

# Veterans to truck drivers legislation proposed



U.S. Department of Labor photo

## Proposed legislation could expand education benefits, veterans' access to commercial driver's licenses amid trucking shortage

Sara Samora/Stars and Stripes | September 29, 2022

Two senators have introduced a bill that would allow schools with trucking programs to expand veterans' access to commercial driver's licenses as the trucking industry faces a shortage of drivers across the country.

The proposed legislation introduced by Sens. Alex Padilla, D-Calif., and Deb Fischer, R-Neb., would permit a new secondary campus with the same course of study as its primary accredited school to provide licenses to veterans if the campus is approved by a state agency.

At least one in 10 truckers are veterans, according to a census report from 2019. Nicholas Geale, vice president of workforce and labor policy at the American Trucking Associations, a national trade group, said in June that the trucker driver shortage is expected to double by 2030. The trucking trade group reported the industry was short 80,000 drivers in 2021.

While the industry needs long-haul drivers, Geale said the opportunities in the trucking industry fit every kind of schedule and work-life balance a veteran might desire.

"Many truck driving jobs have drivers on a regular schedule and home every night and/or weekly," he said. "Trucks these days have state-of-the-art technology both for driver safety and security and quality of life when they are on the road."

While veterans can utilize their G.I. Bill benefits to obtain a commercial driver's license, law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to deny accredited schools' new secondary campuses to receive G.I. Bill benefits for two years. The law was implemented to help prevent veterans from being scammed by bogus schools.

The proposed legislation will expand the G.I. Bill by exempting trucking schools' new secondary campuses from the law and allowing them to accept education benefits.

"This bill not only supports our veterans by expanding work opportunities it would also help keep goods moving throughout our nation as we continue to face supply chain challenges," Padilla said in a prepared statement. "It will expand veterans' G.I. Bill benefits to help veterans pursue educational and career training opportunities while maintaining strong accrediting standards for institutions."

The secondary schools must submit a yearly report to the VA to ensure the curriculum is the same as that of the primary schools, as well as to ensure the curriculum does not exploit veterans or provide fraudulent courses.

Service members and veterans are 40% more likely to be exploited by financial fraud, including robocalls, suspicious texts and scam offers than their civilian counterparts, according to a recent AARP survey.

see TRUCKERS page 3



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.legion.org/membership/standings)

# BE THE ONE



**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TARGET DATE**

**October 13, 2022**



**CHRIS CARLTON**  
**NATIONAL COMMANDER**  
**2022 – 2023**



**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

  
**HONOR THE**  
**22**  
**IN 2022**



**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](#)

Meeting ID: 847 2013 6661

Passcode: 697 464

TRUCKERS from page 1

More so, four out of five service members and veterans surveyed in 2021 reported they were targeted by scams directly related to their military service or benefits. In addition, the survey found one in three reported they lost money because of those scams.

AARP also reported that scams targeting G.I. Bill education benefits are one of the more common ones facing veterans. Twenty percent surveyed said they lost money due to education scams.

"This bill ensures that schools that have already demonstrated their commitment to quality training at reasonable prices for veterans should be able to provide that service without waiting two years in the event a veteran wants to use their benefits," Geale said.

In April, the White House took action to recruit veterans and troops leaving the service into some of the tens of thousands of vacancies in the commercial trucking industry by establishing a new task force.

Called the Task Force Movement: Life-Cycle Pathways for Veterans and Military into Trucking, the task force is a partnership between the trucking industry and leading veterans service organizations to develop an action plan to attract veterans and service members into the industry, as well as figure out how to retain them in trucking jobs.

Geale said the bill was already in development when the task force came together, and it is one issue the group is considering. He said ATA and task force members told him that a key component for veterans considering their post-service career in trucking is the local availability of quality training programs amid a six-month transition period before leaving the service. Their area of residence is another factor.

"Veterans leave the military with the skills and leadership qualities that our industry is built on, including valuing teamwork and service to the country as well as safety and attention to detail," Geale said. "Truck drivers earn a family-sustaining, middle-class wage and work independently, but they are also part of the team for the nation's supply chain — keeping us all fed, clothed and otherwise supplied with necessities."

He also said there are positions for military spouses and veterans who might not want to drive a truck, such as dispatchers, logistics experts, warehouse management, software designers, mechanics, and technicians.

"Few such positions require a college degree with the debt that comes with it, and the industry has a long history of promoting from within with many executives having come from driver, dispatcher and junior management positions," Geale said.

He said the task force is assembling its report, including recommendations, and expects to release it on or near Veterans Day.

"Veterans have already given so much for our country — the last thing they need is more frustrating red tape that prevents them from pursuing a career that is essential to our modern economy," Fischer said in a prepared statement. "These technical changes will reverse unnecessary regulations and allow more veterans to take advantage of their G.I. benefits."

**2023 IS NOW**



**RENEW TODAY!**



# REGIONAL UPDATES

## Sons of the American Legion donate \$1,000 to WWI honor roll

[Jim Diehl](#) | The Standard-Journal



Sons of the American Legion Post 182 of Lewisburg present a \$1,000 check to Doug Walter for the World War II Monument in Mifflinburg. From left, Zachary Hess, grandson of Al Hess; William Reish; Clyde Fetzer; Michael Storer; Robert Pflieger, commander of Post 182; William Shultz; Twain Foust; and Doug Walter, president of the Union County Veterans Foundation.

MIFFLINBURG, PA — The Union County World War II Honor Roll received a boost this week as the Sons of the American Legion Post 182 of Lewisburg presented a \$1,000 donation.

Doug Walter, president of the Union County Veterans Foundation, accepted the check during a brief ceremony held at the honor roll in Mifflinburg.

“We, the Lewisburg Sons of the American Legion Squad 182 saw the segment in The Standard-Journal about the Union County Veterans Monument in need of donations for repair and upkeep,” said Legion Post 182 Cmdr. Robert Pflieger. “As per (the late) Al Hess’ request and in honor of all veterans in Union County we will be donating \$1,000 from our recent fundraisers.

“The money came from an Aug. 12 pig roast the Legion served up at its legion grounds off Swartz Road in Buffalo Township,” he continued. “The monument itself means a lot because of Al Hess and his work with Drew Machamer in founding the World War II Honor Roll.”

Walter said it “means the world” to receive the donation.

“We don’t have the biggest or the best, we just want to do our best to honor those who served in foreign conflicts,” he said. “The outpouring of generosity proves what we are doing matters.”

He said the money will be put towards regular upkeep of the monument.

One of the tasks at hand is cleaning up the bronze name plates on the monument. Earlier this month the Union County Veterans Foundation received \$2,100 in funding to restore the lighting at the monument in Mifflinburg.

reprinted from [www.standard-journal.com](http://www.standard-journal.com)

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## 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



### Ways to promote the oratorical speech contest among youth

The American Legion | September 28, 2022

During the American Legion Oratorical Conference with department program chairmen on Sept. 24, Department of North Carolina Oratorical Chairman Joseph Reale Sr., shared a few ways to promote the Legion's Constitutional speech contest among high school students.

"We need to reach out to all the various school systems that are out there. And try to get in the door with all of them," he said. For homeschool students, Reale said each county should have a homeschool point of contact. "You can reach out to that individual and they have the rosters of all the homeschool students in that county. We need to use every means available to get into every type of school system that's out there."

Reale shared the following ways that can help promote the program:

- Visit high schools at the beginning of the year and bring Oratorical Contest flyers or [brochures](#) to history, English and speech educators. And discuss the scholarship

money that students can earn through the program to help with college education – scholarships are available at the post, district, and department level. The national competition awards over \$203,000.

- Introduce yourself to the school principal, counselors and JROTC instructors.
- Invite educators to your post oratorical competition. "They get to see it live, hopefully feel good about it, and they will then become your spokesperson at the high school level and get more interested in it," Reale said.
- Advertise in the school newspaper and the local paper and radio.
- Attend PTA meetings to share with parents the scholarship benefits of the oratorical program.
- Invite oratorical winners to speak at your post about their experience with the program. "Use them as your best sales representatives at the schools that they come from," Reale said. "No one is going to be more enthusiastic than they are to tell their friends and other students what this meant to them."
- Invite other civic organizations to your post to meet oratorical winners and disseminate program information. Or take your oratorical winner to other organizations to speak, like the Kiwanis.

