



Round-Up

A Newsletter of Sons of The American Legion



Volume 3 – Issue 120 – February 13, 2022

Legacy Scholarship allows Navy veteran's daughter to pursue dreams

[Henry Howard](#) | FEB 07, 2022

Emma Furlan learned she received the American Legion Legacy Scholarship in the spring of 2021 when the family was on a special vacation in Maine. “It was a very emotional time already because it was my stepmother’s last vacation with us,” she said. “I cried because the scholarship is life-changing. It changed the whole trajectory of my educational path. I was able to join the honors program. I was extremely happy.”

The family vacation was in honor of Jilene Bertolini, Furlan’s stepmother. She was diagnosed with stage four metastatic pancreatic cancer in September 2020 and given one year to live. She passed away on Dec. 7, 2021.

It was Bertolini, who worked as a family counselor specializing in addiction treatment, who helped Furlan forge a path toward her career choice.

“We used to discuss a lot of case studies, including Sybil,” recalled Furlan, a freshman from Waterford, Conn., who plans to major in psychology and minor in English at Ohio State University. “She’s the one who really got me interested in psychology.”

Her father, Michael Furlan, retired from the Navy in 2020 after leaving the Marines in 2003 due to ankle reconstruction surgery for a service-related injury. He is a member of The American Legion in the Department of Connecticut.

“I consider my dad my hero,” she said. “I love my dad. Not only has he spent years serving his country but he is one of the smartest, most compassionate people I know. I do believe the service he has given to his country not only made him into the person he is but also molded our whole family.”

His 100 percent VA disability rating qualified his daughter for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship. The scholarship goes to children of post-9/11 veterans who were either killed while on active duty or have a combined disability rating of 50 percent or greater. The application deadline is April 1.

Learn more about the scholarship, eligibility criteria and [how to apply here.](#))

The scholarship allowed Furlan to attend college at her primary choice, get into the honors college and avoid enormous debt.

“I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to come here. It means so much to me, especially considering the reason I was able to get in is because of my dad’s service. I see how it has impacted him,” she says, referring to his PTSD and depression. “I see that and I know there are tons of other children and others my age who are experiencing the exact same thing happening to their family. I am beyond grateful that the scholarship exists for students like me who have parents who served and deal with what happened in their service every single day.”

Ohio State accepted her into its honors program, a huge advantage over what schools in Connecticut were able to offer.

“It was important for me to go to school in Ohio because it’s a family school and it was the best educational opportunity I was offered,” she explained, noting her father received a bachelor’s in data analytics from Ohio State. “The school also has a lot of significance to my dad and I wanted to be a part of that. He told me about a lot of the memories he had here, and I also wanted to have those memories.”

see SCHOLARSHIP page 6



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Round-Up is published weekly and distributed each Sunday.

SUBMITTING ARTICLES: All submissions are to be made electronically to 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](#)

AMERICAN LEGION



Not just Walter Reed

Paul E. Dillard, National Commander
FEB 09, 2022

Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends,

The report by the Navy Times hit like a gut punch. [No hot water, A/C, or doors with locks for junior troops forced to live in hellish Walter Reed base barracks](#) was the headline of the article published on Feb. 4.

In essence, nearly 500 Navy corpsmen and Army medics stationed at Naval Support Activity Bethesda were housed in quarters with insufficient hot water, broken locks, inoperable air conditioning and other "trouble ticket" items that even the commanding officer admits have existed for years. It is no small irony that the two barracks were named Comfort Hall and Sanctuary Hall.

Fortunately, leadership at the facility [has started relocating more than 350 of the servicemembers to temporary lodging](#) and initiating the needed repairs.. But still, one has to wonder how did we get to this point? In 2007, [the Washington Post reported mold and rodent infestations in Building 18 at the old Walter Reed Army Medical Center](#). In 2021, [a congressional delegation toured a barracks at Fort Hood which was described as "the worst they'd ever seen."](#) Military.com reported a similar situation at Camp Lejeune.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

TARGET DATE



February 9, 2022

EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 16, 2022

When the media exposed a wait-time and records manipulation scandal at a VA Medical Center in 2014, [The American Legion loudly proclaimed that the problem was “not just Phoenix.”](#) Subsequent inspector general reports and congressional hearings proved us right.

I hope that history is not repeating itself with military housing.

The sixth of the [11 Principles of Military Leadership](#) is “know your people and look out for their welfare.” Every military commander should take it to heart. Infrastructure has been one of the most used Washington buzz words for the last year, yet I can think of no infrastructure project more worthy than providing quality housing for our military members.

Veterans have endured many hardships while serving in war zones. But garrison living should be different. The men and women who choose to serve in our all-volunteer force have many other attractive options. They should not be subjected to living in third-world conditions while serving in a first-world nation. The military of 2022 should not expect its members to live in housing that hasn't been adequately renovated in decades. Next month, I will address a joint committee of Congress. You can bet that this will be a major topic of discussion.

For God and Country,

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

A trial of strength in Europe

Alan W. Dowd | FEB 04, 2022



After a flurry of [diktats](#) and [deployments](#), Vladimir Putin's contrived crisis over Ukraine has triggered a flurry of diplomacy across Europe. It all may

be a ploy by Putin to test NATO, extract concessions or posture his coiled-to-strike army. Indeed, by the time you read this, Putin may be digesting another slice of Ukraine or hailing himself as peacemaker. Either way, to prevent this from becoming a routine, the United States and its allies must address the root causes of the problem. Toward that end, NATO should recall some important lessons from history.

