



Round-Up

A Newsletter of Sons of The American Legion



Volume 3 – Issue 123 – March 6, 2022

Sons visit Nation's Capital



On Sunday, February 27, 2022, sixty-six members of Sons of The American Legion and family, representing seventeen Detachments, met in Washington, DC with the common purpose of honoring our veterans.

The morning son found them placing twenty-two wreaths around the District, including at the World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Wall, and at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Afterwards, as a show of respect, they all gathered at Glenwood Cemetery and placed 200 American flags on the grave of veterans.



National Vice-Commander Jason Roberts, National Vice-Commander Dickie Huntley, National Commander Michael Fox, National Vice-Commander Jim Stewart, and National Vice-Commander Jeff Vrabel, Sr. at the Washington Hilton.

Photo by Jeff Thorn, Historian Detachment Maryland



National Commander Michael Fox and Past National Vice-Commander Ned Fox at the World War II Memorial.

Photo by Jeff Thorn, Historian Detachment Maryland



Photo by Jeff Thorn, Historian Detachment Maryland



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#SALSTRONG

A Publication of Sons of The American Legion

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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. 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](#)



National Vice-Commander Dickie Huntley, National Commander Michael Fox, National Vice-Commander Jeff Vrabel, Sr., and National Vice-Commander Jason Roberts at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Photo by Jeff Thorn, Historian Detachment Maryland



Past National Vice-Commander Ned Fox assisting National Commander Michael Fox place a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Photo by Jeff Thorn, Historian Detachment Maryland



An American flag placed on the grave of PFC James Kelsey during the Flying Flags For Heroes event.

Photo by Jeff Thorn, Historian Detachment Maryland

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

TARGET DATE



March 9, 2022

AMERICAN LEGION

The causes and consequences of Putin's war

By Alan W. Dowd
MAR 03, 2022

Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine -- the largest military attack on a European country since World War II -- raises a number of questions about causes and consequences of this crisis.

How did we get here? Putin calls the collapse of the USSR "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the (20th) century." The end of the USSR meant the loss of Russian control over vast territories (including the Baltics, Ukraine, and Georgia), the loss of Moscow's European buffer zone (embodied by the Warsaw Pact), and the loss of Moscow's equal footing with great powers. As his December [diktat](#) made clear, Putin wants to reacquire as many of those trappings of Russia's old empire as possible. NATO and an independent Ukraine stand in the way of that goal.

Putin has long been considered a mentally balanced, if ruthless, actor on the world stage. But his views on Ukraine's sovereignty and NATO's eastward expansion suggest that he's drifted into fantasy.

Consider Putin's claims that NATO expansion violated agreements at the end of the Cold War. None other than [Mikhail Gorbachev](#) counters, "The topic of NATO expansion was not discussed at all" as the Cold War thawed.

Nor did NATO act aggressively. In fact, before Russia's 2014 invasion of Ukraine, the alliance downgraded defense spending and shelved deterrent assets. The 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 U.S. tank](#) from Europe in 2013. That same year, [Britain](#) began shutting down its garrison in Germany. By 2014, Germany fielded just 300 tanks, down from 2,125 in the 1980s. Despite all that, Putin [demanded in December](#) that

NATO close its [open door](#), rewind history, and effectively turn Central Europe and the Baltics into a neutral zone.



A street in downtown Kharkiv, Ukraine, is destroyed by Russian bombardment March 1.

In an effort to delegitimize his neighbor, Putin began [calling](#) Ukraine "Novorossiia," a czarist-era term for Ukraine's Russian-speaking regions. He [complained](#) that the collapse of the USSR meant "Russian territories with a historically Russian population, primarily in Ukraine, had found themselves living outside Russia," calling Ukraine "an integral part of our own history, culture." He also [claimed](#) Nazis control Ukraine's government, and accused Ukraine of building "an anti-Russia" and "stockpiling the latest weapons ... imagine how Russia must live."

Putin's claims would be laughable if cities weren't burning because of his alternate history.

[Ukraine](#) was independent after World War I. Its sovereignty has been internationally recognized since 1991. Ukraine's [president](#), Volodymyr Zelensky, is Jewish; his grandfather fought the Nazi invasion of Ukraine.

As for Ukraine being a threat to Russia, it was Russia that invaded Ukraine in 2014 and 2022. Russia has a population of 145 million, 1.4 million men under arms, a \$61.7 billion military budget and 4,500 nuclear warheads. Ukraine has a population of 44 million, less than 300,000 troops, 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 "sovereignty" and "existing borders." That's a reminder that Putin -- like his Soviet predecessors, like Hitler -- doesn't keep his word.

