



ROUND-UP

December 25, 2022





VA takes PACT Act awareness campaign on the road



VA Secretary Denis McDonough, left, speaks during a roundtable event at American Legion Post 209 in Colorado Springs, Colo., on Dec. 15, 2022, in conjunction with the VA's PACT Act Week of Action.

Photo by Terri Clinton

The American Legion | December 16, 2022

A small group of veterans from across Colorado were able to ask questions of VA Secretary Denis McDonough during a roundtable event at American Legion Post 209 in Colorado Springs on Dec. 15.

The event was held in conjunction with the VA's PACT Act Week of Action, a series of 90-plus town halls in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia aimed at helping veterans and their families get more details on the PACT Act. The Post 209 event took place a few hours before McDonough made brief remarks during a visit to PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom VA Clinic in Colorado Springs.

"I think it's important (to have these events) because a lot of our veterans don't know that this comprehensive legislation was passed," said Terri Clinton, public affairs officer for VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System and past commander of the Department of

Colorado. "I think if you're enrolled in VA, you're going to get an initial screening, but if you're not enrolled in VA, that's where we need our veterans to know that we're here ready and available to assist with their claims adjudication, their enrollment, and the initial screening.

"The veterans service organizations are community partners, so we rely on them to help us get the word out. That's why this event at the American Legion post was so important."

Past department commander Jay Bowen served as emcee for the event at Post 209, while former national Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission chairman Ralph Bozella served as moderator.

Clinton said one of the biggest myths that needs to be dispelled about the PACT Act is the legislation's impact on veterans' current benefits.

"If anything, most of our veterans who are enrolling (for PACT Act benefits) are actually receiving an increase in their service connected (disability) percentage. So, it really behooves veterans to at least come in and do that initial screening. That's our message at VA: please apply for your PACT Act benefits now," Clinton said.

VA encourages all eligible veterans and survivors to apply for their earned PACT Act-related health care and benefits now. Veterans and survivors can apply or learn more about the PACT Act by visiting VA.gov/PACT or by calling 1-800-MYVA411.



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



Chris Carlton, National Commander
Sons of The American Legion

"Purpose is why we journey;
passion is the flame that lights the way."



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



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#



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



Remember those that cannot be home for Christmas and are still in harms way. May God be with them all.



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



REGIONAL UPDATES



FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES
www.flyingflagsforheroes.com

As of December 22, 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>



PROUD POSSESSORS OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE



Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

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#

The Sons of The American Legion National Commander Chris Carlton on Sunday February 26, 2023, will be placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery at 11:15 a.m. From there we will be stopping at the Vietnam Wall Memorial, then a final stop at World War II Memorial. This notification will allow members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Riders, friends, and families to attend and show our respect for the sacrifices made by our Nation's military in the defense of liberty and freedom.

In the previous years, Detachments have placed their wreaths at various areas in Washington DC. The National Organization received from the American Legion Family and many tourists have made positive statements seeing the wreaths from Detachments placed around the Washington area. We feel that this is a very positive outcome and are recommending any Detachment wishing to lay a wreath or have a wreath laid for them in the Washington area to continue.

Representatives from each Detachment or their designee would be able to choose a location to lay their wreath, some placed wreaths at areas that the bus rented by the National Organization stopped to do ceremonies, and others at a later time placed wreaths in various locations around Washington DC. I will be ordering wreaths for National Commander Chris Carlton, and in order to have the wreaths appear in conformity, we will order wreaths as a group for each Detachment or Squadron; the wreaths last year cost each Detachment \$150 and remain the same for this year.

I will provide each Detachment a separate receipt from the florist shop for each wreath ordered, if requested. Checks should be made payable to Thomas Deal and mailed to my home address. Below (included) is an order form. Please send back only the bottom portion of this letter and keep the top section for your records. I must receive the

completed order form and payment by February 4, 2023, in order to ensure your Detachment has a wreath ordered. (No payment, no wreath, no group rate!)

At Arlington National Cemetery, we will be going to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The tomb is a walk uphill from the visitor center and you may walk or take the tram. The tram fee purchased that day is \$17.95. This year we are again adding an offer to purchase your tickets for the Tram ride to the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in advance to speed up the process of getting to the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier quicker. Group rate for the Tram ride is \$13.95 each. If you would like to be included, fill it in on the form and we will purchase group rate tickets. Veterans can get a cheaper rate but MUST purchase on their own with qualified ID, we cannot purchase them for you.

Member Training and Development Committee

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

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

Fellow Sons,

Sons of The American Legion membership is moving into uncharted waters. We crushed the December 14 45% target date goals and are over SIXTEEN THOUSAND members ahead of where we were last year at this time. The Southern Region has already secured the 60% target goal and three out of four regions are already above 50%. This is no accident; it is the result of the tremendous effort put forth by our members.

Congratulations on a job well done thus far, but we are far from done. Continue to reach out to your Detachments. Keep doing BUDDY CHECKS, and remember the veterans

and their families we help support. It may not take all of us, but it could take any one of us...BE THE ONE!



2023 SAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT AS OF: DECEMBER 19, 2022

#	DETACHMENT	2023 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 60% TARGET 1/19/2023	2023 ACTUAL MBRSH	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2023 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	77	-36	82	106.49%	94.74
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	-359	1,176	86.34%	69.95
3	PUERTO RICO	123	-25	99	80.49%	47.54
4	LOUISIANA	1,790	-320	1,394	77.88%	70.86
5	MEXICO	31	-5	24	77.42%	35.48
6	FRANCE	158	-18	113	71.52%	69.03
7	OKLAHOMA	1,348	-155	964	71.51%	59.24
8	MONTANA	1,108	-112	777	70.13%	66.14
9	MISSISSIPPI	722	-69	502	69.53%	60.00
10	WISCONSIN	4,187	-314	2,826	67.49%	60.72
11	ALABAMA	2,066	-123	1,363	65.97%	57.41
12	GEORGIA	4,490	-204	2,898	64.54%	55.84
13	OREGON	1,414	-50	898	63.51%	50.91
14	MARYLAND	16,058	-410	10,045	62.55%	57.20
15	NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	-68	1,704	62.49%	50.98
16	IOWA	4,857	-110	3,024	62.26%	56.30
17	ILLINOIS	13,398	-243	8,282	61.82%	56.99
18	FLORIDA	21,519	-325	13,236	61.51%	51.30
19	DELAWARE	2,430	-18	1,476	60.74%	52.80
20	VERMONT	3,818	48	2,243	58.75%	54.04
21	MISSOURI	3,219	42	1,889	58.68%	51.86
22	OHIO	30,636	584	17,798	58.10%	53.71
23	NEBRASKA	7,015	137	4,072	58.05%	55.79
24	COLORADO	2,729	55	1,582	57.97%	50.85
25	NEVADA	357	9	205	57.42%	48.89
26	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	39	845	57.37%	48.99
27	KANSAS	5,919	192	3,359	56.75%	52.00
28	MINNESOTA	11,378	450	6,377	56.05%	52.72
29	VIRGINIA	4,109	191	2,274	55.34%	47.34
30	NEW JERSEY	9,386	486	5,146	54.83%	49.29
31	MICHIGAN	24,271	1,287	13,276	54.70%	48.36
32	NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	66	568	53.79%	46.48
33	INDIANA	36,387	2,342	19,490	53.56%	49.19
34	IDAHO	644	45	341	52.95%	44.19
35	TENNESSEE	1,718	123	908	52.85%	43.02
36	NEW YORK	29,864	2,242	15,676	52.49%	48.12
37	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	438	2,968	52.28%	47.57
38	WYOMING	1,298	102	677	52.16%	45.78
39	TEXAS	5,569	486	2,855	51.27%	43.25
40	RHODE ISLAND	336	30	172	51.19%	42.42
41	MAINE	2,617	241	1,329	50.78%	43.81
42	CONNECTICUT	1,867	182	938	50.24%	45.04
43	MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	551	2,714	49.87%	44.90
44	CALIFORNIA	10,714	1,111	5,317	49.63%	41.75
45	UTAH	449	49	220	49.00%	41.31
46	PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	7,879	28,603	47.04%	43.02
47	WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	341	1,076	45.55%	37.97
48	ARIZONA	8,004	1,156	3,646	45.55%	36.07
49	ALASKA	1,608	284	681	42.35%	35.06
50	ARKANSAS	447	88	180	40.27%	34.24
51	WASHINGTON	2,485	499	992	39.92%	29.72
52	DIST OF COL	114	26	42	36.84%	25.66
53	KENTUCKY	2,609	632	933	35.76%	30.51
54	NEW MEXICO	1,483	371	519	35.00%	28.87
55	PHILIPPINES	70	26	16	22.86%	22.06
Grand Totals:		367,798	19,869	200,810	54.60%	48.87



