



Legion leads call for fixing GI benefits for Guard, Reserves

The American Legion | December 14, 2022

The American Legion led a contingent of more than a dozen veterans service organizations, which called for the Senate to approve legislation that would give National Guard troops and Reservists quicker access to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

The requirements are “as straightforward for active duty as they are circuitous for Reserve and National Guard servicemembers at least 90 days of honorable service on ‘active duty,’” says the letter, which was sent to the leaders of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., and Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan.

“While active component servicemembers earn GI Bill eligibility for every day in uniform, Guard and Reserve servicemembers only earn this eligibility through a narrow band of orders across a wide array of mobilization authorities.”

In reality, Guard and Reservists can be activated for weeks or months, serving alongside active-duty troops, without gaining eligibility for education benefits, the letter explains. It calls for the Senate to pass the legislation before the end of its current session. The House has already passed H.R. 1836, the Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act. The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee has approved S.2644, the Guard, Reserve, and Active-Duty Department of Veterans Affairs Educational Assistance Parity (GRAD) Act.

American Legion National Commander Vincent “Jim” Troiola reiterated the call for immediate action.

“Every day of military service requires some degree of risk and sacrifice,” Troiola said. “When National Guard members and Reservists don the uniform for training and drills, they are subject to the UCMJ (Uniform Code of Military Justice) and the dangers that are inherent with using weapons, aircraft, and war-fighting equipment. Yet incredibly, much of

their service is disregarded when it comes time to use their GI Bill benefits. The American Legion believes this is a slap in the face to our citizen warriors, many of whom have exceeded this threshold only to have most of their ‘service days’ uncounted.”

Troiola knows first-hand the commitment and sacrifices of Reservists.

“The National Guard and Reserves provide vital service to America,” said the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserves veteran, who served from 1969 to 1974. “The American Legion believes that the men and women who serve in these branches deserve the same GI Bill benefits as their active-duty counterparts. The American Legion fully supports GI Bill parity for the Guard and Reserve.”

Several weeks after the letter was sent, The American Legion participated in a roundtable discussion on Capitol Hill on Dec. 13.

“We can never repay the debt we owe to the National Guard for what they’ve done for us over COVID,” said John Kamin, a legislative associate in the Legion’s Washington, D.C., office. “But we can honor their service.”

Contact your senators through our [Grassroots Action Center](#).





ROUND-UP

National Commander

Chris Carlton (IN)

National Vice-Commander Central Region

David Mennel (MI)

National Vice-Commander Eastern Region

Ernie LaBerge (MA)

National Vice-Commander Midwestern Region

Michael Kirschner (CO)

National Vice-Commander Southern Region

Ron Roberts (MS)

National Vice-Commander Western Region

Jack Youngs (ID)

Immediate Past National Commander

Michael Fox (CA)

Leading Candidate

Don "J.R." Hall (MD)

Trailing Candidate

Joseph Navarrete (NM)

Round-Up is a publication designed to disseminate information related to Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Family. It is published weekly and distributed each Sunday.

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

PNVC Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

All information must be submitted by noon each Friday



The current SAL membership report can be accessed on the national website at

www.legion.org/membership/standings

BE THE ONE



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TARGET DATE

January 19, 2023



MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES DECEMBER 31



RENEW TODAY!!!

Don't let the Grinch steal your membership



CHRIS CARLTON NATIONAL COMMANDER 2022 - 2023

Happy holidays from the SAL

December 15, 2022

Greetings, Sons of The American Legion,



As we approach the end of 2022, I wanted to take this time to talk about a few topics.

Pearl Harbor. It was my honor to join National Commander Troiola, Auxiliary National President Koutz, and others in Honolulu on the 81st anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. As [Commander Troiola noted](#), Dec. 7, 1941, was

a day of infamy but also a day of bravery. We honor and respect the countless acts of valor by our servicemembers on that day.

Be the One. The "Be the One" campaign is, of course, still a focus. I encourage all of you to bookmark the "Be the One"

website, Legion.org/BeTheOne, which has a variety of resources you can use for your own “Be the One” efforts. There are also stories about what the Legion Family is doing, to inspire you, and a link to allow you to share your stories.

Newsletters. Speaking of resources, I hope you are subscribed to at least some of the variety of e-newsletters available to you from the National Headquarters. In addition to the bimonthly Sons of The American Legion e-newsletter, there's the Dispatch, which is filled with important information for leadership; the Member Discounts e-newsletter, which keeps you apprised of the discounts you're entitled to as an SAL member; the Online Update and Monday Briefing, each of which are filled with news related to The American Legion and the Legion Family; and so much more. These e-newsletters are free with your SAL membership, and you can subscribe to as many as you wish. Go to Legion.org/Newsletters to subscribe.

Happy Holidays. And I'd like to close by wishing you all, “Happy Holidays!” This is a joyful season for many of us, filled with precious time with family and friends. But we know there are many veterans out there who may be struggling at this time of year. Please find time to “Be the One” for those in your community.

Thank you all for your efforts to support our veterans and the entire Legion Family!

Be the One! With passion and purpose.

Chris Carlton, National Commander
Sons of The American Legion

*“Purpose is why we journey;
passion is the flame that lights the way.”*



DAVID MENNEL
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
CENTRAL REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING
Third Thursday of Each Month
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time
(720) 527-5854 | 202 4742#

It is fantastic that all five regions have made the December 14 target goal of 45%. There are 45 Detachments at or over goal. We are almost 23K members ahead of schedule.

Congratulations to Central Region Detachments of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois that have already reached the January 19 target date goal. The Central Region is still in third place, and the Southern Region is still in first place, while the Midwest Region is trailing first place by less than 1%.

The Central Region can move into first place, “BELIEVE and SUCCEED” and that is what our membership numbers are showing. The Central Region is really not that far behind the two leading regions; only by 3.45%. Let's keep up the great work, getting those memberships in.

Keep the 'BUDDY CHECKS' going, and always remember that we are always #SALSTRONG.

Robert L Bristo,
Central Region Membership Chairman
Detachment of Minnesota



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. Mountain Time
(605) 313-5379 | 830 520



RON ROBERTS
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
SOUTHERN REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING
Second Tuesday of Each Month
7:00 p.m. Central
(945) 218-0044 | 472 0682



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](#)
 847 2013 6661 | 697 464



REGIONAL
UPDATES



Photo by Detachment of MD Historian Jeff Thorne

American Legion Post 60 Commander Lee Luby of Laurel, Maryland presenting a check in the amount of \$10,000 to the Maryland Special Olympics on Sunday December 4, 2022 at the annual SOMD bowling tournament in Gaithersburg, MD.



Sons host Sticks & Slices to honor veterans



Sq. 15 member Dave Shaffer, Post 15 member Dennis Shaffer, and Sq. 15 member Detachment of Ohio Chaplain Jeff Vrabel, Sr.

Sons of The American Legion Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 in Poland, Ohio hosted its First Annual Sticks & Slices at Cut & Toast Cigar Premium Cigars & Accessories in December. The event was held to recognize and thank veterans for their service.

Veterans who attended received pizza from Briar Hill Pizza and a cigar from Alec Bradley Company.

Both Cut & Toast and Briar Hill Pizza are owned by members of Squadron 15.





Toy And Coat Drive

Collecting new toys and new or lightly used coats, hats, and gloves at Post 105 Belleville from now until December 17th

distributing to **ANYONE** in need from 9a-5p

Friday, December 23, 2022

The AMERICAN LEGION POST 105 FAMILY
621 Washington Ave, Belleville, NJ (973) 759-9650




PROUD POSSESSORS OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE



Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**



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

[Join Zoom meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 956 9846 2868 | Passcode: 840830
(877) 853-5257 US Toll-free | (888) 475-4499 US Toll-free



As of December 14, 2022, **8,048** flags have been placed and reported to honor our veterans since **September 1, 2022**

Century Committee (CENTCOM)

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

Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Mark Nave (PA), Chairman
Third Wednesday of Each Month
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time
(605) 472-5332 | 808 417
Online Meeting ID:

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



AMERICAN LEGION POST 193

SUPPORT YOUR AMERICAN LEGION POST



FIESTA BOWL & NEW YEARS EVE 2023 party

SATURDAY 31

4:00pm till close
POTLUCK DINNER AND BOOZE WAGON RAFFLE

11045 Harold Dr, Luna Pier, MI 48157

Children & Youth Committee

James A. Noble (NJ), Chairman
Second Wednesday of Each Month
7:30 p.m. Eastern Time
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 748 3803 9406 | 3fkNJ5

Finance Commission

William G. Hill (MD), Chairman
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time
[Join Zoom meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 931 8495 9980 | 171 635

February 9 | April 13 | May 6 (NEC) | July 13

Internal Affairs Commission

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

Legislative Commission

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

Veterans Service Recognition Act passes House

The American Legion | December 13, 2022

American Legion-supported legislation that would provide an easier path to returning to the United States for deported veterans and earlier opportunities for non-citizen servicemembers to apply for naturalization passed the House of Representatives Dec. 6.

