



# Round-Up

A Newsletter of Sons of The American Legion



Volume 3 – Issue 119 – February 6, 2022

## Lest we forget





# Round-Up

A Newsletter of Sons of The American Legion



A Publication of Sons of The American Legion

National Commander

**Michael Fox (CA)**

National Vice-Commander Central

**Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH)**

National Vice-Commander East

**Richard "Dickie" Huntley (ME)**

National Vice-Commander Midwest

**Juan Torres (TX)**

National Vice-Commander South

**Jason Roberts (GA)**

National Vice-Commander West

**Jim Stewart (NV)**

NVC Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

Round-Up is published weekly and distributed each Sunday.

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

All articles must be submitted by noon each Friday.



SAL membership reports are available [here](#)

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

# TARGET DATE



February 9, 2022

# AMERICAN LEGION



## Let's honor unsung Black veterans

Paul E. Dillard, National Commander  
FEB 02, 2022

Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends,

There are many honorable veterans whose contributions to freedom, democracy and our American way of life are lost in history. And there are various reasons for these slights, some unintended, while others can be traced back to how society operated back in those days.

Sharing the stories of these courageous men and women helps educate fellow veterans, the general public and those who will study and revere them for generations to come.

With Black History Month underway, this is a perfect time to pay tribute to our comrades who may not have received the just recognition they richly deserved.

While Dorie Miller's World War II heroics have been well documented, he has unfortunately not received the Medal of Honor posthumously. However, there are eight American Legion posts that bear his name. In fact, [two of them joined forces to honor Miller recently](#) in Waco, Texas.

An often-overlooked story is that of Charles W. David Jr., a Black Coast Guard petty officer who risked his life to help save 93 survivors after a German

torpedo struck the USS *Dorchester* in the north Atlantic on Feb. 3, 1943 – and may have been a divine answer to the Four Chaplains’ prayers. [In a Q&A about his book “The Immortals: The World War II Story of Five Fearless Heroes, the Sinking of the \*Dorchester\*, and an Awe-inspiring Rescue.”](#) author Steven Collis shares the story of David’s heroics.

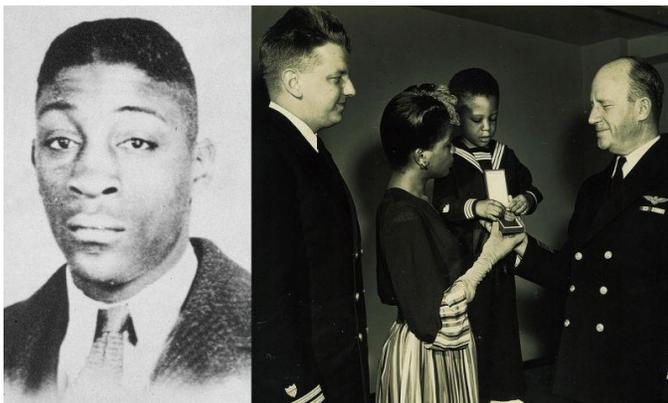
Additionally, did you know a group of Army officers and Buffalo Soldiers rode their bicycles for about 1,900 miles to test whether they would suffice for military transportation? Learn more about this amazing adventure from Buffalo Soldier descendant, American Legion member, and re-enactor Bobby McDonald. He will be among those leading this summer’s [quasquicentennial commemorations](#) of the Iron Riders’ historic trek.

There are so many more stories of unsung Black veterans out there. Some are explored in [this week’s episode](#) of The American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast. The Iron Riders are featured in the February issue of *The American Legion Magazine*.

Whether you read, listen to, or watch these stories of patriotism, sacrifice, and honor, I’m sure you will be grateful as I am for their commitments to keeping America safe.

For God and Country,

*Paul E. Dillard, National Commander  
The American Legion*



## ***Answer to the Four Chaplains’ prayers***

By [Matt Grills](#) | FEB 01, 2022

The week of Feb. 3, American Legion posts across the country will observe Four Chaplains Day, named for four Army chaplains – George L. Fox

(Methodist), Alexander D. Goode (Jewish), Clark V. Poling (Reformed), and John P. Washington (Catholic) – who gave up their life jackets so others would live after a U-boat torpedoed their transport in the North Atlantic on Feb. 3, 1943.

In his 2021 book [“The Immortals,”](#) Steven Collis offers a detailed narrative of *Dorchester*’s sinking, the chaplains’ sacrifice and, for the first time in print, the full story of Charles W. David Jr., the young Black Coast Guard petty officer who, with his shipmates on the escort cutter *Comanche*, helped rescue 93 of 227 survivors. He died from pneumonia a month later, and was posthumously awarded the Navy & Marine Corps Medal for heroism. In 2013, the Coast Guard named a *Sentinel*-class cutter for David.

**Tell me about the first time you heard the story of the Four Chaplains.** The first time I heard it I was in the office of an attorney who worked on religious freedom matters. He had on his wall a framed copy of the stamp that had been made to honor the Four Chaplains, and he talked about it as a high point in his mind for religious freedom in the United States – people of different beliefs still being able to stay true to who they are but come together for a common good. As I looked at the stamp, I thought it was such a compelling story, and my immediate thought was, “I would love to bring this to life for a new generation.” Not too many years later, when I had an opportunity to put a book proposal together, it was top of mind for me.

**What about the story resonates with you?** I am a scholar of religious freedom law, that’s what I do professionally, and I was originally working on a book trying to explain religious freedom law more generally to a lay audience. I wanted to include the story in that book because it really does show what makes America unique. We’re the most religiously and racially diverse country in the history of the world and yet we’re somehow able to live alongside one another in peace. That peace is unique. It’s unique historically and it’s unique in the world today. And we’re able to achieve it largely because of the attitude that the Four Chaplains showed that night, and not even just that night but how they lived their lives serving men prior to their sacrifice. I felt like it was an example that all of us, especially today, could learn from and be trying to emulate more.

