

A Warrior's Family

By Buz Barbour

Oh we were so young back then,
We joined or were drafted but we did get in.
To serve our Country and learn to be men.

Our girlfriends and spouses we left behind,
We went to fight the wars and to save all of mankind.

Once the war was over and home again we came
There you stood waiting and playing like we were the same.

You loved us and held us and never once gave blame for
The hardships and burdens that we left you to bear.

Now we are older and wiser I hope we are out of the service
But still we try to cope. We joined the Legion and new friends
Have found but for some unknown reason we are still duty bound.
All of this to say there is but one constant to be found.

You still stand there waiting and playing like we are the same
You love us and help us and remind us each day
that unity of family is the strength of America today ...
To our family both at home and in the Legion we owe a debt
we can not repay!

God Bless you all for your support and Love and
Thank you for waiting and playing like we are the same!



*Veterans who still serve America
in honor of those who cannot.*

Post 280 Past Commanders

Leo Schultz	Marvin Whites	Joel Gilchrist
Reese Whites	Dale Kopplin	Menno Walter
Robert Rounds	Robert Biever	Wesley Rounds
Gordon Salter	Chet Gilchrist	John Woodall
Merritt Fenner	Lyle Salter	Wesley Culver
Maynard Muilenberg	Don Culver	Lyle Rowcliffe
Robert Leichtenberg	Chester Dennis	Jerry Culver
Al Schoenfelder	Dale Cundy	Gene Scotter
Merlin Rieck	Don Owens	Dayton Vetterman
Delbert Jennings	Charemon Dunham	Annette Dunham
Myron Zeeck	James Arends	

I am proud and honored to follow in the footsteps of these Past Commanders and I hope to honor them by doing the best job I can as Commander.

At this time I wish to thank all of you for attending. I look forward to the coming years to continue the great history of Bensley-Rounds American Legion Post 280. - Colin Royal



*Vernon L. Bensley
SSG, US Army
Kingsbury County*



*Marion M. Rounds Jr.
PFC, US Marine Corps
Beadle County*

Bensley-Rounds Post 280 60th Anniversary Celebration

March 6, 1947 - March 6, 2007

March 24, 2007

Welcome

Commander Colin Royal

Posting of the Colors

Color Guard

Star Spangled Banner

Mrs. Amber Misar
Iroquois School Music Director

Invocation

Post Chaplain Herb Rusche

Posting POW-MIA Flag

SAL Vice Comdr Dean Royal

Pledge of Allegiance

Alex Hanson
Iroquois 6th Grader

Brief American Legion History

Commander Colin Royal

Introduction of Guests

Area Vice Comdr Dave Owens Sr.
Department of South Dakota Districts 2,5,& 6

City Of Iroquois

Jim Hulbert
City Councilman

Department Commander Remarks

Gunner Baatrup
Department of South Dakota Commander

Governor's Remarks

M. Micheal Rounds
Governor of South Dakota

Music Selections

Iroquois High School Chorus

Guest Speaker

Stan Gruneich
American Legion National Chaplain

Presentations

Commander Colin Royal
Auxiliary President Charemon Dunham
SAL Vice Comdr Dean Royal

Closing Remarks

Commander Colin Royal

Benediction

SAL Chaplain Brent Matter

Retire the Colors

Color Guard

Honored Guests:

M. Micheal Rounds, Governor of South Dakota

American Legion National Chaplain Stan Gruneich

Commander Gunner Baatrup & Adjutant Ron Boyd

American Legion, Department of South Dakota

Family Members of Vernon L. Bensley
Lorna Gubbins, Sister

Family Members of Marion M. Rounds Jr.
Dale, Donald, James Rounds, Brothers
Marjorie Blue, Sister

Marvin Whites, Post 280 Charter Member

Veterans, Friends & Neighbors

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to Posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Charter Members – March 6, 1947

Leo Schultz

Lyle E. Salter

Ray Sawvell

Merritt Fenner

John A. Woodall

Max T. Larson

Matt O. Snyder

Marvin Whites

Lyle Sawvell

Lloyd Thielholdt

Winston Smith

Fred Nelson

Gordon E. Salter

Lester Schoenfelder

Dean Knouse

William Eining

Harvey Poppen

Wayne Aughenbaugh

Robert E. Leichtenberg

William L. Richards

Chester Gilchrist

George D. Poppen

Earl E. Strub

Wesley F. Rounds

Chester V. Dennis

Philo B. Bishop

Albert Wiedenman

The American Legion Emblem

"There shines the Emblem of The American Legion, it is your badge of distinction, honor and service. It stands for God and Country, and the highest rights of man. Of its several parts, each has a meaning."



The Rays of the Sun form the background of our proud Emblem, and suggest that the Legion's principles will dispel the darkness of violence and evil.



The Wreath forms the center, in loving memory of those brave comrades who gave their lives in the service of the United States, that liberty might endure.



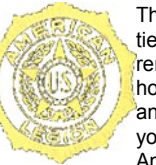
The Star - victory symbol of World War I, signalizes as well honor, glory and constancy. The letters U.S. leave no doubt as to the brightest star in the Legion's star.



Two **Large Rings** the outer one stands for the rehabilitation of our sick and disabled buddies. The inner one denotes the welfare of America's children.



Two **Small Rings** set upon the star. The outer pledges loyalty and Americanism. The inner is for service to our communities, our states and the Nation.