The [Veteran Service Recognition Act of 2022](#) establishes a review process for noncitizen veterans, servicemembers and their families, and creates opportunities for deported veterans to obtain legal permanent resident status.

"There is no greater commitment to citizenship than putting on the uniform," said Chanin Nuntavong, The American Legion's Executive Director of Government Affairs. "We have a responsibility to ensure all veterans have access to the benefits and healthcare they deserve, including American citizenship. Men and women who served honorably should not face undue barriers to citizenship or face deportation from the country they served or fought to defend.



"The American Legion is proud to support this important legislation and applauds the House of Representatives for passing this bill to honor the service of the immigrants who have sworn the oath of enlistment and put their lives on the line for our nation."

The legislation, H.R. 7946, was introduced in the House-by-House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mark Takano. The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

"I have been fighting to prevent noncitizen veterans from falling through the cracks of our broken immigration system for years because it is shameful that they are being exiled from the same country they risked their lives to protect and defend," said Takano via a news release. "I am thrilled that the House passed the Veteran Service Recognition Act, a critical step to ensuring that our men and women in uniform are honored for their bravery, heroism, and service, no matter where they were born."

Member Training and Development Committee

Mike Monserud (IA), Chairman
First Monday of Each Month
8:00 p.m. Eastern
(605) 468-8772 | 625 2764#





NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

December 15, 2022

To: NATIONAL OFFICERS, DETACHMENT COMMANDERS & ADJUTANTS
From: ANTHONY W. WRIGHT (PA), NATIONAL ADJUTANT
Subject: 45% - MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE

“CONGRATULATIONS”

Thank you for all your efforts so far this membership year. Our standings as of our 45% membership target date (12-14-2022) are posted below:

2023 Membership Goal: 367,798
Total Membership: 193,093
Percentage Of Goal: 52.50%
2023 Renewal Rate: 46.98%
Detachments Making Goal: 45

ALABAMA	HAWAII	MARYLAND	NEBRASKA	OKLAHOMA	VERMONT
CALIFORNIA	IDAHO	MASSACHUSETTS	NEVADA	OREGON	VIRGINIA
COLORADO	ILLINOIS	MEXICO	NEW HAMPSHIRE	PUERTO RICO	WEST VIRGINIA
CONNECTICUT	INDIANA	MICHIGAN	NEW JERSEY	RHODE ISLAND	WISCONSIN
DELAWARE	IOWA	MINNESOTA	NEW YORK	SOUTH CAROLINA	WYOMING
FLORIDA	KANSAS	MISSISSIPPI	NORTH CAROLINA	SOUTH DAKOTA	
FRANCE	LOUISIANA	MISSOURI	NORTH DAKOTA	TENNESSEE	
GEORGIA	MAINE	MONTANA	OHIO	TEXAS	

GREAT JOB!!

Many detachments should achieve this membership goal soon!

Next scheduled renewal notice mailed: **February 24, 2023** 2nd OF 3
Next membership target date: **January 19, 2023** 60%

RENEWAL IS THE KEY TO MEMBERSHIP SUCCESS.
MEMBERSHIP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Membership Committee

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

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

additional membership information appears later in this edition

December 13, 2022

Seriously??? All five regions and 42 detachments are at or over goal!

We are almost 23K members ahead of schedule!

More than half-way to the finish line!

188K SAL strong!

Recruit – Renew – Reinstate...YES WE CAN!!!

December 15, 2022

At last, it is official. With the 45% target date report run, we have 45 Detachments and all five regions at or above the mark. To put things in perspective, we are 25,000 members ahead of this time last year and over 27,000 ahead of schedule for the 2022-23 year.

Congratulations and thank you all for this extraordinary result. Let's finish the month strong and see how far ahead of the January 19 60% target we can get.

2023 SAL 45% TARGET DATE REPORT AS OF: DECEMBER 14, 2022

#	DETACHMENT	2023 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 45% TARGET 12/14/2022	2023 ACTUAL MBRSHIP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2023 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	77	-47	62	106.49%	94.74
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	-556	1,169	85.83%	69.65
3	MEXICO	31	-10	24	77.42%	35.48
4	LOUISIANA	1,790	-578	1,383	77.26%	70.38
5	PUERTO RICO	123	-40	95	77.24%	44.26
6	FRANCE	158	-42	113	71.52%	69.03
7	OKLAHOMA	1,348	-346	953	70.70%	58.62
8	MISSISSIPPI	722	-177	502	69.53%	60.08
9	MONTANA	1,108	-288	767	69.22%	65.27
10	WISCONSIN	4,187	-907	2,791	66.66%	60.05
11	ALABAMA	2,066	-408	1,338	64.76%	56.29
12	GEORGIA	4,490	-846	2,866	63.83%	55.26
13	IOWA	4,857	-821	3,007	61.91%	55.95
14	ILLINOIS	13,398	-2,217	8,246	61.55%	57.27
15	OREGON	1,414	-224	860	60.82%	48.88
16	NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	-415	1,642	60.21%	48.94
17	DELAWARE	2,430	-360	1,453	59.79%	51.98
18	MARYLAND	16,058	-2,345	9,571	59.60%	54.51
19	FLORIDA	21,519	-3,134	12,818	59.57%	49.58
20	MISSOURI	3,219	-435	1,884	58.53%	51.71
21	NEBRASKA	7,015	-914	4,071	58.03%	55.77
22	VERMONT	3,818	-455	2,173	56.91%	52.34
23	KANSAS	5,919	-678	3,342	56.46%	51.81
24	NEVADA	357	-40	201	56.30%	47.78
25	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	-165	828	56.21%	48.25
26	COLORADO	2,729	-300	1,528	55.99%	49.19
27	OHIO	30,636	-2,949	16,735	54.63%	50.46
28	NEW JERSEY	9,386	-876	5,100	54.34%	48.87
29	VIRGINIA	4,109	-374	2,223	54.10%	46.18
30	NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	-93	568	53.79%	46.48
31	MICHIGAN	24,271	-1,862	12,784	52.67%	46.53
32	INDIANA	36,387	-2,726	19,100	52.49%	48.18
33	WYOMING	1,288	-93	677	52.16%	45.78
34	NEW YORK	29,864	-1,954	15,393	51.54%	47.23
35	RHODE ISLAND	336	-21	172	51.19%	42.42
36	IDAHO	644	-38	328	50.93%	42.95
37	TENNESSEE	1,718	-102	875	50.93%	42.01
38	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	-309	2,864	50.45%	45.89
39	MAINE	2,617	-142	1,320	50.44%	43.46
40	CONNECTICUT	1,867	-89	929	49.76%	44.55
41	TEXAS	5,569	-223	2,729	49.00%	41.27
42	CALIFORNIA	10,714	-414	5,235	48.86%	41.11
43	MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	-134	2,583	47.46%	42.83
44	MINNESOTA	11,378	-164	5,284	46.44%	43.79
45	WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	-3	1,066	45.13%	37.60
46	UTAH	449	0	202	44.99%	37.25
47	ARIZONA	8,004	28	3,574	44.65%	35.24
48	PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	815	26,546	43.66%	39.83
49	ALASKA	1,608	66	658	40.92%	34.13
50	ARKANSAS	447	22	179	40.04%	34.40
51	WASHINGTON	2,485	152	966	38.87%	29.17
52	DIST OF COL	114	9	42	36.84%	25.66
53	NEW MEXICO	1,483	149	518	34.93%	28.80
54	KENTUCKY	2,609	454	720	27.60%	24.12
55	PHILIPPINES	70	16	16	22.86%	22.06
Grand Totals:		367,798	-27,584	193,093	52.50%	46.98

2023 SAL REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

WESTERN REGION - JACK A. YOUNGS (ID)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	77	82	106.49%
OREGON	1,414	860	60.82%
NEVADA	357	201	56.30%
IDAHO	644	328	50.93%
CALIFORNIA	10,714	5,235	48.86%
UTAH	449	202	44.99%
ARIZONA	8,004	3,574	44.65%
ALASKA	1,608	658	40.92%
WASHINGTON	2,485	966	38.87%
PHILIPPINES	70	16	22.86%
Totals:	25,822	12,122	46.94%

MIDWEST REGION - MICHAEL L. KIRSCHNER (CO)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	1,169	85.83%
MEXICO	31	24	77.42%
OKLAHOMA	1,348	953	70.70%
MONTANA	1,108	767	69.22%
NEBRASKA	7,015	4,071	58.03%
KANSAS	5,919	3,342	56.46%
COLORADO	2,729	1,528	55.99%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	568	53.79%
WYOMING	1,298	677	52.16%
TEXAS	5,569	2,729	49.00%
NEW MEXICO	1,483	518	34.93%
Totals:	28,918	16,346	56.53%

