

# March 2024 Newsletter

## Post 518 American Legion Family

256 Belgrade Avenue, North Mankato, MN 56001 507.625.1264



### From the Commander:

Dear Legion Family-

The weather has been inconsistent, whether unseasonably warm, or hardly any snow so far. Not sure what's in store for us in the coming months, but, as Minnesotans we can weather anything that comes our way!

Some significant US military dates in March:

#### **Month of the Military Caregiver**

During the Month of the Military Caregiver, Americans recognize and honor military caregivers' sacrifices and successes.

**March 3, 2024 - Navy Reserve Birthday**

**March 5, 2024 - Seabee Birthday**

**March 10, 2024 - Daylight Saving Time begins – not military- but significant date to remember what to do!**

**March 13, 2024 - K 9 Veterans Day-** A national effort to make March 13 K9 Veterans Day. March 13, 1942 is the official birthday of the *United States K9 Corps*, and so it seems only right to annually honor their service on that date. They served to save, and they deserve to be remembered.

**March 17, 2024 - St. Patrick's Day**

**March 29, 2024 - Vietnam Veterans Day-** A day set aside to show honor and respect to our Vietnam Veterans.

**March 31, 2024 - Easter Sunday** – Remember all military personnel deployed during holidays!

Coming up in April will be nominations for Post officers for the next term.

Nominations are open up to Election voting at the May meeting with installation in June. Any member in good standing is eligible to hold any elected office. Per current by-laws, The elected positions at Post 518 consist of Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, and Finance Officer. All other officer positions are appointed.

Below is a brief explanation of the duties of elected officers:

Preside at all meetings of the post and to have general supervision over the business and affairs of the post, acting as CEO He/she shall approve all orders directing the disbursement of funds, and shall make annual report covering the business of the post for the year, and recommendations for the ensuing year, which shall be read at the annual meeting and a copy thereof immediately forward to the department adjutant. He/she shall perform such other duties as directed by the post.

The 1st Vice Commander assumes and discharges the duties of Post Commander in the absence or disability of, or when called upon by the Post Commander.

Membership may be an assignment of a 1st Vice Commander.

The 2nd Vice Commander has responsibility to build the "I-like-my- Post-because.." atmosphere. The Commander will depend on the Second Vice Commander to provide the programs that spice up the meetings and attract attendance. position may include leading committees, and coordinating building improvements.

The Finance Office have charge of all finances and see that they are safely deposited in a local bank and shall report once a month to the membership the condition of the finances of the post, with such recommendations as he/she may deem expedient or necessary for raising funds with which to carry on the activities of the post. he/she shall sign all checks disbursing the monies of the post. he/she shall furnish such security bonds in such sum as shall be fixed by the post Executive Committee.

Appointed officers primarily keep records/minutes, and/or lead committees such as Americanism/Color Guard, Membership, Service Equipment, children and Youth, Spiritual well being, overseeing office and bar employees and activities, and maintaining order and discipline at meetings.

If you are interested in more information, or would like to run for an elected position or be appointed to an Officer position, please let current or past leadership know and we will help you understand, and become a greater part of activities at our post.

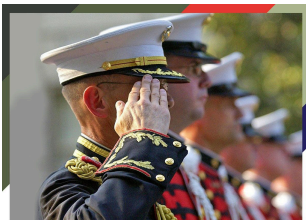
We have gathered a committee to review the post by-laws. We will have several meetings to review and any suggested changes to the Post by-laws will be read aloud at a regular meeting then discussed and voted on at the next subsequent meeting, with plenty of required notice time for any member to voice questions or concerns.

If you would like to be involved in the by-law review committee, please let me know.

As always, I appreciate all Post Family leadership and members for contributions past or present that make and keep Post 518 a strong and successful American Legion Post and Club!

Sincerely,  
Paul Wingert, Commander

507-351-2769 [pgwingert@hotmail.com](mailto:pgwingert@hotmail.com)



On the first day of every month, Legion Family members are encouraged to wear a Be the One item to show their commitment to reducing the stigma around mental health issues among veterans and servicemembers. And to start a conversation about what Be the One is and how to save the life of a veteran. Visit [legion.org/betheone](http://legion.org/betheone).



