

Emergency grants available to help disaster relief

The American Legion | September 21, 2022

In the wake of last weekend's typhoon and flooding in Alaska, and the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Fiona in Puerto Rico and across the Caribbean, a reminder that The American Legion stands ready to assist eligible Legionnaires, American Legion posts and Sons of The American Legion impacted by these and other natural disasters.

Grants from the National Emergency Fund (NEF) are available — up to \$3,000 to Legionnaires and SAL members displaced due to damages to their primary residence from declared natural disasters, and up to \$10,000 for Legion posts that have been damaged by a natural disaster and whose programs and activities within the community have been impacted.

In addition to the requirement that an emergency declaration be made for a natural disaster, applicants must be current on their membership prior to the disaster and at the time of application submission, and must provide photos, receipts, insurance paperwork, and FEMA statements if possible.

The Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program is also available to assist American Legion eligible veterans with minor children in the home who need financial help to pay for shelter, food, utilities, and medical expenses.

For TFA information on eligibility requirements and how to apply, visit legion.org/financialassistance.



Hurricane Ida destruction near Houma, La., Sept. 15, 2021.
Photo by Josh Marshall



Click [here](#) for the NEF grant application.

For assistance in completing the application, click [here](#) for a video presentation. And this [video](#) illustrates how disaster relief teams were set up in Illinois following a tornado outbreak.

NEF grants are made possible from the generosity of donations to the fund. [Donate here](#).



National Emergency Fund. When natural disasters like tornadoes, floods or wildfires strike, The American Legion's National Emergency Fund swiftly delivers needed money to veterans in their communities.



ROUND-UP

a publication of Sons of The American Legion

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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



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

BE THE ONE



**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL
TARGET DATE**
October 13, 2022



CHRIS CARLTON

NATIONAL COMMANDER

2022 – 2023

Christopher Carlton

Sons of The American Legion
National Commander 2022-2023



Christopher Carlton is a 16-year member in good standing of Leo F. Welch Jr. Squadron #495 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Chris' eligibility is through his Grandfather, Edna M. Carlton, a United States Army veteran who served during WW II, and his Father, Mirron A. Carlton, a United States Army veteran who served during the Vietnam War Era.

served during the Vietnam War Era.

Chris has held most offices at the Squadron, District and Detachment level, becoming Detachment Commander of Indiana in 2015. On the National level Chris served as Chairman of the Child Welfare Foundation Committee for 2 years and Chairman of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission for 1 year.

Chris graduated from Arsenal Technical High School in 1993, and from Horizon School of Evangelism in 1995. Chris earned a 2-year degree from Ivy Tech College through the Sheet Metal Workers Local 20 Apprenticeship, and is also a graduate from the National Management Institute.

Chris is a Journeyman sheet metal worker. He currently is a Mechanical Team Lead and Certified Welding Inspector with Altec Industries for the last 11 years.

Chris has been married to his wonderful wife and partner, Veronica Carlton, for 14 years. Veronica is a 35-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary at Leo F. Welch Jr. Unit #495. Veronica works as a BSN RN at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Hospital in Indianapolis, IN.

Chris and Veronica are dedicated to the values and principles of the American Legion Family, and are always willing to volunteer their time to their post, and for veterans everywhere.



DAVID MENNEL
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
CENTRAL REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

Third Thursday of Each Month
 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time
 (720) 572-5854 | 202 4742#



ERNIE LABERGE
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
EASTERN REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

Fourth Tuesday of Each Month
 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time
 (605) 313-4388 | 346 8542#



MICHAEL KIRSCHNER
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
MIDWEST REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

First Tuesday of Each Month
 7:00 p.m. Central Time
 (605) 313-5370 | 830 520



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

Fourth Wednesday of Each Month
 7:00 p.m. Mountain Time
 Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84720136661?pwd=cUdQclRva-jZONHdCWtNrQWluQU03Zz09>

Meeting ID: 847 2013 6661
 Passcode: 697 464



REGIONAL UPDATES

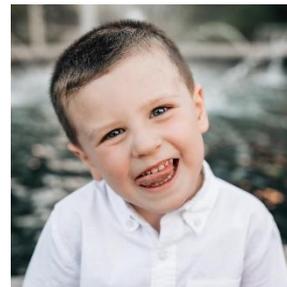
Rowan remembered at vigil in Struthers

Sean Barron | September 22, 2022

STRUTHERS, OH — Samijo Kozak fondly remembers Rowan Sweeney's typical routine when he arrived at school each morning, with book bag in tow. He often greeted the older children, was quick to laugh and, later in the school day, went out of his way to ensure his classmates felt included in his activities.

"He was the sweetest kid, ever," said an emotional Kozak, who was one of Rowan's teachers at Sunshine and Lollipops Daycare and Learning Center.

Rowan, who was enrolled there in mid-June 2020 for a summer preschool program, also was determined to learn to write his name, Kozak recalled.



Those were among the memories and stories spoken and shared during a candlelight vigil Wednesday evening at Struthers Parkside Church, 110 Poland Ave., to honor and remember Rowan, 4, who was shot to death around 2:00 a.m. Sept. 21, 2020, in a Perry Street

residence.

The day care facility is in the church. The somber gathering also marked the two-year anniversary of the tragedy.

"You never get over it. You get used to days without him, and you look back at the memories," Rowan's father, David Sweeney, said. "There's no way to heal fully; you learn to live with it."

Brandon Crump Jr., 19, and Kimonie Bryant, 26, have been charged with aggravated murder in the case. In a recent development, Bryant and his attorneys learned that it will take at least two months for DNA test results to be available, which authorities say will tell them which of the two men fired the weapon, killing Rowan.

In another recent twist, Yarnell C. Green, who was the boyfriend of Rowan's mother, Alexis Schneider, was shot to death early Sunday morning outside of a downtown Youngstown restaurant. Green had identified a gunman in Rowan's death during a recent court appearance.

Sweeney told a crowd of about 100 family members, friends, and others he's dealing with his grief via doing whatever possible to keep his son's spirit and legacy alive — especially by establishing the Rowan Sweeney Memorial Park to be in Boardman Park.

About \$110,000 of the estimated \$500,000 cost has been raised, but donations continue to be welcome, he said. They can be made at any Huntington Bank branch or by visiting www.rowansmemorialpark.com.

Also, happy to donate to the effort was Jeff Vrabel Jr. of Sons of the American Legion Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 of Poland, which raised about \$1,500.

"I told him, anything he needs," Vrabel said about Sweeney. "Between myself, and the Post 15 family, we've got his back."

Sweeney also has the support of people such as D.C. Henderson of Girard, a community activist who said he knows other parents who have lost children and wanted to offer moral support to Rowan's father.

"This was an innocent baby that lost his life," Henderson said while urging parents to take further steps to protect their children.

A tearful Bailey Williamson, who is Sweeney's fiancée, remembered Rowan as a child full of life, kindness, and occasional silliness. He also was quick to help others in need, she recalled.

"He made me who I am today," Williamson said, adding that in the two years she had known the child, he helped her become more level-headed and further see why it's important to "live life one step at a time."

A few others made remarks about their recollections of Rowan but were overcome with emotion.

reprinted from www.vindy.com

Editor's Note: David Sweeney is a member of Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 in Poland, Ohio.

Jake Myers is Ten Ideals Award recipient

[Rusty Myers](#), Adjutant, Squadron 105
Special Contributor to [Round-Up](#)
September 12, 2022

BELLEVILLE, NJ – Jake Myers of Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 105 received the Ten Ideals Award at a regular meeting of the Squadron in September. Following a course of study, Myers became only the second young SAL in New Jersey to receive the award in 2022.

Alternate National Executive Committeeman (ANEC) Henry Hasselhan, of Squadron 311 Atco, presented Myers his award. As one of New Jersey's representatives to the organization at a national level, it was an honor to have Jake receive his award from a national representative. Alongside the ANEC, Squadron 105 Commander Steve Sangemino presented the actual medal.

The certificate accompanying the medal reads:

"IN RECOGNITION OF HIS EFFORTS IN THE
PROGRAM LEADING TO THE AWARDING OF THE SONS OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION TEN IDEALS MEDAL"

"There are a lot of older Sons who don't have this," noted ANEC Hasselhan at the meeting. "It's very rewarding to see these young gentlemen come up, because they are the ones who will be replacing us."

Squadron Commander Sangemino remarked that "yesterday I remember when we had to help him [Jake] onto the stool he was so small. Now he's winning national awards." In echoing what ANEC Hasselhan commented, Sangemino said that "He's part of the future of the SAL"



The award – a medal suspended from a blue ribbon – is a national award for younger members, given out at the squadron level. It is given in recognition of completing a program of Patriotism, Health, Knowledge, Training, Honor, Faith, Helpfulness, Courtesy, Reverence, and Comradeship. Young Jake completed the course with his dad, Rusty Myers, who is the adjutant at Squadron 105 in Belleville, but is also the Children and Youth Commission Chairman at the state level for the SAL.

"I'm so very proud of Jake, in that he is one of the very few who have gone through this course," remarked proud dad Rusty Myers. "I would love to push this program at the

Detachment [state] level, and have squadrons throughout New Jersey do this with their younger members. It's a great way to engage the youth in the organization and have them learn what it is to be a citizen and a member of the Sons of the American Legion, building tomorrows leaders."