**There are other books and many websites that tell the story of the Four Chaplains.**

**What were the challenges in trying to do something new?** The biggest challenge was not being too repetitive and also telling it in my own words. I had read everything else written about the chaplains, and I felt like I could tell it in a little bit more of an engaging narrative style. Two, the last book that had been written was in the early 2000's. Books get forgotten, so it was time to revive this story for a new generation. The other goal I set was to try to stick to original sources as much as possible, so I spent days in the (American) Jewish Archives for Alex Goode and then the National Archives and getting my hands on all the official reports, and the journal of the submarine captain ... so I could tell the story from the original sources and not simply reframe it the way someone else had told it before.

The big contribution was bringing to life Charles David Jr. No one had really ever told his story. I was well into my research and well into the book before I found him. The most treatment he had gotten was a couple of paragraphs in another book, and that was it. I thought to myself, "This man made as much of a sacrifice as all the chaplains, and he deserves as much of the treatment." I was at my deadline to get the book published, and I called my editor and said, "Hey, I found this guy. I need you to extend my deadline, get me time to hunt down his family, find out everything I can about him. We need to change the name of the book." We were going to call it "The Immortal Chaplains." I said, "He's not a chaplain. We need to change the name to 'The Immortals.'" Thankfully, my editor was completely on board with that, and Charles David's family was on board with it.

**What surprised you in your research on Charles David's life?** One thing I thought was really fascinating was that Charles' family comes from the Caribbean. They emigrated to the United States with a lot of people during the early 1900's and ended up settling in New York City. His father helped build pews for a local church and was a craftsman, and Charles learned those skills. When he opted to enter the military, it was just so different than it is now; there was blatant racial segregation. The only place he could find a position was in the Coast Guard, and in that scenario, the only thing he could really be was a cook or a petty officer. He's basically been told despite his skills and his natural abilities that he can only progress so far because of the color of his skin. That's the world they were living in in the 1940's. He was the fifth lowest-ranked man aboard (*Comanche*) the night *Dorchester* was sunk, and he had zero obliga-

tion to jump into the water and help anybody. Everyone above him should have been doing it, but a lot of people figuratively froze because they were afraid of literally freezing, and they had a hard time jumping into the water. So (David) and a number of the officers jumped in. (He) easily could have said, "It's not my job. I'm going to go down below and heat up some coffee for people." In fact, he was in the water again and again trying to save people.

**You describe David's actions as an answer to the chaplains' prayers.** That idea came to me from his granddaughter, whom I interviewed at length. She mentioned to me in passing one time, "You know, I always felt that while the chaplains were on that boat praying that God sent my grandfather as an answer to those prayers." I thought, "What a compelling way of thinking about this," and included it in the book. You have four men of different faiths all praying in their own way to God to ask him for help for these men they have sacrificed for, and then you have this very unlikely hero coming and sacrificing himself to save as many of those men as he could. About half the survivors were saved by Charles and the other folks aboard *Comanche*. Their sacrifice – and his sacrifice in particular, he was the one who died – is really dramatic.

**You've gotten to know David's descendants. What's it meant to them to share his story?** He's been a tremendous source of inspiration for them, and their family has seen generations of success, following in his footsteps. There's been professors and accountants and law enforcement officers and military personnel and revolutionaries. When he got the award from the Coast Guard, there was a reporter interviewing his widow, and two of her brothers were there. Both of them were talking about how they would love to serve in the military and that they wouldn't be hesitant to do so. A year after it happened, you can already see his example spilling into the next generation. He's still someone in their family they're rightly proud of, as are the families of the chaplains.

**Next year is the 80th anniversary of Dorchester's sinking. Why is the story of the Four Chaplains and Charles David Jr. one we need to hear again?** We have the most diverse country – religiously, racially, ethnically – of any country in the world. That diversity can be a huge strength for us, or it can be something we let tear us apart. I think the story of the chaplains and of Charles David Jr. is that we don't have to let it tear us apart. We can keep those parts of ourselves

that are unique to us and not abandon them while also living alongside one another in peace and love while working toward a common goal. I think it's something we have to constantly relearn in the country; otherwise, it's going to be very easy to just engage in tribalism and tear ourselves apart. I personally feel like we see that today in the United States. There's lots of division, there's partisanship, lots of distrust. We have to get back, I think, to more of the mindset of what these brave men showed. My hope is that more and more people see that story and try to have that same attitude and spirit as they go about their daily lives and their political and public lives.



## MEETINGS AND REPORTS OF NATIONAL COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

The National Call Schedule will continue to be updated as information becomes available.

**50<sup>th</sup> Convention  
Commemoration Committee**  
*Joseph Gladden (MD), Chairman*

**Advisory Committee**  
*Robert McBride (OH), Chairman*

**Americanism Commission**  
*Joseph Navarrete (NM), Chairman*

Fourth Thursday of each month  
7:30 p.m. Eastern | 6:30 p.m. Central  
5:30 p.m. Mountain | 4:30 p.m. Pacific  
Call in # (508) 924-3315  
Access Code: NONE

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/x19ct26>

**Conference Call Schedule  
for the end of the 2022 membership year:**

February 24, 2022  
March 24, 2022 | April 28, 2022  
May 27, 2022 | June 23, 2022  
July 28, 2022 | August 25, 2022

**Century Committee  
(CENTCOM)**  
*Joe Paviglianti (NY), Chairman*

## Child Welfare Foundation Committee

**Mark Nave (PA), Chairman**

Third Wednesday of each month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Call in # (605) 472-5332

Access Code: 808417

Online Meeting ID:

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/coolcameo>

## Children & Youth Committee

**James A. Noble (NJ), Chairman**

Second Monday of each month

7:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82612571196?pwd=dERwNDJNcWwzNG9UYUJlMmpEMm53QT09>

