

GARY SEMMEL
Detachment Commander

November was a busy month as I was able to attend Pheasant dinners at the Minneapolis Veterans Home on the 3rd, the Minneapolis VA on the 7th, and the Silver Bay Veterans Home on the 16th. It was a wonderful experience and I was able to meet many of our Veterans.

Next was the Pearl Harbor Rally on December 3rd at North St. Paul. The hospitality was great and we were happy to announce that the Detachment membership was ahead of the National goal. On December 10th, I attended the memorial service Past Commander Bill Peters special friend Linda. Please keep Bill in your prayers to help him through his grief.

On January 16th and 17th, I attended the wake and funeral for Past Commander John Zgoda. Please continue to keep John's family in your prayers. John will be missed. January concluded with attending the 3rd District Mid Winter. Thank you 3rd District for your hospitality and friendship.

On February 3rd, the Coon Rapids hosted a memorial service commemorating the 4 chaplains that went down with the Dorchester after giving their life vests to others. It was a moving service. On February 11, I attended the Department Sweetheart Rally and Veterans Fair at Brainerd. Thanks to the Detachment Officers and Chairmen that were able to participate.

On March 1st, I was honored to be at Blooming Prairie I helped 1st District Commander Paul Spyhalski present the Charter for their new Squadron. On March 3rd, the Department Vice- Commander Appreciation Rally was held at Osseo. Thanks to all the Detachment Officers and Chairman that were there. It was also amazing to see a large number of dual members in attendance. On March 4th, I was honored to be in Bruno to install the Commander of their new Squadron.