

Supreme Court hears case on retroactive benefits for disabled veterans

[Irene Loewenson](#) | October 5, 2022



The Supreme Court is tasked with answering whether veterans can rely on a legal principle called equitable tolling to receive disability benefits retroactively.

AP Photo/Jon Elswick

The Supreme Court listened to arguments Tuesday in a case to determine whether veterans with disabilities can collect decades' worth of retroactive benefits from the Veterans Administration.

Adolfo Arellano, who joined the Navy in 1977, was aboard an aircraft carrier in 1980 when a collision killed and injured several of his shipmates and nearly swept him overboard.

He was honorably discharged in October 1981, according to court documents. Decades later, a VA doctor determined that the traumatic collision had given Arellano psychological issues — including schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder — and left him 100% disabled.

But for the first 30 years after his discharge, Arellano did not file for disability benefits. This, his lawyers say in their brief, was because the extent of his disability prevented it. Only in 2011 did his brother, who is also his caregiver, file a

claim. Arellano's brief doesn't address what prevented his brother from filing a claim earlier.

The VA awarded Arellano disability benefits but did not back-pay him the hundreds of thousands of dollars he could have received across the three decades that preceded his claim.

Arellano's lawyers [have asked](#) the justices to consider whether the Navy veteran is eligible to receive the sum of the benefits he would have been entitled to had he filed for them earlier.

A federal statute allows veterans to receive months' worth of retroactive benefits if they file within one year of becoming disabled. Arellano's lawyers argue that this time limit should be subject to equitable tolling, a legal principle that gives individuals leeway on time limits in extraordinary circumstances.

Arellano appealed his case to a VA higher court and then to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. In summer 2021, a panel of 12 Federal Circuit judges remained split on the legal issues but agreed that Arellano was not entitled to back pay.

The Supreme Court is tasked with answering whether veterans like Arellano can rely on equitable tolling to receive retroactive benefits if they miss the VA's one-year deadline. The case hinges on technical legal questions, including whether that deadline counts as a statute of limitations, which could open it up to equitable tolling.

But the stakes of the case are far from merely technical for service-disabled veterans. Decades' worth of retroactive disability compensation could add up to substantial sums for select veterans.

See SCOTUS page 3



ROUND-UP

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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

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SCOTUS continued from page 1

Several veterans organizations filed briefs in support of Arellano, arguing that current law strips benefits from the veterans who are the most severely disabled.

A group of veterans who were subjected to the Army's mid-century [Edgewood Arsenal](#) human experiments said in a brief that equitable tolling would help them secure the disability benefits they deserve. Because these veterans had been sworn to secrecy about being subjected to chemical tests, they had not been permitted to submit claims for an extensive period.

The justices won't make their views on the case public until releasing a decision, one that will likely come in the spring or early summer. But the questions asked during the oral argument could hint at how the jurists will ultimately decide.

On her second day of her first term, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson assumed an active role in the oral argument, throwing several questions at Arellano's lawyer, James Barney. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Elena Kagan, meanwhile, had more pointed questions for the government's lawyer.

Even if the justices accept the argument that veterans can seek retroactive disability benefits, it is by no means certain that Arellano will receive any additional money. A lower court would likely first have to review the particular facts of his case.

[Irene Loewenson](#) is a staff reporter for Marine Corps Times. She joined Military Times as an editorial fellow in August 2022. She is a graduate of Williams College, where she was the editor-in-chief of the student newspaper.

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★ ★ ★ ADVOCACY ALERT ★ ★ ★

Veterans forced to retire due to combat injuries have been denied retirement compensation, and it is time we ask Congress to finally correct this injustice. The *Major Richard Star Act* would support more than 50,000 combat-injured veterans by allowing concurrent receipt of vested longevity pay and VA disability, and the American Legion needs your help to finally pass this critical piece of legislation!

This legislation would end an unjust “tax” on medically retired veterans who are currently subject to an offset in retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability received. These medically retired veterans are the only class of employees forbidden from receiving their full retirement pay and disability compensation. Retirement and disability are two programs with two very different intents provided for very different reasons. No other class of employees are told they are “double dipping” when they receive retirement and disability concurrently.

The American Legion strongly supports ending this policy through the *Major Richard Star Act*, which would repeal this unfair offset and allow disabled veterans to receive both their retirement pay and their disability compensation. In the House, 319 co-sponsors have signed onto the bill, with 122 Republicans and 197 Democrats. In the Senate, 66 co-sponsors have signed on, with 22 Republicans and 42 Democrats. This type of bipartisan and bicameral support is unprecedented.

Major Richard A. Star was a father, a husband, and a highly decorated veteran who, due to his combat-related injuries, was forced to medically retire from the Army. His plans for disability care were disrupted when he learned that his disability pay would offset the longevity pay he had earned through years in service. Sadly, Major Star lost his battle with cancer on February 13, 2021. The time is now to honor his memory and pass this piece of legislation!