Meeting ID: 826 1257 1196

Passcode: bJDV9V

## Committee on Committees

*Ron Roberts, (MS), Chairman*

## Finance Commission

*William G. Hill (MD), Chairman*



## FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES

[www.flyingflagsforheroes.com](http://www.flyingflagsforheroes.com)

**Tim Aboudara, Sr.,  
National Service Project Coordinator**

**As of Saturday, 183,079 flags  
have been placed  
to honor our veterans**

## Internal Affairs Commission

*William Clancy, III (NY), Chairman*

## Legislative Commission

*Thomas G. Deal (MD), Chairman*

PRAY FOR  
AMERICA 



**Sub-Committee  
on Resolutions**  
*Ned Fox (CA), Chairman*

**Veterans Affairs  
& Rehabilitation Commission**

**Seth A. Rippe (NE), Chairman**

Fourth Monday of each month

7:00 p.m. Central Time/8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 845 1668 0686

Passcode: 243945

**Veterans Employment  
& Education Commission**

**Chuck Treat (AZ), Chairman**

Third Wednesday of Each Month

6:00 p.m. Mountain Time/8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Call In # (508) 924-3315

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/x19ct26>

February 16, 2022 | March 16, 2022

April 20, 2022 | May 18, 2022

June 15, 2022 | July 17, 2022

August 25, 2022



by Jeff Vrabel, Sr.

**REGIONAL  
UPDATES**



by Jeff Vrabel, Sr.

**JEFF VRABEL, SR.**  
**NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER**  
**CENTRAL REGION 2021-2022**

**JOIN**

**DONATE**

[jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com)

<https://sites.google.com/vies/teamvrabel/home>

**MONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL**

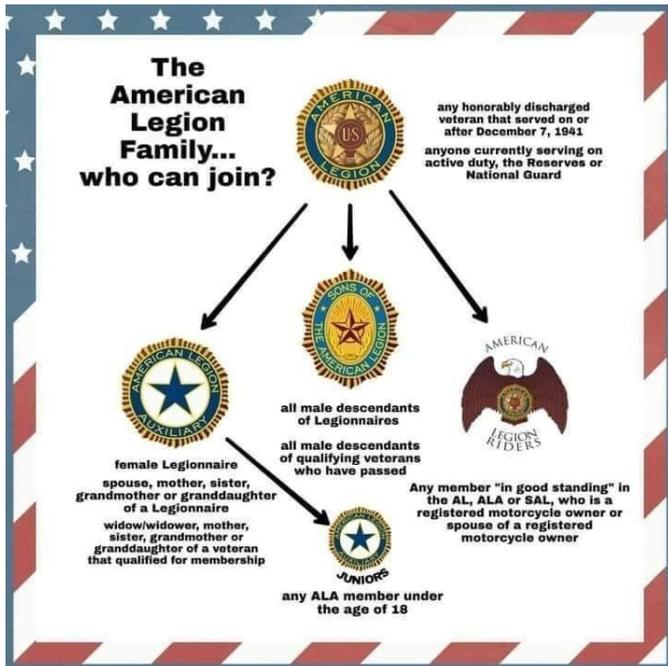
Third Thursday of each month

7:30 p.m. Eastern Time

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/jeffvrabelsr>

Call In # (425) 436-6280

Access Code 464549\*



Friday's national membership report shows the Central Region holding on to first place by the slimmest of margins. We are at 74.25% with the Eastern Region on our tails coming in at 73.93%. Congratulations to the East for surpassing the 100,000 members paid mark. Keep up your awesome work.

As we see every year, there was an influx of membership transmitted in the first few weeks of the

year. Members wait to pay their dues until January every year, and Squadrons see an increase in members paid. Unfortunately, our organization still has 95,112 unpaid members. In the Central Region, that number is 32,176 representing 74.25% paid.

On Wednesday we have a national target date of 75%, and I am confident that our Region will hit that mark. As of today, we have five Detachments that have reached and exceeded that 75% goal. Congratulations to the Detachments of Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, Illinois, and Ohio. Missouri, Minnesota, and Indiana are all above 70%.

We are the only region in the organization to have all of its Detachments above the 70% mark. No other region is even close to this accomplishment, and every Central Region member should be proud of this feat. But we are not even close to being done.

Today we need to reach out to our unpaid members and see what we can do to help. A friend once said that his Detachment doesn't really push membership very hard because the programs in that state are so good that members want to pay on time. That Detachment is above the next target date, and must be doing something right. Let's all try that over the next few weeks.

If you are having a Super Bowl party, Daytona 500 party, Valentine's Day dinner, or anything else including just enjoying camaraderie around the canteen, talk about membership, ask members to pay and get back in good standing, and continue our recruiting efforts.

Let's make sure we hold as well as increase our lead in the Central Region. Let's make sure we don't lag over the next few weeks. Let's continue honoring the veterans who made us eligible by staying current with our dues. If you have not paid, please stop reading and contact your Membership Chairman or Adjutant get paid today.

As we move closer to Spring, we must all be thinking about submitting our three mandatory documents. The Consolidated Squadron Report, the Officer Certification Form, and the Squadron Data Report are due every year. Some states will not send out membership cards to Squadrons without these annual mandatory reports.

If you have any questions about reporting, need help with the forms, or don't know the deadlines in

your Detachment, please contact your Detachment Headquarters. They are here to help you, and they will.