Ukraine's real sin against Putin was daring to throw off pro-Putin leaders, choose democratic government, and turn to Western institutions. "Putin has started a war of aggression in cold blood for one reason," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz explains. "The freedom of the Ukrainian people calls his own oppressive regime into question."

What is NATO's role? Ukraine is not a member of [NATO](#), which explains why the alliance didn't directly intervene to defend Ukraine this year or in 2014. This is a harsh reminder that there are limits to NATO's reach and role today, just as there were when Moscow sent tanks to crush Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968.

While Ukraine falls outside NATO's mandate, the principles at stake in Putin's war -- the sovereignty of Europe's nations and what NATO's [founding document](#) calls the "stability and ... security of the North Atlantic area" -- definitely do not. That explains NATO's long-overdue recommitment to deterrence.

NATO is a defensive alliance designed to deter war, not wage it. If Putin is not convinced that NATO's [all-for-one defense guarantee](#) applies to every member, he will attempt in the Baltics or Poland what he has done in Ukraine. That would force NATO to blink or fire back. Both options are terrible. One leads to a NATO-Russia war, the other to the unraveling of NATO -- and with it, the entire global security architecture.

To avoid those outcomes, the United States has deployed bomber and fighter aircraft to [Britain](#), [Germany](#), [Poland](#), [Estonia](#), and [Romania](#); [attack helicopters](#) to the Baltics and Poland; [7,000 soldiers](#) to Germany; and thousands of troops to [Poland](#), [800](#) to the Baltics, and hundreds more to [Hungary](#), [Bulgaria](#), and [Romania](#). In addition, Washington has approved a long-delayed [sale](#) of 250 M1A2 tanks to Poland, and surged USS *Harry S. Truman* to join [Italian and French carriers](#) in the northern Mediterranean.

Britain has deployed [hundreds](#) of troops to Poland and tanks to the Baltics, [doubled](#) its troop commitment in Estonia, and based fighter-bombers in Romania and Poland. Canada has deployed [hundreds](#) of troops to [Latvia](#). [Germany](#) has sent troops to reinforce its contingent in Lithuania. France has deployed troops to [Romania](#). Denmark rushed F-16s to [Lithuania](#). [Dutch](#) F-35s and [Spanish](#) Eurofighters deployed to Bulgaria.

And NATO has [activated](#) its multinational rapid-response force for the first time in history.

In a stunning reversal, [Germany](#) announced it is increasing defense spending to [2% of GDP](#), something [NATO](#) has been begging Berlin to do since 2006. Germany also unveiled a massive [\\$112.7 billion rearmament fund](#).

Berlin's extraordinary 180 is an early indication that most NATO nations will increase defense spending. In addition, NATO will likely expand, perhaps by year's end. Momentum for NATO membership has been building in Finland and [Sweden](#). The invasion of Ukraine has [added fuel](#) to those efforts.

What does the future hold for Ukraine? The United States has shipped antitank systems, [Stinger](#) anti-aircraft missiles and grenade launchers to Ukraine. [Britain](#) has delivered antitank missiles. [Poland](#) and the [Balts](#) have sent anti-aircraft and antitank weapons. [Turkey](#) has delivered UCAVs. [Germany](#) -- in yet another stunning reversal -- is rushing 1,000 antitank weapons and 500 Stingers. All told, [28 countries](#) are shipping military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

DefenseNews [reports](#) Ukraine is disseminating those weapons to 209,000 active-duty personnel, 60,000 National Guardsmen, a [Territorial Defense Force](#) of several thousand and an [army of citizen-soldiers](#) numbering into the hundreds of thousands. In addition, thousands of volunteers are flowing into Ukraine to serve in the [just-formed](#) International Legion of the Ukrainian Army.

These weapons and volunteers may not be enough to preserve Ukraine. With tens of thousands of Russian troops within its borders, Ukraine is not only maimed but badly mismatched.

Ukraine's [Churchillian](#) leader and courageous [people](#) have proven themselves to be tenacious warriors, earning NATO's admiration -- and if they survive the hell Putin has unleashed, a seat at NATO's table. But Putin's ruthlessness -- and Russia's sheer mass -- will likely overwhelm Ukraine, especially as Putin [targets](#) civilians and [employs](#) the beastly scorched-earth tactics he refined in Chechnya and Syria.

Yet even if Kiev falls, there's every [indication](#) weapons will keep flowing into a Putin-occupied Ukraine. Congress is working on

a [\\$6.4 billion aid package](#). NATO is delivering weapons [overland](#). [Arms shipments](#) are flowing to the Poland-Ukraine border. And the Army's 18th Airborne Corps is working with allies to establish an "international donor coordination center" to deliver weapons.