Attendees had an opportunity to share their best practices as well. They were to:

- Use social media to promote the program, including creating a separate LinkedIn profile just for the oratorical contest.
- Attend eighth grade graduations where parents will be to speak about the program, so they are aware of it as their child prepares for high school.
- Ask high school student government presidents to read a quick blurb about the oratorical program during morning announcements to generate more interest. This is what Department of Florida Oratorical Chairman Mary West has done in Jacksonville.



The Oratorical Contest presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities,

ties, rights, and privileges of American citizenship.

### Century Committee (CENTCOM)

Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH), Chairman  
[jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com)

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## 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>

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## 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

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## Committee on National Appointments

Don Allisot, Chairman

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## Finance Commission

William G. Hill (MD), Chairman  
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

<https://le->

[gion.zoom.us/j/93184959980?pwd=MGFuNiZjRGQySG5vdHRFUUpIZOUrQT09](https://le-gion.zoom.us/j/93184959980?pwd=MGFuNiZjRGQySG5vdHRFUUpIZOUrQT09)

Meeting ID: 931 8495 9980 | 171 635

October 8 (NEC) | December 8  
February 9 | April 13  
May 6 (NEC) | July 13

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## FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES

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

as of September 30, 2022

# 10

Flags have been placed and reported to honor our veterans

since September 1, 2022

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## Internal Affairs Commission

William Clancy, III (NY), Chairman  
Fourth Thursday of Each Month  
6:00 p.m. Eastern Time  
(605) 313-6050 | 344 590

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## Legislative Commission

Thomas G. Deal (MD), Chairman  
Third Thursday of ODD Months  
7:30 p.m. Eastern Time  
(267) 807-9601 | 988 284 103#

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## American Legion VoterVOICE QR Code



Scan this code with your smartphone and Sign up for VoterVOICE.

Help our Veterans & Sign up Today

Please share this page with others!

If you have questions or need help, contact:

Tom Deal, National Legislative Chairman  
Sons of The American Legion  
443-206-0402

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AMERICAN LEGION

★ ★ ★ ADVOCACY ALERT ★ ★ ★

The American Legion's "Buddy Check" program has been a great tool for our membership, and we were proud to endorse legislation that expands this program to VA. This legislation has since been included in a comprehensive package that includes dozens of bipartisan mental healthcare provisions that The American Legion supports - now we need your help to call on the Senate to pass the bill.

[Join Our Action Campaign: Write Your Senators Now!](#)

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.

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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:

- 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. With only a few months left in the 117th session of Congress, we cannot afford to let this opportunity to improve mental health care for veterans lapse.

You can help prevent this from happening by urging your Senators to support H.R.6411 - the STRONG Veterans Act. It takes just a few moments by [visiting this link](#).

The American Legion proudly supports this legislation, and asks that you call on your Senators to pass H.R. 6411 today!

## Member Training and Development Committee

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

## 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](http://www.legion.org/membership/standings)

additional membership information appears later in this edition

## SAL Leaders,

The needle is moving, and we are seeing significant progress in membership. Congratulations to the 14 Detachments that have already met the October 13 target date. Special shout outs to National Commander Chris Carlton's home Detachment of Indiana for having the most paid members to date.

Remember, membership is EVERYONE'S responsibility. BE THE ONE...make those phone calls...send those emails...knock on those doors and do your buddy checks. Be pro-active and don't wait for members to come looking for you...GO OUT AND GET IT!!

## RECRUIT-RETAIN-REINSTATE

2023 SAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT AS OF: SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

#	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	LOUISIANA	1,790	-528	975	54.47%	50.11
3	PUERTO RICO	123	-34	65	52.85%	26.23
4	FRANCE	158	-30	69	43.67%	43.79
5	GEORGIA	4,490	-436	1,558	34.70%	31.07
6	ILLINOIS	13,398	-1,106	4,455	33.25%	31.81
7	ALABAMA	2,066	-163	679	32.87%	27.95
8	WISCONSIN	4,187	-307	1,354	32.34%	29.48
9	MEXICO	31	-2	10	32.26%	19.35
10	OKLAHOMA	1,348	-60	397	29.45%	25.83
11	MISSOURI	3,219	-82	887	27.56%	24.77
12	IDAHO	644	-9	170	26.40%	22.22
13	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	-14	354	25.99%	19.97
14	NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	-20	702	25.74%	20.48
15	MISSISSIPPI	722	5	176	24.38%	21.64
16	FLORIDA	21,519	361	5,019	23.32%	18.09
17	TENNESSEE	1,718	38	392	22.82%	17.70
18	MARYLAND	16,058	472	3,543	22.06%	19.67
19	NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	36	228	21.59%	16.40
20	OREGON	1,414	67	287	20.30%	15.15
21	DELAWARE	2,430	125	483	19.88%	14.91
22	NEBRASKA	7,015	424	1,330	18.96%	18.03
23	NEVADA	357	24	65	18.21%	16.16
24	WYOMING	1,298	92	233	17.95%	15.92
25	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	105	263	17.85%	14.05
26	VIRGINIA	4,109	314	713	17.35%	14.36
27	KANSAS	5,919	454	1,026	17.33%	15.34
28	ARKANSAS	447	35	77	17.23%	13.44
29	ALASKA	1,608	127	275	17.10%	13.85
30	INDIANA	36,387	2,978	6,119	16.82%	14.98
31	COLORADO	2,729	225	457	16.75%	15.73
32	VERMONT	3,818	320	635	16.63%	14.83
33	MONTANA	1,108	93	184	16.61%	15.21
34	OHIO	30,636	2,849	4,810	15.70%	13.83
35	MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	526	835	15.34%	13.85
36	CALIFORNIA	10,714	1,041	1,638	15.29%	12.43
37	TEXAS	5,569	543	849	15.25%	11.88
38	MICHIGAN	24,271	2,493	3,575	14.73%	11.90
39	IOWA	4,857	510	704	14.49%	12.02
40	CONNECTICUT	1,867	218	249	13.34%	11.33
41	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	743	676	11.91%	10.68
42	NEW YORK	29,864	3,911	3,555	11.90%	10.35
43	UTAH	449	60	52	11.58%	8.66
44	WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	318	273	11.56%	9.29
45	ARIZONA	8,004	1,091	910	11.37%	7.61
46	NEW JERSEY	9,386	1,287	1,060	11.29%	10.17
47	MAINE	2,617	375	279	10.66%	8.06
48	DIST OF COL	114	17	12	10.53%	7.96
49	WASHINGTON	2,485	379	242	9.74%	6.50
50	KENTUCKY	2,609	398	254	9.74%	8.30
51	MINNESOTA	11,378	1,928	917	8.06%	7.46
52	NEW MEXICO	1,483	256	115	7.75%	6.43
53	PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	10,499	4,702	7.73%	6.26
54	PHILIPPINES	70	16	2	2.86%	1.47
55	RHODE ISLAND	336	83	1	0.30%	0.30
<b>Grand Totals:</b>		<b>367,798</b>	<b>33,003</b>	<b>58,947</b>	<b>16.03%</b>	<b>13.74</b>

2023 SAL REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

WESTERN REGION - JACK A. YOUNGS (ID)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	77	57	74.03%
IDAHO	644	170	26.40%
OREGON	1,414	287	20.30%
NEVADA	357	65	18.21%
ALASKA	1,508	275	17.10%
CALIFORNIA	10,714	1,638	15.29%
UTAH	449	52	11.58%
ARIZONA	8,004	910	11.37%
WASHINGTON	2,485	242	9.74%
PHILIPPINES	70	2	2.86%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>25,822</b>	<b>3,698</b>	<b>14.32%</b>

