

# Minnesota *Flight Log*

E.W. Rawlings Chapter 213  
Air Force Association  
Twin Cities, Minnesota

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Educate ■ Advocate ■ Support ■ U.S. Air Force

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*Minnesota Flight Log* is published quarterly for the members of the Rawlings chapter of AFA. Members may view the newsletter on the Chapter website: [www.rawlings-afa.org](http://www.rawlings-afa.org). To report problems or to submit items, call Bob McGonigal at 952-884-1625 or email him at [mcgonigal67@earthlink.net](mailto:mcgonigal67@earthlink.net).

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VP Govt Rel	Julie Eszlinger-Jensen	651.297.8818
VP Mbrshp	Bob McGonigal	952.884.1625
VP Vets Aff	Julie Eszlinger-Jensen	651.207.8818

## Community Partners

Railside Tap and Grill – 37th and  
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[www.railsidebarandgrill.com](http://www.railsidebarandgrill.com)  
Aventium Labs  
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USA Today Newspaper



## AFA MISSION

The Air Force Association **educates** the public about the critical role of aerospace power in defense of our nation, **advocates** aerospace power and a strong national defense, and **supports** the U.S. Air Force and the Air Force family.

## HONOR WW II WOMEN VETERANS EVENT

May 11, 2008

Nearing retirement from the Air Force, in 1996 Col. Eszlinger joined the Women Veterans of Minnesota (WVM) organization and attended their semiannual meetings regularly. After a while, she inquired of the group why they didn't have a meeting of all of the women veterans in the state of Minnesota. The answer came back that the group was not organized well enough, had no money to put on such an event, and they doubted if anyone would be able to come because of their age.

After several years visiting with them and hearing their stories, Col. Eszlinger questioned if any of them had their stories recorded or ever had received any recognition. She concluded that if nobody had honored nor recognized them after all of these years, it likely was never going to happen, and they were going to die with their stories untold. If it is ever to be done, she would have to do it. She took it upon herself to organize such a gathering and began to formulate plans during the fall and winter of 2007-2008.

The beginnings were inauspicious. The date chosen for the gathering was VE day – 63 years later. Estimating that between 20 to 30 veterans might show up, Col. Eszlinger scheduled the day's event to be held in one of the smaller rooms at the 934th/Fort Snelling Officers Open Mess. The Air Force Association, General Rawlings Chapter, bestowed a \$1,200 grant to provide lunch for the veterans.

With that incentive in hand, Col. Eszlinger contacted the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs to track down the names and addresses of Minnesota women veterans. She discovered that, not only did the department not have a data base, they did not have records of any kind for WW II Women Veterans.

*(continued on page 2)*

## WWII Women Vets Event *(continued)*

During a visit in fall 2007 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Women In Military Service Memorial (WIMSA) in Washington D.C., she was able to locate in their records only a few of the Minnesota WW II Women. Convinced that the Minnesota WW II Women needed to be recorded at the WIMSA Memorial, her event to honor them would include submitting their names to be recorded at the Memorial.

For Col Julie Eszlinger-Jensen's complete report e-mail Bob McGonigal at [mcgonigal67@earthlink.net](mailto:mcgonigal67@earthlink.net) or call him at 952-884-1625.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter New Comers

End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter membership is 947. Thanks to all who renewed their memberships last quarter.

Lyle Belleque	St. Paul
David Bunker	Brooklyn Park
Christopher Carlen	Annandale
Jeffrey Cassel	Westbrook
Brenda Clayton	Minneapolis
Harold Crump	St. Paul
Dawn Edlund	Minneapolis
Stephen Eggert	St. Peter
Louis Favenholtz	New Ulm
William Ferguson	Rosemount
Phillip Hampton	Minneapolis
Gerald Hausladen	Winsted
Steve Husten	Oak Park Heights
Eugene Illg	Rosemount
Lois Larson	Burnsville
Alex Maghuson	Minneapolis
William McLaughlin	Coon Rapids
Jerry Miller	Hayfield
Kenneth Moen	Belle Plaine
Carl Quast	Zumbrota
Robert Ritchie	Burnsville
Gary Schott	Lester Prairie
Sarah Sprankle	St. Paul
Kristen Steffer	Forest Lake
Jack Steinke	Windom
Thomas Theis	Minneapolis
Sarah Toborg	Cosmos
Rex Villa	New Brighton
Ronald Violette	Brownsville
Robert Weber	Hastings
Mark Welter	Andover

