

Troiola elected American Legion Commander



Newly elected American Legion National Commander Vincent J. Troiola
Photo by Hilary Ott

Newly elected national commander: ‘We all need to ‘Be the One’

Steven B. Brooks | September 1, 2022

In April, The American Legion teamed with Chip Ganassi Racing to announce its [‘Be the One’](#) initiative, an effort aimed at stemming the tide of veteran suicides.

During the Legion’s 103rd National Convention in Milwaukee on Sept. 1, newly elected National Commander Vincent J. Troiola pledged to make the effort his biggest focus during the upcoming year.

“My platform and No. 1 priority for my year as national commander will be tackling the toughest challenge facing veterans: veteran suicide,” Troiola said. “The American Legion is asking you to ‘Be the One.’ And by you, I include every one of us, military and civilian alike. We all need to ‘Be the One’ to begin thinking, talking, and acting to save just one life.” Troiola said ‘Be the One’ is a multifaceted approach to tackling veteran suicides that includes:

- Destigmatizing asking for mental help support.
- Providing peer-to-peer support and resources in local communities.

- Creating safe spaces for veterans to be open about their struggles and encouraging every American, veteran and civilians alike, to take the pledge to ‘Be the One’ to help end veteran suicide.

“As the military changes, and as military issues change, so does The American Legion,” Troiola said. “While the Legion continues to celebrate its past, it does so while also marching toward an evolving future, discovering ways to stay relevant and add even greater value to the lives of younger veterans.

“One thing that hasn’t changed is the Legion’s dedication to addressing the toughest challenges facing veterans and their families. Veteran suicide may be the biggest challenge yet, but anyone can ‘Be the One’ to help save just one veteran.”

A life member of American Legion Post 1682 in Rockland County N.Y. – and a member of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 1682 – Troiola announced a goal of raising \$2 million for the Legion’s [Veterans & Children Foundation](#). He also said this year is an opportunity to see growth in the organization’s membership, crediting immediate Past National Commander Paul E. Dillard with providing the foundation for such a task.

He also announced his program to recognize American Legion posts that help with that effort. “You will see the V.E.T.S. acronym a lot this year,” Troiola said. “It stands for Veterans, Education, Teamwork and Sponsor. It’s how we build a stronger and larger American Legion.”

Posts that achieve 90% retention in this membership year will receive a special national commander’s pin with V.E.T.S. engraved on it, while posts with 95% will receive a V.E.T.S. coin.



ROUND-UP

a publication of Sons of The American Legion

National Commander

Chris Carlton (IN)

National Vice-Commander Central Region

David Mennel (MI)

National Vice-Commander Eastern Region

Ernie LaBerge (MA)

National Vice-Commander Midwestern Region

Michael Kirschner (CO)

National Vice-Commander Southern Region

Ron Roberts (MS)

National Vice-Commander Western Region

Jack Youngs (ID)

Immediate Past National Commander

Michael Fox (CA)

PNVC Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

Round-Up is published weekly and distributed each Sunday.

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

All articles must be submitted by noon each Friday



SAL membership reports are available [here](#)

Membership-Excellence pins with V.E.T.S. will go to posts that recruit five members from expired rosters. If post excellence is achieved, the post will also receive an auto-graphed national commander's license plate. All departments will receive an additional numbered V.E.T.S. coin to be given to a Legionnaire of their choice who has gone above and beyond for membership.

Troiola noted that the pandemic changed the way we go about our daily lives, and that goes for the Legion Family as well. "Many Legion posts throughout the country were forced to close their post homes or had no access to their meeting places," he said. "Many of our Legion posts that were able adapted and found ways to support their communities who needed help to get through the issues that arose from the pandemic.

"We may have survived the coronavirus, but many of our youth programs have suffered in diminishing number for a variety of reasons. Change will be a big part of our lives, but healthy organizations adapt to the times and move forward. Through innovative strategies and greater flexibility, we can grow the numbers to pre-pandemic levels."

Troiola urged Legionnaires to reach out to school officials and share information about the organization's youth programs. "The best advertisement for our programs is through the students that have attended, but with the pandemic, that method of communication has diminished," he said. "One thing is for sure: ZOOM and (Microsoft) Teams has not gone away and is being utilized all over the country. I know my school district where I work meets virtually. The PTO/PTA meetings (and) school board meetings all take place virtually. That sounds like the place to start."

Troiola praised PNC Dillard for his advocacy in gaining passage of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act, as well as the Legionnaires responsible for sending more than 34,000 messages of support for the legislation to their senators.

"For some members of Congress, this may have been the first time seeing the full effect and unity of our voices," Troiola said. "But it will not be the last. We must take the spirit and message of our 'Be the One' campaign and pass comprehensive mental health care legislation for veterans, including establishing a national Buddy Check week. To do this requires modernizing VA facilities that are more than 50 years old on average. We must never forget that suicide continues to be a problem in the active-duty ranks as well. Every Legion post located near a military base should provide a welcoming environment to those still serving."

BE THE ONE



**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL
TARGET DATE
September 14, 2022**



Troiola also continued the Legion's push for U.S. citizenship through military service, telling convention delegates, "we must honor immigrants who have worn the uniform of the U.S. military. They took an oath to die for this country if called upon. Those who serve honorably should receive their citizenship before leaving active duty. Veterans and spouses who have not committed serious felonies should not be deported."

And coming off the one-year anniversary of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, Troiola called for remembering those who assisted U.S. troops during their mission there.

"We must remind Congress that America always stands by its allies for freedom," he said. "Bipartisan support exists to codify the safety of our evacuated Afghan allies. It is imperative that we offer them immediate passage to the United States. On these issues and more, we must carry the burden of leadership as America's largest veterans organization and most powerful voice for veterans, national security and 100-percent Americanism. I ask that you join me in this fight."

Troiola served in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserves from 1969 to 1974. He spent his entire professional career in the automotive service industry, retiring retirement in 2017 as director of service and parts at a New York Metro Mercedes Benz dealership. After a brief time at home, he began an entirely new career as a school bus driver for the Falmouth School District and part-time motor coach operator.

He has served in many offices and position within The American Legion, including department commander of New York, and chairman of the National Security Commission, Legislative Commission, Veterans Employment and Education Commission and the Membership and Post Activity Committee. He was elected national vice commander for 2016-2017.

"I will hit the ground running to work with you to having a productive, successful and fun-filled year," Troiola said. "Remember: We are The American Legion, the voice of the veteran since 1919. As long as America has veterans, there will always be an American Legion.

"We are witnessing a movement in The American Legion. All of you are part of exciting times now and will ride into the future."



CHRIS CARLTON
NATIONAL COMMANDER
2022 – 2023



DAVID MENNEL
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
CENTRAL REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING TBA



ERNIE LABERGE
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
EASTERN REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

Fourth Tuesday of each Month
 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time



MICHAEL KIRSCHNER
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
MIDWEST REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING TBA



RON ROBERTS
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
SOUTHERN REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING TBA



JACK YOUNGS
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
WESTERN REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING TBA

EVERY CARD COUNTS





REGIONAL UPDATES

FREE EVENT!

