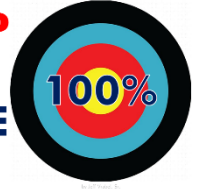


Round-Up

**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL
TARGET DATE**
May 15, 2024



Volume 5 | Number 32 | Issue 232 | April 14, 2024



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION TARGET DATE MEMO

April 11, 2024

TO: National Officers, Detachment Commanders & Adjutants
FROM: Anthony W. Wright (PA), National Adjutant
SUBJECT: 90% - Membership Target Date

“CONGRATULATIONS”

Thank you for all your efforts so far this membership year. Our standings as of our 90% membership target date (4-10-2024) are posted below:

2024 Membership Goal:	382,111
Total Membership:	358,371
Percentage of Goal:	93.79%
Renewal Percentage:	83.02%
Detachments making Goal:	44

Alabama	France	Latin America	Mississippi	North Dakota	South Dakota	Wisconsin
Arizona	Hawaii	Louisiana	Nebraska	Ohio	Tennessee	Wyoming
Colorado	Idaho	Maine	New Hampshire	Oregon	Texas	
Connecticut	Illinois	Maryland	New Jersey	Pennsylvania	Vermont	
Delaware	Indiana	Massachusetts	New Mexico	Puerto Rico	Virginia	
Dist Of Col	Iowa	Michigan	New York	Rhode Island	Washington	
Florida	Kansas	Minnesota	North Carolina	South Carolina	West Virginia	

AMAZING JOB!!

The remaining detachments should achieve this membership goal soon!

NEXT SCHEDULED RENEWAL NOTICE MAILED: May 27 - 31, 2024 (3 of 3)

NEXT MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE: May 15, 2024 (100%)

**RENEWAL IS THE KEY TO MEMBERSHIP SUCCESS
MEMBERSHIP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY**



Round-Up

Donald "JR" Hall, Jr. (MD) National Commander
Robert L. Bristo (MN) Central National Vice-Commander
John R. Cook (NH) Northeast National Vice-Commander
Terry A. Harris (KS) Midwest National Vice-Commander
Linwood A. Moore (VA) Southeast National Vice-Commander
James R. Fischer (CA) Western National Vice-Commander

Christopher Carlton (IN)
Immediate Past National Commander

Joseph Navarrete (NM)
Leading Candidate for National Commander

William Clancy III (NY)
Trailing Candidate for National Commander

Round-Up is a publication designed to disseminate information related to Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Family and is published weekly and distributed each Sunday.

Round-Up is a collection of information procured from various resources to stay better informed on happenings within The American Legion Family, and of other related topics of interest, and makes no claims or guarantees about the accuracy or currency of the contents of this publication, and expressly disclaims liability for errors and omissions.

SUBMITTING ARTICLES: All submissions are to be made electronically to jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com. If you need assistance, please send an email to same.

All information must be submitted by noon each Friday.

[PNVC Jeff Vrabel, Sr.](#), Editor
[Rusty Myers](#), Contributor
[Lou Michaels](#), Contributor
[Jeff Vrabel Jr.](#), Contributor

FOLLOW US:



Donald "JR" Hall, Jr.

National Commander

Representing More Than Me,

*Donald L. "JR" Hall Jr., National Commander
Sons of The American Legion*

REPRESENTING

More

THAN ME

Remembering the Greatest Generation

Wilfred W. Metz



HUBBARD — Wilfred Walter Metz, known by many as "Wimpy," passed away peacefully, Monday afternoon, April 8, 2024. He was 99 years old.

He was born in West Middlesex, Pa., on Feb. 1, 1925, to the late Walter and Gladys Glensey Metz. He married Doris Aileen Faust on Aug. 22, 1953, and she preceded him in death in 2007.

Wilfred retired from Packard Electric as a pipefitter and previously worked at Westinghouse.

He served his country in the U.S. Army in WWII, was wounded in action, and received the Purple Heart.

He was of the Presbyterian faith.

He was a lifelong small game hunter, and after his retirement, he pursued his hobby of collecting and restoring antique hit-and-miss engines.

Survivors include his two daughters, Deborah Metz of Hubbard, and Darlene Strasser of Canfield.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by a brother, Kenneth Metz, two sisters, Geraldine Shrawder and Bernice Metz; and a son-in-law, Robert Strasser.

Visitation will be 11 a.m. until the funeral service at 1 p.m., Saturday, April 13, 2024, at the Smith Funeral Home, 3126 Main St., West Middlesex, Pa. The Rev. Larry Bowald of Canfield will officiate.

Full military honors will be presented.

Memorial contributions may be given to Animal Charity of Ohio, 4140 Market St., Boardman, OH 44512 or at www.animalcharityofohio.org.

From the Editor

Congratulations to the 44 detachments that have met or exceeded the April 10, 2024 goal of 90%. We have eight detachments that have reached quota, and four detachments over the 105% mark. When will your detachment reach quota? **Who's next?**

Thanks for your continued support!

Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible.

RENEW TODAY!

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com | [Team Vrabel](#)

click a button below for more information

[JOIN THE SAL](#) [RENEW ONLINE](#) [BE THE ONE](#) [NEF](#)

[VCF](#) [DONATE](#) [EMBLEM SALES](#)

• • • TEAM • • •
VRABEL



Robert L. Bristo

Central National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

Second Wednesday Quarterly

September 13, 2023 | December 13, 2023

March 13, 2024 | June 12, 2024

8:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 930 6046 3298 | Passcode: 140 802

“As you walk down the fairway of life, you must smell the roses for you only get one round.” - Ben Hogan

Hello Central Region and welcome to our 90% goal date membership report and the **PGA MASTERS** weekend!

GOLF the sport where the mantra is “Swing - Swear - Repeat!”

The Central Region moved up another 1.05% since my last report but more importantly we have our first 100% detachment! Congratulations to the Detachment of Wisconsin who now sits at 100.82% Way to Go my northern friends!

We are sooooo close as we only need 8,490 more cards to be turned in to reach the 100% goal! It is going to be harder and more difficult to bring in these last few members, but I know we can do it! Keep it Fun! Just as in golf, keep your sense of humor. There's enough stress in the rest of our lives not to let bad shots ruin a good game we are supposed to enjoy! We need to have fun to make our work feel lighter! Remember with our membership even though we keep track of where each region is in our standings; it's not about being better than someone else, it's about being better than we were the day before!

The Central Region is stubbornly holding onto 3rd place nationally, only 2.64% behind the Southeast Region and .74% behind the Northeast Region. We are now 1.00% ahead of the Midwest Region but only ahead of the Western Region by 1.34%. All regions are ahead of where we were last year at this time! As a region we gained 1,368 new members. If we keep at the same pace, we will reach the 100% goal in just over 6 weeks! **KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!**

Golf is a game where you yell “FORE,” shoot a six and write down five! We don't have those problems with our numbers, take a look!

I am thrilled to report that the biggest increase in the region this time was the Detachment of Kentucky who jumped up 3.83% Way to go Kentucky! They were followed by West Virginia who added 3.55%. Three other detachments improved by more than a point with Michigan moving up 1.70%, Minnesota with 1.50% and Wisconsin with 1.30%. That left the last three detachments Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois who added 0.74%, 0.68%, and 0.13%, respectively.

Please don't forget to send in your IRA applications and any Blue Brigade Recruiters. Be sure to turn in your Squadron data form if you have not yet done so and start filling out the Squadron Consolidated Report Forms.

“Famed golfer Arnold Palmer said... **“The most important shot in golf is the next one!”**”

It is the same for our membership. The next member you bring in may be a future District, Detachment or National Commander. The next member may have the one really good idea that helps you raise more funds for CWF than ever before. That one new member may be the one that saves the life of a Veteran in crisis! Keep going my friends, our veterans, and our mission needs all of us!

“I’m the ONE, You’re the ONE, BE the ONE!”

For the Commander, **“Believe and Succeed”**

Butch Ray, Central Region Membership Chairman

John R. Cook

Northeast National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

THIRD Wednesday Quarterly

September 20, 2023 | December 20, 2023

March 20, 2024 | June 19, 2024

7:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 980 7046 7820 | Passcode: 469 153

James R. Fischer

Western National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

THIRD Wednesday Quarterly

September 20, 2023 | December 20, 2023

March 20, 2024 | June 19, 2024

8:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 964 2285 1563 | Passcode: 433 552

What’s up Westside?

Success isn’t always about greatness. It’s about consistency, consistent hard work gains success. Greatness will come. Great job Westside and all your hard work is paying off. Keep the momentum going!

Congratulations to Latin American, Hawaii, Idaho, New Mexico, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, and Colorado for hitting the 90% goal.

This is a reminder to you all that the 2025 SAL Membership Card cut-off date is May 15, 2024, which is also the 100% Target Date. The IT Production team will run the 2025 SAL Membership Cards extract on or around May 18, 2024. Please transmit your SAL membership by the May 15, 2024, cut-off date to ensure that your members’ 2025 membership cards correctly reflect their continuous years.

The Westside report. We improved by 0.77%, currently at 92.11% total from last report. We are now 5th in the nation and right behind Midwest Region by 0.34%. I am super stoked we are so close to taking 4th place back Westside. Keep up the great work you all are doing. Amazing job Latin America at 112.12%, Hawaii at 110.00%, Idaho at 99.54%, New Mexico at 99.18%, Arizona at 96.74%, Oregon at 95.57%, Washington at 92.32%, Wyoming at 91.99% and Colorado at 91.06%. Coming up in a big way is Utah at 89.57%, Alaska at 89.37%, California at 88.88%, Montana at 84.14%, Nevada at 73.13% and Philippines at 56.96%. Sometimes you forget you’re awesome, so this is your reminder.

Thanks again for everything you do for this great organization.

For God and Country,

Dan Ashley, Western Region Membership Chairman

Terry A. Harris

Midwest National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

Fourth Wednesday Quarterly

September 27, 2023 | December 27, 2023

March 27, 2024 | June 26, 2024

7:00 p.m. Mountain | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 924 0402 2733 | Passcode: 371 685

Linwood A. Moore

Southeast National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

First Wednesday Quarterly

September 6, 2023 | December 6, 2023

March 6, 2024 | June 5, 2024

8:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 945 1723 1230 | Passcode: 58543

BE THE ONE

If you're a veteran in crisis or concerned about one, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive 24/7 confidential support. Dial 988 then Press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat or text 838255.

Veteran-owned distillery teaming with American Legion for Be the One fundraiser

The American Legion | April 10, 2024

Hotel Tango Distillery, a distinguished veteran-owned and operated establishment based in Indianapolis, has proudly unveiled its Memorial Day give-back program, Operation: Red, White & Bourbon. In collaboration with The American Legion, Hotel Tango pledges to donate \$1 of every bottle of its limited-time Red, White & Bourbon sold to support The American Legion's [Be the One](#) suicide prevention mission.



Be the One aims to provide crucial support and resources to veterans struggling with mental health issues, particularly those experiencing PTSD and transitioning back to civilian life. This initiative offers veterans a vital support system, ensuring they receive the assistance they need to navigate life after service.

The Operation: Red, White & Bourbon initiative is running now through July 31, allowing consumers ample opportunity to participate in honoring and supporting veterans. To find Red, White & Bourbon in your area, click [here](#).

Hotel Tango has a proven track record of charitable giving, having donated over \$45,000 over the past two years through this program.

Travis Barnes, founder and CEO of Hotel Tango, expressed his pride in the partnership, stating, "As a veteran-owned company, we are honored to collaborate with the American Legion in our shared mission to support veterans nationwide. I know the mental strain through my own experience with PTSD and transitioning back to civilian life. Having a support system and resources is vital for veterans' mental health. This partnership allows us to give back to soldiers of every generation struggling with mental health issues, expressing our gratitude for their sacrifices, and ensuring that Legion centers remain pillars of support within our communities."