Claims First things first: Holding talks to promote security and stability in Europe is a good thing. “Jaw, jaw,” as Winston Churchill said, “is better than war, war.” If they build real understanding and secure real commitments, all these [conferences](#) -- the past month has seen U.S.-Russia talks, NATO-Russia talks, OSCE-Russia talks, U.N.-Russia talks -- will have prevented a war in Europe and advanced the cause of peace.

However, NATO allies should keep in mind the reason for these talks: Putin's gun-to-the-head military threats, determination to upend the settled outcomes of the Cold War, and drift into paranoia.

This isn't hyperbole. Consider the words of Putin's deputy foreign minister: “The Europeans must ... think about whether they want to avoid making their continent the scene of a military confrontation. They have a choice. Either take seriously what is put on the table or face a military-technical alternative.” With [100,000 troops and 1,200 tanks](#) massed along the Ukraine-Russia-Belarus frontier, those words are not empty.

Regarding the post-Cold War order that has spread peace, prosperity and free government across Europe, Putin is demanding that NATO not expand, cease all military activities in Eastern Europe, pull back its forces to where they were in 1997 (before Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic joined the alliance), and grant him veto authority over the decisions of sovereign nations. In short, Putin is threatening a [second invasion](#) of Ukraine because he claims NATO expansion violates agreements at the end of the Cold War. But his version of history doesn't correspond with reality. [Mikhail Gorbachev himself](#) concedes, “The topic of NATO expansion was not discussed at all.”

That brings us to Putin's paranoia. Like history's other revisionist autocrats, Putin masters in the double-standard and contrives historical grievances. For example, Putin advisor Dmitry Peskov [contends](#) that Ukraine can never be permitted to join NATO because “NATO is an instrument of confrontation.” Even if we accept that description of NATO, we should remember three important facts:

- NATO has never invaded or attacked Russia.
- Virtually every government in Europe views NATO as essential to European security -- and Putin's Russia as threatening to European security. That explains why seven of the Warsaw Pact's eight members chose to join NATO, why

three former Soviet republics chose to join NATO, and why two others (Georgia and Ukraine) desperately want to join NATO.

- If Putin's position on Ukraine was simply a function of his NATO-phobia, he wouldn't [oppose](#) Ukraine's entry into the European Union, which is definitively not "an instrument of confrontation."

In short, the crux of the problem is that Putin fears having another Western-oriented democracy next door. As former Estonian president Toomas Hendrik Ilves observes, "Russia has bad relations with all the democratic countries on its borders" -- and [believes](#) Ukraine and Russia are "one people, a single whole." Putin calls Ukraine "Novorossiya," a czarist-era term for Ukraine's Russian-speaking regions. He [laments](#) how the collapse of the USSR meant that "historically Russian territories with a historically Russian population, primarily in Ukraine, had found themselves living outside Russia." And he claims Ukraine is building "an anti-Russia" and "stockpiling the latest weapons ... Just imagine how Russia must live and carry on."

This would be laughable if the stakes weren't so high. Here are the facts: Russia, which invaded Ukraine, has a \$1.7 trillion GDP, a population of 145 million, 1.4 million men under arms, a \$61.7 billion military budget and 4,500 nuclear warheads. Ukraine, which was invaded by Russia, has a \$153 billion GDP, a population of 44 million, 297,000 men under arms, a \$5.9 billion defense budget and zero nuclear weapons. In fact, Ukraine surrendered its nuclear arsenal in exchange for a commitment from Russia to "refrain from the threat or use of force" and respect Ukraine's "independence ... sovereignty and the existing borders."

Desires That's a reminder that Putin, like his Soviet predecessors, doesn't keep his word. Any deal yielded by these crisis talks must include stringent and verifiable enforcement mechanisms. As President Theodore Roosevelt observed, "Diplomacy is utterly useless where there is no force behind it."

These words come from a man who earned a Nobel Peace Prize for negotiating treaties that staved off and ended wars in Europe, Africa, and Asia. Roosevelt understood that treaties are only as good as the character of the governments that sign them, and peace talks only produce real peace if all sides desire peace. Putin doesn't desire another war in Europe. But he surely desires, as Churchill said of Putin's predecessors, "the fruits of war and the indefinite expansion of their power and doctrines."

For Putin, that translates into a neutered NATO and a reconstituted Russian Empire. Just consider his actions in recent years: cyberattacks against NATO member Estonia, invasions of former Soviet states Georgia and Ukraine, violations of the INF Treaty, arms shipments to Taliban forces waging war against NATO peacekeepers operating under U.N. mandate, strategic-influence operations across NATO's footprint, cyberattacks against America's energy infrastructure and food-supply [infrastructure](#), wintertime shutdowns of natural-gas supplies bound for Central Europe, and nuclear threats against NATO members.

These are not the actions of a peace-loving regime. Moreover, in the years before Russia's 2014 invasion of Ukraine, NATO members slashed military spending and shelved deterrent military assets: The U.S. Navy's North Atlantic-focused 2nd Fleet was deactivated in 2011. The Army's Germany-based [V Corps](#) was deactivated in 2012. Washington withdrew every [American main battle tank](#) from Europe in 2013. That same year, Britain announced it would close its garrison in Germany. By 2014, Germany fielded fewer than 300 tanks -- down from 2,125 in the late 1980's.

These are not the actions of an alliance bent on "confrontation." Yet Putin grew more aggressive even as NATO grew more accommodating.

Consequences That brings us to the lessons of Munich. Putin is not a latter-day Hitler. However, what Putin has set in motion with his bluster and brinkmanship serves as an echo of 1938 -- the year Hitler threatened war over German-speaking parts of Czechoslovakia. In response, Western powers scrambled to Munich for peace talks and ultimately rewarded Hitler for threatening to launch a war of aggression.