MIDWEST REGION - MICHAEL L. KIRSCHNER (CO)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
MEXICO	31	10	32.26%
OKLAHOMA	1,348	397	29.45%
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	354	25.99%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	228	21.59%
NEBRASKA	7,015	1,330	18.96%
WYOMING	1,298	233	17.95%
KANSAS	5,919	1,026	17.33%
COLORADO	2,729	457	16.75%
MONTANA	1,108	184	16.61%
TEXAS	5,569	849	15.25%
NEW MEXICO	1,483	115	7.75%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>28,918</b>	<b>5,183</b>	<b>17.92%</b>

CENTRAL REGION - DAVID J. MENNEL (MI)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
ILLINOIS	13,398	4,455	33.25%
WISCONSIN	4,187	1,354	32.34%
MISSOURI	3,219	887	27.56%
INDIANA	36,387	6,119	16.82%
OHIO	30,636	4,810	15.70%
MICHIGAN	24,271	3,575	14.73%
IOWA	4,857	704	14.49%
MINNESOTA	11,378	917	8.06%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>128,333</b>	<b>22,821</b>	<b>17.78%</b>

EASTERN REGION - ERNEST E. LABERGE (MA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	158	69	43.67%
MARYLAND	16,058	3,543	22.06%
DELAWARE	2,430	483	19.88%
VERMONT	3,818	635	16.63%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	835	15.34%
CONNECTICUT	1,867	249	13.34%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	676	11.91%
NEW YORK	29,964	3,555	11.90%
NEW YORK	2,362	273	11.56%
WEST VIRGINIA	9,386	1,060	11.29%
MAINE	2,617	279	10.66%
DIST OF COL	114	12	10.53%
PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	4,702	7.73%
RHODE ISLAND	336	1	0.30%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>140,932</b>	<b>16,372</b>	<b>11.62%</b>

SOUTHERN REGION - RONALD E. ROBERTS (MS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
LOUISIANA	1,730	975	54.47%
PUERTO RICO	123	65	52.85%
GEORGIA	4,490	1,558	34.70%
ALABAMA	2,066	679	32.87%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	702	25.74%
MISSISSIPPI	722	176	24.38%
FLORIDA	21,519	5,019	23.32%
TENNESSEE	1,718	392	22.82%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	263	17.85%
VIRGINIA	4,109	713	17.35%
ARKANSAS	447	77	17.23%
KENTUCKY	2,609	254	9.74%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>43,793</b>	<b>10,873</b>	<b>24.83%</b>

## 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.freemoveconferencecall.com/x19ct26>



# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Pro Deo Et Partia – For God and Country

Minister Jeffrey L. Gibson Sr.

National Chaplain

Sons of The American Legion

## National Convention Committee

Christopher Byrd (NC), Chairman

## Public and Media Communications Commission

Kevin Chaplin (VA), Chairman

Fourth Tuesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

## Subcommittee on Resolutions

Ned Fox (CA), Chairman

## Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Seth A. Rippe (NE), Chairman

Fourth Monday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 845 1668 0686

Passcode: 243945

## Memorabilia Sought

Are Sons of The American Legion historical documents, pictures, or other memorabilia just sitting around your house that you are no longer able to keep, or that your heirs do not want? Please donate this history before it's gone!

Past National Historian Bill Towns is collecting these types of items for a Sons of The American Legion National Historical Project. No items will be sold!

Please do not let our history to into a dumpster!

To donate or for more information, please contact Bill Towns at [docbill@neo.rr.com](mailto:docbill@neo.rr.com).



## Introduction to MyLegion

The American Legion's new membership management platform.

**Getting Started.** Start with the short videos to help you get started then dive into the details for step-by-step instructions to manage your membership and produce reports.

[MyLegion.org Video Training Series](#) - Video series to help users navigate and get the most out of the features and tools available at MyLegion.org

[Training Presentations](#) - Presentations and videos ranging from account registration to membership processing

**Step-by-Step.** Next follow the step-by step instructions to learn the tools:

- [Account Registration](#) - Please read before registering an account
- [My Account](#) - For all registered users of MyLegion.org
- [My Groups - Departments, Detachments, Posts, Squadrons, etc.](#) - For Legion and SAL Leadership

**The 411.** How do I know if National is aware of a problem? Within the help section, you can check on the latest "known issues."

[Known Issues.](#) A list of known issues and their status

**Need more assistance?** Speak with your National Membership Coordinator to get signed up for a training session.



Kansas Legion Riders Facebook photo

### 'We've lost a good one'

[Steven B. Brooks](#) | September 29, 2022

While on his way to his 16th American Legion Legacy Run in August, longtime Kansas Legion Rider Dave Schoonover was involved in an accident. He succumbed to his injuries later that day.

Five and a half weeks later, hundreds of fellow American Legion Riders from all over the nation came to Hutchinson, Kan., to honor Schoonover and show their support for his wife Millie.

Schoonover, a member of Lysel Rishel Post 68 in Hutchinson and a longtime presence on the National American Legion Riders Advisory Committee, was remembered during a celebration of life that included a memorial ride and flag line. Riders from as far away as Virginia, Georgia and New York were among those in attendance.

"It was amazing," Millie said. "Dave didn't want to have anything like this because he was afraid nobody would come. Originally, I wanted it to just be friends and family and stuff like that. But (Department of Kansas Commander Jeremy Ehart) was telling me that he was getting calls from other



# BUDDY CHECK



## WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

states ... and I told him, 'You guys run with it. Open it up to anybody who wants to come is more than welcome.'

"So, it went from nothing to something incredible."

George Guthrie, a South Carolina Legion Rider and Georgia resident, made the 34-hour round-trip trek with his wife and fellow Rider Cindy to take part in the celebration of life.

"He's been a good friend to many people," Guthrie said. "It's hard to describe. He's my good friend. We've become family. Everyone that was (at the celebration of life), it's like your family."

Guthrie also said he wanted to be in Kansas to support Millie. "She wasn't involved in what (the Riders) were doing directly, but she supported Dave to be able to do what he did. She's basically extended family."

Millie said Dave – a U.S. Army veteran and Patriot Guard Rider – was passionate about the POW-MIA issue, getting updated numbers to share those with fellow Riders. When the traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial came to Kansas, Dave and Millie put together a list of POWs/MIAs, along with short stories about each, and shared them at the memorial. "I took one full drawer of information out of his desk and gave it to the Riders strictly for the POWs/MIAs," Millie said. "That was one thing he was adamant about. I don't know what got him started on it. Once he did, he was like a bulldog. He didn't turn lose."

Millie used to ride on the back of Dave's motorcycle because back issues for her put a stop to that. But she continued to be involved with her husband's Riders work in other capacities.

"Once he found out where they were going to start (the Legacy Run) and where they were going to finish, we sat down and found all the highways that were the best road to take," she said. "All the food places. All the fuel stops. We turned that in every year."

"He'd say, 'I need you to find this for me.' Somehow, I always managed to get involved in all his stuff. I couldn't get out to do stuff with him, so it was always, 'Honey, I need your help doing this.'"

Schoonover had participated in every Legacy Run, the road captain for Flight D, though he was limited to just riding through his own state on one of those. "He'd broken his tailbone, and he'd done it like two days before the ride," Millie said. "So, he just went across Kansas. He came home

and he was in tears because he was hurting so bad. But he said, 'I made it across Kansas!'"

Guthrie said as a flight captain on the Legacy Run, it's his job to make sure everyone in the flight feels safe. That was something Dave excelled at while on the ride.

"You want to make everybody comfortable, and everybody want to come back," Guthrie said. "(Dave) was always there trying to make people comfortable, and he was very big on awareness."

"And he had a lot of good ideas going on that was he was implementing up there in Kansas. We've lost a good one."



A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

Our thoughts are with our ALA members, their families, and friends in Florida as Hurricane Ian approaches. This storm comes as our members in Puerto Rico are dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona.