Dean Kessel, Chief Marketing Officer for The American Legion, underscored the importance of the collaboration, emphasizing the shared values and objectives of both entities. "This partnership represents a mutually beneficial alliance that enables The American Legion to further its mission of supporting servicemembers, veterans, and their families," Kessel said. "Together with Hotel Tango, we are committed to promoting patriotism, honor, and continued devotion to those who have served our nation."

To stay informed about upcoming events and initiatives related to the partnership, follow The American Legion or Hotel Tango Distillery on social media:

- The American Legion – [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

- Hotel Tango Distillery – [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

National Commissions and Committees

Chairmen wishing to have reports published should email them to jeffrabelsr@gmail.com to be included. All meeting information subject to change.

Americanism Commission

Chris Casey, Chairman
Third Monday Bi-Monthly

October 16, 2023 | December 18, 2023
February 19, 2024 | April 15, 2024
June 17, 2024 | August 19, 2024

7:30 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 935 4066 0918 | Passcode: 571 659

Century Committee

Joe Gladden, Chairman
Second Tuesday Bi-Monthly

October 10, 2023 | December 12, 2023
March 13, 2024 | April 9, 2024
June 11, 2024 | August 13, 2024

7:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 919 4714 3789 | Passcode: 241 429



Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Mark Nave, Chairman
Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly

September 21, 2023 | November 16, 2023
January 18, 2024 | March 21, 2024
May 16, 2024 | July 18, 2024

7:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 984 7031 4786 | Passcode: 780 858

Children & Youth Committee

Joseph Lohman, Chairman
Second Monday Bi-Monthly

September 11, 2023 | November 13, 2023
January 8, 2024 | March 11, 2024
~~May 13, 2024~~ | July 8, 2024

7:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 951 1622 6587 | Passcode: 799 095

More than \$60 million for children and youth

The American Legion | April 10, 2024



The 2023 American Legion Samsung Scholars visit Capitol Hill in early March 2024. More than \$7.2 million in American Legion Samsung Scholarships has been awarded since then.

The American Legion's commitment to children and youth can be counted in the tens of millions. Under the organization's two major grant programs (Child

Welfare Foundation and Temporary Financial Assistance) and its portfolio of youth scholarships, more than \$60 million has been invested in young people by the nation's largest veterans organization.

And while April is Children & Youth Month in The American Legion, that support runs year-round with programs, activities, grants, and scholarships that make differences for tens of thousands of young people each year.

[The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation](#), which awards grants to organizations that contribute to the physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing of children facing challenges beyond their control, has provided \$20,683,892.50 in funding since its inception in 1954.

The Legion's [Temporary Financial Assistance program](#), which provides cash grants to qualified military and veteran families facing financial emergencies, has delivered \$17,980,894.43 since 1926, including more than \$5.4 million over the last decade alone. TFA grants are awarded to qualified families with minor children at home that are facing financial crises that threaten the stability of their homes.

[National American Legion scholarships](#) have been awarded to no less than 6,941 young people pursuing higher education – most of which have been presented over the last 25 years.

[The American Legion Samsung Scholarship](#), awarded to descendants of U.S. military veterans who have gone on to participate in American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State, tops the list with \$7,206,500 in scholarships awarded since 1996 to 2,333 students.

[National American Legion Oratorical Contest](#) competitors have received \$6,424,500 in scholarships since 1938, when the contest went national. Nearly 3,000 students have earned that college assistance by learning the U.S. Constitution and demonstrating their ability to speak fluently about its meaning to the nation.

[American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year scholarships](#) have been awarded to 149 recipients, to the tune of \$622,500 since 1983. [American Legion Baseball scholarships](#) since 1986 have amounted to \$262,500, plus another \$295,000 for American Legion Baseball Academic Team scholarships. American Legion Boys Nation scholarships: \$201,544.50 to 92 participants since 1978. [National American Legion Junior](#)

[Shooting Sports](#) competitors have earned \$155,000 in scholarships since 1996.

Altogether, the amount in American Legion national grants and scholarships for youth come conservatively to \$60,071,174.43 over the years, and that does not count the millions in financial assistance provided at the local level by American Legion posts each year. In 2023, that came to \$12,752,340.35, assisting 3,359 young people in local communities, according to the most recent Consolidated Post Report.

[Funding for the grants and scholarships comes almost entirely through individual contributions](#). For the Temporary Financial Assistance Program, donations can be made to the [American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation](#). Donors can select youth programs of their choice for contributions through [American Legion Charities](#). And contributors to the [Child Welfare Foundation](#) can make their gifts safely and securely online.

Finance Commission

William G. Hill, Chairman

Third Thursday as scheduled

September 21, 2023 | February 15, 2024

April 18, 2024 | July 18, 2024

8:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 966 1733 0121 | Passcode: 463 702

Internal Affairs Commission

Christopher Michel, Chairman

Fourth Thursday Bi-Monthly

October 26, 2023 | December 28, 2023

February 22, 2024 | April 25, 2024

June 27, 2024 | August 22, 2024

6:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 932 2650 4089 | Passcode: 725 519



Legislative Commission

Blair Miles, Chairman

Second Thursday Bi-Monthly

October 12, 2023 | December 14, 2023

February 8, 2024 | April 11, 2024

June 13, 2024 | August 8, 2024

7:30 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 937 1376 7924 | Passcode: 172 912



Legion calls for inclusion, passage of House legislation assisting Afghan allies

The American Legion | April 11, 2024

The American Legion joined with other organizations today in calling for U.S. House of Representatives leadership to include and then pass legislation supporting our Afghan allies living in the United States and abroad.

[In a letter addressed to Speaker of the House Mike Johnson and Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries](#), the Legion joined with Veterans of Foreign Wars, With Honor Action, Moral Compass Federation and No One Left Behind in calling for the inclusion of [Fulfilling Promises to Afghan Allies](#) in the Emergency National Security Supplemental Appropriations Act.

“It has been over two years since the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan,” the letter reads. “Some might believe this marked the end of America’s involvement in Afghanistan, but for U.S. veterans this is not the case. The moral obligation our veterans feel to the Afghans who fought beside them did not end with the withdrawal. These veterans continue to stand with the

80,000 Afghans languishing in legal limbo in the United States, as well as the over 140,000 applicants to the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program, hiding for their lives in Taliban controlled Afghanistan.”

The letter calls for Congress to swiftly pass legislation that will adjust the status of our Afghan allies and assist those still in Afghanistan and other countries. Key provisions of the legislation come from the Afghan Adjustment Act and Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2023; the Senate version of the legislation was stripped from the Senate’s Emergency National Security Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2024 earlier this year.

“The provisions in Fulfilling Promises to Afghan Allies are incredibly popular across the political spectrum,” the letter states. “National polling shows nearly 90% support amongst Americans for the policies this legislation would implement. Furthermore, this legislation is a national security imperative – standing with our Afghan allies will demonstrate American resolve, building confidence among America’s allies and deterring adversaries.

“Congress has failed over the last two years to pass necessary legislation. Partisan politicking has made passing bipartisan legislation increasingly difficult, but our allies and veterans dealing with moral injury can no longer be casualties of this inaction.”

Member Training & Development Committee

Michael Cotton, Chairman

First Monday Bi-Monthly

September 4, 2023 | November 6, 2023

January 1, 2024 | March 4, 2024

May 6, 2024 | July 1, 2024

8:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 957 9605 2218 | Passcode: 528 704



Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Daryl VerStreate Jr., Chairman
Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly

September 19 2023 | November 21, 2023
January 16, 2024 | March 19, 2024
May 21, 2024 | July 16, 2024

8:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 989 3388 3350 | Passcode: 546 900

The current SAL membership report can be accessed on the national website at www.legion.org/membership/standings.

SAL Online Renewal - members can login and renew direct via www.myLegion.org or quick renew by clicking here [SAL Online Renewal](#).

SAL New Member Kit is now online and ready for purchase. [New Member Kit \(SAL\) - American Legion Flag & Emblem](#).

National Convention Committee

Christopher Byrd, Chairman
Second Tuesday Bi-Monthly

September 12 2023 | November 14, 2023
January 9, 2024 | March 12, 2024
May 14, 2024 | July 19, 2024

7:30 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 953 4866 3402 | Passcode: 670 002



Public & Media Communications Committee

Kevin Chaplin, Chairman
Fourth Tuesday Bi-Monthly

October 24, 2023, | December 26, 2023
February 27, 2024 | April 23, 2024
June 25, 2024 | August 27, 2024

7:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 914 4414 8114 | Passcode: 977 759

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Last call to enter Media & Communications Contest

The American Legion | April 9, 2024

The American Legion Media & Communications Contest wants to recognize the hard work Legion Family members do to promote the good of the organization across media channels. The contest provides an opportunity for all Legion Family members – American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, Auxiliary and Legion Riders – to submit their work and be recognized.

Ready to enter the Media & Communications Contest? Visit legion.org/media/contest to get started. Deadline for contest submissions is April 15. So don't delay! The Media & Communications Contest has seven categories for submissions: websites, publications, visual

media, social media campaigns, editorial/news writing, editorial/informational writing, and public relations/community outreach.

There is a \$5 fee per entry submission. Please note: all entries must have been published during the 2023 calendar year.

Award plaques will be given to division winners in each category. And two additional awards will be presented – Innovation Award and Chairman’s Award. Winners of these two awards will receive a plaque and \$50 Emblem Sales credit.

Innovation Award: This rewards innovation in media. Nominees may submit for this but don't have to for consideration. Judges will consider the award winners and other nominees to select a winner that demonstrated true innovation.

Chairman's Award: A “Best in Show” award. Nominees don't submit specifically for this. The judges consider award winners and select one that goes above and beyond the others.

Media & Communications Commission members and Media & Communications National Headquarters staff will select the winners in each category. The winners will then go before the entire Media & Communications Commission for approval during Spring Meetings in May.

Don't wait! Start submitting your work now for us to recognize you.

If you have questions, please email dispatch@legion.org.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Bruno Williamson, Chairman
Second Monday Bi-Monthly

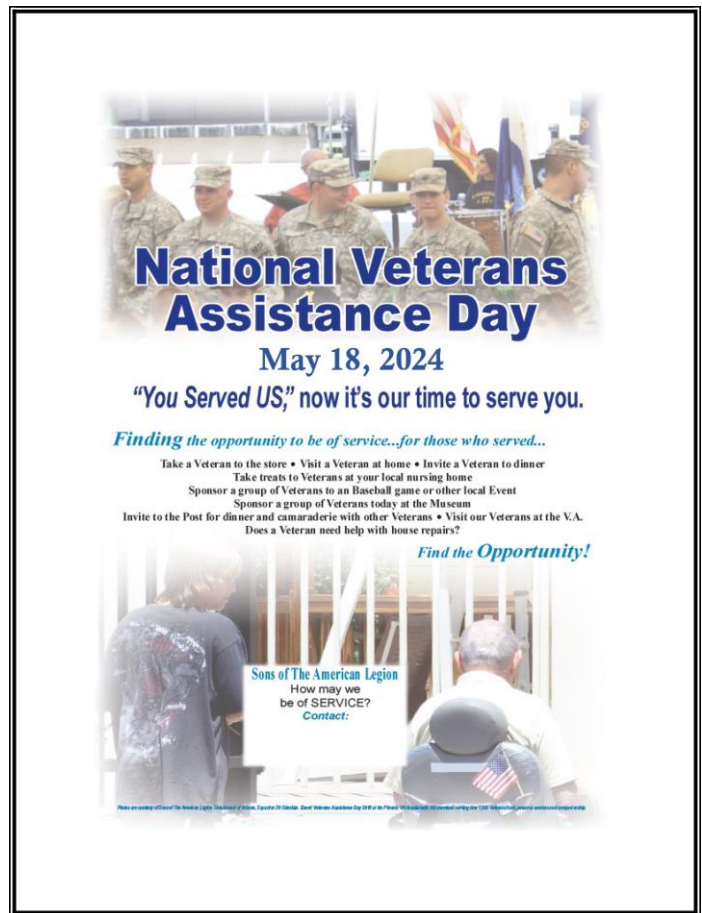
November 29, 2023 | December 11, 2023

February 12, 2024 | April 8, 2024

June 10, 2024 | August 12, 2024

8:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 971 3717 7471 | Passcode: 712 824



The National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission wants to know how will you be recognizing **Veterans National Assistance Day (VNA)** on May 18, 2024!