Following the meeting, with his garrison cap proudly adorned with his new medal, Jake received both a round of applause and shouts of 'Well dome!' at the meeting and downstairs at the club. Jake, who is 7, has been a member for three years, which has its membership open to the male descendants of honorably discharged veterans at birth. Myers is eligible for membership through his grandfather Russ Myers, a 52-year American Legion member of Whippanong Post 155, who served in the US Army in Vietnam.



Jake Myers



Detachment Vice-Commander & Squadron 105 Commander Steve Sangemino, Jake Myers, Rusty Myers, and Alternate National Executive Committeeman Henry Hasselhan.

Post 105, Squadron 105 hold annual picnic

[Rusty Myers](#), Adjutant, SAL Squadron 105

Special Contributor to [Round-Up](#)

September 17, 2022

BELLEVILLE, NJ – American Legion Post 105 and Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 105 of Belleville held their annual picnic on the third Saturday of September, with over 200 supporters of the Post in attendance. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year, raising thousands of dollars for the veterans programs run by Post 105. In addition, the American Legion 105 Family raised and donated \$1,500 to The Gail's Angels Foundation, a Belleville-based cancer charity.

"It's amazing how members, guests, and our community came together to help make this event absolutely perfect. What a great day!" noted SAL 1st Vice Commander James Elsmore. Belleville Mayor Michael Melham, who also attended the picnic, echoed the sentiment on Facebook by writing that "Events such as these bind us and are the fabric of our community."

With 1,200 raw clams, which everyone agreed are some of the best they have ever had, 30 pounds of sweet and hot sausage, and hamburgers, chicken, and BBQ ribs grilled by Post 105 Legionnaires Jack Robuck and Walter LaBar, folks at the picnic ate and drank all afternoon while listening to the oldies group, "The Jersey Tones", who are favorites at our events.

The over 200 tickets sold went to members of the Post, family, friends, and other veterans organizations from throughout the area. Staff which ran the event began planning it months ago, and worked pretty much non-stop for the days



before buying supplies, prepping the area, setting up tents, and putting together everything needed to host such a huge amount of people.

Attendee Janice Chavez Garley posted that “It was a beautiful day; loads of fun n laughs!”

A day after National POW/MIA recognition day on 16 September, Post 105 had set up a POW table in the middle of all of the tables, as does every American Legion throughout the country at events. The table, with white table cloth, POW flags, and a place setting with a beer at it, is a reminder of those who never made it home.

The picnic began at 1:00 p.m. After that, people coming in could buy American Legion Family 105 shirts, 50/50 tickets, and tickets to our famous gift certificate raffle.

Each year for the past few years, members from the squadron and post run around town asking all of the companies which support us – restaurants, bakeries, and other retail businesses throughout the community – to donate gift certificates to raffle off at the picnic. This year, we had over 60 gift certificates, items, and baskets donated to raffle off, raising in itself over \$1,200 for Post 105’s veterans programs.

Also, for a second year in a row, SAL member Vinny Ferriole organized and ran a cancer fundraiser within the picnic. After donating to the American Cancer Society last year, the SAL connected with the Gail’s Angels Foundation, a Belleville-based charity focusing on breast cancer moms who have a special needs child at home. The founder of the charity, James Babai, who also is the owner of Essex Cigars, created the charity to honor his late wife. Raising \$500 through separate raffle donations, the Post and the Sons matched what was raised – bringing the final donation to \$1,500.

The event ended for a second year in a row with what was supposed to be a treat for just the kids, but one that everyone got to enjoy. Belleville Historical Society president Mike Perrone, a long-time friend of the Post, came by with his Good Humor Ice Cream Tricycle Cart and donated his time and ice cream for everybody at the picnic. Dressed in a vintage-looking ice cream man uniform, Mike handed out ice cream bars to everyone from the cart which he himself bought and restored to resemble a 1950’s Good Humor cart.

Following the announcing of all of the raffle winners and the 50/50 winner, as the event wound down, the attendees and members of the American Legion Family sat back, enjoyed their cigars and drinks and the beautiful September

evening, and finally relaxed after their huge success of an event.

SAL Commander Steve Sangemino, who chairs and organizes the event each year, said that “the picnic is always a success – thanks to all of the Sons, vets, and volunteers who helped.” Many of the volunteers at the event, who are extremely active at the Post, are trying to charter a unit of the American Legion Auxiliary at Post 105. Post Commander Joe Cobianchi summed up the day is just one word – “Fantastic.”

Post and Squadron 105 would like to thank each and every one of the donors for not only our gift card raffle, but our donors and benefactors who made a monetary donation, plus all of the companies which donated food and gifts for the event. The generosity of these friends of American Legion Post 105 made an invaluable contribution to the amount of money we raised for our community’s veterans:

- The Michael Melham Civic Association, Belleville
- Rent-a-Lift, Paterson
- Bullet Hole Annex, Belleville
- Lyndhurst Diner, Lyndhurst
- Alberto’s, Belleville
- Sweets & Cortaditos, Belleville
- Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 366
- AMVETS Post 22, Belleville
- American Legion Post 299, Belleville
- American Legion Post and Squadron 70, Nutley
- Algeria’s Pizzeria, Belleville
- Café Rosalba, Nutley
- Gone With the Wings, Nutley
- Luna Wood Fired Tavern, Nutley
- Nutley Diner, Nutley
- Michael’s Roscommon House, Belleville
- Whiskey Priest, Belleville
- Lil’ Burgers, Nutley
- Pioneer Liquors, Belleville
- Shannon Rose, Clifton
- House of Que, East Rutherford
- Victoria’s Secret, Nutley
- DaVinci Bakery, Nutley
- ShopRite Nutley-Belleville, Nutley
- Village Pizza, Lyndhurst
- Chesnut Café, Nutley
- Gencarelli’s, Lyndhurst
- Ritacco Brothers, Nutley
- Belleville Pizza, Belleville
- La Sicilia, Belleville
- Chevy’s, Clifton
- Clifton Commons Spirits and Wine, Clifton

- Party City, Clifton
- Stop and Shop, Clifton
- Essex Cigars, Belleville
- Solar Di Minho, Belleville
- Yesterday's Bar and grill, Clifton
- Bloomfield Steakhouse, Bloomfield
- Me and Tommy's, Belleville
- Salon Mistris, Nutley
- Notches de Columbia, Belleville
- Bowlmar, Belleville
- Build a Bear, Rutherford
- Signature Cuts, Nutley
- Rosy Nails, Nutley
- Brix, Belleville
- Five Guys, Rutherford
- Quick Check, Belleville
- Queen Margherita Trattoria, Nutley
- Budweiser
- And all of the Legionnaires, Sons, Auxiliary members, and friends of the Post who donated food, baskets, gifts, and certificates to the event



photos courtesy of Sons of the American Legion Sq. 105 / Lauman Goon

Snapshots of Service Award goes to Squadron 105

[Rusty Myers](#), Adjutant, SAL Squadron 105
Special Contributor to Round-Up
September 12, 2022

BELLEVILLE, NJ – Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 105 on Washington Avenue in Belleville received a first-place award at the 2022 National Convention in Milwaukee for “Snapshots of Service” in the category of veterans’ affairs. The award, presented to the squadron by one of NJ’s national delegates who attended the convention, is the first time the squadron has received national recognition for its efforts.

SAL Alternate National Executive Committeeman (ANEC) Henry Hasselhan, of Atco, NJ, attended the September monthly meeting in Belleville, where he presented the plaque from the National Convention.

“I was very proud to accept the Snapshots of Service Award for Squadron 105 Belleville at the National Convention in Milwaukee”, stated ANEC Hasselhan. “Out of the three awards given out NJ took 2 first prizes for picture submissions. The other was awarded to my own Squadron 311 Waterford NJ. Congratulations to both Squadrons, on behalf of the Detachment of New Jersey Sons of the American Legion, for your prize-winning photo.”

“Snapshots of Service” is a competition held by the national SAL organization wherein “Sons of The American Legion squadrons are encouraged to enter the annual Snapshots of Service photo contest to promote the Sons’ programs ... photos must represent one of the Four Pillars: Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, or Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.”

The photo submitted was taken by Detachment (state) of NJ Children and Youth Commission Chairman Rusty Myers for the ‘Cookies for our Vets’ program rolled out in April 2022. The program involved raising money to purchase Girl Scout cookies from the Scouts of the Nutley and Belleville, NJ area to give to veterans who are short- or long-term residents of VA facilities in NJ. It not only involved the Girl Scouts making the delivery, but also young SAL member Jake Myers of Belleville Squadron 105 as well. In the end, the scouts and Sons delivered over \$1,000 of cookies to two VA locations.

“You guys deserve this ...you guys work so hard ... 105 is top notch,” remarked 2022 Detachment of NJ Commander Mark

Natale. "Squadron 105...united, dedicated, honorable, and working hard for our veterans" he continued.



Belleville Squadron 105's Myers took the photo of his son Jake delivering cookies to the East Orange VA hospital. Still wearing his mask, as COVID was still a concern at VA facilities, Jake can be seen carrying a box of Tagalongs wearing his SAL garrison cap. "At a squadron level, my kids are very involved with the Legion – and they have gotten a lot out of that" wrote Myers in April. "This project was a way to share that experience with other Scouts, while doing something nice for our veterans."