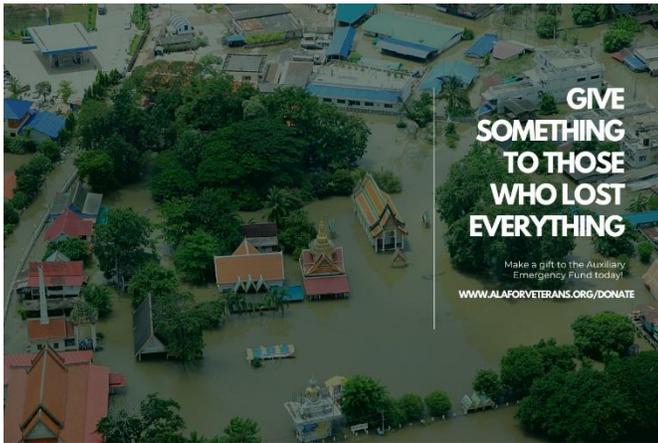
The recovery from both hurricanes will be long and costly. Communities will be dealing with flooding and cleanup.

We are prepared to assist our members in both Florida and Puerto Rico with the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF).

You can help those affected by the hurricanes by donating to the AEF. The more donations we receive, the more members we can help.

Consider the financial strain and stress our members could be facing:

- Repairs from flooding, wind damage, etc.
- Hotel stays during home repair
- Travel expenses to evacuate
- Extra food expenses
- Loss of income during the storm
- If they lost power — cost of a generator
- Mortgage, rent, and utilities still need to be paid



For ALA members who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of these hurricanes, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund's national grant assistance program can provide temporary emergency assistance to eligible members. [Apply online](#).

Please stay safe, and we are keeping you in our thoughts.

# SPORTS

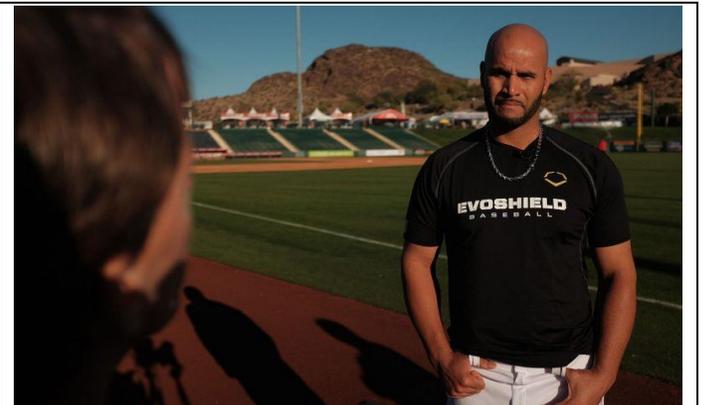
## Legion Baseball alum Pujols joins 700 HR club

The American Legion | September 24, 2022

One of Gary Stone's favorite stories about Albert Pujols stems from an event when Pujols was 17 years old and playing American Legion Baseball for Stone in Independence, Mo.

"We were in a tournament about 80 miles from here; he always rode to the tournaments with me. And I had a cousin of his who was playing for me, too, and they were having a heated conversation (in Spanish) on the way back home," said Stone, the American Legion Baseball Committee Chairman. "Finally, Albert just threw his hands up. I said, 'You want to translate that for me?' And what had happened during the game was, Albert played shortstop for me, and he knew where everybody on the field should be. My left fielder had done something, and coming off the field they were arguing and almost got into a fight, and I benched both of them."

The gist of the argument between Pujols and his cousin was that Stone was "stupid" for benching Pujols, the best player on the team.



Albert Pujols shares his stories about his experience with American Legion Baseball as he is interviewed during spring training in Phoenix, Ariz. on March 6, 2015. Photo by Lucas Carter/The American Legion.

"I said, 'What do you say to that?' (Albert) said, 'I should not fight with my teammates, you should bench me.' And he was 17 years old when he said that, so that's a great insight into his character," Stone recalled.

Pujols became the fourth player in Major League Baseball history to hit 700 career home runs when he hit two Friday night in St. Louis' 11-0 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Pujols, who [played Legion Baseball](#) for Hi-Boy Drive/Post 340 in Independence, Mo., joined Barry Bonds (762 home runs), Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714) in the 700-home run club. Bonds also played Legion Baseball, in San Mateo, Calif.

[Pujols homered off Dodgers lefthander Andrew Heaney in the third inning](#) for his 699th career home run, [then notched No. 700 off righthander Phil Bickford](#) in the fourth inning. Pujols also now has 2,208 career RBIs, trailing Aaron (2,297) and Ruth (2,214).

The victory helped the Cardinals improve to 89-63 overall, with a 7 ½ game lead over the Milwaukee Brewers in the National League Central Division with 10 games to play. Milwaukee closed the gap to 6½ games when the Cardinals lost to the Dodgers Saturday night.

Pujols told MLB.com that he was [overcome with emotion](#) after No. 700.

"What a special night. To have my family in town and to do it at Dodger Stadium," Pujols said, noting that his joy of the game returned when he played for the Dodgers last season. "It's pretty special with the Dodgers fans here, and I get both

sides of this. (The Dodgers) get to enjoy this and I get to do it with a Cardinals uniform, which makes it even more special. I'm just thanking God."

Pujols plans to retire at the end of the season, wrapping up a 22-season MLB career with the Cardinals, Los Angeles Angels, and Dodgers. He [reflected](#) on his American Legion Baseball experience in 2015.

Stone said Pujols was "a class act."

"He always knew that he wanted to be a major league player. We all thought he'd get there, we just had no idea he would get there as quick as he did, nor could any of us know he'd do what he's done. He was mature beyond his years, but he was always focused on working hard at it and knowing what he had to do," Stone said.



American Legion Baseball enjoys a reputation as one of the most successful and tradition-rich amateur athletic leagues. Today, the program registers more than 5,400 teams in all 50 states, including Canada and Puerto Rico.



## Johnson making a 'pivot' from full-time INDYCAR driver

Bruce Martin | September 29, 2022

Jimmie Johnson saw a headline on Monday that said he was "retiring" from racing. The Sons of The American Legion member couldn't help but laugh.

What Johnson wants to do in 2023 is the farthest thing from retirement. In fact, he wants to create a "Bucket List" of races that includes a number of NTT INDYCAR Series, a couple of NASCAR Cup Series races, a chance to drive on the winning team of the Rolex 24 at Daytona Sports Car race and a chance to compete in the famed 24 Hours of LeMans in France.

"I saw the word 'retirement' too and sort of chuckled, mainly because I tried to retire once and it didn't work out," said the seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion who just completed his second season in INDYCAR. "To see it up there a second time is like the 'Boy that Cried Wolf.' I really don't feel like this is the end of driving for me. It's a chance to pivot, run in marquee events and have these amazing experiences that any driver would want to have. Carvana is very interested and expected to continue on in INDYCAR with me.

"The situation I'm in, I don't think the word retirement isn't correct, but it is certainly a pivot to less. Slowing down or part-time, I wore a rookie hat in INDYCAR and now maybe I should wear a part-time hat."

Johnson is in the midst of putting together a schedule for next season that will allow him to compete in marquee events.

And fear not INDYCAR fans, Johnson plans on driving some of major races on the schedule, such as the 107th Indianapolis 500 and the Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach.

"I honestly could get really excited about all of them or any of them," Johnson said. "Street courses provide such unique opportunity and clearly the street course at Long Beach has so much sentimental value to me. The ovals, I was much more competitive than on the street courses, especially the ovals that had multiple lanes. My NASCAR background came into play, and I was really competitive on the two-lane ovals.

"Road courses, to drive at Road America and Laguna Seca, those are amazing marquee race tracks to run on. I could honestly get excited about any of it, and it depends on what opportunity will develop."

Johnson has the opportunity to pick and choose the races he wants to compete in. When he retired as a NASCAR Cup Series legend who won a record-tying seven championships along with 83 races, he was tired of the grind of a 36-race schedule. But he still wanted to challenge himself and compete in other forms of racing. At the top of his list was IndyCar, the series he dreamed of racing when he was a teenager in El Cajon, Calif., in the 1990s.

He competed in 12 of the 16 races in 2021 and made the decision to become a full-time competitor in 2022.

Johnson recently turned 47 and still has a competitive drive, he just wants to enjoy the experience of racing at this stage of his career.

