

Gibbon American Legion
1029 Court Street
Gibbon, NE 68840

May 2014

LEGION HOURS:

Sunday—Tuesday: 6 a.m.— 7 p.m.

Wednesday— Thursday: 6—10 p.m.

Friday—Saturday: 6 a.m.—midnight

Bradley Buck #310

Meet Steve VanMeter

Steve VanMeter, long-time resident of Gibbon, became the first Commander of the Bradley Buck Post #310 Sons of the American Legion (SAL) in 2008. He retained the office for three years and organized many projects that supported Veterans and current military personnel. Steve said, "I became involved in starting the SAL after Mick Ross told me about the organization. I never knew it existed and my Mom and Dad were involved in many Veteran organizations." Steve became involved with the SAL to honor his father's (Dale), grandfather's (Cris), and biological grandfather's (Martin) service in the United States Armed Forces. "I totally respect the service of everyone who ever served in the military, no matter when, no matter where! Being able to be part of the Legion family through the S. A. L. is not nearly enough to thank them for their service but I hope it helps, at least a little."

Steve's father, Dale, ran away at the age of 16 and enlisted in the United States Army. His older sister forged the permission slip so he could join. Dale's mom had died at his birth and he and his two sisters were "farmed" out to other families. The Crissie Ellmers' family took in Dale and raised him until he left for the military. Steve said, "I thought everyone had three granddads. I first met my biological grandfather, Martin Van Matre, when he was stationed at Ft. Riley, Kansas." Steve pointed out that his last name has a different spelling than his grandfather's and has no explanation for it. Martin served in the Army during both WWI and WWII. Dale VanMeter was assigned to the 711th Tank Battalion. Steve recalled his



Upcoming Events

May 1: May Day

May 10: Gibbon Graduation

May 11: Mother's Day Buffet

May 17: Gibbon graduation, 1 p.m.

May 19: Membership Mtg, 7:30 p.m.

May 26 : Memorial Day Ceremony

May 27: Lunch & Learn, noon

Officers

Commander

Rick Lange

Vice Commander

Gene Giger

Financial Officer

Mick Ross

Adjutant

John Arias

Sergeant at Arms

Jim Myrick

Chaplain

Frank Spotanski

Service Officer

Cliff Tillemans

Newsletter Editor

Julie Schnitzler

Steve VanMeter (cont)

dad talking about the Louisiana Maneuvers. Dale's unit rode horses from Arkansas to Ft. Robinson, Nebraska. Once they arrived at Ft. Robinson, the horses were taken away and the men were given tanks; they turned into mechanized units. Steve remembers his dad saying, "I rode a perfectly good horse to Ft. Robinson and then they put me in a god-damned tank." Dale was stationed in Needles, California, when Pearl Harbor was bombed. He was sent to Okinawa where he was wounded when his tank was hit. Dale was awarded the Purple Heart.

"My dad talked about the Army but never the War! My dad was discharged just under 5 years of service." Shortly after his discharge, Dale turned 22. He returned to Lyle, Kansas, and married Dorothy. They had three children: Janice Pollatt (Kearney), Steve and Mary Westerbeck (Wellsville, Kansas). Steve said that his dad knew his mom's family growing up as their family farms were only five miles apart. Dale was a life member of three Veteran organizations: American Legion Post #310 in Arapahoe, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 14 and Veterans of Foreign Wars 9357. His mom was recognized at the state level for her efforts with the DAV before her death in 1984. Dale died May 1996 in Kearney.