[Take Action Now](#)

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Mike Monserud (IA), Chairman
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 8:00 p.m. Eastern
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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

Gentlemen,

The 25% target date has been moved back to October 19, so please do not let this "gift" go to waste. Make sure that the Detachments in your region are aware of the opportunity to still make goal, and encourage them to be proactive in their recruiting and renewal efforts.

On a side note, thank you all for your work this weekend, I understand that we had a very productive meeting. Hope you all made it home safely.

Are you part of The Family?



Ask me how to join

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#	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	396	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
Grand Totals:		367,798	33,003	58,947	16.03%	13.74

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	1,608	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%
Totals:	25,822	3,698	14.32%

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%
Totals:	28,918	5,183	17.92%

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%
Totals:	128,333	22,821	17.78%

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	29,864	3,555	11.90%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	273	11.56%
NEW JERSEY	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%
Totals:	140,932	16,372	11.62%

SOUTHERN REGION - RONALD E. ROBERTS (MS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
LOUISIANA	1,790	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%
Totals:	43,793	10,873	24.83%

National Convention Committee
Christopher Byrd (NC), Chairman

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Fourth Tuesday of Each Month
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Subcommittee on Resolutions
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Address (Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

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

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and transmit \$ _____ as annual membership dues.

Signed _____ (By Applicant or Parent)

Eligibility certified by _____ (Post Adjutant)

00-001 (2013)

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Date _____

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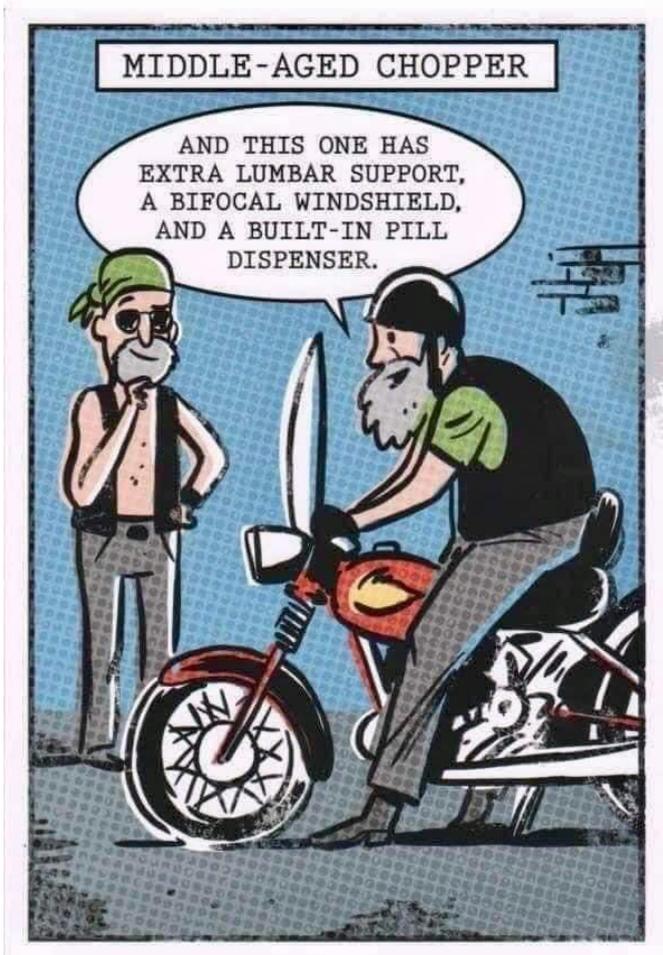
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SPORTS



photo by Brian Cleary

Johnson gets podium finish at Road Atlanta

Bruce Martin | October 3, 2022

Sons of The American Legion member Jimmie Johnson and the Action Express Racing team were able to rally back from a mid-race penalty to finish on the podium of Saturday's Motul Petit Le Mans at Road Atlanta. It was the final race of the 2022 IMSA WeatherTech Sports Car Championship.

It was also the final race of IMSA's DPi division of Daytona Prototypes. That series will be replaced by LMDh next season, a car most closely aligned with international sports car racing rules and able to race in the 24 Hours of LeMans and the FIA World Endurance Championship in 2022.

Johnson was part of a three-driver teams that included Kamui Kobayashi of Japan and Mike Rockenfeller of Germany in the No. 48 Ally Cadillac. They were able to finish third and able to rally back from adversity earlier in the race.

Kobayashi started the race from the third row, after turning the sixth fastest qualifying lap of 1:08.984 in Friday's 15-minute qualifying session. After just 13 laps, Kobayashi had the car in the top three and was up to second when he turned the car over to Johnson on Lap 63.

