NEWSLETTER

NORTH MANKATO
AMERICAN LEGION POST 518

FROM THE COMMANDER

Dear Legion Family,
Thank you to everyone who attended the February meeting. During our meeting, we welcomed guest Pam Krill, who provided a brief presentation on Bravo Zulu. She shared updates on the Men's House and information about the upcoming Women's House planned for the Mankato area.
Pam also announced that she is running for Department Commander in the upcoming Legion year and respectfully requested our support.

2025 Year in Review – Thank You, Legion Family
As we reflect on 2025, it is clear that everything Post 518 accomplished was possible because of you — our Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL, and Color Guard.
In 2025, the Post 518 Family demonstrated tremendous commitment to service, contributing over 2,037 documented volunteer hours in support of veterans, youth, and community programs.
In addition to this hands-on impact, our Legion Family proudly reinvested $23,688 back into the community through donations and sponsorships.

Great ideas continue to drive our success. This year we:
Launched our first Mankato Mayhem wrestling event, bringing new energy and new faces into our Post
Introduced Pheffer twice monthly, creating more opportunities for fellowship
Hosted our second annual Halloween Trunk-or-Treat, strengthening our connection with local families
Beyond the numbers, our impact was felt across the community. In 2025 we supported two Eagle Scout projects, awarded three scholarships to graduating seniors, and assisted six area veterans and Post family members with critical needs including home repairs, medical bills, housing support, and child educational assistance.

Post 518 is not just a building.
It is not just meetings.
It is not just events.
It is a family committed to service.
Because of you:
Veterans are honored
Youth are supported
Families are cared for
Our community knows the American Legion stands strong
Thank you for your dedication, creativity, and heart for service in 2025. Let's carry this momentum into 2026.
Post 518 — Stronger Together.

Meeting Announcements
At the February meeting, members approved a total of $1,000 in community and veteran-support donations:

20th Annual Freedom Run – $500. The Freedom Run is an annual 100-mile motorcycle and classic car ride through southern Minnesota that raises funds for the Minnesotans' Military Appreciation Fund (MMAF). More than 95% of funds raised go directly to Minnesota service members and their families.

Camp Bliss, Twin Valley Council – $500
Camp Bliss provides one-of-a-kind retreats in Walker, Minnesota, exclusively for veterans and their families, offering programming at little or no cost to support well-being, connection to resources, and prevention of social isolation.

Membership also approved an Eagle Gambling funds request to match these donations, further demonstrating Post 518's ongoing commitment to veterans, youth, and community engagement throughout our region.

March Observances
Mar. 3 – Navy Reserve Birthday
Mar. 13 – K-9 Veterans Day
Mar. 25 – Medal of Honor Day
Mar. 29 – Vietnam Veterans Day

YOURS IN SERVICE

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Commander
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FROM THE ADJUTANT

March is here which means the start of spring, longer days and warmer weather and I think we are all looking forward to that. Warmer weather also means construction and we will have plenty of it in our neighborhood with the new building next door and the bridge and Belgrade avenue projects. We will also be having some work done to our building, we are definitely going to try and keep it from affecting business hours at the post. Construction is going to be a pain in the neck but we are trying to come up with some fun stuff and embrace the chaos.

There will be a dinner for National Commander Dan Wiley on April 23rd sponsored by New Prague Post 45. New Prague will also be hosting this year's District Convention May 15-16. If you have any interest in either of these events let Commander Iris or me know. The post can help pick up some of the costs on these events.

Our next meeting will be on March 19th at 7pm. I hope to see you there.

Thanks
Jeff Frye
Adjutant, House Committee Chair

SAL COMMANDER

As I write this we are in a cold snap right after an unseasonably warm stretch. It's a reminder that winter isn't done with us yet. Hopefully though, as we get through March, the weather will become summer-like.

Another sure sign of spring being on its way is the different committees starting up. I'm happy to inform you, the wrestling committee is starting up. Get ready for MANKATO MAYHEM II coming to the club this summer!! Last summer we worked with Midwest Area Wrestling to bring wrestling to the club as a new way to raise money for our causes. Thank you to all of the committee members for making this a successful and more, importantly, a fun committee to be on. I look forward to working with you again.

Don't worry golfers. We will be starting that committee up soon. We haven't forgotten how much fun the tournament is for golfers and those of us that plan and work it.
Keep your eye on the calendar for when these and other things that might interest you may be happening at Post 518.



SAL PINEWOOD DERBY

SINCERELY

Kim Sward
SAL Commander
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FROM THE AUXILIARY

It's March already, and the Auxiliary would like to wish a Happy 107th Birthday to the American Legion on March 15!

The Auxiliary will be offering a mixology course on Sunday, March 22. The cost to attend is only $10. Sonja will be leading the class and teaching how to pour some fancy drinks. Three with alcohol and one mocktail that includes tastings. Then the attendees will have the opportunity to create their favorite, and the Auxiliary will provide snacks. Signup sheets will be posted in the club.

Applications for the Auxiliary $500 Scholarships are available at the Club. If you have a post-secondary student in your family, please encourage them to apply. The requirements are included in the Scholarship application and applications must be completed and remitted to the scholarship committee by April 15. Mail them to: Unit 518, 256 Belgrade Ave., North Mankato, MN 56003
They can also be dropped off at the club.

Another reminder to pay your 2026 dues. We're running a little behind with 73 of our 86 members paid. If you're not sure that you've paid, just let me or Bre know and we can check into it.
Looking ahead, we have scheduled our Spring Shop and Sip for Saturday, April 11. If you would like to donate a basket for the silent auction or whip up some goodies for the bake sale, please get in touch with Deb Maus at 507-351-6210. This is one of our biggest fundraisers and also a super fun time!
Wishing everyone a happy St. Paddy's day!
Lisa Roberts
507-327-3101



RED FRIDAY TRIPLETS

VETERAN OF THE MONTH #214

19 Years of Recognition

Saturday, March 7, 2026
Retiring Colors for The Four Chaplains
New Honoree of the Month: Pfc. Richard E. Kraus,U.S. Marine Corps – Medal of Honor Recipient

Public is welcome, refreshments served after the ceremony.
Let us know if you have a family or loved one you'd like to honor as "Veteran of the Month"

FROM THE COLOR GUARD

72 Volunteer Hours

Since our January meeting, the Color Guard performed 1 VOM ceremony, and Military Honors with the Mankato Area Veterans Memorial Squad for Area veterans.
Thanks to our Color Guard members that helped & gave their time for these events!

VETS FOR VETS

Ron Griebel
Commander
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MARCH

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Navy Reserve Birthday Pfeffer 6:30pm	4	5 Jukebox Jam 7pm	6 REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED RED FRIDAY	7 Veteran of the Month 10am Meat Raffle 4pm
8	9	10 Trivia Night 7pm	11	12 Jukebox Jam 7pm	13 REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED RED FRIDAY Another Time Around 7-10pm	14 Meat Raffle 4pm
15	16	17 Pfeffer 6:30pm	18	19 Meeting 7pm Jukebox Jam Afterwards	20 REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED RED FRIDAY	21 Meat Raffle 4pm
22 Mixology Class 1-3pm	23	24	25 Medal of Honor Day	26 Jukebox Jam 7pm	27 REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED RED FRIDAY Rain Kings 7-10pm	28 Meat Raffle 4pm
29 Vietnam Veterans Day	30	31				

AMERICAN LEGION