

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

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For God and Country

ROBERT L. BRISTO (MN) - NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER CENTRAL REGION - BIO

Robert Lee Bristo was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa and he moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1974, One of the reasons for moving was so that he could be much closer to his mentally challenged brother James Bristo in 1983, Robert then later moved to Champlin, Minnesota. Robert is eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion through his late father Joseph Bristo, who served in the Army from 1942-1946 in World War 11.

Robert is a graduate of Graceland College located in Lamoni, Iowa. Robert received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and minors in Psychology and Secondary Education. Robert was elected by the student body to the high office of (COSA) Campus Organization Social Activities. This position's key responsibilities involved event sponsoring the Pops Concert, booking bands for dances, Talent Shows, Vegas Night, booking movies, etc. He was also awarded the Silver Seal Award, given to thirteen students for outstanding significant work during the college calendar year.

Robert joined Gopher Squadron 440 in the 5th District where he has been active ever since and was instrumental in helping both the Squadron and his District become activated. Robert later became Squadron Commander and then District Commander. He also served as Detachment Membership Chairman in 2000-2002. He set a goal of 10,000 members to represent the number of lakes that show on the Minnesota State License plates. In the first year, the Detachment of Minnesota climbed from 25th place to 12th place and was awarded the Houghton Award for the greatest percentage increase in membership.

Robert has served on the Detachment level as Chairman of Brain Science, Americanism Chairman, Finance Chairman, and ALFHA Chairman. He served as the SAL Detachment NEC for two years and just completed his term as the Regional Membership Chairman position, and currently the American Legion Family Hospital Association President for the Department of Minnesota American Legion.

Robert was a member of Toastmasters and worked his way up to the gold level.

Robert enjoys playing in Pool Leagues and was captain of his Pool League and took 2nd place in an All-City Tournament losing first place by 1 ball. Robert loves Karaoke and Bingo as a pastime and is sometimes occasionally called A Bingo Hog.

Robert was married to the love of his life Zaneta Harris-Bristo, who passed away in 2022. He has a stepson Jayme who is also an SAL member. Robert retired from United Parcel Service (UPS) where he served as a Logistics Associate Supervisor for 19 years and is currently semi-retired and works part-time as an UBER driver.