Will sanctions have an impact? The United States, Britain, Canada, the EU and Japan [disconnected Russian banks](#) from SWIFT, the global system that enables financial transfers between banks. Those same partners lobbed [heavy sanctions](#) against Russia's largest financial institutions, targeted sanctions against Putin and named Russian oligarchs, and export-control measures to block access to high-tech products.

This barrage of financial counterstrikes sent the Russian ruble crashing to its lowest-ever exchange rate, triggered a run on Russia's [banks](#) and made [Russia's stock market](#) "uninvestable."

In addition, [the United States](#), Britain, the EU and Canada closed their [airspace](#) to Russian aircraft. Russian [cargo ships](#) have been seized. And multinational firms and associations have piled on: BP, Shell, American Airlines and Maersk have withdrawn from multi-billion partnerships with Russian firms. [Apple](#) suspended sales in, and exports to, Russia. [Facebook](#) blocked access to Russian propaganda platforms. Disney, Paramount, Universal and other studios [suspended](#) movie releases in Russia. The NHL, FIFA and F1 cut ties with Russia.

To further weaken Putin's war machine, Washington could stop importing oil from Russia, which accounts for [7%](#) of U.S. petroleum imports. To offset that loss, Washington could unleash U.S. industry to tap America's vast energy endowment -- [264 billion barrels](#) of proven oil reserves, [327 trillion](#) cubic feet of natural gas in the Outer Continental Shelf, [3 trillion barrels](#) of oil-shale deposits -- and flood the international market with American energy.

As Gen. Martin Dempsey, former Joint Chiefs chairman, [observes](#), Washington must view "energy as an instrument of national power." But this would require a dramatic shift in the administration's [drive](#) for green energy and [pursuit](#) of climate-change goals.

Will the war have an impact elsewhere? Putin's criminal invasion of Ukraine and the consequences flowing from it -- the human and economic costs, the geopolitical fallout, the security ramifica-

tions -- offer a glimpse of what lies ahead if Xi Jinping tries to take Taiwan.

Xi must be made to understand that attempting in Taiwan what Putin has done in Ukraine will lead not to victory parades and an ascendant legacy, but to his soldiers in body bags, his military machinery in tatters, his regime reduced to pariah status.

Indeed, Ukraine's defenders have shown Taipei and Beijing how a small nation with the right mix of weapons can hobble a full-spectrum military power -- and how a citizenry and political leadership adept at leveraging technology can win a global information war.

Once thought to have a mastery of misinformation, Russia lost the information war in the first hours of the invasion. Ukrainians have tweeted [texts](#) from confused Russian conscripts trying to make sense of an invasion they knew nothing about, viralized gun-camera footage of drones blasting Russian convoys, livestreamed video of [dazed Russian POWs](#) and [abandoned Russian tanks](#), publicized [Russian casualty figures](#), produced YouTube clips of a mythic [Ukrainian pilot](#) purportedly now an ace, weaponized cellphone photos of Russian atrocities, and, of course, juxtaposed the unscripted images of Zelensky defending Kiev shoulder-to-shoulder with his countrymen against choreographed scenes of a paranoid [Putin](#) figuratively and literally isolated.

What's the future hold for Putin?

Whether Putin wins or loses Ukraine's territory, he has lost the war beyond Ukraine. Putin has catastrophically underestimated his enemies, overestimated his military, self-sabotaged his geopolitical position, revitalized NATO and corroded his rule.

Ukraine's guerilla-conventional hybrid force is bleeding Russia's conscript army. Respected news [sources](#) report Putin has lost [5,000](#) dead, hundreds captured, more than 100 tanks, dozens of aircraft -- in less than two weeks. The military embarrassment and military costs Putin has sustained could prove as devastating as Moscow's 1979 assault on Afghanistan.

What's likely more troubling for Putin is the cascade of economic and geopolitical consequences triggered by his war.

As noted, the economic costs for Putin's subjects and crony kleptocrats may prove incalculable. Russia faces a level of international isolation beyond

anything the USSR -- with its bloc of satellites -- ever endured. It seems unlikely Russia will be brought in from the cold until Putin's gone.

Michael McFaul, former U.S. ambassador to Russia, [believes](#) the invasion of Ukraine "marks the beginning of the end of Putin's dictatorship." Russia's people, oligarchs or army could hasten that end. There have been [antiwar protests](#) in [Russia](#). Some [oligarchs](#) have publicly opposed Putin's war. But the oligarchs' words have no real impact on Putin. The people's protests aren't large enough to topple Putin. And whether the oligarchs or the people move against Putin, they will need the generals.