The proud Squadron of Belleville took a photo at that meeting with the ANEC, who was Detachment commander at the time of the photo, and their new award.



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
(508) 924 3315

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
(605) 472-5332 | 808 417
Online Meeting ID:

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

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation



Two CWF recipients share impact made by Legion grant

The American Legion | September 20, 2022

The American Legion Children & Youth Conference was held virtually Saturday, Sept. 17, where two American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) recipients spoke about how the grant supported their programs – Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky and The National Children's Cancer Society.

[Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky](#) received a \$3,193 CWF grant in 2022 to fund the printing and distribution of educational materials to military families on child sexual abuse

prevention and unintentional injuries in the home prevention. The mission of Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky is to prevent the abuse and neglect of Kentucky's children through advocacy, awareness, education, and trainings.

The educational materials that the CWF grant helped create were:

- [Are They Good for Your Kids postcard](#). The QR code on the postcard directs to a special landing page on the Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky website, www.pcaky.org that helps parents and caregivers identify how the people they bring into their life can impact their children.
- [How to Talk to Children About Body Safety](#) (ages 2 and up). "We created this tool as a cheat sheet, so parents didn't have to feel alone. They had tools to learn how to talk to their kids," said Janna Estep Jordan, MSW, director of Operations and Prevention Education at Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky.
- [Home Safety Checklist](#). The checklist addresses the prevention of unintentional injury through safe medication storage, swimming pool safety, lawnmower safety and more.
- [How to Talk to Children About Home Safety](#). After parents talk to their kids about home safety with this guide, "and they become empowered with this knowledge, they receive a Prevention Pals certificate. "We never want kids to be responsible for their safety; that's the job of adults," Jordan said. "But we do want to empower our kids so that they know right from wrong."

Five hundred each of these educational materials were delivered to Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky partners who serve military families across the state.

"We know that all of these things (addressed above) are 100 percent preventable when education and awareness are given to these families," Jordan shared. "What we know is that for every \$1 we invest in preventions of projects like this, we later save \$4 in services that would be provided after maltreatment occurred.

"I personally want to thank you all because this project is something that we're seeing some very good feedback from, and it would not have been possible without these funds and your support. So, thank you."

[The National Children's Cancer Society](#) (NCCS) of St. Louis received a \$25,000 American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant in 2022 to help produce a promotional brochure that educates families about the organization's programs, and to support its Transportation Assistance

Fund to ensure children with cancer have access to life-saving treatment.

Since its founding in 1987, the programs NCCS offers "ease the financial burdens that accompany a diagnosis, give crucial support and comfort, and address the challenges of survivorship," said Jessica Cook, MSW, vice president of Patient and Family Services at NCCS.

NCCS has provided more than \$68 million to over 47,000 children with cancer through its Transportation Assistance Fund and Emergency Assistance Fund. The Transportation Assistance Fund alleviates the financial burden of travel and lodging for families who have a child with cancer. And the Emergency Assistance Fund provides a \$300 stipend to families who have a child that has been inpatient or away from home for 15 consecutive days. It may be used for living expenses, meals, childcare, health insurance premiums and other healthcare costs.

The NCCS brochure created with the support of the CWF grant addresses these two funds, as well as other resources offered including the Family Support Program, Beyond the Cure survivorship program, a coloring book for elementary school children that shares common misconceptions about childhood cancer, an activity book for children ages 8-12, a guide for teenagers that talks about their cancer experience, and a parent guide to help families through every phase of their child's cancer journey.

"Our families are inundated with so much information at the time of their child's diagnosis, and so to just be able to hand them this brochure (funded by the CWF) to let them know all of the range of services the NCCS provides and that we are there for them every step of the way is crucial to the families we support," Cook said.

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 | xZztq6

Committee on National Appointments

Don Allisot, Chairman

Finance Commission

William G. Hill (MD), Chairman

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

<https://le->

[gion.zoom.us/j/93184959980?pwd=MGFuNiZjRGQySG5vdHR](https://le-gion.zoom.us/j/93184959980?pwd=MGFuNiZjRGQySG5vdHR)

[FUJvplZ0UrQT09](https://le-FUJvplZ0UrQT09)

Meeting ID: 931 8495 9980 | 171 635

October 8 (NEC) | December 8

February 9 | April 13

May 6 (NEC) | July 13



FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES

www.flyingflagsforheroes.com

as of September 25, 2022

10

Flags have been placed and
reported to honor our veterans

since September 1, 2022

Internal Affairs Commission

William Clancy, III (NY), Chairman

Fourth Thursday of Each Month

6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

(605) 313-6050 | 344 590

Legislative Commission

Thomas G. Deal (MD), Chairman

Third Thursday of ODD Months

7:30 p.m. Eastern Time

(267) 807-9601 | 988 284 103#

Last Wednesday, the House passed by voice vote five bills related to veterans:

- HR 7846 – the Veterans' Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment Act
- HR 5916 – the Wounded Warrior Access Act
- HR 7939 – the Student Veteran Emergency Relief Act
- HR 8260 – the Faster Payments for Veterans' Survivors Act
- HR 7735 – the Improving Accessing to the VA Home Loan benefits Act

American Legion calls on Congress to pass Afghan Adjustment Act

[Mackenzie Wolf](#) | September 21, 2022

The American Legion joined forces with a coalition of 24 veterans service organizations (VSOs) calling on Congress to pass legislation that would allow Afghan humanitarian parolees who are being evacuated from Afghanistan to have an opportunity to seek lawful permanent residence in the United States.

Advocates are calling for the bipartisan Afghan Adjustment Act to be included in the upcoming FY2023 Continuing Resolution. [Contact your members of Congress](#) and urge them to pass this critical legislation.

In a [letter to Senate and House leadership](#), the VSOs highlighted the promises made to the Afghan allies who served alongside U.S. forces during two decades of war, calling it a “sacred obligation.”

“We have a code in the U.S. military, ‘no one left behind,’ reads the letter. “For two decades, we fought shoulder-to-shoulder with brave Afghan allies who served with and protected American forces, fighting for the freedom of Afghanistan and its people.

“Last year, when the Taliban forces seized control of the country, our Afghan allies faced and continue to face persecution for having stood by us. Many of us made personal commitments to our allies, and we believe that the United States has a sacred obligation to the people of Afghanistan. We must honor the promises we made as a nation and are duty-bound to fulfill.”

The legislation could provide the approximately 76,000 Afghan evacuees in the U.S. with a pathway to permanent residency. Many are eligible for asylum or special immigrant visas (SIV) due to the critical assistance they provided to the U.S. during 20 years of war in Afghanistan.

Those currently admitted into the U.S. under temporary humanitarian parole have protection for a maximum of two years. They are quickly running out of time — protections will expire as early as August 2023.

Despite being eligible for these programs, their futures remain uncertain. Both the SIV and asylum processes are faced with steep backlogs and logistical issues, as well as concerns regarding the vetting process, have been raised by some critics of the effort. Many more — such as Female

Tactical Platoon Members, Afghan Special Forces who served in joint U.S. missions, and Afghan Air Force pilots who left their families behind to fly U.S. military aircraft out of Afghanistan, so they didn't fall into the hands of the Taliban — are ineligible for an SIV. Despite these concerns, [polling data on the Afghan Adjustment Act](#) show nearly 70% of Americans support taking in Afghans fleeing the increasingly devolving security situation in their homeland.



U.S. Central Command Public Affairs

For the majority of Americans who support the Afghan Adjustment Act, most believe that the U.S. has a duty to help U.S.-affiliated Afghans and that they deserve permanent residency in the U.S. because they risked their own lives and those of their families to assist U.S. forces during the war. By providing these humanitarian parolees with permanent residency, it would also provide them with a path towards U.S. citizenship.

When presented with information about the support the legislation has from prominent veterans organizations like The American Legion, public approval for the Afghan Adjustment Act increases by 17 percentage points. Additionally, public support increases by 16 percentage points when people are informed about the robust security measures being taken in vetting the Afghans who are admitted into the U.S.

All Afghans who seek to apply for adjustment must undergo additional security vetting — with requirements equivalent to those used in the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program — including an in-person interview. Those Afghans who do not meet the qualifications must also participate in a joint vetting database between the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security. There is no other congressional action that will ensure this additional layer of vetting.

“We must honor the promises we made as a nation and are duty-bound to fulfill,” the VSOs continued in their letter to

congressional leadership. “Failure to do so already calls into question this nation's ability to adhere to our code and our values.

“We must provide genuine and lasting protection to the Afghans who have made it safely to the United States and to those who have been left behind. The longer we go without meeting this promise, the more our moral injuries fester.” Currently, veterans are [standing beside their Afghan allies on Capitol Hill](#) in a fire watch vigil to highlight the legislation they believe will save the lives of those targeted for retaliation by the Taliban for their service alongside American forces. If Congress fails to include the act in the continuing resolution, The American Legion and the VSO community will work tirelessly to get the Afghan Adjustment Act passed this Congress.

“We promised to stand by our allies, those who served in uniform and those who we championed to publicly defend women's and democratic rights, often at risk to themselves and their families,” the coalition wrote. “The U.S. government made that promise as well and keeping it assures that the American handshake still means something. A promise on which, like us, the next generation of military service members lives will rely.”

