The American Legion
"For God and Country"
Sidney L Smith Post No. 24
WWW.AberdeenLegion.org
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Commander's Column



Greetings Legionnaires,

I would like to congratulate the newly elected officers of Post #24. I am honored to serve another year as your commander. There is always room for any member that wants to be involved in the post.

Make sure to check out the calendar portion of this newsletter. There are a lot of different events happening in the next few months that the post will be involved in. Everyone is invited to come out and take part in these events. If there is an event you would like to be a part of, just reach out to me or another post memeber and we will plug you in.

The honor guard is always looking for new members to help with funeral details and presenting The Flag for different events in the local community.

Again, I am honored to serve another year as your commander. Looking forward to an exciting year helping veterans.

Darvin Vetter
Commander TAL Post #24
605 824-0081
djvetter@live.com

From the Adjutant



Greetings Legionnaires

With summer just around the corner Post 24 finds the calendar full with activities. May will find flagging of veteran graves, Boys State, Honor Cords at NSU, Memorial Day program and Color Guard details for various events around Aberdeen. June will find Post 24 sponsoring the Legion State 2026 convention at Best Western motel. If you would like to assist with this event please let us know by calling me at: 605 216 1647.

By the time you read this newsletter we would have completed 7 military rites just in April. We always have a need for volunteer's to serve on the team whether for funerals or color guard detail.

Also I like to remind members to consider paying dues for 3 years starting in July when the renewal notice arrives. We elected not to raise membership for 2027 but thereafter we probably will have to since we are only able to keep $1.50 of membership dues paid. If you elect to do so you will need to contact the National American Legion department at toll-free : 800 433 3318. This will save you some dues increases for 3 years.

Please remember the American Legion is the voice for all veterans at the local level all the way to Pierre and Washington DC.

Be the One!

Gary Warne
Post Adjutant

Long Time Members Recognized

The following members were recently honored for their continuous memberships in the American Legion:

Don Nevill	60 years
Charles Jakober	60 years
Ron Biel	60 years
Rayma Scepaniak	50 years
Pat Kuckelburg	50 years
James Dafnis	50 years
Richard Burns	50 years
Rodney Barr	50 years
Larry Schock	50 years

Post 24 congratulates each member, and gives a shout of thanks to you all for believing in our efforts to serve fellow veterans and your community/nation.

Honor Cords

May 6th at 6:00pm (doors open at 5:30) in the Jewett Science Education Center, the post will team with NSU to award honor cords to Veterans who are preparing to graduate from NSU, and area High School seniors who have committed to military duty.

Past Commanders Night

Our annual recognition of past Commanders of the post, and memorial for members who passed away in 2025, will be Wednesday, May 13th in the Post Home. Doors open at 7:00pm, and the memorial begins at 7:30.

Boys State/Blue Cap Day

South Dakota Boys State will again take place on the campus of NSU the week of Memorial Day. All Legion members are invited, and encouraged, to attend the event on Thursday, May 28th.

Walk around the campus, attend sessions, join us for lunch... come see what the program is all about. Please wear your Legion cover if you have one.

Teddy Bear Ride

June 14th will be the American Legion Riders annual "Teddy Bear Ride". Registration opens at 12:30pm at C&S Motorsports. All participants are required to bring (at least) one new "teddy bear" (any stuffed animal 8"-14" long), at the end of the ride, all bears are donated to Avera St Lukes.

Roll Call

2026 - 2027 Post Officers

Commander . . . . . Darvin Vetter
1st Vice Commander . . . . . Mark Wolf
2nd Vice Commander . . . . Charlie Aldentaler

Adjutant. . . . . Gary Warne
Finance . . . . . Steve Nemmers
Americanism . . . . . Dale Strom

Chaplain . . . . . Pat Steele
Sergeant at Arms . . . . . Larry Ligtenberg
Asst Sgt at Arms . . . . . Sid Beckler

Children And Youth . . . . . Doug Roggow
Athletics . . . . . Conald Burgard
Employment . . . . . Gary Warne

Historian . . . . . Jan Vetter
Service. . . . . Mark Wolf
Legal Officer . . . . . Tom Tonner

Recording Secretary . . . . Ruth VanSteenwyk

SD Legion Convention

The Department convention will be held in Aberdeen Jun 17th to 21st. As the sponsoring post, we are looking for volunteers to help from now through the event.

Quarter Millennium Celebrations

This year marks America's 250th anniversary, and events are going on all year long! There will be a special flag raised at Wylie park on June 5th, a free pancake breakfast July 4th morning, and a parade downtown starting at 11:00 on the 4th as well. Please keep an eye out for all the events, and share your pride in celebrating this historic date.

Don't Forget

Our Post Meetings are 7:00pm on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Post Home: 617 S 15th St, Aberdeen.

Memorial Day Programs

Aberdeen's Memorial Day program will be held at **10:00, Monday, May 25th, at Sunset Memorial Garden** on the east side of town (on US-12).

As always, there will also be smaller services at Aberdeen's other cemeteries:

Riverside - 8:00
Sacred Heart - 8:45

St Mary's - 9:15

The post will also be going out to Riverside on the Wed (20th) before Memorial Day to place US flags on all Veteran's graves. Help is always appreciated, we start at 6:00.

The flags will need to be picked up the following Wed (27th), also starting at 6:00.

TAPS

The following veterans transferred to Post Everlasting in the past two months:

Wally J. Rutschke
Dale A. Mork *
Bradley Marvin Jung
Eugene Mattern *
Mike E. Kocabinski *
Steve Hanson
Gayle A. Lilly
Michael W. Sobolik
Curtiss Carl Job
Richard Bakeberg

* Denotes a member of Post 24

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Upcoming Events:

May 4th (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, 7pm at Post Home.

May 6th (Wed) - Honor Cord Ceremony at NSU

May 9th (Sat) - Boys State orientation. 2:00 NG armory

May 10th (Sun) - *Mothers Day*

May 13th (Wed) - Past Commander's Memorial - 7:00pm at Post Home.

May 18 (Mon) - **Post Meeting**, 7pm at Post Home.

May 20th (Wed) - Flag veterans graves. 6:00 at Riverside Cemetery south.

May 25th (Mon) *MEMORIAL DAY*

May 25-29 Boys State, Northern State University

May 27th (Wed) - pickup flags. 6:00 at Riverside

Jun 1st (Mon) - Executive Committee meeting, 7pm at Post Home.

Jun 5th (Fri) - 250th Flag Ceremony. 3:00 at Wylie Park
- Ride 605 supper. 5:30 at Wylie Park

Jun 14th (Sun) - *Flag Day*
- Legion Riders Teddy Bear ride

Jun 15th (Mon) - **Post Meeting**, 7pm at Post Home.

June 17-21 - SD Legion Convention, Aberdeen Convention Center

Jul 4th (Sat) - USA250 celebration
- pancake feed 7-11 in the Depot (1 N Main)
- Parade 11-2 Main Street