Established in 2008 to underscore the importance of our work on behalf of those who served, VNA Day is a great opportunity to coordinate a service project for a veteran in your community. Whether you are building a ramp to make their house more accessible, cleaning up their yard for spring, or painting and repairing that fence that needs some attention, VNA Day is the perfect occasion to do something with your younger Sons, the Squadron, with the Post, or TAL Family!

And don't forget to record your hours and donations on your Consolidated Squadron Report under the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation section. No act of appreciation is too small!

System Worth Saving returns to Phoenix 10 years after crisis

The American Legion | April 15, 2024

The American Legion's System Worth Saving (SWS) program returns to Phoenix this month, a decade after controversy erupted there, which resulted in the



resignation of top VA officials and implementation of reforms in how veterans receive their health care.

American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Autrey James will be participating in the event.

“We were all troubled by what happened a decade ago,” he said. “But what happened then was not — and still is not — typical of VA care. It is the best care anywhere. Can it be improved? Of course, there is room for improvement. That’s why we are coming to Phoenix — to listen to what veterans have to say, to learn about the challenges from VA staff, and to forge solutions to ensure that our veterans are indeed receiving the best care possible.”

The American Legion launched the SWS initiative in 2003 as a way to work with VA to improve health care for the nation’s veterans.

Each year, the Legion’s Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission conducts a series of site visits to VA medical facilities and regional offices across the country. While on site, American Legion representatives meet with veterans, their families and VA administrators and employees to discuss issues and solutions at each site. These observations are compiled into a System Worth Saving report that is distributed to VA officials, members of Congress and the public.



Veterans share their experience and ask questions related to care at the James Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa during an American Legion System Worth Saving town hall at American Legion Post 5 in Tampa, Fla., on January 29.

Hilary Ott /The American Legion

In 2014, the Phoenix VA and other medical centers were embroiled in a scandal over massive wait times in its health-care system. Phoenix VA officials were accused of keeping a secret wait list of veterans who were seeking health care and vastly underreporting how long it took for patients to see a doctor.

Soon after CNN reported that up to 40 veterans died while on the wait list, The American Legion conducted a town hall to address the issue. Additionally, then National Commander Dan Dellinger [called on VA Secretary Eric Shinseki](#) and others to resign, which they did.

Now, The American Legion returns to continue its ongoing work with VA in ensuring that veterans receive the best care possible.

The visit kicks off with a town hall where all military veterans around Phoenix are invited to attend and share their experiences with the VA. During the town hall, American Legion representatives, VA staff and others will be on hand to address issues and questions raised by veterans related to their health-care experiences at the Phoenix VA.

The town hall, which starts at 6 p.m. on April 29, will be held at American Legion Post 1, 364 North 7th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona 85007. (The major crossroads are 7th Avenue and Van Buren.)

The event is free, and no prior registration or RSVP is necessary. However, veterans are invited to submit questions beforehand via legion.org/systemworthsaving/townhall.

Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Jim Coates, Chairman

Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly

November 19, 2023 | December 21, 2023

February 15, 2024 | April 18, 2024

June 20, 2024 | August 15, 2024

7:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 989 2627 5747 | Passcode: 26060



Thank you to our Round-Up sponsors

Juan Cruz Rodriguez,
Department of Puerto Rico

Todd Bidlack,
Detachment of Ohio



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

Minnesota Sons hold first SAL Legion College

Lou Michaels, Contributor



The first SAL Legion College was held at Camp Ripley, Minnesota. Seen above are Stu Sonnee, Department of Minnesota Commander Paul Hassing, David Arnd, and Gregg Wilwert.



SAL e-newsletter goes monthly

The American Legion | April 9, 2024

Sons of The American Legion — and other interested subscribers — can now get the national SAL e-newsletter delivered to their inbox on a monthly basis.

The e-newsletter had been on a bimonthly schedule since May 2020, when it was introduced to replace the print version of the national SAL newsletter. The e-newsletter includes links to news stories, videos and other information about the SAL.

However, in the interest of having a printable version for those interested, the SAL Advisory Committee last fall approved The Millennium, a printable PDF newsletter produced monthly. The Millennium includes meeting dates for the SAL commissions and committees, reports from national vice commanders and commission/committee chairs, historical tidbits and more.

The Millennium will be included in a link in each month's e-newsletter, providing even more content and information for SAL members and other subscribers.

To subscribe, go to [Legion.org/newsletters](https://legion.org/newsletters) and find the Sons of The American Legion "subscribe" button. You will need to sign into MyLegion in order to subscribe.

Past editions of both the e-newsletter and the Millennium are available at [Legion.org/Sons/Newsletters](https://legion.org/Sons/Newsletters). That page also includes a link to subscribe.



Shore Story: Grand Haven man champions Company F, Purple Hearts awarded posthumously

[Chris Petras](#) | February 27, 2024

This is part of the series Shore Stories: Life Along the Lakeshore, columns by local and former residents about their lives.



Historian Chris Petras holds up the guidon of the 126th Infantry Regiment, WWI.

courtesy photo

In 2019, Charles A. Conklin American Legion Post 28 Grand Haven celebrated their 100th anniversary. As a member of the Post's Sons of the American Legion Squadron 28 Grand Haven, I wanted to learn more about the Post and the Post's namesake. I began the journey of writing a book and co-producing and co-directing a documentary film on the 100-year evolution of Post 28 and the life and military service of Charles A. Conklin. The documentary was broadcast on regional PBS stations.

Along the way, I discovered several soldiers who were raised in West Michigan and served in the courageous 126th Infantry/Regiment, 32nd "Red Arrow" Division which was instrumental in breaking the German line and subsequent victory over the German forces in November 1918. Many of the West Michigan "Red Arrow" Division soldiers were either wounded in action, died of wounds received in action, or were killed in action.

Charles A. Conklin, was raised in Grand Haven but moved to Ohio after high school, enlisting in the Ohio National Guard. He died of wounds received in action. Digging deeper, I discovered 22 soldiers, including Sgt. Alvin Jonker VFW Post 2326 Grand Haven namesake, Alvin F. Jonker, who was raised in Grand Haven and enlisted in Michigan National Guard

Company F Grand Haven. All served in the 126th Infantry/Regiment and were either wounded in action, died of wounds received in action, or were killed in action. I wondered if Conklin and the other 22 soldiers had ever received a Purple Heart medal.

The Purple Heart medal is awarded to U.S. military servicepersons who are either wounded in action, died of wounds received in action, or killed in action. I reached out to my U.S. representative at the time, Bill Huizenga, who immediately offered to assist.

When Conklin's letter of eligibility status arrived, it was disappointing. In 1973, the military service records of Conklin and thousands of other WWI soldiers were consumed in a major warehouse fire just outside St. Louis, Missouri. Things looked bleak, until a couple days later, when I remembered discovering a U.S. Army document noting Conklin's cause of death — died of wounds received in action. I circled back to Congressman Huizenga whose team submitted the new evidence. A week later, Conklin's eligibility letter arrived. He was determined eligible for a Purple Heart medal. Of the remaining 22 soldiers, four had previously received Purple Heart medals.

That left Jonker and the remaining 17 soldiers.

Jonker was killed in action and determined eligible. Post 28 and Post 2326 accepted Conklin's and Jonker's posthumous Purple Heart medals, respectively, from Congressman Huizenga, on behalf of the president of the United States. One year later, I finished researching the 17 remaining Grand Haven WWI Company F soldiers. They, too, were determined eligible for Purple Heart medals. This time, I personally facilitated the procurement and engraving of the 17 medals and donated them to the Tri-Cities Historical Museum (<https://www.tri-citiesmuseum.org>) in Grand Haven for future generations to honor and enjoy. Congressman Huizenga presented the medals, posthumously, at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum.

Later that year, I was beyond honored and humbled to receive the Tri-Cities Historical Museum's "2023 Historian of the Year" award.

Most recently, the 93-year-old daughter of a WWI Company F Grand Haven soldier contacted me about her father, whom I discovered was wounded in action. U.S. Rep. Hillary Scholten and her team graciously facilitated during the eligibility process and on Jan. 5, Congresswoman Scholten presented the Purple Heart medal, posthumously, to the daughter during a ceremony in Grand Haven.



Dr. Chris Petras worked diligently to find the documentation necessary to bring home 20 Purple Hearts to WWI servicemen.

My journey is a blessing, and the least I can do for the sacrifices the soldiers made. In the words of Cpl. Emil Gansser of the 126th Infantry/Regiment, WWI:

“Those of our number who are not privileged to return, become our most precious contribution to the onward march of democracy. They become, too, a heritage for those yet unborn, an inspiration for them to serve as they served to make this world what God would have it be. Though no longer to contribute in the flesh, their deeds will form a chapter in the book of ideals that nourishes those who would be great. It is in the memory of our glorious dead that we find those impulses that urge us onto better and more noble men.”

Chris Petras earned his doctorate in public administration/public policy from Western Michigan University. His late grandfather served in the U.S. Army overseas during WWII. Several of his ancestors served in various wars, including the Civil War and WWI. Dr. Petras lives in the Grand Haven-area and has published columns for the Grand Haven Tribune on the history of Grand Haven during WWI. Dr. Petras is a Life Member of the 126th Regimental Association Grand Rapids and VFW Post 2326 Auxiliary Grand Haven. He is also a member of the Charles A. Conklin Sons of the American Legion Squadron 28 Grand Haven.

COTA picnic to benefit children, young adults

Rusty Myers, Contributor



The American Legion Post 105 Family will be holding a picnic to benefit the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA), one of the American Legion's key charities. COTA helps children and young

adults who need a life-saving transplant by providing fundraising assistance and family support.

All proceeds from our picnic will go to this amazing charity. \$20 donation, with tickets available in advance at the Post. It will be a day of BBQ, games for kids and adults, and music by 'Country Cousins'. Join us and help make a difference in the life of a child needing a transplant. We'll even have a family there who has benefitted from a COTA transplant to talk about the organization and what a difference it makes. Can't make it? You can make a donation via check, or Venmo us at @sal105nj

For more on COTA, check out their website at <https://cota.org/>.

Event will be held at American Legion Post 105, 621 Washington Ave., Belleville, NJ 07109.



SAL County Council created

Rusty Myers | March 21, 2024

At the Department Commander's Official Visit to Essex County, the officers of the newly created Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Essex County Executive Committee were installed last week at Post 105 in Belleville.

The Department, or state level, American Legion makes an official visit to each of New Jersey's 21

counties throughout the year, where the Department Commander and his leadership team meet the members of the Posts, Units, and Squadron which make up the local American Legion. March was Department Commander Larry Bishop's official visit to Essex, and joining him were the Department American Legion Auxiliary President Sharon Knight, and the SAL Detachment Commander Keith Barnes. These three officers, who preside over the approximately 30,000 American Legion Family members in New Jersey, took office in June 2023 and end their term after the Wildwood Convention during the second week of June 2024.