Alan W. Dowd is a senior fellow with the Sagamore Institute. He writes the Landing Zone column at legion.org/landingzone.



American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Director Katie Purswell speaks during a press conference hosted by House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mark Takano (D-Calif.) at the House Triangle in Washington, D.C., on March 2, 2022 to highlight the urgent need to pass the Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2021 or Honoring our PACT Act on the House floor.

Photo by Jason Andrew

In support of veterans exposed to burn pits

By [Mackenzie Wolf](#)
MAR 03, 2022

It's time to increase support to veterans linked to toxic exposure during their service, a contingent of American Legion members, congressional representatives and activists called for during a press conference March 2 at the Capitol.

Participants included Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.; Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs (HVAC) Mark Takano, D-Calif.; and Reps. Raul Ruiz, D-Calif., and Elaine Lu-

ria, D-Va.; activists such as Jon Stewart and other Veterans Service Organizations. They were united in advocating for support of the *Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2021* — also known as the *Honoring Our PACT Act*. "Without hesitation, our veterans raised their right hand to protect and defend this nation and many are now sick as a result of that service," Takano said. "We made a pact with these individuals. A pact, I am afraid to say, we have not yet honored."

He says the sweeping legislation will address the full spectrum of issues affecting toxic-exposed veterans' access to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) care and benefits, while also reforming VA's presumptive decision-making process.

The bill would streamline access to health-care benefits for those who served in areas of known toxic exposure, regardless of disability status, and provide health care for potentially as many as 3.5 million veterans exposed to airborne hazards and burn pits. Additionally, the *Honoring Our PACT Act* would establish a presumption of service connection for over 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers.

Katie Purswell, director of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation for The American Legion, said the conversation on toxic exposures is not new to the nation's largest VSO. The American Legion has led a decades-long fight for service-connected disability benefits from Agent Orange and other toxic exposures from Vietnam.

Toxic smoke and fumes from burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan included medical and human waste, jet fuel, chemicals, metal, munitions and unexploded ordnance, petroleum and lubricant products, plastics, Styrofoam and more.

"I struggle to think of a single person that I deployed with who may not have been exposed, at some point, to toxins while deployed," Purswell said. "While it was our decision to raise our hands and fight our nation's wars for those who cannot or will not, what we didn't know was that our long-lasting health issues might not even begin to show during our time in service."

Purswell said The American Legion is encouraging Congress to pass the PACT act.

"From burn pits to black goo; in areas from Balad to Kandahar, the extent of the damage done to us will not be known for decades to come," Purswell

said. “The American Legion will not stand idly by and allow the delay of health care for our nation’s veterans to happen again. We cannot wait decades for this generation of war fighters. We must learn from our mistakes and act now.”

Stewart, who joined 9/11 first responder John Feal in advocating for veterans’ toxic exposure legislation after helping pass permanent legislation to aid 9/11 first responders, said he can feel the hope on Capitol Hill among those who want to see this legislation passed.

“Last night, they were seen,” he said, referring to President Biden’s [State of the Union address](#). “The president of the United States saw their struggle. The learning curve in this country for how we treat our veterans when they come home from war is so painfully slow. The pace is unacceptable, and you feel it today. I have been waiting for this day for them.”

It’s an issue that affects veterans from deployments throughout the world.

“Veterans from Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Djibouti, Guam and all over the world are trying to get the government to recognize that the true cost of war is the consequence of their service and sacrifice when they get home,” added Stewart.

Danielle Robinson, one of the president’s guests at the State of the Union, was also present on Capitol Hill. She is the widow of Army National Guard Sgt. Heath Robinson, who after deploying to Kosovo and Iraq as a combat medic with the Ohio National Guard, was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disorder and stage 4 lung cancer. He died in May 2020, leaving behind his wife and daughter, Brielle. As Robison was getting ready for Tuesday’s State of the Union, she received a call from the memorial company that laid her husband’s headstone.

“They told me his headstone was placed yesterday. The same day that I would be coming to Washington to honor him and honor all these veterans who have been suffering for so long,” she said. “If that isn’t a sign, then I don’t know what is.”

The legislation has the support of 42 VSOs and more than 100 co-sponsors in Congress. American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard reaffirmed The American Legion’s support of the Honoring our PACT Act to Takano, saying urgent action is needed when it comes to providing veterans access to the necessary health care.

“Veterans exposed to toxic burn pits have waited far too long for the presumption of service connection to be established,” said Dillard. “This is why the American Legion supports H.R. 3967 – the *Honoring our PACT Act of 2021* which provides a comprehensive framework to improve the presumptive process for burn pit veterans. Urgent action is needed to ensure that veterans have access to the care they need and have earned.”