The words **American Legion** tie the whole together for truth, remembrance, constancy, honor, service, veterans affairs and rehabilitation, children and youth, loyalty, and Americanism.

American Legion Eligibility Dates of Active Duty Persons

We're veterans just like you - nearly 3 million strong. We care about America, veterans, their families and our nation's youth. Join us - an array of benefits await you. The American Legion is always there for you and your family!!

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY in the American Legion is based on honorable service with the U. S. Armed Forces between:

World War I	April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918
World War II	December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946
Korean War	June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955
Vietnam Era	February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975
Lebanon/Grenada	August 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984
Panama	December 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990
Persian Gulf *	August 2, 1990 - (this eligibility period remains open)

*Because eligibility dates remain open, all members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join The American Legion at this time, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States

Marvin Whites

Charter Member

61 Years American Legion Membership
60 Years Continuous Post 280 Membership



Marvin served in the US Army from 1941 to 1945. He served in France, Germany, and as the war ended, he found himself in Austria with his unit.

When he entered the Army, he was one of many who were on the first troop train to leave Iroquois. The train was full of cowboys and indians and was more or less a large party until they arrived in Omaha, Nebraska. Some upper level army officers, not knowing how high they were since the boys had never seen one before, ordered them to get rid of the liquor bottles. Marvin said he had never seen so many liquor bottles before in his life.

Marvin joined the American Legion in 1946. He was at the very first meeting of Iroquois Bensley-Rounds Post 280 where the Post name was chosen and the first Post Officers were elected.

Since that time he has served in every office of the Post and has received awards as Historian for the Post, he served as the editor of the first post news paper for which he has received awards. He was selected as Post Legionnaire of the Year several time throughout his years as a member of Post 280.

And as we honor Marvin for his service to the Nation, Community and State, we cannot forget his wife, Hope, who, in her many years of service to the American Legion Auxiliary, dedicated countless hours to the young girls and ladies who were members of the Auxiliary and the Junior Auxiliary.



In memory of
Past Department Commander
1993-1994
Don "Micky" Owens

What can you do for The American Legion family?

In Memory of U.S. Army Staff Sergeant

Vernon Lyle Bensley

Iroquois, Kingsbury County, South Dakota

January 10, 1924 – January 9, 1945

Killed in Action in France



Vernon Lyle Bensley was born January 10, 1924, at Iroquois in Kingsbury County, South Dakota, to Wesley and Anna Bensley. He received his education in Iroquois and graduated as salutatorian from Iroquois High School in 1942. Before he entered the service, Vernon attended college in Huron.

Vernon Bensley was called into service on March 17, 1943, and reported for active duty ten days later at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. He was trained in Camp Blanding, Florida; Camp Robinson, Arkansas; Camp Rucker, Alabama; and Fort Meade, Indiana. On July 1, 1944, S/Sgt. Bensley was shipped overseas, arriving first in Italy for six weeks. After that, he was sent to southern France.

On January 9, 1945, Staff Sergeant Vernon Bensley, Company C, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division of the Seventh Army, led a combat patrol into enemy territory near Bannwihr, France and did not return. "The patrol encountered enemy resistance, and was forced to withdraw because of intense automatic fire. Sergeant Bensley did not rejoin the patrol when it re-organized, and the official government record is that he was killed in action as of that date."

There was a "service of commemoration" at the Methodist Church for Vernon in Iroquois on March 17, 1946.

A social hour will be held at the Legion Hall following the program with a meal to be served at 5:00PM at the Legion Hall. Menu is: Pork Loin, Baked Potato, Corn, Dessert, Coffee, Milk or Juice. Adults \$10.00 and Children under 10 years \$5.00.

In Memory of U.S. Marine Private

Marion M. Rounds, Jr.

Iroquois, Beadle County, South Dakota

May 23, 1924 – June 18, 1945

Killed in Action at Okinawa



Marion M. Rounds, Jr. was born on May 23, 1924, at Iroquois, Beadle County, South Dakota, to Marion, Sr. and Mary Rounds. There were ten kids in the Rounds' family: Alvin, Gordon, Wesley, Ella Mae, Dale, Marion (Junior), Marjorie, Donald, Robert, and James. When Marion was still quite young, his mother died. Marion and his sister Marge went to stay with an aunt and uncle in Haakon County, where Marion attended rural school through the ninth grade. His sister, Marge, remembers that Marion was quite adventurous, and he enjoyed working on old cars and "tearing around in them." When he returned to Iroquois, he worked for some farmers in the area before he entered the service. He was visiting a brother in California when he entered the service.

In December of 1943, Marion entered active service at San Diego, California, in the Marine Corps. After his training, Private Rounds was shipped out to the Pacific theater in May of 1944, without coming home on leave.

On June 18, 1945, Marine Private Marion Rounds, Jr. was killed in action on Okinawa. A letter to Marion's father from the Marine Corps Headquarters contained these words: "There is little I can say to lessen your grief, but it is my earnest hope that the knowledge of your son's splendid record in the service and the thought that he nobly gave his life in the performance of his duty may in some measure comfort you in this sad hour."

Although originally buried on Okinawa, Private Rounds' remains were returned to the United States after the war and reburied with military honors at St. Paul's Cemetery in Iroquois.

Biographies for Vernon and Marion were collected from South Dakota World War II Memorial Website.