

# War and remembrance

## Representatives have ties to end of WWII

By RUTH DUNN

World events that took place across the Atlantic Ocean 60 years ago this month are of special interest to three House members.

As World War II was coming to an end in May 1945, Rep. Bernard Lieder (DFL-Crookston) was a 20-year-old Army infantryman on the front line of the Allied invasion of Nazi Germany.

At the same time, the parents of Rep. Frank Hornstein (DFL-Mpls) were struggling to survive in concentration camps where 6 million Jewish people had already died.

Although not as directly involved, Rep. Lloyd Cybart (R-Apple Valley), a retired Air Force sergeant now married to a German woman, has an avid interest in military history and a deep appreciation of the sacrifices made by people like Lieder and Hornstein's parents.

All three recently attended a commemora-

tion to honor concentration camp survivors and the veterans who helped liberate them six decades ago.

### Liberating Army

Arriving in Europe in September 1944 as a replacement for troops killed in the beach landings in France, Lieder was in the front lines as the Allies moved toward Berlin.

His Army infantry unit would secure a town and prepare for a counterattack. His duties involved freeing inmates of worker camps that included Jews and other displaced people from Russia, Poland and France.

Lieder is humble about his role and explains that he wasn't involved in the liberation of big-name concentration camps like Dachau and Auschwitz.

But because he is bilingual, Lieder was brought in as a translator for many situations that he would not have otherwise been involved in as a private, including the interrogation of

**World War II  
Days of Remembrance**  
**May 5: Yom HaShoah Holocaust  
Remembrance Day, commemorated  
since 1979**  
**May 8, 1945: German surrender,  
Victory in Europe (V-E Day)**  
**Aug. 15, 1945: Japanese surrender,  
Victory in Japan (V-J Day)**

German soldiers and communication with civilians and inmates of worker camps. (Lieder grew up speaking German in the close-knit German Lutheran town of Hanover, Minn.)

After the Germans surrendered, Lieder's unit was preparing to go to the South Pacific, but avoided that fate when the Japanese surrendered on Aug. 15, 1945. Instead, he stayed in Germany until March 1946 as part of the occupation forces.

"I was surprised how quickly the country recovered," said Lieder, who has returned to Germany as a visitor about 10 times since the war and organized donations for schools in a German town where he was once stationed. He's also befriended a former SS soldier who is now a Catholic priest.

Thoughts of his war experience are never far away. "I think about it every day," he admits.

### Family history

As a child, Hornstein didn't understand the significance of his family's history. His early memories were of his parents' foreign accents. When he realized that other children had grandparents and he didn't, he asked his parents why. He was told his grandparents died in the war. "I thought they were soldiers," he said.

By 1979, he had become so interested in the stories of his surviving relatives that he traveled to Israel and Germany to collect oral histories. He knew they were getting older and their powerful first-person accounts would otherwise be lost.

He's always been glad he has preserved those written memories to share with future generations, including his own three children.

During his search, he discovered what happened to all four grandparents who died in the camps, and that his parents, like most survivors, managed to live through a



Women and children survivors in the concentration camp in Mauthausen, Austria, speak to an American liberator through a barbed wire fence, May 5, 1945.

Photo courtesy United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, from the collection of Col. P. Robert Seibel ([www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org))

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and grant-in-aid trails in order to defray trail grooming and maintenance costs.

Under the bill, municipalities, golf courses and landscape irrigators would pay a surcharge on water used during the summer months, if the amount is greater than January consumption levels. The surcharge would not apply to agricultural users. The increased fee could promote conservation, proponents said.

Also under the bill, a fee would be established to cover the department's costs for managing state-owned minerals. The minerals management fee would be set at 20 percent of mineral revenues generated. Currently, the money comes from the General Fund.

## Plan B

If the House fails to pass a gaming measure, Article 2 would become a reality in order to meet the General Fund spending target of \$274.48 million. "Uff Da, if we get Option A," said Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar).

"These cuts are pretty ironic or tragic when all we hear is the talk about cleaning up our polluted waters," said Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls).