Pelosi called the legislation a “cost of war that we should recognize when we go [to war].”

Ruiz, who is an emergency room physician, said delaying the passage of this critical legislation would mean a delay while more veterans die.

“It is the heart and soul of this legislation to get burn pit exposed veterans the care they have earned and deserve because that is our promise to take care of our veterans by establishing a presumption of service connection between their health and toxic exposures,” he said.



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

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:

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

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, 184,742 flags
have been placed and reported
to honor our veterans**

Internal Affairs Commission

William Clancy, III (NY), Chairman

Fourth Thursday of each month

6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Call in # (605) 313-6050

Access Code: 344590

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#

As a member of The American Legion Family, The American Legion asks that you share The American Legion's 2022 Legislative Priorities with your members of Congress. The American Legion continues to serve as a powerful voice for veterans in our nation's capital, but the power of our voice is amplified by the voices of our membership! The American Legion's Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and Sons of The American Legion are the heart and soul of our grassroots organization.

Today, we need your help in contacting your members of the Senate and House of Representatives. Please reach out to your Senators and Representative to share The American Legion's 117th Congress Legislative Priorities. Also please share that our National Commander will be testifying in front of Congress on Tuesday, March 8th!

Contact your Senators and Representative today to tell them to review our Legislative Priorities and let them know that The American Legion National Commander is testifying virtually in front a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs' Committees.

Click the link below to log in and send your message:

https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/L9SybLGLew_FcROVsTRbHg



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



2022 SAL Membership Report as of: March 3, 2022

#	Detachment	2022 Det. Year End Goal	Needed to Meet 80% Target 3/9/2022	2022 Actual Mbsp.	% of Year End Goal	2022 Renewal %
1	HAWAII	49	-17	56	114.29%	100.00
2	PUERTO RICO	88	-23	93	105.68%	104.65
3	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,052	-222	1,064	101.14%	76.17
4	DIST OF COL	92	-18	92	100.00%	77.53
5	NORTH DAKOTA	916	-152	885	96.62%	91.41
6	DELAWARE	2,229	-206	1,989	89.23%	78.92
7	RHODE ISLAND	316	-28	281	88.92%	70.00
8	IOWA	4,571	-394	4,051	88.62%	82.32
9	MEXICO	26	-2	23	88.46%	56.00
10	MICHIGAN	21,985	-1,830	19,418	88.32%	75.85
11	VERMONT	3,576	-294	3,155	88.23%	78.10
12	NEBRASKA	6,959	-498	6,065	87.15%	83.42
13	MARYLAND	15,533	-994	13,420	86.40%	79.28
14	MASSACHUSETTS	5,074	-299	4,358	85.89%	75.58
15	ALABAMA	2,020	-116	1,732	85.74%	70.97
16	WISCONSIN	3,914	-219	3,350	85.59%	78.52
17	MAINE	2,482	-130	2,116	85.25%	76.98
18	PENNSYLVANIA	58,902	-2,623	49,745	84.45%	78.14
19	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,382	-55	1,161	84.01%	71.95
20	CONNECTICUT	1,820	-71	1,527	83.90%	73.72
21	OHIO	29,946	-1,048	25,005	83.50%	77.22
22	FLORIDA	20,745	-634	17,230	83.06%	70.50
23	TENNESSEE	1,681	-50	1,395	82.99%	64.56
24	GEORGIA	4,316	-109	3,562	82.53%	71.03
25	NORTH CAROLINA	2,619	-57	2,152	82.17%	67.74
26	MINNESOTA	11,091	-240	9,113	82.17%	75.35
27	WASHINGTON	2,086	-43	1,712	82.07%	66.37
28	VIRGINIA	4,023	-59	3,277	81.46%	70.69
29	NEW YORK	29,246	-408	23,805	81.40%	73.77
30	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,336	-46	4,315	80.87%	72.49
31	LOUISIANA	1,808	-13	1,459	80.70%	73.56
32	OREGON	1,317	-3	1,057	80.26%	67.78
33	WEST VIRGINIA	2,183	3	1,743	79.84%	67.31
34	ILLINOIS	13,602	50	10,832	79.64%	74.37
35	WYOMING	1,273	14	1,004	78.87%	62.91
36	MISSOURI	3,211	37	2,532	78.85%	70.15
37	CALIFORNIA	10,338	151	8,119	78.54%	68.25
38	INDIANA	36,657	642	28,684	78.25%	72.97
39	ALASKA	1,560	41	1,207	77.37%	61.09
40	OKLAHOMA	1,380	37	1,067	77.32%	66.42
41	ARKANSAS	468	13	361	77.14%	65.14
42	NEW MEXICO	1,261	50	959	76.05%	58.56
43	COLORADO	2,632	108	1,998	75.91%	65.00
44	KANSAS	6,424	301	4,838	75.31%	69.81
45	NEW JERSEY	9,211	490	6,879	74.68%	67.44
46	NEVADA	334	18	249	74.55%	63.95
47	IDAHO	606	34	451	74.42%	63.85
48	ARIZONA	7,566	444	5,609	74.13%	61.12
49	MONTANA	1,160	74	854	73.62%	70.05
50	TEXAS	5,425	393	3,947	72.76%	61.41
51	PHILIPPINES	66	5	48	72.73%	70.77
52	UTAH	492	38	356	72.36%	62.45
53	MISSISSIPPI	795	101	535	67.30%	51.58
54	KENTUCKY	2,648	376	1,742	65.79%	55.77
55	FRANCE	233	53	133	57.08%	56.89
Grand Totals:		356,725	-7,430	292,810	82.08%	73.78