CENTRAL REGION - DAVID J. MENNEL (MI)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,187	2,791	66.66%
IOWA	4,857	3,007	61.91%
ILLINOIS	13,398	8,246	61.55%
MISSOURI	3,219	1,884	58.53%
OHIO	30,636	16,735	54.63%
MICHIGAN	24,271	12,754	52.57%
INDIANA	36,387	19,100	52.49%
MINNESOTA	11,378	5,264	46.44%
Totals:	128,333	69,831	54.41%

EASTERN REGION - ERNEST E. LABERGE (MA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	158	113	71.52%
DELAWARE	2,430	1,453	59.79%
MARYLAND	16,058	9,571	59.60%
VERMONT	3,818	2,173	56.91%
NEW JERSEY	9,388	5,100	54.34%
NEW YORK	29,864	15,393	51.54%
RHODE ISLAND	338	172	51.19%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	2,864	50.45%
MAINE	2,617	1,320	50.44%
CONNECTICUT	1,867	929	49.76%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	2,583	47.46%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	1,066	45.13%
PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	26,546	43.66%
DIST OF COL	114	42	36.84%
Totals:	140,932	69,325	49.19%

SOUTHERN REGION - RONALD E. ROBERTS (MS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
LOUISIANA	1,790	1,383	77.26%
PUERTO RICO	123	95	77.24%
MISSISSIPPI	722	502	69.53%
ALABAMA	2,066	1,338	64.76%
GEORGIA	4,490	2,866	63.83%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	1,642	60.21%
FLORIDA	21,519	12,818	59.57%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	828	56.21%
VIRGINIA	4,109	2,223	54.10%
TENNESSEE	1,718	875	50.93%
ARKANSAS	447	179	40.04%
KENTUCKY	2,609	720	27.60%
Totals:	43,793	25,469	58.16%

The new Videos of Service contest was adopted by the SAL National Executive Committee at the 2022 Fall Meetings. The intent of Videos of Service is “to facilitate public relations, brand awareness and promotion of the Sons of The American Legion on social media platforms.”



Videos of Service is open to all SAL members. Videos must include SAL members with their covers or identifiable clothing on during the activity or event; be under five minutes and published to an approved social media platform — Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, or any emerging platform deemed appropriate by a vote of the SAL’s Public Relations & Media Commission — with a link emailed to the commission using the downloaded fillable PDF; and fall into one of three categories.

Those categories are program support, which highlights, promotes, encourages, or displays participation in Legion programs; membership and recruitment, which encourages new members and renewals; and community engagement, which shows detachments or squadrons involved in work in their communities.

The Public Relations & Media Commission will judge entries on video quality, content, and branding.

Snapshots of Service continues to call for photos of SAL members engaged in activities that represent one of the Four Pillars: Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Members must be wearing SAL caps or apparel, and photos must be in JPG or TIFF format.

More details and entry forms for both contests are available at [Legion.org/sons/publications](https://legion.org/sons/publications).

National Convention Committee

Christopher Byrd (NC), Chairman

National Executive Committee

Liaison Committee

Jim Stewart (NV), Chairman

National Vice-Commander Selection Committee

James Hartman (MD), Co-Chairman

David Stephens (IN), Co-Chairman

Public and Media Communications Commission

Kevin Chaplin (VA), Chairman

Fourth Tuesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

(877) 853-5257

075079 | 963 1528 2340

SAL Videos, Snapshots of Service contests

open to entry

The American Legion

Entry forms for the Sons of The American Legion’s Snapshots of Service and Videos of Service are now available online.

Subcommittee on Resolutions

Ned Fox (CA), Chairman

Subcommittee on National Appointments

Donald Allisot, Jr. (ME), 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

I wanted to convey to you a sense of what is happening with the National VA&R Commission.

- As most of you may be aware, a resolution was passed at the Fall NEC meeting for the Sons to take on the responsibility of Certification of its own members as VAVS Representatives & Deputies. While this has to undergo approval of TAL, we are hopeful that this will happen and are preparing administratively for it. We are confident that this change will expedite the Certification process and make the position more desirable to a broader audience within our membership.
- While we will continue with the annual VA&R Charles Rigsby Award, we are developing an additional Award that will allow members to qualify for WITHOUT the requirement of volunteer time at a VA. There are many avenues and directions that we can all provide service to Veterans. While volunteering at a VA is one of them, it is not all of them. We want to be able to recognize our members who provide service to our Veterans regardless of the method for doing so. Stay tuned for more information.
- In the Spring we will be kicking-off our annual Veterans Appreciation Day program. While this is not just 1 day or 1 week that we designate, it is symbolic of the work we should be doing to assist our Veterans in need of projects in their life. Whether it be trimming shrubs, cleaning gutters, repairing a railing, going to the grocery store, the Veterans Appreciation Day will be a program to motivate our members to provide a service to Veterans in need.
- We are always looking for members to serve as VAVS Representatives and/or Deputies at our VA facilities. It is an important role that provides clearer communication of Veteran needs, and allows our SAL to sit at the National table for changing the way VA serves our Veterans. Attached is a fold-over brochure and

nomination form for those positions. Please feel free to contact me with questions, and if you do submit a nomination, PLEASE make sure you either send it to me or send me a copy. This will expedite the process.

Gabe Cinquegrana, Vice-Chairman
National VAVS Representative

Veterans Employment & Education Commission

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Pro Deo Et Partia – For God and Country
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Sons of The American Legion

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

OUR KOREAN WAR STORY: Memorial honors those in 'Second Korean War'

August Mattson Squadron 71

Just in time for Veterans Day 2020, the Delta County Veterans Memorial Park in Gladstone, Mich., with help from the local Marine Corps League and August Mattson American Legion Post and Sons of The American Legion Squadron 71, begot a new monument to recognize those who served and

died in battle on the Korean Peninsula during a conflict left out of many history books.

The events formally known as the “Korean DMZ Conflict” and colloquially as the “Second Korean War” were a series of battles that took place in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea between 1966 and 1969. While 92 American lives were lost in clashes with North Koreans in the DMZ, the battles were overshadowed by the larger conflict taking place in Vietnam during the same period.



Left to right: Mike King, American Legion post commander/Marine Corps League; Don Couillard, Squadron 71 second vice commander; Lewis Carroll, post membership chairman; John Pickard, squadron membership chairman; and Art Menard, commander, Marine Corps League.

In 2018, Bob Nachtwey of Bark River set out on a mission to have a memorial for those in the DMZ conflict placed in Washington, D.C. His quest put him in touch with Bill Hafeman of the Powers American Legion post, who wrote a resolution to create a memorial and have it placed next to the existing Korean War Memorial in the capital city. Despite Nachtwey and Hafeman's efforts, the issue stalled, and whether or not a DMZ memorial will ever be built in Washington remains uncertain.

That didn't stop Nachtwey from seeking other ways to honor those who served in the conflict. Post 71 put him in touch with the post's past commander, Wayne Berthaume. Without hesitation, Berthaume said Nachtwey could put a memorial at the Delta County Veterans Memorial Park, which is located between Superior Avenue and North 8th Street in Gladstone and is owned by the Legion.

That got the ball rolling. Berthaume, along with Squadron Vice-Commander Don Couillard, poured the concrete pad for a memorial to sit on. Contributions were also made by Ken Hogan, who served in Korea, and by the local Marine Corps League.

A revolving outdoor gallery of patriotism and military service

[Cameran Richardson](#)



American Legion Riders Chapter 118 Director Jerome Howard of Amherst, Ohio, and local artist Keri Sparenga unveil their commissioned piece featuring the American Legion Riders during a ceremony at Patriots Park on Sunday, Nov. 20.

Photo by Hilary Ott/The American Legion

More than 10 years ago, local artist and Sons of The American Legion member Mike Sekletar began turning the outside wall of a two-story brick building in downtown Amherst, Ohio, into a portrait of history to honor America's veterans. Service and sacrifice are visible when locals and visitors walk by or park at 248 Park Avenue. The first mural Mike painted is that of the World War II Iwo Jima flag raising, followed by a rendition of the Vietnam War painting “Reflections” with the names of 98 fallen men from Lorain County, then a tribute to the Korean War with the Korean peninsula surrounded by combat soldiers, fighter jets, a battleship, and a nurse. The final mural was dedicated in 2017 on Veterans Day – the faces and names of [12 local fallen service-members](#) from the Global War on Terror.

When the brick wall was complete, John Sekletar, father of Mike, stood with the building's owner Jim and said “looks like that's it” with no more space to paint. But Jim's response didn't mirror John's. “He said, ‘I do have the backyard and it's available for you to do anything you want with it.’”

[The result is Patriots Park](#) – a three panel 68-foot long and eight feet tall sandstone wall with 11 patriotic and military-themed paintings painted by local artists that are interchangeable. The wall was dedicated on Veterans Day in 2021.

“When we finished the four paintings on the wall and we were offered to add on that option in the back I thought, ‘I don't have to stop here if I have this opportunity to continue

what we started.' That was the driving force for me to follow through to support our men and women coming back from overseas," said John, a member of American Legion Post 118 in Amherst, who gives credit to the concept of an outdoor gallery wall to his wife, Cathy. "It's a revolving outdoor gallery. I think that we have something that's extraordinary."