## Wings of the North

**Air Expo 2008**  
**Saturday & Sunday**  
**Aug 16 & 17**

**Flying Cloud Airport, Eden Prairie, MN**

We have confirmed the attendance of Dick Cole, Jimmy Doolittle's co-pilot; Curtis Brown, NASA astronaut with six space shuttle missions; Chuck DeBellevue, our top ace from Southeast Asia; and General Frederick "Boots" Bleese, double ace from Korea in the F-86.

Oh, and we'll have some airplanes, too! Besides the usual planes like the B-17 *Yankee Lady*, we also hope to have a P-40 and/or a SkyRaider.

Volunteers are needed!

Visit [www.WOTN.org](http://www.WOTN.org) for more information.

## Military Assistance Council for Veterans – MACV



The picnic is outside the MACV transitional housing on the VA Medical center campus.

The VA has given MACV a building for homeless vets to use when they first enter the program. MACV owns eight other houses located mainly in south Minneapolis. These homes are for vets who have been in the program longer and act as a transition to them being out on their own. See the related article on the next page.

## Rawlings Chapter Contributes to Vets Needing Help

Last year a new organization appeared on the list of recipients of charitable gambling proceeds from the chapter. The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) is a nonprofit dedicated to helping Minnesota Veterans and their families by providing services directly or in collaboration with other service agencies (e.g., VA). Their mission is to provide assistance throughout Minnesota to positively motivated veterans and their families who are homeless or experiencing other life crises.

Services include rental/mortgage assistance, transitional housing, subsidized permanent housing, employment assistance, transportation, utility, and food assistance. It is often assumed that the VA and other government agencies provide all necessary services for veterans, but this is not true nor is it feasible for them to do so. Many organizations, including the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MNDVA), recognize that MACV's programs are a very effective way to close the gaps in services.

MACV supports *all* veterans and is dedicated to honoring their service and helping these men and women return to productive lives of hope, dignity, and self-determination, in the nation they once defended. They assist those veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq with the many challenges they face.

With facilities in St Paul, Minneapolis, Mankato, Duluth, and St Cloud, MACV is truly a state wide organization. While substantial funds are provided by the MNDVA and the VA, often funds are not available for vets that otherwise qualify for assistance. That's why donations are so important. Recently, the Rawlings Chapter was a sponsor of a MACV event at Canterbury Park to honor vets and raise funds.

To learn more about MACV and their events, go to [www.mac-v.org](http://www.mac-v.org).

## MN Dept of Veterans Affairs

With the close of the 2008 Legislative Session, I want to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated service organizations, Governor Tim Pawlenty, and the Minnesota Legislature. Our state leaders have made it clear that veterans and their families are a priority in Minnesota.

There were many important veteran-related provisions signed into law this session. Here are a few highlights.

- Governor Pawlenty and legislative leaders agreed to invest \$10 million in bonding for the replacement of Building 9 at the Minneapolis Veterans Home. Earlier this year residents were evacuated from Building 9 after it was condemned due to structural deficiencies. We will keep you informed as we move forward with planning for the demolition and reconstruction. The Minneapolis home also received bonding dollars for asset preservation.
- Silver Bay's Veterans Home received funding to complete construction and the Fergus Falls Veterans Home received partial funding for an Alzheimer's and Dementia unit.
- State Soldiers Assistance Program received additional funding of \$2.5 million in FY 09 and \$1.5 million each year thereafter. With recent increase in applications for SSAP assistance, this funding came at a crucial time.
- Funding was provided for a new caseworker program and now our Claims and Outreach Department will be able to hire a full-time Women Veterans Coordinator.
- Tax relief for veterans includes property tax exclusions for the homesteads of the Minnesota veterans with service-connected disabilities of 70 percent, a tax credit of up to a \$750 for disabled veterans or military members with at least 20 years of service, and a doubling of the Military Combat Zone tax credit. In addition, military pay for training and drills will no longer be counted as taxable income.

