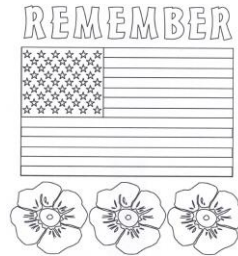




**MORSON-ARIO VFW POST 9713
AND LADIES AUXILIARY NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2009**

WWW.VFWPOST9713.ORG



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Post and Auxiliary Monthly Meetings are at 7:30p on the 1st Thursday of each month

NOW THRU MAY 25TH TAKE **POPPY** CARD DONATIONS \$5 EACH

NOW-9TH **POPPY** CARD DONATIONS TO BUSINESSES

MAY 14TH-16TH **POPPY** DISTRIBUTION

May 25th, Memorial Day Services

Downtown Mankato Library 8a (2008 time)

Pilgrim's Rest Service Cemetery (inquire)

Kasota Memorial Service (inquire)

Mankato Vietnam Memorial Service (inquire)

WWII Memorial N. Mankato (inquire)

June 4th, Monthly Meeting

July 2nd, Monthly Meeting

July 4th Independence Day Celebration

August 6th, Monthly Meeting

November 2009 ANNUAL Belgian Waffle Extravagana

A NOTE FROM COMMANDER DOBIE PAINTER

To all Members, Post and Auxiliary. It has been a fast and very good year as Commander. Our Club is in the black and seems to be heading up. So, thanks to the employees and especially Heidi Heath, our Manager.

Check out our noon lunch with table covers and every other Saturday Steak Fry. Helping is Jigger Burgess, Frank White, and our next incoming Commander Keith Ward. Please give him your support as good or better than mine.

Poppy Distribution time is here. Please take time for Warren and Gail Taylor, as they really do a great job with this important project. We need distributors for both Cubs and talk to me or Jeannette Torgusen, for help with Business contacts. Donations are fantastic from businesses.

On April 21st, we had a young man, Terry Piper, walking across the 2nd District to raise money for Unmet Needs and Operation Uplink. We made a donation to these important causes, and supported Terry's journey. Great work Terry.

A special thank you to the Marine Corp League for purchasing tables for our club.

It's been a great honor to serve you this past year, and maybe again in the future. For now, let us support this young Vet, Keith Ward and all his new staff. A Special Thanks, to Terry Palmer, for all of his years of service.

Your Commander,
Dobie Painter

MEMORIAL DAY COMMUNITY FLAG PRESENTATION

Two years ago, following the tragic death of Army Soldier Jacob Thompson, the community came out in force standing curbside on a rainy day to honor our fallen hero, as the funeral procession passed by. Memorial Day is again our opportunity each and every year to show our pride for every soldier past and present who have left us, no matter where they are from. This year the Morson Ario will reach out to the community once again to ask that it's citizens again honor those fallen heroes by showing up at the Mankato Library on Riverfront Drive, flag in hand, as our community holds its annual downtown Memorial Day Service at 8a. Last year we stood silent at the Library as an elderly Veteran stood in tears talking to us about his comrades who did not come home with him and the bond that existed between them. Please be that person on the street. We are tens of thousands strong in Mankato and we want the City to block off the street to accommodate this service if needed. Help us. Talk to your other organizations about taking a stand in honor on this important day of observance. Organize, gather, and show your pride. If you are able soldiers, please wear your uniform. We want to see soldiers of all ages. So before the brats go on the grill, or the lemonade flows, stop at the library and pay your respects.

VETERANS RADIO PROGRAM

Don't forget to listen to
YOUR RADIO PROGRAM
First Friday of each Month from 4-5p on
KTOE 1420 AM Radio

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS FOR VETERANS

Please make sure to ask your Commander or visit, www.vfw.org, to check out grants and scholarships for furthering your education. These funds are available to you to help you in making decisions about your future. We want you to use those funds. Ask your Post Commander or Ladies Auxiliary President if you need assistance in seeking these funds. You've earned them. **APPLY FOR THEM.**

FREE HAIRCUTS FOR VETERANS

The Cosmetology Training Center, at 1701 Adams Street, in Mankato, gives free haircuts to our Veterans any time. Bring your Military ID card or some form of Military identification (VFW membership card) and get your free haircut. Let's find a way to honor the Cosmetology Center this year for this wonderful gesture. We will be presenting them with a bouquet of **Poppies** and a framed certificate from our VFW and Ladies Auxiliary. This is a wonderful gesture on the part of a local business.

A BOOK TO READ "BLOOD IN OUR BOOTS"

Ed Haider was an eager, patriotic, twenty year-old young man when he enlisted in the airborne in April of 1942. His experience turned into a living nightmare when he was taken prisoner for almost 2 years, in the hands of German captors. His book has both serious and humorous anecdotes of daily life for the prisoners of war attached to Stalag 2B Schulenberg farm, work detail. You can order this book by sending a check for \$11 to Ed Haider, 500 West County Rd. B, Apt. 101, Roseville, MN 55113. If you do, let us know your thoughts on this book.