On Sunday, Nov. 20, a new set of paintings was unveiled at Patriots Park during a rain delayed Veterans Day ceremony. Before the unveiling, attendees heard from two sisters, retired Navy Capt. Carol Shinsky, and retired Navy Chief Warrant Officer W3 Gail Shinsky, along with a video address on the jumbotron from country music singer-songwriter Lee Greenwood and a performance by him of "God Bless the USA."

"I think we can all agree that the Veteran's Mural Association to preserve history and promote the arts has been accomplished," Greenwood said. "Patriots Park is one of a kind."

The 11 paintings were covered with a black tarp to be revealed one by one with the artist and the painting's sponsor standing next to them. Mike painted two, with one that honored his mother's U.S. and Canadian military family history. The painting was of the faces of Cathy's dad and brother, who served in the Canadian army, along with her two brothers who served in the U.S. Army and Navy. The U.S. and Canadian flags joined together above the four men.

"It was a touching one to work on since it's family," Mike said. "I think (Patriots Park) is a unique way to present patriotic artwork. We have other artists involved now, it's good to have local talent and showcase their abilities as well and represent families that have sponsored the paintings." Together, Patriots Park and Veterans Wall is "a staple in the city."

American Legion Riders Chapter 118 sponsored a painting of Legion Riders riding in the sunset called "Riders in Arms for Veterans." And artist Ryan Shannon, who helped Mike with the Iowa Jima mural, painted the father of his boss – World War II U.S. Air Force Maj. Patrick Simone, a P-38 Lightning pilot.

Shannon painted Simone off his Air Force graduation photo and added in P-38 planes. "It's the coolest thing ever to be a part of," he said. "I get to see all of these veterans; see them appreciate us like we appreciate them. It's the most gratifying thing I've ever been a part of really. (Patriots Park and the Veterans Mural is) emotional for a lot of people. It's just amazing to be a part of."

The sponsors will receive their painting prior to new ones going up next Veterans Day. All 11 paintings for 2023 are spoken for and the Veteran's Mural Association is now looking into 2024.

"It took on a life of its own. I'm proud of this," Cathy said. "It's special, and we pulled in lots of new artists and that part is really cool. It's really a community project."

Patriots Park is made possible through community donations, both monetary and in-kind.

"It means everything to have the community behind you," said John, a U.S. Navy Vietnam War veteran who has committed himself to ensuring today's veterans feel welcomed home. "It's a community project that's really stirring to realize that the community is standing behind you on what you're trying to accomplish. Ultimately what we are trying to do is make it a destination point in the City of Amherst. And make Amherst, Ohio, a destination point to visit Patriots Park."



Post 184 Facebook photo

California Sons of The American Legion Squadron leads effort to assist homeless veterans

The American Legion

California American Legion Auxiliary member Dawn Anzack started the nonprofit Joseph's Gift after her nephew, U.S. Cpl. Joseph Anzack, was killed while serving in Iraq in 2007. Anzack's combat team was ambushed and captured; his body was found 11 days later.

Dawn formed the nonprofit to honor her nephew, doing so by providing holiday gifts to the children of severely injured service members and supporting military families in financial need.

The nonprofit also has begun helping the homeless veterans receiving either emergency or long-term housing at the U.S. VETS-Inland Empire March Veterans Village located next to March Air Reserve Base. And that effort has received full support from Sons of The American Legion Squadron 184 in Redondo Beach, Calif.

A recent effort by Squadron 184 resulted in the collection of more than 1,000 pounds of hygiene products, supplies and non-perishable food. An additional \$1,000 was raised to purchase perishable food at the homeless facility's commissary.

"We adopted Joseph's Gift as our main charity," Squadron 184 Commander Ed Mannes said. "Joseph is an alum at a local high school. I went to that high school, and he was there when my daughters were there. We said, 'This is an organization that's really trying to help and do things.' That's No. 1. And No. 2, it's a local connection. It's not giving blindly to some national group type of thing. We wanted more of a hands-on type of approach."

Dawn, a member of Auxiliary Unit 184, said Joseph's Gift is a one-person operation. Assistance like that provided by Squadron 184 and the rest of the post's Legion Family "gives me credibility. And the guys down there are very helpful and very supportive. I'd come up with (the idea for the collection drive), and they helped me run with it."

Items collected during the drive included toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shaving cream and razors, shampoo, laundry detergent and packaged foods.

Squadron 184 does regularly BBQs as fundraisers, which helped pay for the food purchase at the commissary. Squadron 184 also has helped with the cost of shipping care packages to servicemembers through Joseph's Gift.

Dawn said it took four trips to deliver all of the collected items. "After that, I went and talked to the veterans," she said. "The ones that I met, they were Vietnam vets, there were Desert Storm vets. They were older veterans who are off the street for the first time in a long time, and there was one guy who was on the verge of going on the street when he found this transitional housing. I'm all in now that I've talked to these guys."

Dawn praised Squadron 184 and the rest of the post for what they've meant to her charity. "This post has been so supportive," she said. "I have nothing but good things to say about this post. Every time I come up with an idea, these guys are like, 'We're in.'"

"It really is life-changing to know that you can help somebody through something as simple as this. People want to help. We just don't know how because our military goes, 'We're fine. We're fine. We don't need anything.' And that's not true."



Child's courage against cancer inspires Riders

[Jeff Stoffer](#)



Pennsylvania Legion Riders greet Ariella Coyne during a fundraising effort to help with costs of her treatment.

Photo courtesy of Kevin L. Murray

American Legion Riders of Pennsylvania's Region 7 rallied in 2019 and 2022 to help the family of a young girl fighting a rare form of eye cancer, and a children's book published this month seeks to spread her message of courage for others getting treatment.

"The Tale of Princess Warrior Ariella and the Dreaded Cancerous Dragon" was written by Sons of The American Legion member and Legion Rider Kevin Murray of Annville, Pa., illustrated by Nina Mkhoiani and edited by Ariane Laurent-Smith of Rogue Graphic Design. Yvonne Koons, president of Rogue Graphic Design in Mechanicsburg, Pa., told Murray when he showed her his notes that "If you don't

make this a kids' story, there's something wrong with you." Rogue would later donate illustration and design for the book, which Murray says would not have happened without her support.

Four American Legion Family organizations and a Veterans of Foreign Wars post provided grants to get the book printed and delivered so that nearly all proceeds from sales can be split between Penn State Health Children's Hospital and Children's Hospital at Philadelphia where the real-life main character of the book – Ariella Coyne – has received treatment since she was a toddler. Supporting the printing and delivery efforts were Annville American Legion Post 559; Conner-Streicher American Legion Family (SAL and Auxiliary) attached to Post 559; Hershey American Legion Riders of Post 386; Quigley Baum Post 72's Sons of The American Legion in Palmyra; and Kimberly Ann Fahnestock-Voelz Memorial VFW Post 7530 in Mechanicsburg.

[More information about the book, which sells for \\$15 each plus shipping, is available at www.warriorariella.com.](http://www.warriorariella.com)

Funds raised through Sept. 28, 2019, Legion Riders "Core 4 Ride for Ariella" generated \$3,600 for the family of young Ariella, then undergoing chemotherapy and stem-cell procedures to vanquish retinoblastoma and to get her first prosthetic eye. That ride involved Legion Riders chapters from Annville, Hershey, Campbelltown and Hummelstown. As part of the ride, participants received white poker chips from little Ariella.

In late 2021, cancer returned, and the treatment program grew even more difficult and expensive for her parents. At a planning meeting for some 50 chapters in Region 7 last winter, Murray suggested the Riders raise funds to continue helping the family. Many at the planning meeting still carried the chip from the first ride.

They launched a "Mile for Hope" fundraiser – with a special new chip of its own – that produced another \$5,850 last May for the family to help them cover their expenses and make up for lost work hours.

The newly published book tells how Princess Ariella received help from the "Knights of Leather and Steel" – motorcycle-riding soldiers in black vests – to beat the dragon twice. In the final pages, Ariella, who was 2 ½ years old at the time Murray learned of her plight, is shown in her own black vest (she was given one of her own last spring by the Riders) after her most recent victory.

In addition to online sales to support the facilities, Murray says the books will be placed at the treatment centers

themselves, to be read to children receiving care, giving them hope and understanding that they are not alone.

"Reading a book like that gets (kids) to understand there are others out there who are like them," says Ariella's mother, Terina Coyne, who adds that support from the Legion Riders and the community have been "a godsend. It just gives us so much more comfort. With so much going on, it's nice to know people are there when you need them."

The story of Ariella and the Legion Riders of Pennsylvania who became her knights is featured in the December issue of *The American Legion Magazine*.

The book is dedicated to Murray's father, a National Guard veteran of the Korean War. In the dedication, the author quotes a lesson from him: "Success is not measured by what you do for yourself. Success is measured by what you do for others."



