

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Mayor Anatoli Yelchaninov
640000 Kurgan
V.I. Lenin Street
Russia

Dear Mayor Yelchaninov:

This year our great countries will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. In honor of this solemn occasion, our two communities are working together to build relationships between veterans in the Fox Cities and Kurgan.

The idea for this project was suggested last September when a delegation from the Fox Cities visited Kurgan to write a three-year work plan for our two communities. The Rotary Clubs in our respective cities agreed to act as the coordinating bodies for this important effort. As a Rotarian, I am especially proud that the new Rotary Club of Kurgan adopted this as its first club project.

The United States Department of Veteran Affairs estimates that 1,100 World War II veterans die everyday in this country. Unless we begin to capture their memories, these incredible stories will soon be lost forever. This project has started an important dialogue in our own community; a dialogue that reaffirms the values we share and for which so many were willing to fight and die.

The magnitude of the loss of life for Russians during the Great Patriotic War is almost inconceivable. I often think of the poignant memorial for the soldiers of Kurgan that is adjacent to your City Hall. I hope our little project brings honor to those soldiers and teaches succeeding generations lessons that will help to diminish the need for war and future memorials.

My sincere best wishes to you and the citizens of Kurgan.

Respectfully,

TIMOTHY M. HANNA
Mayor of Appleton