Steve and his sisters grew up in Oakley, Kansas. "My dad owned body shops when I was a kid; he was a migrant fender and body man. One day, my dad came home at noon and told my mom that he sold the shop and the next day the moving van came to put our stuff in storage and we moved to Bakersfield, California, where my dad worked in an auto shop." Dale took his family to Arapahoe where Steve met his wife, Julia Monter. Both Steve and Julia graduated from Arapahoe High School in 1967 before earning their degrees at McCook Jr. College and attended Kearney State College; both graduated with teaching degrees. They married in 1970, Steve's first job was in Shelton and Julia's was in

Wood River. They moved to Gibbon in 1973 when Steve accepted the elementary principal position. He retired from Gibbon Public Schools in 2003 and served as the

County Superintendent of the Class I schools until they closed in 2006. Steve and Julia have three sons: Kris married Kathy and they have four children: Karlie, Brayan, Avery, & Pallmer. Nate married Julie and they have two children: Emily & Lydia. Jon married Kristin and they have two children: Landon & Preston. Steve and Julia make many trips to the Lincoln area as their children and families all live in or close to Lincoln.

Steve has many mementos from his father and grandfather. "Cris Ellmers was not my biological grandfather, but I knew him as my granddad." Cris served in WWI and Steve inherited all of his military papers, and uniforms. Steve said, "He had to wear his boots and overcoat in the depression and wore them out. Otherwise he had everything." Steve has the gas mask that Cris was wearing in France when mustard gas was used on the US troops. Dale received 100% disability because of his injuries. Steve is proud of a shadowbox of his Dad's mementos that now hangs in his bedroom. The shadowbox contains Dale's grade school picture, his purple heart, Dale's mother's blue-star pin, his 50 year Legion pin, Cris's 60 year Legion pin, shells from the Phillippines, Hawaii and Okinawa and a toy lion that Dale's grandmother gave him. Cris Ellmers died in the late 1960's and Martin Van Matre died in the mid-1950's. Steve also had three uncles who served in the United States Army; one was a career intelligence officer, another served in Korea and the third served in a Redstone Missile Arsenal.



Cris Ellmers—WWI



Less than 4 weeks until
Memorial Day



• Poly/Cotton \$6.95
• Nylon \$13.95
• Polyester \$18.95

\$30—3x5 flag

Purchase flags at the Gibbon Legion. Proceeds support our youth programs.



Darren Lewis was the guest speaker at the first "Lunch & Learn" held this past week at the Legion. He spoke on Severe Weather Preparedness. He has 15 years of Emergency Experience, 8 years of military experience and received the Emergency Management Professional of the Year for Nebraska twice. The Exchange Bank sponsored the event.

Rear Admiral Scott B. Jerabe, UNL Graduate, will be pinning new Navy ROTC graduates. MEET & GREET: Aces Haus of Cuisine, 200 N. 70th Street Saturday, May 10 @ 6 p.m. His biography: www.navy.mil/navydata/bios/bio.asp?bioID=697

2014 Shelton/Gibbon Baseball

May 26	@ Albion	2:30/5:00 p.m.
May 29	@ Burwell	5:30/8:00 p.m.
May 30	Alma @ Gibbon Juniors	7:00 p.m.
May 30	Sutton @ Shelton Seniors	7:00 p.m.
May 31	@ Hershey	2:00/5:00 p.m.
June 1	DCB @ Shelton	2:00/5:00 p.m.
June 3	@ Ord	5:30/8:00 p.m.
June 4	Overton @ Gibbon	6:00/8:00 p.m.
June 6	@ Palmer	5:30/8:00 p.m.
June 7	Sutton @ Shelton Juniors	7:00 p.m.
June 7	Seward/Sidney @ Shelton Seniors	12:00/ 5:00 p.m.
June 8	Twin Plains @ Shelton	2:00/5:00 p.m.
June 10	@ Loup City Juniors	7:00 p.m.
June 13, 14, 15	Juniors Tourney @ GI	TBD
June 17	@ Boelus	5:30/8:00 p.m.
June 18	@ Alma Juniors	7:00 p.m.
June 19	@ Gibbon	6:00/8:00 p.m.
June 21	@ Hebron Seniors	12:00 p.m.
June 21	@ Davenport	7:00 p.m.
June 23	Geneva @ Shelton	6:00/8:00 p.m.
June 24	Davenport @ Shelton Seniors	7:00 p.m.
June 26	Loup City @ Gibbon Juniors	7:00 p.m.
June 27, 28, 29	Junior Tourney @ Central City	TBD
June 28, 29	Senior Tourney @ Ft. Calhoun	TBD
July 3	Gothenburg @ Gibbon	6:00/8:00 p.m.
July 5	Lincoln Christian @ Shelton Juniors	2:00 p.m.
July 5	Cozad @ Gibbon Seniors	7:00 p.m.
July 7	Boone Central @ Shelton Seniors	7:00 p.m.
July 9	Overton @ Shelton Seniors	7:00 p.m.
July 11, 12, 13	Seniors Tourney @ GI	TBD
July 11-16	Juniors Districts @ Overton	TBD
July 18—22	Senior Districts @ Shelton	TBD
July 19—23	Junior State Tourney @ Creighton	TBD
July 26—30	Senior State Tourney @ Hebron	TBD