## From the Auxiliary President:

Greetings,

I hope that everyone has enjoyed their winter getaways! We were unable to have a meeting on February 15 because we didn't have enough members to make a quorum, so this will be brief.

We have a date for our Spring Shop and Sip. It will be Saturday April 6, so mark your calendars. Deb Maus will be organizing the event once again. It will be a wine tasting with a silent auction and bake sale. Please contact Deb if you want to contribute with silent auction items or baked goods.

We also have a date for our next pack for the Backpack Program. Thursday May 30 at 3:30.

There will be a sign-up sheet posted at the club when we get closer to the pack date.

The request for funds submitted to the Eagles to benefit MACV has been approved.

I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming March meeting. We have a lot of business to catch up on!

Lisa Roberts



## From the SAL Commander:

Hey everyone! Greetings from the SAL family of American Legion Post 518. On behalf of the SAL. I'd like to invite you down to the club. The weather is pretty nice so you don't have to fight the elements to stop down to hangout and see who's around. Bring some friends and enjoy the friendly atmosphere.

As usual, it's going to be a busy and exciting time at the Legion. We have trivia on the second Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 pm, as well as Meat raffle on Saturdays at 4:00 pm. We also have live music on several weekend nights. Check your calendar to find out what else might interest you.

As we get into summer, there will be a lot of things happening in and near the club. Bier On Belgrade and our very own golf tournament to name a few. Keep in mind, the club is a great place to come down and hang out.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank You

Kim Sward: SAL Commander



## AMERICANISM – Veteran of the Month

### VOM #189 – Year 16

At our **Saturday, March 2nd** VOM ceremony **INDOORS at Post 518**, we will retire Colors for **The Four Chaplains** and we will honor **Medal of Honor recipient, Army Specialist 4 Kenneth L. Olson** for the month of March.

April's VOM will be for – **Air Force E-4 Lonny Luepke**

**\*\* \*\*Come and help us honor these veterans – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – Rolls and Coffee served after the ceremony!**

**Thanks to our SAL for helping set up the site for these ceremonies and to our Auxiliary for providing the refreshments!!**

**Special Thanks to the Color Guard members that have dedicated themselves to doing these special honors for all the deceased veterans honored as Veteran's of the Month since the program started in 2008!! Would you like to be part of this great program?? 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month – Just let me know.**

**If you have never attended one of our VOM ceremonies, please try to come to one. They are very moving events – (besides, you get free rolls and coffee afterwards)**

**-LET US HONOR YOUR VETERAN!! - We need honorees for 2024!!**

**Families of deceased, honorably discharged veterans or POW/MIA's who desire these honors should call Mark Conrad (507-380-8405) ([lefty48597@gmail.com](mailto:lefty48597@gmail.com)) or Post 518 (507-625-1264)**

## COLOR GUARD

**WE NEED YOU – PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP!!** We have a **continuing need of SAL, Auxiliary & Legion members** for our Color Guard.

**You get a FREE drink chip for each event.** Not everyone can march in parades, but most can help with Colors presentations and Military Honors and Veteran of the Month Ceremonies.

**Welcome to 2 new Color Guard members – Steve Campbell & Bob Peterson**

Since our November 15th meeting, the Color Guard performed 1VOM ceremony, and Military Honors with the Memorial Squad for **7** area veterans.

**58 Volunteer hours**

Stay Warm! – Spring is coming eventually!

**Vets for Vets,  
Mark Conrad**

**(507-380-8405) ([lefty48597@gmail.com](mailto:lefty48597@gmail.com))**

## March Veteran of the Month

Ceremony #189 – Year 16

Join us as North Mankato American Legion Post 518 Honors our Veteran of the Month!!

**When: 10 AM Saturday, March 2nd, 2024**

**Where: INDOORS at Post 518 in N. Mankato**

**Retiring Colors for: The Four Chaplains**

**New Honoree for the Month: Specialist 4 Kenneth L. Olson – Medal of Honor recipient – Posthumous award**

**Open to the public – Refreshments served after the ceremony at Post 518!**

## North Mankato Post 518 Proudly Honors This Veteran of the Month



The Flag Flying from this site is flown in honor of Specialist 4 Kenneth L. Olson for the month of March, 2024 by North Mankato American Legion Post 518.