Detachment of Maryland Annual Campout
American Legion
Southern Maryland Youth Camp
September 30th - October 2nd 2022
9201 Surratts Road,
Cheltenham, MD 20623

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 23RD.
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO RSVP
CONTACT DAVE AT DAVEH.195@YAHOO.COM
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A Portion of the Proceeds benefit the Southern Maryland Youth Camp

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DETACHMENT OF NEW JERSEY**

**32nd Annual
POW*MIA
WATCHFIRE**

SEPTEMBER 17th, 2022
12 HOUR VIGIL 7 PM - 7AM
WHERE: 1200 NJ RTE. 35
SEASIDE HEIGHTS, NEW JERSEY 08751
THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: EMAIL: WATCHFIRE@NJSAL.ORG

**Anthony Wayne Post #174
Sons of The American Legion
"ANNUAL PIG ROAST"**

Date: Saturday September 10, 2022, 1:00pm to 5:00pm
**At: Anthony Wayne Post 174 55 Mountain View Blvd.
Wayne, New Jersey 07470**

Price per Ticket: \$25.00/Children under 12 Free
**Includes: Pig, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Sides, Refreshments
Cash Bar and Live Music, Corn Hole, Horseshoes
Auxiliary Tricky Tray**

**For information contact Anthony Wayne Post #174
@ 973-694-9777**
Proceeds go to help our Veterans and their families

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Stays at the Pig Roast!

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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
presents...
Beefsteak Dinner
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\$65.00 per person

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French Fries, Salad, Dessert & Coffee
(Vegetarian Option Available)
Includes Beer, Wine and Soda
Dancing All Night Long!!
DJ MUSIC by *Big Dog Entertainment*

Saturday September 17, 2022 6:00pm - 12 midnight
Reservations in advance only. Limited to 100 persons
Leo Laders Post 130 American Legion
130 American Legion Way, Thiells, NY 10984
Call for reservations: 845-429-2112 | 845-671-9870

Century Committee (CENTCOM)

Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH), Chairman
jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85189484607?pwd=MTkvT09XYkdvZlM0eW5RTG4dW94QT09>

Meeting ID: 851 8948 4607
Passcode: xZztq6

Finance Commission

William G. Hill (MD), Chairman



NATIONAL COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Advisory Committee

Joe Mayne (MN), Chairman

Americanism Commission

Chris Casey (NE), 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>



FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES

www.flyingflagsforheroes.com

Tim Aboudara, Sr.,
National Service Project Coordinator

As of September 2, 2022

1,835,164

Flags have been placed and reported to honor our veterans

since September 1, 2021

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



NATIONAL POW ★ MIA RECOGNITION DAY

September 16, 2022



Legislative Commission

Thomas G. Deal (MD), Chairman
Third Thursday of ODD months
7:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Call in # (267) 807-9601
Access Code 988 284 103#

Member Training and Development Committee

Mike 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 771 7294#

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

2022 SAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT AS OF: AUGUST 25, 2022

#	DETACHMENT	2022 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 105% TARGET 12/31/2022	2022 ACTUAL MBSP.	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2022 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	49	-24	75	153.06%	100.00
2	PUERTO RICO	88	-29	121	137.50%	100.00
3	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,052	-247	1,352	128.52%	91.67
4	DIST OF COL	92	-16	113	122.83%	91.01
5	WASHINGTON	2,086	-297	2,487	119.22%	91.36
6	NEW MEXICO	1,261	-151	1,475	116.97%	86.65
7	MEXICO	26	-3	30	115.38%	68.00
8	NORTH DAKOTA	916	-85	1,047	114.30%	99.77
9	MICHIGAN	21,985	-999	24,083	109.54%	92.87
10	DELAWARE	2,229	-75	2,415	108.34%	91.55
11	WEST VIRGINIA	2,183	-50	2,342	107.28%	88.16
12	NEVADA	334	-7	358	107.19%	87.83
13	OREGON	1,317	-22	1,405	106.68%	85.50
14	MASSACHUSETTS	5,074	-71	5,399	106.41%	91.11
15	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,382	-19	1,470	106.37%	87.73
16	WISCONSIN	3,914	-41	4,151	106.06%	93.98
17	VERMONT	3,576	-35	3,790	105.98%	91.43
18	IOWA	4,571	-17	4,817	105.38%	95.23
19	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,336	-6	5,609	105.12%	89.35
20	IDAHO	606	-1	637	105.12%	86.67
21	ARIZONA	7,566	20	7,924	104.73%	84.20
22	RHODE ISLAND	316	3	329	104.11%	80.97
23	MAINE	2,482	22	2,584	104.11%	91.47
24	PHILIPPINES	66	1	68	103.03%	98.46
25	NORTH CAROLINA	2,619	63	2,687	102.60%	82.46
26	GEORGIA	4,316	120	4,412	102.22%	84.36
27	FLORIDA	20,745	588	21,194	102.16%	84.05
28	CALIFORNIA	10,338	294	10,561	102.16%	86.27
29	COLORADO	2,632	82	2,682	101.90%	83.72
30	MARYLAND	15,533	500	15,810	101.78%	91.33
31	ALASKA	1,560	52	1,586	101.67%	79.54
32	PENNSYLVANIA	58,902	2,028	59,819	101.56%	91.47
33	TEXAS	5,425	201	5,495	101.29%	82.97
34	MINNESOTA	11,091	474	11,172	100.73%	90.08
35	ALABAMA	2,020	88	2,033	100.64%	82.13
36	VIRGINIA	4,023	183	4,041	100.45%	85.64
37	NEW YORK	29,246	1,376	29,332	100.29%	89.54
38	CONNECTICUT	1,820	92	1,819	99.95%	85.01
39	OHIO	29,948	1,569	29,874	99.76%	90.61
40	TENNESSEE	1,681	95	1,670	99.35%	77.51
41	NEW JERSEY	9,211	540	9,132	99.14%	87.52
42	WYOMING	1,273	75	1,262	99.14%	78.44
43	NEBRASKA	6,959	446	6,861	98.59%	92.14
44	MISSOURI	3,211	236	3,136	97.66%	84.78
45	INDIANA	36,657	2,932	35,558	97.00%	88.38
46	ILLINOIS	13,602	1,112	13,170	96.82%	88.78
47	LOUISIANA	1,808	149	1,749	96.74%	85.91
48	KENTUCKY	2,648	242	2,538	95.85%	77.92
49	OKLAHOMA	1,380	134	1,315	95.29%	78.68
50	ARKANSAS	468	51	440	94.02%	76.57
51	MONTANA	1,160	140	1,078	92.93%	86.23
52	KANSAS	6,424	955	5,790	90.13%	82.16
53	UTAH	492	81	436	88.62%	75.31
54	MISSISSIPPI	795	134	701	88.18%	60.29
55	FRANCE	233	92	153	65.67%	64.89
Grand Totals:		356,725	12,974	361,587	101.36%	88.75



2023 IS NOW



RENEW TODAY!