2023 SAL REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

WESTERN REGION - JACK A. YOUNGS (ID)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	77	82	106.49%
OREGON	1,414	898	63.51%
NEVADA	357	205	57.42%
IDAHO	644	341	52.95%
CALIFORNIA	10,714	5,317	49.63%
UTAH	449	220	49.00%
ARIZONA	8,004	3,646	45.55%
ALASKA	1,608	681	42.35%
WASHINGTON	2,485	992	39.92%
PHILIPPINES	70	16	22.86%
Totals:	25,822	12,398	48.01%

MIDWEST REGION - MICHAEL L. KIRSCHNER (CO)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	1,176	86.34%
MEXICO	31	24	77.42%
OKLAHOMA	1,348	964	71.51%
MONTANA	1,108	777	70.13%
NEBRASKA	7,015	4,072	58.05%
COLORADO	2,729	1,582	57.97%
KANSAS	5,919	3,389	56.75%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	568	53.79%
WYOMING	1,298	677	52.16%
TEXAS	5,569	2,855	51.27%
NEW MEXICO	1,483	519	35.00%
Totals:	28,918	16,573	57.31%

CENTRAL REGION - DAVID J. MENNEL (MI)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,187	2,826	67.49%
IOWA	4,857	3,024	62.26%
ILLINOIS	13,398	8,282	61.82%
MISSOURI	3,219	1,889	58.68%
OHIO	30,636	17,798	58.10%
MINNESOTA	11,378	6,377	56.05%
MICHIGAN	24,271	13,276	54.70%
INDIANA	36,387	19,490	53.56%
Totals:	128,333	72,962	56.85%

EASTERN REGION - ERNEST E. LABERGE (MA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	158	113	71.52%
MARYLAND	16,058	10,045	62.55%
DELAWARE	2,430	1,476	60.74%
VERMONT	3,818	2,243	58.75%
NEW JERSEY	9,386	5,146	54.83%
NEW YORK	29,864	15,676	52.49%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	2,968	52.28%
RHODE ISLAND	336	172	51.19%
MAINE	2,617	1,329	50.78%
CONNECTICUT	1,867	938	50.24%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	2,714	49.87%
PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	28,603	47.04%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	1,076	45.55%
DIST OF COL	114	42	36.84%
Totals:	140,932	72,541	51.47%

SOUTHERN REGION - RONALD E. ROBERTS (MS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
PUERTO RICO	123	99	80.49%
LOUISIANA	1,790	1,394	77.88%
MISSISSIPPI	722	502	69.53%
ALABAMA	2,066	1,363	65.97%
GEORGIA	4,490	2,898	64.54%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	1,704	62.49%
FLORIDA	21,519	13,236	61.51%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	845	57.37%
VIRGINIA	4,109	2,274	55.34%
TENNESSEE	1,718	908	52.85%
ARKANSAS	447	180	40.27%
KENTUCKY	2,609	933	35.76%
Totals:	43,793	26,336	60.14%

SAL Leadership,

Effective January 2, 2023, SAL members will be able to renew online via their individual myLegion account and an SAL quick renewal website. I will send out a notification as soon as that website is available. Squadrons and detachments can still conduct transmittals to renew members. Dual and junior payments are to be processed at the squadron as it is today and will not be available for renewal online.

There has been a change! Originally, the fee of \$50-\$70 was intended to get people's attention that their squadron had not submitted their SDR. SAL National Commander Chris Carlton, being the voice of reason, asked "Why we were penalizing the members for something their squadron neglected to do?"

As a result, dues for squadrons that have NOT submitted a Squadron Data Report (SDR) are now set to the national and detachment fee only. For example, national is \$5.00 and a detachment is \$5.00 the squadron fee is now \$10.00, and it will up to the squadron to acquire any additional fees.

Should you have any questions please let me know.

Thank you,

Kevin Mook, National SAL Liaison
Internal Affairs & Membership Division

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

Dear TALMA members,

With Christmas quickly upon us, I hope this holiday season finds you well. I have a few exciting announcements to share about TALMA training and the annual contest!

We tried something new with our virtual training this month to make it easier for you to access.

Instead of doing a live virtual training like we have in the past on a Wednesday evening where prior commitments make it hard for many to attend, the December training was pre-recorded. You can now listen to it at your convenience. [Just click this link](#) and enter the **Passcode: Ws71BF+G**. I hope you do take the time to listen because we had four great presenters discussing a variety of important topics.

They include ideas on how to:

- Use resources to promote Be the One – In support of The American Legion's initiative to prevent veteran suicide and get veterans in crisis the help they need, Media & Communications Division Deputy Director Henry Howard shares what Be the One resources are available on the web page, legion.org/betheone, for TALMA members to use. He also gives examples of Legion Be

the One events where these resources were used, such as the [Be the One Suicide Prevention Symposium](#) last month at Post 373 in Baldwinville, Mass. Post 373 member Jim Brehio coordinated the event and shared how he used the materials to engage attendees. Brehio says the event helped save the lives of two veterans.

- Create an award-winning newsletter – Department of South Dakota Vice-Commander Courtney Steffen gives tips to create a well-designed and read newsletter. Her work on the South Dakota American Legion News resulted in winning a previous TALMA contest. She encouraged members to enter the upcoming annual contest “to have your work recognized.”
- Promote revitalizations – Internal Affairs & Membership Division Member Engagement Coordinator Michele Steinmetz gives an overview of what a membership revitalization effort is, and ways TALMA members can help promote it for the greatest impact.

Now, get ready to enter the TALMA contest!

It's almost that time of year for entries into TALMA's annual contest. The contest opens Jan. 1 and is free to all members of TALMA. Contest entries are for websites, publications, visual media, social media, editorial and public relations.