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Vickie Koutz, National President
The American Legion Auxiliary

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 14, 2022



1ST PLACE 69.25%



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3RD PLACE 65.43%



4TH PLACE 65.32%



5TH PLACE 62.42%



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SPORTS



Photo by Warren Rosenberg

Army edges Navy 20-17 in 123rd meeting between two teams

John Chuhuran | December 12, 2022

If you wanted offensive brilliance, the 123rd Army-Navy Game will not rank high on your list of favorite college football games. But the 69,117 fans in attendance at “America’s Game” saw one of the most exciting finishes in the history of this annual competition, the first between the two teams to be settled in extra play since the series began in 1890.

Army’s 20-17, double-overtime triumph at Lincoln Financial Field in the 2022 edition of the contest embodied the highest ideals anyone could want for the military leaders of

tomorrow – probably more than any other game of at least the last half century. Few things short of actual combat could be a better example of the old saying “you don’t go into battle with the military forces, the equipment and the geography you want – you go with what you have.” These two teams were filled with less than perfect players, but all played with a tenacity and commitment that pushed their intellectual and physical performances to the maximum and enabled their teams to play a game that will not be forgotten soon.

“What a game,” said Army Head Coach Jeff Monken, now 5-4 in Army-Navy Games. “That was two football teams that fought just as hard as they possibly could. It was an epic battle. It’s one that I’ll remember for a long time, probably forever, just how we managed to win. When people ask me what’s different about this game, (I tell them) the difference is the players. Every one of these players and every one of those young people that were sitting up in the stands that are their classmates have made a pledge to serve this nation and to perhaps pay the ultimate price for all the rest of us who haven’t made that pledge.

“That’s what makes this game different. It makes the way they play this game different. They’re fighting as hard as they can on every snap. That’s both sides. Tough kids, tough people that care so much about who they represent. It feels like every single play, that the game is hanging in the balance. That’s the intensity of this game. It was fought that way from start to finish. They never wavered. I look and I see their eyes on the sideline, and I can see their body language. They just never stop believing.”

Navy Head Coach Ken Niumatalolo, who was fired from his position Sunday, said on Media Day that the game would be “a slugfest.” That was a gross understatement. Army and Navy both posted struggled on offense. Army (6-6), which entered the contest ranked second in the nation with an average of 304.4 rushing yards per game, amassed just 33 yards on 14 carries on the ground in the first half and advanced just 153 total yards for the game (vs. an average of 385.5 per game coming into Saturday’s competition), while Navy (4-8) gained just 284 total yards – well below its 330.7 per game average for the first 11 games.

Those performances did not occur because the players on offense forgot how to play or stopped trying. Football is not played in a vacuum – there is always a cause and an effect. In this case, fantastic punting and extraordinary defensive play carried the day. Brief outbursts of offense came from rare defensive failures. It was classic, hard-defense Army-Navy football.

The punters – Riley Riethman for Navy, Billy Boehlke for Army – both had nine boots, and the vast majority of them pinned the opposition inside its own 30-yard-line. Knowing that a turnover could easily allow the other team to score, the offenses were forced to play ultra-conservatively.

Defensive play is often a matter of anticipation mixed with quick reactions, correct recognition of the threat, and proper execution of fundamental training – characteristics that those who serve in the military utilize every day. Army defenders Leo Lowin (16 tackles), Marquel Broughton (10), Chris Fey (10), Jimmy Ciarolo (nine), and Camden O’Gara (eight) were matched by Navy’s Nick Straw (nine), John Marshall, Gianni Woodson-Brooks, and Colin Ramos (eight apiece), and Clay Cromwell (six). They all excelled.

With the score tied 17-17, the second overtime began with a series that ultimately proved decisive. After six running plays, Navy was on the Army 3 in a third-and-goal situation. Anton Hall Jr. took the handoff and tried to fill a gap made by his linemen, but he collided with Army’s Austin Hill, who punched the ball loose. Army’s Darius Richardson recovered it on the Army 1 to end the series. On the ensuing possession that began on the Navy 25, Army knew that a field goal could win, so the offense was more concerned about keeping possession than scoring a touchdown. Gaining just three yards, kicker Quinn Marezki came on and nailed a 39-yard kick just inside the right upright to end a memorable game. It was a case of sweet redemption.

“I was wide right against Troy, and it was really tough to let the team down that way,” said the soft-spoken Marezki, referencing a missed field goal in November that cost Army a victory. “I’m really grateful to the team and the coaching staff who put their trust in me and to the team for putting me in the position to do it again.”

Tied 10-10, the game headed to overtime. On the very first play, the Army offensive line opened a hole and Markel Johnson galloped 25 yards to the left corner of the end zone. Navy immediately responded with QB Xavier Arline completing his first pass of the day to a wide-open Maquel Haywood on the Army 2, who walked in the endzone to even the score.

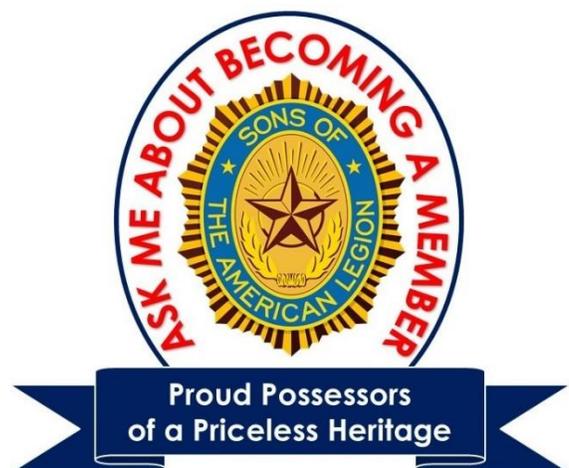
Army led 7-3 at the break and appeared to pad its advantage at 8:47 of the third quarter on a 40-yard roll left by Tyhier Tyler into the Navy end zone, but the play was nullified when the Black Knights were assessed a penalty for a block in the back. Momentum shifted at the 4:09 mark when Navy’s Ahmad Bradley pulled out his left guard slot and crossed to the right of center, holding off two Army defenders while Hall charged 77 yards through the hole and down

the middle – the longest running play by Navy in the history of “America’s Game” – for the touchdown and a 10-7 Navy lead. In the final stanza of regulation, Army advanced 25 yards in 7 plays to the Navy 21, setting up Marezki for a 37-yard field goal that knotted the tally at 10-10 with just 1:53 remaining before the end of regular play.

After a scoreless first quarter, Navy took the lead at 12:36 of the second on a 44-yard field goal by Bijan Nichols. With just 1:06 left before intermission, Navy stalled on its own 14 and a late shift of the line enabled Army’s Noah Short to charge through untouched and block the Navy punt. The ball bounced back into the Navy end zone and looked like it might trickle out the back for a touchback, but Jabril Williams got a hand on it, lost it, and finally fell on the pigskin with barely an inch to spare for an Army touchdown.

“They kept fighting,” Monken added. “That’s what’s awesome about this game, what’s awesome about this team. For this senior class, every one of those guys – we’ve got one guy graduating this coming Friday, Tyhier Tyler; the rest of the guys are going to graduate in May. They’re going to take command of soldiers, have to lead soldiers. They will be in much tougher fights with stakes much higher than they were in tonight. To be able to have that grit and that toughness and that belief as leaders, soldiers are going to follow them, and they’re going to follow that lead. That’s what was on display tonight.”

“It wasn’t just on our sideline. The other team was fighting that way, too. That’s what’s great about this game and about these teams. We want to win this game. We want to beat their pants off. I want to beat them every time we play ’em. But I respect the fight that the competitors have in this game. Their guys, our guys. It’s what makes our military the best fighting force this world has ever known, because of people like that leading soldiers.”



SQUADRON EVERLASTING

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

Robert R. Clouner



Robert R. Clouner, Jr., age 65, of Tionesta, PA, died on Friday, December 9, 2022 at the Shipperville Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Shipperville, PA. He was born May 20, 1957 in Pittsburgh, PA, the son of Robert R. and Lois G. (Binder) Clouner Sr., who both survive in Fryburg, PA.

Bob was an active member of the Sons of American Legion Post 334 where he served on the board of directors as Adjutant. He loved to hunt.

Surviving are a daughter, Brittany J. Clouner and her fiancé Justin A. McGee, of Gray, PA, Somerset County. A grandson, Jackson. Two granddaughters, Grace, and Emmalynn. A sister, Cheryl L. Clouner of Leeper, PA. Several Cousins and two uncles.

Friends will be received at the Norman J. Wimer Funeral Home of Tionesta on Saturday, December 17, 2022 from 2-5pm. Burial will be at Dehner Cemetery in Fryburg.

Memorial Contributions may be made in Robert's memory to the Sons of American Legion Post 334 16424 RT 62 Tidiole, PA 16351.

Messages of sympathy may be left at www.wimerfuneralhome.com.