2022 SAL REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

WESTERN REGION - L. JIM STEWART (NV)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	49	75	153.06%
WASHINGTON	2,086	2,487	119.22%
NEVADA	334	358	107.19%
OREGON	1,317	1,405	106.68%
IDAHO	606	637	105.12%
ARIZONA	7,566	7,924	104.73%
PHILIPPINES	66	68	103.03%
CALIFORNIA	10,338	10,561	102.16%
ALASKA	1,560	1,586	101.67%
UTAH	492	436	88.62%
Totals:	24,414	25,537	104.60%

MIDWEST REGION - JUAN R. TORRES (TX)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,052	1,352	128.52%
NEW MEXICO	1,261	1,475	116.97%
MEXICO	26	30	115.38%
NORTH DAKOTA	916	1,047	114.30%
COLORADO	2,632	2,682	101.90%
TEXAS	5,425	5,495	101.29%
WYOMING	1,273	1,262	99.14%
NEBRASKA	6,959	6,861	98.59%
OKLAHOMA	1,380	1,315	95.29%
MONTANA	1,160	1,078	92.93%
KANSAS	6,424	5,790	90.13%
Totals:	28,508	28,387	99.58%

CENTRAL REGION - JEFF M. VRABEL SR. (OH)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
MICHIGAN	21,985	24,083	109.54%
WISCONSIN	3,914	4,151	106.06%
IOWA	4,571	4,817	105.38%
MINNESOTA	11,091	11,172	100.73%
OHIO	29,946	29,874	99.76%
MISSOURI	3,211	3,136	97.66%
INDIANA	36,657	35,558	97.00%
ILLINOIS	13,602	13,170	96.82%
Totals:	124,977	125,961	100.79%

EASTERN REGION - RICHARD L. HUNTLEY, JR. (ME)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
DIST OF COL	92	113	122.83%
DELAWARE	2,229	2,415	108.34%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,183	2,342	107.28%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,074	5,399	106.41%
VERMONT	3,576	3,790	105.98%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,336	5,609	105.12%
RHODE ISLAND	316	329	104.11%
MAINE	2,482	2,584	104.11%
MARYLAND	15,533	15,810	101.78%
PENNSYLVANIA	58,902	59,819	101.56%
NEW YORK	29,246	29,332	100.29%
CONNECTICUT	1,820	1,819	99.95%
NEW JERSEY	9,211	9,132	99.14%
FRANCE	233	153	65.67%
Totals:	136,233	138,646	101.77%

SOUTHERN REGION - JASON S. ROBERTS (GA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
PUERTO RICO	88	121	137.50%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,382	1,470	106.37%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,819	2,687	102.60%
GEORGIA	4,316	4,412	102.22%
FLORIDA	20,745	21,194	102.16%
ALABAMA	2,020	2,033	100.64%
VIRGINIA	4,023	4,041	100.45%
TENNESSEE	1,681	1,670	99.35%
LOUISIANA	1,808	1,749	96.74%
KENTUCKY	2,648	2,538	95.85%
ARKANSAS	468	440	94.02%
MISSISSIPPI	795	701	88.18%
Totals:	42,593	43,056	101.09%

'Be the One': The biggest thing The American Legion is doing right now

Steven B. Brooks | August 27, 2022

The American Legion was formed in 1919 to assist those veterans returning from World War I as they transitioned back into the civilian life. Decades later, the Legion was instrumental in the drafting and passage of what is commonly referred to as the GI Bill.



Alexander Silva, Military and Veteran Outreach Chair for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, addresses the Legion's TBI-PTSD Suicide Prevention Committee. Photo by Steven B. Brooks

But now, as veteran suicides continue to happen at a rate of 17 or so a day, the Legion is now focused on the prevention of those, starting with at least one a day.

That was the message delivered by American Legion Chief Marketing Officer Dean Kessel to the Legion's TBI/PTSD Suicide Prevention Committee Aug. 26 during the organization's national convention in Milwaukee. Kessel briefed the committee on the Legion's "Be the One" effort, which was launched last April and has incorporated the Legion's relationship with Chip Ganassi Racing and the INDYCAR Series.

"This is the biggest thing that The American Legion is doing right now," Kessel said. "The biggest issue facing (post-9/11 veterans) is mental health and suicide. With 'Be the One,' I even hate to use the word campaign, because this is something that's going to be for the next decade or so."

Kessel explained the three pillars of "Be the One":

- Destigmatize asking for help. "To say 'It's OK to not be OK' it's OK to ask for help.
- Collaborating to create some digital therapeutics about to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

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

Kevin Chaplin (VA), Chairman

Fourth Monday of Each Month

5:00 p.m. Pacific Time/8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Committee on National Appointments

Don Allisot, Chairman

Subcommittee 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

- Education and peer-to-peer support and what the Legion can do with that. “One of the things we’re looking at is how do we create a heat map for the United States where you go to the state of North Carolina, I click on Durham, and I have all the resources right there in Durham at my fingertips,” Kessel said. “That’s what I think we need to do. Drill it down to as locally as possible.”

“The DNA of The American Legion is solving the biggest problems facing veterans,” Kessel said. “That’s just who we are.”

Kessel said Legionnaires don’t have to be trained counselors in order to turn the tide of veteran suicides. “I’ve heard it multiple times: ‘We’re not mental health experts. But we are damn good about putting the right people around the table to solve a problem,’” he said. “(The TBI-PTSD Committee) has the ear of the White House. The ear of Congress, DoD, VA, those critical stakeholders to get legislation and policy and those type of things passed.”

The committee also heard from Alexander Silver, Military and Veteran Outreach Chair for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and currently serving as a technical sergeant in the U.S. Air Force.

Silver, who is in charge of the Mental Health Clinic, 316th Medical Squadron, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., spoke on behalf of AFSP. It was founded in 1987 and is a voluntary health organization that gives those affected by suicide a nationwide community empowered by research, education, and advocacy to take action against suicide. The organization is headquartered in New York but has local chapters in 50 states.

“There is no one single solution,” Silver told the committee. “We say, ‘Fight suicide.’ That doesn’t mean anything until we say ‘how, and at what level?’ Only two in five people with a mental health condition seek treatment. Is that something we can just throw money at? Absolutely not. The thing we have to do (is) to build a culture where we’re all accepting of mental health as a health issue.”

Silver compared suicide to a heart attack, something that is “not our fault, but preventable. Are heart attacks preventable? Absolutely. Are heart attacks our fault? No. Can we spot the signs of a heart attack? Yes. Looking at wounds we can’t necessarily see ... are still a health issue. Treating them is still a health issue. Fighting suicide is still a public health issue on every level.”

Trying to tie thoughts of suicide to one cause is a mistake. “It’s things that are going on in someone’s life – biologically, psychologically, in their social situation, in their history, sometimes in their genetics – that go on behind the scenes that increase someone’s risk broadly,” Silver said. “When somebody has something going on in their life and we know that this person has all of these types of factors, that’s how we understand the risk, and don’t look at it as a single reaction to a single issue.”