Please visit legion.org/talma/contest to review the contest rules and submit your entries electronically before the deadline of April 15. All entries must have been published during the 2022 calendar year.

Courtney said during her presentation that “it felt good” to have her hard work with the South Dakota newsletters recognized by TALMA. So don't miss this opportunity to showcase the great work you have done to promote The American Legion. Submit entries into the TALMA contest! Your hard work is worthy of recognition, and we want to reward your efforts.

We hope you listen to the training session and feel free to share feedback about the pre-recorded session, or topics of discussion, by email to talma@legion.org. I thought it was excellent, and I know you will too.

I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dave Wallace , Chairman
The American Legion
Media & Communications Commission

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

Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Jim Coates (NY), Chairman
Third Wednesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Call In # (508) 924-3315

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



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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

MERRY
Christmas

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Wisconsin Sons participate in Wreaths Across America



This event, one of several in Wisconsin, was at Central Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in King, WI. 7,300 wreaths were placed in the cemetery by over 250 people, with representation from the following:

- Wausau Squadron 10 – Bugler
- Appleton Squadron 38 – 4 participants
- Beloit Squadron – 43 participants
- Clintonville Squadron – 63 participants
- Oshkosh Squadron 70 – 2 who handed out flyers
- Fond Du Lac Squadron 75





Facebook photo

Thank you to Jeff Ludeman and Dave Lesia of Son of The American Legion Royal Oak Squadron 253 for their \$1,200 donation to the Unit 253 Auxiliary Christmas Basket program. This year there were 17 Veteran families, including 36 children, who were helped.



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF COLORADO**

**THIS OLD HIPPIY NEEDS A HARICUT
AND YOU COULD BE THE ONE TO CUT IT!!**



TAL National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola has set a goal of raising \$2,000,000 for The American Legion Veterans & Children's Foundation. Never one to turn down a fund raising challenge, the Detachment of Colorado is raffling off a chance to shave this old hippy's head! That's right, our Past Detachment Commander, retired Adjutant and current NEC will sit in the chair during mid-year conference and sacrifice his once golden locks and have his head shaved for the cause!

Tickets for a chance drawing are \$5.00 each or six tickets for \$25.00. You can buy tickets on site or you can pledge in advance and get your tickets at the event. The drawing and hair cut will be on Saturday January 29th 2023 at 4:30 pm at Longmont Post 32. To pledge in advance, you can send a check to Detachment Adjutant Mark Kilstrom at 1870 River Dr. Fountain, CO 80817. Make checks payable to SAL Detachment of Colorado, in the memo field write, Vet. Kids Fund. If you have questions contact Adjutant Mark at (719) 640-6692 or email saladj@coloradolegion.org. Remember, the more tickets you buy, the better your chance of doing the honors.



Michigan Sons support Fisher House

Tecumseh, Michigan Squadron 34 presented a donation of \$4,000 to Fisher House of Michigan on Thursday December, 15. These funds were privately matched to bring the total donation to \$8,000! The money was raised at the squadron's annual golf outing in August. The outing, dubbed "The Golf Challenge," is coordinated by squadron member Randy Sparks, who is also an Ambassador to Fisher House of Michigan. Money is also raised for Wilwin at Cygnet Cove and local veteran organizations during the event.



Presenting the check are (l-r) Tom Pollock, Lynn Gubbe, Fisher House Staff, Joe Knadler, Kirk Maves, and Keith Kapnick

Facebook photo

Sons of American Legion Squadron 28 celebrates 85 years

Dr. Chris Petras – Special to the Tribune | December 17, 2022

Today, Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 28 Grand Haven (MI) celebrates 85 years of assisting local Legionnaires in fulfilling the mission of the national American Legion.

Chartered in 1937 and again in 1990, Squadron 28 engages in activities that seek to uphold the four pillars of the American Legion: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation; National Security; Americanism; and Children and Youth.

The SAL national organization was established in 1932 at the 14th National Convention of the American Legion in Portland, Oregon. Their primary objective? Honoring the service and sacrifice of Legion members and fallen soldiers who served during World War I.

In October of 1937, Post 28 Legionnaires voted to establish a SAL Squadron. Past Post Commander Iveaux Millar

served as chair of the SAL Organization Committee. That same month, local Legionnaires voted to establish a Drum and Bugle Corps.

On Dec. 17, 1937, the required charter documents were signed, including a membership roll with more than 50 signatures, making Squadron 28 a duly chartered organization of Post 28.



SAL Squadron 28 Commander, Rich Kelly, stands at the podium and accepts the Squadron's permanent charter in 199.

Courtesy photo

The first order of business was electing the Squadron's officers. Richard Jones Fisher was elected Captain; Charles Robinson, 1st Lieutenant; Gerald Sholte, 2nd Lieutenant; John Wright, Adjutant; Floyd Beekman, Finance Officer; Warren Mastenbrook, Sergeant-at-Arms; Clyde Arkema, Chaplain; and Robert Stelle, Historian.

Twenty-five Squadron members, ranging in ages from 8 to 18 years old, were selected for the Squadron's Drum and Bugle Corps. The Drum and Bugle Corps performed locally at various functions and events. SAL membership nationwide was around 75,000 in 1938, a peculiar time for the organization. As Legionnaires and their sons celebrated the growth of the SAL, a second World War was brewing overseas.

In April 1940, Squadron 28 hosted a "Son-Dad Dinner" at the new Post 28 club house. Around 100 sons and fathers attended the event. Guests watched films of football games and freshwater fishing. Auxiliary Unit 28 prepared and served the dinner.

Two guest speakers addressed the gathering: past Post 28 Commander and Company F Captain, George L. Olsen; and Hope College Professor, E.E. Winters. Captain Olsen discussed the advantages Squadron 28 sons had versus their fathers when their fathers were young. Professor Winters

gave a speech titled "Make a Pal of Your Son." Winters emphasized that sons had the right to be "well bred, well fed, well led, well read, and well wed." At the conclusion of the event, sons and fathers sang "God Bless America."



A Squadron 28 Drum and Bugle Corps bass drum, circa 1938.

Courtesy photo

During Squadron 28's formative years (1937-39), members learned citizenship skills and building good character. However, as tensions between Germany, Russia, Japan, Italy, and the United States grew, SAL Squadron members moved closer to walking in their fathers' World War I shoes. Within 24 hours of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States declared war against Japan (Dec. 8, 1941). Shortly thereafter (Dec. 11, 1941), Germany and Italy declared war against the United States. America was once again engaged in a world war. Squadron 28 meetings and activities came to an abrupt stop. Membership dwindled, with only a small number of Drum and Bugle Corps members remaining. By 1942, SAL membership nationwide had dropped to around 37,000.

When World War II ended in 1945, Squadron 28 was held together by a thread of young Drum and Bugle Corps members. Nationwide, SAL Squadron members returned from the war eligible for membership in the American Legion. Some chose not to marry and start families.

That same year, a new, non-affiliated Drum and Bugle Corps was established. The "Young Americans Drum and Bugle Corps" (YADABC) consisted of Post 28 Drum and Bugle Corps members, and non-affiliated young musicians. Post 28 and VFW Post 2326 covered the cost and maintenance of YADABC uniforms. By 1953, SAL membership nationwide had dropped to around 6,000.

