

**5th District American Legion
Department of Minnesota
E-Flash
May, 2017**

FROM OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER:

Perhaps more than any other month of the year, May represents a time to honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Each Memorial Day, American Legion Family members honor the deceased by placing American flags on gravesites, reflecting on their heroism and demonstrating service in their communities.

This year, for the first time, we are elevating the commemorations to include National Poppy Day. Last fall, the Legion's National Executive Committee approved a resolution in support of declaring the Friday before Memorial Day as National Poppy Day. The American Legion has worked with the American Legion Auxiliary in support of the Poppy Program for many years. With the creation of National Poppy Day, this support can grow – but we need your support.

In an effort to bring greater attention to the symbolism of the poppy, we are working on a national effort to increase awareness and encourage community participation on May 26, 2017 – National Poppy Day.

We have created a National Poppy Day toolkit to assist the entire American Legion Family with media outreach and community engagement. We encourage everyone to use the National Poppy Day toolkit so that we are all communicating with a consistent voice and brand. The entire National Poppy Day toolkit can be found on the new National Poppy Day website, Legion.org/PoppyDay.

Charles E. Schmidt
National Commander

FROM OUR 5TH DISTRICT COMMANDER:

This is a sad time for the 5th District with the passing of one of our most honored members, John Nelson. He was a devoted legionnaire and gave many good years to our District. He'll always be remembered. There will be a Celebration of Life for him at a later date.

We had our final District assembly on May 2nd for this membership year and now it's convention time. Make sure to get your reservations in by the May 18th cutoff date. After that it will cost you an additional \$3.00. Every Post commander should have gotten the Convention Call letter in the mail along with the district officers. Check with your Post commander. I also sent it as an attachment to everyone on the E-Flash list.

There will be a number of amendments to vote on including the one for the dues increase. It is a vote by delegates and must pass by 60%.

Let's have a good showing at our convention this year. The Department Convention is in Mahanomen on July 12-14. Rooms are filling up so call right away.

We are still in 10th place for membership and below 90% of goal. Last year we finished at 93%. Let's make the push and get over the 90% mark. Save the date, June 24th. It is the date of our 4th & 5th District picnic at Big Marine Veteran's Camp.

I hope everyone has plans to attend a ceremony somewhere on Memorial Day to honor all our Veterans who gave their lives for our country.

Ray Eiden
5th District Commander

Flag Day is June 14th! A great way to show support for Old Glory is with the American Legion's "Indivisible: The Story of Our Flag" bookazine. The 112 page publication is a collector's item that pays tribute to our nation's colors. Through colorful photos, illustrations, poems, quotations, fun facts and more, "Indivisible" tells the story of the U.S. flag from the American Revolution to the Global War on Terrorism.

The flag bookazine can be a 100th Anniversary fundraising opportunity for post by purchasing it in bulk and reselling to members or the public. Post, districts and departments are also encouraged to buy the bookazine in bulk and distribute to libraries or schools, or use as a membership incentive.

"Indivisible" can be purchased from \$9.95 thru <http://emblem.legion.org>; bulk orders of 25 or more cuts the price to \$7.95. To ensure delivery by Flag Day, orders must be placed by June 1.

PROGRAM REMINDERS:

May 8 – 10 is the anniversary of the St. Louis Caucus, which completed original organization of Legion back in 1919. Armed Forces Day, Mother's Day and Memorial Day form the basis for good post programs. Do you have a uniformed group in the post? Do you decorate veterans' graves? Present school awards at the end of school. Implement American Legion Baseball and summer athletic programs. Contact school officials now – to get Legion activities approved and on the calendar for next year – oratorical contest, Boys State, school awards, American Education Week, etc.

IT'S CONVENTION TIME AGAIN:

The Fifth District American Legion Family will hold its Annual District Convention Friday June 2nd and June 3rd, 2017 at the Holiday Inn in Bloomington off I- 35W, 1201 West 94th Street, Bloomington, MN 55431. Registration is \$15.00 before or on Friday, May 26th, 2017 and \$18.00 after Friday, May 26th 2017 or at the Convention.

Hotel Registration must be made by Friday, May 19th

There will be a joint Memorial Service on Friday June 2nd, 2017, 7:00 P.M.

The Convention Sessions for the Legion and Auxiliary will begin Saturday, June 3rd, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. The Session for the SAL will begin Saturday, June 3rd, at 10:00 AM. The session for the District ALR session will begin Saturday June 3rd, at 12 noon. The convention meeting room assignment will be in your convention book. The Convention Banquet will be Saturday, June 3rd, Social at 5 PM, Banquet at 6 PM, program to follow.

Banquet Registration must be in by May 26th as we need to provide a meal count to the hotel. Meal choices are Honey Glazed Ham, \$23.00, Italian Herb Chicken, \$25.00 or Almond Crusted Walleye \$29.50. All prices include tax and gratuity

AMAZING VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL WEBSITE:

Be prepared for a very moving experience...you can see their faces and remember their stories. First lick on a site. When it opens, scroll down to the city and the names will appear. Then click on their names. It should show you a picture of the person, or at least their bio and medals. This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it. Those who remember that time frame, or perhaps lost friends or family can look them up on this site.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall – The Virtual Wall

MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM:

On Memorial Day, May 29th the 5th District American Legion and the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis will have a Memorial Day Program will be held in the Atrium at 2:00PM. This year's guest speaker will be Brigadier General David D. Hamlar, Assistant Adjutant – Air Minnesota National Guard.

UPCOME DATES:

May 20	Armed Forces Day
May 29	Post 1 Memorial program at Pioneer & Soldiers Cemetery, Lake St & Cedar Ave.
May 29	Minneapolis-Richfield Post 435 Memorial Day at Oakhill Cemetery, 5901 Lyndale Ave So @ 10:30 AM. Flag raising and lunch at Post at noon
June 2-3	5 th District Convention. Memorial service 6/2; Convention and banquet 6/3
June 11	Omelet Breakfast at Mpls Post 1
June 14	Flag Day
June 25	Pancake breakfast at Wold Chamberlain Post 99

This will be the last E-Flash sent out under Adjutant Jim Munson and wish to thank everyone for their support of this project. Communication is a key to any organization and Commander Ray and I tried to keep the information coming to all the American Legion Family.

Ray Eiden
Commander

Jim Munson
Adjutant