

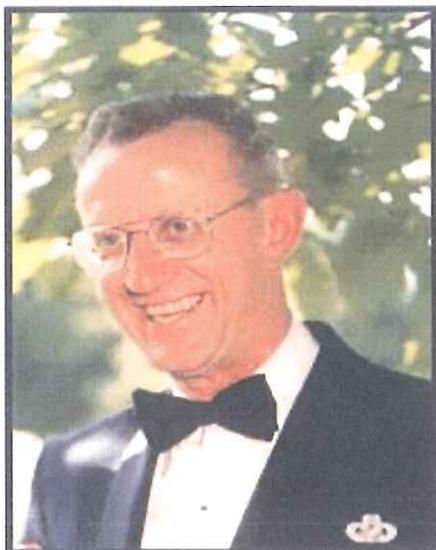
# FALL-2016 POLK COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

*It saddens me to have to tell the majority of our newsletter recipients that Leslie "Les" Goodwin passed away on July 11th at the age of 74 years old. I have copied the obituary for you to read.*

*Les was a great boss, friend and mentor- I will miss him!!!*

*I would like to dedicate this newsletter to Les, for the 17 years he dedicated to the Veterans of Polk County!!!*

*Please contact the Crookston office for any questions as the McIntosh, Fosston and East Grand Forks offices are closed until further notice.*



YOUR LIFE  
WAS A *Blessing*  
YOUR MEMORY A  
*Treasure*  
You are LOVED BEYOND WORDS  
and MISSED BEYOND  
*Measure*

Memories

Todd Goodwin

## Congregational Hymns

"Amazing Grace" #779 (Red Hymnal)

"On Eagle's Wings" #787 (Red Hymnal)

## Honorary Pallbearers

Veterans Service Officers of Minnesota

## Pallbearers

Todd Tranby ~ Mike Pearce ~ Chad Ekeberg  
Howard Carver ~ Tim Langley ~ Mark Weibye  
Marty Weibye ~ Jerry Weibye ~ James Laughlin

## Place of Interment

Our Savior's Lutheran Cemetery  
McIntosh, Minnesota

## Arrangements

Carlin-Hoialmen Funeral Home  
Serving McIntosh, Minnesota

## Funeral Service

Saturday, July 16, 2016 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
McIntosh, Minnesota

## Officiating

Rev. Gordon Syverson

## Organist

Diane Boucher

## Bagpipes

Dorothea Nelson

## Special Music

Kristine Moody

"The Beatitudes" ~ "The Lord's Prayer"

## Les "Goody" Goodwin

Leslie O. Goodwin was born May 16, 1942 in Bagley, MN, to parents John L. "Les" and Mildred A. (Knutson) Goodwin. He was raised in McIntosh, MN.

Les enlisted in the United States Air Force on November 14, 1960, had basic training at Lackland AFB, TX, and then trained in the fuels specialty. He spent the three years following basic training at Toring AFB, ME and then transferred to Goose Bay, Labrador. On December 12, 1964, Les married Mary C. Beaton of Prince Edward Island, Canada. In 1965, they moved to MacDill AFB, FL, where they spent the next five years before heading to West Germany. From 1970 to 1976, Les spent time at HQ USAFF, Lindsay Air Station, and Ramstein Air Base and then transferred to Nellis AFB, NV in 1976. Les was promoted to Chief Master Sergeant (E-9) in 1980 and returned to Germany (Rhein Main Air Base) where he stayed until his retirement on November 1, 1993. Les retired as the oldest and highest ranking CMSgt in the Air Force with 13 years time in grade. He was the last CMSgt to retire with 33 years (the high year of tenure for Chiefs was changed to 30 years in 1993). Les was currently the Veterans Service Officer for Polk County, having served in this position since August, 1999.

Among his many accomplishments in the Air Force, Les was awarded six Meritorious Service Medals, one Air Force Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Air Force Good Conduct Medal with one Silver and four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters. Les spent his time in the service in the fuels specialty, and was instrumental in developing the aerial bulk fuel delivery system for transporting jet fuel in rubber tanks within C 130 and C 141 cargo aircraft. This was used extensively throughout Vietnam. He was selected as the Outstanding Fuels Superintendent of the Year for the Military Airlift Command (MAC) in 1979, 1980, and 1982, and for the United States Air Force in 1982, receiving the award at the Pentagon from then Secretary of the Air Force, Mr. Vernon Orr. Les also met with and received General Colin Powell's personal congratulations for superb fuel support during the 1990 Persian Gulf War when Rhein Main Air Base issued over one million gallons of jet fuel per day without incident.