At that March county meeting, SAL Detachment Commander Barnes installed the newly elected officers of the SAL Essex County Executive Committee, which was officially created in the first week of March. In what has been years in the making, the County Committee mirrors what many other counties throughout NJ already have established – an organization made up of representatives from squadrons throughout the county, which meet together in caucus monthly to administer, guide, and assist their fellow squadrons. The county committee is a key element in the successful operation of the organization and serves as a conduit of communication between state-level initiatives and priorities and the local squadrons.

The creation of a county organization in Essex is a big deal, as one hasn't existed in perhaps 20 years. In fact, the only National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion to ever come from New Jersey was from Essex County in 1980 – National Commander Ernest Wilson of Newark's Squadron 152.

The SAL Essex County Committee is made up of the four active squadrons in the county – Squadron 70 of

Nutley, Squadron 73 of East Orange, Squadron 105 of Belleville, and Squadron 185 of Caldwell.

Officers installed that day included County Commander Steve Sangemino (Belleville 105), County Vice Commander Kevin Infield (Nutley 70), County Adjutant Richard Vlasakakis (Belleville 105), and County Sgt-at-Arms Ken Ackerman (Nutley 70). Other officers include County Chaplain Robert K. Krupinski (Nutley 70), who is a dual member and a Marine Corps veteran himself, and Detachment Executive Committeeman James Elsmore (Belleville 105). The current DEC is Rusty Myers, also of Belleville 105, whose term ends in June at which point Elsmore will then serve for the three-year term. Myers also serves as the new County Judge Advocate.

The SAL Committee Chairman appointed by the American Legion Essex County Executive Committee is Henry DeTosto (Nutley 70), an Army veteran, Nutley Post 70 Past Commander, and Adjutant for the American Legion County.



Alabama Legion Riders chapter providing both flags, Recognition to area veterans

The American Legion | April 10, 2024

More than 18 months ago, the American Legion Riders chapter at Denton-Drake American Legion Post 88 in Mobile, Ala., began installing flagpoles and U.S. flags on the properties of aging veterans. Since then, close to 20 flags have been installed in what has morphed beyond a Riders' project and into a Legion Family and community effort.

The program is the brainchild of Chapter 88 Director George Johnson, a member of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 88. Johnson was unavailable for an interview, but Chapter 88 Finance Officer Wendy Denton, a member of Auxiliary Unit 88, was quick to praise him.

“George is very dedicated to honoring veterans in different ways,” Denton said. “He came up with the idea of us purchasing a flagpole for a couple of our veterans. And it went over really, really well. And he decided to expand it.”

The program started off providing flags and flagpoles to aging post members, as well as recognizing their service. But once word got out about the program, requests came in with names of senior veterans in the community who also could be honored.



“So, we continued to purchase them and get names for future raisings of the flagpoles,” Denton said. “And then people started donating some money toward flagpoles. We would have families or different people within the community that had someone that wanted a flagpole in their yard. It became something that people wanted to do for a veteran that they knew. But they wanted us to be there to honor them.”

Via text, Johnson said the program made an impact on Chapter 88’s Riders and grew to the post’s Legion Family. “Every Rider that has participated in our mission was touched in such a way that it has grown,” he said.

Denton said as Chapter 88 saw the reaction to their efforts, it knew it had to continue the program. “There are some veterans out there that we surprise that are up in years ... that had never been recognized before,” she said. “It just warms their heart. So, it was something that we decided we needed to continue.”

The most recent flag presentation was to 87-year-old veteran Dudley Bexley. Members of Post 88’s Legion Family were there to help install and then honor Bexley. “I tell you what, I’ve never felt so honored until today,” [Bexley told FOX 10 News](#).

Being there to deliver the flags and then recognize the veteran is personal for Denton. “For me, it’s like honoring everyone that’s come before me. It really is,” she said. “It’s acknowledging someone that sacrificed a lot for me. Most of my family is military. My brother is 32 years retired Army. My great-grandfather was Navy. I have brothers and sisters that served in different branches of the military.

“It’s like honoring them every time I honor someone else. Seeing the face of them when we do that, when we ride up on the motorcycles and we have the flagpole raised. And knowing the pride that they have all over their faces, there’s no words.”

Denton hopes other posts and Riders chapters will start a similar program in their communities. “Our goal is to reach other posts, not just in Alabama, but all across the United States and have them start the same exact program within their community, so that we can reach everyone,” she said.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

SLAYTON CHAPTER 64 RIDE

Saturday, July 20, 2024

Dry Ride Rain or Shine

★ Registration begins at 9:00 AM ★
 Murray Co. Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.- Slayton
 ★ Kickstands Up at 10:00 AM ★
 All Vehicles Welcome!

REGISTRATION FEE

\$25

Per Person

Includes supper back at the 4-H Building

Proceeds are benefitting the American Legion Riders Slayton Chapter 64, Minnesota Veterans, Their Families and Communities.

Hot Rods for Hospice Car Show Fundraiser will be held at the same time and location in Slayton.





AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY



Lisa Williamson,
National President
The American Legion Auxiliary



**AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY POST 289**



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SUNDAY BREAKFAST MENU 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

BREAKFAST PLATE 2 eggs your way, bacon or sausage, hash browns, Choice of wheat, white or sourdough toast or 1 biscuit & gravy	\$ 11.00
BREAKFAST OMELET Eggs, cheese, bacon or sausage, onion, mushroom, bell pepper, jalapeno, tomato, cilantro, hash browns, gravy Choice of wheat, white or sourdough toast or 1 biscuit & gravy	\$ 12.00
BREAKFAST BURRITO Eggs, cheese, bacon or sausage, onion, mushroom, bell pepper, jalapeno, tomato, cilantro, hash browns, gravy	\$ 11.00
EGG SANDWICH Egg, cheese, bacon, lettuce, tomato, mayo Choice of wheat, white or sourdough toast	\$ 9.00
BLT SANDWICH Bacon, lettuce, tomato, mayo Choice of wheat, white or sourdough toast	\$ 9.00
FRENCH TOAST MEAL 2 pieces of french toast with bacon or sausage	\$ 9.00
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SATURDAY April 27, 2024
SUNDAY April 28, 2024

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12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.
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CHARITIES! www.alaohio.org**

In the Name and by the Authority of
THE STATE OF OHIO

WHEREAS, each April, the children of military members from all U.S. service branches are recognized and appreciated; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Defense estimates that there are more than 1.6 million military children; and

WHEREAS, many of them face challenges that are unique to their parents' military service, for example, military families move on average every two to three years, which puts a strain on children to adapt, make new friends, and adjust to new schools; and

WHEREAS, military children also experience separations from one or both of their military parents during deployments; and

WHEREAS, despite the challenges, children of military families often grow up to be flexible, resilient, confident, adventurous, and courageous adults; and

WHEREAS, to help military children, Ohio led the nation in creating the "Purple Star" designation for K-12 schools that cater to their needs, added preschool in 2019, and, two years ago, expanded the program to the college level with the "Collegiate Purple Star"; and




WHEREAS, throughout April, military, education, and service organizations and businesses are asked to show appreciation to military children for their sacrifices; and

WHEREAS, Ohioans are also encouraged to wear purple, which signifies the colors of all branches of the military blended together, in support of military children; and

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Mike DeWine and Jon Husted, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize the

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

on this 1st day of April 2024.




 Mike DeWine Governor Jon Husted Lieutenant Governor

South Jersey Regional Stand Down

Serving All Veterans (Homeless and At Risk)

Atlantic City 2024



Wednesday, May 22, 2024
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.



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p.tatum@njamericanlegion.org r.looby@njamericanlegion.org

12th Annual Veterans Car/Truck and Motorcycle show



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Saturday, June 8th, from 9-Noon

1919 Quentin St, Aurora, CO
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Show entries register by June 1st or day of.
Cost \$20 per car, includes show entry & meal.

Registration begins at 8 am

*All proceeds benefit the Veteran's
donation fund*



Pre registration is performed by June 1st. You can call 720-857-6437 or Email melissa.blair@state.co.us Please provide your name, phone #, Email, Car Make, and Model



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Jeffrey D. Gydesen



BOONVILLE - Jeffrey D. Gydesen, 64, of Denslow Drive, passed away on Monday, April 1, 2024, at Upstate Medical Center, after a short illness, while surrounded by the

loving care of his family.

Affectionately known as Jeff, he was born in Constableville, NY, on April 24, 1959, a son of Donald C. and Carol Zeigler Gydesen. Jeff grew up on East Road, near Boonville, and graduated from Adirondack Central School with the Class of 1977. While growing up and in high school, he enjoyed playing baseball. In 1983, Jeff married Eileen Bartelotte; later the couple divorced.

After graduation, he was first employed at Delia Stone Quarry and Paving Co., Boonville, before 26 years of employment as a machine operator at the Boonville Division of Ethan Allen Furniture Company. When the company closed its Boonville plant in 2004, Jeff began his employment at Revere Copper & Brass Co. of Rome. Later, for 12 years, until retiring in April 2023, he was employed as a forklift operator at Kraft Heinz Co. of Lowville.

He was a member of the Charles J. Love Post Sons of the American Legion, Boonville, and Boonville Elks Lodge #2158. For many years, Jeff was an avid hunter; he loved activities in the outdoors, including hiking and snow-shoeing. He greatly enjoyed watching the Boonville Snowmobile Races and oval dirt track races. He loved spending time at the family camp in Brantingham and also with his hunting buddies on Steam Mill Road.

Jeff is survived by one son and daughter-in-law, Jacob and Erin Gydesen, Boonville; one daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Chad Sturtevant, Boonville; a stepson, Chris (Beth) Hill, Turin, from a previous marriage to Linda Hoskins-Carr; and his mother and stepfather, Carol and Butch Johnson, Boonville. He was predeceased by

his father, Donald C. Gydesen, in 2008. Also surviving are his grandchildren, Olivia, Nolan, Logan, Christina, Nichole, Alexis, Aleigha and Adalyn; one sister and brother-in-law, Lorrie (Dan) Czepiel, Boonville; one brother and sister-in-law, Michael and Debby Gydesen, Boonville; nieces and nephews, Todd (Melanie) Czepiel and Brett (Ashlynn) Czepiel, Josh and Kaylee Gydesen and Tonia Duncan, his special friend, Tina Zehr, and by his favorite canine companion, "Marley."

Jeff's family extends a sincere thank you to the staff at Upstate University Hospital for all their kindness and compassion.

His funeral will be on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 10 a.m. at Trainor Funeral Home, Inc., 143 Schuyler Street, Boonville, where calling hours were Tuesday, April 9, from 1-4 and 6-8 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to the [American Cancer Society](#), 100 Lomond Court, Utica, NY 13502, or to the [Alzheimer's Association](#) of Central NY, 441 West Kirkpatrick Street, Syracuse, NY 13204.

For an online message of sympathy, please go to www.trainorfuneralhome.com.

Published by Daily Sentinel from Apr. 10 to Apr. 18, 2024.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).

Stephen O. Podgornik



NORWAY — Stephen O. Podgornik, "Stevie P of the U.P.," 75 of Norway, passed away Monday, April 1, 2024, at Marshfield Medical Center-Dickinson in Iron Mountain.

He was born Aug. 22, 1948, in Iron Mountain, son of the late Stephen and Lois (Freeman) Podgornik.