Post 28 remained without a SAL squadron for decades. Then, in late summer of 1990, local Legionnaires voted in

favor of establishing a new SAL Squadron. Past Post 28 Commander, Ed Jaworowicz was selected chair of the Post's SAL Advisory Board. At the first meeting of the newly chartered Squadron, held in December 1990, Rich Kelly was elected Commander of Squadron 28, with Steve Lintjer serving as 1st Vice Commander; Rob Lintjer, Jr., 2nd Vice Commander; Brian Mattson, Adjutant; Dan Smart, Finance Officer; Troy Stevens, Chaplain; Jeff Vanderveen, Historian; and Jon "Jay" Stevens, Sergeant-at-Arms.

Times had changed and the new SAL Squadron was ready to get the ball rolling, raising funds and building the Squadron's membership roll.

During the 1990s, Squadron 28 hosted annual fundraising events including a Summer Beach Bash, a Beach Volleyball Bash, and a Hawaiian Luau event. Local musical favorite, the Beach Bashers, performed at several of the events. As Post 28 transitioned into the new millennium, Squadron 28 hosted an annual Vegas Night, which today is hosted by Post 28 Legionnaires.

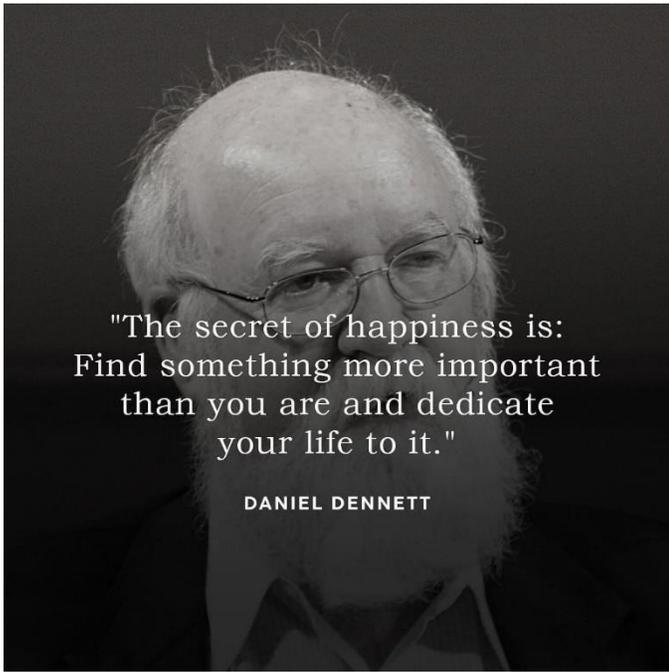
Members of Squadron 28 have donated, and continue so today, their time to assure those in need do not go without. Squadron 28 assists the Post's Goodfellows program by preparing and delivering Christmas gifts to families in need. Funds raised by the Squadron are donated to children's hospitals, for food bank items, and special purchases such as a new walker, which in 2004, the Squadron donated to the Ottawa Area Center for special needs children.

Squadron 28 members serve on the Post's Building and Grounds Committee and helped install the Post's elevator and built the popular outside second floor deck overlooking the Grand River and Lake Michigan. Teaming with the Grand Haven Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Squadron 28 produced and staffed the annual salmon Boil during Salmon Fest.

Today, Squadron 28 is more than 1,000 members strong and plays an integral role in the longevity and success of Post 28. Many opportunities exist for Squadron 28 members to volunteer and assist Legionnaires in serving veterans, the local community, and sustaining Post 28 operations.

Dr. Chris Petras is a member of Charles A. Conklin SAL Squadron 28 and is a Life Member of VFW Post 2326 Auxiliary Grand Haven.

Reprinted from www.grandhaventribune.com



"The secret of happiness is:
Find something more important
than you are and dedicate
your life to it."

DANIEL DENNETT

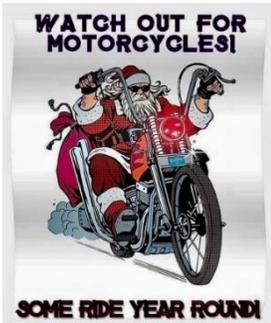
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Dale V. Hartley, Past Commander Detachment of Ohio



Dale Vernon Hartley, 86, a proud, lifelong resident of Ross County, passed from this life on Sunday, December 18, 2022, following a lengthy illness.

Dale was born at Stoney Creek - near Three Locks - on September 13, 1936, to Dorothy

Pauline "Sue" Gates Hartley Swards and Robert Daniel Hartley. He spent his early childhood in the happy company of his beloved grandparents, Earl Dale and LuLu Taylor Hartley.

A member of the Chillicothe High School Class of 1956, Dale graduated, and then went straight to work for Mead Paper, where he retired as a maintenance supervisor after more than 40 years.

In April 1959, Dale married the light of his life, Edmona Mae ("Eddie") Self Hartley. Together, they raised two daughters: Cathy Jo (Shari) Hartley Plimpton, and Heather Sue Hartley. Eddie preceded him in death on May 27, 2019.

Dale was active in several social and fraternal organizations. Each was important to him. Among them, Dale lent his energy to the Sons of the American Legion (Post 62), VFW Post 108 Men's Auxiliary, the Sons of the AMVETS, BPO Elks Lodge 52, the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #600, Adelphi and Logan Elm Lodge #624, Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons of the State of Ohio, Chillicothe Commandery No. 8, Knights Templar, the Aladdin Shriners of Columbus, and the Ross County Shrine.

He was profoundly proud of his grandchildren: Thomas Howard (Brooke) Cunningham, Jr., Colin Patrick Cunningham, Margaret Grace McCann, and Liam Sean Hartley McCann. He also enjoyed doting on great-granddaughters Kinley Grace and Gabriella Alyse Cunningham, and held a special place in his heart for honorary great-grands Shalee Addison Cochenour, and Jordynn Grace and Jerzee Rose Cochenour-Tackett.

In addition to Cathy, Heather, the grands and great-grands, Dale is survived by his sister, Patricia Hartley French, his brother, Joseph Jay (Beth) Swards, half-siblings Tom, Mike, and Luanna Hartley (Smith), and a host of nieces and nephews, all dear to him.

A granddaughter, Erin Brooke Cunningham, preceded him in death, as did his brother-in-law, David Franklin French, and a half-brother, Russell Story Hartley.

In keeping with Dale's wishes, there will be no formal calling hours or funeral service. Instead, we invite you to raise a glass to his memory. If you are inclined, memorial contributions can be made to the Fisher House Foundation, which supports injured service members and their families: 12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 410, Rockville, Maryland 20852 (<https://www.fisherhouse.org>).



10 things about the Space Force

The American Legion | December 11, 2022

On Dec. 20, 2019, the U.S. Space Force – the newest branch of the U.S. Armed Forces – was officially instituted with the signing of legislation by President Donald Trump. On the occasion of the Space Force's birthday, here are some facts the intervening years may have obscured.

