



Custer Post #46, American Legion  
South Dakota Department

17 March 2019

Denny Brenden, Commander  
American Legion, SD Department  
PO Box 67  
Watertown, SD 57201

**Subj: Custer Post #46 2018-2019 Activities**

Dear Commander Brenden,

In accordance with the "Official Call for 2019 Spring District Conventions", Custer Post #46 submits the following report of its subject activities:

**EVENTS**

Legion Lake Lodge Season Opening

12 May 2018 - Conducted flag raising ceremony at the Post's namesake Legion Lake Lodge seasonal opening flying both the U.S. and American Legion flags.

Peace Officers Memorial Day

15 May 2018 - Conducted flag raising ceremony at Custer City Way Park with Custer County Sheriff's Office to honor fallen law enforcement officers.

Memorial Day

25 May 2018 - Decorated graves at Custer City Cemetery  
28 May 2018 - Lowered Way Park Veterans Memorial Flag to half-staff.  
28 May 2018 - Participated in ceremonies at Cold Springs Pioneer, and Custer City cemeteries.  
- Raised Way Park Veterans Memorial Flag to full-staff.  
29 May 2018 - Retrieved flags from Custer City Cemetery.



## Custer Post #46, American Legion South Dakota Department

### Independence Day

- 04 Jul 2018 - Conducted Post's Flag Sale fundraiser.
- Floyd Mills and Harold Stickney rode in the "Legion" parade convertible.
- Post participated in Patriots Parade.
- Organized "Classic Military Vehicles" parade and show.
- Participated in Custer City Flag Retirement/Raising Ceremony.
- Organized, sponsored, and conducted "Patriots Picnic".
- Organized veterans outreach with County Veterans Service Officer and Mobile Veterans Center.
- "Stars & Stripes" sponsor of the "Old Time Country Fourth of July".

### National Commander's Visit

- 08 Nov 2018 - Hosted National Commander Brett P. Reistad's official visit and lunch at Crazy Horse Memorial.

### WWI Movie Premier

- 09 Nov 2018 - Sponsored the South Dakota premier "SGT. Stubby; An American Hero" at the Custer Jr/Sr High School theater.

### Poppy Fundraiser

- 10 Nov 2018 - Conducted first "Poppy Fundraiser" in decades at Lynn's Dakotamart.

### Veterans Day

- 11 Nov 2018 - Participated in Custer Veterans Memorial Park dedication.
- Participated in Veterans Day Programs at Pringle and Custer Cemeteries.
- 12 Nov 2018 - Sponsored and participated in Custer School District's community Veterans Day Program.
- Coordinated Veterans Social conducted by the Custer County Democrat and Republican Committees following the Veterans Day Program.
- Donated flowers to the Custer Cub Scout Pack 25 Veterans Day Program at the Custer Senior Care Center.
- 21 Nov 2018 - Participated Elk Mountain School Veterans Day Program.
- Supported Elk Mountain School Veterans Day Program by donating American and South Dakota state flags for the students' flag ceremony.



## Custer Post #46, American Legion South Dakota Department

### Pearl Harbor Day

- 07 Dec 2018 - Conducted event at Custer Senior remembering Pearl Harbor and honoring area WWII Veterans with a Christmas meal and gifts. 45 participated.

### Wreaths Across America

- 15 Dec 2018 - Participated ceremonies at Cold Springs Pioneer Cemetery.  
- Participated in ceremonies at Custer City Cemetery.

### District 2 Conventions

- 17 Mar 2019 - Hosted American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary district conventions at Crazy Horse Memorial.  
- Conducted District 2 meeting.

### Legion Birthday

- 17 Mar 2019 - Conducted an open meeting at the Crazy Horse Memorial's Laughing Water Restaurant consisting of supper followed by a Public Safety/Service and Membership awards program.

## **PROGRAMS**

### Awards

- 17 Mar 2019 - Awarded the following at the Legion Birthday Supper open meeting:

#### *Public Safety/Service Awards*

Law Enforcement Officer	-	Eric Nelson
Fire Fighter	-	Bryan Ott
EMT	-	Holly Cotner
Search & Rescue	-	Doris Ann Mertz
Educator	-	Jody Rounseville
Business	-	Jenny's Floral
Student Americanism	-	Dakota Prior
2018 Boys State Citizen	-	Drew Hanson
Host	-	Crazy Horse Memorial



## Custer Post #46, American Legion South Dakota Department

### *Membership Longevity Awards*

5 years -	Peter Burkett, Donna Talley
10 years -	Ralph Kelley
15 years -	David Fluck
20 years -	Charles Najacht
25 years -	Jack Larsen
35 years -	Paul Larson
40 years -	Randolph Skott
45 years -	Robert Hugelmann, Richard Nolte
50 years -	Edwin Thompson

### *Blood Donor Awards*

Bronze –	Douglas Faaborg, Ernest Thornell
Silver –	Jerry Burnham, Franklin Raffaell, Michael Smaydy, Corey Virtue

### Blood Donor

Ongoing	-	Co-sponsor 6 drives per year with Custer City Lodge #66 A.F. & A.M.
17 Mar 2019	-	Recognized Post blood donors with award pins.