Stephen was an active member of The Sons of the American Legion Post 50, Iron Mountain, and a volunteer at the Oscar G Johnson VA Medical Center. He was a proud son whose father was an army

veteran who served in World War II. Steve was recognized by the members of the Michigan Sons of the American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee for outstanding service. According to the Iron Mountain facility, "Mr. Podgornik has not missed an opportunity to help in one way or another." He was a member of Norway Evangelical Covenant Church in Norway.

Steve had a unique sense of humor and loved to see people smile. Those who knew him said he lit up the room. And he surely did!

Survivors include his significant other and love of his life, Lori Opolka; sons, Christopher Opolka, Jeff (Lisa) Podgornik, and Craig (Jane) Podgornik; daughters, Cassandra (Lance Ayotte) Opolka, Miranda (Logan Heider) Opolka, Nicole (Jim) Schintgen, and Crystal Podgornik; nine grandchildren, Kyle Podgornik, Kelsey Podgornik, Ellie Podgornik, Alex Walker, Zach (Alyse Schroeder) Walker, Austin Walker, Rachael Walker, Amelia Schintgen and Keara Podgornik; one great-grandson, Greyson Podgornik; a sister, Susie (Larry) Tinti; sisters-in-law, Faye Podgornik, Diane (Roger) Pepler and Kathy Butler; brother-in-law, Paul Opolka; special aunts, Edna "Putzen" Dennis, and Donna LeGault; and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Stephen was preceded in death by one brother, Joe Podgornik; a nephew, Eric Podgornik; and brothers-in-law, Tom Cocking and Joseph Butler.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 13, at the American Legion Post 50, 916 River Avenue, Iron Mountain, with Pastor Jim Danielson officiating.

A luncheon and fellowship will follow the service at the Legion.

Friends may leave condolences and tributes to Stephen's family online at www.jacobsfuneralhomes.com.

The family has chosen the Jacobs Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Iron Mountain to honor Stephen's legacy of life.

Matthew 25:23 "His master replied, well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

Skipper Jay Townes



Mr. Skipper "Skip" J. Townes, age 65, of Cedar Springs, passed away peacefully on Friday, April 5, 2024 at his home.

He was born on September 2, 1958 to Harvey and Virginia (Naffziger) Townes in Kalamazoo, MI. Skipper was a proud graduate from Greenville High School in 1976. He proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps from 1980-1984 during the Grenada/Lebanon Era. He was a PUFL member of the American Legion Glen Hill Post 287 for 34 years and Honorary Life member of the Sons of the American Legion Glen Hill Squadron 287 for 39 years. He held many titles in the American Legion and Sons of the American Legion, including being the current Post 287 Commander and State Detachment Commander in 1996-1997. Skip took great pride in traveling Michigan to honor our military service members and their families. Skip joined the Oakfield Township Fire Department in 1987 and was a proud firefighter and EMT for 21 years. His family remembers him as a proud Marine, a proud Cheer Dad and someone always willing to lend a hand to others!

Skip is survived by his loving wife, Missy of 23 years and five children Melissa (Adam) Springsteen, Jason (Chelsea) Townes, Taylor (Calvin) DiPiazza, Sabrina Townes, and Mackenzie (Noah) Humphrey; honorary daughter, Taylor (Jared) Emery; eighteen grandchildren, Cole, Brayden, Donovan, Trever, Owen, Julian, Nola, Raven, Violet, Eliza, Dakota, Spencer, Haven, Harper, River, Baby DiPiazza, Baby Townes, Baby Humphrey; two great grandchildren, Theodore and Salem; brother, Jay Townes, sisters, Valerie (Norm) Hill, Judy Bratcher, Cassie Oliver, and Robin Borstler; In Laws, Matthew (Cindy) Christensen; special friends, Dan Thompson and Vince Uttenweiler; faithful dog, Brutus.

He was preceded in death by father, Harvey Townes, mother, Virginia McClendon, sister, Terry Roberts, grandson, Trace DiPiazza.

The Celebration of Life for Skip will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024, 1:00 pm at the American Legion Post 287 in Cedar Springs, Michigan, with Pastor David Oliver, officiating. Military Rites will be under the auspices of the United States Marine Corps and the Kent County Veterans Honor Guard. Final

Interment will be made in Ft. Custer National Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to the family for funeral service expense.

Please share your memories of Skipper or sign the guest book online at www.pedersonfuneralhome.com.

To [send flowers](#) to the family or [plant a tree](#) in memory of Skipper, please [visit our floral store](#).

Stephen J. Carter



Fri, Apr 12th
2024 09:15 am
Stephen J. Carter of Lewiston passed away on Tuesday April 9, 2024.

He was born July 9, 1940, in Olyphant, Pennsylvania, a son of the late John and Mary (Kelly) Carter. He moved to Niagara Falls with his family in 1942. Carter attended Sacred Heart School and graduated from Bishop Duffy High School. He went on to attend evening classes at Niagara University and Niagara County Community College. After graduating from the Erie County Sheriff's Academy, he was employed by the Niagara County Sheriff's Office, retiring as a senior investigator after 34 years of service, and serving under four Niagara County sheriffs.

Carter was a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Knights of Columbus 247, Sons of the American Legion, First Friday Club, Lockport Woodworkers, the Deputy Sheriff's Association and the CSEA.

He was very proud of his Irish ancestry and citizenship and held an Irish passport.

Carter enjoyed traveling with his wife, and camping, hunting, and fishing with his sons and brothers. He also enjoyed gatherings of family and friends at their "Carter On The Lake" cottage.

Carter is survived by his wife of 63 years, Barbara (Battaglia) Carter; a son, Sean R. (Maria) Carter; a daughter-in-law, Nancy Castillo Carter; a granddaughter, Shawna (Adrian) Stevens-John; three great-grandsons: Hoya'daiwat, Hogaayo and Joiise John; and nieces: Maureen Carter and Mary Elizabeth Burton.

He was the father of the late Stephen John Carter and the brother of the late Joseph, John, Thomas, Robert and Thomas "Babe" Michaels, and Mary Burton and Betty Shaffer.

His family will be present from 9-10 a.m. Monday, April 22, at St. Mary of Cataract R.C. Church, 237 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls. A Mass of Christian burial will follow at 10 a.m. with the Rev. Jacek Mazur officiating. Interment will be in North Ridge Cemetery, Town of Cambria.

Memorials may be made in Stephen's name to Stella Niagara Education Park, St. Jude's Children Hospital, or The Shriners Hospital for Children.

Arrangements were handled through the Rhoney Funeral Home, Lewiston. Visit www.rhoneyfuneralhome.com for the guest register.

Ron Thomas



Ronald E. Thomas Sr., 85, better known as "RonBoy", a beloved figure in the Vincennes community, passed away on

March 29, 2024, at his residence. Ron was born on January 19, 1939, in Vincennes, the son of Francis "Lefty" and Irene (Madison) Thomas. He married Betty Breedlove on January 31, 1974 and she preceded him in death on September 8, 2022.

Ron's dedication to service began early in his life as a proud graduate of Central Catholic High School, after graduation Ron enlisted in the United States Marine Corp. where he served his country with great pride. In August of 1967 Ron accepted a position with the Vincennes City Fire Department. Rookie fireman Thomas, advanced to Fireman Second Class after a year's training and to First Class Fireman a year after that. In 1978, he was promoted to the rank of Captain and in 1980 he was promoted to Assistant Chief. In 1984 Ron was appointed to Chief by then Mayor Bill Rose, a position he held until his retirement from the department.

Throughout his life, Ron's commitment to his community shone brightly as he served as the Fire Chief for the City of Vincennes, leaving an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him. His passion for serving extended beyond his role as Fire Chief, with active involvement in numerous civic organizations including the Disabled American Veterans, Sons of the American Legion, Harmony Society, Eagles Lodge, and the Knights of Columbus. Faith was also very important to Ron as he is a member of St. Francis Catholic Church.

Among his notable accomplishments, Ron received several prestigious awards, including the 1984 American Legion Firefighter of the Year for Indiana, the 1987 VFW Post 1157 Outstanding Citizen Award, and the Sagamore of Wabash Award from Governor Evan Bayh in 1995, among many others. His dedication to community service was unparalleled, with involvement in events like the Knox County Relay for Life and the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Campaign. In Ron's spare time he enjoyed spending time with his many, many family members, attending many local sporting events supporting his Lincoln Alices. He was also an avid Indianapolis Colts fan and enjoyed camping, fishing, cooking, traveling, and manicuring his yard and pool.

Ron will forever be remembered for his unwavering commitment to his country, community, and family. He leaves behind a legacy of service that will continue to inspire generations to come. In addition to his esteemed career accomplishments, Ron was a devoted family man survived by his loving family, son, Ronald E. Thomas, Jr. and his wife Carol of Sarasota, FL, daughters, Tracey Nowaskie and her husband Steve of Vincennes, Amy Stone and her husband Bill of Cloverdale, IN; his siblings, Vic Thomas of Shoals, IN, Frank Thomas of Goodlettsville, TN, Jan Thomas of Wheatland, IN, Jenny Jackson of Monroe City, IN; his grandchildren, Jeremy Eisenhut, Brooke Owens, Bryce Nowaskie and his wife Marypat, Cody Thomas and his wife Stephanie and Brandt Nowaskie and his wife Natalie; great granddaughter, Cecelia Jane (CeCe) Nowaskie and a great granddaughter due in July. Ron is preceded in death by his parents, Francis "Lefty" and Irene Thomas, and his brothers, David, and Tommy Joe Thomas.

As we prepare to bid farewell to this remarkable individual, let us come together to celebrate his life and honor the impactful legacy he leaves behind. Join us on Monday April 22, 2024 as we gather to celebrate and honor the life of Ron at a memorial service from 4-7 pm at Goodwin-Sievers Funeral Home, 524 Broadway, Vincennes, IN 47591. Online memories may be shared with Ron's family and friends at www.goodwinsieversfh.com.

The Thomas family has requested memorial contributions be made to the Vincennes Lincoln Athletic Booster Club. Goodwin-Sievers Funeral Home is privileged and honored to be entrusted with the care of Ron and his family.

Ronald L. Thompson



Ronald L. Thompson, 79, Warsaw, passed away surrounded by family Thursday, April 11, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital of Fort

Wayne.

Ron was born in Warsaw on Feb. 13, 1945, to LeRoy Thompson and Carmen (Iman) Thompson Anglin. He graduated from Warsaw High School with the class of 1963.

On May 8, 1965, Ron married Sharon R. Floor, and they would welcome two boys.

Ron worked for Zimmer, he owned The Keg in Leesburg for a while, and he was a sales agent and partner with First Charter Insurance in Warsaw. He retired in 2002.

He was funny and a social butterfly. Ron had an outgoing nature and a quick intelligence. He was a huge fan of the Boston Red Sox and the Chicago Bears. He enjoyed trips to the casino, golfing, bowling, and boating trips on Chapman Lake.

Ron and his fiancée, Paula Shalley, attended Warsaw Community Church. He was a former member of the Elks Lodge in Warsaw and current member of the Moose Lodge in Warsaw, Sons of the American Legion in Warsaw, and the Eagles Lodge in Syracuse.

He is survived by his sons, Jeff (Brenna) Thompson, of Warsaw, and Chad (Jami) Thompson, of Warsaw; grandchildren, Trent, Hunter, Jenna, Kaelyn, Mallory, and Cameron; great-grandchildren, Easton, and Parker; and his living fiancée of 23 years, Paula.

Ron was preceded in death by his first wife, Sharon, in 2001; his parents; and his brother, Ted Thompson.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, April 15, at McHatton-Sadler Funeral Chapels, 2290 Provident Court, Warsaw. Funeral services will follow in the chapel at 2 p.m.

