

# BE THE ONE



## ROUND-UP

Next Goal

# 80%

March 15, 2023

A weekly digest of happenings in the Sons of The American Legion

Volume 4 | Number 22 | Issue 173 | February 19, 2023



## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BE THE ONE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

P.O. BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1055 [WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS) P: 317-630-1205 F: 317-630-1413

February – 2023

### Support **BE THE ONE** through American Legion Family Day

Greetings, Sons of The American Legion,

We often talk about “The American Legion Family.” It’s such an important part of how we support our veterans.

The American Legion’s National Executive Committee unanimously passed [Resolution No. 7](#) last October to create an event called American Legion Family Day. Prompted by a resolution from the Detachment of Maryland that was initially approved by the SAL NEC, this resolution establishes the event to be observed annually on the last Saturday in April, with posts opening their doors to the community and celebrating the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons, and members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The resolution also calls on the Legion Family to use the day to promote **BE THE ONE**. The terrible impact a veteran’s suicide can have on his or her family is devastating.

That’s why I encourage you to not only participate in your post’s American Legion Family Day event, but to use the event to “Be The One.” Share with the community why the program is so important and how your squadron and post are helping reduce and eliminate veteran suicide.

Brochures can be downloaded at [Legion.org/Publications](http://Legion.org/Publications) and [Legion.org/BeTheOne](http://Legion.org/BeTheOne)

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

Be the One!

With passion and purpose.

Sincerely,

Christopher Carlton  
Sons of The American Legion  
National Commander



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



# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

February 16, 2023

**TO:** National Officers, Detachment Commanders and Adjutants  
**FROM:** Anthony W. Wright (PA), National Adjutant  
**SUBJECT:** 75% - Membership Target Date

## “CONGRATULATIONS”

Thank you for all your efforts so far this membership year. Our standings as of our 75% membership target date (2-15-2023) are posted below:

2023 Membership Goal:	<b>367,798</b>
Total Membership:	<b>299,370</b>
Percentage Of Goal:	<b>81.40%</b>
2023 Renewal Rate:	<b>72.65%</b>
Detachments Making Goal:	<b>46</b>

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

## GREAT JOB!!

Many detachments should achieve this membership goal soon!

Next scheduled renewal notice to be mailed: **February 24, 2023** (2<sup>ND</sup> OF 3)

Next membership target date: **March 15, 2023** **80%**

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



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



**RENEW  
ONLINE  
TODAY**



**MEMBERSHIP  
RENEWAL  
TARGET DATE**

**March 15, 2023**



**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."**



**YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
MATTERS**



**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#



**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](#)  
Meeting ID: 847 2013 6661 | 697 464

“BELIEVE AND SUCCEED” sends a great message to everyone. Look at the history of the Sons of The American Legion. The thoughts, the conveyance, and the results. Today we have 46 Detachments leaving only 9 Detachments left to make the March 15 Target Date Goal, with 26 days to achieve this goal. We have all five Regions already achieving the March 15 Goal. That says a lot and sends a spectacular statement. “WE CAN DO THIS.”

The Central Region from February 13 to February 16 increased membership numbers by 1,073 members. The Southern Region increased their membership numbers by 235. The Eastern Region increased their membership numbers up by 1,677. This makes the Eastern Region just 0.32% behind the Central Region.

I SHOULD SAY IT IS WHAT IT IS. This is fantastic, and this is the reason why we are so far ahead of last year in membership standings. All five regions are champions because of what we do, and that is staying the course and watching our membership grow.

Keep up with the “Buddy CHECKS” and always “BE THE ONE” Always remember we are #SALSTRONG for God and Country.

Robert L Bristo,  
Central Region Membership Chairman



**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#



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# BE THE ONE

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## How to make Buddy Check wristbands for public awareness

The American Legion | February 16, 2023

American Legion Buddy Checks are to be conducted during the week of the Legion's birthday per Resolution 18. [Download the Buddy Check Toolkit](#) to help you connect with Legionnaires and veterans in your community.