From there, Johnson, Rockenfeller and Kobayashi all had to deal with some adversity (i.e., penalties and traffic) at different times in the race. These issues caused the car to lose

as many as two laps throughout the race, though the team did manage to get one lap back late in the race.

On Lap 390 with less than one hour left in the race, Kobayashi was in the No. 48 Cadillac and was running sixth. But when both drivers in the Chip Ganassi Racing Cadillac crashed into each other in Turn 1, they were in the wall and essentially out of competition for the victory. That allowed Kobayashi to move from sixth to fourth.

With 12 minutes remaining, the No. 10 Acura at Wayne Taylor Racing had contact with a car in the GTD class, forcing the No. 10 onto pit lane.

Kobayashi was up to third and that is where the team finished.

"It was a very challenging day," Johnson said. "But, at the end of the race, we finally got some breaks to come back our way and ended up on the podium. It's really tough trying to work traffic. I was brave sometimes, but I just needed to be more brave all of the time. I was just trying to be smart and cautious with the car.

"Ultimately, I left some speed on the table in my stint. But I got two full stints in the car each time I was in. This has been great, what an awesome opportunity. I'm so thankful to Ally, Action Express, and Hendrick Motorsports. I've been able to meet and race with a lot of great people. It's really been a fun two years."

Saturday's third-place finish wraps up a two-year DPi program for the No. 48 Ally Cadillac. In the eight races that car competed, it finished with two podiums (the team's first race and its last race - Daytona and Road Atlanta) and five Top-5 finishes.

Johnson was in the car for the Rolex 24 at Daytona and the Petit LeMans at Road Atlanta. He was reunited with Chad Knaus, his crew for his seven NASCAR Cup Series championships at Hendrick Motorsports.

Overall, the Cadillac DPi-V. R recorded 27 victories - tops among all manufacturers - and 84 podium finishes in 59 races since 2017. Additionally, Cadillac earned three Manufacturer Championships and three Team and Driver Championships. A Cadillac DPi-V. R claimed four wins, 18 podiums and four pole starts in 10 races this season.

Johnson is in the process of putting together his racing schedule for next season, which could include some INDYCAR races along with a NASCAR race or two, the Rolex 24 at Daytona and the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

"I'd love to be at Le Mans next year. I'd love to be at the Rolex 24," Johnson said. "The series is going through a shake-up with the reconfiguration of the rules and classes, so I don't have anything locked down yet, but I'm so thankful for this experience with Action.

"The support Ally has given us, Mr. Hendrick, Chad Knaus, all of Hendrick Motorsports. It's been a fun two years, and I certainly hope I'm on the grid again next year."



U.S. Air Force photo

Air Force edges Navy on late field goal

John Chuhran | October 3, 2022

A 22-yard field goal by Mathew Dapore with just 4:14 left in the game carried host Air Force to a 13-10 football win over Navy on Saturday.

"They (Navy) played their hearts out," said Air Force Head Coach Troy Calhoun. "Our guys did, too.

"We couldn't be luckier than (having) those men that are going to go fight for our country, the constitution, our democracy...I hate to go beyond football, but it is beyond football. My goodness, what do you want in a future warrior? You and I both want people that have some drive, a little bit extra. If you're going to go fight for freedom and democracy, we want that in our men and women. We saw that out there today with both teams."

Numbers don't mean much when any of the three military academy teams play each other in football, and Saturday's Navy-Air Force game demonstrated why. Anchored by a strong nucleus of seniors, the Falcons (4-1) came into the contest as the nation's leading rushing team (averaging 412.3 yards per game). Navy (1-3) had just four seniors among its 22 starters and had needed some crucial performances from an unheralded third-string kicker to score a 23-20 double-overtime win for its only victory. On paper,

the Falcons should have won convincingly, and Las Vegas odds makers installed them as 14-point favorites.

However, the games are won on the field of play, and that is why football is used as a key instructional tool at all three academies. Yes, teamwork, preparation, discipline, and execution are necessary to win, but the unpredictability of the performance of the opposition and of circumstances means that adaptability, resilience, and individual effort can be crucial factors that determine the final outcome.

"This (institution and game) is about the investment in our young men and women as leaders," Calhoun added. "There were a number of mistakes today. But it is so fruitful to learn from those mistakes. They're honest, full speed, aggressive mistakes. You jump in an F-35 and that's exactly what we want in our warriors. And Navy's (Midshipmen) are just like that and more. You go shake their hands and you think, 'Holy cow, how fortunate are we? They're going to go fight for our country, too, just like our men and women here at the Air Force Academy are.' And they don't do it because they're expecting attention, accolades, or recognition. They do it because in your soul, you give. That's pretty awesome. The players, absolutely, but really both student bodies."

