

BUSTER DEO POST 4067 HISTORY

Buster Deo Post 4067 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was officially Chartered Friday, April 27, 1945, in Malta, Montana. Hans Hanson, Chief of Staff for the Second District of the VFW, presented the Charter and installed the Posts new officers in a ceremony held in the American Legion Rooms at the Malta City Hall. The newly installed officers included Harry Hanlin as Post Commander, L.B. Shelstead as Senior Vice Commander, Michael Perraut as Junior Vice Commander, John Parks as Quartermaster, and John Pugh as Chaplain. Additionally, there were a total of 35 members initially chartered with the Post.

The Post was named for Private Norman “Buster” Deo, who was born March 20, 1920, in Malta, Phillips County, Montana to Norman and Mary May Deo. Private Deo was the first man from Phillips County to be killed in action during World War II on April 30, 1942, at Corregidor in the Philippine Islands. He was a member of the 60th Coastal Artillery Regiment at the time of his death. His mother, Mary May, passed away just one short week before word of his death arrived. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

On September 17, 1955, the Post moved into what is still their current Post home on First Street West. The building, initially purchased in 1952, was the site of the former King Flower Shop. The dedication was presided over by Department Commander Fred Barrett with Department Adjutant/Quartermaster Wayne Casman and Malta City Mayor N. W. Dodson, also in attendance. Post Commander Dr. W. J. Kaye served as Master of Ceremonies. The dedication was followed with dancing and entertainment and marked a high point for Buster Deo Post 4067’s first 12 years of service in which they were one of the leading Post of Department of Montana.

Over the years, Buster Deo Post 4067 has become a pillar of the community they serve, marking many milestones along the way. They continue to advocate for veterans’ issues within their state and dedicate time to honoring those veterans who paved the way before them, and the community that continues to support their efforts. April 27, 2020, marked the 75th anniversary since the Post was chartered initially. It is evidence of their unfailing commitment to the same ideals they bound themselves to in their military service and dedication to the country they love.