Member Training and Development Committee

Mike Monserud (IA), Chairman
 First Monday of Each Month
 8:00 p.m. Eastern
 (605) 468-8772 | 625 764#



Gulf War Era and post-9/11 PACT Act Veteran Eligibility

The VA has added more than 20 burn pit and other toxic exposure presumptive conditions based on the PACT Act. This change expands benefits for Gulf War era and post-9/11 Veterans. If you have a presumptive condition, you don't need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.

<p>These illnesses are now presumptive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asthma that was diagnosed after service Chronic bronchitis Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) Chronic rhinitis Chronic sinusitis Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis Emphysema Granulomatous disease Interstitial lung disease (ILD) Pleuritis Pulmonary fibrosis Sarcoidosis 	<p>These cancers are now presumptive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brain cancer Gastrointestinal cancer of any type Glioblastoma Head cancer of any type Kidney cancer Lymphatic cancer of any type Lymphoma of any type Melanoma Neck cancer of any type Pancreatic cancer Reproductive cancer of any type Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type
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FMI VISIT VA.GOV/PACT

Membership Committee

Thom Skelley (TX), Chairman
 Third Tuesday of Each Month
 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time
 (605) 472-5756 | 771 7294#

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

additional membership information appears later in this edition

With just about 20 days until our 25% target date of October 13, we need to average 2,000 members a day to make the goal. The only things we can't do are the ones we don't try!!

Reach out to the Detachment leadership in your region and ask them to take a more proactive part in renewing members. The easiest part of our job should be to renew those that have already joined; they did so for a reason. Remind them why!! Don't forget to reach out to those that may have fallen by the wayside and reinstate members that have not renewed for a year or two.

EVERY MEMBER COUNTS!!

Start planning a membership/renewal/reinstatement drive for Veterans Day. It is never too early to get the ball rolling.

#	DETACHMENT	2023 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 25% TARGET 10/13/2022	2023 ACTUAL MBSP.	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2023 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	77	-38	57	74.03%	71.05
2	PUERTO RICO	123	-34	65	52.85%	26.23
3	LOUISIANA	1,790	-470	917	51.23%	47.66
4	FRANCE	158	-29	68	43.04%	43.79
5	GEORGIA	4,490	-286	1,408	31.36%	28.00
6	ALABAMA	2,066	-125	641	31.03%	26.76
7	WISCONSIN	4,187	-202	1,249	29.83%	27.11
8	ILLINOIS	13,398	-517	3,866	28.86%	27.87
9	OKLAHOMA	1,348	-38	375	27.82%	24.30
10	MEXICO	31	0	8	25.81%	16.13
11	MISSISSIPPI	722	6	175	24.24%	21.50
12	MISSOURI	3,219	43	762	23.67%	21.55
13	FLORIDA	21,519	546	4,834	22.46%	17.49
14	IDAHO	644	19	142	22.05%	18.00
15	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	57	284	20.85%	15.53
16	NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	122	560	20.54%	16.47
17	MARYLAND	16,058	722	3,293	20.51%	18.35
18	TENNESSEE	1,718	83	347	20.20%	16.40
19	OREGON	1,414	99	255	18.03%	13.45
20	DELAWARE	2,430	188	420	17.28%	12.76
21	ARKANSAS	447	35	77	17.23%	13.44
22	MONTANA	1,108	97	180	16.25%	14.93
23	NEBRASKA	7,015	636	1,118	15.94%	15.15
24	WYOMING	1,298	120	205	15.79%	14.12
25	COLORADO	2,729	283	399	14.62%	13.83
26	INDIANA	36,387	3,778	5,319	14.62%	12.97
27	VIRGINIA	4,109	427	600	14.60%	12.18
28	VERMONT	3,818	406	549	14.38%	12.72
29	NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	113	151	14.30%	9.91
30	IOWA	4,857	539	675	13.90%	11.73
31	TEXAS	5,569	629	763	13.70%	10.63
32	CALIFORNIA	10,714	1,243	1,436	13.40%	10.87
33	OHIO	30,636	3,865	3,794	12.38%	10.97
34	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	190	178	12.08%	8.62
35	MICHIGAN	24,271	3,154	2,914	12.01%	9.46
36	UTAH	449	60	52	11.58%	10.25
37	ARIZONA	8,004	1,120	881	11.01%	7.49
38	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	796	623	10.97%	9.86
39	KANSAS	5,919	834	646	10.91%	9.46
40	NEW JERSEY	9,386	1,342	1,005	10.71%	9.63
41	MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	779	582	10.69%	9.60
42	NEVADA	357	51	38	10.64%	8.64
43	DIST OF COL	114	17	12	10.53%	7.96
44	ALASKA	1,608	242	160	9.95%	7.94
45	WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	367	224	9.48%	7.47
46	NEW YORK	29,864	4,643	2,823	9.45%	8.09
47	WASHINGTON	2,485	387	234	9.42%	6.35
48	MAINE	2,617	426	228	8.71%	6.42
49	CONNECTICUT	1,867	307	160	8.57%	7.05
50	KENTUCKY	2,609	439	213	8.16%	6.86
51	MINNESOTA	11,378	2,044	801	7.04%	6.47
52	PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	11,100	4,101	6.74%	5.47
53	NEW MEXICO	1,483	277	94	6.34%	5.48
54	PHILIPPINES	70	16	2	2.86%	1.47
55	RHODE ISLAND	336	84	0	0.00%	0.00
Grand Totals:		367,798	40,987	50,963	13.86%	11.86

2023 SAL REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

WESTERN REGION - JACK A. YOUNGS (ID)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	77	57	74.03%
IDAHO	644	142	22.05%
OREGON	1,414	255	18.03%
CALIFORNIA	10,714	1,436	13.40%
UTAH	449	52	11.58%
ARIZONA	8,004	881	11.01%
NEVADA	357	38	10.64%
ALASKA	1,608	160	9.95%
WASHINGTON	2,485	234	9.42%
PHILIPPINES	70	2	2.86%
Totals:	25,822	3,257	12.61%

MIDWEST REGION - MICHAEL L. KIRSCHNER (CO)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
OKLAHOMA	1,348	375	27.82%
MEXICO	31	8	25.81%
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	284	20.85%
MONTANA	1,108	180	16.25%
NEBRASKA	7,015	1,118	15.94%
WYOMING	1,298	205	15.79%
COLORADO	2,729	399	14.62%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	151	14.30%
TEXAS	5,569	763	13.70%
KANSAS	5,919	646	10.91%
NEW MEXICO	1,483	94	6.34%
Totals:	28,918	4,223	14.60%

CENTRAL REGION - DAVID J. MENNEL (MI)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,187	1,249	29.83%
ILLINOIS	13,398	3,866	28.86%
MISSOURI	3,219	762	23.67%
INDIANA	36,387	5,319	14.62%
IOWA	4,857	675	13.90%
OHIO	30,636	3,794	12.38%
MICHIGAN	24,271	2,914	12.01%
MINNESOTA	11,378	801	7.04%
Totals:	128,333	19,380	15.10%

EASTERN REGION - ERNEST E. LABERGE (MA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	158	68	43.04%
MARYLAND	16,058	3,293	20.51%
DELAWARE	2,430	420	17.28%
VERMONT	3,818	549	14.38%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	623	10.97%
NEW JERSEY	9,386	1,005	10.71%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	582	10.69%
DIST OF COL	114	12	10.53%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	224	9.48%
NEW YORK	29,864	2,823	9.45%
MAINE	2,617	228	8.71%
CONNECTICUT	1,867	160	8.57%
PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	4,101	6.74%
RHODE ISLAND	336	0	0.00%
Totals:	140,932	14,088	10.00%

SOUTHERN REGION - RONALD E. ROBERTS (MS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
PUERTO RICO	123	65	52.85%
LOUISIANA	1,790	917	51.23%
GEORGIA	4,490	1,408	31.36%
ALABAMA	2,066	641	31.03%
MISSISSIPPI	722	175	24.24%
FLORIDA	21,519	4,834	22.46%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	560	20.54%
TENNESSEE	1,718	347	20.20%
ARKANSAS	447	77	17.23%
VIRGINIA	4,109	600	14.60%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	178	12.08%
KENTUCKY	2,609	213	8.16%
Totals:	43,793	10,015	22.87%

2023 IS NOW




RENEW TODAY!

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 Tuesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time



Dear TALMA members,

I can't thank all of you enough who attended The American Legion Media Alliance (TALMA) Media Training Workshop in person and virtually during the 103rd National Convention in Milwaukee. The workshop was packed — sometimes standing room only — with active participants from the opening to the closing.

That is a testament to the outstanding group of panelists who spoke on informative, engaging topics. A big thank you to our panelists Bobbie Kimelton of Arizona; Holly Lewis of Ohio; Tim Engstrom of Minnesota; Samuel Johnson of Iowa; Jeff Daly of California; and Media & Communications Division Deputy Director Henry Howard and Magazine Editor Matt Grills.

Additionally, workshop attendees approached me afterward to share that they joined TALMA. I am appreciative of everyone's work in making the content presented during the training a highlighted benefit of joining TALMA because attendees saw that value.