Some fans had not even settled into their seats when the scoring began. On the third play from scrimmage, Falcons' quarterback Haaziq Daniels made a 26-yard toss to receiver David Cormier, who pulled in the ball and sprinted 41 yards down the left sideline for the touchdown.

Navy responded with six plays that gained 32 yards and left the midshipmen in a 4th-and-2 situation on the Air Force 42. Navy went for the first down and quarterback Tai Lavatai tried to push through, but he only gained a costly 1 yard. Air Force took over, and runs by John Lee Eldridge III and Brad Roberts advanced the ball to the Navy 48. Daniels then completed another pass to Cormier, who was brought down on the Navy 13. The drive fizzled on the Navy 6 and Dapore drilled a 22-yard field goal to give Air Force a 10-0 lead with 4:17 left in the first quarter.

The defensive units for both teams then dominated play. Navy punted to end its next four possessions, but Air Force was no better, punting twice and fumbling the ball away twice. The second takeaway – a quarterback strip sack by Navy's Jacob Busic – left the Midshipmen on the Air Force 31 just 34 seconds before intermission. With just three seconds on the clock, kicker Daniel Davies pounded a 37-yard field goal at intermission.

After the break, strong defense – emphasizing anticipation and controlled reaction – kept both teams from scoring in

the third quarter. In the final stanza, Navy knotted the contest 10-10 to end a 10-play, 59-yard drive when Lavatai hesitated just long enough to allow the Air Force defense to shift to his right before he dashed 5 yards into the end zone with 10:50 left in the game.

The Falcons followed with a 9-play, 71-yard drive that ended with Dapore's winning boot that made the score 13-10. More determined defensive play meant that neither team scored again.

The Falcons were led by Roberts, who logged a game-high 108 rushing yards (his 13th game of 100 yards – one shy of the Air Force record) on 23 carries, and Cormier, who grabbed three passes for a game-high 120 yards. Daniels completed 6 of 8 passes for a career high 156 yards and ran 14 times for 65 yards. Defensively, linebackers Alec Mock (13 tackles) and Vince Sanford (10 tackles) both recorded career highs. As a team, Air Force registered 200 yards rushing and 156 yards passing.

Navy standouts included Lavatai (completed 11 of 20 passes for 129 yards, ran 12 times for team-high 34 yards), Jayden Umbarger (game-high four receptions for 71 yards), and defenders Rayuan Lane III and Busic (both with nine tackles). The Midshipmen posted 114 yards on the ground and 129 yards in the air.

“Yes, it’s a game,” Calhoun said. “It’s so competitive among the two teams that it gets to where you don’t like each other during the game. It’s just that when sports are all said and done, (you wonder) how well educated are these young men and women and when they really, really have to lay it on the line (you hope) they will. That’s reality. So, we came out on top today, but as we got into it, we thought we really don’t want anybody to lose.”

With the win, Air Force takes the first step to claiming the Commander-In-Chief’s Trophy. If the Falcons can defeat Army in the Commander’s Classic at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas, on Nov. 5, they would clinch the trophy competition for the year (what would be their first trophy win since 2016) and earn the right to possess and display it in 2023. If Army triumphs in November, the Black Knights could win the trophy battle with a victory in the Army-Navy Game Dec. 10 at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia.



Legion Baseball alumni prepare for MLB postseason

The American Legion | October 5, 2022

Each of the 12 teams in the Major League Baseball playoffs have ties to American Legion Baseball, with either players or managers — or both — having played Legion Baseball in their younger days.

The playoffs begin Oct. 7. Here’s a look at each team in the MLB postseason; find the full schedule [here](#).

American League

1. Houston Astros

Behind manager Dusty Baker (Post 412/Fair Oaks, Calif.) and AL Cy Young Award favorite Justin Verlander (Post 201/Powhatan, Va.), the Astros posted the best record in the American League. They draw a bye to the division series, where they’ll face the winner of the wild card series between Toronto and Seattle.

In addition to Baker and Verlander, the Astros’ roster includes third baseman Alex Bregman, who played Legion Baseball in Albuquerque, N.M.

2. New York Yankees

Reliever Lou Trivino (Pennridge, Pa.) is 1-2 with 1 save and a 1.74 ERA in 24 appearances for the Yankees since coming over in a trade with Oakland on Aug. 1. New York draws a first-round bye and will face the winner of the wild card series between Cleveland and Tampa Bay.

3. Cleveland Guardians

Pitcher Aaron Civale (Post 36/Windsor Locks, Conn.) has been on the injured list three times this season, posting a 4-6 record and a career-high 5.04 ERA among the injuries. The Guardians host the Tampa Bay Rays in the wild card series.