A **POPPY** PRIDE MOMENT FROM OUR AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

I can't imagine a time when the bright red **Poppy** hasn't been part of life in my family. As an elementary student a friend and I would go door to door, in my hometown of Minnesota Lake, to distribute them. I had my can with a coin slot in the top, which was big enough to fit a folded bill just in case, and a fist full of **Poppies**. When I knocked on the door and they saw my fist full of red crepe paper **Poppies**, I didn't need to say a word. The change came out, and I would hear a clink in the can, and the **poppy** went on their collar, or through a buttonhole, before I could say, would you like a **Poppy** for our Veterans?

Today is only different for me because I buy Poppy Cards in memory of my Dad, my Great Uncle who died from being tortured in a German prison camp, and in honor of a friend who recently returned from Iraq.

Times have changed, but the importance of the Buddy **Poppy** has definitely not. Our nation has hundreds of thousands of disabled Veterans. That figure grows and grows each year. Each year, since 1923, OUR disabled Veterans make these symbolic **poppies** as a reminder, to us, and a way of supporting programs to help all Veterans. Our Post purchases the **poppies** from the Disabled Veterans and we distribute them to citizens and businesses. The donations aid our Local Veterans in many ways. PLEASE, show your **poppy** pride. Volunteer to distribute **Poppies** at one of our distribution sites. Make a \$5 donation to the Club for a **Poppy** Memorial Card to be hung in our club. Make a donation when you see that **Poppy** Distributor standing with a beautiful Bright Red fist full of **Poppies**, out of respect for YOUR Veterans everywhere. Mail a donation to the Club at 1900 Riverfront Drive, Mankato, and write a note telling us who you want it in memory of or in honor of. We'll do the rest for you. Then take a moment, to think back, to the first time you remember the Buddy **Poppy**. I only hope your memory is as fond as mine is.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR 2009 AUXILIARY PRESIDENT, MARY TORGUSEN

We held our annual election of officers on April 2nd. Thank you to all of those who attended and helped our leadership team come together. It was a good election night and I want to personally thank those women for taking offices in our Auxiliary with me again in our next year.

We continue to have experienced people in those positions, but need more of you out there to join us in our efforts. Please read this newsletter carefully, especially the **Poppy** sections. Join us at Installation on May 7th at 6:30p, for a little potluck deliciousness followed by installation at 7:30p. One item on that list is Amy Burgess's famous homemade clam chowder. It was the rage at the Valentine's Day Soup Luncheon, and our fingers are crossed that she'll make it once again. There will surely be more delicious items to try as well. Let's celebrate another great, new, year starting for our Auxiliary, and honor those who have stepped forward to lead.

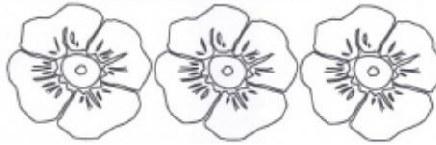
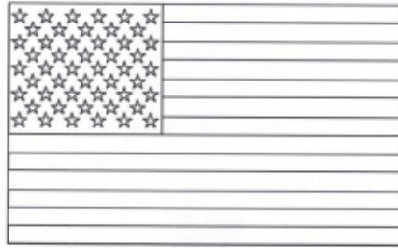
THOSE COLLECTION ITEMS STILL MATTER

If you live in Mankato, you collect Campbell Soup labels, Tyson food labels, or pop can tabs, I will be calling you for a pick up time, AND I'm headed to your house. Have them ready and I'll do the leg work. We'll get them to the National Children's Home for redemption immediately. They just received a new van through their Campbell's labels so they can transport our Vets families. I couldn't be more proud of this great program. Go to <http://www.vfwnationalhome.org> to find out all the products that qualify for redemption and to learn more about our National Home. A life membership was purchased in the name of former Auxiliary President Lorraine Kelly. Thanks for your continuing leadership Lorraine.

POST AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS COMMUNITY SERVICE

Guess what, I'm calling you monthly to get your volunteer hours. I know, for a fact, that out of the 400 members we have, we are out in our community volunteering in droves. That means thousands of hours that we are volunteering, and no one knows. The reporting should be the painless part. Jeannette Torgusen has made it her mission to connect with all of you in order to find out what you do in your church, your schools, for your neighbors, youth, homeless, disabled, Girl and Boy Scouts, and especially our Veterans. Any time you are giving of yourself on your own time or making donations to community efforts, they want to know. Tape a piece of paper to your cupboard door. When you make an effort to volunteer in our communities, **INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OF THE POST CLUB**, please let us know. We want to let our National office know how amazing you are. Email me at mtorgusen@charter.net with your hours each month by the last day of the month, or we'll call to get them or call me at 382-1798.

REMEMBER



**CHECK OUT NOON LUNCHEES AT THE CLUB
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
DELICIOUS STEAK FRY EVERY OTHER SATURDAY NIGHT.**

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Address Service Requested