The American Legion Department of Oregon has also created an engaging tool to help you prepare for and promote Buddy Checks, as well as Be the One.

The Department of Oregon created colorful wristbands to educate the public on the Legion's Buddy Check program and Be the One suicide prevention awareness initiative and to give them something they can wear daily as a reminder.

Two wristbands are in 4x6 Ziplock bags with a cardstock insert educating on Buddy Checks or Be the One.

"We went with two bracelets per pack to create the opportunity of engagement," said Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Cory Brockmann. "You can pull one out and wear it and give the other to someone else. So wear it and share it."

The Buddy Check packets feature a variety of slipknot wristband colors – yellow, red, white, black, orange, blue, red, pink, green, hunter green, etc. While the Be the One wristband is silicone, red and blue, and has the American

Legion landmark, Be the One website and "Save a veteran" embossed on it.

To date, nearly 4,000 Buddy Check packets have been made and 8,000 slipknot wristbands.

### How to make slipknot bracelets

- Watch YouTube videos. Brockmann searched "How to make slipknot bracelets" on YouTube and about 20, three-minute videos popped up. He then went to a sporting goods store and bought cord used for lacrosse rackets. He cut it into 18-inch lengths and practiced in front of his computer while watching the YouTube videos.
- Purchase string. Lacrosse net strings work or Brockmann found wholesalers (to make it cost effective) and bought spools of 300-foot paracord in a variety of colors that were on sale.
- Purchase white cardstock for the inserts. Brockmann lays three out on a single sheet.
- Identify funding. The Department of Oregon American Legion Foundation provided grants to cover the cost of the Buddy Check and Be the One wristbands. For about 3,000 Buddy Check packs it was \$1,000; and around \$1,200 for 5,000 Be the One silicone bracelets. "The beauty of this is that is scalable. You don't have to have a grant for \$1,000 or \$1,500 and go all in. I would encourage folks to develop your design based on what your intended target is. Then grow it from there."
- Make the wristbands. Brockmann said it's been all volunteer work to make the slipknot wristbands that has included the whole Legion Family and Legion Baseball players. "It's labor intensive, but it's a great opportunity for relationships with the foundation and American Legion Family."

### Card inserts

- FRONT: Buddy Check
- Our Mission: No veteran left behind. It's that simple. Because one is one too many.
- BACK: Please wear and share these slipknot bracelets as a reminder of the sacrifices made by veterans and our military servicemembers .... And as a symbol of the bond that unites us together, as one. American
- Together, we can prevent veteran suicide.

The back also features the Veterans Crisis Line phone number and [website for more resources](#), and donation information to the department's foundation to support suicide prevention efforts.

- FRONT: Be the One logo
- BACK 1: The American Legion's mission is to reduce the rate of veteran suicide by empowering veterans, servicemembers, their loved ones and anyone else to take action to save the life of one veteran when the need arises.
- BACK 2: Wear or share this bracelet as a reminder of the sacrifices made by veterans, servicemembers and their families. It is a symbol of the bond that unites veterans and civilians together as Americans.
- Together, we can all act to reduce the number of veteran suicides. Be the One.

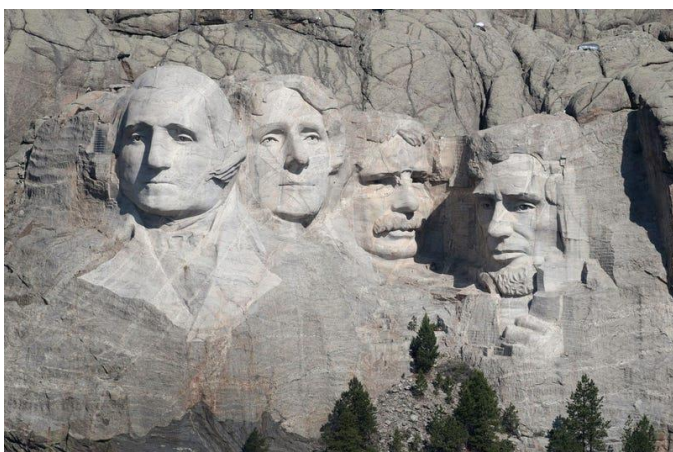
#### Find opportunities of engagement

The Department of Oregon has left Be the One packets at VA hospitals and on a table, they sponsored at a veterans memorial fundraiser. They too handed out more than 800 Buddy Check packets to fans at a Portland Trail Blazers game.