4. Toronto Blue Jays

Pitcher Tim Lincecum (Perkiomen, Pa.) ended up on the wrong side of history as he allowed Aaron Judge's 61st home run of the season on Sept. 28. He's still been Toronto's top lefthander out of the bullpen, posting an 8-1 record and a 3.21 ERA in 62 appearances. The Blue Jays will host the Seattle Mariners in the wild card series.

5. Seattle Mariners

The Mariners reached the playoffs for the first time since 2001. Shortstop J.P. Crawford (Post 496/Lakewood, Calif.) and reliever Paul Sewald (Las Vegas) are part of the lineup who will face Toronto in the wild-card series.

6. Tampa Bay Rays

[Kevin Cash](#) (Post 111/Tampa, Fla.) has managed the Rays to a fourth straight playoff appearance. The Rays, one of three AL East teams in the playoffs, will face Cleveland in the wild card series.

National League

1. Los Angeles Dodgers

The Dodgers finished with the best record in the majors. Legion Baseball alumni on the roster include left fielder Joey Gallo (Bishop Gorman/Nev.) and pitcher Craig Kimbrel (Post 15/Decatur, Ala.). Los Angeles will host the winner of the wild card series between the New York Mets and San Diego.

2. Atlanta Braves

The New York Mets had a 10 ½ game lead in the National League East on June 1, but the Braves rallied to win the division. Manager [Brian Snitker](#) (Post 105/Decatur, Ill.) has now guided Atlanta to five straight division titles and the 2021 World Series title. The Braves will host the winner of the wild card series between St. Louis and Philadelphia.

3. St. Louis Cardinals

[Albert Pujols](#) (Post 340/Independence, Mo.) joined the 700-home run club in his final season and is hoping for a long postseason run. Helping the cause: pitcher Jordan Montgomery (Post 15/Sumter, S.C.), who's 6-3 with a 3.11 ERA since being traded from the Yankees on Aug. 2. The Cardinals will host Philadelphia in the wild card series.

4. New York Mets

After losing a double-digit division lead, the Mets will host San Diego in the wild card series. Pitchers Jacob deGrom (Post 3/Deland, Fla.) and Max Scherzer (Post 397/Creve Coeur, Mo.) are aiming for better results in the postseason.

5. San Diego Padres

Manager Bob Melvin (Post 375/Palo Alto, Calif.) and right fielder Wil Myers (Post 87/High Point, N.C.) represent Legion Baseball for the Padres, who will face the Mets in the wild card series.

6. Philadelphia Phillies

The third team from the NL East to qualify for the postseason. Four Phillies — Alec Bohm (Post 1/Omaha, Neb.), Brad Hand (Chaska, Minn.), Bryce Harper (Las Vegas) and J.T. Realmuto (Post 170/Midwest City, Okla.) — played Legion Baseball. Philadelphia will face St. Louis in the wild card series.

SQUADRON EVERLASTING

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

Steve LaRue



Steven Joe LaRue, age 72, resident of Bronson, KS, died Saturday, October 1, 2022, at KU Medical Center, Kansas City, KS. He was born on October 21, 1949, in Iola, KS, the son of Charles and Elaine Johnson LaRue.

He married Mary Jo Hall on December 7, 1969, in Bronson.

Steve worked for Diebold Lock and Key in Minneapolis, MN for 10 years. After moving back home, he worked for Diebold Lumber in LaHarpe, KS, for the next 30 plus years. All during this time he was also working as a locksmith.

Steve loved his 1950 John Deere tractor. He even had it parked outside his window these last few months so he could view it in the background of the hummingbird feeder. In earlier days, he was very involved in his children's activities, especially sports. He also enjoyed calling bingo.

Steve never met a stranger and always had a joke to tell. Every morning he would play several "oldies" including "Wake Up Little Suzie." He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion, the Masons, and the Shriners.

Survivors include his wife Mary Jo; 3 daughters, Sherry Dwyer and husband Terry, Linwood, KS, Linda Zibert, LaHarpe, KS, and Donna Kovacic and husband Jeff, Stark, KS;

2 sons, Donald LaRue and wife Janet, Overbrook, KS, and Dean LaRue, Linwood, KS; 3 brothers Larry LaRue and wife Mary Ann, Michigan, Roy LaRue and wife Amy, Florida, and Ray LaRue and wife Tami, Moran, KS, 6 grandchildren, Diana and husband Tyler, Julia and husband Chad, Bryson, Wade, Abby, and Orin; 3 great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a grandson, Hunter Kovacic; and a granddaughter, Makala LaRue.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 PM Thursday, October 6, at the Cheney Witt Chapel.

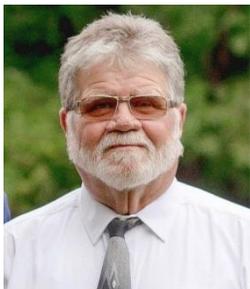
Burial followed in the Bronson Cemetery.