“INDYCAR is certainly on the list,” Johnson said. “Clearly with the relationship I have had with Chip Ganassi (team owner), there have been more conversations INDYCAR-related.

“(Monday), in making this public knowledge now gives me the opportunity to speak to other teams, look at other opportunities in other series. I just recently made this decision and haven’t had any time to explore other options. I believe in the next month or so, I should know what opportunities are out there for me. I’m in a good place in the budget cycle for corporate dollars and for the potential to bring Carvana along, and any other interested parties. My timing is in a good spot, and we’ll see what the coming weeks bring.”

Johnson said being competitive certainly makes racing more fun. Although he wasn’t that competitive in INDYCAR statistically, he made dramatic improvement from his first race in April 2021 at Barber Motorsports Park to his most recent IndyCar race at Laguna Seca on Sept. 11.

He finished 16th that day, matching his career-best on a road course (also 16th at Mid-Ohio on July 3). Johnson’s best finish came on an oval, fifth at Iowa Speedway on July 26.

“What I’m doing now isn’t result-driven, it’s about the experience,” Johnson said. “Of course, I want to run well and I will apply myself. I do take it very seriously. I’m not trying to start a second career here. I’m trying to have meaningful experiences with teams that have meaning, individuals behind it that have meaning and tracks and races that have meaning as well.

“It is a few degrees different than what I spent the bulk of my career doing. That allows me to open up the runway and gives me more time to experience this.”

Johnson doesn’t see this as the end of his INDYCAR career, he’s just taking a different direction to see where it leads him.

It’s all about the experience.

“Carvana came up with this tagline, ‘No Finish Lines,’” Johnson said. “Most people want to believe that’s reality and would like to challenge themselves and start a second career and pivot in life, but it’s tough to do. I have discovered these last two years how many fans and racers identify with what I have done and want to do that in their lives.

“Sure, I’m competitive and want to win races, but at the same time, I was willing to get uncomfortable. I can sit here and say I’ve had the most amazing two years. Even though I wasn’t winning races and was qualifying at the back of the field in all these road and street races, I was having the time of my life. You can pivot and get uncomfortable and have an amazing experience doing so.”

He has also left a positive impression in INDYCAR, including his many contributions to The American Legion. From serving as the point man on the Legion’s “Be the One” campaign to help prevent veteran suicide, to the many times he has met past national commanders and other VIPs from the Legion, to signing autographs at the Legion’s activation unit at INDYCAR races, Johnson was honored to be involved with the service organization.

That was never more apparent than at The American Legion National Convention in Milwaukee in August, when Johnson was inducted into the Sons of The American Legion. He then stunned the crowd by pledging \$1.5 million to The American Legion from himself and his wife, Chandra.

The Legion’s involvement with Chip Ganassi Racing and Johnson also helped create an opportunity for INDYCAR to make the Legion an official charity in a multi-year agreement.

The Legion also helped support other drivers at Chip Ganassi Racing. Tony Kanaan drove the No. 1 American Legion Honda to an impressive third-place finish in the 107th Indianapolis 500 on May 29. Johnson was named Indianapolis 500 Rookie of the Year for his impressive “Month of May” performance at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Alex Palou, the 2021 NTT INDYCAR SERIES champion, drove the Legion livery on his No. 10 Honda in five races in 2022. Those included the Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama at Barber Motorsports Park, the GMR Grand Prix at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the Sonsio Grand Prix at Road America, the Gallagher Grand Prix at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and the Bommarito Automotive Group 500 at World Wide Technology Raceway.

Chip Ganassi’s hospitality motorhome also entertained numerous VIPs and officials from The American Legion throughout the season.

Johnson has made many new friends with fans and fellow competitors in the INDYCAR SERIES. He recently attended the Goodwood Festival of Speed with Chip Ganassi Racing’s six-time series champion Scott Dixon and four-time series champion Dario Franchitti the weekend of Sept. 16-18.

That weekend, Johnson believes those two drivers helped his decision become clear.

“It maybe wasn’t a light-bulb moment, I’m always very conscious of my head space,” Johnson explained. “As the season wore on, what it takes to be a full-time driver in the INDYCAR SERIES, I knew I was up to my limit of what I could commit to it.

“I didn’t want to make a decision in the moment. I took some time and had Dario Franchitti and Scott Dixon as a bad influence in the UK for the Goodwood race and a few beers in. In that process of being away, letting go and relaxing with the help of Scott and Dario, I was able to return home and really feel what I wanted to do and the decision I wanted to make.”

In Johnson’s rookie season in 2021, he started off slow, but made dramatic improvement by the end of the year. During his first full season in 2022, Johnson led laps, finished sixth at Texas Motor Speedway in March, finished a career-high fifth at Iowa Speedway in July and scored two 16th-place finishes on proper road courses at Mid-Ohio in July and Laguna Seca in September.

That gave Johnson the satisfaction that a seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion could switch gears and prove that he could do it in the completely different form of racing in INDYCAR.

“My decision to not return was based on the feeling I have after running a full season, after experiencing the last two seasons, that the experience I was trying to achieve, I was able to achieve it,” Johnson admitted. “That was the bulk of my decision.

“Now that I’m pivoting, there are things to get excited about, but the bulk was feeling fulfilled and having the experience that I wanted to in INDYCAR.”

Johnson will be putting together his schedule for 2023 in the coming weeks. Now that he is a Sons of The American Legion member, he will continue to support the Legion’s efforts and programs.



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## SQUADRON EVERLASTING

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to have a member’s information listed here,  
please send to [jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com)

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### David P. Paddock



WHITEHALL, NY – David P. Paddock, 66, passed away on Friday, September 23, 2022, after a long, courageous battle with cancer.

Dave as he is liked to be called by all his friends and family, attended Whitehall School. He then to work at his grandfather’s farm until he found his career at Carris Reels in Rutland, VT. He served 45 years at Carris Reels and leaves behind many wonderful friends and family.

Dave is predeceased by his mother Rita Blanchard of Whitehall, step brother James Kasuba of Poultney VT, and his son Joey Paddock of FL. Left to cherish his memories are his loving fiancée Nancy Round of Whitehall; his sons: Nicholas Paddock of Fort Hood, TX, Dillion Paddock of Fort Edward, Jason Paddock of NC, and his daughter Renee Paddock of Lake George; he also leaves behind two sisters: Alta Gaudio of Schenectady and Patty Bristol of Hudson Falls; and a brother Ernest Sahlberg of Dresden.

Throughout his life, he enjoyed motorcycling, hunting, and having a get together with his friends in his man-cave. He enjoyed wonderful times with his special friends, James Shattuck of Gansevoort, Howie Osborne of SC, and Ken Currier of Whitehall.

He was also a long-time member of the Sons of the American Legion, BPO Elks both in Whitehall, and the Eagles of Fair Haven VT. Donations may be made in Dave’s name to the Sons of American Legion, Post 83 of Whitehall, NY.

Family and friends may call from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 29, 2022 at the Jillson Funeral Home, Inc., 46 Williams St., Whitehall, NY. A time of fellowship and refreshments will take place at 4:30 p.m. following calling hours at the American Legion, Main St. in Whitehall.

Whitehall ELKS will conduct a Lodge of Sorrow at 3:45 p.m. at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be made at [www.jillsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.jillsonfuneralhome.com).

reprinted from [www.jillsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.jillsonfuneralhome.com).



## FROM THE EDITOR

Next weekend, Sons from across the country will converge on Indianapolis, IN for the Fall Meetings of the National Executive Committee. There will be important work conducted, and reports will follow to keep all members up to date on the happenings of the national organization. Please see your National Executive Committeeman and Alternate for full updates.

With this in mind, next week's edition of Round-Up may be smaller, and may not come out on Sunday as scheduled. Please keep an eye on your email so you don't miss it.

Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible. Renew Today!

