themed "challenge coins" meant to increase awareness of suicide and resources available to help people, including veterans, who are in crisis.

... Challenge coins ... are commonly used in the armed forces to commemorate special achievements. The design students created new coins to promote suicide prevention and empower students, especially veterans, to seek help when they need it. "Our veterans need to know that they've got community and support," said MSU student veteran Darin Mydland, a mechanical engineering major in the [Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering](#). "(Challenge coins are) something special that there's no monetary value to, but there's a lot of sentimental value to it."

The graphic design students created more than 30 challenge coin designs. Each design includes Montana's Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline number 988 on one side.

"Challenge coins are a revered part of military and veteran culture," he said. "So, in addition to its undoubted aesthetic and craftwork value by the graphic design students, this is a terrific learning and community-building opportunity while also being an effective way to communicate an important message."

Each graphic design student received three coins, two of which were presented to the veteran they worked with during the first meeting. The intent is for the veteran to have a coin they can give to a fellow veteran in a time of need, Barnhart said.

"It's through the combination of learning, community involvement and meaningful outreach that we can spread suicide awareness and prevention," Barnhart said.

Sponsors for the workshops include the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services; AMB West Family Foundation; and, at MSU, the [College of Arts and Architecture](#), Division of Student Success, School of Art and Travis W. Atkins Veteran Support Center.

For more information about the Montana 988 suicide prevention project, visit <https://dphhs.mt.gov/suicideprevention/>.

If you or someone you know is in crisis or struggling with suicide, please call or text the 24-hour Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988.



Complete article: <https://www.montana.edu/news/22859/montana-state-student-veterans-and-artists-lead-suicide-awareness-efforts-through-newly-minted-challenge-coins>

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hello Fellow Legionnaires! We have some good things going on at the Post. Our ceiling tiles are in place. We have a cleaner building on the outside and we're working to clean up on the inside. I figure if we can start taking care of our building, we can start taking care of our people. We have a couple of fundraisers going on – the raffles for our guns, as well as our ceiling tile sales. We have the holidays coming up. Let's all stay safe and help our veterans as much as we can. Thank you.

– Jay Adams

AUXILIARY

Is your spouse, or parent, a member of the American Legion? Would you like to be more involved with the American Legion family? Post 4 members recently voted to support an application for an Auxiliary Unit, which would support the Post and the mission of the American Legion, and other programs specific to the American Legion Auxiliary. Male and female spouses of Post members, as well as their daughters, granddaughters, mothers, and grandmothers are eligible to be members. Female veterans are also eligible in their own right. Those working on the charter application anticipate Post 4's new Auxiliary Unit's emphasis to be on supporting American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and raising funds to support veterans through annual Poppy drives. Other Department and National programs could be prioritized as the members desire. You are encouraged to apply. Applications are immediately available through the Post 4 Adjutant. For more information, please send an email message to Joy Mariska: jamariska2@gmail.com

HONOR GUARD

Post 4's Honor Guard provided the following Burial Honors for BOTH 2nd & 3rd quarters (April – Sept):

Army: Murray Sterling; Larry Schleining; Lester Heins; Martin Watts; Larry Bales; Jonathan Bough; Eugene RedStar; Robert Stinchfield; Willis Kuiles; Stanley Anttioh.

Navy: Clifford Phillips; James V. O'Donnell; David Scovil; Stephen Lebruska; Gary Searlock; Frank D. Golden; Max Spotted Bear; Bryan James; Richard Erickson; Larry Johnson; Merrill Walker.

Air Force: Eddy Johnson; Fred Reinhardt; Raymond Buchholz; George Bulatowicz; Jeffrey McLaughlin; Joseph Templet.

Marines: William Barlett.

Army Air Corps: James S. Davidson Jr.

We also posted colors for: American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame Dinner; Veteran Treatment Court; Memorial Day services at Smith-West, Mountview & Yellowstone Valley Memorial Park cemeteries. We did a Headstone Rededication in July for a Son of a Veteran of the Civil War. In September, we did a color guard for a North Dakota Honor Flight.

Al Hager
406.861.8330
bartrlc@centurylinknet



ADJUTANT'S NOTES

It is Membership Time again and the yearly dues remain the same at \$40. Please get them in as early as possible so you won't get all those mailings. The first cutoff date is September 10th. So, the sooner the better.

The next Commanders Breakfast is October 5th. This is a fund raiser for the post. We need 3 volunteers on October 4th at 6 pm to prep, and 3 volunteers at 5:30 am on the 5th to serve. Please contact me if you can help.