Though not invited to Munich, Czechoslovakia was not silent. Czech Foreign Minister Kamil Krofta brought the betrayal at Munich into focus. "Today it is our turn," he concluded. "Tomorrow it will be the turn of others." He was correct. Neville Chamberlain's post-Munich [promise](#) of "peace in our time" lasted 11 months. The consequences of that moment were so dire, the failure of democratic powers so total, that Munich became synonymous with appeasement. The lessons of Munich would shape Western security strategy for the balance of the 20th century.

After reading the Munich agreement, Churchill concluded that "between submission and immedi-

ate war there was this third alternative ... defend Czechoslovakia against an unprovoked aggression.” He grieved the short-term consequences of appeasement: “Silent, mournful, abandoned, broken, Czechoslovakia recedes into the darkness.” And he warned of what would follow: “This is only the first sip, the first foretaste of a bitter cup.” As prime minister, he wouldn’t repeat Chamberlain’s mistakes. “We cannot afford,” Churchill counseled at the outset of the Cold War, “to work on narrow margins, offering temptations to a trial of strength.” Though not party to the Munich conference, Americans internalized its lessons.

“We are ready, at any time, to negotiate,” President Harry Truman said. “But we will not engage in appeasement.”

“The pact of Munich was a more fell blow to humanity than the atomic bomb at Hiroshima,” President Dwight Eisenhower bluntly concluded.

“There’s only one guaranteed way you can have peace -- and you can have it in the next second: surrender,” President Ronald Reagan said. “Admittedly, there’s a risk in any course we follow other than this, but every lesson of history tells us that the greater risk lies in appeasement.”

And so, lines were drawn, arsenals built, allies defended -- all to prevent another Munich, another great-power war.

Options Since Ukraine is not a member of NATO, its security and sovereignty are not guaranteed by NATO. But to borrow Churchill’s words, there are many options “between submission and immediate war” -- options that could help Putin reconsider his path.

Again, history offers helpful lessons. In the early hours of the Cold War, Truman declared that the United States would “support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures.” Reagan hastened the end of the Cold War by reviving that strategy and [providing aid](#) -- military, technical, economic -- to those in Moscow’s crosshairs.

Today, that translates into strengthening Ukraine’s ability to defend itself by providing Kiev real-time [intelligence](#), cyber-defenses and cyber-redundancies, shoreline defenses, radar-jamming and counter-jamming systems, and anti-aircraft, anti-personnel and additional anti-tank systems. As Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass., puts it, Washington

should provide “weapons that will have a high cost in terms of Russian casualties” and “articulate to the world how the weapons we provide will force Mr. Putin to incur substantial losses of Russian troops.”

[Britain, the Balts, Poland, Turkey](#) and the United States are delivering such defensive weapons to Kiev. And the [allies](#) are [fortifying](#) NATO’s eastern flank.

NATO shouldn’t limit its response to the terrain Putin has chosen. If Putin wants a grand reappraisal of Europe’s post-Cold War order, NATO should oblige and announce that the alliance is eager to settle issues left unaddressed in 1989-1991. For starters, NATO could invite the leaders of all nations where Russian troops are deployed but unwelcome -- Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine -- to identify ways the alliance can strengthen their security and make their Russian occupiers uncomfortable. Gen. Kevin Ryan, a former military attaché at the U.S. embassy in Moscow, [notes](#) that Russia’s outposts in [Georgia](#) and [Moldova](#) -- bitterly opposed by both nations -- are “exposed and vulnerable to military action” by indigenous forces.

In addition, Washington could encourage the entry of Sweden and Finland into NATO. Given their strong democratic credentials and deep military cooperation with NATO, either could join the alliance [in short order](#).

Washington also could elevate Ukraine and Georgia to the status of “major non-NATO ally” -- a [designation](#) Argentina, Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Taiwan, Tunisia and other partners enjoy. This would not tie the U.S. to a mutual-defense treaty, but it would send a strong signal to Moscow.

Even as NATO parries Putin’s demands, it must create “off ramps” to allow Putin to retreat without being publicly humiliated. As we learned during the 1962 missile crisis with Moscow and 2001 Hainan crisis with Beijing, allowing dictators to save face can save lives.

Interests Ukraine falls outside NATO’s mandate and mission. But the principles at stake in this crisis -- the independence of NATO, the sovereignty of Europe’s nations, the maintenance of the post-Cold War order, what the NATO treaty calls the “stability and ... security of the [North Atlantic area](#)” -- definitely do not.

NATO's interests and territory will be far more secure if Ukraine remains a sovereign, democratically-oriented nation -- and will be further jeopardized if Putin is allowed to believe he can continue using bluster and force to reconstruct the Russian empire.

SCHOLARSHIP continued from page 1

Furlan works about 12 hours a week at a campus snack bar, making smoothies, coffee, and acai bowls.

Without the scholarship, she would have faced two options: attend Ohio State and pile up debt that would take years to repay; or attend community college for a couple of years and work 30-hour weeks and attend her second choice, the University of Connecticut.

"The scholarship has allowed me to change my life in a lot of ways. It has allowed me to focus more on my studies. It has allowed me to devote time to my classes that I would not have been able to if I had not received it."

She has come a long way from the girl who was distraught during her dad's deployments. Furlan remembers his first deployment when she was 5.

"I routinely pulled tantrums at school and my mom would have to pull me out because I was disruptive to the other kids," she recalled. "This continued until the summer when my dad returned. Then he deployed again in sixth grade. I was able to hold it better then when I was in school but I obviously missed him a lot and so did the rest of the family."

