

LEGIONNAIRE 560

Home Port of the U.S.S. Liberty

DEC 2024

Merry Christmas!



POST 560 VETERAN OF THE MONTH!

This month we are highlighting another long-time member of Post 560. Someone we all know from around the horseshoe pits all Summer. Our Veteran of the Month for December 2024 is...Tom Wilkinson.

Tom has been a member of Kriesel-Jacobsen Post 560 for 51 years. He has been on the Exec-Board here at the Post for the last 15 years or so, and currently serves as our Post Finance Officer and 2nd Vice-Commander.

Tom and his wife Sandee have 2 children. Sandee was also a member of our Auxiliary Unit 560, however she lost her valiant fight against a devastating illness a few years back.

Tom was a proud member of the US Navy (Naval Air to be more precise) from December 1962 to December 1966. He went to basic training at Naval Recruit Depot San Diego, CA. After graduating from basic, Tom was sent to NAS Millington, TN (just outside of Memphis) for training as an Avionics Technician (so Tom would be designated an AT in Navy language). Tom achieved the rank of AT3 (E-4) before leaving the Naval Air service. He earned several medals/ribbons – Navy Good Conduct – Nat'l Defense Service Ribbon – Vietnam Service Medal – Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal



After completing training at Millington, Tom was sent for assignment at NAS Atsugi, Japan with aircraft squadron VU-5. This was known as a “utility” squadron. This squadron was responsible to provide information to make sure other flight missions were as safe as possible, and our other squadrons didn't run into any ambushes or “bad guys”. After this assignment, Tom was sent to NAS North Island in San Diego, Ca. and from there he was assigned to the USS Oriskany with VAW-11. As part of this assignment, he was sent to the Gulf of Tonkin in Vietnam. This was an advanced warning aircraft squadron aboard the carrier.

One thing Tom enjoyed most about being in the Navy was being able to see places he would never have been able to visit had it not been for the Navy. Some of the places Tom has been to include Pearl Harbor, HI – Yokosuka, Japan – Atsugi, Japan – Subic Bay, Philippines – Hong Kong – Guam – Wake Island.

Tom said how he was first assigned to Atsugi, Japan for almost two years. Only for the Navy to give him orders back to the states because he could only be overseas for so long. And when he got assigned back to the states, it was to an aircraft carrier that was headed for Vietnam. So, he spent most of his time in the Navy overseas.



Membership is at about 75% so that means **we have about 80 members that have still not paid their dues for 2025.** A gift of a membership to the SAL or Auxiliary juniors is also a great Christmas gift for those hard to shop for grandkids.

- Thank You Bob Lundgren

BE SURE TO JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL ARMY VS. NAVY FOOTBALL GAME!

Saturday, December 14 - Game starts at 2:00 PM, we suggest arriving early to get in on the fun stuff. Bring a side dish to share if you're able.

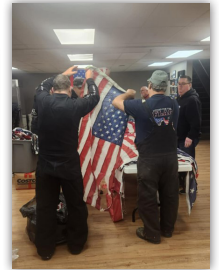


I hope everybody had a wonderful Thanksgiving. December is always a busy time of year. On December 7th, the auxiliary is having their annual toy drive/drop from 12pm-3pm. If you're able, please consider participating and let's do our best to help some local families this holiday season. December 14th is the Army vs Navy football game. The game starts at 2pm but we will be starting early at the Post with silent auctions and other fun activities and prizes. We will be having some great BBQ food, but it is a potluck, so please bring a dish to pass, if you can. Trust me, you don't want to miss this fun and exciting day!! Do you make great soup? If you think you do, now is the time to show it off. We will be hosting a soup competition on Sunday December 29th, bring your soup to the Post by 11am, judging takes place at 11:30am. No entry fee and chance to win prizes!

Stick around after the competition to watch the Vikings beat the Packers. As always, keep an eye on our Facebook page for all information about upcoming events.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!

Paul McCormick, Commander
paul.mccormick72@outlook.com



Greetings Legion Family!! Winter is here, but at least we had a long, mild fall.

The Riders had our first bingo event of the year on November 16th at the Zimmerman Fire Station and Event Center. It was a designer purse bingo. We had a great day, and we nearly filled the place to capacity. During the event we made presentations of a total of \$12,000 to some of the organizations we support, which included Support the Troops-MN, Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and Project New Hope, as well as a check to cover the food at a Christmas party for the members and families of the 256th MP Company out of Monticello. We also made official presentations of donations we had already given to Hometown Heroes Outdoors. We are so appreciative to our Legion Family and all the people that come and support us.



On December 15th we will be going to the St. Cloud VA Hospital for our Annual Christmas Cheer. We will spend time with the patients as well as give small gifts to all the Veterans we are able to visit.

A huge "thank you" to the Auxiliary and SAL for the Thanksgiving dinner and Thanksgiving Eve activities. Great job by both. We're looking forward to joining them for the toy drive and the Army-Navy game. GO ARMY!