The Next General Meeting is October 16th at 7pm in the Yellowstone Room. Be there!!

Please check out our new website at americanlegionbillings.com. This will be the last newsletter to be emailed; future newsletters will be posted on the website.

Thanks, Don Clair

Two Navy Veterans Become Best-Selling Co-Authors

U.S. Navy veterans Brian Andrews and Jeffrey Wilson, who met at a writers' conference and have since coauthored 27 bestselling books (since 2015). Andrews, a Navy submarine officer, was never a writer prior to meeting Wilson but he did love to tell stories to pass the time while deployed. he went to the writers' conference and met Wilson, who has an eclectic background but has always been writing. He's worked as an actor, firefighter, paramedic, jet pilot, diving instructor, a vascular and trauma surgeon, and he served in the Navy as a combat surgeon with an East Coast-based SEAL team. "We have found a rich network of fellow veterans who have made similar choices. Whether you're going to go into writing, whether you're going to start a coffee business, whether you want to go become a PA ... whatever it is, you really do need to seek out your brothers and sisters from service because somebody has done it before, somebody's coming after you, and we as a community, we veterans, we have a special skillset, but we also have a special ability to lift each other up. The brotherhood and sisterhood of service doesn't end after you transition out. So that was a big impact for us as we transitioned into a writing career. You need to find your fellow veterans because we're a tight community, but only if you seek each other out, right?"

Complete article: <https://www.legion.org/podcast/260142/two-navy-veterans-become-best-selling-coauthors>

POST 4 MONTHLY EVENTS

- American Legion Meeting – Every 3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.
- Executive Board Meeting – Every 3rd Monday at 6:00 p.m.
- Legion Riders Meeting – Every 2nd Monday at 7:00 p.m.
- Pool League – Every Monday & Thursday
- Dart League – Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Sunday
- NFL Football – Every Monday, Thursday & Sunday
- College Football – Every Saturday

Find us Online!

Like us on Facebook & keep up to date with our Post events ... Search for: **American Legion Post 4**

LEGION HALL RENTAL

Post 4 has TWO Banquet Halls (with bar) available to rent for special functions. Please contact Maria Rivera at 406-671-4598 for more info.

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

2023 4th Quarter – Holiday Season

As we head towards the end of the year, we’re not slowing down but rather revving up for a grand finale of holidays & commemorations that directly influence & demonstrate the greatness of America! • Beginning with Columbus Day, this day commemorates the landing of Christopher Columbus to the Americas in 1492, ushering in a new era of European westward expansion. This event is most cherished by Italian-Americans, as Columbus was considered one of Italy’s greatest naval explorers of his time. • Veterans Day is, of course, the celebration & commemoration of American Veterans. Sometimes confused with Memorial Day, the difference being that the latter is a memorial recognition of those that have sacrificed their lives during war, and Veterans Day recognizes those that have served & are still serving. As a side note, it’s worth mentioning that most countries do not commemorate their veterans; this is one of the many attributes that sets the USA apart from other nations. • Thanksgiving, along with American Legion’s Family Week, kicks off the “holiday season.” Take time during the holidays to give thanks to those that supported our fledgling country & thank them for their current support to drive prosperity of this greatest nation, especially including their families. • The year crescendos with the remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day, the 1941 sneak attack on US forces in Pearl Harbor by the Imperial Japanese navy during WWII. This attack triggered the beginning of the end of WWII by “waking a sleeping giant” (Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, as portrayed in the 1970 film, *Tora Tora*). • Completing 4th quarter & end-of-year celebrations, we end with Chanukah, the Jewish Celebration of Lights, & Christmas, the Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Both religious holidays have deep & significant heritage in our culture & give pause to the splendor that one nation can have diversity but still be closely connected. • Cheers to our Veterans & Great Nation. Happy Holidays! Last but not least Have Fun! - Dan

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

In February, we elected new leadership – Sgt at Arms is Matt Kadlec; Road Captain is David Walters; Sec/Treasurer is Jay Adams, and I am the Director.

We had 2 rides in the early part of the season, the first being Memorial Day and the 2nd was the Helping Hands Poker Run. We had a pair of riders complete the 300 mile route in the Ride for Tomorrow Suicide Awareness event. The Legion Riders also presented colors for all 3 nights of the PBR in April, twice in April & once in September for Fusion Fight Nights, and for the Battle of the Badges at Miller Horse Palace. We were asked to present the colors at a cheer competition at MSUB, which was an early morning but Riders were more than willing. We also presented colors for the Iron Horse Rodeo during the Beartooth Motorcycle Rally in Red Lodge. Nation of Patriots came through Billings to Cody during Labor Day weekend and we escorted them on that leg of their journey.