Kenneth L. Olson was born on May 26, 1945 in Eden and Lyella Olsons in Wilmar, Minnesota. He attended country school through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and went on to Pymatolis High School. Kenneth was a member of the National Honor Society, class president, and played in the band. Kenneth went on to the University of Minnesota, earning a B.S. degree.

He began serving in his country, when drafted into the US Army on June 20, 1967. Kenneth earned the rank of Specialist 4, and served in Company A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 199<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade.

On May 13, 1968, SP4 Olson, serving as a team leader, was part of a mission to reinforce a reconnaissance platoon in Long An, Republic of Vietnam, that was engaged in heavy fighting, against a well dug in Viet Cong force. After over running a first line of enemy bunkers, SP4 Olson moved forward, along with another soldier, and was met with heavy fire from automatic weapons. Without regard to his safety, he exposed himself and threw a hand grenade toward the enemy position. As this did to keep the enemy fire, SP4 Olson again exposed himself to throw another grenade, and was wounded, causing him to drop the live grenade. Realizing the danger to others, he immediately threw himself over the grenade to save his comrades from the blast, sacrificing his own life in doing so. He was 22 years old.

At the time of his death, he was survived by his parents, and brothers, Philip and Daniel Olson.

SP4 Kenneth Olson was awarded the Purple Heart, and on April 7, 1970, he was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Nixon.

His remains were interred in the Pymatolis American Legion Post 271 and in the Minnesota Commons room of the St Paul Student Center, University of Minnesota, commemorating his sacrifice.

Specialist 4 Kenneth L. Olson is buried in Pymatolis Cemetery in Pymatolis, Minnesota.



## Adjutants Corner

Wishing you a year of Irish Blessings this St. Patrick's Day!. Spring is coming quickly and summer is fast behind. Our Club needs volunteers to make our events a success. Come on down to the club and see what is new and what is happening, enjoy a beverage with your Legion Family, volunteer for upcoming events. Come down, sign up and help Support our Legion Club and Veteran Families.

I would like to personally thank everyone that came down and supported the ROTC Cadet Breakfast. The Cadets really enjoyed working with our Legion and cooking up a great breakfast. They hope we can work together in the future.

**Officer Nominations** for Legionnaire, Auxiliary and SAL are coming up. Anyone interested in a position inquires with the Units Past Commanders. We need our members to step up and get involved in the Legion Post 518 Committees.

Hoping to have our Units elected positions filled as well as the appointed positions.

### District/National

Mar 2	Dept Appreciation Rally	Montgomery Post 79
TBD	National Commanders Tour	TBD
Apr 27	3rd District Family Gathering	Pine Island Post 184
May 17-18	3rd District Convention	New Prague Post 45

### Upcoming Area Events

Trivia Night	2nd Tuesday every month 7:00PM, Next Dec 12 <sup>th</sup>	
Meat Raffle	Saturdays 4:00PM	
ROTC Military Ball	Gustavus Adolphus College	March 21 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Vets on the Hill</b> (More info to come)	BEC & NIC Cty sponsoring Bus	Wed Apr 17 <sup>th</sup>
Mini Vets Fest	North Mankato Legion Post 518	August 10 <sup>th</sup>
2024 Rock Recon	North Mankato Legion Post 518	August 17 <sup>th</sup>

### Food Promotions

Morson Ario/VFW 950	Marine Corp League Burger Night	First Friday of each month
	Daily Lunch Specials	Mon – Fri 11:00 – 1:00
Post 510 Nicollet	Electronic Gambling	Every Tuesday night
	SAL Wing Night	Every Thursday night
Post 108 LeCenter	Steak Fry	4th Saturday of every month

**VA Hospital Van Drivers to the MPLS VA needed, \$100 a trip. Interested Contact BEC or Nic County VSO.**

**Veterans Crisis Line** - NEW!!! Calling an easy-to-remember, three-digit number 988 (similar to 911) or by calling 1-800-273-8255 and pressing 1, using the online chat, or texting to 838255. These provide free, confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Experts say, for those contemplating suicide this could save lives, mental health emergencies are just as important as physical ones.