By the time Furlan reached eighth grade, her father and stepmother had wed. Once again, he was deployed. "The entire time he was gone my stepmother and I would feel his absence."

His final deployment concluded with a homecoming in July.

"When he came up to us, everything immediately felt better," she said. "We were a whole family unit again. He didn't deploy again after that but we still feel the effects of his service. He still deals with mental health. But at least we don't have to miss him anymore."

As Furlan strives to honor her father's service and stepmother's legacy, she also expresses gratitude for those who made her college dreams a reality.

"I would like to thank all of the veterans and the people who have donated to The American Legion and everyone who has donated to support children like me who are trying to receive their college education and essentially enjoy the freedom that our parents' service has provided to us."



Scholarships.

The American Legion offers a number of scholarships and other resources to assist young people in their pursuit of higher education. There are opportunities for everyone, including kin of wartime veterans and participants in Legion programs.

LEARN MORE HERE



**MEETINGS AND REPORTS
OF NATIONAL
COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES**

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

**50th 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:

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: 808 417

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



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

NATIONAL CHILDREN & YOUTH ACADEMY

at the 50th National Convention | Milwaukee

AMERICANISM * VETERANS

CHILDREN & YOUTH * NATIONAL SECURITY

Watch the National Children & Youth Academy
promo video [HERE](#)

Committee on Committees

Ron Roberts, (MS), Chairman

Finance Commission

William G. Hill (MD), Chairman



FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES

www.flyingflagsforheroes.com

Tim Aboudara, Sr.,

National Service Project Coordinator

**As of Saturday, 183,801 flags
have been placed
to honor our veterans**

Internal Affairs Commission

William Clancy, III (NY), Chairman

Legislative Commission

Thomas G. Deal (MD), Chairman

First Thursday of each month

7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Call in # (267) 807-9601

Access Code 988 284 103#

Member Training and Development Committee

Michael Monserud (IA), Chairman

First Monday of each month

8:00 p.m. Eastern

Call in # (605) 468-8772

Access Code: 625764#

Membership Committee

Thom Skelley (TX), Chairman

Third Tuesday of each month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Call In # (605) 472-5756

Access Code 7717294



NOTICE: Due to Personify issues that have been brought to our attention, the SAL 75% membership target date has been moved to Wednesday, February 16. A report will be sent on the next business day.

Gentlemen,

Even without the extension, our national membership target was achieved!! Congratulations to the 30 Detachments and the Central, East and Southern Regions for hitting the mark.

Once again, we have answered the bell and surpassed expectations. We have 7 more Detachments and 2 more Regions that made goal than last year and are just under 7% ahead of the 2021 report. Job well done!!

2022 SAL Membership Report as of: February 9, 2022

#	DETACHMENTS	2022 Mbsp. Goal	2022 Membership Needed for 75% Target	Total	% of Goal	2022 Renewal %
1	HAWAII	49	-19	56	114.29%	100.00
2	PUERTO RICO	88	-27	93	105.68%	104.65
3	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,052	-212	1,001	95.15%	72.80
4	MEXICO	26	-4	23	88.46%	56.00
5	DIST OF COL	92	-12	81	88.04%	70.79
6	RHODE ISLAND	316	-37	274	86.71%	68.71
7	NORTH DAKOTA	916	-77	764	83.41%	81.45
8	ALABAMA	2,020	-158	1,673	82.82%	69.19
9	VERMONT	3,576	-265	2,947	82.41%	73.21
10	DELAWARE	2,229	-155	1,827	81.97%	72.71
11	IOWA	4,571	-287	3,715	81.27%	75.90
12	WISCONSIN	3,914	-230	3,165	80.86%	74.61
13	NEBRASKA	6,959	-396	5,615	80.69%	77.64
14	MARYLAND	15,533	-818	12,468	80.27%	73.96
15	CONNECTICUT	1,820	-94	1,459	80.16%	71.23
16	MICHIGAN	21,985	-1,068	17,557	79.86%	68.63
17	MASSACHUSETTS	5,074	-213	4,018	79.19%	70.24
18	MINNESOTA	11,091	-428	8,746	78.86%	72.95
19	FLORIDA	20,745	-693	16,252	78.34%	67.07
20	PENNSYLVANIA	58,902	-1,950	46,126	78.31%	72.78
21	MAINE	2,482	-74	1,935	77.96%	70.30
22	GEORGIA	4,316	-107	3,344	77.48%	67.15
23	NORTH CAROLINA	2,619	-51	2,015	76.94%	64.05
24	OHIO	29,946	-558	23,017	76.86%	71.38
25	LOUISIANA	1,808	-33	1,389	76.83%	70.48
26	TENNESSEE	1,681	-21	1,282	76.26%	58.79
27	OREGON	1,317	-7	995	75.55%	63.92
28	ILLINOIS	13,602	-39	10,240	75.28%	70.34
29	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,382	-4	1,040	75.25%	65.81
30	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,336	-4	4,006	75.07%	67.83
31	MISSOURI	3,211	3	2,405	74.90%	66.87
32	OKLAHOMA	1,380	7	1,028	74.49%	65.01
33	WYOMING	1,273	11	944	74.16%	59.59
34	ARKANSAS	468	5	346	73.93%	62.75
35	WEST VIRGINIA	2,183	46	1,591	72.88%	61.44
36	NEVADA	334	9	242	72.46%	62.21
37	INDIANA	36,657	1,087	26,406	72.04%	67.44
38	CALIFORNIA	10,338	433	7,321	70.82%	61.41
39	NEW YORK	29,246	1,250	20,685	70.73%	64.75
40	IDAHO	606	28	427	70.46%	60.90
41	MONTANA	1,160	57	813	70.09%	66.93
42	KANSAS	6,424	388	4,430	68.96%	64.21
43	UTAH	492	33	336	68.29%	58.49
44	ARIZONA	7,566	534	5,141	67.95%	56.49
45	TEXAS	5,425	418	3,651	67.30%	57.19
46	VIRGINIA	4,023	407	2,610	64.88%	56.46
47	ALASKA	1,560	164	1,006	64.49%	51.61
48	COLORADO	2,632	301	1,673	63.56%	54.04
49	WASHINGTON	2,086	251	1,314	62.99%	51.71
50	NEW JERSEY	9,211	1,147	5,761	62.54%	56.56
51	KENTUCKY	2,648	349	1,637	61.82%	52.85
52	MISSISSIPPI	795	134	462	58.11%	45.50
53	NEW MEXICO	1,261	216	730	57.89%	45.38
54	PHILIPPINES	66	13	37	56.06%	53.85
55	FRANCE	233	54	121	51.93%	51.56
Grand Totals:		356,725	-696	268,240	75.20%	67.94