Jeffrey Jay Johnston

Jeffrey Jay Johnston, 69, of Crawfordsville, Iowa, died Friday, December 9, 2022, at his residence following a battle with diabetes.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, December 15, 2022, at the United Church of Crawfordsville with Pastor Jason Collier officiating. The family will be present to receive friends from 10 until 11 a.m. on Thursday at the church. Interment with military honors will take place at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery in Van Meter, Iowa, on Friday, December 16, 2022. Memorials have been established for United

Church of Crawfordsville, Paws and More Animal Shelter or Crawfordsville American Legion Post 593. The Jones & Eden Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Jeff was born March 11, 1953, in Fairfield, Iowa, the son of James C. and Beverly J. (Bagby) Johnston. He attended school in Fairfield, Iowa, graduating from high school in 1971. Jeff served honorably in the United States Army from 1972 until 1977. He was united in marriage to Diane Vobr on September 22, 2006, in Crawfordsville, Iowa.

Jeff worked as a Quality Assurance Manager of Boeing Co. from 1979 until 1993. While working for Boeing, Jeff lived in Alaska, Washington, North Dakota, Michigan, New Hampshire, and Texas. He has lived in the Crawfordsville Community since 2002. Jeff was a member of the United Church of Crawfordsville, the Elks Lodge in Fairfield, Sons of the American Legion, and was a life member of the VFW and American Legion. He was Commander of the American Legion Post 593 in Crawfordsville and Past Commander of the VFW Post in Fairfield. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and was an avid Chicago Bears and Iowa Hawkeye Football fan. He is survived by his wife, Diane Johnston of Crawfordsville, Iowa.

Jeff was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

Online condolences may be sent for Jeff's family through the web at www.jonesfh.com.

Peter J. Waysville, Jr.

Peter J. Waysville, Jr., 74, of North Walpole, NH died peacefully at Massachusetts General Hospital surrounded by his loving family on November 25, 2022.

Peter was born on July 18, 1948 in Bellows Falls, VT to the late Peter Waysville, Sr., and Katie (Jones) Waysville. He attended Bellows Falls High School, graduating in 1966, and went on to achieve a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering at the University of New Hampshire, graduating in 1971. He split his career between the fields of Chemical and Civil Engineering, yet always had time for providing guidance and encouragement in every step of his children's lives.

Peter was a devoted father that was ever-present at his children's events and activities, especially cheering them on at their basketball games. He was a dedicated, loving husband to his wife Christine, spending 55 incredible years with the love of his life. Peter's hobbies included playing

Men's League Softball in his early adult years and finding a knack for woodworking as he grew older. He also enjoyed coin and stamp collecting, as well as following all the New England sports teams, especially the Boston Bruins.

Peter was a lifelong member of the Elks, Knights of Columbus, Sons of The American Legion, and Polish Clubs. In retirement, he enjoyed travelling with his wife from the coasts of Maine to Florida.

Peter is survived by his wife, Christine (Huntley) Waysville; son, Jason R. Waysville, and his fiancée, Rebecca Ferguson; daughter, Sarah Waysville; and many nieces and nephews. Peter was predeceased by his parents, Peter Waysville, Sr., and Katie (Jones) Waysville; stepmother, Dorothy (Reagan) Waysville; and brother, Richard Waysville.

A Celebration of Life will be announced and held in the Spring of 2023. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessy Funeral Home 55 Westminster St in Bellows Falls, VT. www.fentonandhennessy.com.

In the next few weeks, additional information will be released on the First Annual Central Region Extravaganza. I am working on an agenda that will have great presenters and topics that are meaningful. You will get information that can be taken home and shared with squadrons, districts, and detachments. With your help, we will have a successful event that can be continued into the future.

Keep up the AWESOME work!

Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible. Renew Today!

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

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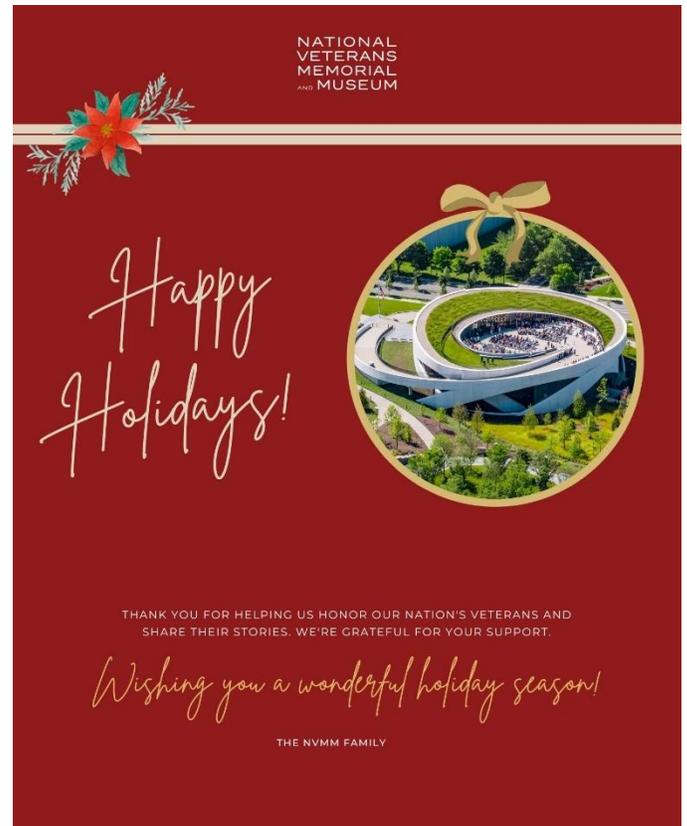
April 21 - 23, 2023



**FROM
THE EDITOR**

It is remarkable to see the work that you are doing on our membership program. You continue to renew current members, recruit new ones, and reinstate members who may have left our ranks for one reason or another.

As our organization continues to grow, let's with our Buddy Checks, and make sure to ask if our members need help in any way. Sometimes that one question can change someone's life.



AMERICAN LEGION



Making spirits bright

December 14, 2022

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

The Christmas and New Year holidays bring feelings of joy, hope and renewal across the nation. Families share in their blessings. Friends reunite. Children and adults alike have their wishes come true.

But for some, the season's joy remains out of reach.

The holiday season can be a tough time for those dealing with mental illness. The added stress may compound feelings of despair. They may have lost a significant other and feel isolated. There may be other factors that could lead them to a downward spiral.

The American Legion's [Be the One initiative](#) calls on everyone — veteran, servicemember and civilian — to take the appropriate action to intervene when a veteran's life may be at risk. As part of those efforts, [the Legion's Buddy Check program](#) is vital throughout the year but takes on a greater importance during this time.

For immediate help, dial 988 and press 1 for the Veterans Crisis Line.

I encourage all American Legion Family members to consider performing at least one "buddy check" during this holiday season. A simple phone call for a wellness check on a

veteran who may be alone at this time of the year will brighten their day, reinstall hope and lift them from despair. You might even say Buddy Checks can go a long way in "making spirits bright."

Vincent "Jim" Troiola, National Commander
The American Legion

Task Force Movement: 'Running at warp speed'

[Jeff Stoffer](#) | December 15, 2022

Wednesday's luncheon at American Legion National Headquarters in Washington, D.C., in a sense, had been simmering for over a decade.

Stakeholders from all points on the map, of multiple different backgrounds, filled the seventh-floor conference room, broke bread and reviewed their efforts over the last eight months to connect military veterans, spouses and wartime allies with jobs that can help the United States close a massive labor gap and repair a national supply chain that was badly harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

They gathered as one coalition under the umbrella of Task Force Movement (TFM), launched last April by the White House, led by former U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy, first veteran from the war in Iraq to be elected to Congress. TFM began the day with a "convening of partners" session Wednesday morning at the Eisenhower Office Building on the White House campus and moved for the afternoon to the Washington home of the nation's largest veterans organization. A key development since April has been TFM's role as a clearinghouse and promoter of government, military and industry programs and career-training opportunities for veterans, military-affiliated spouses and even Afghan refugees who helped U.S. forces in the global war on terrorism.

On hand were U.S. Cabinet assistant secretaries, education officials, union representatives, cybersecurity experts, truck drivers, Afghan refugees starting new lives in America, agency leaders, American Legion staff, and others. Together — *and not for the first time* — they reviewed accomplishments of the last eight months and where it all goes from here.

Many of the stakeholders Wednesday have been involved with The American Legion's efforts for over a decade to ease the transfer of military training hours into credits for veterans pursuing careers in specialized fields that require civilian schools, licenses, credentials, time, and cost.



James D. Rodriguez, assistant secretary, Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service, speaks at a Task Force Movement luncheon Wednesday at American Legion National Headquarters in Washington.

Photo by Jeff Stoffer

The disconnect – which had been gradually shrinking after years of Legion-organized licensing and credentialing conferences and other gatherings on the subject – has risen as a federal priority as the trucking industry faces an estimated 80,000-driver shortage and more than 40,000 jobs for qualified cybersecurity professionals are unfilled. TFM has specifically locked in on those two industry needs this year in part because many veterans are trained to help fulfill them, through accelerated programs already in place, or evolving, by various partners of the task force.