The family received friends from 6:00 until 8:00 Wednesday evening at the Carriage House, 310 S. Main St., Ft. Scott.

Memorials are suggested to the Steve LaRue Memorial Fund and may be left in care of the Cheney Witt Chapel, PO Box 347, 201 S. Main St., Ft. Scott, KS 66701. Words of remembrance may be submitted to the online guestbook at www.cheneywitt.com.

reprinted from www.cheneywitt.com

Reynold "Rennie" Palmer



Reynold "Rennie" Palmer, 70, of Bowling Green, OH, passed away at 11:17 p.m., Sunday, October 2, 2022, at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center, Toledo.

He was born on October 21, 1951, in Bowling Green to the late Ervin and Rosemary (Lashuay) Palmer. He met the love of his life, Rebecca "Becky" Kaufman in 1967 and they spent 52 wonderful, yet too few, years together. They married on October 17, 1970, and she survives.

Rennie is also survived by his son, Rodney (Stacy Carson) Palmer of Bowling Green; grandchildren: Sydney (Dylan) Burrows, Blair (Cassidy) Palmer, Bradley Palmer Jr., Blaze Palmer, Bryson Palmer, and Kayla Carson; great-grandchildren: Gwenyth Burrows, Wesley Palmer and Jaxson Palmer; mother-in-law, Betty McCartney of North Baltimore.

He was also preceded in death by his son, Bradley Palmer Sr.; brother and sister-in-law, Bob and LuAnn Palmer.

Rennie graduated from North Baltimore High School in 1969. He was the manager of Palmer Brothers' Concrete for 52 years. He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles #2633 and Sons of the American Legion Post 539.

A funeral service was held at 1 p.m., Saturday, October 8, 2022, at Smith-Crates Funeral Home, North Baltimore. Burial will be in Jerry City Cemetery.

Visitation was held at Smith-Crates Funeral Home from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Friday, and Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.smithcrates.com.

reprinted from www.sent-trib.com



FROM THE EDITOR

Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible. Renew Today!

This message must be spread. 2023 is now! Let's beat every goal we have and see how close to 100% everyone can be by the end of December.

WE CAN DO IT!

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

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

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AMERICAN LEGION



QR codes for quick, efficient responses

October 5, 2022

Those of us who previously didn't pay much attention to those weird little black and white boxes printed on magazines, signs and flyers have now become keenly aware of QR codes. Early in the pandemic, you couldn't see a restaurant's menu without a QR code.

We no longer need to download a special app to translate a QR code. In most cases, all we need to do is aim a mobile-phone camera at the code, click it, and up pops a website or app that can help us do whatever we want.

Increasingly, QR codes are being printed into American Legion national media. There's a QR code for the Legion's Grassroots Advocacy Center that takes you to our legislative priorities and allows you to contact elected officials. A QR code was established to download the national convention app last August so visitors could keep up with the agenda. Codes appear in *American Legion Magazine* ads for opportunities ranging from Omaha Steaks to USAA financial services. We even had a QR code designed into the purple 2022 100 Miles for Hope bandanas participants wore in their fitness journeys and fundraising efforts for the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. And a QR code is now available to learn more about the Be the One campaign.

"QR" stands for quick response.

That's why American Legion Department of New York Commander Dave Riley prominently displays a QR code on his

personal vehicle, which is also wrapped in the Legion's emblem and the department web address. The QR code simplifies it all. "Now," Commander Riley explains, veterans "can scan the back of my car and join."

QR codes are extremely efficient and quick. From scanning the QR code to completing a payment for renewal of dues, for instance, takes just a couple of minutes and does not depend on the mail.

Creating a QR code is not complicated. This week, [The American Legion Media Alliance \(TALMA\)](#) is conducting a training session from national visual media manager Holly Soria that explains how easy it is to set up a QR code and make the most of it.

If you are involved in post, district or department communications and are not yet a member of [TALMA](#), I encourage you to join and take in some of these valuable sessions. These regular training sessions are among the benefits of TALMA membership.

As we grow ever more digital in our connections, we ease the burden and accelerate the process, which is the way consumers want to operate today. Moreover, the time previously spent on processes and transactions is time we can now fully devote to strengthening America through our advocacy, programs and services for veterans, the military, youth, and patriotic communities everywhere.

For God and Country,

Vincent "Jim" Troiola, National Commander
The American Legion

What is a charitable bequest?

The American Legion | September 28, 2022

[LEARN HOW YOUR PLANNED GIFT CAN HELP THE AMERICAN LEGION](#)

Joe and Anna have been faithful supporters of The American Legion and believe it is important to help further its mission.

Joe: Anna and I believe The American Legion is truly helping others. It is important to us to partner with them to make a difference. That is why we have made several gifts over the years.