National Convention Committee

Allen J. Watry (WI), Chairman

awatry@mindspring.com

Meetings held as necessary

Call in # (857) 2320159

Access Code: 962347

Public and Media Communications Commission

Matthew F. Parsons (CA), Chairman

matt.f.parsons@gmail.com

Fourth Monday of Each Month

5:00 p.m. Pacific Time/9:00 p.m. Eastern Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9831747351?pwd=b3VFMmNEVkhN2lqTE5EbFQ5YUxQQTo9>

[FMmNEVkhN2lqTE5EbFQ5YUxQQTo9](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9831747351?pwd=b3VFMmNEVkhN2lqTE5EbFQ5YUxQQTo9)

Meeting ID: 983 174 7351

Passcode: SAL

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

Sorry about the delay getting this one out.

ECONOMY: "U.S. EMPLOYERS CONFRONT HIGHEST LABOR COSTS IN 20 YEARS, FUELING INFLATION. The cost of hiring new employees and retaining existing ones in the na-

tion's tight labor market is growing at nearly its fastest pace in a generation. That is helping to fuel inflation as employers pass labor costs to customers."

ECONOMIC NEWS RELEASE: See the latest unemployment numbers.

EMPLOYMENT & TRANSITION: "TRANSITIONING FROM MILITARY SERVICE? EMPLOYMENT NAVIGATORS CAN HELP". How the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (known as VETS) helps.

"¿DID YOU KNOW?" "US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR LAUNCHES NEW MONTHLY SERIES OF WORKSHOPS TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE TO TRANSITIONING MILITARY SPOUSES".

STAFF MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES ON EMPLOYMENT TOPICS: Read about what your Veterans Employment and Education Commission has been involved with!

EDUCATION, LICENSING & CREDENTIALING: "HOUSE VOTES TO EXPAND GI BENEFITS FOR NATIONAL GUARD, RESERVE TROOPS".

"STAFF MEETINGS ON EDUCATION TOPICS": Read about what the National Veterans Employment and Education Commission has been involved with!

PRESS RELEASE - "VETERANS, ACTIVE DUTY CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM".

HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING: "BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION TAKING ACTION TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS." "VETERANS VICTORY BREAKS GROUND ON HOUSING, BUSINESS EDUCATION CAMPUS."

STAFF MEETINGS ON HOMELESS TOPICS: "VA ANNOUNCES NEW SSVF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY."

SMALL BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING: "VETERANS VICTORY BREAKS GROUND ON HOUSING, BUSINESS EDUCATION CAMPUS." "SBA ANNOUNCES \$3M CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM."

CAREER FAIRS – Go to www.legion.com/careers to access current and future career fair activity.

LEGISLATION TRACKING/ ACTION TAKEN ON LEGISLATION - Summary of legislation pending and action taken.

RESOURCE PAGE: About TANGO, ALPHA, LI-MA Podcast, Publications, Awards Program

"SERVICES THAT REALLY HELP" MORE STORIES

Thank You for all that you do!

Memorabilia Needed ***DEADLINE APPROACHING***

The SAL 50th Convention Committee is seeking memorabilia from past conventions in advance of this year's milestone event. All SAL members are welcome to donate or lend items to SAL Historian Bill Towns. He can be reached at docbill@neo.rr.com.

The committee is looking for:

- Pictures of PNCs both in office and after office.
- Convention activities.
- Convention badges, VIP badges, pins, and coins.
- Convention newsletters, programs, and documents.
- Any other memorabilia related to any of the past SAL national conventions.

The committee also has a special request for photos from The American Legion's 60th national convention of members posing to form the number 60.

In addition, all SAL PNCs are asked to complete a questionnaire about their term. The fillable questionnaire is available for download at this [link](#). Please return the completed questionnaire to Towns at docbill@neo.rr.com.

IF WE DON'T TEACH THEM, HOW WILL THEY KNOW?

by Jeff Vrabel, Sr.



REGIONAL UPDATES



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

JOIN

DONATE

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*

What a busy weekend it has been so far, and its only halfway over.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to attend the annual Paschall Squadron 164 Valentine's Day Steak Fry. Along with an awesome steak dinner, there were raffles and entertainment. Not only was this dinner about celebrating Valentine's Day, it was a fundraiser for the Child Welfare Foundation.



Paschall Squadron 164 Dinner Crew (l to r) PSC Mike McCune, First Vice-Commander Jason Clark, Adjutant PDC Jon Coakley, Commander PDC Dan Finnell, Sgt.-at-Arms Curt Long, Second Vice-Commander Kevin Carpenter, and Mike Flannigan.