I have three important items to make note of:

1. Media Training Workshop. The eight presentations given during the TALMA Media Training Workshop are now online for you to watch, share and promote at the post, district, and department level. [Access each individual presentation here.](#)

The presentations were:

- a. Best practices for using The American Legion's Style Guide
 - b. How to use texting to communicate with membership
 - c. Best practices for hosting virtual meetings
 - d. Best practices for photography
 - e. Facebook, part 1: The how and why of starting your post's Facebook page
 - f. Facebook, part 2: How to create a membership renewal campaign on Facebook
 - g. Facebook, part 3: How to use Facebook advertising/promotions to grow membership or donations
 - h. The American Legion's Be the One campaign
2. TALMA membership renewal. It's that time of the year to renew your membership in TALMA for the 2022-23 year. Renewal can easily be done online at legion.org/talma/join. A great incentive to renewing and joining TALMA right now is a copy of The American Legion's Public Relations Toolkit. So don't wait! Renew and join now.

If you know a post, district or department Legion Family member who could also benefit from membership in TALMA, share with them the benefits of joining for only \$15 a year. Benefits include:

- a. A press credential with lanyard.
 - b. Free entry into the annual contest.
 - c. Hard copy of the PR Toolkit.
 - d. Virtual training sessions.
 - e. Resources for promoting Legion programs, post activities and more.
 - f. Subscription to a regular e-newsletter.
 - g. Access to a members-only private Facebook group
3. October virtual training. The next TALMA virtual training session will be held Wednesday, Oct. 5, from 7-8:30 p.m. Eastern time. A link to attend, along with topics of discussion, will be provided soon.

Thank you for all that you do for TALMA. Your membership is what makes this program a valuable resource and benefit of being a Legion Family member.

David Wallace, Chairman
Media & Communications Commission
The American Legion

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

VA's new, multibillion-dollar health records system needs major improvements, agency says

Sara Samora, Stars and Stripes | September 22, 2022

A multibillion-dollar electronic health records system launched less than two years ago by the Department of Veterans Affairs needs major improvements, agency officials told senators on Wednesday.

"This is an extremely important effort to solve a decades-long problem and is essential that VA get it right for the health and safety of veterans," said Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee's subpanel on military construction, veterans affairs, and related agencies. "In addition, this is a major investment, and VA has a responsibility to taxpayers to ensure the system works, and its success can be measured."

The VA originally signed a \$10 billion contract with the company Cerner in May 2018 to overhaul the agency's health records system and make it compatible with the Defense Department's system. However, the cost of the project later increased to about \$16 billion.



Stars and Stripes photo

So far, the new records system has been launched at five of the VA's 166 health care facilities. In some cases, additional launches at some facilities have been postponed because of ongoing problems with records system, along with delays caused by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

"I am concerned," said Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. "We're into this damn near five years and we haven't done a damn thing. I mean, we've implemented, and it's been a train wreck in my opinion."

At the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center in Spokane, Wash., where the system was first launched in October 2020, issues included unauthorized and inaccurate medication orders, patients' name and gender errors, issues in scheduling primary care appointments, misdirected links to video medical appointments and lost referrals.

The VA had originally scheduled to launch the new records system in July at the Boise VA Medical Center but moved it to 2023 after the VA inspector general released a report that revealed the system caused harm to 149 VA patients.

"Just one vet harmed is one vet too many and, right now, the bottom line is that the Cerner system is not delivering for veterans in the ways that it should," VA Deputy Secretary Donald Remy said the hearing. "It needs major improvements."

Shereef Elnahal, VA's undersecretary for health, said he visited the Columbus VA Medical Center in Ohio and saw firsthand the issues clinicians and providers faced using the records system. Among the most concerning problems that he said he saw included putting in orders for lab work or tests.

"They were not confident in many cases, and in many clinical settings, that those orders were actually getting where they needed to go on behalf of their veterans," Elnahal said. "So, there was a lot of manual rework, recheck, that had to be done to meet those veterans' needs."

He also said employees told him the system was stressful to use. Leaders at the Columbus VA facility told Elnahal that some employees quit partly because of problems working within system, Elnahal said.

In October, Paul Brubaker, acting principal deputy assistant secretary and deputy chief information officer at VA's Office of Information Technology, told House lawmakers that the agency contracted with the nonprofit Institute for Defense

Analysis to calculate an estimate of costs of the Cerner electronic health record system.

A review issued in July by the institute estimated the implementation of the electronic health record system would cost nearly \$39 billion in 13 years. The estimate also included more than \$17 billion to sustain the system.

"VA has an opportunity to manage cost drivers such as productivity loss associated with deployments [of the new system]," Rieks said during the hearing. "As the system is rolled out to more facilities, emerging information will provide additional insights regarding risk and uncertainty in the cost estimate."

Mike Sicilia, executive vice president for industries at Oracle, which purchased Cerner in June, told the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee in July that he reviewed the system's issues. Oracle took over Cerner's electronic health record contract with the VA, Defense Department and the Coast Guard and established a command center led by Oracle's senior engineers.

Sicilia said Wednesday that Oracle hosted a summit with the VA, Defense Department, Federal Electronic Health Record Modernization Office, and Leidos Holdings Inc. to discuss the federal electronic health record system's performance and its issues. Sicilia said the meeting led to plans for the system and that Oracle sent a letter to the VA detailing the plans and a roadmap.

Sicilia also said Oracle is working with the VA to revamp training for employees to learn to use the electronic health records system.

"We are working on more than 40 different technical operational improvement projects for the federal enclave that we expect to lead to improved performance and greater stability," Sicilia said in his written testimony. "We have made progress already, completing four projects and expecting seven, potentially eight, more to be complete by the end of the year. As we work on these projects, we will continue to analyze the system and make other fixes as needed."



NATIONAL
VETERANS
MEMORIAL
AND MUSEUM

A Special Message from our President and CEO

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a topic I am deeply passionate about because it is deeply personal. As a retired Army three-star General, I have been close to suicide far more often than I ever cared to be. While I cannot guarantee we can eliminate suicide from our world, I do think we can make major strides. And I believe it starts with understanding.

There are certain experiences that ring true of any serviceman or woman, regardless of their branch, base, or deployment. To build an analogy, being deployed can feel like – in a small way – preparing for game day. In sports, you spend the off-season training, pushing your body to its limits. You pour over videos and strategies and plays. You connect deeply with your teammates to ensure you understand each other on the field. Everything builds to game day, when you get to prove your talents and contribute to the team.

Time in the military is similar in that we spend nearly every moment in preparation for or in active service to our deployment – our game day. Even in the years between deployments, it is spent in active preparation for the next training exercise and orders. The difference is that during deployment, every day is game day. You could be called into action at any moment, and mentally and physically, you need to be ready.

With that level of intensity – whether you're active for three years or 33 years – you're going to leave time in service a changed person. You've lived all over, you've seen the world, you've connected with a group of people who became like a family, and you may have lost some of them along the way.

Transitioning to civilian life lacks the same intensity, purpose, and camaraderie. The "Who I am and how I matter" is hard to find or sustain.

Without that stability, things start to fall apart. Depression can sink in. Families can be torn apart. People turn to substances to cope. With each stumble, our Veterans fall a rung on the ladder, until they reach rock bottom. To make it worse, Veterans can feel they have failed if they need to ask for help.

And then you get the call. A fellow serviceman or woman, who you once saw as invincible, has committed suicide. We have to beat the sigma.

By understanding this all-too-common narrative, we can intercept our Veterans in the in-between. We can give them the purpose and camaraderie they so desperately need.

Maybe you run a corporation, a small business or know someone who does. Can you advocate for Veterans to be hired? Can you give them a purposeful career? We love to say, "Thank you," when we see a service member in the airport, but what many of them really need is an action such as, "I think I have a job for you."

Or it can be as simple as extending an invitation to join you in a hobby or sport. Do you play a weekly card game? Participate in a kickball league? Enjoy a monthly book club? Have a passion for yoga? I encourage you to seek out the Veterans among you – the neighbor, the colleague, the friend, the family member – and invite them along. Meet them where they are, and hear their story.

For me, I connect with fellow Veterans each week through the sport of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu here at the NVM. When I notice someone missing one week, I check in. That phone call, email or text may be all someone needs to keep going. It says, "I noticed you. I see you. You matter."

Together we can find the Veteran, reach the Veterans, and stop suicide.



Lt. General Michael Ferriter, U.S. Army (Retired)

President and CEO,
National Veterans Museum and Monument

[Click here for a list of Resources for Veterans](#)

Lt. General Michael Ferriter is a retired three-star General with the U.S. Army and the current president and CEO of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, Ohio.



NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM
300 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 362-2800
www.nationalvmm.org



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

Call In # (508) 924-3315

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



RENEW

TO DAY!





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The chaplain exists to minister to membership, veterans, and their families. The Chaplain work takes place outside of the meeting.

Chaplain Provides

1. Spiritual Guidance
2. Assistance in Emergency situation
3. Conducting/assisting at Funerals
4. Counseling
5. Visitation
6. Attending Functions

Chaplain Values

1. Spirituality
2. Accountability-“The means to measure how we practice what we preach.”
3. Compassion
4. Religious Leadership
5. Excellence
6. Diversity-“Being respectful of different views and ideas that are not like our own.”