BE THE ONE

TO **ASK** VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.

TO **LISTEN** WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.

TO **REACH** OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.

Silver encouraged looking and listening for signs from those pondering taking their own lives. “We cannot have a suicide without hopelessness,” he said. “When (talking to them), look at how they’re talking. How they’re behaving. What their mood is. Listening for hopelessness. Those kinds of words in that conversation, like, ‘This is never going to get better. I’m always going to feel this way.’ The biggest thing is to have a conversation with somebody.”

He also cautioned against having an emotional response during that conversation.

“When we’re talking to somebody that we love, we’re feeling outraged that they would even consider taking themselves away from us,” Silver said. “That’s the time when we’re going to tell them, ‘How dare you even think about this.’ The biggest thing to learn to do is how to listen without being judgmental. If somebody is talking to you about being suicidal, they could have picked anybody. Our job is not to make them justify how they feel. It’s not to let them know how selfish they would be. It’s not to tell them that we’re going to solve their problems for them, and everything is going to be better. Our job is just to listen and get them to help.”

“Always treat it as if you are the only person in the world who knows what’s going on. And remember in that moment, and I hope it never does, this is how the conversation ends: They have to get help. It’s not just encouraging them. Do more than encourage. If you think they may make an attempt soon, please stay with them.”

Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Jim Coats (NY), Chairman

Third Wednesday of Each Month

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

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judgment toward others. Doing the right thing often comes with a price tag, and the price can be determined by the choices we make. Treating other people with fairness and equality isn't difficult. Being firm, fair, and equitable will take you to heights in your career that many other professionals might envy.

Doing the right thing may be difficult in the moment, and the choices the day presents may cause conflict in your mind and heart. But at the end of the day, when you treat others as you would have them treat you, you are a man or woman of character and integrity. Being above reproach is a tall order for any person, but you were meant for this. God created you for this challenge, and you would not be in your position if you were not fully capable of fulfilling your purpose.

Heavenly Father, help me see others as you see them, and realize that the way I treat others is like seed. I will reap what I sow. Amen.

Do to others as you would have them do to you. LUKE 6:31

Grace & Peace,

Jeff Gibson, National Chaplain
Sons of The American Legion



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

National Officers and Members,

It has been my great honor to serve as your National Chaplain over the past year. Serving you and the entirety of the veteran population during one of the most challenging times in our history has proven difficult, but not impossible. Although the world, and the evil one, may present obstacles that appear impossible to us, the fact remains that all things are possible through Christ.

Ability to work with others. In a word, we all appreciate this call for cooperation, courtesy, and tact. Courtesy has been called the lubricant of human relations. Working together sometimes causes friction, and the leader must develop traits which will bring about harmony. Integrity, loyalty - Devotion to Duty.

Do the Right Thing. The power of choice is a faculty that places humans far above other creatures. Those who enjoy freedom can exercise that power even when it is not to their advantage. We have a choice most days of what we will wear, eat, and drink. We have the choice to forgive or to harbor resentment. We have the choice to show mercy or



LEGION RIDERS

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

SPORTS

Jimmie Johnson pledges \$1.5 million to American Legion following fireside chat with he, Chip Ganassi, and Tony Kanaan

[Steven B. Brooks](#) | August 31, 2022

Both eligible for membership through family members who've served, INDYCAR team owner Chip Ganassi and driver Jimmie Johnson were officially inducted into the Sons of The American Legion on The American Legion National convention stage in Milwaukee on Aug. 31.

After being welcomed into the organization by SAL National Commander Michael Fox, Johnson stepped to the podium and shared some news that delighted delegates to the convention.

"Being able to work with the Legion over the past two years, meet everybody at the racetrack, the honor it's been, the meaning that's been behind it, my wife Chandra and I felt very compelled to move to have further involvement with the Legion," Johnson said. "I'm here today to proudly announce that we want to pledge \$1.5 million to The American Legion."



Chip Ganassi and INDYCAR drivers Jimmie Johnson and Tony Kanaan speak during a fireside chat moderated by California Past Department Commander Autrey James. Photo by Hilary Ott

Johnson, who has driven the No. 48 Carvana-American Legion Honda the entire INDYCAR season, including [a fifth-place finish in the Hy-Vee Salute to Farmers 300](#) in July, joined with Ganassi and Chip Ganassi Racing teammate Tony Kanaan for a [fireside chat](#) moderated by Past Department of California Commander Autrey James. The trio discussed the INDYCAR season, the Legion's ["Be the One"](#)

[suicide prevention initiative](#) and what it's like to represent the nation's largest veterans organization on tracks throughout North America.

When it came to being a part of "Be the One," Ganassi said it was special because of his father's service. "My father was in World War II and drove a tank I think in the 4th Infantry," he said. "My father never spoke about the war to me. One day I asked him about it very late in his life. I asked him, 'Dad, why didn't you ever talk to me about that?' And with a different look on his face that I'd never seen before, he just said to me, 'I don't want to talk about that.' And I remember thinking to myself ... he was carrying something with him. It was inside him, but he didn't want to let it out or talk about it. Obviously when I heard about the 'Be the One' campaign I was all in. That's why I'm here today."

For Kanaan, who drove the No. 1 American Legion "Be the One" car [to a third-place finish in the Indy 500](#) last May, representing the suicide-prevention initiative "adds a special meaning to what we do already. Chip has an organization that has been winning for a long time. Our biggest race is the Indy 500 on Memorial Day Weekend. The Legion came aboard with the 'Be the One' campaign. For me, it was something extra – an extra motivation doing the race again, especially when you know you're doing something good, trying to save lives of veterans who were out there protecting us in the past. I can't thank the Legion enough and all the veterans for the support they give to our team and let us represent them at the racetrack."

Johnson didn't know veteran suicides were at such a high rate. "I was shocked to hear the number (of veteran suicides) when this program first came about, to learn about and understand how many veterans were taking their life each and every day. A staggering number, a number that must change. I'm just honored that I've been able to be a part of it, this team has been able to be a part of making a change. It's an honor to represent the Legion, it's an honor to be a part of something so meaningful, and we're doing the best that we can each and every day to represent the Legion and help move this cause forward. I'm excited to know that we are making progress. The word is getting out. It's exciting to know that Chip Ganassi Racing has that kind of reach and can help The American Legion."

Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) currently has three drivers in the top five in the INDYCAR Series points standings. "What an enviable position to be in," Ganassi said. "If I'm going to have this American Legion sponsorship, I've got to maintain that No. 1 (spot). The way to do that is to win the championship. We've got three shots at it, and we're pretty excited."

When asked about why he chooses to hire veterans to be a part of CGR, the owner said it was simple. "I like what they represent. They represent what's great about our country," he said. "They understand values that today we don't talk about: hard work, wanting to do better, wanting to win, wanting to be the best. Not afraid to put in a little elbow grease when you need it. To me, the veterans we have, you don't have to explain too much to them. They get it. They get what it takes. You don't have to talk much about, 'Hey, this is a team. It's not about individuals.'"