“What we've seen – or I've seen – through Task Force Movement is results,” said Daniel Kunze, TFA board member who specializes in technology and cybersecurity. “Results matter. Results speak for themselves. And the people that drive results are those who are going to change the world. That's what we are here to do.”

Public-private partnerships, nearly all participants said, are the essential ingredient – bringing together programs already in place through the military, VA, government agencies and, vitally, industry. Veterans are starting to find the programs, and employers are making progress in hiring them, officials said, but the word still needs to reach more who are eligible to take part.

National shipping giant Werner Enterprises was one of the TFM industry partners represented in the Wednesday sessions. A company representative said that more than 2,000 apprenticeships had been processed just this year – for drivers, diesel mechanics and transportation managers – where veterans who's on-duty military time counts in the equation to complete the requirements.

The morning session included updates on growing participation – and a call for more awareness – in programs, for

instance, that ease the skills-test requirements for veterans in trucking if they have already proven their skills in uniform.

TFM Executive Director Cassie Byard said the initiative “has been running at warp speed” by building partnerships and making connections and has recently helped Afghan refugees who assisted American forces find career paths in the United States. She said a first-year report on TFM is set to be published in April. [A full report of the 2022 American Legion Licensing and Credentialing Summit from last August was published this fall to summarize work to date and identify opportunities for action.](#)

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness Shawn Skelly spoke of DoD SkillBridge's growth – which gives active-duty personnel specialized career training before they discharge – and reiterated a message she delivered at the 103rd American Legion National Convention on how that benefits the Armed Forces.

“Supporting our servicemembers in their skill attainment, skill identification, credentialing ... that actually contributes to the force being able to do its mission,” she said. “The things that we do for our servicemembers now, and how we prepare people to become successful veterans – because successful veterans are incredibly successful Americans – that helps us sustain the force. It's the experience of our servicemembers, how we support them and their families when they are doing a mission, that's what gets people to give us a try.”

James D. Rodriguez, assistant secretary of the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service, told the group at National Headquarters that “it's in our national interest to have partners that are willing to help us continue to build back, out of an economic slump. We know that it's in our national interest to ensure that our veterans have a stake in the economic recovery. All this starts with good, solid partnerships and leaders.”

American Legion Veterans Employment & Education Division Director Joseph Sharpe said he is pleased that so many stakeholders are working together to resolve an issue and build on a foundation the organization began addressing years ago.

“It was really The American Legion that had been bringing these folks together over the past 10 years through our licensing and certification conferences,” he said. “A lot of the initiatives and accomplishments that you're seeing now is from The American Legion bringing these people together, bringing them these issues, and following up on it to make

sure that some of the recommendations have been implemented and have actually helped our veterans at the grass-roots level.”

Since April, the issue has grown more urgent “because of the supply chain,” Sharpe said. “And now people are recognizing that putting veterans to work is in the national interest. You can’t have a strong national defense if you don’t have a strong economy. People are starting to pay attention to this. And remember, that was the whole purpose of the GI Bill.”

Give blood this holiday season

The American Legion

The American Legion’s annual Holiday Blood Donor Drive is currently underway and lasts through Dec. 31. During this time, American Legion Family members are encouraged to give blood and host blood drives as part of the American Legion Blood Donor Program – an organizational effort that has existed since 1946 to help a lifesaving cause. Learn more at legion.org/security/blood.



Photo by Sam Neufeld

For the 2021-22 membership year, the Legion’s Consolidated Post Report showed that the holiday blood drive brought in over 92,000 pints of blood from more than 56,000 donors nationwide.

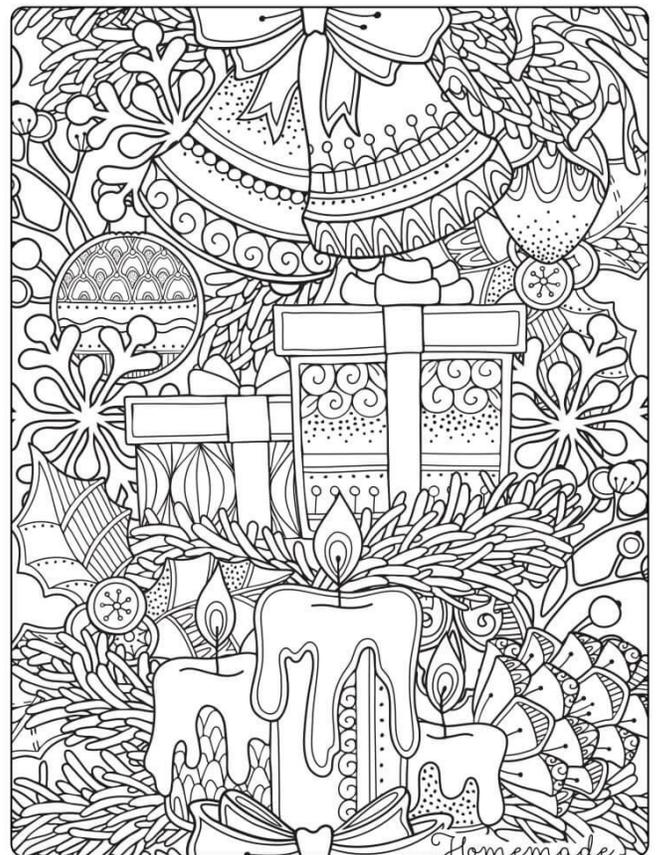
[The American Legion Blood Donor Program](#) recognizes departments in two areas for blood donation efforts: post participation and individual Legionnaire participation. Post participation awards are given to departments with the highest number of participating posts. Individual participation awards are given to departments with the highest percentage of individuals giving blood to the program.

For information on how to donate blood, visit:

- American Red Cross, redcrossblood.org
- American Association of Blood Banks, aabb.org

- Council of Community Blood Centers, givingblood.org

If your American Legion post, district or department is interested in hosting a blood drive in your community, the American Red Cross recommends [visiting this link](#) to learn more about how to start the process.



REMEMBERING THE GREATEST GENERATION

To honor a World War II Veteran,
please send information to jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com



Jonnie Melillo Clasen

'It still hurts': One of the last Merrill's Marauders dies in Alabama at 101

Wyatt Olson/Stars and Stripes | December 15, 2022

Gabriel Kinney, who joined the Army at 21 in 1942 and later fought behind Japanese enemy lines in Burma as one of the famed Merrill's Marauders, died Sunday in Hanceville, Ala. He was 101.

With his death, only one veteran of Merrill's Marauders remains living, 98-year-old Russell Hamler, who lives in Pennsylvania, according to Jonnie Melillo Clasen, who in recent years has served as an informal liaison to the still-living Marauders and their families as the veterans grew too old for reunions.

"Kinney's daughter, Carol Crawford, said her father was unresponsive after slumping over while sitting," Clasen said in a notice emailed Monday. "Despite his age, this was unexpected. Carol said her father attended a Christmas party Friday and was dancing, and that he had a good weekend." Kinney was among only a handful of the roughly 3,000 original Marauders still living earlier this year [when the unit was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal](#).

[Three surviving Marauders died](#) within a month's span [this spring](#).

Kinney was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in July. The Army Rangers trace their lineage to the Marauders, named after their commander, Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill.

Kinney was born Feb. 2, 1921, one of 12 children, in rural Alabama. He briefly worked at U.S. Steel in Birmingham after graduating before enlisting in November 1942.

He served first with F Company, 35th Regiment, 25th Infantry, in the South Pacific before volunteering to join what was formally known as the 5307th Composite Unit Provisional, later dubbed the Marauders.

His experiences in Burma left a profound and troubled mark on his psyche, Kinney said during a 2015 interview with the Alabama-based news site AL.com.

For decades after the war ended, Kinney said he refused to talk of his time in Burma.

"I still don't like to talk about it," he said in a 2015 interview. "It still hurts."

The Marauders ultimate mission was to move behind enemy lines and capture the Myitkyina airfield in northern Burma, which was considered key to keeping China supplied with weapons and other war supplies.

The Marauders succeeded in that on May 17, 1944, but at a huge cost. Only a few hundred soldiers of the unit were still standing after staggering losses from disease, malnutrition, wounds, and death.

"There was no turning back, no place to go anywhere," Kinney said in the interview of the assignment in Burma, from which military leaders expected the majority of soldiers not to survive.

Kinney recalled the intense two-week battle of Nhpum Ga in the spring of 1944, during which the Japanese surrounded the soldiers of 2nd Battalion who had dug into a ridge that became known as "Maggot Hill" for the decomposing dead who could not be buried. During the siege, he was wounded twice by shrapnel.

"My biggest concern and the gravest concern of all of us was — we were surrounded there — can they keep us with enough ammunition?" Kinney recalled in the interview. For several days, the soldiers had no food or water.

They were rescued by the 1st and 3rd Battalions on April 9, 1944.