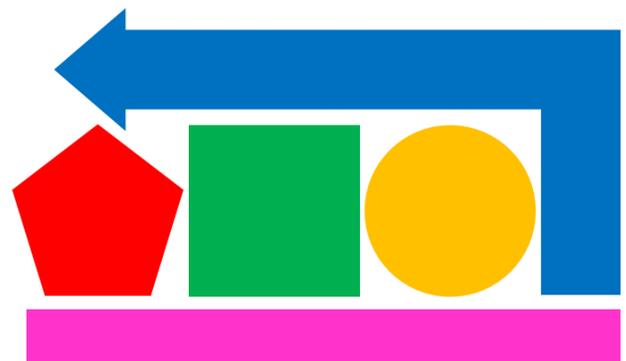
These documents are vital, and we need to reach a minimum of 50% submissions on the CSR and 100% submissions on the OCF and SDR. **Who's next?**

Thank you for all you do for Sons of The American Legion, the American Legion Family, our veterans, and the children of our communities, states, and nation. You should be very proud of your accomplishments, and I applaud each and every one of you for your efforts!

As always, if there is anything you need, please send me an email and I will do whatever I can to help.

We are Sons of The American Legion.

We are #SALSTRONG!!!



Is your name Jeff? Email me.  
[jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com)



**PROUD POSSESSORS  
OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**

# 2022 Central Region Membership Report

# 2022 Central Region Renewal Report

2022 MEMBERSHIP					02/03/22
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase
1 Central 4	124,977	92,801	32,176	74.25%	930
2 Eastern	136,233	100,720	35,513	73.93%	2,211
3 Southern 3, 4, 5	42,593	31,332	11,261	73.56%	570
4 Midwest 3, 4	28,508	20,142	8,366	70.65%	289
5 Western 4	24,414	16,618	7,796	68.07%	240
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>95,515</b>	<b>68,092</b>	<b>27,423</b>	<b>71.29%</b>	<b>4,240</b>

Membership ahead/behind prior year target date N/A

The numbers below are taken from the membership and ranked in order by percentage. Once the full Renewal Report is published, additional information will be provided.

Central Region - Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH)						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank
1 Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	3,914	3,136	778	80.12%	84	10
2 Iowa 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	4,571	3,656	915	79.98%	151	11
3 Michigan 1, 5, 6	21,985	17,069	4,916	77.64%	23	15
4 Illinois 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	13,602	10,228	3,374	75.19%	151	20
5 Ohio 1, 4, 5, 6	29,946	22,464	7,482	75.02%	449	22
6 Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3,211	2,362	849	73.56%	-	26
7 Minnesota 1, 4, 5	11,091	8,093	2,998	72.97%	7	27
8 Indiana 1	36,657	25,793	10,864	70.36%	65	33
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>124,977</b>	<b>92,801</b>	<b>32,176</b>	<b>74.25%</b>	<b>930</b>	

- Q = Quota
- 1 Met 09/22/21 goal of 10%
  - 2 Met 10/14/21 goal of 25%
  - 3 Met 11/10/21 goal of 35%
  - 4 Met 12/08/21 goal of 45%
  - 5 Met 01/21/22 goal of 60%
  - 6 Met 02/09/22 goal of 75%
  - 7 Met 03/09/22 goal of 80%
  - 8 Met 04/13/22 goal of 90%
  - 9 Met 05/11/22 goal of 100%
  - 10 Met 07/28/22 goal of 105%

Red Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Wisconsin	3,914	3,136	778	80.12%	3.38%
Iowa	4,571	3,656	915	79.98%	3.94%
Missouri	3,211	2,362	849	73.56%	2.55%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11,696</b>	<b>9,154</b>	<b>2,542</b>	<b>78.27%</b>	<b>9.86%</b>

White Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Illinois	13,602	10,228	3,374	75.19%	11.02%
Minnesota	11,091	8,093	2,998	72.97%	8.72%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13,602</b>	<b>10,228</b>	<b>3,374</b>	<b>75.19%</b>	<b>11.02%</b>

Blue Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Michigan	21,985	17,069	4,916	77.64%	18.39%
Ohio	29,946	22,464	7,482	75.02%	24.21%
Indiana	36,657	25,793	10,864	70.36%	27.79%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>66,603</b>	<b>48,257</b>	<b>18,346</b>	<b>72.45%</b>	<b>52.00%</b>

	Detachment	Renewal %
1	Iowa	74.76%
2	Wisconsin	74.18%
3	Illinois	70.29%
4	Ohio	69.73%
5	Minnesota	67.45%
6	Michigan	66.65%
7	Indiana	65.86%
8	Missouri	65.76%
	<b>NATIONAL</b>	<b>66.32%</b>

## Presidents, Birthdays, and Legacies...oh my!



Matthew Verkuilen, Program Administrator and Membership Director Detachment of Minnesota Contributor to Round-Up

In the 1880's, a federal holiday was created to celebrate the birthday of our first President George Washington. Later in 1971, it was changed to honor not only George Washington and President Abraham Lincoln (who both celebrated birthday in February) but all presidents thus establishing a legacy of celebration for years to come.

Every one of us also has the opportunity to create a legacy or even further an existing legacy. Whether it is through purchasing a membership for a Legion member in your family, an SAL member in your family, or even an Auxiliary or Rider member in your family, it is a very easy way to get your entire family involved in all the great work being done by our Legion Family. Whether it is something that is done at birth, or something done later in life, it's an



investment with many rewards. It truly can be a gift that pays forward.

## Illinois American Legion Family supports Special Olympics Winter Games



The Illinois American Legion Family provided the hospitality for The Special Olympics Illinois Winter Games held Feb 1-3 in Galena, Illinois. There were snowshoeing events at Eagle Ridge Resort and skiing at Chestnut Mountain Resort. The American Legion Family split into two groups and provided hospitality for both venues.



Athletes from Northside Learning Center High School, Chicago showing off their medals from the snowshoeing events.



The American Legion Family gathered at the reception held after day one.



**RICHARD HUNTLEY**  
**NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER**  
**EASTERN REGION 2021-2022**

[dickie\\_huntley@hotmail.com](mailto:dickie_huntley@hotmail.com)

### MONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL

Fourth Tuesday of each month

7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Call In # (605) 313-4388

Access Code 3468542#



Illinois American Legion Family in action going through 5 urns of hot chocolate and 4 of coffee! We served athletes, coaches, families, and volunteers alike.