Ganassi also was asked about the hardest part involved with owning a racing team. Laughing, he responded, "The hardest thing about owning a race team is when you see all this work go into a car, and all this time and effort and money, and then it crashes. That's the hardest thing for a team owner to see."

Johnson, who has shown marked improvement this season, was asked what he hopes to accomplish during the final two races of the season. "The next couple of races I feel like being able to qualify a little bit further up the grid will put me in a better position come race time," he said. "I'm still adapting to these cars and learning the tracks. My qualifying performance has been the weak spot of the weekend for me. I always race a lot better than I qualify, so I can push my way up in the grid. I think in the top 15, the top 10 (the final two races of the season) is realistic for me."

During the chat, Kanaan announced that he'll be competing in the Ironman World Championship in October in Hawaii. Participants start with a 2.4-mile swim, follow with a 112-mile bicycle ride, and then finish with a 26.2-mile marathon. While competing, Kanaan will be wearing American Legion and "Be the One" branding. "I'm doing that to try to also inspire some people because I think doing this mental health issue, you know, keeping your body healthy helps a lot," he said. "Having some goal to try to follow. I'm doing it for the veterans. It's a huge challenge."

When asked what his most memorable interaction with a veteran or Legionnaire was since the Legion and CGR partnered, Kanaan told the story of having received a letter prior to last year's Indy 500 from the mother of a service-member who was killed in combat. Included with the letter was the soldier's coin.

"We had his name on our car, actually. It was really, really emotional for me, and it was something that brought a lot of meaning to me," Kanaan said. "It gave me an extra purpose. And I remember talking to his mom after the race and that we finished in the top 10 and how touched I was. Actually, I kept his coin, and it sits in my house right beside my

(Indy 500) trophy. That's definitely something that touched me quite a bit."

For Ganassi, it's been all the different interactions he's had with American Legion Family members at various races this season.

"When each and every one of you that has attended races come up and introduce yourself, I want all of you that have not been to the races to understand the people that are there, how well they represent you," he said. "I encourage each and every one of you to be there, because they're some of the most cordial, down-to-earth people I've ever met in my life. And they're in this room right now, and I want to thank each and every one of you for being there for the team."

Jimmie Johnson to race Grand Prix of Portland

Bruce Martin | August 31, 2022

Jimmie Johnson is back on the West Coast, and the new member of the Sons of The American Legion hopes to end the 2022 INDYCAR Series season with a flourish.

There are two races remaining in the season beginning with Sunday's Grand Prix of Portland. The final race of the season is Sept. 11 in the Firestone Grand Prix of Monterey.

Johnson drives the No. 48 Carvana/American Legion Honda for Chip Ganassi Racing and looks forward to his second battle on the 12-turn, 1.964-mile permanent road course at Portland International Raceway.



Carvana Racing photo

"It's a short lap," Johnson said. "The leaders are coming, especially in the world I live in. Last year, I stayed on the lead lap, ran really competitive and finished 20th. I had a great experience there last year. I had a chance to test there last year. I raced there so going back, I feel like I'm going to be in my level of performance."

By completing all 110 laps of the race, it was another step forward for the seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion. He finished ahead of such names as Simon Pagenaud, Romain Grosjean and Helio Castroneves.

This weekend, Johnson hopes to continue moving forward. "Race weekend, Portland, I'm excited for another shot," Johnson said. "I go back to a track that I really enjoyed driving at last year. I feel really good with the car and I'm glad I got those extra laps of experience heading into the race weekend."

"I'm excited to be back in the Pacific Northwest. It's such a beautiful area of the country. I can't wait to get out there and go racing."

Johnson is from El Cajon, Calif., not exactly close to Portland International Raceway. In fact, it's 1,102 miles straight up Interstate 5 from the community near San Diego to the site of this weekend's race.

But Johnson always feels at home when he's on the West Coast.

"It's pretty far north for me, but yes, it's great to be back," Johnson said.

While Johnson hopes to finish on a high note, Chip Ganassi Racing has three drivers in the closest points race from positions one to five since 2003. Just 43 points separate the top-five.

Team Penske's Will Power is the leader, but he is just three points ahead of his teammate and two-time NTT INDYCAR SERIES champion Josef Newgarden.

Power leads the standing with two race to go for the fourth time in his career.

Six-time NTT INDYCAR SERIES champion Scott Dixon of Chip Ganassi Racing is third, just 14 points out of the lead. Another Chip Ganassi Racing driver, 106th Indianapolis 500 winner Marcus Ericsson, is only 17 points out of the lead.

Defending NTT INDYCAR SERIES champion Alex Palou, who has driven The American Legion car several times this season, is the driver from CGR involved in the points battle. He is 43 points out in fifth place.

Sunday's Grand Prix of Portland can be seen on NBC with the telecast beginning at 3 p.m. Eastern Time.

Ohio State gifts WWII veteran with Notre Dame tickets prior to 100th birthday

Bryant Somerville | September 1, 2022



As a lifelong Ohio State and Notre Dame fan, Lawrence McCauley will be at this weekend's kickoff one day before his birthday.

LEWIS CENTER, Ohio — Everything you see on the World War II Army jacket of Lawrence McCauley, he's earned.

The Army Good Conduct Medal. The European African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 5 Bronze Stars for Normandy. One Silver Campaign Star for successful completion of all five campaigns. The WWII Victory Medal. The French Legion d'honneur Medal.

All of them; he's earned. And, this Sunday, McCauley will hit a milestone.

"I'll be 100 [years old] on September the fourth," he said. All of his history pales in comparison to his story.

He grew up Catholic and went to St. Mary's High School in Lancaster where he graduated in 1941. In December of that same year, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, McCauley joined the service.

To this day, he calls that one of his greatest accomplishments.

He remembers landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day. Then, towards the end of the war, he remembers being in Weimar, Germany, where he and another soldier overtook a train that had two SS troops standing guard.

"On the count of three," he remembers saying to his fellow soldier. "He picked his off. I picked mine off. Go down and open all those doors on the side [of the train]...run that way

and keep going until you come to an American," he remembers saying to the people inside the train. "Americans will help you."

He later learned that train, as part of a concentration camp, was filled with women and children who were being sent to their execution.

When he returned home, he got married and had eight children. His family has now grown to 24 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



submitted photo

"He's taught my wife and I and my family and my kids so much about how to live your life," Lawrence's son, Tom McCauley, said.

Tom says his father's story has always been somewhat of a mystery since his service was never talked about growing up. When he got older, he says he learned more and more. After the war, his dad lived in Columbus and would often see Woody Hayes on his daily walk.

Remember, though, Lawrence, who is of strong Catholic faith, has always loved the Irish of Notre Dame. Then, an announcement eight years ago.

"That's in the year 2022," Tom remembers his dad telling him. "I'm gonna be a hundred years old. I want to live to see that game."



Hearing this, The Ohio State University gifted McCauley with four tickets. He says it doesn't matter who wins.