"Be the One outreach is good for the public because the solution to ending veteran suicide isn't just talking to veterans," Brockmann said. "It's talking to family members of veterans; it's talking to the public ... identifying with those that are friends with veterans. It's going to take all of us to bring an end to veteran suicide."

Brockmann added that you don't have to live in a large metropolitan area to be successful in engaging. "The more events that bring engagement are smaller events." You can create these packets for delivery at blood drives, farmers markets, fairs, parades, and other community events.

"Successes can happen everywhere. There really are no failures. The key failure would be the one where you don't take action. One step at a time; start small and build it."



## NATIONAL COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

### Advisory Committee

Joe Mayne (MN), Chairman

### Americanism Commission

Chris Casey (NE), Chairman

Fourth Thursday of Bi-monthly

7:30 p.m. Eastern

[Join Zoom meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 956 9846 2868 | 840 830 | (877) 853-5257

March 23, 2023 | May 25 | July 27



**FLYING FLAGS  
FOR HEROES**  
www.flyingflagsforheroes.com

As of February 17, 2023, **10,763** flags have been placed and reported to honor our veterans since September 1, 2022

The American Legion National Headquarters is looking for volunteers to help with the 2023 National High School Oratorical Contest Finals in Indianapolis, April 21-23. Needed volunteer positions include judges, escorts, and holding room/assigned topic room monitors. Click the link for more information.

<https://www.legion.org/oratorical/257908/volunteers-needed-2023-national-oratorical-finals?fbclid=IwAR0NBqrjuTui6-Yg0b-6Y0S4Y54YgA2aXfm4PVVYX3VIlzgUbjr11kmf-s>

### Century Committee (CENTCOM)

Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH), Chairman

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Second Thursday of Each Month

7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Meeting ID: 974 1352 0429 | 473 385 | (877) 853-5257

### Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Mark Nave (PA), Chairman

Third Wednesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 989 9129 8443 | 967 563  
(877) 853-5257

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## Children & Youth Committee

James A. Noble (NJ), Chairman  
Second Wednesday of Each Month  
7:30 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 934 1509 0014 | 403 800 | (877) 853-5257

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## Finance Commission

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

[Join Zoom meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 957 1342 7326 | 44846 | (877) 853-5257

April 13 | May 6 (NEC) | July 13

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## Internal Affairs Commission

William Clancy, III (NY), Chairman  
First Thursday of Each Month  
6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 917 1243 8217 | 914 458 | (877) 853-5257

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## Legislative Commission

Thomas G. Deal (MD), Chairman  
Third Thursday of ODD Months  
7:30 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 991 2070 0860 | 092 260 | 877 853 5257

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### Advocacy toolkit

February 10, 2023

Welcome to The American Legion's Hill Visit Toolkit. This page is dedicated to providing American Legion Family members with current, easy-to-use tools for participating in grassroots advocacy. Below are resources for Legion Family members to assist in becoming effective grassroots advocates.

The American Legion is a grassroots organization at its core. As such, the support of members is critical as we advocate on behalf of all veterans in the halls of Congress. The most effective way to support The American Legion's legislative agenda is communication – by individuals in their local posts expressing their views on specific bills. Emails, telephone calls, Legislative Alerts and personal letters from constituents have a powerful influence on members of Congress. They want to hear from you so they can gauge public opinion on specific issues.