Anna: But we wanted to do more than just make gifts. Joe and I have been careful and have been able to save enough

for retirement. We plan to be generous with family, but we also have the ability to be generous with charity.

Joe: After talking it over, we decided to leave a bequest in each of our wills. Our attorney took the simple language available from the organization and included a nice bequest in my will as well as Anna's. We are delighted that we will be helping others through these gifts.

Is a charitable bequest right for you? The American Legion has resources to help you learn more about bequests, gifts that are made as part of a will or trust. Click [here](#) to review sample language. You will see how easy it is to include a bequest in your will or trust.

You might find it helpful to print this page and the bequest language. Please feel free to give this information to your attorney. If they have any questions, please [contact us](#).

*Please note: The names and image above are representative of a typical donor and may or may not be an actual donor to the organization. Since your benefits may be different, you may want to click [here](#) to view a color example of your benefits.

The American Legion's Planned Giving program is a way of establishing your legacy of support for the organization while providing for your current financial needs. Learn more about the process, and the variety of charitable programs you can benefit, at [legion.giftlegacy.com](#). Click the "E-newsletter" button to sign up for regular information from Planned Giving.

KINDNESS
is not an act, it's a
reflection of your soul.

That Day

There will come a day when we
Will see each other for one last time,
We don't know when but for sure
That day will come...
For the inevitability of life is death.

Treat each day like it's your last
Hold those dear in your grasp,
Remember that day will surely come
For the inevitability of life is death.

By Ian Robertson

2023 IS NOW



RENEW TODAY!

The image shows the Sons of the American Legion logo on the left, which is a shield with stars and the text "SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION". To the right is a membership card for 2023. The card features an American flag and includes fields for "DETACHMENT", "SQUAD #", "MEMBER ID #", and "COURT: YES". Below the card, it says "THE ABOVE MEMBER HAS PAID DUES IN THE SQUADRON INDICATED" and "Celebrating 100 Years of the US Flag Code". At the bottom of the card, it reads "NOT VALID UNLESS COUNTERSIGNED BY MEMBER" and "AUTHORIZED SQUADRON OFFICER".



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10/06/22		2023 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS					
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date	
1 Southern 1, 2	43,793	11,868	(31,925)	27.10%	383		
2 Central 1	128,333	26,338	(101,995)	20.52%	1,311		
3 Midwestern 1	28,918	5,920	(22,998)	20.47%	383		
4 Western 1	25,822	4,117	(21,705)	15.94%	161		
5 Eastern	140,932	19,483	(121,449)	13.82%	2,166		
TOTALS 1	367,798	67,726	300,072	18.41%	4,404		

10/06/22		2023 CENTRAL REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Wisconsin 1, 2, 3	4,187	1,513	(2,674)	36.14%	112	32.96%	7	
2 Illinois 1, 2	13,398	4,608	(8,790)	34.39%	5	32.80%	9	
3 Missouri 1, 2	3,219	991	(2,228)	30.79%	71	27.12%	11	
4 Indiana 1	36,387	7,247	(29,140)	19.92%	71	17.75%	26	
5 Ohio 1	30,636	5,620	(25,016)	18.34%	599	16.25%	32	
6 Michigan	24,271	3,993	(20,278)	16.45%	123	13.35%	41	
7 Iowa 1	4,857	727	(4,130)	14.97%	19	12.27%	42	
8 Minnesota	11,378	1,639	(9,739)	14.40%	147	13.67%	43	
TOTALS 1	124,146	24,825	99,321	20.00%	1,035			

10/06/22		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, 6, 7, 8	77	75	(2)	97.40%	-	89.47%	1	
2 Idaho 1, 2	644	187	(457)	29.04%	13	24.26%	12	
3 Nevada	357	103	(254)	28.85%	15	25.35%	14	
4 Oregon 1	1,414	318	(1,096)	22.49%	24	16.63%	21	
5 Alaska	1,608	286	(1,322)	17.79%	11	14.44%	37	
6 California 1	10,714	1,835	(8,879)	17.13%	33	13.88%	39	
7 Arizona	8,004	988	(7,016)	12.34%	41	8.19%	48	
8 Utah	449	54	(395)	12.03%	2	8.66%	48	
9 Washington	2,485	269	(2,216)	10.82%	13	7.26%	51	
10 Phillipines	70	2	(68)	2.86%	-	1.47%	55	
TOTALS 1	25,822	4,117	21,705	15.94%	152			