"It wouldn't make much difference, really," he said. "I'm 50/50. I love the Buckeyes and I love South Bend."

A lifelong dream to be fulfilled one day before turning 100. As for his fountain of youth he says it's a clear conscience. "I think...do not tell a lie," he said.

With that being said, it's not important to note who he thinks will win. Just know it's his opinion and, like everything else in his life, he's earned it.



Columbus, Ohio



REMEMBER, MOST OF YOUR STRESS COMES FROM THE WAY YOU RESPOND, NOT THE WAY LIFE IS. ADJUST YOUR ATTITUDE. CHANGE HOW YOU SEE THINGS. LOOK FOR THE GOOD IN ALL SITUATIONS. TAKE THE LESSON AND FIND NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW. LET ALL THE EXTRA STRESS, WORRYING AND OVERTHINKING GO.

SQUADRON EVERLASTING

to have a member's information listed here,
please send to jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com



William F. "Bill" Tyler, 73, of Ramsey Road in Ashville, died Thursday morning, August 25, 2022 at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh.

He was born June 21, 1949 in Jamestown, the son of the late William and Beverly Johnson Tyler, and was a graduate of Panama Central School.

Bill was employed for many years by the former House of Television and retired from Tri James Services, Inc. An avid NASCAR fan, he was a 40-year season ticket holder to the Daytona 500 and often known as "Dollar Bill."

Bill was a founding member since 1974 of the Lower Lake Area Men's Association where he had served as chairman of the board. He was also a member of the Busti Men's Club and the Sons of the American Legion Lakewood Post 1286. He loved hunting and camping with and spending time with family and friends.

Surviving is his wife, Lori DiDomenico York Tyler, whom he married July 25, 1997; a daughter, Pamela Campion and two sons, Jonathan York, and Adam York; and four grandchildren: Austin Lindstrom, Connor Campion, Emelyn Campion, and Kaylee York. Also surviving are four sisters: Darlyne Tyler Plank, Karen Hall Blackledge, Debra King and Ann Marie Kozlowski-Dreesen; several nieces, nephews, and cousins; as well as many close friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Oct. 8, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Llama Club, Route 474, Ashville.

The family requests memorials be made to the Meredith A. Cowden Foundation for the research of Graft vs. Host Disease (GvHD) at info@cowdenfoundation.org.

Memories and condolences may be shared at www.lind-funeralhome.com.

The Post-Journal
Jamestown, New York



FROM THE EDITOR

You will notice four new buttons below that have been added to Round-Up. They contain links to the various websites they represent, and make it easy to quickly access information right from the newsletter.

You can also copy the buttons to use in your publications, email, websites, etc. When you do copy, verify that the links copied along with the clipart.

There will also be clipart that can be, and is requested to be, copied, and pasted into your publications, or wherever you think they can be of use. Remember that we want to get our message out. We want to make sure that everyone is on the same page, and that's what I try to do. Some clipart will be directly from national headquarters, while others will be made specifically for Round-Up. Don't be shy and use as needed. Basically, if you see something you like, please feel free to use it in your publications.

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I want to thank everyone for their support of this newsletter over the past three years. It takes a lot of time, but I think it is important the people receive information that they may not be getting from another source.

With that being said, I need members, detachments, districts, and squadrons to submit information about events, ceremonies, fundraising, and whatever else you are doing. If received in a timely manner, every effort will be made to get the word out for you. Thanks again for your help!



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

AMERICAN LEGION



Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola,
National Commander of The American Legion

Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola (pronounced Tree-Ola) was elected national commander of the nation's largest veteran service organization on Sept. 1, 2022, in Milwaukee during The American Legion's 103rd national convention. His theme as national commander is "V.E.T.S., Veterans, Education, Teamwork and Sponsor."

A life member of American Legion Post 1682 in Rockland County, N.Y, he served in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserves from 1969 to 1974. He completed a tour aboard the USS Nitro, an auxiliary ammunition ship with the Sixth Fleet. He was honorably discharged as a boatswain's mate third class. He is also a member of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 1682 based on the World War II service of Jim's father.

Jim spent his entire working career in the automotive service industry, where he began as a parts manager at a local Chevrolet dealership and went to serve in many capacities of management. At the time of his retirement in 2017, he was director of service and parts at a New York Metro Mercedes Benz dealership. After a brief time at home, he began an entirely new career as a school bus driver for the Falmouth School District and part-time motor coach operator.

Jim served in many offices at every level of The American Legion. He was elected department (state) commander of New York for 2010-2011, and chaired several national commissions to include the National Security Commission, Legislative Commission, Veterans Employment and Education Commission and the Membership and Post Activity

Committee. He was elected national vice commander for 2016-2017.

He married his wife Saveria (pronounced Sa-Vare-ee-ah) in 1973. They have two daughters, Laura, and Jeanette; a son-in-law, Michael; and three grandchildren, Alexander, Abigail, and Natalia. The Troiolas include three generations of American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion membership.

Jim currently lives in Maine to be close to a daughter and his grandchildren, while still being within driving distance to the Department of New York.



photo by Hilary Ott

Dillard praises Legion Family for PACT Act advocacy, urges continued work and growth

[Steven B. Brooks](#) | August 30, 2022

As he looked back over his year as American Legion national commander, Texas Legionnaire Paul E. Dillard told delegates to the organization's national convention in Milwaukee that passage of the PACT Act was a monumental accomplishment for the American Legion Family.

But it was not, by far, the organization's only accomplishment over the past 12 months.

"We did it. YOU did it. The American Legion Auxiliary did it. The Sons of The American Legion did it," Dillard told the convention floor. "Thanks to your congressional visits, letters, phone calls, e-mails, and hard work, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins Act of 2022 is now law. It would not have passed Congress without you.

"Now, an estimated 3.5 million veterans exposed to burn pits can get the benefits they deserve. The same goes for those exposed to Agent Orange, radiation, and other poisons and toxins. When I ran for national commander, I did

so on the platform of 'No Veteran Left Behind.' The PACT Act will ensure that millions will not be."

Dillard also pointed to victories via the nation's highest court. He noted the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Texas vs. Torres*, ruled that a former state trooper had the right to sue his state after it refused to rehire and accommodate him following health conditions that incurred while he was deployed.

"The ruling was a perfect response to national [Resolution 85](#), passed at our Reno (national) convention in 2017, which calls for the strengthening of re-employment rights for Guard and reserve members returning from deployment," Dillard said. "It is just another example of our America Legion delegates being ahead of our public policymakers."

Dillard also mentioned another Supreme Court ruling in *Kennedy vs. Bremerton School District* that he said protected the right of a high school coach to pray on the football field during games. "The coach happened to be a veteran, though we support the right of all Americans to practice their faith in a manner that is guaranteed by our First Amendment," he said. "When veterans are denied their constitutional rights, it meets my definition of veterans left behind."

