

June 2024 Newsletter

Post 518 American Legion Family

256 Belgrade Avenue, North Mankato, MN 56001 507.625.1264



Dear Post 518:

Thank you to all legion family members for everything you do and have done in the past for our post to grow and stay strong! We continue to work hard for Post 518, veterans and the community. A special thank you to those who came April 21st for spring cleaning, and those who helped prepare for our new front window at the club!

June Military Anniversaries & Observances

- D-Day (June 6, 1944)
- Flag Day (June 14) Army Birthday (June 14)
- Anniversary of start of Korean War (1950)
- Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (June 27, 1953)

At the May 16th meeting Iris Blooflat was nominated for Commander, James Peters was nominated for 1st Vice Commander, and Dylan Rohlfing was nominated for 2nd Vice Commander... Legion membership elected those nominated officers in addition to Steve Lawrence as finance officer. Congratulations to all elected and appointed officers of the Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary. Thank you for allowing me to serve as Post Commander for the past 3 years. During this time, we have improved our building sewer system, repaired some leaks, replaced some apartment windows, and some needed building fixtures and equipment. I look forward to continuing as House Committee Chair to promote a strong, positive American Legion Post serving Veterans and the community. New officer installation will take place in new business at the June 20th meeting.

The by-law committee is working on reviewing and the proposed revisions to the post by-laws. The Post by-law proposed adjustments will be emailed out to all members and read aloud at the June 20th meeting, discussed, and will be voted on at the June 20th meeting.

A Great BIG Thank You to MSU Business Students through the IBE program that gives students hands-on experience with running an actual business who operated "Get a whiff" during the past semester, sold products and donated the proceeds to Post 518.

As usual we have events coming up this month, most notably 2 Wheels 2 Heal International Motorcycle run for Mission 22 on June 22nd and more to come this summer. Please watch the calendar and join us in supporting all the great veteran causes we represent, and please consider volunteering to help keep these events successful.

Please reach out to me or any officers if you would like to be a part of any of our event planning groups, or any standing committees. We have some openings and are able to appoint additional members.

With Gratitude,
Paul Wingert, Commander
507-351-2769
pgwingert@hotmail.com



To All,

Please make an effort to attend!

Saturday, June 1st we have the VOM ceremony for "One of Our Own", Vern Radel, whom we lost last October. He has been a Post 518 member, almost since this post was formed. He has been an active and dedicated member, not only of the post, but of the Color Guard for around 45 years. He took care of "membership" for 18 years and helped with almost all Color Guard events, including Military Honors at funerals. He was one of the original participants of our VOM ceremonies, including the original planning phase. (He was the one that did my transfer to the post, and as soon as that was done, he said "How about joining the Color Guard")

Let me, in turn, say "How about joining the Color Guard"

If at all possible, please come and help us honor Vern, who has given so much to Our Post, Color Guard, VOM, and what we represent.

Color Guard members - Please come in uniform, so we can take a Color Guard picture. We haven't had a group picture for quite a few years, and this would be a great time to do it.

Memorial Day is coming soon – Let us honor those that didn't make it back.

Thanks to all,

Mark Conrad

From the Auxiliary President:



Hello All! First, I want to thank the volunteers that were able to help with the Poppy drive at Fleet Farm. We had a beautiful, windy day to set up our table, so we ended up inside the exit this year. Still, it was successful, and is a fantastic opportunity to support our Veterans. Special thanks to the folks from ABATE who volunteered to represent on Saturday.

It was exciting to see so many turn out for our meeting on Thursday, May 16. We had quite a lot of business to discuss and, since it was May, we held elections. The deadline for entry for the \$500 Auxiliary Scholarship was May 15. There are several applicants for the Scholarship Committee to review, and the \$500 scholarship will be awarded next month at the June Legion Family meeting. Membership voted to support A Fresh Start with a donation request from the Eagles gambling, we donated \$500 to the upcoming DAV Rock Recon and made a \$300 donation to the Feed and Read program at the Taylor Library. We will also contribute \$300 for candy for the Legion Family Float for the upcoming parade season.

The elected Officers for the upcoming year are: President Lisa Roberts, First Vice President Deb Joerg, Second Vice President Sonja Frye, Sergeant at Arms Linda Ulferts, Treasurer/Membership Chair Bre Rients. Thank you all for your commitment to the Auxiliary! I look forward to seeing you all at the Thursday June 20th meeting.

Best Regards, Lisa



From the SAL Commander:

Hello everyone. Welcome to my segment of the American Legion's monthly newsletter. I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather we've been having lately. I know I have. While you're out enjoying the nice warm weather, stop at the Legion for a drink or a soda. The patio is a great place to hang out or if you prefer being indoors, the atmosphere is great inside too.

In May, the Legion families elected officers for their respective families. The SAL re-elected it's previous officers. That makes me, Kim Sward the Commander, Travis DeFries our Treasurer, and Johnny Henry our Adjutant. Thanks to the SAL for allowing me to be their Commander for another year. I will try to live up to their expectations. Thank you Travis and Johnny for continuing your roles in the family. I look forward to working with you for another year.

The Legion has meetings every third Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. Put it on your calendar and drop in to check it out. See if you like it. Check out the calendar along with this newsletter. There is a lot going on at the club this summer. I'm sure there is something that you will enjoy.