1. The Space Force previously existed within the Air Force since 1982, as the Air Force Space Command. (www.mentalfloss.com)



FROM THE EDITOR

2. The first official member of the Space Force to be sworn in was its most senior officer: Chief of Space Operations Gen. John W. Raymond. (www.mentalfloss.com)
3. The branch's motto is Semper Supra – "always above." (www.mentalfloss.com)
4. The initial uniforms were "utilizing current Army/Air Force uniforms, saving costs of designing/producing a new one," according to a Space Force source. "Members will look like their joint counterparts they'll be working with on the ground." (www.cnet.com)
5. The Air Force Academy's class of 2020 included 86 graduates set to become the Space Force's first company-grade officers. (www.cnet.com)
6. On Sept. 15, 2020, a virtual mass swearing-in was held for about 2,400 troops transferring into the Space Force from locations around the world. (www.militarybenefits.info)
7. On Dec. 10, 2020, the first seven people to enlist directly in the Space Force graduated from basic training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in Texas. (www.af.mil)
8. It took no special action for Space Force members to become eligible to join The American Legion, as the organization's charter only indicates active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.
9. The Space Force flag was unveiled at the White House in May 2020; by October, Alpharetta American Legion Post 201 in Georgia had obtained one and was flying it above their post home. (legiontown.org)
10. The official song of the Space Force, also called "Semper Supra," was unveiled in September 2022. You can hear it [here](#).



DoD photo

I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza. However you are celebrating this weekend, enjoy the time with family and friends, and cherish every moment. Take lots of pictures and videos; you won't regret it.

As we begin to reflect on 2022, we will remember our successes and shortcomings, great times, milestones, and family and friends who are no longer with us. We will smile and laugh, and we will reflect and cry. That is what this time of the year is about. It's also about our religious beliefs, as we worship in our own special ways. This is the most important part of the season.

We will also begin to make plans for next year; resolutions, travel plans, budgeting, and the million other things that occupy our lives. Whatever you are planning, make sure to have fun. Make it memorable. Enjoy the moment.

As you know, we have many veterans and families struggling during this holiday season. If you have the opportunity over the next few weeks, do whatever you can for them. Whether it's a food drive, warm clothing drive, volunteering at a shelter, serving meals, or whatever, please do what you can. It is not only an important and special gesture at Christmas, but also important throughout the year. You could Be the One to make a difference.

Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible. Renew Today!

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com

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April 21 - 23, 2023



Let us remember

The American Legion | December 21, 2022

Dear American Legion Family members and friends, This is a special week of the year when we gather with family members and friends to celebrate. Many will celebrate Christmas. Others will celebrate Hanukkah. Still others will celebrate Kwanzaa. And in another week, we will ring in a new year filled with joy, optimism, and perhaps even inspiration to make good on our resolutions.

The special gatherings, delicious food and warm company will fill our hearts. Just as important as it is to remember these special moments, let us not forget the individuals who go above and beyond.

Let us remember our brothers and sisters who made the ultimate sacrifice in serving our nation.

Let us remember veterans who came before us to establish and preserve our democracy.

Let us remember our men and women who are serving today and protecting our freedoms.

Let us remember our law-enforcement officers, health-care workers, and other first responders — many of whom will be working during the holidays.

Let us remember the military families and the sacrifices they make so their loved ones can fulfill their obligation to serving our nation.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your selfless service that improves the lives of veterans, children, their families, and the communities in which they live.

I wish you and your loved ones good health, a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah and a Happy New Year.

Vincent "Jim" Troiola, National Commander
The American Legion

'We are here to remember not their deaths, but their lives'

[Steven B. Brooks](#) | December 18, 2022

[View Photo Gallery](#)

When Department of Michigan American Legion Family members Greg and Dianne Paul decided to start a Wreaths Across America (WAA) event in Hillsdale, Mich., they were surprised to find out most in the city had no idea what they were trying to start.

That's likely no longer the case.

Greg and Dianne spearheaded an effort that raised enough funds to place wreaths on veterans' gravesites in two local cemeteries – a total of close to 1,050 wreaths. And on Dec. 17, those two joined fellow Legion Family members and local residents to place those wreaths in an event drawing 200 or so people.

"It went well. I think it really went well," said Greg, a member of Leighr A. Wright Post 53 in Hillsdale. "We weren't sure what to expect, but I think it was a great turnout."

A temperature of 25 degrees and a wind chill lowering that numbers into the teens didn't deter a crowd gathering at Oak Grove Cemetery, which has gravesites dating back to the Civil War, for an opening ceremony and the placing of around 650 wreaths. Another 400 or so wreaths were then placed at Lake View Cemetery, which is located less than a mile from Post 53.

Steady snow flurries and a few inches of snow on the ground were the perfect backdrop for the balsam fir wreaths and the red ribbons tied to them.

"This ground that you're standing is hallowed," said Hillsdale College Associate Dean of Men Jeff Rogers, the event's master of ceremonies. "The blood and sweat of the men and women we're going to honor have made it possible on this cold day that you have a warm heart. We're to be most thankful. It's good and right that we're here."

A retired U.S. Navy chief petty officer, Rogers made it clear during the opening ceremony what the message of the day was. "Remember, we are not here today to decorate graves. We are here to remember not their deaths, but their lives," he said. "Each wreath is a gift of appreciation from a grateful nation. Lying here before us and in cemeteries throughout the nation are men and women who gave their lives so that we can live in freedom and without fear. We can worship as we see fit. We can raise our children and believe as we do. We are free to vote for the leaders of our choosing. And we have the right to succeed and the right to fail at whatever endeavor we wish to pursue."

Youth participants in the Hillsdale Civil Air Patrol assisted with the presenting of the colors and the wreath-laying portion of the ceremony, which included active-duty servicemembers and honored every branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as U.S. prisoners of war and those servicemembers missing in action.

And Jonesville American Legion Post 195's honor guard provided a three-volley salute and the playing of taps to conclude the ceremony.

The day's events and success were the culmination of nearly a year-long effort by Greg and Dianne, who moved from Toledo to Hillsdale around a year ago.

"We were already involved with Wreaths Across America in Toledo," Greg said. "Last year, we were looking for someplace local because of the weather ... and we found that Hudson, (Mich.) was doing it, and we went and helped them out.

"When we were leaving, we were like, just jokingly, 'Maybe we can start a (WAA) chapter in Hillsdale. And it took off from there. We started researching it, and here we are.'"

After doing some research and getting the project going, the Pauls went to Post 53 to seek its support. And while it did provide that support, Post 53 Commander Christopher Parks quickly deflected the credit to the two people with the original idea.

"It's that guy and that lady," Parks said, pointing to Greg and Dianne. "My job is to round up the troops and try to rally the troops and make people's ideas happen. But it's (the Pauls). I've got a few people out here, but it's so much their work. But everyone has been behind them from the get-go.

"We're veterans. This supports veterans. And this brings the community together to remember their veterans. My boss, his dad was a (U.S. Army) recruiter here in Hillsdale, and he died about a year ago. When I told my boss at work about this, he was like, 'Well, yeah, we're definitely going to be there.' The widow is still here ... and she was all kinds of excited that we were doing this thing."

The post's fundraising effort included a pancake breakfast with silent auction, setting up booths at local events throughout the year and through donations from the community. The latter was a nice surprise for Dianne. "I didn't expect (to raise enough) because it was a pretty lofty goal. It was over \$10,000 for all the wreaths," she said. "I thought maybe we should have started with one cemetery, but how do you pick between one or the other? So, we started out with both of them, and I really was amazed. Everyone we talked to; they were all on board. And I hope it is a tradition here now. I hope other Legion posts get involved. And I hope it grows."