### Resources

- [2023 Legislative Agenda](#)
- [Know Before You Go](#)
- Point Papers – coming soon
- [Congressional Contact Report Form](#)

Tools For Legionnaires, Find Your Congressional Representatives. You can find your elected representatives at our [Grassroots Action Center](#). This can be found in the bottom right corner of the page.

Contact Your Congressional Representatives. You can contact your representative through our campaigns located on our [Grassroots Action Center](#). Be sure to share The American Legion's legislative priorities using the Legislative Agenda when you contact their office. While on the Grassroots Action Center page, be sure to sign up for our legislative alerts so you can stay up to date on all of The American Legion's legislative campaigns.

You can also contact your representative in a variety of ways including in-person meetings, virtual meetings, phone calls, emails and through social media.

Afterward, you can fill out [a congressional contact report form](#) after you contact your congressional office. This will allow the national Legislative staff to know that the meeting took place and make staff members aware of any follow-up actions to take with the representative or their staff.

Tools for Legislative Council Members. All members of the Legislative Council are expected to contact their assigned representatives. Congress is open to in-person meetings, and you can also use a number of digital platforms. Below are the three methods listed in order of effectiveness. The preferred method is to schedule a meeting or phone call.

### Methods to Contact Your Assigned Representative

1. Schedule a meeting. Congress is now open to visitors, meaning legislators and their staff may now physically meet with people. A 15- to 30-minute meeting with

your legislator's office will give you an opportunity to delve into a deeper conversation about [the Legion's Legislative Agenda](#).

2. Call your legislator. You may also call your representative's office and ask to speak with the staffer who handles the veteran and/or military portfolio. You can also ask for an email address if a phone number is not provided.
3. Send an email. Congressional staff are closely monitoring office emails and will note the issues most prevalent in their district.

**What You Should Speak About.** Review The American Legion's legislative priorities using the Legislative Agenda and the point papers. This will give you a clear understanding of the issues and The American Legion's recommended solutions to the problem.

**After the Meeting.** Please be sure to fill out a [congressional contact report form](#) after you contact your congressional office. This will allow the national Legislative staff to know that the meeting took place and make staff members aware of any follow-up actions to take with the representative or their staff.

## Member Training and Development Committee

Mike Monserud (IA), Chairman  
First Monday of Each Month  
8:00 p.m. Eastern

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 918 2414 1981 | 777 490 | (877) 853-5258

## Membership Committee

Thom Skelley (TX), Chairman  
Third Tuesday of Each Month

7:00 p.m. Eastern Time | (605) 472-5756 | 771 7294

The current SAL membership report can be accessed on the national website at [www.legion.org/membership/standings](http://www.legion.org/membership/standings)

additional membership information appears later in this edition

February 14, 2023

**With a day left before the 75% target date, WE HAVE HIT THE MARCH 15 TARGET!!**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the 44 Detachments and all 5 Regions that have surpassed 75%; and a special shout out to

the 29 Detachments and 3 Regions that have already made their March goal.

**We are 21,568 ahead of our numbers from last year, and the BEST IS YET TO COME!! Nothing succeeds like success!!**

## RECRUIT-RENEW-REINSTATE

February 16, 2023

## HISTORY!!

**We have 46 detachments, and all five regions surpass the 75% target goal! In fact, all five regions have already made the March 15 80% target.**

These numbers are unprecedented, and beyond words.

