

Americanism Gazette

Editor: Gene Renschler



Don Branson spearheading Veteran's Memorial restoration.

Brandon American Legion Post 318 Historian and Memorial Fund Chairman Don Branson is spearheading the restoration effort for the

surface the pad like the acrylic surfacing used in garages that might help."

Don Branson has reached out to the City of Brandon's City Manager and is awaiting a meeting to discuss this topic. Don also has had discussions with the City roads and grounds person as well.

Don Branson pointed out "I have just started to alarm the city and ring the bell. So I hope the city can react fast enough before the memorial is damaged to far to fix. As members of Post 318 we all should let the city know that we care for our memorial and do not want to see it decay in this fashion."

The memorial is not that old, built in 2003 and this should not be happening so fast. It is hard to believe, that after the effort that was put in building it, this would be in this shape so soon.

"We as members of Post 318 and Veterans should rally behind Don and help get this fixed as soon as possible." said Gene Renschler

The Brandon Veterans Memorial has four main polished stones, and under each of them the concrete is cracking. The approximate weight of each stone is 1,800 lbs.

Don Branson has a theory which he said, "Our ground around here is always moving, and I believe that has something to do with it."

This memorial is a corner stone in this community and we will not let it deteriorate like this without a fight. Please go out and have a look for yourselves and let

Cracks are spreading..

Photo by Gene Renschler



us know if you have any ideas on how to restore it. All ideas welcome.

Cracks and fissures are growing.

Photo by Gene Renschler



Brandon Veterans Memorial. Last winter took a heavy toll on the concrete pad it sets on. There are numerous cracks and fissures in the concrete making it unsafe for our older veterans to visit.

"This needs to get fixed so the visitors feel safe" said Don Branson. The cracks started under the memorials stones and have spread across the entire memorials' concrete pad.

Gene Renschler, Commander Post 318, suggested "There are other ways to re-

American Legion
Post 318
Brandon, SD

July 2015

Highlights

- > Veteran's Memorial Restoration.
- > New meeting location.
- > June thru July Fundraising Activities.

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More Cracks at the Veterans Memorial.

Photo by Gene Renschler



RSVP as soon as you can before 18th of September so we can get you in thru security.

New location for Post meetings.

Well it is almost time for our first meeting in our new location at the Brandon Steak House. I hope all of our members have heard about the location change. Our meeting is still every 1st Tuesday of the month and will be held at 7:30pm.

We will be having a door prize raffle for a Steak Din-

ner for two for all attending members, so come out to our meeting and win a steak dinner for two!

August is Steak for two month!

This means sign up 2 new members or transfer 2 members to our post and get a steak dinner for two!

New Statue at the Veterans Memorial.

Photo by Gene Renschler



EROS Veterans Tour Day

Located just north of Sioux Falls near Garretson is a little known treasure trove of land imagery called the US Geological Survey Earth Resource Observation Science center otherwise known as EROS. There will be a tour of EROS for Veterans

on the 26th of September from 10am to 2 pm. Post 318 is hosting the tour and presentation for all veterans. It is very important that you register by sending your RSVP to info@bvlegion.org or calling the Commander at 605-215-1083.

There will also be a guest speaker from Hickam AFB, HI AL Blankenship (MSgt Ret.). He currently gives historic tours of Hickam AFB and was stationed 17 years at Hickam AFB in the 6594th Test Group.

June thru July Fundraising Activities a success!

Post 318 was selling raffle tickets and taking donations at the Sunshine Foods for the last 5 Saturdays and two Fridays. These efforts have paid off in both funds raised and new members.

"We raised over \$3,758 in June and July at Sunshine and the State convention." said Commander Gene.

This post is small and this endeavor of sponsoring a guest speaker in which we paid for his plane ticket from Hawaii and his hotel has been an enormous task.

Commander Gene would like to give a special thanks to the following Legionnaires that helped: Don Branson, Al Kubel and Todd Williams.

This has been a tremendous effort so far and we would like to keep the ball rolling in August as well. We will discuss these August dates at our August meeting.

Remember our meeting in August is on the 4th at 7:30pm in the Brandon Steak House.

Patriot Day is coming up on September 11th

We will be organizing our Patriot Day celebration for this year in the coming weeks. Help is needed in the organization of activities and coordination of groups that will attend.

This years event is on a Friday, so if you can spare some time that day, we will need a rifle squad.

If you can help with the

organization or rifle squad, please contact Commander Gene via email at

co@bvlegion.org or call him at **215-1083**.



Patriot Day Rifle Squad 2014.

Newsletter Articles Requested

If you have news worthy information for our members then please get the information to Commander Gene each month by the 23rd.

I will try and get you information in to the following

newsletter if it makes it to me by then.

I can be reached by email at co@bvlegion.org or phone at 215-1083.

Our newsletter can be viewed at www.bvlegion.org or on mylegion.org if you

register there.

Our new website is up and running so check it out.

August Events

4th—Meeting at Brandon Steak House (7:30pm)

22nd—Sunshine Foods Recruiting / Sales Table 9am-12pm

22nd—Walmart Recruiting / Sales Table 1pm-4pm

29th—Sunshine Foods Recruiting / Sales Table 9am-12pm

29th—Walmart Recruiting / Sales Table 1pm-4pm



New Weeping Angel Statue at the Veterans Memorial.
(Photo by Gene Renschler)

“Our new website is up and running at www.bvlegion.org and you can renew your membership online there.”

Check us out on the Web.
www.bvlegion.org

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American Legion
Post 318, Brandon, SD

Veterans Serving Veterans



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Community Awareness

As you all know we have been present out in the community for the last several weeks, and it has been working. We have rounded up 13 new or transferred members during that time. This is very important to get the word out to the community.

As the new Commander of Post 318, I have dedicated this year to be the year we break 100 members. Our Post needs this kind of exposure to get the word out to those veterans that are not members of the VFW or our post and remind the community of who we are and what

we do for the community and veterans.

The American Legion is the nation's largest and most powerful organization of US wartime veterans and their families. Our Post supports closely Children and Youth, Americanism and American Legion Baseball.

Remember my slogan this year is "Get one for the Team". Corny or not it is working!

The community knows about the VFW, and I hear it at Sunshine every time we are there, that the "VFW" does a

lot for this community or I already belong to the VFW. With efforts like this we will get the word out that the American Legion is here and what we do.

If you yourself are unsure what exactly we do here in Brandon then email me at co@bvlegion.org and I will gladly give you a list of things we do and support here in Brandon.

Remember my slogan this year—"Get one for the Team". So get out there and spread the word.

Commander Gene and Don Branson working at the Sunshine booth.
(Photo by Gene Renschler)