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

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

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

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# AMERICAN LEGION

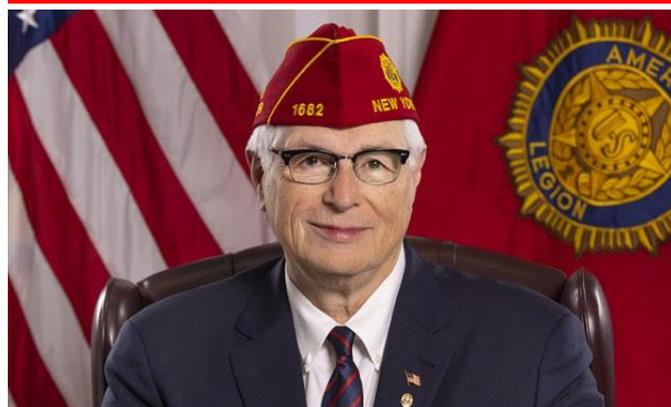


VRABEL

**Ask me how to join**

[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

# AMERICAN LEGION



### NEF: A community lifeline

September 28, 2022

As I write this message, the governor of Florida has mobilized the National Guard in preparation of a hurricane strike. This comes days after military members in Puerto Rico rescued an estimated 1,000 residents who were stranded by floods and catastrophic winds due to Hurricane Fiona. To the north, remnants of Typhoon Merbok damaged thousands of homes and roads on Alaska's western coastline.

The American Legion is not a first response organization. I leave those designations for police agencies, fire departments, emergency medical technicians and military personnel. But we are a powerful second response.

When a natural disaster hits, it is often an American Legion post or department that is at the center of a community's recovery efforts. Whether its providing meals for rescue workers or shelter for storm victims, The American Legion has been a lifeline for those who have lost nearly everything.

After Hurricane Hugo pummeled South Carolina in 1989, The American Legion revived its [National Emergency Fund](#) (NEF). More than \$9 million of direct financial assistance has been provided during the lifetime of this great program. It has assisted Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion members who have been impacted by declared natural disasters.

The NEF provides nonrepayable grants of up to \$3,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for posts on a case-by-case basis. Overhead for the program is paid through membership dues, meaning [that 100 percent of donated money goes to funding grants](#).

Following the motto of the Boy Scouts, The American Legion encourages all Legion Family members to "Be Prepared." Even if your community is not in a high risk area, I recommend [you download The NEF Preparation Guide](#) for pointers on what do before, during and after a natural disaster.

[Applications for NEF assistance must go through department headquarters and can be found here](#). The NEF, itself, will not replace your home. But it can help pay for immediate needs such as temporary housing, food, water, diapers, clothes, and other essentials. It is just another tangible example in which The American Legion delivers on its "devotion to mutual helpfulness."

As a New Yorker, I have seen the horrific damage caused by Superstorm Sandy a decade ago and how American Legion assistance made a difference to so many people. Through your support, we can continue to make an impact.

For God and Country,

Vincent "Jim" Troiola, National Commander  
The American Legion

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## Military Women's Memorial planning 25th anniversary celebration

[Mackenzie Wolf](#) | September 23, 2022

The Military Women's Memorial will celebrate its 25th anniversary with three days of events and services in Washington, D.C.

From Oct. 14-16, servicewomen, past and present and supporters of the memorial from across the country will gather to celebrate the milestone for military women. The memorial, located at the gates of Arlington National Cemetery, was dedicated on Oct. 18, 1997, with approximately 40,000 people present.

The anniversary weekend will feature celebratory events, including branch luncheons, a happy hour-style reunion event, a candlelight remembrance ceremony and the official 25th anniversary program. The official program will include formal military honors, remarks by former and current military women representing each of the services, senior Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs officials and more.

A highlight from the event will be the debut of a new anthem honoring military women. Guests at the events are invited to attend the dedication of the Vaught Center, named after the memorial's founding president, retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught.

Those who are unable to attend the in-person events will have the opportunity to watch a livestreamed wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on behalf of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation and the servicewomen it represents. Click [here](#) to register for the wreath-laying, which will take place on Oct. 16, at 9:15 a.m. EST.

In addition to the formal events, the memorial is hosting a [25th Anniversary 25-Day Challenge](#) virtual race as a way for community members, friends, partners and supporters to celebrate the Military Women's Memorial's 25th anniversary in a fun way from anywhere in the world.

The Military Women's Memorial honors the service and legacy of the 3 million women who have served in the Armed Forces beginning with the Revolutionary War. It is the only historical repository documenting the service of military women and features an education center, interactive exhibitions, a collection of military women's stories, and hosts programs and events for all generations.

Military Women's Memorial President Phyllis J. Wilson [spoke at The American Legion's National Convention](#) on Sept 1.

"I was a soldier, and I didn't feel like I needed a place for women only," said Wilson. "I was wrong. America still does not quite get that there are three million women who have defended this nation. We get to tell their stories individually and collectively."

To learn more about the weekend's events and to secure your tickets, visit <https://womensmemorial.org/25th-anniversary/>.

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### Origin of 'Be the One'

[Henry Howard](#) | September 27, 2022

Dave Berkenfield had heard enough. He closed the binder full of PowerPoint slides, marketing slogans and colorful graphics.

"All you need to do is save one life, and that's it," the retired Navy SEAL said, zeroing in on a single word to brand and describe The American Legion's campaign to reduce the veteran suicide rate.

One.

Berkenfield understands why Be the One is important. He's lost a brother and fellow SEAL to suicide. Anyone can "Be the One," he says. Veterans, spouses, friends, civilians, and caregivers all have the opportunity to save the life of one veteran.

"Be the one person to recognize that maybe you need some help, or be the one person to recognize that a family member needs some help, or be the one friend who actually makes a phone call and asks someone how they're doing," says Berkenfield, an American Legion member and adviser on a "Be the One" panel. "You just have to be a true connection with someone who needs it. That's what Be the One is about."

At its core, the campaign aims to increase awareness of the veteran suicide epidemic, destigmatize mental health counseling and develop solutions.

Be the One also encourages veterans to ask for help when they need it.

Berkenfield's advice to family members, caregivers and friends is to not wait until the veteran says things like, "I'm selling everything in my house," "I'm drinking myself under the table" or "All my relationships are failing." Instead, pursue a connection early on to build trust. "Once you start getting in front of that, veterans know they have a support system."

# BE THE ONE

There's no one-size-fits-all guideline for creating one's own support system, though. Berkenfield found his working for Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR), running its Extreme E program. He travels worldwide with the all-electric, off-road program, which promotes awareness of electrification as well as women in motorsports. While he's still part of a team, he says the stakes were higher when he was serving in uniform.

"There are levels of accountability in the special operations community and in the whole military that are higher than most other organizations," he says. "Life-or-death moments are there. If I'm a parachute rigger in charge of packing my team's parachutes, their lives are in my hands. There's a million versions of that throughout the military. But for someone, say a hedge fund manager, it's not life or death."

Both the racing team and SEALs, though, require every member to prioritize the group over the individual. Berkenfield is on a mission to further solidify that teamwork at CGR. He's developing a wellness program to help forge bonds among teammates while easing their stress and improving their performance.

The American Legion is also a way for veterans to find the camaraderie they often miss after separating from the service.

"Being part of The American Legion is an instantaneous fix," he says. "An important part of the Be the One conversation is having an organization you have a natural fit with. The younger generation of veterans understands that and relishes it."

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## OUR KOREAN WAR STORY: Forgotten No More

[Jeff Stoffer](#) | September 28, 2022

Observed in the Aug. 10, 1995, American Legion *Dispatch's* coverage was a profound contrast between conditions in the combat theater and at memorial dedication ceremonies more than four decades after the Korean War's end.

"Thousands of the 1.5 million Americans who served on the Korean peninsula against ruthless North Korean and Chinese troops, frost-bite and mind-numbing fatigue endured suffocating heat and humidity July 27 to celebrate the long-awaited dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.," the national publication reported.

Water jugs were provided to veterans as temperatures climbed to 96 degrees, with heavy humidity. "The heat was tough, but we survived it," Legionnaire and Korean War Army veteran Bill Honnef of Post 226 in Brackenridge, Pa., said during the late-July dedication. "We're survivors anyway. We've been looking forward to this for a long time."