Under that scenario, funding would be reduced for the following agencies:

- Department of Natural Resources (-\$8.31 million); however, reductions to the Reinvest in Minnesota program forwarded in the Article 1 funding plan would be canceled out by \$691,000;
- Board of Water and Soil Resources (-\$1.41 million);
- Department of Environmental Protection (-\$1 million);
- Minnesota Conservation Corps (-\$700,000);
- Metropolitan Council parks (-\$600,000); and
- Science Museum of Minnesota (-\$70,000).

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(R-Delano), which was withdrawn, would have repealed the state's minimum wage altogether.

Seven states don't have a minimum wage requirement, and the 14 states with a minimum wage standard higher than Minnesota also have higher unemployment, Emmer said.

"It's proven that it does not work," he said.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) unsuccessfully offered an amendment to hold the minimum wage at \$5.25 an hour for waiters and waitresses, and \$6.15 an hour for

employees at companies with annual sales of more than \$1 million.

"This is fair," he said. "I want to see the minimum wage raised to \$6.15 an hour."

Gunther argued that tipped employees don't need the raise because they average more than \$17 an hour.

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a shared structure for the management of property and the use of shared technology for managing real estate. The system would include details such as rent, repair, maintenance and ownership.

Fourteen "custodial" agencies now manage more than 5,000 buildings on nearly 6 million acres, 880 leases totaling more than 4 million square feet and the budgeting and legislative processes are based on incomplete data, according to the report.

The governor's reorganizational order involves making uniform "programs and services related to the construction and building code licenses and regulation are being consolidated in the Department of Labor and Industry." Currently, multiple agencies oversee the building codes causing staff time to be spent on similar data collecting functions rather than enforcement activity.

The result would be, according to the report, "more efficient, effective, and less costly regulation of the construction industry," which accounts for nearly 20 percent of the state's economy.

Additional areas expected to be addressed later include: customer service innovation projects, such as consolidated contact centers, improvements on how the state handles financial transactions and combining human resource functions into a shared service.

Staff positions are expected to be reduced by about 1,300 with most of the reduction coming from attrition, rather than the "restructuring, relocations or layoff," which would happen over a five-year period, Badgerow said.

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and Kevin will be graduating from cosmetology school this year.

Kirkpatrick's other shops, including one in the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, and one opening in Stillwater, keep him busy. When he gets a chance, though, he enjoys getting outdoors.

"I do all kinds of fishing, and I do a lot of hunting trips." From Minnesota to Colorado and Wyoming, you'll find Kirkpatrick fishing for walleye and hunting elk, deer and antelope.

Kirkpatrick is a reservoir not only of skill and experience, but political secrets as well. "I know most everything that's going to happen before it happens," he said, but he'll never tell.

Then again, there is one thing Kirkpatrick thinks people should know: "This job is the best-kept secret in the world!"

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combination of street smarts and luck, said Hornstein. Both his parents spent time in forced labor camps — much like those that Lieder helped liberate — where the able-bodied tended to be sent first. His parents met after the war while on a train to a camp for displaced persons.

Hornstein's mother died in 1998, and his father, Stephen, now lives in St. Louis Park. Last year, Hornstein invited Lieder to his family's Passover Seder meal where the two older men immediately began talking about their war experiences.

"The vets who defeated Germany and liberated the camps are heroes," said Hornstein.

## A soldier's view

When he was young, Cybart knew a concentration camp survivor who lived down the street from his aunt in Michigan. The woman, who had a camp number tattooed on her arm, would talk about her experiences. "That made it real," said Cybart.

During a seven-year stint in Germany with the Air Force military police in the 1980s, he visited Dachau, a concentration camp near Munich. "It was a somber place and a horrifying part of history," he said.

Cybart has tremendous respect for the "Greatest Generation" of World War II and the sacrifices they made. Through his wife, who is from Zell, Germany, he's talked with many Germans and heard their war experiences.

Retired a few years ago after 20 years of active duty, Cybart first met Lieder when he was seeking sponsors for a bill involving veteran's benefits.

"I have the utmost respect for what he went through," said Cybart.

Cybart feels strongly about honoring veterans and the sacrifices they made for the country. He's organizing the Memorial Day commemoration in Apple Valley this year.

"If we don't honor these people we forget their sacrifices and I don't want that to be forgotten."

If you have Internet access, visit the House's Web page at:  
<http://www.house.mn>