After the dinner, I had the honor to officiate the wedding of Renee Glover and Neal Newsome. The outdoor event at the George Edge Music Park on Broadway in Grove City, Ohio's Town Center was attended by family and friends. There was a party



after at one of the local pubs to celebrate the newlyweds. One of their daughters, Breana, is married to Tayshaun Thornton who proudly serves in the United States Army. Congratulations goes out to Renee & Neal!

The next stop for Mary and I was to Don Gentile Post 532 for its Valentine's Day Dance. The 70's themed event was sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 532 and American Legion Riders Chapter 532.



WHO DEY!

Today will continue with visits at both Posts as we celebrate Super Bowl Sunday, and cheer on the Cincinnati Bengals as they will be playing to bring the franchise and the state of Ohio its first Super Bowl Championship.

Even though the weekend will be over, Mary and I will celebrate Valentine's Day and our 23rd Anniversary tomorrow. What a busy weekend it has and continues to be.

Once again, the Central Region finds itself in the lead with 76.21% of our members paid. As we know, this includes renewals and new members. It also means that 23.79%, or 29,726 members have not renewed. Nationally, there are 88,485 members who have not renewed yet. On Valentine's Day weekend, this is a very disturbing number.

When you look at the membership numbers you will see many remarkable things. In the Central Region, all eight of our Detachments are at or above 72%, with two already over 80%. Nationally, forty-one Detachments are above 70%, with Hawai'i and Puerto Rico at or above quota.

These are all remarkable accomplishments, and each and every Detachment is to be commended for its efforts, but we are by no means done. We all need to make sure that we reach out to these 88,485 members and see what we can do to get them renewed. Unfortunately, some of these members are no longer with us, and our recruiting efforts will help fill those voids.

The next few weeks will be crucial. As we head toward The American Legion birthday on March 15, we will pass a national target date on March 9 where we should be at 80%. Let's not wait, let's collectively hit that mark by the end of the month. That's two weeks to get as many members renewed and recruited as possible.

If we can get a 5% increase by the end of the month and a 5% increase by March 15, we will be well past our target and on our way to quota. It is possible, but it will take a lot of work. In the words of Past National Commander Clint Bolt, a key to our success is to "recruit, retain, and reinstate" our members. Let's see how we all do over the next two weeks.

Our successes are many, and we as an organization continue our hard work for our veterans, children, communities, states, and nation. Let's continue to grow and to get our name out in the public as we continue honoring the veteran who made you eligible. We are proud possessors of a priceless heritage! **Who's next?**

On January 29, the Western Region Rendezvous was held in Las Vegas. As you will read in National Vice-Commander Jim Stewart's column, the event was filled with great training and great camaraderie. Congratulate Jim Stewart and the West Region for another successful Western Region Rendezvous!

Don't forget that the Central Region Monthly Conference Call will be held on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. eastern. Everyone is welcome to join via the link or numbers below.

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

The following Jeff's have been added to the list:

Jeff Vrabel, Sr.
Jeff Trout
Jeff Vrabel, Jr.
Jeff Sherwood
Jeff Van Horn

Invite more SAL Jeff's to email me and watch for a big announcement soon.



**PROUD POSSESSORS
OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**

2022 Central Region Membership Report

2022 MEMBERSHIP					02/09/22
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase
1 Central 4, 6	124,977	95,251	29,726	76.21%	1,210
2 Eastern 6	136,233	103,299	32,934	75.83%	1,015
3 Southern 3, 4, 5, 6	42,593	32,143	10,450	75.47%	235
4 Midwest 3, 4	28,508	20,672	7,836	72.51%	166
5 Western 4	24,414	16,875	7,539	69.12%	66
TOTALS	356,725	268,240	88,485	75.20%	2,692

Membership ahead/behind prior year target date N/A

Central Region - Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH)						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank
1 Iowa 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,571	3,715	856	81.27%	57	11
2 Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	3,914	3,165	749	80.86%	-	12
3 Michigan 1, 5, 6	21,985	17,557	4,428	79.86%	248	16
7 Minnesota 1, 4, 5	11,091	8,746	2,345	78.86%	510	18
4 Ohio 1, 4, 5, 6	29,946	23,017	6,929	76.86%	281	24
5 Illinois 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	13,602	10,240	3,362	75.28%	8	28
6 Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3,211	2,405	806	74.90%	13	31
8 Indiana 1	36,657	26,406	10,251	72.04%	93	37
TOTALS	120,406	91,536	28,870	76.02%	1,153	

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% - DATE REVISED TO 02/16/22
- 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
Iowa	4,571	3,715	856	81.27%	154.47%
Wisconsin	3,914	3,165	749	80.86%	3.46%
Iowa	4,571	3,715	856	81.27%	4.06%
Missouri	3,211	2,392	2,405	74.49%	2.61%
TOTALS	11,696	9,272	4,010	79.27%	10.13%

White Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Illinois	13,602	10,240	3,362	75.28%	11.19%
Minnesota	11,091	8,746	2,345	78.86%	9.55%
TOTALS	13,602	10,240	3,362	75.28%	11.19%

Blue Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Michigan	21,985	17,557	4,428	79.86%	19.18%
Ohio	29,946	23,017	6,929	76.86%	25.15%
Indiana	36,657	26,406	10,251	72.04%	28.85%
TOTALS	66,603	49,423	17,180	74.21%	53.99%

Valentine's Day Word Search

c g f l o w e r s i p
j s w e e t h e a r t
e f p a c u p i d a e
v h o i k a c p s r t
a o g u y h e a r t s
l o v e r r d e g o f
e k r a p t r r o w r
n r i r o s e s p x i
t o h s d r d e i r e
i s u h s p i n n h n
n r g a r e l l k t d
e o s c h o s r o s h
s w e e r t s f r i e
v c h o c o l a t e k

valentine red roses
arrow fourteen friend
cupid hugs flowers
hearts chocolate sweetheart
love pink kisses

2022 Central Region Renewal Report

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.