Dillard also asked Legionnaires to continue to push the Legion's "[Be the One](#)" veteran suicide-prevention initiative and pointed to a letter to *The American Legion Magazine* from a Florida Legionnaire who survived a suicide attempt after learning he was about to be homeless due to undiagnosed PTSD. In his letter he wrote, "Most days I am grateful I survived. Thanks to VA treatment, I was able to reconstruct my life."

Dillard said examples like this are "why we have Buddy Checks. This is why it is so important that we check on the wellbeing of our fellow veterans. Very few of us are professional therapists, but we do know how to listen and ensure that veterans in crisis get to the VA or other qualified counselors."

Turning to membership, Dillard pointed out that signing up new members isn't good enough, calling it "only a band-aid approach if you don't make that member feel welcome. Attend a couple of post meetings with those new members. Sit next to them. Don't just call them when it's time to collect dues. If they feel like family, they will stay in the family."

Dillard said he's seen plenty of examples of support and love for The American Legion – whether rooting for the Legion's INDYCAR program, in France for D-Day, through

American Legion youth programs and from those assisted by the organization's service officers.

"We need to do a better job codifying their love into membership," Dillard said. "Even people who are not eligible are usually close to someone who is. And with the LEGION Act, millions and millions of people are eligible to be members of the American Legion Family."

Dillard said that in order to follow the Legion's motto of "Veterans Strengthening America," the organization must show growth. "In order for the organization to truly strengthen America, it will take many of us," he said. "A larger American Legion is a stronger American Legion. And a stronger American Legion means a stronger America."

Army Lt. Gen. Piatt: 'Let's commit to Be the One'

[Cameran Richardson](#) | August 30, 2022

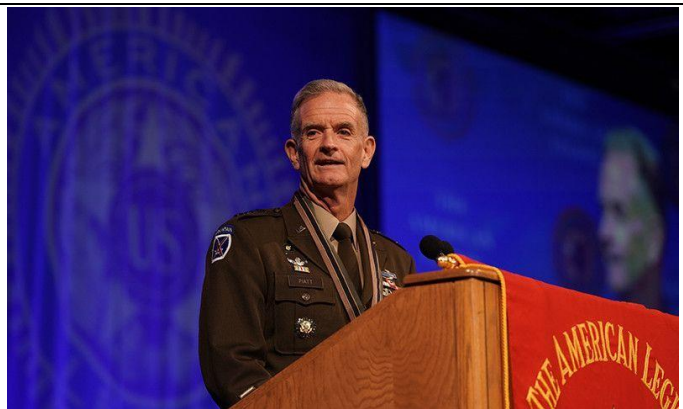
One Easter Sunday while serving in Afghanistan on a mission with the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion 27th Infantry Wolfhounds, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Walter Piatt received a call. "One that you hate to hear as a commander Man down." One soldier had been killed, one was wounded, and one was not expected to make it. But then Piatt later received a call that the soldier expected not to live, Brandon Moreaco, was alive. And one he remains in contact with today.

"I asked him why he served ... it was not for honor or glory or none of that," said Piatt, Director of the Army Staff, to delegates on the convention floor of the American Legion's 103rd national convention in Milwaukee Aug. 30. "He did it for his fellow Wolfhounds, his friends, his buddies who knows what it's like to be happy laying in the dirt in a foreign land.

"I've witnessed extreme acts of bravery and combat," added Piatt who enlisted in the Army at 17 and has served since. "Young men and women willing to sacrifice all for a friend. Willing to run through fire to save a soldier they don't even know, run through bullets to get medical attention to a wounded soldier, lying there screaming. Yet when we come home, we often bring with us invisible wounds that are not seen. Just because you redeploy does not mean you come home. "We all need to 'Be the One' and save the lives."

"[Be the One](#)" is The American Legion's new veteran suicide prevention campaign. The Legion wants you to "Be the One" to ask veterans how they are doing; listen when a veteran needs to talk; and reach out when a veteran is struggling.

“All of us can do this,” Piatt said. “We can all be the one to look out for our fellow veterans as they deal with the invisible wounds of war that often cloud other areas of our lives. They may look normal. They may act normal. But the war comes home with you, all of us. We need to be the one that brings our veteran’s home.”



U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Walter Piatt, Director of the Army Staff, speaks at The American Legion 103rd National Convention at the Milwaukee Center in Milwaukee on Tuesday, Aug. 30. Photo by Hilary Ott/The American Legion

In discussing military recruitment, Piatt shared that Army enlistment is low, but a new future soldier preparatory course was established at Fort Jackson, S.C., and is changing the course. “For some soldiers who may be challenged academically or physically, we give you an opportunity to rise up and meet the tough standards our military demands. We are seeing great results. And we’re taking all who want to serve something greater than themselves.”

That service above self is what Piatt reflected upon to the Legionnaires before him. “You all represent the positives of military service and demonstrate daily in your communities the benefits of cohesiveness, loyalty, leadership, selfless service that can inspire our youth today to want to serve in the military,” he said. “Being here is a strong reminder why service is necessary and why we should never forget, never forget those who serve and why we all need to be the one to help when others are in need.”

“Let us all commit today to ‘Be the One.’”

Record-breaking Legacy Run delivers \$1.32 million during national convention

[Steven B. Brooks](#) | August 30, 2022

It was a record-setting day for The American Legion Legacy Run and those who make it the single-biggest fundraiser for the Legion’s Legacy Scholarship Fund.

On the floor of The American Legion National Convention in Milwaukee on Aug. 30, more \$717,000 was donated to the Legacy Fund. With the \$606,839 raised prior to and donated during the Legacy Run, this year’s ride total was a record \$1,324,548.36.

“The national Legacy Run is the single-largest media event in the American Legion Family, and we like to believe we represent the best of us to the public,” said Legacy Run Chief Road Captain Mark Clark, chairman of the National American Legion Riders Advisory Committee. “We take a great deal of pride in what we do.”



The American Legion Department of Minnesota delivers their \$155,000 Legacy Scholarship Fund donation during the national convention in Milwaukee. Photo by Hilary Ott

The Department of Minnesota American Legion Family again topped the floor donations with \$155,000, but several other departments delivered substantial donations. Both the Departments of South Carolina (\$97,549) and Missouri (\$94,514) approached the six-digit mark, while the Departments of Ohio (\$84,855) and Virginia (\$83,000) rounded out the top five. Ohio’s state Legacy Run netted more than \$74,000 in just its second year, while Virginia’s brought in \$80,000.

Other notable donations included the Departments of California (\$59,030), Michigan (\$35,276), Colorado (\$28,000), Kansas (\$24,109), West Virginia (\$23,178) and Tennessee (\$20,000).

During the Legacy Run, the Department of Maryland delivered more than \$141,000 from its Gold Star Legacy Run, while a post-record \$100,000 was donated by Kenneth N. Dowden Wayne Post 64 in Indianapolis.

This year’s 1,164-mile ride started at the USS Alabama Memorial Park in Mobile, Ala., on Aug. 21 and traveled through Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, and Illinois before winding up at American Legion Post 434 in Oak Creek, Wis. The Ride departed Mobile with 281 motorcycles and

averaged 240 each day during the ride. All three American Legion Family national leaders also took part in the ride.