National Convention Committee

Allen J. Watry (WI), Chairman

awatry@mindspring.com

Meetings held as necessary

Call in # (857) 2320159

Access Code: 962347

Please find below the updates and upcoming regarding the Natl Convention Committee and planning for the 2022 National Convention

- A meeting was not held in February, I will be setting up a meeting with the Committee for mid-March. Key agenda items for the meeting will include
 - Ongoing discussions/updates to the Strategic Plan Document
 - Review of plans/status for 2022 Convention Planning (what the Detachment of Wisconsin is responsible for), goal to obtain thoughts/feedback from the committee on the plans
 - Review of status/thoughts for 2023 and 2024 Conventions, again goal being thoughts/feedback from the committee on the plans starting to be developed
- Status of Detachment of Wisconsin Plans
 - Convention Pins –
 - Design has been completed and approved
 - Working through final details to place order
 - Fri Night Social
 - Still being developed, initial plans have fallen through for having a social at Post/Squadron 537, several reasons for this.
 - Considering a Hospitality Suite at the Drury Hotel (where the Wisconsin Delegation will be staying) or a bar/restaurant close to the Convention Center
 - National Youth Academy Planning
 - Continuing to work with and support the planning for a National Youth Academy Event on Saturday
 - Will let the National Children & Youth Committee share more about the great events being planned.
 - Sunday Afternoon Legion Family Event

- Will not be a parade in Milwaukee
- Department of Wisconsin is working with other local groups to have a social at the War Memorial Park Sunday afternoon (about 6 blocks away). All Legion Family will be invited, will continue to update the group.
- Coordination with the 50th Commemorative Committee
 - Continuing to coordinate with this committee to ensure we do not duplicate efforts.
 - Will allow that committee to share all the great things they are planning for the Weekend.
- Will provide our next “about Milwaukee” at the end of March. Likely to focus on Family Activities/Youth Opportunities in preparation for Children & Youth Month

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>

March 16, 2022
 April 20, 2022 | May 18, 2022
 June 15, 2022 | July 17, 2022
 August 25, 2022

Public and Media Communications Commission

Fourth Monday of Each Month
 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time/9:00 p.m. Eastern Time
<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/9831747351?pwd=b3VFmMNEVkhNT2lqTE5EbFQ5YUxQOTQ9>
 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



MOTIVATE
INSPIRE
TEAMWORK

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: _____ Birth date: _____

Detachment of: _____ Squadron No. _____

Name: First _____ Last _____ Recruited by: _____ Initial _____

Address: _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. _____ Department of _____

OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____

(c) Relationship of applicant to veteran _____ Where? _____

Has applicant previously been a member of the SAL? _____

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion and apply for membership.

Email: _____ Transmit \$ _____ for 20 _____ annual membership dues

Signed by applicant (or legal guardian/under 18) _____ Eligibility certified by _____

Mail completed application to Sons of The American Legion department/state headquarters. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current detachment address go to The American Legion department/state headquarters, or visit www.legion.org.

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

<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*

Yesterday, I had the honor to travel with American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard as he visited Central Ohio. We visited American Legion Southway Post 144 for breakfast, then headed to the Ohio American Legion Department Headquarters, where a tour was given and a light lunch provided.

From there, the travel party went to the [National Veterans Memorial and Museum](#) in Columbus for a guided tour by Memorial President and CEO Lt.

General Michael Ferriter, U.S. Army (Retired) and Chief of Staff Colonel William J. Butler, U.S. Army (Retired). This is an amazing museum that everyone should try to visit.