We hope everyone have a safe and joyous holiday season. Thank you all for all the generous support we receive!! God bless you all, and God bless America!! - Loren

**January 25th - Gun Bingo at Station 1 Event Center!
Stay tuned, we will start pre-selling tickets online shortly!**

**Sunday, December 29th - Vikes Vs. Pack Soup Cook Off
No entry Fee, \$10 All You Can Eat. Prizes for Most Unique & Best Overall Flavor.**



Greetings All! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Christmas is just around the corner and will be upon us very quickly.

The Thanksgiving Day meal was amazing! A special shout out to all of the volunteers who helped with this event and to Patty Lundgren. Patty does an amazing job and goes above and beyond in making sure everything turns out. We appreciate all that you do Patty! Thank you to those who donated non-perishable food items for the local food shelf.

Our next event is our **annual Toy Drop on 12/7 from 12:00 to 3:00 PM** at the Zimmerman Legion. All of the items collected will go to families in the Zimmerman area. Bring the kids to see Santa! The Zimmerman Fire Department will be joining us again this year.



Come join us for the **Army/Navy game on 12/14 @ 2:00 PM**. We have lots of fun activities planned this year. It's always a good time.

We will be hosting a **Poppy Making Class on 1/26 from 12:00 - 3:00 PM**. All are welcome! We have a signup sheet on the bulletin board.



The Auxiliary will be serving a hot meal on **January 3rd during the meat raffle**. Come join us!

The Witches are Back! On **January 31st we'll have our 2nd Witches Run**. We'll be attending the Aitkin Meat Raffle. Leaving the Zimmerman Legion at 11:00 AM. A sign up sheet will be coming out shortly with more details.

Our Auxiliary Unit **donated items towards making Woman's Veterans Personal Care Kits. A total of 320 kits were made.** Great job!

Next meeting: Downstairs - Patriot Hall / We'd love to have you join us.

12/7 @ 10:00 AM: The Auxiliary will be having our Holiday Party & gift exchange (gift optional) after our meeting. Bring a dish to share.

God Bless!

Donna Schermann – Auxiliary President
donna.schermann@gmail.com 763-213-9017



Greetings from the SAL!

Thanksgiving Eve turned out great, thank you to all of our volunteers who pitched in and made it fun for everyone. We can always use more help, reach out if you are ready to get more involved.

Come out for the Army Vs. Navy Football game on December 14th, the committee has some fun things planned this event. It's always a good time.



Our SAL meetings are always the third Tuesday of the month, upstairs, at 6:30. This months will be on December 21st. See you at the Post.



-Paul Quinn, SAL Commander

Follow us on Facebook and stay up to date! facebook.com/MnPost560

POST 560 OFFICERS

Commander, Paul McCormick
1st Vice, Sergio Sajon
2nd Vice, Tom Wilkinson
Adjutant, Bob Lundgren
Sergeant At Arms, Del Whittlef
Chaplain, Frank Grittner
Service Officer, Travis Culbertson
Ron Mathison, Historian
Legion Membership, Bob Lundgren
Auxiliary President,
Donna Schermann
Auxiliary Membership,
Angela Moran
SAL Commander, Paul Quinn
SAL 1st Vice, Mick Wilkinson
SAL Membership, Lance Holk
Bar Manager, Heidi Larcom
Gambling Manager, Laura Lenz
Exec. at Large, Gary Regel &
Gary Lore
Legion Riders Director, Loren Sikkink



Meetings & Events

December 2024

07 - Auxiliary Meeting 10:00 am
Holiday Party & Toy Drop after
07 - Auxiliary Toy Drop Noon-3:00 pm
10 - Rider Meeting 7:00 pm
11 - General Membership Meeting 6:30 pm
14 - Army vs Navy Game 2:00 pm
17 - SAL Meeting 6:30 pm
18 - Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm
24 - Christmas Eve - Closed at 4:00 pm
25 - Christmas Day - CLOSED
28 - 90's NYE Party with DJ Mitch
29 - Soup Cook Off 11:00 AM & Vikes Game

January 2024

04 - Auxiliary Meeting 10:00 am
08 - General Membership Meeting 6:30 pm
11 - Benefit for Chris McCormick 1:00 pm
14 - Rider Meeting 7:00 pm
21 - SAL Meeting 6:30 pm
22 - Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm
25 - Rider Gun Bingo at
Station 1 Event Center at 11:00 am

MONDAY NIGHT BINGO

Every Week, Guaranteed \$700 Coverall Starts at 6:00 PM!

BAR HOURS

Monday-Thursday 11:00 am - 11:00 pm
Friday & Saturday 11:00 am - 1:00 am
Sundays 11:00 am - 8:00 pm

GAMBLING BOOTH HOURS

Monday-Saturday 11:00 am - close
Sunday 11:00 am - 8:00 pm

Pilot E-Tabs and Pull Tabs in Booth! Open Daily at 11:00 AM!



NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ZIMMERMAN, MN
PERMIT #7

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