Hard work + Dedication = SUCCESS

**Continue the buddy checks! Continue to promote the Sons of The American Legion! Continue to support our veterans!**

## RECRUIT-RENEW AND REINSTATE!!

2023 SAL 75% TARGET DATE REPORT AS OF: FEBRUARY 15, 2023

#	DETACHMENT	2023 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 75% TARGET 2/15/2023	2023 ACTUAL MBRSH	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2023 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	77	-26	84	109.09%	94.74
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	-367	1,388	101.91%	82.83
3	FRANCE	158	-29	147	93.04%	83.97
4	FLORIDA	21,519	-2,510	18,649	86.66%	71.31
5	MARYLAND	16,058	-1,825	13,868	86.36%	78.15
6	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	-166	1,271	86.29%	73.74
7	PUERTO RICO	123	-14	106	86.18%	52.46
8	WISCONSIN	4,187	-445	3,585	85.62%	75.66
9	DELAWARE	2,430	-258	2,080	85.60%	73.52
10	LOUISIANA	1,790	-187	1,529	85.42%	77.17
11	VERMONT	3,818	-379	3,242	84.91%	77.43
12	NEVADA	357	-35	303	84.87%	65.37
13	KANSAS	5,919	-569	5,008	84.61%	75.86
14	OREGON	1,414	-136	1,196	84.58%	66.88
15	ILLINOIS	13,398	-1,271	11,319	84.48%	76.39
16	GEORGIA	4,490	-425	3,792	84.45%	71.98
17	MISSOURI	3,219	-300	2,714	84.31%	74.46
18	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	-498	4,756	83.78%	74.61
19	OHIO	30,636	-2,627	25,604	83.57%	77.08
20	VIRGINIA	4,109	-345	3,427	83.40%	71.71
21	PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	-4,709	50,311	82.74%	76.43
22	NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	-208	2,253	82.62%	68.26
23	IOWA	4,857	-364	4,007	82.50%	73.17
24	WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	-175	1,946	82.39%	68.92
25	RHODE ISLAND	336	-24	276	82.14%	71.52
26	MISSISSIPPI	722	-50	591	81.86%	70.39
27	MICHIGAN	24,271	-1,498	19,701	81.17%	72.01
28	NEBRASKA	7,015	-425	5,686	81.05%	77.39
29	ALABAMA	2,066	-124	1,673	80.98%	69.86
30	INDIANA	36,387	-2,138	29,428	80.88%	74.33
31	ARIZONA	8,004	-469	6,472	80.86%	65.23
32	MEXICO	31	-2	25	80.65%	38.71
33	OKLAHOMA	1,348	-65	1,076	79.82%	64.13
34	NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	-45	837	79.26%	69.04
35	COLORADO	2,729	-106	2,153	78.89%	67.71
36	CONNECTICUT	1,867	-71	1,471	78.79%	70.46
37	NEW JERSEY	9,386	-356	7,395	78.79%	70.30
38	TENNESSEE	1,718	-63	1,351	78.64%	63.95
39	MONTANA	1,108	-37	868	78.34%	72.63
40	MAINE	2,617	-81	2,044	78.10%	67.55
41	ALASKA	1,608	-46	1,252	77.86%	62.30
42	NEW YORK	29,864	-781	23,179	77.62%	71.20
43	MINNESOTA	11,378	-132	8,665	76.16%	70.08
44	WYOMING	1,298	-11	984	75.81%	66.77
45	MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	-32	4,113	75.58%	67.04
46	CALIFORNIA	10,714	-5	8,040	75.04%	63.01
47	NEW MEXICO	1,483	16	1,096	73.90%	59.79
48	TEXAS	5,569	76	4,101	73.64%	60.95
49	IDAHO	644	25	458	71.12%	59.53
50	WASHINGTON	2,485	151	1,713	68.93%	53.64
51	UTAH	449	37	300	66.82%	56.98
52	ARKANSAS	447	68	267	59.73%	50.57
53	DIST OF COL	114	21	65	57.02%	45.13
54	KENTUCKY	2,609	487	1,470	56.34%	48.63
55	PHILIPPINES	70	18	35	50.00%	48.53
Grand Totals:		367,798	-23,522	299,370	81.40%	72.65

## 2023 SAL REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

WESTERN REGION - JACK A. YOUNGS (ID)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	77	84	109.09%
NEVADA	357	303	84.87%
OREGON	1,414	1,196	84.58%
ARIZONA	8,004	6,472	80.86%
ALASKA	1,608	1,252	77.86%
CALIFORNIA	10,714	8,040	75.04%
IDAHO	644	458	71.12%
WASHINGTON	2,485	1,713	68.93%
UTAH	449	300	66.82%
PHILIPPINES	70	35	50.00%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>25,822</b>	<b>19,853</b>	<b>76.88%</b>