Les enjoyed golfing, loved his family, friends and co-workers, and especially watching his two grandsons as they grew. He took pride in his cooking and canning, often sharing with his sisters and co-workers. He was an avid reader - reading about two fiction novels a week, and he enjoyed listening to country music while reading. He was a world class teaser, thrived on staying busy and helping Polk County veterans, mowing and making his lawn look like a golf course, and bugging his sisters.

On Monday, July 11, 2016, Les Goodwin passed away at Essentia Health Hospital in Fosston after a brief illness. He was 74 years of age.

Les is survived by his wife of 52 years, Mary; his daughter Robin (Joey) and his son Todd (Jessica) of McIntosh; two grandsons, Joshua Andres of Bozeman, MT, and Remy Goodwin of McIntosh; and his special pet cat, Macy. He is further survived by five sisters, Patti Benson, Lorene (Todd) Tranby, and Judy (David) Hagen all of McIntosh, and Marlys (Marsall) Weibye and Carol Carver of Hillsboro, ND. Many special nieces, nephews, and cousins also survive.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Millie Keller; his step father, Richard Keller; his father, Les Goodwin; and his brothers-in-law, Richard Benson and Howard Carver.

Blessed be his memory

The following is the Memorial given by Tim Langley at the funeral of Les Goodwin

Chief Goodwin-17 July 2016

Dating back to Nov 1993, the last time I physically saw Chief Goodwin, I've known this day could come. I didn't want it to or know when, but here it is. It comes to us all eventually. We don't want it to or know when, but it does. I haven't longed for it, but every so often this moment found its way into my thoughts, particular over these past few days.

Mary, Robin, Josh, Todd, Jess, Remy. Chief's 5 sisters, Carol, Marllys, Lorene, Judy, Patty and other family members and many friends, please accept my deepest condolences for Chief's passing. He meant the world to me and I know we will all miss him.

I'm, Tim Langley and I met Chief Goodwin some 36 years ago at Rhein Main AFB, Germany...36 years ago, nearly 4 decades. Seems like yesterday. He's always been Chief to me...always will be...My Chief...My Friend...My Mentor.

Now, I am not a gifted speaker and as you have just seen, my emotions will show through, I thank my mom for that often. From 1979 to 1993 Chief was the Fuels Manager of the 435th Fuels Management Branch in the 435th Airlift Wing. The Branch was made up of roughly 80 men and women who were charged with receiving, storing, testing, and issuing the fuel, that's jet fuel, gasoline and diesel fuel to the base along with Liquid Oxygen and Liquid Nitrogen. That's quite a big job considering that Rhein Main was then "The Gateway to Europe". That Gateway to Europe title was tested many times during our time there, particularly in 1990 you may recall Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait which started Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Operations in that part of the world continue today and are very unpredictable. Good thing the Fuels Branch was always prepared because the aircraft traffic coming through Rhein Maine then was picking up speed and tripling the amount of fuel we were issuing...nearly 30 million gallons monthly, some times more.

There was no doubt on Rhein Main Air Base who was in charge of and responsible for that fuel...no doubt at all. Wing Commanders knew, Squadron Commanders were glad they knew, even the ladies down at the bank knew, heck even Misty the dog knew. It was Chief Goodwin. Chief was a Force on the Base. There were few if any who didn't know him personally or at least had heard of him.

With his powerful personality and his ability to project it... he could and often did take over a room. He knew the secret to success revolved around hard positive and accurate work and involvement around the base. He made sure that involvement included us, his Troops too. He pushed us to be involved by often asking us; Are you going to school working on your degree? Are you part of a book reading Club? Are you playing sports? Are you attending base event? The answer had better been yes...because if it wasn't you had better get ready for a bit of a fatherly type talk...so he could find out why. Oh and he knew what you were involved in even before he asked.. So fibbing was **not** a good idea!!! Again he knew the secret of success in promotions and advancement. He shared it too. That is why he was and is so admired...he cared about us. He cared about his Troops. Now mind you, it wasn't always a pleasant care. Huh Jim Laughlin? (Jim was another pallbearer and served under the Chief) Yes, there were times when those **Care** meetings with the Chief were not so pleasant. I recall losing a few pounds of flesh from my rear end several times after Chief chewed on it for a while if my work wasn't so positive and accurate.