Integrity. Do what is right, legally, and morally. Do what is right even when no one is looking. It is our “moral compass” an inner voice.

Leadership. Influencing people by providing purpose, motivation, and direction while operating to accomplish the mission and improve the organization. Leadership Team

“Outstanding leaders go out of their the way to boost the self-esteem of their personnel. If people believe in themselves, it’s amazing what they can accomplish.” – Sam Walton

Pro Deo Et Partia – For God and Country
Minister Jeffrey L. Gibson Sr.
National Chaplain
Sons of The American Legion

“What is told in Private must be kept Private”



BUDDY CHECK

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!



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 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.



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

Photo by Hilary Ott

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."

American Legion Riders gather to honor one of their own

[Steven B. Brooks](#) | September 21, 2022

On eight different occasions, Denise Kroeger went with her uncle – longtime Illinois American Legion Rider Jim Cowley – to the Rolling Thunder Run motorcycle weekend in Washington, D.C. There was something she noticed then that she saw again on full display last weekend in Galva, Ill., as Legion Riders from across the nation came to honor her uncle and support his family.

Cowley passed away at age 75 on July 23 of this year, a little less than a month before the start of the 2022 American Legion Legacy Run, of which he served as assistant chief road captain from 2008 to 2021. Legion Riders from states that included Florida, Virginia, Tennessee, Missouri, Kansas, Indiana, Iowa, and Kentucky traveled to Galva to attend a family and friends breakfast, the visitation and funeral service, as well as a lunch at Habberg-Hamlin Post 45, where Cowley was a member for 54 years.

Kroeger said meeting other American Legion Riders during Rolling Thunder was "like instant family. It's like you saw each other yesterday (and) we have never met each other. For me, traveling with Jim and doing Rolling Thunder, that's what I felt every time I would be at a Legion post. It did not matter where we were. You were family.

"One of the takeaways (from last weekend) that I had is they have all ridden together in some fashion so many times that it is the extension of family. It's not just Legion Family, but this is what you do."

That includes showing up at fellow Riders' funeral services, which Kroeger – who lives in Iowa – said was something her uncle engaged in often. "He had done the same so many

times, and we might not have known about it until he was home," she said. "He would be gone to this service or gone to that service."

Denise and her aunt, Janene Felter, are Cowley's sole survivors. Both were in Galva, where Felter said she was overwhelmed by the show of support from the other Legion Riders.

"My feeling of having them come is one of complete honor for them to join us at this time," Felter said. "Their respect for my brother, I can only so thank you. There are no words. The miles that they rode. They stayed in the hotel right with us. They'd come up and shake my hand...and the tears in their eyes, it was just a heartfelt tribute to the man that they rode with."

Felter, who lives in Montana, said Cowley obviously shared information about his own family while among his fellow Legion Riders. "He would come and visit us, or we would see each other at a family thing, and he would talk about his ride family and his Legion family," she said. "And what we discovered this weekend is, (We'd be asked) 'Oh, you're the sister out West. You're the family out West. Is it your boy that went to the Naval Academy?' What we know is he was always talking to someone about some part of his family in some way, shape or form."

A U.S. Air Force veteran Cowley helped charter Post 45's American Legion Riders chapter, and after taking part in a few legs of the first two Legacy Runs, he was installed as assistant chief road captain. During last weekend's events, Legacy Run Chief Road Captain Mark Clark presented Denise and Janene with a flag that rode with the Legion Riders on this year's Legacy Run.

Felter said Cowley's passion, along with the navigational skills he'd developed from over 30 years in the trucking industry, were a perfect combination for helping lead the annual ride.

"I will say that the Legacy Run culminates the finest work of his life," Felter said. "The synergy between his logistics brain – the virtual road map that was always present in his mind – to have the opportunity to bring that together with his passion for the Legion. Then add the purpose of helping the children get to college to be able to honor their parents' sacrifice in this way, and to bring it all together in a way he could truly help – that's his wheelhouse."

"To know the roads and the way the road system in the U.S. goes together, to know the little side roads, the U.S. roads and routes that in many ways may be better than an

interstate ever could be – to bring all those things together...just seems to me to be the culmination of all the things he did outside of farming that was paying it forward and doing good and being the very humble veteran and Legionnaire that he's always been."



Some of the American Legion Riders who attended Jim Cowley's funeral in Illinois.

Chris Krueger Facebook photo

Cowley was also active with the Patriot Guard Riders (PGR) and was a big supporter of the Honor Flight Network annual fundraiser in nearby Bishop Hill. This year's Bishop Hill Honor Flight Network Benefit took place Sept. 18; Felter and Denise were in attendance. During the event, a memorial program took place to honor Cowley for his years of dedication and support for the benefit and for veterans in general.

"His ALR ride world overlaps with his (Patriot Guard Riders) family," Felter said. "And his PGR family overlaps with his family, and his Legion brothers in the post, and his Legion brothers and sisters in Illinois and the region, and at the national level, it's an extension of him and his character and his personality."

Felter won't be surprised if she and Denise find out that Cowley was involved in even more activities and organizations to benefit and honor others. "It will take us a while to unravel all the things that Jim Cowley was wrapped up in," she said. "He truly found himself in all of these nonprofit endeavors, and I just simply could not be prouder."





SPORTS

Penske CEO has high praise for Jimmie Johnson

Bruce Martin | September 20, 2022

As the NTT INDYCAR SERIES teams and drivers throttle back into the offseason, it's a chance to get some well-earned time off to recharge and reflect.

That includes Jimmie Johnson, driver of the No. 48 Carvana/American Legion Honda at Chip Ganassi Racing. At the season's final race at WeatherTech Raceway at Laguna Seca, Johnson said he will take few weeks off before putting next year's schedule together.

Penske Entertainment CEO Mark Miles is hoping Johnson returns for another full season of INDYCAR action because of the positive influence the seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion brings to the series.

"I can't say enough positive things about him as a person, as a professional athlete, as a competitor, driver and champion," Miles said of Johnson. "We'll take what we can get, but he has to make that decision of how many races he wants to compete in next season.

"He has been in motorsports for a very long time. More is better if it works for him."

Team Penske driver Will Power was honored Saturday night at INDYCAR's "Victory Lap Celebration" at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum. The top three drivers in both the NTT INDYCAR SERIES and the Cooper Tires Indy Lights championship were honored as well as INDYCAR Rookie of the Year Christian Lundgaard and Indy Lights Rookie of the Year Hunter McElrea.

That included Chip Ganassi Racing's Scott Dixon, who finished third in the standings behind Power and second-place Josef Newgarden of Team Penske.

Dixon was unable to attend because he is at the Goodwood Festival in England this weekend. He spoke to the crowd with a video from England.

American Legion Auxiliary
MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY EXPLAINED

RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN:

- MOTHER
- DAUGHTER
- SISTER
- GRANDMOTHER
- GRANDDAUGHTER
- SELF — FEMALE VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED
- MALE or FEMALE SPOUSE

ELIGIBILITY PERIODS: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941

TWO PATHS FOR ALA ELIGIBILITY

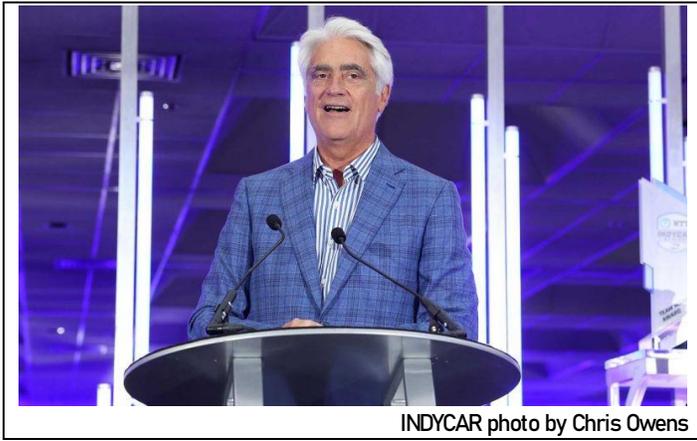
PATH ONE
The potential member is related to a living veteran by one of the relationships stated above and the veteran is living AND a current member of The American Legion.

If the potential member is a female veteran, she only needs to have served during the eligible time periods to be eligible for ALA membership.

PATH TWO
The potential member is related to a deceased veteran who served during the eligible time periods and was honorably discharged.

The deceased veteran did not have to be a member of The American Legion in order for the potential member to join the ALA.

For more information, visit www.ALAForVeterans.org



SQUADRON EVERLASTING

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

Stephen L Burnham



BRUNSWICK, ME – Stephen L. Burnham, 83, of Brunswick, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday Sept. 17, 2022.

He was born on Aug. 30, 1939, a son of Irving Burnham and Anna Perry Burnham, of Bath.

Stephen attended local Bath schools and graduated from Morse High School in 1958. During his high school years, he played baseball and participated in the Drum and Bugle Corp.

Stephen worked as a garment cutter at Congress Sportswear in Bath until the factory closed. He also worked at Exxon service station in Bath on evenings and weekends for many years. He worked as a custodian for the Bath School Department as well as delivering the Times Record newspaper on a route through Topsham, Bowdoinham, and Brunswick areas until 2020.