MIDWEST REGION - MICHAEL L. KIRSCHNER (CO)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	1,388	101.91%
KANSAS	5,919	5,008	84.61%
NEBRASKA	7,015	5,686	81.05%
MEXICO	31	25	80.65%
OKLAHOMA	1,348	1,076	79.82%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	837	79.26%
COLORADO	2,729	2,153	78.89%
MONTANA	1,108	868	78.34%
WYOMING	1,298	984	75.81%
NEW MEXICO	1,483	1,096	73.90%
TEXAS	5,569	4,101	73.64%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>28,918</b>	<b>23,222</b>	<b>80.30%</b>

CENTRAL REGION - DAVID J. MENNEL (MI)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,187	3,585	85.62%
ILLINOIS	13,398	11,319	84.48%
MISSOURI	3,219	2,714	84.31%
OHIO	30,636	25,604	83.57%
IOWA	4,857	4,007	82.50%
MICHIGAN	24,271	19,701	81.17%
INDIANA	36,387	29,428	80.86%
MINNESOTA	11,378	8,665	76.16%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>128,333</b>	<b>105,023</b>	<b>81.84%</b>

SOUTHERN REGION - RONALD E. ROBERTS (MS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FLORIDA	21,519	18,649	86.66%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	1,271	86.29%
PUERTO RICO	123	106	86.18%
LOUISIANA	1,790	1,529	85.42%
GEORGIA	4,490	3,792	84.45%
VIRGINIA	4,109	3,427	83.40%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	2,253	82.62%
MISSISSIPPI	722	591	81.86%
ALABAMA	2,066	1,673	80.98%
TENNESSEE	1,718	1,351	78.64%
ARKANSAS	447	267	59.73%
KENTUCKY	2,609	1,470	56.34%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>43,793</b>	<b>36,379</b>	<b>83.07%</b>

EASTERN REGION - ERNEST E. LABERGE (MA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	158	147	93.04%
MARYLAND	16,058	13,868	86.36%
DELAWARE	2,430	2,080	85.60%
VERMONT	3,818	3,242	84.91%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	4,756	83.78%
PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	50,311	82.74%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	1,946	82.39%
RHODE ISLAND	338	276	82.14%
CONNECTICUT	1,867	1,471	78.79%
NEW JERSEY	9,386	7,385	78.79%
MAINE	2,617	2,044	78.10%
NEW YORK	29,864	23,179	77.62%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	4,113	75.58%
DIST OF COL	114	65	57.02%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>140,932</b>	<b>114,893</b>	<b>81.52%</b>

## 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: 941 4100 3972 | 378 079 | (646) 931-3860

## Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Jim Coates (NY), Chairman  
Third Wednesday of Each Month  
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 935 4405 3884 | 786 114 | (877) 853-5257

## National Convention Committee

Christopher Byrd (NC), Chairman

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 961 5391 3982 | 690 337 | (877) 853-5257

## 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](#)

Meeting ID: 963 1528 2340 | 075 079 | (877) 853-5257

## Subcommittee on Resolutions

Ned Fox (CA), Chairman

SONS OF THE  
 AMERICAN  
LEGION

PURPOSE  
PASSION

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## Gladstone's August Mattson Sons of The American Legion Honors Continuous Membership

Two Members of the Gladstone August Mattson Squadron 71 of Sons of The American Legion were recently honored for 40 years and 45 years of continuous membership.