(continued on page 4)

One of those times ended with me being so called fired from the Fuels Accounting Office because my accounting principles for Winter Heating Fuel were let's say, not up to Chiefs liking and admiration. Quick story, I had taken a short vacation and sure enough, while I was away, the heating fuel reconciliation was not balancing. So Chief asked one of my co-workers about it and they weren't sure so Chief took a look around my desk and found nearly a month's worth of heating fuel documents that had not been processed therefore throwing the books off. **NOT GOOD**. After I returned to work a few days later, Chief called me into his office for some of that not so pleasant care I mentioned earlier, asked me about the heating fuel, I knew he already knew, I explained my position and he promptly told me to report to the truck maintenance shop the next day. I dumbly asked him if we could discuss it?... And he said, "Langley we just did"...and you're dismissed. So off to maintenance I went. That was a tough experience for me because we never wanted to let him down...you knew he cared. He cared enough for me then to let me experience that firing. It was a good course correction for me, a growing experience. He cared enough to hurt my feelings and yes, my pride, he knew it hurt, he didn't concern himself with it at that moment, but he knew. And days later, he'd see me and or others around the building and give us that look...and we knew all was well again...but also knew to not repeat the carelessness.

He cared enough to know the names and families of his troops. He knew the Mission would sometimes call for families to be apart for weeks, month or years. He put value in family barbeques at work during work hours...which allowed families to get to know each other in a social setting which helped the wives, husband and children know that Chief cared about them and was there for them when needed.

He also cared enough to weed out those troops (yes there were some) that just couldn't or didn't want to be part of the team Chief was building and he was not going to allow those few to negatively interfere with and hold others back from achievement and promotion. It was not going to happen and we knew it too. He cared enough to maintain control of his personal emotions when operations were not well, events like: fuel spills, fuel truck to aircraft accidents and World Crisis. Two such events were in 1983 when a Terrorist Suicide bomber exploded a truck outside the Marine Barracks in Beirut Lebanon killing 305 Marines and 18 Sailors and in 1985 when a terrorist gained access to the base and set off a car trunk load of TNT at 7:30 in the morning right outside the headquarters building killing 2 airmen and wounding others. These events shook our Nation and our base...but Chief Goodwin poised as ever, gave directions to account for all his troops, built a plan for the increased aircraft traffic that was sure to begin, briefed his commanders and pushed forward to keep the base functioning.

Most recently he has cared enough to assist countless Veterans and their families in Polk County to receive their Veterans Benefits.

Another Story; this one from one of Chief's Commanders, Lt Colonel Tracy Nieser, now retired in Arkansas.

**Quote: In the beginning Chief almost drove me crazy but eventually after a couple of months we sat down and had an old fashioned "Come to Jesus Meeting". After that, he was one of my best bosses and friends. He made me a better Commander and a better man. I was very proud to have my Change of Command at the Fuels/POL ship. Chief made all that happen. He will be missed by everyone who ever met him.**

(Continued on page 5)

Yeah folks, I'd say he cared and we are here today to say goodbye to Chief Goodwin. We know there is now an empty space in all of us that will be slow, if at all, to fill, but Chief would want us to, no, he would demand that we carry on...because, that's what the heck he would do.

God Speed Chief Goodwin, thanks for caring enough to leave us and the World better than you found them.



# FEMALE VETERANS WELLNESS & PAMPERING RETREAT



OCTOBER 14--16, 2016

We appreciate the women who have served our country! Join us to relax, reflect, rejuvenate and connect with other female Veterans. Get the special treatment you deserve. Enjoy the beauty of the north woods, learn new ways to unwind and cope with stress and how to enhance your self-care! You will check in Friday between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm. Meals are included. Cost is \$50.00 for the weekend. \*Massages are offered for an additional \$30.00 per hour and must be booked and paid for in advance.

To register: Fill out the registration on the back and return it with your payment to Camp Bliss - 6150 Camp Fish Road

PO Box 879 - Walker MN, 56484 or [office@campbliss.org](mailto:office@campbliss.org)

For more information about Camp Bliss  
please go to our website:

[www.campbliss.org](http://www.campbliss.org)

Camp Bliss is located at: 6150 Camp  
Fish Road, Walker, MN 56484

## From the Desk of the Commissioner - August

Have you noticed the change in the air? If you have, you are a typical Minnesotan sensing that summer is fading away and fall is here. With fall, and specifically September, we look forward to getting the families ready to go back to school and enjoying our County and State fairs. The Great Minnesota Get Together' will have one change. The Veterans' booth has been moved to a new location, the lower level of the Grandstand. Much discussion has been had amongst our service organizations' but the new location should enable us to get more Veteran traffic.