### Centennial Celebration

Continuous	-	Maintain Post's "Centennial Celebration" website.
2018 - 2019	-	Identified and conducting 14 Centennial Celebration activities/events.
05 Oct 2018	-	Obtained Post Centennial Challenge Coins.
09 Nov 2018	-	Premiered SGT. Stubby: An American Hero movie at Custer Jr/Sr High.
11 Nov 2018	-	Coordinated "Bells of Peace" in Custer City.
07 Jan 2019	-	Received "American Legion Centennial" proclamation from Custer City.
09 Jan 2019	-	Received "American Legion Centennial" resolution from Custer County.
17 Mar 2019	-	Hosted District 2 Centennial Spring Convention at Crazy Horse Memorial
17 Mar 2019	-	Conducted Legion Centennial Birthday Supper at Crazy Horse Memorial.



## Custer Post #46, American Legion South Dakota Department

### Flag

- Continuous - Maintained and operated Veterans Flagpole in Way Park.
- Continuous - Commencing 2015 donate flags for Pioneer Cemetery veterans graves.
- Continuous - Commencing 02 Sep 2016 the Post performs flag duties at the Custer School District's Admin Building (the Post Home).
- Continuous - Observed all Presidential flag proclamations and Gubernatorial flag orders.
- Continuous - Commencing 04 Jan 2019 operate a local "Flag Alert" e-mail program backed up with flag action announcements on Post website.

### Grave Markers

- 23 Aug 2016 to present - Joint veterans program setting/replacing veterans' grave markers. Two VA grave markers set to date.

### Honor Guard

- 13 Mar 2018 to present - Joint Veterans Honor Guard providing services at 10 funerals and 10 patriotic events.

### POW/MIA

- Continuous - POW/MIA flag flies at Way Park Veterans Flagpole.
- Continuous - POW/MIA Table permanently set at Post Home.
- 12 Nov 2018 - POW/MIA ceremony at Veterans Day Program.
- 17 Mar 2019 - POW/MIA Table set at Crazy Horse Memorial for Legion Birthday.

### Taps

*Final Roll Call*

Continuous remembrance of departed Post members.

*Last Salute*

Register and remember Custer Area Veterans as they have departed.



## Custer Post #46, American Legion South Dakota Department

### Youth

#### *Boys State*

- 01 Jun 2018 - Sponsored 1 Delegate; Drew Hanson
- 02 Jan 2019 - Initiated 2019 program with CHS and Elk Mountain Counselors.
- 02 Jan 2019 - Announced program to home school students via CSD mailer.
- 13 Feb 2019 - Conducted introductory briefing "pizza lunch" for interested boys.
- 20 Mar 2019 - Interview scheduled for 1 candidate.

#### *Girls State*

- 02 Jan 2019 - Initiated 2019 program with CHS and Elk Mountain Counselors.
- 02 Jan 2019 - Announced program to home school students via CSD mailer.
- 13 Feb 2019 - Conducted introductory briefing "pizza lunch" for interested girls.

#### *Youth Trooper Academy*

- 02 Jan 2019 - Initiated 2019 program with CHS and Elk Mountain Counselors.
- 02 Jan 2019 - Announced program to home school students via CSD mailer.
- 13 Feb 2019 - Participated in SDHP presentation to CHS Junior & Senior Classes.

#### *High School Rodeo Team Americanism Award Program*

- 13 Feb 2019 - Briefed the Custer High School Rodeo Team.



## Custer Post #46, American Legion South Dakota Department

### ORGANIZATIONAL

#### Admin/Personnel

Continuous - Utilize myLegion.org for member data updates and management.

#### Financial

Continuous - Fully established with the IRS maintaining an EIN.  
Continuous - Utilize online account with Post's primary financial institution.  
Continuous - Utilize Post debit card for remote transactions.  
Continuous - Utilize using Quicken software integrated with online banking for all Post accounting.  
09 Feb 2019 - 2018 Form 990-N accepted by IRS.

#### Infrastructure

Continuous - Decorate and organize storage of Post Home.