Minutes of April Membership meeting minutes



Commander Rick Lange opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with 20 members present. Membership pins were given to the members who hit a 5-year milestone. DONATIONS: Many people were thanked for their donations to benefit the Legion. Memorials were received from the Paul Frink family. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: Bucky Shiers approved minutes as read by Adjutant Arias. Motion carried. FINANCE REPORT: Lee Meents approved as read by Ryan Brehmer. Motion carried. MANAGER'S REPORT: The following events were held at the Le-

gion: Gibbon Education Foundation, 1st communion (200 people), fundraiser for Zach Peters (class of 2007). In MAY the following events are scheduled:

Graduation & Alumni parties, Mandy Yendra benefit, May 13-election; 1964, 74 ad 84 will host parties. Party on May 31.

ADJUTANT'S REPORT: 149 members paid to date. 19 members



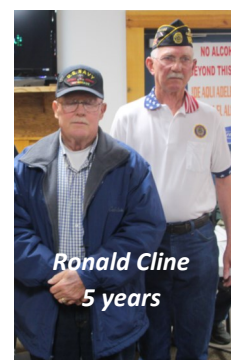
haven't renewed. Lunch & Learn on April 29. VICE COMMANDER REPORT:

Easter Egg Hunt: 200 kids picked up the candy in 6 minutes. Thanks to all who donated candy and those volunteers to set up the hunt. SERVICE OFFICER RE-

PORT: Sent Sympathy Cards to Paul Frink and Don Cline families. SGT AT ARMS: 3 funerals; 2 in Gibbon and 1 in Shelton. Greg Brodine requested that members get back to him in a timely fashion when he requests support for funerals.

BASEBALL COMMITTEE: Randy Stocker said the Gibbon

Bank made the raffle tickets. Parents have been asked to take the gate for games and deposit in the joint baseball account. NEW BUSINESS: Memorial Day Ceremony will be held on Monday, May 26. GOOD OF THE ORDER: . Julie Schnitzler reported that she is hopeful the new rifles will arrive prior to Memorial Day. NEXT MEETING: May 19, 7:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned: 8:15 p.m.



Don Halkyard celebrates 60 years as a continuous member of the American Legion. His wife, Myrtle, and family share in the celebration. Don enlisted in the Air Force in January 1951 and was assigned to the 6th Aviation Field Depot (AFD). The 6th AFD was split and Don was put into the 7th AFD and sent with his squadron to Goose Bay Labrador to guard atomic bombs. Don held the highest top secret clearance during given at that time. Don and Myrtle have four children: Rusty, John, Deb Chaney and Dee Krolikowski.

Peg Sinnard Gibbon American Legion "Teacher of the Year"



Peg Sinnard was recently selected as the Gibbon American Legion Teacher of the Year. She has taught K-12 vocal music and directed the musicals and 1-

Act plays at Gibbon for the past 14 years, but has also taught in Amherst, Kearney and rural elementary schools. Sinnard graduated from Hastings High School and received her Bachelor Degree from Hastings College in General Education Music. She has continued her education by completing courses at the University of Nebraska-Kearney in Gifted Education and various music courses.