Burial will be in the Oakwood Cemetery, Warsaw.

A funeral dinner will be held the same day at 4 p.m. at the Warsaw Moose Lodge No. 1423, 1815 W. Lake St., Warsaw.

Memorial contributions can be made to Mooseheart Child City &

School, 240 W. James J. Davis Drive, Mooseheart, IL 60539.

To sign the guestbook or send a condolence to the family, please visit mchattonsadlerfuneralchapel.com.

Jesse A. White



Pittsburg – Jesse A. White, 26, of Pittsburg, passed away Sunday, January 31, 2021. He was born August 8, 1994, at Bartlesville,

OK, the son of Johnny D. and April J. (Rainwater) White. On March 12, 2020, he was united in marriage to Casey A. Nienstedt at Miami, OK. She survives of the home.

Membership was held in the Legion Riders and the Sons of the American Legion.

In addition to his wife, he survived by his parents of Queen Creek, AZ, three sons, Xavier Nienstedt, Xander White and Xyler White, five brothers, Johnny White, Andrew White, Matt White, Brandon Mikus and Jeremy Ciotti, three sisters, Whitney White, Ann Perkins and Cheyenne Ciotti, mother-in-law, Lynn Mason and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A graveside service for Jesse is set for 1:00 p.m., Friday, February 5, 2021 at the Rosebank Cemetery, Mulberry. Family and friends are requested to meet at the cemetery. Friends may call from 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., Thursday, to sign the register book. Friends may leave condolences online at www.brennertmortuary.com. Arrangements are under the direction of the Brenner Mortuary, Pittsburg, KS.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.

Edward L. McCall



Edward L. McCall of Canton, Ohio, passed away on April 11, 2024, at the age of 77. Born on May 8, 1946, he was the son of the late

Howard O. and Lenore F. (Mattison) McCall.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Sally McCall and daughter, Rachel Townsend. Edward is survived and will be missed by his brother, Brian (Tina) McCall of Canal Fulton, his

son, Kevin (Lindsay) Townsend of Cuyahoga Falls, and will forever be cherished by his grandchildren, Austin, Jack, and Luke Townsend.

Edward proudly volunteered to serve his country as a member of the United States Army during the Vietnam war, and after a long career retired from the Ohio Army National Guard. He served on the Canton Police Department for 10 years and worked as a truck driver and CDL instructor until retirement. Continuing his patriotism, he served as Post Chaplain for the American Legion Post 221 in Massillon, Road Captain for the Legion Riders, and was a past Commander for Sons of the American Legion. He proudly led a life of service to his family and his country.

Visitation for family and friends will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM, Lamell Funeral Home, 1353 Cleveland Avenue, NW, Canton. Interment will take place in a private ceremony at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, Rittman.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests Memorial Contributions to the American Legion Post 221 in Massillon, in Edward's name. During this tender time, please share your prayers, fond memories, and condolences by visiting: lamellfuneralhome.com.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Edward, please visit our floral store.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.

Thomas W. Hepton Jr.



Thomas W. Hepton, Jr., 58, of Stamford Springs, CT passed away on Thursday, April 11,

2024 at home. He was born in Manchester, CT, son of the late Thomas W. and Barbara (McDonald) Hepton. Tom spent his career working as a lineman for Ever-source. He was also a member of the Sons of the American Legion. Tom loved spending his time with family and friends, being with his dogs, and riding his motorcycle.

Tom is survived by his loving wife of 23 years, Stephanie (Sheflott) Hepton; two children, Morgen, and Dillon Hepton; brother, Raymond Hepton, and his wife Cheri; two aunts, Anne Hupper and her companion Douglas, and Kathleen Rinehart and her husband James;

uncle, Kendall Hupper; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. A celebration of life will be held on Friday, April 19th from 6:00pm to 8:30pm at the American Legion Post No. 26, 10 Monson Rd., Stamford Springs, CT 06076. Memorial donations may be made to the American Legion Post No. 26. To leave a message of sympathy for his family, please visit: www.in-trovignefuneralhome.com.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.

RENEW!



If you would like to see Round-Up continue, please consider making a donation to offset expenses.

Thank you!

Jeff Vrabel Sr
@Jeff-VrabelSr



venmo

DEVOTION TO
MUTUAL
HELPLESSNESS

Still Serving America logo with various medals and text: Children & Youth Programs, Scholarship & Financial Aid, Veterans Legislation & Benefits, National Security & Protection of Our Flag. Do You Qualify to be a Legion Family member. Eligibility Dates: World War I (April 6, 1917 - Nov 11, 1918), World War II (Present Dec 7, 1941 - Present). Be part of the nation's largest veterans organization!

BE THE ONE logo with American Legion logo and QR code.

BE THE ONE logo with American Legion logo, votervoice logo, and QR code.

THANK YOU for all you do logo with Vrabel logo.

BUDDY CHECK logo with Sons of the American Legion logo and Vrabel logo. WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

AMERICAN LEGION



Daniel J. Seehafer,
National Commander
The American Legion

Daniel J. Seehafer, National Commander
The American Legion



Troops facing health care, pay, housing and other issues

The American Legion | April 12, 2024

One in four servicemembers grapples with food insecurity.

More than one in five (22%) military spouses faces unemployment, one of the highest such rates of any demographic in the United States.

Those were among the key findings in a report issued by the House Armed Services Committee's Quality of Life Panel on April 11.

"These numbers are real, heartbreaking and must be addressed immediately," American Legion National Security Commission Chairman Matthew Shuman said. "We applaud the committee for its due diligence on quantifying the problem areas. The American Legion will continue to advocate for our military members and their families, and push for immediate solutions to improve their quality of life — as they stand on the front lines protecting our nation."

The American Legion has long supported improving the quality of life for servicemembers and their families. Among the resolutions approved by the National Executive Committee is [Resolution No. 85](#), Support for Military Quality of Life Standards from 2016. The resolution called on Congress and the Department of Defense (DOD) to, among other things, support, and fund regular increases in the Basic Allowances for Housing (BAH); renovation and construction of military quarters; and increased funding for child day care centers.

The American Legion is the only veterans service organization that has created a program and engaged with base leadership to work together to solve Quality of Life issues. The first such visit [was conducted last October](#) at Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Ariz., and more are planned for 2024.

"We are grateful for the support by the Yuma base leadership," said Shuman, a member of the Department of Arizona. "We continue to work hand-in-hand with them on improvements in Yuma as we prepare more fact-finding missions. This is a work in progress, of course. The goal here is to improve the quality of life of our nation's service members. In order to be most effective, we'll need to continue to compile information, understand the issues and leverage best practices at bases throughout the U.S."

The panel's report focused on five key areas: access to health care; compensation; housing; support for spouses; and access to childcare. The recommendations were bipartisan in nature and did not take into consideration the cost to the federal government. Among the key findings:

Access to health care

The panel found that delays in accessing medical care for servicemembers, and their dependents is one of the top reasons for job dissatisfaction among the military.

Recommendations: They recommended that the Defense Health Agency (DHA) evaluate the effectiveness of current access standards. It should include the use of telemedicine and other technologies to deliver care. New access to care standards are needed for urgent behavioral health appointments, and servicemembers need increased access to a number of specialty care areas, including women's health. The panel also said DHA should submit a report with access data for all health-care services broken down to the military treatment facility level. Current access to care assessments are based on the aggregate of all such facilities. Also, DHA should survey medical providers to determine why they choose to stay or leave the military. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) should evaluate the use and effectiveness of hiring and retention authorities for civilian medical providers.

Pay and compensation

The panel found that pay for junior enlisted servicemembers is not competitive with the civilian labor market. The report notes that over 60,000 servicemembers make less than \$15 per hour in basic pay.

Recommendation: Increase basic pay for the most junior enlisted servicemembers (E-1 to E-4) by 15%, which they say will bring equivalency to the civilian labor market for new high school graduates. The panel also said BAH rates are supposedly calculated to meet 95% of the local rental market. However, the panel found that rental costs have increased by 20% in recent years and BAH rates have not kept pace.

Recommendation: DoD should increase BAH to cover 100% of local rental costs and to fix erroneous calculations. They cited a GAO report that found DoD miscalculated housing allowances in 40% of housing markets. BAH should also be paid to servicemembers at E-4 and below who are assigned to sea duty. DoD should change the calculation for the base allowance for subsistence (BAS) to consider location and the number of a servicemember's dependents.

Military spouse support

Challenges spouses face in finding and maintaining employment are cited as a reason for leaving the military by almost 20% of active duty servicemembers who are considering separating. The panel found it can take seven months or longer for a spouse to find a new job after a permanent change of station move.

Recommendations: Make the Military Spouse Career Accelerator Pilot permanent. This project

supports spouses with paid fellowships in civilian employers and has seen a high rate of employment following the fellowship. Many of those spouses have been able to move their job or go remote with the next move. Also, the panel calls on DoD to have permanent authority to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Council of State Governments to develop interstate licensure compacts. This would make it easier for spouses to transfer their licenses when moving. Additionally, spouses who are actively seeking employment should have access to DoD-sponsored childcare, both on and off base, for 180 days. They currently have access to this for half that time.

Access to childcare

Excessive wait times for DoD-sponsored childcare, on and off base, have been a problem for many years. The post-pandemic shortage of childcare workers has worsened the problem.

Recommendations: The panel calls for full funding of the childcare fee assistance programs, which would eliminate waiting lists for parents. The panel also sought solutions to attracting more childcare workers, recommending the services fully cover the fees of each staff member's first child enrolled in a DoD child development program. And pay rates for DoD childcare staff should be made competitive with local market rates.

Housing

The poor state of many barracks and dorms for unaccompanied housing has been well documented. Members were appalled to learn about frequent sewage leaks, mold, and rodent infestations, among other horrors, through a congressionally requested GAO report.

Recommendations: Recognizing the last few administrations have underfunded facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization accounts for years, the panel calls for the services to document what is needed and report that each year to Congress. The panel also calls for a new, more transparent system for tracking how funds are allocated at the installation level. Additionally, DoD should conduct a study examining life cycle costs for housing, considering the barracks policies for each branch of service. That cost should be compared to the cost of providing BAH for service members who are currently required to live in barracks. That leads to the panel's next recommendation: use expanded BAH authorities or other mechanisms to consider privatizing unaccompanied housing. Some privatization

has already occurred or is in the works. The panel wants a report on these efforts.

Five ways to boost your energy

Jennifer Campbell | April 8, 2024

We've sprung forward. Now here are some ways to add some spring to your step as most of the nation is transitioning to warmer weather and, with it, the opportunity to get outside more often for walks, gardening, and other forms of movement.

Get your ZZZZs. Getting enough sleep is critical for energy. Also critical is the quality of sleep you're getting nightly. If your body isn't able to adequately repair itself and get the recovery it needs during sleep, it won't function as well, tanking your energy levels. If you have difficulty getting good sleep, try a power nap during the day for a refresh; research shows that 10 to 30 minutes is the sweet spot. For tips on how to sleep well, reference the [January 2024 American Legion Magazine fitness column](#).



Improve diet. Poor nutrition is a leading cause of low energy. Reducing or — better yet — eliminating processed foods and eating a diet full of colorful fruit and vegetables is key. Make sure to get adequate levels of fish oil, vitamins D and B12, which aid in energy metabolism. Blood sugar management is paramount to improving energy levels; consider supplementation if your levels are low. Reducing sugar and starch consumption is vital to reducing glucose spikes and crashes that zap energy. Also, alcohol is a major sleep disruptor. Reducing intake can lead to better quality sleep.

Cut caffeine. Caffeine is generally considered safe in low to moderate amounts. Excessive caffeine consumption can lead to increased heart rate and heart palpitations, fatigue from post-consumption crash, anxiety, and insomnia.