**LOOK IN THE MIRROR**  
**That's where you'll**  
**find the answers**

Based on the January 31 membership report I have to say that it's mighty impressive for the East. We have 8 Detachments at or above the goal and 2 that are close. That means there are four that could make a run to better their position with a week to go before the target date.

That's right gentlemen February 9 is the 75% target date, so let's all continue to keep moving towards that final target that's the one that counts.

The East is second to the Central Region for top spot, and only behind by 0.28%. Gentlemen, at the rate you are expanding your lead in total membership, you are finding yourself in a spot we don't usually see until the very end of the membership year.

Congratulations to you all for the hard work you have been doing and the results you are producing. It is definitely showing that the East is out to be the beast that we boast about.

Finally, thank you for all you are doing. It is very much appreciated, and if there is anything we can do to assist you please do not hesitate to reach out to your Regional Membership chair Ernie LaBerge, National Membership Chairman Thom Skelly or me and we will do all we can for you.

<b>Eastern Region - Richard "Dickie" L. Huntley, Jr. (ME)</b>			
<b>Detachment</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
DIST OF COL	92	81	88.04%
VERMONT	3,576	2,916	81.54%
DELAWARE	2,229	1,814	81.38%
RHODE ISLAND	316	254	80.38%
CONNECTICUT	1,820	1,453	79.84%
MARYLAND	15,533	12,218	78.66%
PENNSYLVANIA	58,902	45,184	76.71%
MAINE	2,482	1,865	75.14%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,074	3,794	74.77%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,183	1,589	72.79%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,336	3,662	68.63%
NEW YORK	29,246	20,009	68.42%
NEW JERSEY	9,211	5,757	62.50%
FRANCE	233	124	53.22%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>136,233</b>	<b>100,720</b>	<b>73.93%</b>

*as of February 3, 2022*

## ***Belleville Sons of The American Legion donates to Fisher House***

Special to NorthJersey.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

As one of its major 'adopted' charities, Sons of The American Legion (SAL) Squadron 105 in Belleville, made a \$1,750 donation in January to the Fisher House Foundation. The money was raised through a 50/50 held by Squadron 105 in December, a matching donation from the Squadron itself, and a personal donation by Squadron Commander Steve Sangemino.

“At Squadron 105, we’re always very pleased to donate to such a worthy organization. What they have done, and what they continue do for veterans, is amazing,” stated Adjutant Rusty Myers, who cut the check to the Fisher House Foundation from 105.

This is the third year that SAL 105 has donated to the Fisher House Foundation. In line with the Sons of The American Legion’s “Four Pillars,” one of which is focusing on caring for veterans and their families, 105 is proud to make this one of our most valued contributions each year.



The Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military and veteran’s families can stay free of charge, while a loved one is in the hospital. These homes are located at military and VA medical centers around the world. Fisher Houses have up to 21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room and an inviting living room. Since inception, the program has saved military and veterans’ families an estimated \$451 million in out-of-pocket costs for lodging and transportation. It is in this way that a veteran can be surrounded by his family during perhaps some of the most difficult times in their lives.

“It’s a good program,” stated SAL Commander Sangemino at the Squadron’s meeting in January. “For what we’ve done here [Belleville], it’s [also] good to move on and help other people.”

This 50/50 is usually held between Thanksgivings through the holiday season. This year, the winning ticket was picked at Post 105’s New Year’s Eve party, with the winning ticket being that of the SAL 105 Commander, Steve Sangemino. The raffle netted \$750 going to the organiza-

tion, which was matched by a unanimous vote from SAL 105. In that same vote, the Sons decided on making Fisher House an adopted charity, donating to them in perpetuity. The \$1,500 donation was then added to by a personal donation from Commander Steve, bringing it up to a total of \$1,750.

You can find out more about Fisher House at [www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org).

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans. Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires, and is open to all male sons and grandsons of eligible veterans.

Both Post 105 and Squadron 105 are always welcoming new members. If you are a veteran, or a son or grandson of a veteran, come by the Post at 621 Washington Avenue in Belleville (next to the Motorcycle Mall) and ask about joining. Also, follow American Legion Post 105 on Facebook for updates and information about the programs.

*Reprinted from 2022 Belleville Times, February 3, 2022*



**JUAN TORRES**  
**NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER**  
**MIDWEST REGION 2021-2022**

[juanrtorres10@hotmail.com](mailto:juanrtorres10@hotmail.com)

**MONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL**

First Tuesday of Each Month  
 7:00 p.m. Mountain Time/8:00 p.m. Central  
 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time  
 Call in # (605) 313-5379  
 Access Code 830520

Midwest Region - Juan R. Torres (TX)			
Detachment	Goal	Total	Percent
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,052	975	92.68%
NORTH DAKOTA	916	764	83.41%
NEBRASKA	6,959	5,464	78.52%
OKLAHOMA	1,380	984	71.30%
WYOMING	1,273	875	68.74%
MONTANA	1,160	795	68.53%
KANSAS	6,424	4,364	67.93%
TEXAS	5,425	3,572	65.84%
COLORADO	2,632	1,673	63.56%
MEXICO	26	16	61.54%
NEW MEXICO	1,261	660	52.34%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>28,508</b>	<b>20,142</b>	<b>70.65%</b>

*as of February 3, 2022*





**JASON ROBERTS**  
**NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER**  
**SOUTHERN REGION 2021-2022**

[roberts.jason215@gmail.com](mailto:roberts.jason215@gmail.com)



**JIM STEWART**  
**NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER**  
**WEST REGION 2021-2022**

[controller@bordertowncasinorv.com](mailto:controller@bordertowncasinorv.com)

**MONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL**

Second Tuesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Call In # (701) 802-5001

Access Code 4720682

**MONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL**

Fourth Wednesday of Each Month

6:00 p.m. Pacific Time/9:00 p.m. Eastern Time

[https://zoom.us/j/96562303887?pwd=SjZJek04MHJp](https://zoom.us/j/96562303887?pwd=SjZJek04MHJpNjdibWptUTU0UGptZz09)

[NjdibWptUTU0UGptZz09](https://zoom.us/j/96562303887?pwd=SjZJek04MHJpNjdibWptUTU0UGptZz09)

Meeting ID: 965 6230 3887

Passcode: 795541

Find your local number:

[https://zoom.us/j/96562303887?pwd=SjZJek04MHJp](https://zoom.us/j/96562303887?pwd=SjZJek04MHJpNjdibWptUTU0UGptZz09)

<b>Southern Region - Jason S. Roberts (GA)</b>			
<b>Detachment</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
PUERTO RICO	88	90	102.27%
ALABAMA	2,020	1,646	81.49%
FLORIDA	20,745	15,910	76.69%
LOUISIANA	1,808	1,382	76.44%
GEORGIA	4,316	3,294	76.32%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,382	1,032	74.67%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,619	1,947	74.34%
ARKANSAS	468	340	72.65%
TENNESSEE	1,681	1,144	68.05%
VIRGINIA	4,023	2,564	63.73%
MISSISSIPPI	795	462	58.11%
KENTUCKY	2,648	1,521	57.44%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>42,593</b>	<b>31,332</b>	<b>73.56%</b>

*as of February 3, 2022*

<b>Midwest Region - Juan R. Torres (TX)</b>			
<b>Detachment</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,052	975	92.68%
NORTH DAKOTA	916	764	83.41%
NEBRASKA	6,959	5,464	78.52%
OKLAHOMA	1,380	984	71.30%
WYOMING	1,273	875	68.74%
MONTANA	1,160	795	68.53%
KANSAS	6,424	4,364	67.93%
TEXAS	5,425	3,572	65.84%
COLORADO	2,632	1,673	63.56%
MEXICO	26	16	61.54%
NEW MEXICO	1,261	660	52.34%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>28,508</b>	<b>20,142</b>	<b>70.65%</b>

*as of February 3, 2022*



# MICHAEL FOX

## NATIONAL COMMANDER

### 2021-2022

*Thank You for the help*  
Bill Towns, National Historian



I just want to give special recognition and thanks to the Staff at The American Legion National Headquarters Library and Museum!

Thank you to **Linna Agne, Debra Brookhart, Ruth Rankin, Sharmán Sadler, and Howard Trace.**

Their help with locating, and having ready research items, educating me on procedures and operations, and assisting every time I made an error, went above and beyond.



Because of their commitment, the 50<sup>th</sup> Sons of The American Legion National Convention Celebration Book will be so much better!

Fellow Sons, please keep searching your files for items of interest from National Conventions and forward them to me at [docbill@neo.rr.com](mailto:docbill@neo.rr.com).



### 2022 Individual Recruitment Award

The National Membership Committee offers an award for those S.A.L. members recruiting five (5) new members into the Sons of The American Legion within a membership year. This pin is suitable to wear upon your cover or lapel.

(A new member is defined as any eligible Son joining for the 2022 membership year who was not a member of the Sons of The American Legion during the 2021 membership year). **Transfers or renewals do not count as new members.**

**Please make sure that all new members listed have been processed and been assigned a S.A.L. ID# in the national membership database before submission to avoid delays in approval. Pins will not be mailed until they are verified in the national membership database.**

This award form must be received by July 31st.

**Please forward the names of new Legion or Auxiliary members to your Post or Unit for use in their respective incentive programs.**

#### Recruiter Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Full Squadron Name/Number \_\_\_\_\_ Detachment \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Unless specified different, the pin will be sent to the above address*

#### New Member Information

#1 Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership ID # \_\_\_\_\_

#2 Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership ID # \_\_\_\_\_

#3 Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership ID # \_\_\_\_\_

#4 Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership ID # \_\_\_\_\_

#5 Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership ID # \_\_\_\_\_

#### RETURN COMPLETED FORMS TO: (Regional Membership Chairman)

East - Ernest Laberge (MA)	<a href="mailto:ELaberge@OctoberCompany.com">ELaberge@OctoberCompany.com</a>	61 Glendale Rd. Florence, MA 01062-9710
South - Ronald Roberts (MS)	<a href="mailto:RonRob31@AOL.com">RonRob31@AOL.com</a>	120 Circular Dr. Mendenhall, MS 39114-4854
Central - David Mennel (MI)	<a href="mailto:DavidMennel@Yahoo.com">DavidMennel@Yahoo.com</a>	6040 Dryden Rd. Dryden, MI 48428-9764
Midwest - Michael Kirschner (CO)	<a href="mailto:MLKirschner@Comcast.net">MLKirschner@Comcast.net</a>	3725 Hollybrook Ln. Pueblo, CO 81005-3256
West - Jack Youngs (ID)	<a href="mailto:xrukewelder@aol.com">xrukewelder@aol.com</a>	3223 Salem St. Caldwell, ID 83605



# Can you name the cap insignia?

Match the image to the correct American Legion department

*You probably already know the Department of Minnesota has a gopher for its cap insignia. Do you know what other departments have? We give you the official name for each insignia as a clue. Test your knowledge.*

*Instructions: Write the proper letter in the space next to the department. There are 24 shown out of the 55 departments. Answers are on Page 16.*