Some battle-weary Marauders began to envy the dead, Kinney said.

"There was a point in time we had gotten where the ones who were not alive were the lucky ones," he said in the interview. "It got to that point. I've seen them look down at one that was in very bad shape and say, 'You lucky so-and-so.'"

Kinney returned to his home state of Alabama after the war's end, but the conflict stayed with him.

"I was really mentally not good at all," he said in the interview. "I do see now the soldiers who have been in war a while are getting psychiatric help. We did not. ... There was something wrong with us."

He returned to U.S. Steel, where he worked as an electrical engineer.

Kinney is survived by his wife, Elena, whom he married on Sept. 8, 1945, and four of their six children.

Kinney's funeral will be held 2:00 p.m. Monday (12/19/22) at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Hoover, Ala.

Holiday Tunes

- Away in a Manger
- Choir of the Bells
- Dominick the Donkey
- Frosty the Snowman
- Holly Jolly Christmas
- Jingle Bell Rock
- Jingle Bells
- Let it Snow
- Little Drummer Boy
- Little St Nick
- O Holy Night
- Rudolph
- Santa Baby
- Silent Nigh
- Silver Bells
- The Christmas Song
- The First Noel
- Winter Wonderland

Chicken Scratch NY

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

DOWN

- Alternative word to 17 across
- Christmas drink
- Christmas dinner centerpiece
- Dec. holiday
- Christmas warmer
- "Jingle _____"
- Christmas tree
- O. Henry's "The gift of the _____"
- What carpers do
- French Christmas
- Snow glider

ACROSS

- Pumpkin or mincequat
- Santa's ride
- Celebration
- Newborn
- Northpole crew
- Word of praise
- Words on a Christmas card
- It's opened on Christmas

2023 IS NOW

RENEW TODAY!

Sons of The American Legion Membership Application

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____ Date _____

Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) Recruited by _____ (Initial) _____ (Last)

Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip)

E-mail Address _____ Telephone _____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

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

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)

RECEIPT

Date Received of _____ in payment of dues for 20 _____ in _____ Detachment of _____ Squadron _____ By _____

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12/14/22		2023 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS				
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date
1 Southern 1, 2, 3, 4	43,793	25,469	(18,324)	58.16%	648	
2 Midwestern 1, 3, 4	28,918	16,346	(12,572)	56.53%	384	
3 Central 1, 3, 4	128,333	69,831	(58,502)	54.41%	1,525	
4 Eastern 4	140,932	69,325	(71,607)	49.19%	1,910	
5 Western 1, 4	25,822	12,122	(13,700)	46.94%	268	
TOTALS 1, 4	367,798	193,093	(174,705)	52.50%	4,735	



12/14/22		2023 CENTRAL REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4,187	2,791	(1,396)	66.66%	4	60.05%	10	
2 Iowa 1, 3, 4, 5	4,857	3,007	(1,850)	61.91%	36	55.95%	13	
3 Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5	13,398	8,246	(5,152)	61.55%	155	57.27%	14	
4 Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4	3,219	1,884	(1,335)	58.53%	11	51.71%	20	
5 Ohio 1, 4	30,636	16,735	(13,901)	54.63%	282	50.46%	27	
6 Michigan 4	24,271	12,784	(11,487)	52.67%	597	46.53%	31	
7 Indiana 1, 3, 4	36,387	19,100	(17,287)	52.49%	163	48.18%	32	
8 Minnesota	11,378	5,284	(6,094)	46.44%	277	43.79%	44	
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4	128,333	69,831	(58,502)	54.41%	82			

12/14/22		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, 9, Q, 10	77	82	5	106.49%	-	106.49%	1	10/10/22
2 Oregon 1, 2, 3, 4	1,414	860	(554)	60.82%	21	48.88%	15	
3 Nevada 4	357	201	(156)	56.30%	7	47.78%	24	
4 Idaho 1, 2, 3, 4	644	328	(316)	50.93%	-	42.95%	36	
5 California 1	10,714	5,235	(5,479)	48.86%	178	41.11%	42	
6 Utah	449	202	(247)	44.99%	-	37.25%	46	
7 Arizona	8,004	3,574	(4,430)	44.65%	41	35.24%	47	
8 Alaska 3	1,608	658	(950)	40.92%	12	34.13%	49	
9 Washington	2,485	966	(1,519)	38.87%	9	29.17%	51	
10 Phillipines	70	16	(54)	22.86%	-	22.06%	55	
TOTALS 1, 4	25,822	12,122	(13,700)	46.94%	268			

12/14/22		2023 SOUTHERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,790	1,383	(407)	77.26%	18	70.26%	4	
2 Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	123	95	(28)	77.24%	-	44.26%	5	
3 Mississippi 1, 3, 4, 5	722	502	(220)	69.53%	61	60.08%	8	
4 Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2,066	1,338	(728)	64.76%	12	56.29%	11	
5 Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4,490	2,866	(1,624)	63.83%	3	55.26%	12	
6 North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2,727	1,642	(1,085)	60.21%	50	48.94%	16	
7 Florida 1, 3, 4	21,519	12,818	(8,701)	59.57%	310	49.58%	19	
8 South Carolina 4	1,473	828	(645)	56.21%	21	48.25%	25	
9 Virginia 4	4,109	2,223	(1,886)	54.10%	138	46.18%	29	
10 Tennessee 1, 3, 4	1,718	875	(843)	50.93%	21	42.01%	37	
11 Arkansas 1	447	179	(268)	40.04%	2	34.40%	50	
12 Kentucky	2,609	720	(1,889)	27.60%	12	24.12%	54	
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4	43,793	25,469	(18,324)	58.16%	630			

12/14/22		2023 MIDWESTERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1	South Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,362	1,169	(193)	85.83%	36	69.65%	2
2	Mexico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	31	24	(7)	77.42%	-	35.48%	3
3	Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,348	953	(395)	70.70%	13	58.62%	7
4	Montana 1, 3, 4, 5	1,108	767	(341)	69.22%	63	65.27%	9
5	Nebraska 1, 3, 4	7,015	4,071	(2,944)	58.03%	52	55.77%	21
6	Kansas 3, 4	5,919	3,342	(2,577)	56.46%	123	51.81%	23
7	Colorado 1, 4	2,729	1,528	(1,201)	55.99%	46	49.49%	26
8	North Dakota 1, 3, 4	1,056	568	(488)	53.79%	8	46.48%	30
9	Wyoming 1, 4	1,298	677	(621)	52.16%	-	45.78%	33
10	Texas 1, 3, 4	5,569	2,729	(2,840)	49.00%	36	41.27%	41
11	New Mexico	1,483	518	(965)	34.93%	7	28.80%	53
TOTALS 1, 3, 4		28,918	16,346	(12,572)	56.53%	348		

12/14/22		2023 EASTERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1	France 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	158	113	(45)	71.52%	(4)	69.03%	6
2	Delaware 1, 3, 4	2,430	1,453	(977)	59.79%	43	51.98%	17
3	Maryland 1, 3, 4	16,058	9,571	(6,487)	59.60%	133	54.51%	18
4	Vermont 1, 3, 4	3,818	2,173	(1,645)	56.91%	113	52.34%	22
5	New Jersey 2, 3, 4	9,386	5,100	(4,286)	54.34%	341	48.87%	28
6	New York 4	29,864	15,393	(14,471)	51.54%	142	47.23%	34
7	Rhode Island 4	336	172	(164)	51.19%	8	42.42%	35
8	New Hampshire 4	5,677	2,864	(2,813)	50.45%	205	45.89%	38
9	Maine	2,617	1,320	(1,297)	50.44%	236	43.46%	39
10	Connecticut 4	1,867	929	(938)	49.76%	2	44.55%	40
11	Massachusetts 4	5,442	2,583	(2,859)	47.46%	45	42.83%	43
12	West Virginia 4	2,362	1,066	(1,296)	45.13%	20	37.60%	45
13	Pennsylvania 4	60,803	26,546	(34,257)	43.66%	-	39.83%	48
14	Dist. of Columbia	114	42	(72)	36.84%	-	25.66%	52
TOTALS 4		140,932	69,325	(71,607)	49.19%	1,284		

12/14/22		2023 SUPER SIX STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1	Florida 1, 3, 4	21,519	12,818	(8,701)	59.57%	310	49.58%	19
2	Ohio 1, 4	30,636	16,735	(13,901)	54.63%	282	50.46%	27
3	Michigan 4	24,271	12,784	(11,487)	52.67%	597	46.53%	31
4	Indiana 1, 3, 4	36,387	19,100	(17,287)	52.49%	163	48.18%	32
5	New York 4	29,864	15,393	(14,471)	51.54%	142	47.23%	34
6	Pennsylvania	60,803	26,546	(34,257)	43.66%	1,256	39.83%	48
TOTALS 4		203,480	103,376	(100,104)	50.80%	2,750		

National Membership Totals 4	367,798	193,093	(174,705)	52.50%	4,735	46.98%		
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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%