Try heat and cold therapies. Cold therapies like cryotherapy, cold-water plunges or even a cold shower have long been used as a health hack to reset

THIRSTY THURSDAY

Back by popular demand, Thirsty Thursday will be going on at the Spring NEC meeting. For those of you who went last year, this was a great night for everyone to get together and just relax, sing a couple of songs, have a few beverages, and just have a real good time. The AMVETS facility is first class, and the service is top notch.

Below is the information on the AMVETS. Who wouldn't want to drive 9 or 10 hours, get up at 3:00 AM to get a flight or travel 1,000 miles to Indy and hang out with Cliff Smith for the evening. Well, I guess that is about the most stupid statement to make (just me being me).

Seriously, last year we had about fifty SAL members attend. If you have some new people coming out for the first time, this is a great way to introduce them to people from all over the country. For most of us, Thursday is the only night to let the hair down and cut a little loose, because starting Friday morning up to Sunday, there is a lot of serious business to take care of.

Hope to see many of you there.

Thursday, May 2, 2024

Post opens at noon, DJ at 7:00 p.m.

AMVETS 99 Louie V Hider
2840 Lafayette Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
Phone: (317) 923-9403

Food will be available for purchase



your nervous system, reduce stress, and improve energy metabolism. Similarly, heat therapies like saunas and hot tubs help flush out toxins from your lymph system and increase your blood circulation and blood flow to the brain. They also release heat shock proteins, which work as a repair mechanism and boost your immune system. Heat and cold therapies help reduce stress and increase energy levels through hormesis, an adaptive response to intermittent bursts of lifestyle and environmental stressors that improves body-systems function. Essentially, those small stressors shock your body to bounce back even stronger.

Keep moving. If you're feeling sluggish, getting up and moving can be a powerful booster. It could be as simple as stretching, going for a walk, dancing around the house, or doing some jumping jacks, push-ups, or body-weight squats. To get the most out of your movement, time it around eating. Studies show that walking after a meal reduces lethargy and improves glucose responses.

Keep moving: If you're feeling sluggish, getting up and moving can be a powerful booster to your energy. It could be as simple as stretching, going for a walk, dancing around the house, or doing some jumping jacks, pushups, or body weight squats. To get the most of your movement, time it around eating. Studies show that walking after a meal reduces lethargy and improves glucose responses.



Army veteran Jennifer Campbell is a certified personal trainer with a master's degree in nutrition education. She is past commander of the California American Legion's 24th District and Hollywood Post 43.

Army 'feeling a lot better' with recruiting this year, Wormuth says

Corey Dickstein/Stars and Stripes | April 11, 2024

Army Secretary Christine Wormuth told House lawmakers on Wednesday that her service is "feeling a lot better" about recruiting this year after missing its goal for new soldiers for two consecutive years.

"I don't want to be overconfident," the Army's top civilian told members of the House's defense appropriations subpanel while testifying alongside Gen. Randy George, the Army's chief of staff. "But I think we both feel that we have a good shot at making that goal this year, which I think would be very, very important."



U.S. Army Recruiting Command

That goal, she added, is to ship 55,000 new recruits to Army basic training by Sept. 30, the end of fiscal 2024, and fill its delayed-entry coffers with another 5,000 recruits who would move to initial entrance training later.

Meeting that basic recruiting goal would match the Army's enlistment efforts from fiscal 2023, when it sent about 55,000 recruits to initial military training, falling about 10,000 short of its goal of 65,000. But that was an improvement from fiscal 2022, when the Army shipped fewer than 45,000 new recruits to basic training, falling 15,000 short of its goal.

Pentagon officials have noted in recent years that the military recruiting environment is among the worst in U.S. history. Only about 23% of Americans between the ages of 17 to 24 qualify for military service, fewer than previous generations, according to Defense Department data. Among them, only about 9% has shown interest in the military, the data shows.

To counter the problem, the Army has launched myriad of new recruiting programs aimed at beefing up and professionalizing its recruiting force. Wormuth said Wednesday that the service has begun one of those newer efforts to build a corps of permanent enlisted and warrant officer recruiters in lieu of soldiers temporarily taking recruiting assignments.

The first tranche of soldiers who will train to work in those new specialties have been selected and will complete their training and reach recruiting stations by the end of summer, she said.

"We're picking soldiers that are a little bit more inclined to be good salespeople for the United States Army," Wormuth said, noting the recruiting course is also getting longer and more difficult. "So, we've

really updated that and again, I think that's helped our recruiters be more effective in the field."

Rep. Mike Garcia, R-Calif., said he was worried outside factors could impact military recruiting. His home state, he noted, adopted a \$20 minimum wage for fast food workers this month — a pay rate more than double what the most junior troops make early in their careers.

"We're competing from a recruitment perspective with fast food workers, right, and those guys aren't putting their lives on the line every day like our soldiers are," said Garcia, a former Navy pilot. "Right now, if you've asked an 18-year-old if he wants to go work at the In-N-Out [Burger] for \$22 an hour or join the Army for the equivalent of \$12 an hour, you're going to get 95% of them going to In-N-Out even if they love the country, even if they want to serve — they just can't afford to go join the Army right now. And that's a fundamental problem."

Garcia proposed Congress adopt a bill to bolster pay for junior troops in the ranks of E-1 to E-6, starting service members at about \$31,000 per year in basic pay. A similar measure was included in the House version of the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, the annual bill that sets lawmakers' spending and policy priorities for the Pentagon. But the measure did not make the final NDAA that passed in December.

Garcia asked for Wormuth's help in pushing for the measure to become law later this year.

"We need help on this," he said. "We need more pull from the secretaries, we need more pull, frankly, from the president in prioritizing this pay gap right now. ... There's other things driving the recruiting problems ... but the pay is significant."



VETERAN WOMEN SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE

WHEN: April 26th, 2024 from 10am - 1pm
(doors open at 9am)
WHERE: Bob Hope Patriotic Hall
1816 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015


Join us on **Friday, April 26th**, for a conference focused on suicide prevention among Veteran Women, presented in partnership with the American Legion.

This event will feature personal narratives, an expert panel addressing current statistics, and an informative presentation exploring Military Sexual Trauma as a significant risk factor for suicide.

Anil Arora, Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative
RanDee McLain, Psycharmor
Lourdes Tiglao, VA Center for Women Veterans
Marisa Saucedo, U.S. Army Reserve
Amy Alvarez, VFW member and Therapist
Tess Banko, U.S. VETS and American Legion member
Rocio V. Palmero, American Legion member

with a presentation by **LA County Sheriff's Department Veteran Mental Evaluation Team**

In partnership with American Legion Los Angeles Post 8, Community Post 46, Ronald Reagan Post 283 and Los Angeles County Council



PASTA DINNER AT POST 415!

Saturday, April 27th
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
\$10.00
Take out available!

American Legion Post 415
302 Midland Avenue
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663



2024 SAL 90% Target Date Membership Report: April 10, 2024

#	DETACHMENT	2024 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 90% TARGET 4/10/2024	2024 ACTUAL MBRSHIP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2024 RENEWAL %
1	LATIN AMERICA	33	-7	37	112.12%	62.50
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	-324	1,774	110.12%	90.23
3	HAWAII	120	-24	132	110.00%	89.92
4	PUERTO RICO	156	-30	170	108.97%	98.04
5	FLORIDA	23,066	-2,499	23,258	100.83%	82.16
6	WISCONSIN	4,398	-476	4,434	100.82%	87.78
7	RHODE ISLAND	348	-36	349	100.29%	84.90
8	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	-160	1,573	100.19%	82.33
9	IDAHO	659	-63	656	99.54%	72.52
10	NEW MEXICO	1,582	-145	1,569	99.18%	75.70
11	DIST OF COL	91	-8	90	98.90%	87.50
12	FRANCE	168	-14	165	98.21%	85.54
13	CONNECTICUT	1,865	-132	1,810	97.05%	83.46
14	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-75	1,042	96.93%	86.06
15	ARIZONA	8,595	-580	8,315	96.74%	78.17
16	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	-359	5,783	95.95%	83.37
17	MARYLAND	16,803	-978	16,101	95.82%	85.62
18	OREGON	1,534	-85	1,466	95.57%	77.81
19	MICHIGAN	26,236	-1,239	24,851	94.72%	83.54
20	IOWA	4,914	-230	4,653	94.69%	85.37
21	NEW YORK	30,663	-1,391	28,988	94.54%	85.36
22	ILLINOIS	13,716	-605	12,949	94.41%	86.01
23	OHIO	31,690	-1,361	29,882	94.29%	85.57
24	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-117	2,610	94.22%	75.94
25	NEW JERSEY	9,662	-369	9,065	93.82%	82.78
26	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	-2,123	58,594	93.38%	85.68
27	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	-76	2,410	92.94%	79.54
28	MINNESOTA	11,435	-331	10,622	92.89%	85.05
29	MISSISSIPPI	736	-21	683	92.80%	78.83
30	VIRGINIA	4,367	-103	4,033	92.35%	78.13
31	WASHINGTON	2,682	-62	2,476	92.32%	71.53
32	DELAWARE	2,596	-60	2,396	92.30%	81.01
33	TEXAS	5,783	-121	5,326	92.10%	77.10
34	INDIANA	37,244	-763	34,283	92.05%	83.76
35	WYOMING	1,248	-25	1,148	91.99%	80.19
36	KANSAS	6,055	-107	5,556	91.76%	83.46
37	VERMONT	3,920	-64	3,592	91.63%	84.24
38	NEBRASKA	6,992	-104	6,397	91.49%	86.31
39	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	-70	4,959	91.29%	80.66
40	TENNESSEE	1,792	-21	1,634	91.18%	74.42
41	ALABAMA	2,100	-23	1,913	91.10%	77.82
42	COLORADO	2,952	-31	2,688	91.06%	76.55
43	MAINE	2,757	-26	2,507	90.93%	79.76
44	LOUISIANA	1,821	-7	1,646	90.39%	82.48
45	UTAH	460	2	412	89.57%	74.55
46	ALASKA	1,740	11	1,555	89.37%	73.04
47	CALIFORNIA	11,292	127	10,036	88.88%	75.10
48	GEORGIA	4,887	72	4,326	88.52%	75.94
49	MISSOURI	3,337	115	2,888	86.54%	76.52
50	ARKANSAS	406	16	349	85.96%	68.63
51	MONTANA	1,091	64	918	84.14%	78.62
52	OKLAHOMA	1,430	103	1,184	82.80%	64.36
53	KENTUCKY	2,399	369	1,790	74.61%	63.05
54	NEVADA	387	65	283	73.13%	61.71
55	PHILIPPINES	79	26	45	56.96%	54.43
Grand Totals:		382,111	-14,471	358,371	93.79%	83.02

2024 SAL Regional Breakdown

Western Region - James R. Fischer, Sr. (CA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
LATIN AMERICA	33	37	112.12%
HAWAII	120	132	110.00%
IDAHO	659	656	99.54%
NEW MEXICO	1,582	1,569	99.18%
ARIZONA	8,595	8,315	96.74%
OREGON	1,534	1,466	95.57%
WASHINGTON	2,682	2,476	92.32%
WYOMING	1,248	1,148	91.99%
COLORADO	2,952	2,688	91.06%
UTAH	460	412	89.57%
ALASKA	1,740	1,555	89.37%
CALIFORNIA	11,292	10,036	88.88%
MONTANA	1,091	918	84.14%
NEVADA	387	283	73.13%
PHILIPPINES	79	45	56.96%
Totals:	34,454	31,736	92.11%