As we look out in 2016 and beyond, several historical events will celebrate significant anniversaries. This year will mark the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. As you may know, Minnesotans were on a training exercise in Hawaii when the attack occurred. They were on a ship named the USS Ward and, while on a training exercise, sighted and destroyed a Japanese mini-submarine. They were the first to fire shots in Pearl Harbor and thus World War II. The gun that fired that first shot is located on the Capitol Grounds and is one of the memorials honoring Minnesota's Veterans.

Also coming up is the 100th anniversary of the National American Legion Conference. Minnesota was the site of the first conference and most fittingly, was selected as the site of the 100th. I encourage all the Legionnaires to work with the state office as they have a significant task ahead of them in preparing for and memorializing this prestigious event.

And since I am focusing on historic events, I want to point out another anniversary, the 130th anniversary of the Minneapolis Veterans Home. Established under President Lincoln's focus on caring for all Veterans who fought in the Civil War, the Homes have become a special place for those who have served our nation and have a place they can call home in their final years. Minnesota can be very proud of the Veterans Homes it has within the state and also Minnesota's emphasis on caring for our Veterans.

## IMPORTANT MILITARY DATES

### September

- 2- VJ Day
- 11-Patriot Day
- 16- POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 18- Air Force Birthday
- 25- Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

### November – USPS Deadlines for military Christmas mail & MILITARY FAMILY MONTH

- 10- Marine Corps Birthday
- 11- Veteran's Day
- 29- #Giving Tuesday

### October

- 13- Navy Birthday
- 26- National Day of the Deployed

### December

- 1- Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday
- 7- Pearl Harbor Day
- 13- National Guard Birthday

## VA Awards \$300 Million More in Grants to Help End Veteran Homelessness

*Ongoing Initiative targets homeless and at-risk Veterans and families.*

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today awarded approximately \$300 million more in grants under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program to help thousands of very low-income Veteran families around the nation who are permanently housed or transitioning to permanent housing. The SSVF grant program provides access to crucial services to prevent homelessness for Veterans and their families.

SSVF funding, which supports outreach, case management and other flexible assistance to prevent Veteran homelessness or rapidly re-house Veterans who become homeless, has been awarded to 275 non-profit organizations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These grants, key elements of VA's implementation of the Housing First Strategy, enable vulnerable Veterans to secure or remain in permanent housing. A list of SSVF grantees is located at [www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp).

"Since 2010, the Housing First Strategy has helped cut Veteran Homelessness nearly in half," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "Housing First is why 360,000 Veterans and family members have been housed, rehoused or prevented from falling into homelessness over the last five years. SSVF helps homeless Veterans quickly find stable housing and access the supportive services they – and their families – need."

Grantees will continue to provide eligible Veteran families with outreach, case management, and assistance obtaining VA and other benefits, which may include health care, income support services, financial planning, child care, legal services, transportation, housing counseling, among other services.

Grantees are expected to leverage supportive services grant funds to enhance the housing stability of very low-income Veteran families who are occupying permanent housing. In doing so, grantees are required to establish relationships with local community resources.

In fiscal year (FY) 2015, SSVF served more than 157,000 participants and is on track to exceed that number in FY 2016. As a result of these and other efforts, Veteran homelessness is down 47 percent since the launch of the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in 2010. Also since 2010, more than 360,000 Veterans and their family members have been permanently housed, rapidly rehoused, or prevented from falling into homelessness by VA's homelessness programs and targeted housing vouchers provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Today's grant recipients successfully competed for grants under a January 15, 2016, Notice of Fund Availability. Applications were due February 5, 2016. The funding will support SSVF services in FY 2017, which starts October 1, 2016, and ends September 30, 2017.

For more information about the SSVF program, visit [www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp).

**VA**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# News Release

Office of Public Affairs  
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420  
(202) 461-7600  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2016

## **VA provides service dog benefits to Veterans with mental health disorders**

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that it is piloting a protocol to implement veterinary health benefits for mobility service dogs approved for Veterans with a chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility associated with mental health disorders.