- Alabama \_\_\_\_\_
- Arizona \_\_\_\_\_
- California \_\_\_\_\_
- Connecticut \_\_\_\_\_
- France \_\_\_\_\_
- Georgia \_\_\_\_\_
- Hawaii \_\_\_\_\_
- Illinois \_\_\_\_\_
- Indiana \_\_\_\_\_
- Kansas \_\_\_\_\_
- Louisiana \_\_\_\_\_
- Massachusetts \_\_\_\_\_
- Montana \_\_\_\_\_
- New York \_\_\_\_\_
- New Mexico \_\_\_\_\_
- North Dakota \_\_\_\_\_
- Ohio \_\_\_\_\_
- Oklahoma \_\_\_\_\_
- Puerto Rico \_\_\_\_\_
- Rhode Island \_\_\_\_\_
- South Carolina \_\_\_\_\_
- Utah \_\_\_\_\_
- Virginia \_\_\_\_\_
- Wisconsin \_\_\_\_\_



A. Red Rooster



B. Charter Oak



C. Palmetto



D. Minuteman



E. Pelican



F. Eiffel Tower



G. Cardinal



H. El Morro Castle



I. Sunflower



J. Cactus



K. Heart of Dixie



L. Bear



M. Badger



N. Beehive



O. Rainbow



P. Indian



Q. Peach



R. Burgee



S. Abe Lincoln



T. Statue of Liberty



U. Soldiers & Sailors Mon.



V. Buffalo Skull



W. Prairie Rose



X. Zia



**SQUADRON COMMANDER  
OF THE YEAR AWARD  
CRITERIA**

**Nominees for the Squadron Commander of the Year must meet the following criteria:**

- The nominee shall be a member in good standing in the Sons of The American Legion
- Hold only the office of Squadron Commander at the time of nomination at any level within the Sons of The American Legion
- Demonstrate leadership through action and involvement in squadron activities that benefit his community
- Must obtain 100% squadron membership or better by March 15th (American Legion Birthday)
- Nominations must be submitted by the Detachment Adjutant and received at National Headquarters by the opening of Spring NEC

**Scan & email to:** [sal@legion.org](mailto:sal@legion.org) (subject line: Commander of the Year Nomination)

OR

**Mail to:** (include pictures)

The American Legion National Headquarters  
RE: Commander of the Year Nomination  
c/o National SAL Liaison  
700 N. Pennsylvania Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

**NOTE:** A Detachment may only submit one nomination for consideration



# Squadron Everlasting

Please email information to [jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com) to include a member.



It is with profound sadness and a heavy heart to regretfully inform you of the passing of Past Department President Virginia "Ginny" Faust (WI), mother of Sons of The American Legion Past National Commander David Faust.

Past Department President Virginia "Ginny" Faust (1995-1996) passed away on Sunday, January 30, 2022. Services were held at St Francis Xavier Church, 2947 Thinnes St., Cross Plains, WI on Saturday, February 5. You can find the obituary [HERE](#).

Condolences to the Faust family may be sent to: David Faust, 601 Engelhart Dr., Madison, WI 53713.



**SQUADRON COMMANDER  
OF THE YEAR AWARD  
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Squadron name/number: \_\_\_\_\_ Detachment: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contribution Details**

How many events: \_\_\_\_\_

Total volunteer hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Total money raised/donated: \_\_\_\_\_

Description details (who, where, when, what) include picture(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Detachment Adjutant: \_\_\_\_\_ (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

**Scan & Email:** [sal@legion.org](mailto:sal@legion.org) (subject line: Commander of the Year Nomination)

**Mail to:** The American Legion National Headquarters (include pictures)  
RE: Commander of the Year Nomination  
c/o National SAL Liaison  
700 N. Pennsylvania Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204



## American Legion Auxiliary Scholarships Available



College can be overwhelming, and that's before you start to figure out how to pay the price tag that comes with it. This is where American Legion Auxiliary scholarships come in.

If you're a student who's a descendant of a veteran, or you're an ALA Jr. Member or non-traditional student who is part of the American Legion Family and returning to college to further your career, or you know someone who fits these categories, you could be eligible for an ALA scholarship.

Applications are due March 1, so don't wait to apply! Click [HERE](#) for more information on scholarship criteria and how to apply.

## Answers to Insignia Quiz

Alabama: K	Massachusetts: D	Wisconsin: M
Arizona: J	Montana: V	
California: L	New York: T	<b>Qualifications</b>
Connecticut: B	New Mexico: X	21-24: Expert
France: F	North Dakota: W	17-20: Sharpshooter
Georgia: Q	Ohio: R	13-16: Marksman
Hawaii: O	Puerto Rico: H	9-12: Use a Bayonet
Illinois: S	Rhode Island: A	5-8: Retreat!
Indiana: U	South Carolina: C	0-4: Dishonorable Discharge
Kansas: I	Utah: N	
Louisiana: E	Virginia: G	

Reprinted from [The Minnesota Legionnaire](#)



**We cannot allow average to become our standard.**



**Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage**

## WHY YOU SHOULD BE A SON

- Support for our Veterans
- Children & Youth Programs
- To help those in need
- To protect our nation's flag
- To provide various services to our communities, states, and nation
- To be part of the world's largest volunteer veterans' organization
- Camaraderie

**Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible**

**JOIN TODAY!**

### Citizenship for Honorable Service

Many veteran immigrants say they have been deported after discharge because they failed to acquire U.S. citizenship while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The American Legion supports measures to ensure the process of naturalization through military service is completed prior to discharge, to include reinstatement of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Naturalization at Basic Training Initiative, training for military recruiters and commands about the naturalization process, and the reopening all USCIS field offices abroad to serve servicemembers stationed overseas. The Legion also supports providing expedited citizenship applications and the resources to complete the applications to deported honorably discharged veterans.