He enjoyed spending weekends in Ellsworth and Bar Harbor, and taking scenic rides through Acadia State Park with his grandchildren, family, and friends. Some of his hobbies included running in his younger years, duck hunting, attending Boston Red Sox games and he was an avid collector of coins, baseball cards and memorabilia. Stephen was a life member of the Bath Lodge of Elks number 934, and he was a long-time member of the Smith Tobey Sons of the American Legion Post 21 in Bath.

Stephen was predeceased by his parents; and younger brother, Larry L. Burnham. He is survived by his children David Burnham of East Haddam, Conn.; his daughter, Anna Burnham, her partner Chris Bailey and their children Quentin, Mira, Vance of Russellville, Ark.; his daughter, Summer Denise Wyman and her husband Stephen Wyman of Phippsburg, Summer's children Rachel Rist, her son Bowen of Phippsburg, and Jacob T. Rist of Boothbay; his daughter, Marcia Gustafson her husband Timothy Gustafson, their children Kyle S. Gustafson and his son Felix Gustafson, of Auburn and Kelci Adams and her husband Tyler Adams of Bath.

"I want to apologize for not being there tonight," Dixon said. "It was a huge championship year for all of us and a very successful one for the series and NTT and everyone involved.

"I'm at Goodwood putting the band back together with Dario Franchitti in a Pro-Am. I'm the amateur this weekend but looking forward to the race here.

"Chip Ganassi Racing had an amazing season this year with all of our partners. Unfortunately, we came up a little bit short.

"I really want to congratulate Will Power. You drove a tremendous season this year. Even with some of the lows that you had, some of the mistakes with qualifying, you bounced back tremendously. I know how tough these championships are and to see you do it in the style that you did it in the last race of the season, massive congratulations."

In his remarks to the crowd at the "Victory Lap Celebration," Miles also recognized The American Legion for their support of the series as INDYCAR Official Partner.

INDYCAR also helps support The American Legion's "Be the One" campaign to bring awareness to help prevent veteran suicide.

On the track, two-time champion Power and six-time champion Dixon became the only drivers to complete every lap of every race of the 2022 season. That has only happened three previous times in IndyCar history.

"What a year," Power said as he was awarded his personal Astor Cup trophy. Power also won the Astor Cup when he won the 2014 NTT IndyCar Series championship. "What a phenomenal year coming off one of my worst seasons personally. We came back with a vengeance."

The family welcomed friends and family at David E. Desmond and Son Funeral Home in Bath on Friday Sept. 23, followed by a funeral service.

To express your thoughts and condolences to the family, please visit www.desmondfuneralhomes.com.

reprinted from www.pressherald.com



FROM THE EDITOR

To those who wore “The Uniform”

Evan Skelley

To those who wore the uniform,
The one that I have not
I make this solemn promise that,
You will not be forgot
To serve, to fight, for freedoms' sake
Your sacrifice so grand
To keep Old Glory flying free
Across our noble land
To those who wore the uniform
Just like my grandpa did
I pledge to you my loyalty
Although I'm just a kid
I honor you for bravery
On land, at sea, in air
I will carry on the legacy
Of a gallant Legionnaire
To those who wore the uniform
From city, town, and farm
You swore a solemn promise to
Protect us all from harm
To those who wore the uniform
To each and every one
I'll stand up proud
And say it loud
THANK YOU, from a “SON”

One of the biggest parts of being a member of the American Legion Family is to recruit new members. We are the world's largest veterans service organization, and we want to grow our membership in order to provide more services to our veterans and our youth.

Sons of The American Legion has a goal of reaching at least one-million members by 2032, but we cannot do it alone. There are people out there who are eligible to join The Family, and who may like to become members. There are others who are eligible but may have no idea what the American Legion Family is all about. There is only one way to find out, and is to ask.

Think about your own personal recruiting. How many people have you asked to become members, not only of Sons of The American Legion, but of the entire American Legion Family? When we ask if a person's family would be interested in becoming members, we may see increased participation because everyone can find an activity, event, or “reason” to go their local post.

When we recruit the entire family, we bring a new generation of members into The Family, which helps with sustainability. New members have new ideas and different ways of thinking about things. For many, change is tough, but we must listen to what these new members have to say, because they might be right.

As times change, so does the American Legion Family. We cannot rely on people just showing up and asking to become members. We have to get outside our four walls and into the community and tell people what the benefits are to being a member of the American Legion Family. We have to help eliminate the old stigma that it's just a club full of old guys sitting at the bar telling war stories. We need to show people how relevant we truly are! Bill Towns from the Detachment of Ohio says it best; “If we don't tell them, how will they know?”

And if we don't ask them, they may never join. They may never know about the work we do for our veterans and for the children of our communities. They may never know that we raise millions of dollars each year to donate to causes like the National Emergency Fund, the Child Welfare Foundation, the Veterans and Children Foundation, 100 Miles for



**PROUD POSSESSORS
OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**

Hope, not to mention the thousands of hours we donate as volunteers in our Veterans Administration medical facilities, or the time we spend helping our community.

You see, we are more than a group of folks who just sit around the bar, we are a powerful organization, with a purpose, who take pride in providing service to others.

Let's see who else thinks like that and get them involved. We won't know until we ask. Who's next?

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com

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

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AMERICAN LEGION



Tell Congress to pass national Buddy Check Week

September 21, 2022

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

Following closely on the heels of the successful PACT Act passage, another piece of legislation The American Legion strongly endorses is the [STRONG Veterans Act](#), which would make The American Legion-born Buddy Check initiative a national VA requirement.

[Click here to support the STRONG Veterans Act.](#) The STRONG Veterans Act ([Support The Resiliency of Our Nation's Great Veterans Act](#)) calls on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to designate a "National Buddy Check Week." It is modeled after The American Legion's successful [Buddy Check program](#), which nearly 4,000 local posts a year have used to help veterans in need since 2019. It also includes dozens of provisions that come from standalone pieces of legislation The American Legion supports.

A Buddy Check Week designation is vital because it will be a concentrated effort, with the support of VA, to improve mental health outreach. That, of course, also ties in to the [Legion's "Be the One"](#) campaign to reduce the rate of veteran suicide.

The legislation promises to bring additional improvements to the mental health care of our nation's veterans. Those include:

Are you part of The Family?

AMERICAN LEGION



Ask me how to join

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- Funding research on veterans mental health and treatment.
- Making the Peer Specialist Support program permanent.
- Increasing full-time staffing at VA Vet Centers and expanding eligibility for treatment.
- Expanding existing scholarship and loan programs for students and mental health providers.

In June, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the measure in a bipartisan voice vote. It now awaits action in the Senate. The legislation has sat in the Senate for several months already. We cannot afford to let this opportunity to improve mental health care for veterans lapse.

[Add your voice to help](#) get this important legislation passed.

Thank you for your support and your contributions toward making The American Legion the leader in....

Veterans Strengthening America.

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

OUR KOREAN WAR STORY: South Korean Legion post participates in memorial ceremony for two American soldiers slain by North Korean soldiers

By Don Wong, Department of the Philippines
Public Affairs Officer | September 22, 2022

Steve Tharp, commander of Lewis L. Millett American Legion Post 38 in Seoul, attended the Barrett-Bonifas Memorial Ceremony held by the United Nations Command Security Battalion-Joint Security Area (JSA) in Camp Bonifas on Aug. 18. The memorial ceremony at JSA honored two American soldiers, Maj. Arthur Bonifas, of Newburgh, N.Y., the Joint Security Force company commander, and 1st Lt. Mark Barrett, of Columbia, S.C., the 1st Platoon leader. Both soldiers were brutally axed to death on Aug. 18, 1976, during a routine tree-trimming operation near the Bridge of No Return by North Korean soldiers. The memorial ceremony marked the 46th anniversary of the killing of the two soldiers. Three days later, the United Nations Command launched Operation Paul Bunyan in an overwhelming show of force against North Korea. Backed up by two eight-man teams from the 2nd Infantry Division, a 64-man South Korean Special Forces company and two 30-man security platoons from the Joint Security Force, the tree was successfully cut down without any resistance.



photo via Don Wong

During the memorial ceremony, Tharp, South Korean and U.S. military members laid flowers at the site where the poplar tree once stood and paid their respects to the victims. The commander of the 2nd Infantry Division, Maj. Gen. David Lesperance, who was also at the event, said North Korea continues to develop capabilities that threaten not only South Korea, but regional allies and partners of the United States. "Like them (Bonifas and Barrett), we must strengthen our iron-clad commitment to security on the Korean peninsula, which has endured for 72 years, and never take it for granted."

10 things you didn't know about the Air Force

The American Legion | September 14, 2022

Sept. 18 was the birthday of the Air Force. Now the second youngest of the service branches, the Air Force was officially founded as an independent service in 1947, although the U.S. military deployed aerial components even back in World War I.

Here are some things you might not know about the Air Force.