While on stage, Clark noted that next year will be the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Legion Riders, which started at American Legion Post 396 in Garden City, Mich. He noted that one of the Riders' founders, Bill "Polka" Kaledas, passed away just two weeks before this year's Legacy Run.

"Today there are approximately 135,000 American Legion Riders in more than 2,300 chapters around the world," Clark said. "I know (Kaledas) was proud of us. He was proud of what his idea had become."

The Legacy Fund provides college scholarships to the children of U.S. military personnel killed while on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, as well as for children of post-9/11 veterans with a combined disability rating of 50 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs. This year's total marked the eighth time the Legacy Run has surpassed \$1 million raised for the Legacy Fund and has raised more than \$16 million since 2006.

The Legacy Run also served as an opportunity to promote the Legion's "[Be the One](#)" veteran suicide-prevention initiative. "We believe that if the American Legion Riders get behind a program, it will gain ground," Clark said. "We're a rolling billboard for The American Legion."

Journalism awards presented during national convention

[Steven B. Brooks](#) | September 1, 2022

A Hawaii television station, the Associated Press, and a Milwaukee newspaper each are recipients of The American Legion's Fourth Estate Award for outstanding achievement in journalism that has made a positive impact on a community.

In the Internet Category, the award was presented a collaborative Associated Press effort from reporters Kristin M. Hall, James LaPorta, and Justin Pritchard. The trio investigated firearms and explosives that have gone missing from military inventories since 2010. The series, "AWOL Weapons," led to congressional reforms and a new accountability system by the U.S. Army. Gen. Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called the investigation "another example of free press shining a light on the important subjects we need to get right."

"I used to have this quote that I'd keep at the bottom of my email," said LaPorta, a U.S. Marine Corps combat veteran. "The quote was, 'Journalism is just as vital to the survival of democracy as the army that guards its borders.' Journalism gives a voice to the voiceless. It exposes injustices and holds leaders accountable. That's what good journalism does."



In the Print Category, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel – which in recent years has won three previous Fourth Estate Awards – was honored for its piece, "Military Suicides Take Toll on Wisconsin National Guard." Journalists Katelyn Ferral and Natalie Brophy chronicled the cases of four Wisconsin veterans who took their own lives just months after they served in Afghanistan together. Wisconsin U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin pressed Guard leaders for more transparency and data on suicides.

Accepting the award, Ferral took time to "thank the families that were selfless and wonderful in sharing the stories of their sons. I and the rest of my fellow reporters can't do journalism unless people are willing to share and talk and spend time with us. Often that can be really difficult for those families."

In the Broadcast Category, KHON2-TV in Honolulu, Hawaii, was selected the winner for its nine-part series "The Forgotten." In it, previous Fourth Estate Award winner Pamela Young highlighted the significant contributions made by Chinese-American and Asian-American veterans during World War II. It culminated in the awarding of Congressional Gold Medals to hundreds of World War II veterans and surviving family members at a Washington event.

Young's flight into Milwaukee was cancelled and she was unable to attend the convention to receive the award in person.

“The American Legion Fourth Estate Award is difficult to earn,” American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard. It is a testament to the demanding nature of the competition – and the quality of entries. Not only do the reports have to be informative and entertaining, they also have to provide a tangible benefit to society.”

National Historians Make History!

NADHAL, the National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion, and American Legion National Historian Robert “Bubbles” Gilmore made history in Milwaukee at the 103rd American Legion National Convention. For the first time ever at the NADHAL Luncheon, President Robin Shingleton and National American Legion Historian Robert Gilmore invited special guests American Legion Auxiliary National Historian Carol Campbell of Virginia, and Sons of The American Legion National Historian Bill Towns of Ohio, to enjoy the luncheon and share information and practices of the organizations Historians. Each of the Legion Family National Historians address the NADHAL members in attendance and answered questions on the different positions before recording the event with photos.

Future Convention Sites

Charlotte, North Carolina - August 25 - 31, 2023

[Visit Charlotte](#)

New Orleans, Louisiana - August 23 - 29, 2024

[New Orleans & Company](#)

Tampa Bay, Florida - August 22 - 28, 2025

[Visit Tampa Bay](#)

Louisville, Kentucky - August 28 - September 3, 2026

[Louisville Tourism](#)

Kansas City, Missouri - August 27 - September 2, 2027

[Visit Kansas City](#)



WHY YOU SHOULD BE A SON

- Support for our Veterans
- Children & Youth programs
- To help those in need
- To protect our nation's flag
- To provide various service to our community, state, and nation
- To be part of the world's largest veterans service organization
- Camaraderie

Honor the Veteran
Who Made You Eligible
JOIN TODAY!





THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name _____
First Initial Last Date of Birth

Address _____
Street City State ZIP

Male Female

Membership ID# former member Post # Phone # Email Gender

Please check war era and branch of service below:

- Global War on Terror
- Gulf War
- Panama
- Lebanon/Grenada
- Vietnam
- Korea
- WWII
- Other Conflicts
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Navy
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Marines
- U.S. Space Force
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Merchant Marines (WWII only)

I certify that I have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces since December 7, 1941, and have been honorably discharged or I am still serving.

Signed by applicant _____ Date _____ Name of recruiter _____

If you are a new member, send this completed application with annual dues to The American Legion, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206 (check www.legion.org/join for dues amount), or take it to a local post. To locate a post near you, click on "Find a Post" at www.legion.org.

D17010

DUES RECEIPT (please print)

Date _____

Received from _____

\$ _____ for 20 _____ dues

Recruiter's name _____

Recruiter's signature _____

Recruiter's phone # _____



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Date _____

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth date _____

Name _____
First Initial Last Recruited by _____
Initial Last

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 _____

Has applicant previously been a member of the SAL? _____ Where? _____

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 if 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.

D17010

DUES RECEIPT (please print)

Date _____

Received from _____

\$ _____ for 20 _____ dues

Squadron No. _____

Department of _____



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email _____ Unit # and Location _____

Date of Birth (Required) _____
 Birth - 17 18 and older

Have you been a member previously? Yes No (If yes, fill in below, if known.)

Previous Unit City/State _____ ALA ID# _____

Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Date _____

Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance.

Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. Membership pending approval of application.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Through-Name of Veteran (if living, must be American Legion member) Living Deceased

If Living: American Legion Member ID # _____ Post # _____ City _____ State _____

Deceased (If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.)

Veteran served: (check all that apply)

WWI (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)

Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):

Global War on Terror Lebanon/Grenada WWII

Gulf War Vietnam Other Conflicts

Panama Korea

Applicant's relationship to the veteran:

Female Spouse Male Spouse Mother

Grandmother Sister Self

Direct Descendant (daughter, granddaughter)

To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification _____ Date _____

DUES RECEIPT (please print)

Date _____

Received from _____

\$ _____ for 20 _____ dues

Recruiter's name _____

Recruiter's signature _____

Recruiter's phone # _____