#### Communications

Continuous - Maintain Post Office Box as official mailing address.  
Continuous - Announce events in Custer County Chronicle community calendar.  
Continuous - Announce events in Custer Senior Center newsletter and website calendar.  
Continuous - Utilize myLegion.org to publish Post; message, image, and newsletter.  
Continuous - Announce events in Custer Area Chamber of Commerce website event calendar.  
Continuous - Maintain official telephone number with remote forwarding account.  
Continuous - Maintain official e-mail address.  
Continuous - Maintain Post website.  
Continuous - Publish semi-annual newsletter "The Custer Legionnaire".  
Continuous - Maintained Post's "Centennial Celebration" website.  
Continuous - Continued sharing Army/Navy/Air Force/Marine Corps Times newspapers with community by donating sets weekly to the Custer County Library and the VFW Post #3442 Club.  
Continuous - Electronically redistribute to members Chamber of Commerce's weekly "Buffalo Bytes" newsletter.  
Continuous - Maintain the Post's Facebook page.



## Custer Post #46, American Legion South Dakota Department

### LEGION ORGANIZATION & "FAMILY"

#### National Headquarters

- Continuous - Observe Flag Proclamations guided by HQ e-mail notices.
- Continuous - Utilize myLegion.org to update member records.
- Continuous - Submitted Consolidated Post Report online via myLegion.org.
- Continuous - Maintain Post's "Centennial Celebration" website.

#### SD Department

- Continuous - Redistribute UP TO NOW to all Post members electronically and by hard copy at Post meetings.
- As Received - Forward correspondence as requested to all Post members electronically and at Post meetings.
- 07 Jun 2018 - Participated in State Convention at Spearfish.
- 09 Feb 2019 - Participated in Midwinter Conference at Spearfish.

#### District 2

- 15 Sep 2018 - Participated in Fall Convention at Rapid City.
- 17 Mar 2019 - Hosted Spring Convention at Crazy Horse Memorial, Custer.

#### Custer County

Administered Custer County's de facto Boys State and Youth Trooper Academy programs.

#### Hermosa Auxiliary Unit #303

- 02 Jan 2019 to Present - Coordinated the Unit's Girls State program with Custer High School, Elk Mountain School, and Home Schools.





## Custer Post #46, American Legion South Dakota Department

### AFFILIATIONS

#### Cold Springs Historical Society

- Continuous - Donate war markers for veterans' graves.
- Continuous - Commencing 2015 donate flags for veterans graves.
- 28 May 2018 - Participated in Memorial Day ceremonies at the Pioneer Cemetery.
- 12 Aug 2018 - Hosted "potluck" dinner at Cold Springs School.

#### Custer Area Chamber of Commerce

- 04 Jul 2018 - "Stars & Stripes" sponsor of the "Old Time Country Fourth of July".
- 08 Jan 2019 - Officially participated in monthly Independence Day Committee meetings.
- to Present

#### Custer Area Veterans Memorial Association

- 17 Apr 2013 - Officially attend and participate in all monthly meetings.
- to Present
- 11 Nov 2018 - Participated in dedication of Custer Veterans Memorial Park.

#### Custer Senior Citizens Center

- Continuous - Life Member.
- 04 Jul 2018 - Conducted "Patriots Picnic" in the Center.
- Organized veterans outreach with County Veterans Service Officer and Mobile Veterans Center in and around the Center.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

#### Custer Cub Scout Pack 25

- 04 Jul 2018 - Arranged Pack participation in the Patriots Picnic.
- 12 Nov 2018 - Coordinated Pack participation in Veterans Day Program.



## Custer Post #46, American Legion South Dakota Department

### GOVERNMENT

#### State of South Dakota

- Continuous - Continued efforts of county veterans' organizations to support South Dakota Department of Veterans.

#### Custer County

- Continuous - Work with County Veteran Service Officer to identify all local veterans.  
Continuous - Share Army/Navy/Air Force/Marine Corps Times newspapers with the community by donating a set weekly to the Custer County Library.

#### Custer School District

- 12 Nov 2018 - Sponsored and participated in CSD's community Veterans Day Program.  
- Donated U.S. flag to CSD for the administration building (Post Home).  
14 Dec 2018 - Provided breakfast to 65 students, faculty, and staff at Custer Jr/Sr High School as part of the monthly Friday Morning ICU Program.  
02 Jan 2019 - Initiated 2019 Summer Youth Programs with CHS Counselor.  
02 Jan 2018 - Announced Summer Youth programs to students via CSD mailer.  
13 Feb 2019 - Donated pizzas and beverages to the staff lounge following Boys/Girls State briefing at Custer High School.

#### Elk Mountain School District

- 02 Jan 2019 - Initiated 2019 Summer Youth Programs with Counselor.

Commander Brenden, the preceding reflects significant Custer Post #46 activities over the past year. Though a small Post, our activities have a significant effect on the community. The report details this effect being made possible through careful planning and leveraging of area resources. Custer Post #46 continues to increase its effectiveness by utilizing these proven techniques.

Very Respectfully,

Donald Hone  
Commander