From there, it was on to Paschall Post 164 in Grove City. The final stop of the day was at Don Gentile Post 532 in Columbus for dinner. The day was filled with comradery, learning, and of seeing donations made to the Veterans and Children's Foundation. A great time was had by all.

Today, it was a stop in Grove City, Ohio and Post 164 for the Ohio 12th District Sons of The American Legion Conference, then back to Department Headquarters in Delaware, Ohio for the Oratorical Contest. Following the announcement of the winners and presentation of awards, I headed to Wadsworth, Ohio for a Squadron/Post Everlasting ceremony for Dave Cobb, a longtime friend and one of The American Legion's biggest advocates. Rest easy Dave. You will be greatly missed.

On the membership front, the Central Region is holding on to second place, coming in at 82.40% as of March 3. We are only 0.96% behind the Eastern Region. We can see first place, and with some Buddy Checks and quick action, we can take the lead. Will you please help? **Who's next?**

Don't forget that Wednesday is the National Target Date, where we are expected to be at 80%. Five of our Detachments have already met that goal, with Iowa and Michigan closing in on 90%.

Let's get as many members paid as we can in the next few days, and get them transmitted via www.mylegion.org so they get recorded much faster. Thanks for your immediate action!

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!!!





American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum.



SAL National Vice-Commander Jeff Vrabel, Sr., American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard, and from Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 Phillip Vrabel, and Kenneth Vrabel at Don Gentile Post 532.



Under the skyline of Columbus, Ohio are Lt. Gen. Ferriter, National Commander Paul Dillard, and Col. Butler atop the National Veterans Memorial and Museum.



National Veterans Memorial and Museum

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.

		03/03/22
	Detachment	Renewal %
1	Iowa	82.32%
2	Wisconsin	78.52%
3	Ohio	77.22%
4	Michigan	75.85%
5	Minnesota	75.35%
6	Illinois	74.37%
7	Indiana	72.97%
8	Missouri	70.15%
	NATIONAL	73.78%



2022 Central Region Membership Report

2022 MEMBERSHIP					03/03/22
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase
1 Eastern 6, 7	136,233	113,558	22,675	83.36%	1,231
2 Central 4, 6	124,977	102,985	21,992	82.40%	1,088
3 Southern 3, 4, 5, 6	42,593	34,699	7,894	81.47%	298
4 Midwest 3, 4	28,508	22,704	5,804	79.64%	287
5 Western 4	24,414	18,864	5,550	77.27%	182
TOTALS	356,725	292,810	63,915	82.08%	3,086

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	4,051	520	88.62%	201	8
2 Michigan 1, 5, 6, 7	21,985	19,418	2,567	88.32%	128	10
3 Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	3,914	3,350	564	85.59%	53	16
4 Ohio 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	29,946	25,005	4,941	83.50%	197	21
5 Minnesota 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	11,091	9,113	1,978	82.17%	40	26
6 Illinois 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	13,602	10,832	2,770	79.64%	-	34
7 Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	3,211	2,532	679	78.85%	12	36
8 Indiana 1	36,657	28,684	7,973	78.25%	457	38
TOTALS	124,977	102,985	21,472	82.40%	887	

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	4,051	520	88.62%	3.93%
Wisconsin	3,914	3,350	564	85.59%	3.25%
Missouri	3,211	2,532	2,405	78.85%	2.46%
TOTALS	7,125	5,882	2,969	82.55%	5.71%

White Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Minnesota	11,091	9,113	1,978	82.17%	8.85%
Illinois	13,602	10,832	2,770	79.64%	10.52%
TOTALS	13,602	10,832	2,770	79.64%	10.52%

Blue Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Michigan	21,985	19,418	2,567	88.32%	18.86%
Ohio	29,946	25,005	4,941	83.50%	24.28%
Indiana	36,657	28,684	7,973	78.25%	27.85%
TOTALS	66,603	53,689	12,914	80.61%	52.13%



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	Actual	Percent
DIST OF COL	92	92	100.00%
DELAWARE	2,229	1,989	89.23%
RHODE ISLAND	316	281	88.92%
VERMONT	3,576	3,155	88.23%
MARYLAND	15,533	13,420	86.40%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,074	4,358	85.89%
MAINE	2,482	2,116	85.25%
PENNSYLVANIA	58,902	49,745	84.45%
CONNECTICUT	1,820	1,527	83.90%
NEW YORK	29,246	23,805	81.40%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,336	4,315	80.87%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,183	1,743	79.84%
NEW JERSEY	9,211	6,879	74.68%
FRANCE	233	133	57.08%
Totals:	136,233	113,558	83.36%

as of March 3, 2022





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



JASON ROBERTS
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
SOUTHERN REGION 2021-2022

roberts.jason215@gmail.com

MONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL

Second Tuesday of Each Month
 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time
 Call In # (701) 802-5001
 Access Code 4720682