Greg said the fundraising aspect of the effort "was kind of fun. We went to the different businesses, Home Depot, and local businesses in town, and asked them for donations. I was amazed how many people would just hand you stuff. My wife walked into one department store in town, and they handed her a Yeti (thermal container) off the shelf and said, 'This would be great for you guys to auction off.'

"We've done local radio trying to get them involved and let them know what we were doing. It seemed like no one knew when we said, 'Wreaths Across America' what that was in this area."

Greg said he participates in Wreaths Across America as a way to teach the younger generation about sacrifice. "It matters to me. I'm a veteran - 11 years in the Air Force," he

said. "It matters to me how we teach our children why we're here. How we got here. I think our kids ... don't know what freedom is. It's a given that this is just what it is."

And for Dianne, Wreaths Across America reminds her of a family member who also felt a strong need to remember his fellow veterans.

"My father is a veteran," Dianne said. "He was the post commander in Montgomery, Mich. He's gone now. He was really big in fundraising for the (National) World War II Memorial. I just thought that this was something my dad would do. It's basically honoring my dad."



Joe Holt Facebook photo

Legion Family again leads Wreaths Across America efforts

The American Legion | December 20, 2022

On Dec. 17, volunteers across the nation honored veterans, placing around 2.7 million wreaths on the gravesites of veterans during Wreaths Across America (WAA) events. And at the forefront of many of those events were American Legion Family members.

Whether sponsoring the events themselves or providing support for others, posts, Auxiliary units, Sons of The American Legion squadrons, and Legion Riders headed to thousands of locations across the country to honor their fellow veterans. That includes [an effort in South Carolina](#) that has seen the amount of wreaths placed from 200 to 4,000 in just six years, as well as [an inaugural WAA event in Michigan](#) that saw more than 1,000 wreaths placed at two cemeteries.

The following are just a few more examples of Legion Family members taking part in WAA events nationwide. Those who participated in Wreaths Across America are urged to share their photos and stories at www.legiontown.org.

Alaska

In Juneau, Auke Bay American Legion Post 25 teamed with the Daughters of the American Revolution to place wreaths at Alaska Memorial Park.

California

In San Luis Obispo, members of American Legion Post 66 took part in the WAA event at San Luis Cemetery. More than 1,000 wreaths were placed during the effort.

"Not that it's something that you just go out and throw a wreath on someone's tombstone; you place it with reverence, and to mark the importance of them being there, and their fight for us and the freedom we have now," [Post 66 Commander Yvonne Hampton told KSBY](#).

Colorado

In Evergreen, American Legion Post 2001 and the Evergreen Elks Lodge teamed up to lead an effort that placed wreaths on more than 200 graves at Evergreen Memorial Park and about 80 graves at Bear Creek Cemetery. Prior to placing the wreaths on the gravesites, members of Post 2001 placed wreaths representing each of the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as U.S. prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Before laying the wreaths, members of The American Legion hung wreaths to represent the different branches of the military and one wreath to represent the 93,000 soldiers who are still missing in action or prisoners of war.

Idaho

In Rathdrum, snow didn't deter members of American Legion Post 154 from conducting a WAA ceremony before placing nearly 270 wreaths at Pinegrove Cemetery. Post 154 coordinated the effort, which included Boy Scouts and others assisting in placing the wreaths.

"That is why we are here today — to remember, honor and teach with this wreath-laying ceremony," [Post 154 Commander Dee Sasse said during the ceremony](#). "The Wreaths Across America program is to show our veterans and their families that we will not forget — we will never forget. There are many ways we remember and honor our veterans and teach the next generation to do the same. One way is to lay a wreath at every veteran's grave."

Post 154 Service Officer Ruth Aresvik participated in the ceremony, placing a U.S. Merchant Marines wreath on the Rathdrum Veterans Memorial. "It's definitely an honor and a privilege to be able to be a part of this, no matter what the weather," she said. "We have a great turnout; the community supports us. It's just a real special feeling to be able to

honor the veterans that are no longer with us. By laying that wreath and saying their name, we give them life. They continue to be with us."

Iowa

In Ames, American Legion Riders Chapter 37 fundraised to place more than 1,800 wreaths at Ames Municipal Cemetery.

Missouri

American Legion Post 297 raised \$10,000 to bring Wreaths Across America to Union for the first time. Volunteers placed the wreaths on 500 gravesites across Union City Cemetery, Chiles Cemetery, Immaculate Conception Cemetery, St. Paul's Cemetery and Zion Cemetery. A ceremony also took place at Post 297.

Ohio

In North Kingsville, Neal American Legion Post 743 collaborated with local Sons and Daughters of the American Legion chapters to place more than 850 wreaths at Greenlawn Memory Gardens.

"The American Legion is a service organization, and this is one way we get to support our community and our veterans," [Post 743 Adjutant Will Runyan told the Star Beacon.](#)

Oklahoma

- In Sand Springs, Billie A. Hall American Legion Post 17 and its Auxiliary unit led a Wreaths Across America effort that covered around 300 veterans' graves at Woodland Memorial Park. It was the second year Post 17 has coordinated the effort, this year almost tripling the number of wreaths in placed in 2021.
- In Broken Arrow, American Legion Post 110 took part in the wreath laying ceremony at Park Grove Cemetery. "The American Legion here in Broken Arrow comes out here on Memorial Day and places flags, but there's been a need where during the holiday season, especially as you come towards Christmas, there's like, it's almost like the veterans are forgotten," [Post 110 Adjutant Brian Quinn said during the ceremony.](#) "(The WAA ceremony) lets people know about the freedoms that they have, and that the veterans have fought for and that's why it's important to me and all the other veterans that are here."

Wyoming

In Rock Springs, members of Archie Hay American Legion Post 24 joined with the community to lay wreaths at Rock Springs Municipal Cemetery, Riverview Cemetery in Green River, and Rest Haven Memorial Gardens in Rock Springs.

"We are here to honor those who have served and their families; to teach the next generation the value of freedom," [Post 24 Commander Ted Young said during the ceremony at Rock Springs Municipal Cemetery.](#) "The freedoms we enjoy today have not come without a price. Lying here before us in cemeteries across this nation are men and women who gave their lives so that we can live in freedom without fear. We can worship as we see fit. We raise our children to believe as we do.

"We are free to vote for the leaders of our choosing. We have the right to succeed, and we have the right to fail in whatever endeavor we wish to pursue. The United States of America was founded on the ideals of freedom, justice, and equality. Our nation stands as a shining beacon of freedom and liberty to the world. We thank those who gave their lives to keep us free."

REMEMBERING THE GREATEST GENERATION

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“You will face many defeats
 in life, but never let
 yourself be defeated.”
 — Maya Angelou




Sons of The American Legion Membership Application

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____ Date _____
 Name _____ Recruited by _____
(First) (Initial) (Last) (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 _____

For God and Country

Squadron _____ Detachment of _____

By _____



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Sons of The American Legion Brand Mark



Purpose of the Brand Mark

The Sons of The American Legion brand mark was created to address the need to modernize the Sons of The American Legion brand to appeal to the next generation. Moreover, the new brand mark takes into consideration a host of applications that the original emblem could never have anticipated. Those include digital and social media, special event and sports marketing, lifestyle apparel and more.