*Naturalization at Training Sites Act of 2022*  
*H.R. 1182/S. 3212 - Veteran Deportation Prevention and Reform Act*

### Address the Forever Wars & Restore Congressional War Powers

After decades of protracted military conflicts overseas with little congressional input, Congress needs to reclaim its rightful role in matters of war and peace. Too often, the use of military force, as opposed to diplomacy, is considered the primary instrument of national power. The American Legion urges the renewal of a proper constitutional balance to U.S. foreign policy decision-making by urging Congress to renew its war-making oversight role beginning with repealing outdated Authorizations for the Use of Military Force (AUMFs), reforming the 1973 War Powers Resolution, and properly resourcing civilian tools of diplomacy.

*S.J.Res. 10 - Repeal the 1991 & 2002 Iraq AUMFs,*  
*S.2391 - National Security Powers Act of 2021*

### Pay the Coast Guard

U.S. Coast Guard personnel carry out missions vital to our national security, but they serve in the only military branch working without pay during government shutdowns, due to their status under the Department of Homeland Security. The repeated and common threat of government shutdowns brings severe and unnecessary hardship on these men, women and families. The American Legion urges Congress to reintroduce and pass the Unwavering Support for our Coast Guard Act, which would guarantee that Coast Guard personnel are paid without delay, even in the case of a government shutdown.

*S. 1845 - Unwavering Support for our Coast Guard Act (USCG) Act*

### Protect the American Flag

The American Legion urges Congress to approve an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. flag. Additionally, The American Legion urges Congress to pass the Flag Code Modernization Act of 2021 to amend the U.S. Flag Code to codify multiple common patriotic customs and practices as described in American Legion Resolution No. 19: Flag Code Amendment.

*H.J.Res. 51/S.J.Res. 20/H.R. 4212*

# The American Legion Legislative Agenda

for the 117th Congress, 2nd Session

Artwork# 13LEG0122

Stock# 80-002



1608 K St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 263-2995  
Leg@legion.org  
legion.org

The American Legion is the voice of nearly 2 million U.S. military veterans and servicemembers. A resolutions-based organization, The American Legion's positions represent the views of its members.

### VA Health-care Modernization

The future of VA health care is as a hybrid system consisting of VHA-provided inpatient and outpatient care, telehealth and community care. Ensuring VA is equipped to meet the unique needs of an increasingly diverse veteran population requires that VA fully leverage all health-care modalities and ensure a seamless transition between them. Modernizing electronic health records, veteran-centric access standards and a transparent online scheduling system for both VHA-provided care and community care is essential to ensuring our veterans receive the care they deserve. The means by which VA delivers care may change, but one thing will not: VA should continue to deliver the best care anywhere to our nation's veterans.

### Suicide Prevention & Peer Support

Several studies have shown that peer support is beneficial for people who are experiencing mental health issues or are making the transition back to civilian life. The American Legion has its own peer-support program known as the "Buddy Check" which encourages outreach and veteran peer-to-peer engagement. The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation requiring VA to establish a national Buddy Check Week to encourage veterans to reach out to those with whom they served. The American Legion also encourages legislation to establish a peer-support program that would offer grants to place peer-support specialists in local posts of veterans service organizations.

*S.544 - "Buddy Check Week" Act*

### Address Toxic Exposure & Burn Pits

A disturbingly high percentage of veterans has been exposed to airborne toxic contaminants, often the result of proximity to local environmental hazards during military service. For decades, The American Legion has fought for service-connected disability benefits for adverse health conditions linked to exposures from a variety of toxic substances. The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that (1) creates a list of presumptive illnesses based on scientific evidence; (2) requires VA to presume exposure for veterans deployed to areas with known environmental hazards; and (3) mandates VA toxic exposure studies.

*H.R.3967 - Honoring Our Promise To Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act Of 2021*

*S.3003 - Comprehensive and Overdue Support for Troops (COST) of War Act of 2021*

### Improve Health Care for Women Veterans

VA has an obligation to develop and expand health-care services for women, the fastest-growing demographic in the veteran community. A high percentage of women veterans who are not enrolled in VA health care say lack of gender-specific services and awareness about VA benefits are primary reasons. The American Legion urges Congress to diligently oversee implementation of recently passed VA pilot programs, research initiatives, and policy revisions to address this issue. Additionally, The American Legion encourages expansion of child and newborn care services at VA.

*S.2533/H.R.4794 - the Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options (MAMMO) for Veterans Act*

*H.R. 344 - Women Veterans TRUST Act*

### Concurrent Receipt

Currently, 42,000 military retirees with combat-related injuries qualify for retirement pay for their service from DoD, and compensation for service-connected disabilities from VA. However, for retired veterans with disability ratings less than 50%, their VA compensation is deducted from their DoD retirement pay. The American Legion strongly supports ending this unfair policy of forcing

many military retirees to forfeit their retired pay to receive equal amounts of disability compensation. The Major Richard Star Act would repeal this draconian offset, allowing disabled veterans to concurrently receive both their retirement pay and their disability compensation.

*S.344 - Major Richard Star Act*

### Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity

National Guard and Reserve servicemembers are being deprived of education benefits that active-duty servicemembers enjoy, despite completing the same duties. According to the law, as it is currently written, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers only accrue GI Bill entitlement when called to active duty under federal orders. When National Guard and Reserve servicemembers are activated under state orders, they do not accrue eligibility for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits like their active-duty counterparts do. The American Legion believes that every day in uniform counts, and urges Congress to recognize the service of National Guard and Reserve servicemembers as eligible for the GI Bill.

*H.R. 1836 - Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021*

### GI Bill for Honorable Service

To receive most VA benefits, a veteran's character of discharge or service must be "under honorable conditions." However, education assistance benefits within the GI Bill have a requirement that servicemembers receive an "honorable discharge." If the character of service is "general under honorable conditions," the Post-9/11 GI Bill remains out of reach for these veterans. The American Legion urges Congress to correct this statutory incongruity by amending U.S. Code to allow access to VA educational assistance to veterans with "general under honorable conditions" discharges.



LOVE  
*is in the air*

THANKSGIVING-CO.