Besides teaching in the public educational system, Mrs. Sinnard has directed musicals for the Kearney Community Theatre, served as the Youth Choir Director at First United Methodist Church and gives private guitar, voice, and piano lessons. She has been recognized as NTV Teacher of the Month in 1999, served as a guest Clinician and has performed numerous solos and leads in music and drama.

Mrs. Sinnard is proud of her family's sacrifices for Freedoms. Her grandfathers, Warren McCormick and Frank Rader both served in the United States Army during WWI. Her dad, Burton Rader, and her uncle, Raymond Rader, were WWII Army Veterans. Her brother served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam era and her son-in-law Matthew Tacha is currently an

officer in the Nebraska National Guard. Sinnard's sons also played Legion Baseball in Kearney and her son, Bill Sinnard, was an alternate for Boys State at Kearney High School. Bill and Ben also participating Boy Scouts for several years.

During her tenure at Gibbon Schools, Mrs. Sinnard has supported our Veterans in various ways. She was one of the founders and organizers of the Annual Veteran's Day program. Her students sing at least three songs in the program and made thank you cards to distribute during the playing of each military branch's song. She also organized sending Valentines cards, Easter goodies and items (batteries, health and bath items, games, cards, books, magazines, movies, food) in the fall for the holidays. Mrs. Sinnard also has 3rd grade students perform an annual President's Day program.

Linda Brodine, colleague and fellow Veterans' Day program founder said, "Peg works hard to find 'just the right music' and she takes a lot of pride in recognizing our local veterans through the music the students perform. I admire her enthusiasm and devotion to both our students and our veterans."

Sinnard has been married to Terry for 37 years and they have three children (William, Benjamin and Brandy). She is proud of her six grandchildren: Drew, Grace, Jack & Maren, Lauren and Reid.

Sinnard's hobbies include performing in plays, swimming, reading and spending time with her family.

May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 LUNCH: Chicken Fried Steak/pork tenderloin <i>Basket Night</i>	2 <i>Prime Rib</i>	3 Mandy Yendra Benefit
4	5	6	7 <i>New York Strip</i>	8 LUNCH: Chicken Fried Steak/pork tenderloin <i>Basket Night</i>	9 <i>Prime Rib</i>	10 Gibbon Graduation
11 Mother's Day Buffet \$9.99	12	13	14 <i>New York Strip</i>	15 LUNCH: Chicken Fried Steak/pork tenderloin <i>Basket Night</i>	16 <i>Prime Rib</i>	17
18	19 Membership Mtg, 7:30pm	20	21 <i>New York Strip</i>	22 LUNCH: Chicken Fried Steak/pork tenderloin <i>Basket Night</i>	23 <i>Prime Rib</i>	24 Alumni Class of 64, 74, 84
25	26 Memorial Day	27 Lunch & Learn, noon	28 <i>New York Strip</i>	29 LUNCH: Chicken Fried Steak/pork tenderloin <i>Basket Night</i>	30 <i>Prime Rib</i>	31

LUNCH AND LEARN

WHEN

Tuesday, May 27
Noon – 1 p.m.

WHERE

**Gibbon American
Legion**

1029 Court Street, Gibbon, NE 68840

FEATURING · **Paul Koerner** ·
**Buffalo County Sheriff's
Department**

**FRAUDS AND
SCAMS**

LUNCH SERVED
Order the Lunch special
Or off the menu

**EVERYONE
WELCOME**

SPONSOR
Gibbon
Insurance
Agency

**IN
PARTNERSHIP**

Gibbon American Legion
Buffalo County Sheriff's
Department
Buffalo County
Emergency Mgt.

FUTURE
PRESENTATIONS
being conducted
the last Tuesday of
every month.



Mother's Day Buffet

Sunday, May 11, 2014

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Call for reservations, please!

Menu

Barbecued Beef Ribs

Kathy's Famous Fried Chicken

Coconut Breaded Giant Shrimp

Salad Bar including Kathy's Famous Crab Salad

Strawberry Shortcake

Only \$9.95

PLEASE
PLACE
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HERE