Brand Mark versus Emblem

Going forward, the brand mark is to be used in all marketing communications applications, while the emblem should be reserved for official documents and communications.

In application

The following guidelines offer direction in terms of when to use the emblem or one of the brand marks. While most applications will be clearly defined, inevitably some instances may straddle the line between two areas. In those cases, use discretion based on the intended audience. When choosing a brand mark option, default to what is most visually pleasing in that application. For example, the word mark should almost always be used in embroidery.



Brand Mark Options

- Advertising
- apparel (use word mark for embroidery)
- business cards, letterhead, email signatures
- credentials, event badges
- press releases
- digital (apps, web, social, PowerPoint presentations)
- promotional communications (flyers, handouts, etc.)
- events (signs, backdrops, tents, tablecloths, swag/giveaways)

Emblem

- uniform caps
- financial documents
- history books
- flags
- legal affairs
- internal manuals & guides
- reports & resolutions
- awards (option emblem or brand)
- building signage (option emblem or brand)
- formal government communications (option emblem or brand)

For more in-depth explanations of approved usage guidelines, [click here](#)

Color Palette

Blue



PANTONE 654C
C:100 M:84 Y:31 K:17
R:0 G:56 B:112
HEX # 1B3D6D

Red



PANTONE 186C
C:12 M:100 Y:91 K:0
R:215 G:33 B:49
HEX # D72131

Usage Permission

Like the emblem, the brand mark is legally protected property of the Sons of The American Legion. Any use outside of the organization – such as merchandising, marketing by groups unaffiliated with the Sons of The American Legion or at political events – is legally restricted and requires authorization.

The same rules of permission to use the official emblem apply to the brand mark. Those rules, along with an online application form, can be found [here](#).

Download the Branding Guidelines

[Click here](#) to download the full Sons of The American Legion Branding Guidelines.

Download the Brand Mark and Word Mark

[Click here](#) to download the Sons of The American Legion Brand and Word Mark.

Download the Emblem

[Click here](#) to download the Sons of The American Legion Emblem.

Questions

For any additional brand-related questions, please contact the American Legion Marketing Division at:

317-630-1398 or marketing@legion.org



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LEGION



AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY



AMERICAN
LEGION
RIDERS



AMERICAN
LEGION
BASEBALL



BE THE ONE



BE THE ONE



2022 - 2023 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION INDIVIDUAL RECRUITMENT AWARD



Date
(select date from drop-down menu by clicking inside the box)

Recruiter Name Member ID#

Email Address

Phone Number Detachment Squadron #

MAIL TO RECRUITER MAIL TO SQUADRON

Street Address or P.O. Box

City State Zip

TO QUALIFY RECRUIT FIVE (5) NEW MEMBERS INTO SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

(A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE SONS MEMBER JOINING FOR THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP YEAR.) TRANSFERS DO NOT COUNT AS NEW MEMBERS

PLEASE FORWARD THE NAMES OF NEW AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERS AND/OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS TO YOUR POST OR UNIT FOR USE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS. CONTACT YOUR STATE HEADQUARTERS FOR MORE INFORMATION WWW.LEGION.ORG/DEPARTMENTS

PINS WILL NOT BE MAILED UNTIL THEY ARE VERIFIED ON THE NATIONAL DATABASE

NOTE: The SAL 9-digit membership ID# must be listed for new members recruited

THE DEADLINE TO QUALIFY FOR THIS INCENTIVE IS JUNE 30TH

	<u>FIRST & LAST NAME</u>	<u>MEMBER ID#</u>
1.	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
2.	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
3.	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
4.	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
5.	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>

SAVE & EMAIL COMPLETED FORMS TO THE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

EASTERN REGION:	JOHN COOK (NH)	(EMAIL) COOKI46@ROADRUNNER.COM
SOUTHERN REGION:	LINWOOD MOORE (VA)	(EMAIL) WOODMAN989@AOL.COM
CENTRAL REGION:	ROBERT BRISTO (MN)	(EMAIL) BLATZMAN4@Q.COM
MIDWEST REGION:	TERRY HARRIS (KS)	(EMAIL) DET.ADJ.KS@GMAIL.COM
WESTERN REGION:	JAMES FISCHER (CA)	(EMAIL) JAMESRFISCHERSR@GMAIL.COM



12/19/22		2023 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS				
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date
1 Southern 1, 2, 3, 4	43,793	26,336	(17,457)	60.14%	867	
2 Midwestern 1, 3, 4	28,918	16,573	(12,345)	57.31%	227	
3 Central 1, 3, 4	128,333	72,962	(55,371)	56.85%	3,131	
4 Eastern 4	140,932	72,541	(68,391)	51.47%	3,216	
5 Western 1, 4	25,822	12,398	(13,424)	48.01%	276	
TOTALS 1, 4	367,798	200,810	(166,988)	54.60%	7,717	

12/19/22		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	2,826	(1,361)	67.49%	35	60.72%	10	
2 Iowa 1, 3, 4, 5	4,857	3,024	(1,833)	62.26%	17	56.30%	16	
3 Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5	13,398	8,282	(5,116)	61.82%	36	56.99%	17	
4 Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4	3,219	1,889	(1,330)	58.68%	5	51.86%	21	
5 Ohio 1, 4	30,636	17,798	(12,838)	58.10%	1,063	53.71%	22	
6 Minnesota	11,378	6,377	(5,001)	56.05%	1,093	52.72%	28	
7 Michigan 4	24,271	13,276	(10,995)	54.70%	492	48.63%	31	
8 Indiana 1, 3, 4	36,387	19,490	(16,897)	53.56%	390	49.19%	33	
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4	128,333	72,962	(55,371)	56.85%	3,131			

12/19/22		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	898	(516)	63.51%	38	50.91%	13	
3 Nevada 4	357	205	(152)	57.42%	4	48.89%	25	
4 Idaho 1, 2, 3, 4	644	341	(303)	52.95%	13	44.19%	34	
5 California 1	10,714	5,317	(5,397)	49.63%	82	41.75%	44	
6 Utah	449	220	(229)	49.00%	18	41.31%	45	
7 Arizona	8,004	3,646	(4,358)	45.55%	72	36.07%	48	
8 Alaska 3	1,608	681	(927)	42.35%	23	35.06%	49	
9 Washington	2,485	992	(1,493)	39.92%	26	29.72%	51	
10 Phillipines	70	16	(54)	22.86%	-	22.06%	55	
TOTALS 1, 4	25,822	12,398	(13,424)	48.01%	276			

12/19/22		2023 SOUTHERN REGION STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	123	99	(24)	80.49%	4	47.54%	3	
2 Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,790	1,394	(396)	77.88%	11	70.86%	4	
3 Mississippi 1, 3, 4, 5	722	502	(220)	69.53%	-	60.00%	9	
4 Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2,066	1,363	(703)	65.97%	25	57.41%	11	
5 Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4,490	2,898	(1,592)	64.54%	32	55.84%	12	
6 North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2,727	1,704	(1,023)	62.49%	62	50.98%	15	
7 Florida 1, 3, 4, 5	21,519	13,236	(8,283)	61.51%	418	51.30%	18	
8 South Carolina 4	1,473	845	(628)	57.37%	17	48.99%	26	
9 Virginia 4	4,109	2,274	(1,835)	55.34%	51	47.34%	29	
10 Tennessee 1, 3, 4	1,718	908	(810)	52.85%	33	43.02%	35	
11 Arkansas 1	447	180	(267)	40.27%	1	34.24%	50	
12 Kentucky	2,609	933	(1,676)	35.76%	213	30.51%	53	
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4	43,793	26,336	(17,457)	60.14%	863			