*Clark Dyrud, Commissioner,  
Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs*

## General EW Rawlings Chapter's Past Presidents

Founder – Gen. E.W. Rawlings  
Implemented the Chapter – Paul Markgraf

Doyle Larson  
Chuck Melby  
Robin Wohnsigl  
Vic Seavers  
Coleman Radar  
David Dean  
Bill Campbell  
Bill Engstrom  
Jerry Bon  
Christopher Mueller  
Paul Groskreutz  
Warren White  
Mario Campos  
Doyle Larson  
Glenn Shull  
Gary Chambers

## Final Fly-by for Don Zupan

MSgt (ret) Don Zupan stepped into eternity on 24 June 2008. He served his country for 28 years of Active Duty and retired in 1977.

He defended our homeland during WWII, Korea, and Viet Nam wars. He defended his country during WWII aboard a B17 as a belly turret gunner. MSgt Zupan was a POW in Switzerland for three months after being shot down, and escaped! He was reassigned to the Pacific as a gunner in a P61. He was also assigned to a B29, a B52, and a B47. There were others.

MSgt Zupan was a former chapter president in the Air Force Sergeants' Association, a member of the local 8th Air Force Historical Society, a volunteer at the 934th AW/Retiree Affairs Office, and member of the Twin Cities POW group. He was also a lifetime member of the General Rawlings AFA Chapter 213.

*Thank you, Don. You will be missed.*

### Washington, DC, Trip Free to WWII Veterans Only

If eligible and interested, fill out an application and send it in as soon as possible. First come, first served! WWII women will also be notified via Julie Eszlinger-Jensen. Guardians must pay \$525 for the round trip to Washington, DC. The trip includes busing and two meals. Senator Dole is supposed to be at the WWII memorial flight by US Air. A 320 can take 90 freebees, 45 guardians, 10 others (probably nurses, etc.). Flight leaves at 0700 on Saturday, September 13.

Check out [www.honorflight.org](http://www.honorflight.org) for additional information and an application. You can also call 937-521-2400 or 651-378-2717 for more information.

Please get the word out to WWII vets.

### Join Us at the Joint Military Services Retiree Appreciation Day

**When:** Saturday 27 Sep 08

**Where:** Mystic Lake Casino

**Cost:** \$28

Pre-registration form available by contacting Bob McGonigal, [mcgonigal67@earthlink.net](mailto:mcgonigal67@earthlink.net) or 952-884-1625. Deadline: 31 Aug 08

**Photos from the Annual Awards Banquet – Apr 08**



**Guest Speaker Brig. Gen. Dennis Schulstad**



**Park HS JROTC Awardee – Ashley Dinneen**



**CAP Awardee – Kaelyn Olson**

Award presenters (left to right): BG (Ret) Dennis Schulstad, Col (Ret) Vic Seavers, SMS Mike Vosen



**North HS JROTC Awardee – Amethyst Knudson**



**CAP Awardee – Laura Broker**



**Woodbury HS JROTC Awardee – Zachary Hanson**



**CAP Awardee – Jason Anderson**



**U of St Thomas ROTC Awardee – Bradley Byington**



**342<sup>nd</sup> Recruiting Squadron Awardee –  
TSgt Richard Halliburton**



**133<sup>rd</sup> AW Awardee – SrA Ryan Craig**



**934<sup>th</sup> AW Awardee – MSgt Dennis Swanson**



**Rawlings Chapter Teacher of the Year '08 –  
Mrs. Patricia Georg (with Kenneth Wofford, Kimberly  
Orth)**



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