As always, if you have questions or concerns for me, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank You,
Kim Sward, Commander: SAL
kimsward12@gmail.com
507-340-5972

AMERICANISM – Veteran of the Month

VOM #192 – Year 16

Help us honor Vern Radel!!

At our Saturday, June 1st VOM ceremony OUTDOORS at WHEELER PARK IN NORTH MANKATO, we will retire Colors for Army PFC Albin Carl Anderson Jr., and we will honor Navy/USAF SSG/RD1 Vernon Radel for the month of June.

July's VOM is Army Air Corps 1Lt Chuck Frost – WWII B17 pilot

**Come and help us honor these veterans – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – Rolls and Coffee served after ceremony! Thanks to our SAL for helping set up the site for these ceremonies and to our Auxiliary for providing the refreshments!! 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 have a couple openings in 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) 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.

Since our April 18th meeting, the Color Guard performed 1 VOM ceremony, Military Honors with the Memorial Squad for 2 Area veterans and 1 Post Member – Darrell Spencer.

60 Volunteer hours

Vets for Vets, Mark Conrad (507-380-8405) (lefty48597@Gmail.com)

Ceremony #192 – Year 16

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

**When: 10 AM Saturday, June 1st,
2024**

**Where: OUTDOORS at Wheeler
Park in N. Mankato**

**RETIRING COLORS for: Army
PFC Albin Carl Anderson Jr.
NEW HONOREE for the Month:
US Air Force SSG / US Navy
RD1 Vernon Radel.**

North Mankato Post 518 Proudly Honors This Veteran of the Month



The Flag flying from this site is flown in honor of RD1 Vernon Radel for the month of June, 2024 by North Mankato American Legion Post 518.

Vernon Raymond Radel was born on December 24, 1932 to Carl and Mollie Radel in Vail Township, Wabasso, Minnesota. He was baptized and confirmed at Waterbury Lutheran Church. He attended Wabasso Grade School and High School, graduating in 1950. Vernon went on to the School of Agriculture in St. Paul, Minnesota from 1950 – 1952.

On August 29, 1959, Vern married Audrey Gromholz of Vesta, Minnesota at Waterbury Lutheran Church. After military service, Vernon got a job at Farmland Industries in Mankato, Minnesota, and retired in 1996. Vern had 3 children – Dwight, Susan & Douglas. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, and loved the outdoors. He played a lot of baseball, and fastpitch softball, along with many years of horseshoes. Vern was a life member of VFW Strand Post 950, and North Mankato American Legion Post 518. He was a faithful and dedicated member of Post 518, and the Color Guard for over 40 years, and was one of the original members that started the planning, implementation, and participating in Post 518's Veteran of the Month Program for over 15 years. Vern was proud of helping with Military Honors with The Mankato Area Veterans Memorial Squad for many years.

Vernon Raymond Radel began service to his country by joining the US Navy in 1953. He served in the Korea Era from 1953 – 1957. In June of 1960, Vern enlisted in the US Air Force, and served as a KC-97 Flight Simulator Specialist during the Vietnam Era, at the rank of Staff Sergeant. Staff Sergeant Radel was honorably discharged in June of 1964 from the Air Force.

Vern re-enlisted in the US Navy again in September of 1964 as a Radarman during the Vietnam Era from 1964 – 1967. Vern served on the USS Albatross – AKA-55, USS Northampton – CLC-1, and the USS Haynsworth – DD-700. He was awarded the rate of RD1, as a Radarman. Navy RD1/Air Force SSG Vernon Radel was very proud of his service in two of his country's military branches.

RD1 Vernon Raymond Radel passed away on October 14, 2023 in Mankato, Minnesota. He is survived by his Wife – Audrey; 4 Grandchildren and 4 Great Grandchildren. He is buried in Woodland Hills cemetery, in Mankato, Minnesota.



**Bison Burger Meal
Cowboy Beans,
Chips and
Desserts
Friday, May 31st
5:30 PM**



Legion Family Meeting Reminder

Thursday, June 20th at 7:00 PM

Can't wait to see you!



Bar Closed 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

**Meat Raffles
will resume
In September**

2nd Tuesdays of the Month

**TRIVIA
Night
7:00 PM**

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024 AT 9 AM – 10 PM

**4th Annual 2 Wheels 2
Heal International
Motorcycle Run for
Mission 22**

North Mankato American Legion Post 518

Registration: 9 - noon

Opening ceremony: Noon - 12:30

Ride: 12:30 - 5:30

After party: 5:30 - 10:00



Check Out our Website:

<https://northmankatopost518.org/>

June 2024- Post 518 Legion Family

					31 Bison Burger Meal Cowboy Beans, Chips and Desserts 5:30 PM	1 Veteran of the Month 10 AM RDI Vern Radel
2	3	4	5	6 D-Day (June 6, 1944) Jukebox Jam 7:00 PM 	7	8
9	10	11 Trivia with Jeff 7 PM 	12	13 Jukebox Jam 7:00 PM 	14 Flag Day  Army Birthday 	15
16	17	18	19	20  Board Mtg.: 5:30 PM Family Meeting: 7:00 PM Bar Closed: 6:30-8:30 PM	21	22 Mission 22 Event
23	24	25	26	26 Jukebox Jam 7:00 PM 	27 Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (June 27, 1953)	28

29	30
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