12/19/22		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	1,176	(186)	86.34%	7	86.34%	2
2	Mexico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	31	24	(7)	77.42%	-	35.48%	5
3	Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,348	964	(384)	71.51%	11	59.24%	7
4	Montana 1, 3, 4, 5	1,108	777	(331)	70.13%	10	66.14%	8
5	Nebraska 1, 3, 4	7,015	4,072	(2,943)	58.05%	1	55.79%	23
6	Colorado 1, 4	2,729	1,582	(1,147)	57.97%	54	50.85%	24
7	Kansas 3, 4	5,919	3,359	(2,560)	56.75%	17	52.00%	27
8	North Dakota 1, 3, 4	1,056	568	(488)	53.79%	-	49.48%	32
9	Wyoming 1, 4	1,298	677	(621)	52.16%	-	45.78%	38
10	Texas 1, 3, 4	5,569	2,855	(2,714)	51.27%	126	43.25%	39
11	New Mexico	1,483	519	(964)	35.00%	1	28.87%	54
TOTALS 1, 3, 4		28,918	16,573	(12,345)	57.31%	220		

12/19/22		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%	-	69.03%	6
2	Maryland 1, 3, 4, 5	16,058	10,045	(6,013)	62.55%	474	57.20%	14
3	Delaware 1, 3, 4, 5	2,430	1,476	(954)	60.74%	23	52.80%	19
4	Vermont 1, 3, 4	3,818	2,243	(1,575)	58.75%	70	54.04%	20
5	New Jersey 2, 3, 4	9,386	5,146	(4,240)	54.83%	46	49.29%	30
6	New York 4	29,864	15,676	(14,188)	52.49%	283	48.12%	36
7	New Hampshire 4	5,677	2,968	(2,709)	52.28%	104	47.57%	37
8	Rhode Island 4	336	172	(164)	51.19%	-	42.42%	40
9	Maine	2,617	1,329	(1,288)	50.78%	9	43.81%	41
10	Connecticut 4	1,867	938	(929)	50.24%	9	45.04%	42
11	Massachusetts 4	5,442	2,714	(2,728)	49.87%	131	44.90%	43
12	Pennsylvania 4	60,803	28,603	(32,200)	47.04%	2,057	43.02%	46
13	West Virginia 4	2,362	1,076	(1,286)	45.55%	10	37.97%	47
14	Dist. of Columbia	114	42	(72)	36.84%	-	25.66%	52
TOTALS 4		140,932	72,541	(68,391)	51.47%	3,216		

12/19/22		2023 SUPER SIX STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1	Florida 1, 3, 4, 5	21,519	13,236	(8,283)	61.51%	418	51.30%	18
2	Ohio 1, 4	30,636	17,798	(12,838)	58.10%	1,063	53.71%	22
3	Michigan 4	24,271	13,276	(10,995)	54.70%	492	48.36%	31
4	Indiana 1, 3, 4	36,387	19,490	(16,897)	53.56%	390	49.19%	33
5	New York 4	29,864	15,676	(14,188)	52.49%	283	48.12%	34
6	Pennsylvania	60,803	28,603	(32,200)	47.04%	2,057	43.02%	49
TOTALS 4		203,480	108,079	(95,401)	53.12%	4,703		

National Membership Totals 4	367,798	200,810	(166,988)	54.60%	7,717	48.87%		
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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%



2023

**The American Legion Washington Conference
Sons of The American Legion
Memorial Wreath Laying Schedule**



Meet at: Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington DC, 20009

9:00 am - Receive tickets for lunch, bus seat and tram by Detachment

At 9:00 am SAL National Commander Chris Carlton will address attendees.

Pictures of Wreaths with SAL National Commander Chris Carlton can be taken between

9:15 and 9:30 am.

Board Busses and load Wreaths at 9:30 am

Depart: Bus will leave from lower level of hotel promptly at 9:30 am,
Sunday, February 26, 2023

Leave Washington Hilton at 9:30 am

1st Stop: **Arrive at Arlington National Cemetery at 9:50 am**

1. Tour of Tomb Guards Quarters if available
2. Group photograph of all participants
3. Prayer by National Chaplain
4. Wreath laying Ceremony at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier 11:15 am
5. Depart the Arlington National Cemetery at 12:30 pm

2nd Stop: **Arrive at Vietnam Wall Memorial at 12:45 pm**

1. Lunch
2. Group photograph of all participants
3. Wreath laying ceremony by National Commander at the Vietnam Wall Memorial with prayer by National Chaplain
1. Depart the Vietnam Wall Memorial at 2:00 pm

3rd Stop: **Arrive at the World War II Memorial at 2:30 pm**

1. Group photograph of all participants with Detachment wreath placement with National Commander
2. Wreath laying ceremony by National Commander at the WWII Memorial with prayer by National Chaplain
3. Depart the World War II Memorial at 3:30 pm

Return: Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington DC, 20009 @4:00 pm

The National Organization will again this year rent two buses to transport individuals to and from the wreath laying ceremonies. In an effort to fully take advantage of this we will be taking **requests** for seats on the buses with the wreath order. It is very important, if you reserve a seat that you be in attendance and if you cannot, please contact Thomas Deal ASAP (Cell # 443-206-0402).

We will also again this year order box lunches for on the bus “it is highly recommended that individuals take advantage of this as it is a long period to go without eating.” The cost will be \$9.00 each - you will have a choice of turkey, ham or roast beef. Payment and choice will be needed along with the wreath order.

Everyone who wishes to attend MUST fill out a form and submit, National does not reserve for anyone.

If you need further information or have questions, I can be contacted by phone during the day at 443-206-0402 or by email tom.deal@verizon.net

**WREATH & LUNCH ORDER FORM - WASHINGTON CONFERENCE WREATH LAYING
on SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2023**

Deadline for submissions to be received is February 4, 2023

DETACHMENT CONTACT NAME

ADDRESS

CELL PHONE # E-MAIL

Wreath Request (\$150) – (Name of Detachment) Total \$

Box Lunch (\$9.00 each) Turkey # Ham # Roast Beef # X \$9.00 Total \$

Arlington National Cemetery General Admission Group Rate

Total Arlington tickets x \$13.95 each Total \$

Total Paid for Wreath, Lunch and Arlington Tram: Total enclosed \$

Number of Seats Requested for Bus - #

Name of others attending and Cell # (Please fill out completely to allow for better communication) -

Name	<input type="text"/>	Cell #	<input type="text"/>
Name	<input type="text"/>	Cell #	<input type="text"/>
Name	<input type="text"/>	Cell #	<input type="text"/>
Name	<input type="text"/>	Cell #	<input type="text"/>

PAYMENT MUST BE ENCLOSED. ORDER WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PAYMENT!!!

Make check payable to: Thomas Deal and mail to: Thomas Deal, 1434 Clayton St., Perryville, Md. 21903