	Detachment	Renewal %
1	Iowa	75.90%
2	Wisconsin	74.61%
3	Minnesota	72.95%
4	Ohio	71.38%
5	Illinois	70.34%
6	Michigan	68.63%
7	Indiana	67.44%
8	Missouri	66.87%
	NATIONAL	67.94%





RICHARD HUNTLEY
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
EASTERN REGION 2021-2022

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#

Eastern Region - Richard "Dickie" L. Huntley, Jr. (ME)			
Detachment	Goal	Total	Percent
DIST OF COL	92	81	88.04%
RHODE ISLAND	316	274	86.71%
VERMONT	3,576	2,947	82.41%
DELAWARE	2,229	1,827	81.97%
MARYLAND	15,533	12,468	80.27%
CONNECTICUT	1,820	1,459	80.16%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,074	4,018	79.19%
PENNSYLVANIA	58,902	46,126	78.31%
MAINE	2,482	1,935	77.96%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,336	4,006	75.07%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,183	1,591	72.88%
NEW YORK	29,246	20,685	70.73%
NEW JERSEY	9,211	5,761	62.54%
FRANCE	233	121	51.93%
Totals:	136,233	103,299	75.83%

as of February 9, 2022

Cookies for our Troops

submitted by Rusty Myers, Adjutant
 SAL Squadron 105
rusty.myers@ymail.com
 February 8, 2022

BELLEVILLE, NJ – American Legion Post 105 and Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 105 made the day a little sweeter by buying and donating 120 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to our overseas-deployed troops and our veterans.

As they do every year, Girl Scouts around the country sell cookies as their biggest annual fundraiser. This is the case for Girl Scout Troops 20122 and 20462, both of Nutley, who have sold cookies for the past four years at Post 105. One of the options each year for anyone buying cookies is to donate boxes to be sent to our deployed troops.

Since 2018, the Post 105 Family has annually voted on buying and donating cookies to send to those in uniform who can't be home during 'cookie season'. This year, in their largest donation yet, SAL 105 voted to double their purchase from last year, donating four cases to our troops – 48 boxes of cookies – which ended up costing over \$200. American Legion Post 105 generously met that donation, bringing it up to eight cases overall.

In addition to that donation, SAL 105 purchased an additional \$200 worth of cookies for a project run by SAL 105 Adjutant Rusty Myers, who is also the SAL Detachment of NJ Children and Youth Commissioner, which will be completed in April during American Legion Children and Youth month. Scouts from both Nutley troops, in addition to other local Girl Scout troops, will be delivering those cookies to veterans at VA hospitals and facilities throughout Essex County and New Jersey.

In total, this year our troops and veterans get to enjoy over 100 boxes of Thin Mints, Do-si-do's, Tag-alongs, and an assortment of all of the other delicious cookies we all look forward to each year. This year's ultimate donation to feed the sweet tooth of our current and former servicemen from the 105 Family ended up being \$600.

The hope is that each bite of a Somoa or a Trefoil cookie reminds the troops of how much the American Legion 105 Family appreciates and values what they do.

Girl Scout Junior Grace Myers of Troop 20122 and Cadette Abigail Myers of Troop 20462 accepted the donation on January 31st, while also making the

rounds selling their cookies to everyone else at the Post. There is no shortage of people who look forward to getting their cookies each year, as well as no shortage of people who are generous enough to donate cookies to the serviceman on their own.

The Girl Scouts of the United States of America states that “When you buy delicious Girl Scout Cookies, you’re helping girls fund life-changing programs, experiences, and learning for themselves and their troops all year long. These experiences broaden their worlds, teach them essential skills, and launch them into a lifetime of success.” The girls not only win badges, awards, and incentives based on how many cookies they sell, the process from selling to delivering the cookies imparts on the scouts a sense of responsibility and people skills, as well as the value of goal setting and entrepreneurship.



JUAN TORRES
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
MIDWEST REGION 2021-2022

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



(l to r) American Legion Post 105 First Vice-Commander Walter LaBar, SAL 105 Adjutant Rusty Myers, Troop 20122 Junior Grace Myers, SAL 105 Commander Steve Sangemino, Troop 20462 Cadette Abigail Myers, and Post 105 Commander Joe Cobianni.



Troop 20122 Junior Grace Myers and Troop 20462 Cadette Abigail Myers.

Midwest Region - Juan R. Torres (TX)			
Detachment	Goal	Total	Percent
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,052	1,001	95.15%
MEXICO	26	23	88.46%
NORTH DAKOTA	916	764	83.41%
NEBRASKA	6,959	5,615	80.69%
OKLAHOMA	1,380	1,028	74.49%
WYOMING	1,273	944	74.16%
MONTANA	1,160	813	70.09%
KANSAS	6,424	4,430	68.96%
TEXAS	5,425	3,651	67.30%
COLORADO	2,632	1,673	63.56%
NEW MEXICO	1,261	730	57.89%
Totals:	28,508	20,672	72.51%

as of February 9, 2022





JASON ROBERTS
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
SOUTHERN REGION 2021-2022

roberts.jason215@gmail.com



JIM STEWART
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
WEST REGION 2021-2022

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)