“We take our responsibility for the care and safety of Veterans very seriously,” said VA Under Secretary for Health, Dr. David J. Shulkin.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to providing appropriate, safe and effective, compassionate care to all Veterans. Implementing the veterinary health benefit for mobility service dogs approved for Veterans with a chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility associated with mental health disorders may prove to be significantly beneficial for some Veterans. The Service Dog Benefits Pilot will evaluate this premise.”

VA has been providing veterinary benefits to Veterans diagnosed as having visual, hearing or substantial mobility impairments and whose rehabilitation and restorative care is clinically determined to be optimized through the assistance of a guide dog or service dog. With this pilot, this benefit is being provided to Veterans with a chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility associated with a mental health disorder for whom the service dog has been identified as the optimal way for the Veteran to manage the mobility impairment and live independently.

Service dogs are distinguished from pets and comfort animals because they are specially trained to perform tasks or work for a specific individual with a disability who cannot perform the task or accomplish the work independently. To be eligible for the veterinary health benefit, the service dog must be trained by an organization accredited by Assistance Dogs International in accordance with VA regulations.

Currently, 652 Veterans with approved guide or service dogs receive the veterinary service benefit. This Pilot is anticipated to provide the veterinary service benefit to up to 100 additional Veterans with a chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility associated with a mental health disorder.

The VA veterinary service benefit includes comprehensive wellness and sick care (annual visits for preventive care, maintenance care, immunizations, dental cleanings, screenings, etc.), urgent/emergent care, prescription medications, and care for illnesses or disorders when treatment enables the dog to perform its duties in service to the Veteran.

Additional information about VA’s service dog program can be found at <http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/ServiceAndGuideDogs.asp>

**The Department of [Veterans Affairs](#)** released sobering new statistics today about veteran suicide rates in the United States.

According to the VA, an average of 20 veterans died from suicide every day in 2014.

The VA examined over 55 million veteran records from 1979 to 2014 from every state in the nation. The last time the VA conducted a study like this was in 2010, but that report included data from only 20 states.

In 2014, 7,403 American veterans committed suicide, out of 41,425 suicides among U.S. adults that year. That's just under 18 percent, down from 22 percent in 2010.

Today's report also included comparisons between civilians and veterans. From 2001 to 2014, the VA found, suicides among U.S. adult civilians increased 23 percent while veteran suicides increased 32 percent — making the risk of suicide 21 percent greater for veterans than civilians (after controlling for age and gender).

Older veterans face a higher risk of suicide, the data showed. In 2014 about 65 percent of veterans who died from suicide were 50 years or older.

The VA said it was "aggressively" undertaking new measures to combat suicide, including same-day access for veterans with urgent mental health needs. According to the VA, techniques like predictive modeling can help determine which veterans may be at the highest risk of suicide so that health care providers can get involved earlier.

"Veterans in the top 0.1 percent of risk, who have a 43-fold increased risk of death from suicide within a month, can be identified before clinical signs of suicide are evident in order to save lives before a crisis occurs," the VA said in a statement.

Data in this analysis supported that veterans who seek VA services may be able to decrease their risk of suicide.

The report said that since 2001, the rate of suicide among veterans who used VA services increased by 8.8 percent while the rate of suicide among veterans who did not use VA services increased by 38.6 percent.

The VA treated more than 1.6 million veterans for mental health in 2015.

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 27, 2016**

### **Vet Center to open in Grand Forks, May**



Fargo, N.D. - The Department of Veterans Affairs will open a new Grand Forks Vet Center Outstation, offering the full range of Vet Center Services, on May 31.

The Grand Forks Vet Center Outstation, located at 300 Cherry Street in Grand Forks, North Dakota, will be open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, providing individual, group, marital/family and bereavement counseling and drug and alcohol referral to combat Veterans, as well as military sexual trauma counseling to all Veterans.

The Grand Forks Vet Center Outstation will also act as a liaison with VA and other community resources to ensure every Veteran receives the help they need. The Grand Forks Vet Center Outstation is completely free of charge and confidential.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs is opening this location to better serve Veterans in Grand Forks and the surrounding area," said Timothy Teig, Fargo Vet Center Team Leader. "These areas were previously supported by counselors from the Fargo Vet Center, but with the more than 6,000 Veterans in the area, a brick and mortar Vet Center would support Veterans even more by providing more opportunities to receive the services they have earned and deserve."

Both walk-ins and appointments are welcome. For more information, call the new Grand Forks Vet Center Outstation at (701) 306-4669.