American Legion Past National Commander John P. "Jake" Comer, a Korean War veteran who had been appointed by President George H.W. Bush to serve on the national Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee, later pointed out that the Legion made a popular decision for ceremonies, especially given the weather.

"Plans for the dedication ceremonies included a wreath-laying ceremony (and) a Pusan Tent City where The American Legion had an air-conditioned tent," Comer later told delegates to the 77th American Legion National Convention that year. "Let me tell you, that certainly came in handy...The other veterans' organizations did not have the same...The American Legion really was out front - first class."

More than 50,000 were estimated in attendance for the memorial dedication. Approximately 400 Legionnaires -

including every national officer - marched behind then-National Commander William Detweiler of Louisiana in a parade to commemorate the dedication on 2.2 acres of the National Mall. American Legion bands from Massachusetts and North Dakota marched and played in the procession. Legion color guards from across the country participated, and Detweiler had receptions to honor 51 Korean War veterans. Detweiler also joined President Clinton in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during the four days of honor.

Also, during that time, Samsung Corp. entrusted The American Legion with a \$5 million scholarship endowment for the descendants of Korean War veterans, later extended to descendants of other wartime U.S. veterans, in thanks to those who freed South Korea from communism.

South Korea President Kim Young Sam made the memorial dedication the centerpiece of a four-day state visit with President Clinton. Talking with local reporters, President Kim "said the 54,246 Americans who died in the war - 34,000 in combat - left a legacy of a free, vibrant South Korea, which suffered 570,000 war dead," the *Dispatch* reported. "The United States also lists 103,284 wounded, 7,140 prisoners of war, and 8,177 missing in action who were sent to the Korean peninsula in response to North Korea's invasion, on July 25, 1950.

"There are some U.S. veterans who left their souls in Korea," Kim said. "Their sacrifices were not in vain."

The American Legion was a major contributor to the memorial with its 19 stainless steel figures of U.S. troops from multiple branches on patrol. "The weary, poncho-clad troopers represent the ground-pounders from all branches of the military, 14 Army, three Marines, one Navy medic and one Air Force observer," the *Dispatch* observed. "On their right stands a 164-foot, 8-inch-long thick granite wall. On its highly polished gray/black granite surface are etched the faces of 2,400 support personnel and all the machines and weapons of war needed to sustain troops in the field."

Fiber-optic illumination of each statue was particularly moving to Past National Commander Comer, who worked to raise funds and awareness for the project for years, promoting donations and merchandise sales. "What amazed me was the memorial at night," Comer said. "The statues each have a spotlight that shines just on the faces." The faces of the support personnel, etched in granite, seem to float behind the statues at night. "It's very eerie and dramatic," Comer said.

One initiative recognized at the national convention came from American Legion Department of Illinois Korean War Veterans Memorial Chairman Jack Cover of Post 69 in Robinson, Ill., who designed a remembrance pin the Legion was able to sell and put about \$80,000 toward the memorial. Shirts, hats, mugs, and coin sets were also sold to help the Legion provide some \$700,000 for the memorial.

“There is no finer monument in the history of our nation,” Comer told the 77th National Convention, meeting in Indianapolis. “The Korean War veterans will be forgotten no more.”

Detweiler summed it up this way: “We helped launch the long-awaited memorial to women (the Vietnam Women’s Memorial, 1993) who have served side by side with men in the defense of this country. We helped dedicate the long-awaited Korean War Memorial. Why? Because we, as a people, and we, as an organization, must never forget and must never let future generations forget the deeds of the valiant men and women who answered the call of this country, who asked no questions but gave their talents and time and their lives, in many instances, to protect the freedoms and the peace that we all enjoy today. Why? Because it’s the right thing to do. It’s the American thing to do.”



Wikimedia Commons

## Department of Florida mobilizes to help those affected by Hurricane Ian

The American Legion | September 30, 2022

As Hurricane Ian struck Florida, the American Legion Department of Florida was mobilizing.

“We’re obviously no strangers to hurricanes, and our shared experiences have taught us a few things,” Carrie Kolze, the department’s creative services manager, said via email. “Letting our posts and members know that we’re there for them in these difficult times is a priority to us.”

On Wednesday, Department Adjutant Bruce Comer asked Kolze to get a message out to encourage posts affected by the hurricane to share details with the department headquarters, as well as reiterating to them the availability of grants from the National Emergency Fund (NEF).

Kolze created a form on the department website for [posts to check in](#).

“If they were good, minimal information was required, and if not, the form gave them the ability to include more information and photos of the extent of damage and their needs,” Kolze said. “We then sent out an email to all of our posts and post leadership, encouraging them to check-in and reminding them about National’s NEF program, as well as keeping receipts and documentation that may be required.” The department also shared the information on its social media platforms.

“Within a couple of hours, we had more than 60 posts respond,” Kolze said. That number had grown to over 100 by Friday morning, three of which reported heavy damage: Post 25 in Lake Placid, which reported its smoking room was destroyed, front overhang was gone, and flashing destroyed; Post 303 in Bonita Springs, whose entire interior was destroyed when the storm surge sent five feet of water into the building; and Post 11 in Arcadia, which was almost completely underwater less than four years after [reopening](#) in the aftermath of flooding brought on by Hurricane Irma the year before.

“We expect with power outages and the sheer devastation, it may take time before some of our most affected posts are able to communicate,” Kolze said Friday.

Kolze said the department’s disaster relief committee is scheduled to meet next week to determine how to disseminate assistance from the department’s hurricane relief fund. That fund was created in 2017 to distribute donated funds for disaster-related expenses, such as water, food, paper products and more.

Resources for those impacted by the hurricane and ways to donate to the Department of Florida’s Hurricane Relief Fund are available at [www.floridalegion.org/resources/hurricane-relief/](http://www.floridalegion.org/resources/hurricane-relief/).

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.

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](#).

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](http://legion.org/financialassistance).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## World War II Word Search



S	X	A	A	Z	I	C	H	U	R	C	H	I	L	L	U	O
X	H	A	D	K	W	A	R	P	I	O	Q	H	X	S	F	C
W	G	L	B	L	I	T	Z	K	R	I	E	G	P	Q	H	W
H	L	Q	X	U	N	L	E	O	R	A	P	M	X	R	O	A
N	Q	R	Q	Y	M	A	C	A	R	T	H	U	R	P	C	R
N	T	D	W	Y	H	N	K	V	W	O	L	N	S	E	G	C
A	V	E	C	M	H	T	P	F	O	S	G	A	Z	A	V	R
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I	G	A	K	X	F	C	K	Q	O	X	A	K	V	L	A	M
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A	L	R	S	I	Y	Z	V	I	Q	V	A	L	K	F	V	L
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Y	H	R	N	J	O	S	B	W	B	P	T	A	E	C	K	D

HITLER	PEARL HARBOR	GUADALCANAL
WAR CRIMES TRIALS	BUTZKRIEG	MUSSOLINI
ROOSEVELT	ATLANTIC	DE GAULLE
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## U.S. Presidents Word Search