Southern Region - Jason S. Roberts (GA)			
Detachment	Goal	Total	Percent
PUERTO RICO	88	93	105.68%
ALABAMA	2,020	1,673	82.82%
FLORIDA	20,745	16,252	78.34%
GEORGIA	4,316	3,344	77.48%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,619	2,015	76.94%
LOUISIANA	1,808	1,389	76.83%
TENNESSEE	1,681	1,282	76.26%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,382	1,040	75.25%
ARKANSAS	468	346	73.93%
VIRGINIA	4,023	2,610	64.88%
KENTUCKY	2,648	1,637	61.82%
MISSISSIPPI	795	462	58.11%
Totals:	42,593	32,143	75.47%

as of February 9, 2022

Western Region - L. Jim Stewart (NV)			
Detachment	Goal	Total	Percent
HAWAII	49	56	114.29%
OREGON	1,317	995	75.55%
NEVADA	334	242	72.46%
CALIFORNIA	10,338	7,321	70.82%
IDAHO	606	427	70.46%
UTAH	492	336	68.29%
ARIZONA	7,566	5,141	67.95%
ALASKA	1,560	1,006	64.49%
WASHINGTON	2,086	1,314	62.99%
PHILIPPINES	66	37	56.06%
Totals:	24,414	16,875	69.12%

as of February 9, 2022

Sons of The American Legion Western Rendezvous VIII

January 29, 2022
Tuscany Suites & Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada

The Western Region held its annual Western Rendezvous for the eighth time. This year's training was on Leadership – Kodiak Style. What is Kodiak? It is a leadership course developed by the Boy Scouts of America for their senior Scouts, Venturers (ages 14 to 21). Since our organization includes young men aspiring to be leaders, we need to ensure that our training captures their attention. The BSA has been training young adults to be leaders for over one hundred years. There were six of the ten Detachments represented at this year's session. Each Detachment was given the materials from the training so they can share with their own Squadrons.

On Friday night, there was a Social Gathering held at the local Pub 365 to have everyone meet, socialize, share stories, and just have fun with no worries of internal politics and aggravations. There had to be two dozen people or more at the gathering and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. So much so, that many carried their conversations beyond the three hours. What a great way to start the weekend!

During the same weekend, The American Legion Auxiliary also held a training session at the same hotel as in years past. We were graced with the presence of The American Legion National Vice-Commander Western Region Jim Higuera, the American Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Daudistel, and ALA Western Division National Vice-President Toni Gimpel.



TAL National Vice Commander-Western Region Jim Higuera (CA), ALA Western Division National Vice President Toni Gimpel (ID), ALA National President Kathy Daudistel (KY) SAL National Vice Commander-Western Region Jim Stewart (NV)

We also had two surprise guests from Indiana; SAL Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton and SAL Past National Commander David Stephens. Their participation and insight was greatly appreciated.



Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton (IN) & PNC David Stephens (IN)

This year, the ALA and the SAL held a Joint Luncheon which was a wonderful opportunity for the Legion Family to enjoy each other's company.





Joint ALA & SAL Luncheon



The Leadership training consisted of four elements of Leadership; ***Shared Vision of Success, Planning, Communication, and Team Development.*** The participants were randomly split up into teams. Each segment had a lesson, then everyone participated in several activities that would demonstrate the segment’s lesson. After each activity, a reflection discussion was held to go over what worked and what didn’t work during the activity and how the activity provided a model of the segment. As the day progressed, the teams began to realize that the lessons were building upon each other for one final goal, Teamwork! It is through a Shared Vision of Success, Planning, Proper Communication, we can achieve “Teamwork.” With Teamwork, we all can have Success!



Detachment of Washington Alternate NEC Bob Clark, PDC & NEC John Clark



Detachment of Nevada Alternate NEC David Sousa, PDC & Commander Shawn Horton

We also had a discussion group on Membership led by the Western Region Membership Chair Jack Youngs. We discussed best practices and things

that did not work. We shared ideas on possible events and activities to encourage renewals. While recruitment of new members is a critical part of membership, particularly to make up the number of members leaving the organization, we must find ways to keep the members we already have. Stop the bleeding by closing that back door!

We also discussed that we need to change the mindset that renewing is done after the first of the year. That is totally incorrect. We must change and renew PRIOR to the year starting! We must have our renewals done in the Fall. We also discussed the Squadron Data Reports (SDR), the Consolidated Squadron Reports (CSR) and the Officer Certification Form (OCF). These are critical reports that each and EVERY Squadron must complete and turn in each year.

We discussed the continuation of the Western Redezvous even though Past Oregon NEC Willy Williams has passed away. It was decided that we will keep Willy's legacy alive by renaming the event to "**Wild Willy's Western Redezvous**"! This is for you Willy! God be with you!

The other topic that was covered during the discussion group was the **Flying Flags for Heroes** project. Each participant was given a US Flag and was charged to place the flag at their relatives grave that gave them their eligibility. We discussed how to record the information onto the website and reminded them that it does not need to be a National holiday for them to have an FFFH ceremony. Any time is also appropriate.

The weekend ended with everyone departing to their separate homes carrying with them the training and knowledge offered at the Western Redezvous, along with the shared camaraderie and new found friendships. Can't wait for next year's **Wild Willy's Western Redezvous**!

CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED

Round-Up is looking for help from regular contributors to make this publication better. The job is simple, author an article, provide pictures, reports, etc. It does not matter where you live or what Detachment you are from.

Please email me at jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com if you are interested and I will get you started.

Thanks in advance for your consideration!



Squadron Everlasting

Please email information to jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com to include a member.



MICHAEL FOX
NATIONAL COMMANDER
2021-2022