Midwest Region - Juan R. Torres (TX)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Percent
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,052	1,064	101.14%
NORTH DAKOTA	916	885	96.62%
MEXICO	26	23	88.46%
NEBRASKA	6,959	6,065	87.15%
WYOMING	1,273	1,004	78.87%
OKLAHOMA	1,380	1,067	77.32%
NEW MEXICO	1,261	959	76.05%
COLORADO	2,632	1,998	75.91%
KANSAS	6,424	4,838	75.31%
MONTANA	1,160	854	73.62%
TEXAS	5,425	3,947	72.76%
Totals:	28,508	22,704	79.64%

as of March 3, 2022

Southern Region - Jason S. Roberts (GA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Percent
PUERTO RICO	88	93	105.68%
ALABAMA	2,020	1,732	85.74%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,382	1,161	84.01%
FLORIDA	20,745	17,230	83.06%
TENNESSEE	1,681	1,395	82.99%
GEORGIA	4,316	3,562	82.53%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,619	2,152	82.17%
VIRGINIA	4,023	3,277	81.46%
LOUISIANA	1,808	1,459	80.70%
ARKANSAS	468	361	77.14%
MISSISSIPPI	795	535	67.30%
KENTUCKY	2,648	1,742	65.79%
Totals:	42,593	34,699	81.47%

as of March 3, 2022





JIM STEWART
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
WEST REGION 2021-2022

controller@bordertowncasinorv.com

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=SjZJek04MHJpNjdibWptUTU0UGptZz09>

Meeting ID: 965 6230 3887

Passcode: 795541

Find your local number:

<https://zoom.us/j/96562303887?pwd=SjZJek04MHJpNjdibWptUTU0UGptZz09>



MICHAEL FOX
NATIONAL COMMANDER
2021-2022



Western Region - L. Jim Stewart (NV)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Percent
HAWAII	49	56	114.29%
WASHINGTON	2,086	1,712	82.07%
OREGON	1,317	1,057	80.26%
CALIFORNIA	10,338	8,119	78.54%
ALASKA	1,560	1,207	77.37%
NEVADA	334	249	74.55%
IDAHO	606	451	74.42%
ARIZONA	7,566	5,609	74.13%
PHILIPPINES	66	48	72.73%
UTAH	492	356	72.36%
Totals:	24,414	18,864	77.27%

as of March 3, 2022

HONOR THE
22
IN 2022
RENEW
TODAY



Squadron Everlasting

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



David Eugene Cobb
Wadsworth, OH

David Eugene Cobb, 70, of Wadsworth passed away Saturday, February 26, 2022. He was born January 27, 1952, in Akron, OH to the late William and Jacqueline Cobb.

Mr. Cobb is a proud U.S. Marine having served in Vietnam and then served the U.S. Army Reserves. He was a very skilled laborer and retired from Midwest Rubber and Carlisle Break and Friction. He was an avid Sons of The American Legion member for 61 years, and an active member of The American Legion Garfield Memorial Post 566 for 52 years. He enjoyed volunteering with Special Olympics and Buckeye Boy state.

Preceding him in death were his brother Billy Cobb and sister Debbie Morgan.

Dave is survived by his wife Pebble with whom he

celebrated 35 years of marriage, his children David E. (Dawn) Cobb Jr., Rhonda (Vinson) Robinson, Jackie (Tim) Moore and Sabrina (Darrell) Stewart. 13 grandchildren: Kayla (Nick) Cobb, David E. "Bubba" Cobb III, Victoria (Brendon) DeLuca, Jessica Cobb, Olivia Moore, Eileen Robinson, Connor Cobb, Timmy Moore, Hunnor Moore, McKenna Cobb, Ridley Stewart, Decklyn Stewart, and Kinsley Stewart. He was blessed with his great grandchildren Rhett Maroun, Reese Maroun, and Baby DeLuca. His siblings: Sandy (Terry) Wilson, Pam Brightwell, Kyra Kobilis, James Cobb and Many Nieces, Nephews, and adopted family.

The family will receive friends 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sunday, March 6, 2022, at the Hilliard-Rospert Funeral Home, 174 N. Lyman St., Wadsworth where a funeral service will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. Monday. Interment will follow with Military Honors in Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery.

Sons of The American Legion will hold a Memorial Service at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

7I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