1. The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) has maintained a tradition since 1955 of "tracking Santa" as he travels around the world on Christmas Eve. Today, you can even download apps to follow along on your smartphone. (via We Are The Mighty)
2. The Air Force shares its birthday with the CIA; the National Security Act of Sept. 18, 1947, created both entities. (via We Are The Mighty)
3. That same year, Capt. Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in his Bell X-1 rocket-powered aircraft. (via We Are The Mighty)
4. Celebrities who served in the Air Force include Jimmy Stewart, Morgan Freeman, Hunter S. Thompson, Chuck

Norris and "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry. (via We Are The Mighty)

5. "Air Force One" isn't a plane, but the radio call name for any Air Force plane carrying the president of the United States. (via We Are The Mighty)
6. Two U.S. presidents – Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush – served as airmen. Reagan's time was before 1947, when the branch was still the Army Air Forces. (via USO)
7. The Air Force was the first service branch to create a provisional Cyber Command, in 2006. Today USCYBERCOM is a unified DoD command.
8. The Air Force's official song is titled, fittingly, "The U.S. Air Force," and includes the familiar line, "Off we go into the wild blue yonder." (via Grantham.edu)
9. The Air Force's colors are ultramarine blue and yellow – blue for the sky, and yellow for the sun and the excellence required of personnel. (via Grantham.edu)
10. Only 4 percent of all Air Force personnel are pilots. (via howstuffworks)

McCarthy was stationed on the USS Blackfish during World War II. He was a motor machinist mate, responsible for helping to keep the ship running.



Dick McCarthy

reprinted from www.wkbn.com

REMEMBERING THE GREATEST GENERATION

Candlelight vigil held for local WWII veteran

[Desirae Gostlin](#) | September 22, 2022

POLAND, Ohio (WKBN) – On Thursday evening in Poland, community members came together to pay homage to [World War II Veteran Dick McCarthy](#).

Outside of his bedroom window at the Inn at Poland Way, people lit candles, thanked him for his service and said goodbyes.



Dick McCarthy and Jeff Vrabel, Jr. during Memorial Day weekend in May, 2022.

Jeff Vrabel, Jr. with the Sons of the American Legion, organized the event and says McCarthy's health is declining.

"We have to do better thanking them and honoring them. Veteran's Day is coming up, November 11. Every day should be Veteran's Day. Thank a veteran every single day. You see some

guy walking around with a cap that says 'veteran,' walk up and say thank you," Vrabel said.



USS Blackfish (SS-221), a [Gato-class submarine](#), was the only ship of the [United States Navy](#) to be named for the [blackfish](#).

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09/22/22		2023 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS					
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date	
1 Southern 1	43,793	10,015	(33,778)	22.87%	312		
2 Central 1	128,333	19,380	(108,953)	15.10%	1,007		
3 Midwestern 1	28,918	4,223	(24,695)	14.60%	316		
4 Western 1	25,822	3,257	(22,565)	12.61%	268		
5 Eastern	140,932	14,088	(126,844)	10.00%	1,671		
TOTALS 1	367,798	50,963	(316,835)	13.86%	3,574		

09/22/22		2023 CENTRAL REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Wisconsin 1, 2	4,187	1,249	(2,938)	29.83%	141	27.11%	7	
2 Illinois 1, 2	13,398	3,866	(9,532)	28.86%	-	27.87%	6	
3 Missouri 1	3,219	762	(2,457)	23.67%	43	21.55%	12	
4 Indiana 1	36,387	5,319	(31,068)	14.62%	549	12.97%	26	
5 Iowa 1	4,857	675	(4,182)	13.90%	6	11.73%	30	
6 Ohio 1	30,636	3,794	(26,842)	12.38%	93	10.97%	33	
7 Michigan	24,271	2,914	(21,357)	12.01%	98	9.46%	35	
8 Minnesota	11,378	801	(10,577)	7.04%	77	6.47%	51	
TOTALS 1	128,333	19,380	(106,015)	15.10%	1,007			

09/22/22		2023 WESTERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Hawaii 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	77	57	(20)	74.03%	-	71.05%	1	
2 Idaho 1	644	142	(502)	22.05%	8	16.74%	14	
3 Oregon 1	1,414	255	(1,159)	18.03%	16	11.13%	21	
4 California 1	10,714	1,436	(9,278)	13.40%	125	9.37%	30	
5 Utah	449	52	(397)	11.58%	-	6.83%	42	
6 Arizona	8,004	881	(7,123)	11.01%	53	5.43%	41	
7 Nevada	357	38	(319)	10.64%	-	6.69%	44	
8 Alaska	1,608	160	(1,448)	9.95%	46	5.29%	47	
9 Washington	2,485	234	(2,251)	9.42%	20	5.43%	41	
10 Phillipines	70	2	(68)	2.86%	-	1.47%	52	
TOTALS 1	25,822	3,257	(22,565)	12.61%	268			

09/22/22		2023 SOUTHERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4	123	65	(58)	52.85%	-	26.23%	2	
2 Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4	1,790	917	(873)	51.23%	-	47.66%	3	
3 Georgia 1, 2	4,490	1,408	(3,082)	31.36%	7	31.36%	5	
4 Alabama 1, 2	2,066	641	(1,425)	31.03%	53	26.76%	6	
5 Mississippi 1	722	175	(547)	24.24%	-	21.50%	11	
6 Florida 1	21,519	4,834	(16,685)	22.46%	122	17.49%	13	
7 North Carolina 1	2,727	560	(2,167)	20.54%	12	16.47%	16	
8 Tennessee 1	1,718	347	(1,371)	20.20%	28	16.40%	18	
9 Arkansas 1	447	77	(370)	17.23%	3	13.44%	21	
10 Virginia	4,109	600	(3,509)	14.60%	47	12.18%	27	
11 South Carolina	1,473	178	(1,295)	12.08%	(2)	8.62%	34	
12 Kentucky	2,609	213	(2,396)	8.16%	6	6.86%	50	
TOTALS 1	43,793	10,015	(33,778)	22.87%	276			

09/22/22		2023 MIDWESTERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Oklahoma 1	1,348	375	(973)	27.82%	39	24.30%	9	
2 Mexico 1	31	8	(23)	25.81%	8	16.13%	10	
3 South Dakota 1	1,362	284	(1,078)	20.85%	15	15.53%	15	
4 Montana 1	1,108	180	(928)	16.25%	2	14.93%	22	
5 Nebraska 1	7,015	1,118	(5,897)	15.94%	110	15.15%	23	
6 Wyoming 1	1,298	205	(1,093)	15.79%	1	14.12%	24	
7 Colorado 1	2,729	399	(2,330)	14.62%	37	13.83%	25	
8 North Dakota 1	1,056	151	(905)	14.30%	11	9.91%	29	
9 Texas 1	5,569	763	(4,806)	13.70%	34	10.63%	31	
10 Kansas	5,919	646	(5,273)	10.91%	21	9.46%	39	
11 New Mexico	1,483	94	(1,389)	6.34%	46	5.48%	53	
TOTALS 1	28,918	4,223	(24,695)	14.60%	285			



**YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS**

09/22/22		2023 EASTERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 France 1, 2, 3	158	68	(90)	43.04%	-	43.79%	4	
2 Maryland 1	16,058	3,293	(12,765)	20.51%	238	18.35%	17	
3 Delaware 1	2,430	420	(2,010)	17.28%	21	12.76%	20	
4 Vermont 1	3,818	549	(3,269)	14.38%	95	12.72%	28	
5 New Hampshire	5,677	623	(5,054)	10.97%	31	9.86%	38	
6 New Jersey	9,386	1,005	(8,381)	10.71%	43	9.63%	40	
7 Massachusetts	5,442	582	(4,860)	10.69%	34	9.60%	41	
8 Dist. of Columbia	114	12	(102)	10.53%	9	7.96%	43	
9 West Virginia	2,362	224	(2,138)	9.48%	64	7.47%	45	
10 New York	29,864	2,823	(27,041)	9.45%	493	9.45%	46	
11 Maine	2,617	228	(2,389)	8.71%	150	6.42%	48	
12 Connecticut	1,867	160	(1,707)	8.57%	82	7.05%	49	
13 Pennsylvania	60,803	4,101	(56,702)	6.74%	554	5.47%	52	
14 Rhode Island	336	-	(336)	0.00%	-	0.00%	55	
TOTALS	140,932	14,088	(126,844)	10.00%	1,814			

09/22/22		2023 SUPER SIX STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Florida 1	21,519	4,834	(16,685)	22.46%	122	17.49%	13	
2 Indiana 1	36,387	5,319	(31,068)	14.62%	549	12.97%	26	
3 Ohio 1	30,636	3,794	(26,842)	12.38%	93	10.97%	33	
4 Michigan	24,271	2,914	(21,357)	12.01%	98	9.46%	35	
5 New York	29,864	2,823	(27,041)	9.45%	493	8.09%	46	
6 Pennsylvania	60,803	4,101	(56,702)	6.74%	554	5.47%	52	
TOTALS	203,480	23,785	(179,695)	11.69%	1,909			



Q Quota

- 1 Met 09/14/22 goal of 10%
- 2 Met 10/13/22 goal of 25%
- 3 Met 11/09/22 goal of 35%
- 4 Met 12/14/22 goal of 45%
- 5 Met 01/19/23 goal of 60%
- 6 Met 02/15/23 goal of 75%
- 7 Met 03/15/23 goal of 80%
- 8 Met 04/19/23 goal of 90%
- 9 Met 05/17/23 goal of 100%
- 10 Met 07/16/23 goal of 105%





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 _____ Recruited by _____
First Initial Last 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)

- WWII (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 # _____