Upcoming this fall: Our annual fundraising poker tournament is November 4th at the Grandstand Sports Bar & Casino. All are welcome, whether you’re a beginner or a shark. Our Riders Chapter continues to grow with the addition of an Auxiliary chapter here at Post 4.

Trevor Barnhart, Director
Yellowstone American Legion Riders
406-598-5055



STAND BY THEM
Confidential help for Veterans and their families
***** Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255 *****

UPCOMING BAR FUNCTIONS

- Oct 14 – ACL Cornhole Tournament
- Oct 22 – 22-a-Day Brunch
- Oct 24 – ACL Cornhole Tournament
- Oct 28 – Halloween Party
- Nov 4 – BACA Broomstick Tournament
- Nov 11 – Veterans Day
- Nov 18 – Cat/Griz Football Game Day
- Nov 13 – 18 – Grateful Giving Food Drive
- Nov 20 – Grateful Giving Dinner Box Pickups
- Nov 22 – 22-a-Day Brunch
- Nov 23 – CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING
- Dec 2 – Singing Santa Karaoke
- Dec 9 – Army/Navy Football Game Day
- Dec 17 – Santa Brunch
- Dec 22 – 22-a-Day Brunch
- Dec 24 & 25 – CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

POST 4’s

MESS HALL



KITCHEN HOURS

Mon, Weds, Thur, Fri: 5:00 – 9:00 PM

Tuesday: Closed

Saturday: Special Occasion Availability

Sunday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

BAR HOURS

Monday – Friday: 5:00 PM ‘til closing

Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 AM ‘til closing



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MATT STETLER

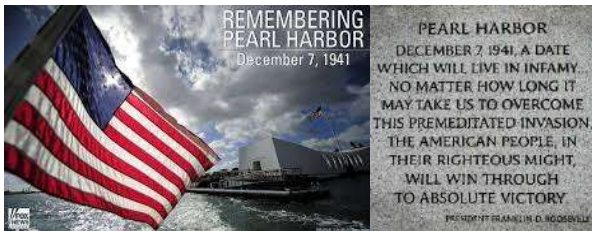
I've been an American Legion member since June 2023. I was born in 1972 to Daniel & Karyn Stetler in Missoula, MT. I am the guardian of Hallas (after George S. Hallas), a 4-year-old Belgian Malinois, aka Mallin-gator.

I enlisted in the US Army in June 2008 and attended 19D Cavalry Scout OSUT (One Stop Unit Training) at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. Following basic training, I was assigned to the 101st Airborne, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry, 32nd Regiment, Blackhorse Troop.

In 2010, I deployed to Kunar Providence, Afghanistan, COP Pirtle-King and OP Bari-Alai.

I have received distinguished service accommodations that include: Afghan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Army Commendation, Purple Heart, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Combat Action Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Expert Infantry-Man Badge.

I joined the Legion because the Post 4 Chaplain told me to!



POST 4 DIRECTORY

AMERICAN LEGION OFFICERS

- Commander Jay Adams
- Vice Commander Pat Weber
- Adjutant Don Clair
- Chaplain Daniel Stetler
- Finance Officer Jim Clark
- Sergeant-at-Arms John Miron
- Lifetime Honorary SAA ...Matt Grandpre

CONTACT INFORMATION

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 Email: alyellowstonepost4@gmail.com
 Phone: 406-656-1510

Post Operations Director:
 Maria Rivera
 Email: mluzrivera11@gmail.com
 Phone: 406-656-1510

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

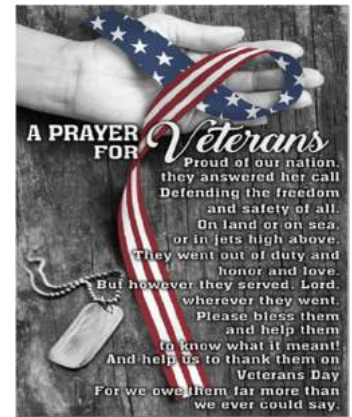
- Drew Danforth, Past Commander
- Jim Salsbury
- Ryan Parsons
- Bill Bolles
- Harlon Owens



Legion Meetings are EVERY 3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Reminder!

Please join us!



We want to hear from YOU!

Do you have comments or ideas to submit to the newsletter? Email Post 4 Adjutant Don Clair at alyellowstonepost4@gmail.com. The deadline for the next newsletter is **December 10th**.