Midwest Region - Terry A. Harris (KS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	1,774	110.12%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	1,042	96.93%
IOWA	4,914	4,653	94.69%
KANSAS	6,055	5,556	91.76%
NEBRASKA	6,992	6,397	91.49%
MISSOURI	3,337	2,888	86.54%
OKLAHOMA	1,430	1,184	82.80%
Totals:	25,414	23,494	92.45%

Northeast Region - John R. Cook (NH)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
RHODE ISLAND	348	349	100.29%
DIST OF COL	91	90	98.90%
FRANCE	168	165	98.21%
CONNECTICUT	1,865	1,810	97.05%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	5,783	95.95%
MARYLAND	16,803	16,101	95.82%
NEW YORK	30,663	28,988	94.54%
NEW JERSEY	9,662	9,065	93.82%
PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	58,594	93.38%
DELAWARE	2,596	2,396	92.30%
VERMONT	3,920	3,592	91.63%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	4,959	91.29%
MAINE	2,757	2,507	90.93%
Totals:	143,078	134,399	93.93%

Southeast Region - Linwood A. Moore (VA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
PUERTO RICO	156	170	108.97%
FLORIDA	23,066	23,258	100.83%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	1,573	100.19%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	2,610	94.22%
MISSISSIPPI	736	683	92.80%
VIRGINIA	4,367	4,033	92.35%
TEXAS	5,783	5,326	92.10%
TENNESSEE	1,792	1,634	91.18%
ALABAMA	2,100	1,913	91.10%
LOUISIANA	1,821	1,646	90.39%
GEORGIA	4,887	4,326	88.52%
ARKANSAS	406	349	85.96%
Totals:	49,454	47,521	96.09%

Central Region - Robert L. Bristo (MN)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,398	4,434	100.82%
MICHIGAN	26,236	24,851	94.72%
ILLINOIS	13,716	12,949	94.41%
OHIO	31,690	29,882	94.29%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	2,410	92.94%
MINNESOTA	11,435	10,622	92.89%
INDIANA	37,244	34,283	92.05%
KENTUCKY	2,399	1,790	74.61%
Totals:	129,711	121,221	93.45%

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04/10/24		NATIONAL Donald "JR" Hall, Jr. (MD) National Commander					
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date	105% Date
1 Southeast 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	49,454	47,521	(1,933)	96.09%	183		
2 Northeast 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	143,078	134,399	(8,679)	93.93%	604		
3 Central 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	129,711	121,221	(8,490)	93.45%	567		
4 Midwest 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	25,414	23,494	(1,920)	92.45%	100		
5 Western 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	34,454	31,736	(2,718)	92.11%	267		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	382,111	358,371	(23,740)	93.79%	1,721		

04/10/24		CENTRAL REGION Robert L. Bristo (MN) National Vice-Commander							
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1 Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	4,398	4,434	36	100.82%	48	6	87.78%	04/10/24	
2 Michigan 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	26,236	24,851	(1,385)	94.72%	68	19	83.54%		
3 Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8	13,716	12,949	(767)	94.41%	4	22	86.01%		
4 Ohio 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	31,690	29,882	(1,808)	94.29%	133	23	85.57%		
5 West Virginia 1, 5, 6, 7	2,593	2,410	(183)	92.94%	86	27	79.54%		
6 Minnesota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	11,435	10,622	(813)	92.89%	155	28	85.05%		
7 Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	37,244	34,283	(2,961)	92.05%	72	34	83.76%		
8 Kentucky 1, 4	2,399	1,790	(609)	74.61%	1	53	63.05%		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	129,711	121,221	(8,490)	93.45%	567				

04/10/24		WESTERN REGION James A. Fischer Sr. (CA) National Vice-Commander								
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date	
1 Latin America 4, 6	33	37	4	112.12%	-	1	62.50%	03/27/24	03/27/24	
2 Hawai'i 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	120	132	12	110.00%	-	3	89.92%	02/05/24	03/07/24	
3 Idaho 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	659	656	(3)	99.54%	-	9	72.52%			
4 New Mexico 5, 6, 7, 8	1,582	1,569	(13)	99.18%	39	10	75.70%			
5 Arizona 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	8,595	8,315	(280)	96.74%	47	15	78.17%			
6 Oregon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,534	1,466	(68)	95.57%	6	18	77.81%			
7 Washington 4, 5, 7, 8	2,682	2,476	(206)	92.32%	9	31	71.53%			
8 Wyoming 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,248	1,148	(100)	91.99%	-	35	80.19%			
9 Colorado 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2,952	2,688	(264)	91.06%	45	42	76.55%			
10 Utah 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	460	412	(48)	89.57%	23	45	74.55%			
11 Alaska 3, 7	1,740	1,555	(185)	89.37%	2	46	73.04%			
12 California 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	11,292	10,036	(1,256)	88.88%	96	47	75.10%			
13 Montana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,091	918	(173)	84.14%	-	51	78.62%			
14 Nevada 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	387	283	(104)	73.13%	-	54	61.74%			
15 Philippines	79	45	(34)	56.96%	-	55	54.43%			
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	34,421	31,699	(2,722)	92.09%	267					

04/10/24		SOUTHEAST REGION Linwood A. Moore (VA) National Vice-Commander								
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date	
1 Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	156	170	14	108.97%	-	4	98.04%	03/04/24	03/21/24	
2 Florida 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	23,066	23,258	192	100.83%	69	5	82.16%			
3 South Carolina 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,570	1,573	3	100.19%	20	8	82.33%			
4 North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2,770	2,610	(160)	94.22%	15	24	75.94%			
5 Mississippi 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	736	683	(53)	92.80%	26	29	78.83%			
6 Virginia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	4,367	4,033	(334)	92.35%	30	30	78.13%			
7 Texas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	5,783	5,326	(457)	92.10%	8	33	77.10%			
8 Tennessee 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,792	1,634	(158)	91.18%	4	40	74.42%			
9 Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2,100	1,913	(187)	91.10%	4	41	77.82%			
10 Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,821	1,646	(175)	90.39%	-	44	82.48%			
11 Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,887	4,326	(561)	88.52%	7	48	75.94%			
12 Arkansas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	406	349	(57)	85.96%	-	50	68.63%			
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	49,454	47,521	(1,933)	96.09%	7					

04/10/24		MIDWEST REGION Terry A. Harris (KS) National Vice-Commander							
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1 South Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	1,611	1,774	163	110.12%	8			02/22/24	03/18/24
2 North Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,075	1,042	(33)	96.93%	-				
3 Iowa 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	4,914	4,653	(261)	94.69%	3				
4 Kansas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	6,055	5,556	(499)	91.76%	24				
5 Nebraska 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	6,992	6,397	(595)	91.49%	5				
6 Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	3,337	2,888	(449)	86.54%	1				
7 Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,430	1,184	(246)	82.80%	59				
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	25,414	23,494	(1,920)	92.45%	100				

04/10/24		NORTHEAST REGION John R. Cook (NH) National Vice-Commander							
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1 Rhode Island 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	348	349	1	100.29%	-	7	84.90%	04/04/24	
2 Dist. of Columbia 4, 7, 8	91	90	(1)	98.90%	-	11	87.50%		
3 France 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	168	165	(3)	98.21%	-	12	85.54%		
4 Connecticut 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,865	1,810	(55)	97.05%	5	13	83.46%		
5 New Hampshire 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	6,027	5,783	(244)	95.95%	14	16	83.37%		
6 Maryland 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	16,803	16,101	(702)	95.82%	50	17	85.62%		
7 New York 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	30,663	28,988	(1,675)	94.54%	247	21	85.36%		
8 New Jersey 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	9,662	9,065	(597)	93.82%	132	25	82.78%		
9 Pennsylvania 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	62,746	58,594	(4,152)	93.38%	109	26	85.68%		
10 Delaware 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	2,596	2,396	(200)	92.30%	6	32	81.01%		
11 Vermont 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	3,920	3,592	(328)	91.63%	14	37	84.24%		
12 Massachusetts 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	5,432	4,959	(473)	91.29%	27	39	80.66%		
13 Maine 5, 6, 7, 8	2,757	2,507	(250)	90.93%	-	43	79.76%		
TOTALS 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	143,078	134,399	(8,679)	93.93%	604				

04/10/24		2024 SUPER SIX STANDINGS							
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1 Florida 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	23,066	23,258	192	100.83%	69	5	82.16%		
2 Michigan 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	26,236	24,851	(1,385)	94.72%	68	19	83.54%		
3 New York 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	30,663	28,988	(1,675)	94.54%	247	21	85.36%		
4 Ohio 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	31,690	29,882	(1,808)	94.29%	133	23	85.57%		
5 Pennsylvania 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	62,746	58,594	(4,152)	93.38%	109	26	85.68%		
6 Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	37,244	34,283	(2,961)	92.05%	72	34	83.76%		
TOTALS	211,645	199,856	(11,789)	94.43%	698				
National Totals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	382,111	358,371	(23,740)	93.79%	1,721		83.02%		

04/10/24		2024 LEADERSHIP STANDINGS							
Detachment	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1 Leading Candidate Navaratte	New Mexico	1,582	1,569	(13)	99.18%	10	78.75%		
2 Vice-Commander Cook	New Hampshire	6,027	5,783	(244)	95.95%	16	83.37%		
3 Commander Hall	Maryland	16,803	16,101	(702)	95.82%	17	85.62%		
4 Trailing Candidate Clancy	New York	30,663	28,988	(1,675)	94.54%	21	85.36%		
5 Vice-Commander Bristo	Minnesota	11,435	10,622	(813)	92.89%	28	85.05%		
6 Vice-Commander Moore	Virginia	4,367	4,033	(334)	92.35%	30	78.13%		
7 Vice-Commander Harris	Kansas	6,055	5,556	(499)	91.76%	36	83.46%		
8 Vice-Commander Fischer	California	11,292	10,036	(1,256)	88.88%	47	75.10%		



2024 National Membership Target Dates			
1 September 13, 2023	10%	6 ♥ February 14, 2024 ♥	75%
2 October 18, 2023	25%	7 March 13, 2024	80%
3 November 15, 2023	35%	8 April 10, 2024	90%
4 December 13, 2023	45%	9 May 15, 2024	100%
5 January 18, 2024	60%	10 July 24, 2024 (DSTG)	105%

2024



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH ACADEMY
REGISTRATION FORM

Participant full name: _____

DOB: _____ Age: _____

Participant gender: _____ (M/F) Grade level: _____

Have you attended the Youth Academy before: _____ (Y/N)

If you answered yes above, what year(s): _____

Is the participant a member of The American Legion Auxiliary: _____ (Y/N) Department: _____

Is the participant a member of the Sons of The American Legion: _____ (Y/N) Detachment: _____

Length of membership in years: _____

Has the participant held any positions in The American Legion Family (please list position): _____

Has the participant received any formal training in American Legion Family programs, traditions, etc.

(please describe the training): _____

Is there any training you would like to see covered: _____

Allergies: _____

<OVER>



2024

Name of parent/guardian: _____

Contact #: _____

Email Address: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION
(Please complete if different than the parent/guardian)

Contact name #1: _____ Relationship: _____

Contact #: _____

Email address: _____

Contact name #2: _____ Relationship: _____

Contact #: _____

Email address: _____

I GIVE THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE PERMISSION TO COLLECT MY CHILD
(Please complete if someone other than parent/guardian will be picking up the participant)

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN: x _____

For planning purposes, the National Americanism Commission asks that you please submit your completed registration by 07/31/2024. Walk-ins the day of the event will be accepted.

Please return the completed registration via email to: natsalamer@gmail.com

or mail the completed registration to:

Chris Casey
2239 Meadow Dr.
Blair, NE 68008