X	D	D	F	I	S	U	F	G	Z	R	P	L	M	D	T	E	O	R	N	O	M	W
C	O	R	B	E	E	Y	T	N	H	V	I	R	U	V	S	Z	O	B	A	M	A	W
M	D	Y	N	Q	V	E	I	K	S	T	L	E	V	E	S	O	O	R	U	N	L	
T	P	A	P	I	M	C	D	D	N	D	V	I	F	N	Q	J	O	H	N	S	O	N
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D	P	R	D	C	W	H	V	N	L	C	L	V	T	W	U	Z	L	V	L	A	Z	N
L	I	P	D	H	O	S	E	B	N	O	T	N	I	L	C	V	S	N	E	I	W	M
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F	C	Z	D	A	E	P	T	T	T	R	U	M	P	N	O	S	I	D	A	M	C	V
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A	Z	P	M	R	I	R	T	A	F	T	R	E	L	Y	T	R	H	O	O	V	E	R
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| Washington | Taylor    | Harrison   | Kennedy |
| Adams      | Fillmore  | McKinley   | Johnson |
| Jefferson  | Pierce    | Roosevelt  | Nixon   |
| Madison    | Buchanan  | Taft       | Ford    |
| Monroe     | Lincoln   | Wilson     | Carter  |
| Adams      | Johnson   | Harding    | Reagan  |
| Jackson    | Grant     | Coolidge   | Bush    |
| Van Buren  | Hayes     | Hoover     | Clinton |
| Harrison   | Garfield  | Roosevelt  | Bush    |
| Tyler      | Arthur    | Truman     | Obama   |
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09/29/22		2023 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS					Christopher Carlton (IN), National Commander
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date	
1 Southern 1	43,793	10,873	(32,920)	24.83%	245		
2 Midwestern 1	28,918	5,183	(23,735)	17.92%	382		
3 Central 1	128,333	22,821	(105,512)	17.78%	1,256		
4 Western 1	25,822	3,698	(22,124)	14.32%	276		
5 Eastern	140,932	16,372	(124,560)	11.62%	997		
<b>TOTALS 1</b>	<b>367,798</b>	<b>58,947</b>	<b>308,851</b>	<b>16.03%</b>	<b>3,156</b>		

09/29/22		2023 CENTRAL REGION STANDINGS							David Mennell (MI), National Vice-Commander
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date	
1 Illinois 1, 2	13,398	4,455	(8,943)	33.25%	132	31.81%	6		
2 Wisconsin 1, 2	4,187	1,354	(2,833)	32.34%	5	29.48%	8		
3 Missouri 1, 2	3,219	887	(2,332)	27.56%	54	24.77%	11		
4 Indiana 1	36,387	6,119	(30,268)	16.82%	552	14.98%	30		
5 Ohio 1	30,636	4,810	(25,826)	15.70%	180	13.83%	34		
6 Michigan	24,271	3,575	(20,696)	14.73%	301	11.90%	38		
7 Iowa 1	4,857	704	(4,153)	14.49%	3	12.02%	39		
8 Minnesota	11,378	917	(10,461)	8.06%	29	7.46%	51		
<b>TOTALS 1</b>	<b>128,333</b>	<b>22,821</b>	<b>105,512</b>	<b>17.78%</b>	<b>1,256</b>				

09/29/22		2023 WESTERN REGION STANDINGS							Jack Youngs (ID) National Vice-Commander
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, 2	644	170	(474)	26.40%	23	22.22%	12		
3 Oregon 1	1,414	287	(1,127)	20.30%	11	15.15%	20		
4 Nevada	357	65	(292)	18.21%	21	16.16%	23		
5 Alaska	1,608	275	(1,333)	17.10%	102	13.85%	29		
6 California 1	10,714	1,638	(9,076)	15.29%	98	12.43%	36		
7 Utah	449	52	(397)	11.58%	8	8.66%	43		
8 Arizona	8,004	910	(7,094)	11.37%	737	7.61%	45		
9 Washington	2,485	242	(2,243)	9.74%	8	6.50%	49		
10 Phillipines	70	2	(68)	2.86%	-	1.47%	54		
<b>TOTALS 1</b>	<b>25,822</b>	<b>3,698</b>	<b>22,124</b>	<b>14.32%</b>	<b>1,008</b>				

09/29/22		2023 SOUTHERN REGION STANDINGS Ron Roberts (MS), National Vice-Commander						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4	1,790	975	(815)	54.47%	56	50.11%	2	
2 Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4	123	65	(58)	52.85%	-	26.23%	3	
3 Georgia 1, 2	4,490	1,558	(2,932)	34.70%	59	31.07%	5	
4 Alabama 1, 2	2,066	679	(1,387)	32.87%	10	27.95%	7	
5 North Carolina 1, 2	2,727	702	(2,025)	25.74%	18	20.48%	14	
6 Mississippi 1	722	176	(546)	24.38%	-	21.64%	15	
7 Florida 1	21,519	5,019	(16,500)	23.32%	25	18.09%	16	
8 Tennessee 1	1,718	392	(1,326)	22.82%	7	17.70%	17	
9 South Carolina	1,473	263	(1,210)	17.85%	1	14.05%	25	
10 Virginia	4,109	713	(3,396)	17.35%	65	14.39%	26	
11 Arkansas 1	447	77	(370)	17.23%	-	13.44%	28	
12 Kentucky	2,609	254	(2,355)	9.74%	4	8.30%	50	
<b>TOTALS 1</b>	<b>43,793</b>	<b>10,873</b>	<b>32,920</b>	<b>24.83%</b>	<b>189</b>			

09/29/22		2023 MIDWESTERN REGION STANDINGS Michael Kirschner (CO), National Vice-Commander						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Mexico 1, 2	31	10	(21)	32.26%	2	16.13%	10	
2 Oklahoma 1, 2	1,348	397	(951)	29.45%	13	24.30%	9	
3 South Dakota 1, 2	1,362	354	(1,008)	25.99%	28	15.53%	15	
4 North Dakota 1	1,056	228	(828)	21.59%	1	9.91%	29	
5 Nebraska 1	7,015	1,330	(5,685)	18.96%	204	15.15%	23	
6 Wyoming 1	1,298	233	(1,065)	17.95%	17	14.12%	24	
7 Kansas	5,919	1,026	(4,893)	17.33%	73	9.46%	39	
8 Colorado 1	2,729	457	(2,272)	16.75%	-	13.83%	25	
9 Montana 1	1,108	184	(924)	16.61%	2	14.93%	22	
Texas 1	5,569	849	(4,720)	15.25%	28	10.63%	31	
11 New Mexico	1,483	115	(1,368)	7.75%	14	5.48%	53	
<b>TOTALS 1</b>	<b>28,918</b>	<b>5,183</b>	<b>23,735</b>	<b>17.92%</b>	<b>382</b>			



**YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
MATTERS**



09/29/22		2023 EASTERN REGION STANDINGS Ernie LaBerge (MA) National Vice-Commander						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 France 1, 2, 3	158	69	(89)	43.67%	-	43.79%	4	
2 Maryland 1	16,058	3,543	(12,515)	22.06%	146	19.67%	18	
3 Delaware 1	2,430	483	(1,947)	19.88%	32	14.91%	21	
4 Vermont 1	3,818	635	(3,183)	16.63%	51	16.63%	32	
5 Massachusetts	5,442	835	(4,607)	15.34%	35	13.85%	35	
6 Connecticut	1,867	249	(1,618)	13.34%	58	11.33%	40	
7 New Hampshire	5,677	676	(5,001)	11.91%	10	10.68%	41	
8 New York	29,864	3,555	(26,309)	11.90%	531	10.35%	42	
9 West Virginia	2,362	273	(2,089)	11.56%	-	9.29%	44	
10 New Jersey	9,386	1,060	(8,326)	11.29%	4	11.29%	46	
11 Maine	2,617	279	(2,338)	10.66%	51	8.06%	47	
12 Dist. of Columbia	114	12	(102)	10.53%	-	7.96%	48	
13 Pennsylvania	60,803	4,702	(56,101)	7.73%	78	6.26%	53	
14 Rhode Island	336	1	(335)	0.30%	1	0.30%	55	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>140,932</b>	<b>16,372</b>	<b>124,560</b>	<b>11.62%</b>	<b>997</b>			

09/29/22		2023 SUPER SIX STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Florida 1	21,519	5,019	(16,500)	23.32%	25	18.09%	16	
2 Indiana 1	36,387	6,119	(30,268)	16.82%	552	14.98%	30	
3 Ohio 1	30,636	4,810	(25,826)	15.70%	180	13.83%	34	
4 Michigan	24,271	3,575	(20,696)	14.73%	301	11.90%	38	
5 New York	29,864	3,555	(26,309)	11.90%	732	10.35%	42	
6 Pennsylvania	60,803	4,702	(56,101)	7.73%	78	6.26%	53	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>203,480</b>	<b>27,780</b>	<b>175,700</b>	<b>13.65%</b>	<b>1,868</b>			



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%