10/06/22		2023 SOUTHERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4	1,790	1,024	(766)	57.21%	49	52.80%	2	
2 Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4	123	65	(58)	52.85%	-	26.23%	3	
3 Georgia 1, 2, 3	4,490	1,799	(2,691)	40.07%	68	35.73%	5	
4 Alabama 1, 2	2,066	729	(1,337)	35.29%	28	30.11%	8	
5 North Carolina 1, 2	2,727	743	(1,984)	27.25%	6	21.73%	15	
6 Mississippi 1	722	188	(534)	26.04%	10	23.30%	16	
7 Florida 1	21,519	5,521	(15,998)	25.66%	165	20.01%	17	
8 Tennessee 1	1,718	415	(1,303)	24.16%	9	18.36%	19	
9 Arkansas 1	447	92	(355)	20.58%	15	16.40%	23	
10 South Carolina	1,473	276	(1,197)	18.74%	7	14.87%	31	
11 Virginia	4,109	753	(3,356)	18.33%	18	15.09%	33	
12 Kentucky	2,609	263	(2,346)	10.08%	8	8.65%	53	
TOTALS 1	43,793	11,868	31,925	27.10%	334			

10/06/22		2023 MIDWESTERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Oklahoma 1, 2, 3	1,348	501	(847)	37.17%	48	32.97%	6	
2 Mexico 1, 2	31	10	(21)	32.26%	-	16.13%	10	
3 South Dakota 1, 2	1,362	393	(969)	28.85%	36	22.39%	13	
4 North Dakota 1	1,056	263	(793)	24.91%	31	19.64%	18	
5 Texas 1	5,569	1,113	(4,456)	19.99%	133	15.93%	24	
6 Nebraska 1	7,015	1,400	(5,615)	19.96%	3	19.01%	25	
7 Colorado 1	2,729	527	(2,202)	19.31%	31	17.92%	28	
8 Wyoming 1	1,298	250	(1,048)	19.26%	11	16.85%	29	
9 Montana 1	1,108	208	(900)	18.77%	15	17.24%	30	
10 Kansas	5,919	1,066	(4,853)	18.01%	1	15.89%	36	
11 New Mexico	1,483	189	(1,294)	12.74%	74	10.28%	47	
TOTALS 1	28,918	5,920	22,998	20.47%	335			



**YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS**



10/06/22		2023 EASTERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1	France 1, 2, 3	158	69	(89)	43.67%	-	43.79%	4
2	Maryland 1	16,058	3,877	(12,181)	24.14%	215	21.44%	20
3	Delaware 1	2,430	534	(1,896)	21.98%	16	16.89%	22
4	New Jersey	9,386	1,835	(7,551)	19.55%	762	17.51%	27
5	Vermont 1	3,818	699	(3,119)	18.31%	16	16.43%	34
6	New Hampshire	5,677	1,033	(4,644)	18.20%	334	16.68%	35
7	Massachusetts	5,442	957	(4,485)	17.59%	94	15.92%	38
8	Connecticut	1,867	319	(1,548)	17.09%	66	14.70%	40
9	Maine	2,617	361	(2,256)	13.79%	76	10.49%	44
10	New York	29,864	3,990	(25,874)	13.36%	165	11.72%	45
11	Rhode Island	336	44	(292)	13.10%	-	10.94%	46
12	West Virginia	2,362	283	(2,079)	11.98%	5	9.66%	50
13	Dist. of Columbia	114	12	(102)	10.53%	-	7.96%	52
14	Pennsylvania	60,803	5,470	(55,333)	9.00%	417	7.34%	54
TOTALS		140,932	19,483	121,449	13.82%	2,166		

10/06/22		2023 SUPER SIX STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1	Florida 1	21,519	5,521	(15,998)	25.66%	165	20.01%	17
2	Indiana 1	36,387	7,247	(29,140)	19.92%	235	17.75%	26
3	Ohio 1	30,636	5,620	(25,016)	18.34%	599	16.25%	32
4	Michigan	24,271	3,993	(20,278)	16.45%	123	13.35%	41
5	New York	29,864	3,990	(25,874)	13.36%	165	11.72%	45
6	Pennsylvania	60,803	5,470	(55,333)	9.00%	417	7.34%	54
TOTALS		203,480	31,841	171,639	15.65%	1,704		



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%





American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

"Dedicated to the betterment of all children"

100% Per Capita Banner Program

Request Form

2022 – 2023

Each American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron, American Legion Riders chapter or Eight and Forty salon donating at least one dollar for each member during the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's award year (1 June - 31 May) may receive a beautiful banner/streamer.

To qualify for the 2022-2023 year a post, unit, squadron, riders, or salon must donate one dollar per member based upon its official membership total from their national organization as of June 1, 2022. The post, unit, squadron, riders, or salon has from June 1, 2022, to May 31, 2023, to submit this form, **along with the donation**, to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

Post, unit, squadron, riders, or salon name

Address

City

State

Zip

Post, unit, squadron, or salon membership total as of June 1, 2022:

Total enclosed: \$

Banner Request Form

Send completed form to:

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

PO Box 1055

Indianapolis, IN 46206

ALL REQUEST FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY May 31, 2023