**Beyond the Yellow Ribbon (BTYR)** - Brings support to Military/Veteran families in need; whether it is help with fixing a car, raking leaves, a ride, broken down appliances, BTYR has a wide variety of activities and volunteer opportunities to assist. Military and Veterans in need have support, training services and resources. 507-327-3840

**Blue Earth/Nicollet County Van VA Hospital** - Rides to the Minneapolis VA Hospital, call to make a reservation for a ride. Through collaboration between Nicollet and Blue Earth County, this program serves Blue Earth County and Nicollet County Veterans. Scheduling transportation, please contact either office # after 2 pm the day prior to your appointment.

**Blue Earth County** call 507-304-4246, operates on odd-numbered days of the month (1st, 3rd, 5th, etc).

**Nicollet County** call 507-934-7871, operates on even-numbered days of the month (2nd, 4th, 6th, etc).

**Veteran Affairs Burial Information** call 1-800-827-1000, if you are in need of assistance.

**PACT Act Benefits Claims:** Passed August 2022. Veterans who were exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxic substances are eligible for VA health care benefits. For more information: [veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov](mailto:veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov).

REAL ID for Veterans: Take a copy of your DD214, so your ID Card will show your veteran status.

Paula Anzures, Adjutant



## Meat Raffles

Saturdays  
4:00 PM



2nd  
Tuesdays  
of the  
Month

7:00 PM



Saturday,  
March 9th  
7-10 PM

## Dark Horse Band



Saturday, March 16th 7-10 PM



## Live Music: Jim the Harpooner

Sunday, March 17th 2-4 PM



LIVE  
MUSIC

## Old Chrome Band

Saturday, March 22nd 7-10 PM

### Live Music at the North Mankato Post 518 Legion

- 2/24/2024 Jam Boyz 7-10
- 3/9/2024 Dark Horse 7-10PM
- 3/16/2024 Another Time Around 7-10 PM
- 3/17/2024 Jim the Harpooner 2-4 PM
- 3/22/2024 Old Chrome 7-10 PM
- 4/5/2024 Rock of Ages 7-10 PM
- 4/13/2024 Dark Horse 7-10 PM
- 4/19/20024 High Strung 7-10 PM
- 5/3/2024 Jam Boyz 7-10 PM



LIVE  
MUSIC

AMERICAN  
LEGION  
BIRTHDAY



Check out our Website: <https://northmankatopost518.org/>

# March 2024- Post 518 Legion Family

					<p>1</p> <p><b>Be the One!</b></p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>Veteran of Month</b>  <b>10 AM</b>  <b>Specialist 4</b>  <b>Kenneth L. Olson</b>  <b>Meat Raffle</b>  <b>4 PM</b></p>
<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Jukebox Jam 7:00 PM</p> 	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p><b>Meat Raffle</b>  <b>4 PM</b>  <b>Live Music:</b>  <b>Dark Horse</b>  <b>7-10 PM</b></p>
<p>10</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time Spring Ahead</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Trivia with Jeff 7 PM</p> 	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Jukebox Jam 7:00 PM</p> 	<p>15</p> <p><b>American Legion Birthday</b></p> 	<p>16</p> <p><b>Meat Raffle</b>  <b>4 PM</b>  <b>Live Music:</b>  <b>Another Time</b>  <b>Around</b>  <b>7-10 PM</b></p>
<p>17</p>  <p>St, Patrick's Day  <b>Live Music:</b>  <b>Jim the Harpooner</b>  <b>2-4 PM</b></p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p><u>MEETING</u></p>  <p>Board Mtg.: 5:30 PM          Family Meeting: 7:00 PM          Bar Closed: 6:30-8:30 PM</p>	<p>22</p> <p><b>Live Music:</b>  <b>Old Chrome</b>  <b>7-10 PM</b></p> 	<p>23</p>  <p><b>MEAT RAFFLE</b></p> <p>Meat Raffle 4 PM</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Jukebox Jam 7:00 PM</p> 	<p>29</p> <p><b>Vietnam Veterans Day</b></p>	<p>30</p>  <p><b>MEAT RAFFLE</b></p> <p>Meat Raffle 4 PM</p>
<p>31 Easter Sunday</p> 		<p>Remember All Deployed each and every day and especially on Holidays!</p>				