Donald Couillard for 40 years and John Pickard for 45 years. "Clearly, reaching this milestone is a very special occasion" commented Past Detachment of Michigan Sons Commander Zack Pendell from Three Rivers Squadron 170. "It is also a very special occasion for the local squadron since it is a testimony of their loyalty to the Sons of The American Legion over the years. Both Donald and John are valued members, both having served as Commander and various offices in the Squadron. Their continued contribution is vital for the Sons to continue to be successful in helping our fellow Legionnaires and Veterans." According to Pendell, "The Sons is the best program the Legion ever established as we take care of all other programs the Legion sponsors. We are here because of the veterans, so let's help a veteran whenever we can."

Sons of The American Legion was founded for preserving the American Legion traditions and programs while improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.



John Pickard 45-year Member, Zack Pendell, Past State of Michigan Sons Commander, Don Couillard 40 Year Member.

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## Pancake breakfast to benefit veterans



YORKTOWN, NY — The Sons of the American Legion Squadron #1009 next monthly fundraiser will take place Sunday, February 19, 2023.

The breakfast will feature pancakes, eggs, hash brown potatoes and more.

Cost for the all-you-can-eat breakfast is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Children under 6 eat for free, organizers said.

For an additional \$5, people can get a Mimosa or a Bloody Mary.

All proceeds will benefit local veterans organizations. The breakfast will be held at American Legion Post #1009, 235 Veterans Rd. in Yorktown Heights.

Seating is limited. Reserve your table by calling 914-980-5267.

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## WI Squadron 294 Hartland Holds 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Homeless Veterans Fundraiser

Allen Watry, Detachment of Wisconsin

It was another cold couple of nights for about 20 people who braved the cold and slept in tents and cardboard boxes in Hartland, WI the evenings of Feb 10 and 11. The silver lining for those brave souls is it was not as cold as the past 3 years when this fundraiser was held. If everyone remembers correctly, this was the first year the temperatures did not drop below zero.

Turnout and community support was outstanding for the fourth annual fundraiser. Many different activities occurred Friday through Sunday. These included people sleeping in tents/cardboard boxes for two nights, multiple basket and cash raffles, and bands on Friday/Saturday evening. And while it was amazing to be a part of the crowd on Friday night and experiencing all that was going on. What is truly amazing over this weekend is the community support for this fundraiser. All the fundraisers efforts do well, but the majority of what is raised are direct donations for local business and citizens. There seems to be a constant flow of people bringing in donations of cash, durable goods, and non-perishable food to this great event.

Unfortunately, the final totals are not yet available, but it appears they did break last year's results of over \$55,000 in cash and 6+ box trucks of durable goods/non-perishable food staples.

A job WELL DONE by Squadron 294!!!



## Membership awards presented

Ron Wissman, Detachment of Ohio

Detachment of Ohio Assistant Adjutant Chuck Castle and Ohio Fourth District Adjutant Ron Wissman visited to Harrison Squadron 199 for their meeting. They had their 3 "Blue Jugs" displayed for us and their members that they received this year and the last two, from the SAL Fourth District. This is the largest Squadron in the Fourth with over 300 members, and has always done an excellent job on membership for many years making quota.



From left to right Adjutant Tony Rossi, 1st Vice AL Buxton, Commander Jeff Harper, and Finance Officer Ray Smith Jr.

## Sons raise money for Fisher House

[Rusty Myers](#) | February 11, 2023

BELLEVILLE, NJ – For the fourth year in a row, Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 105 in Belleville, NJ ran a fundraiser resulting in the donation of \$2,500 to the Fisher House Foundation, a series of comfort homes at VA hospitals for veterans and their families. \$1,250 of that donation was then also matched by corporate donor Signia. This year's program was more impactful to the Sons then previous years as they actually had an opportunity to visit a Fisher House in New York City.

Sons from Belleville took a trip in early February to make a portion of the donation in person to the Fisher House located at the John J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx, while also getting a tour of the facility. "I was blown away by today, I really was," was the response from SAL 105 Commander Steve Sangemino after the visit.



The Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military & veteran's families can stay free of charge, while a loved one is in the hospital. These homes are located at military and VA medical centers around the world. Fisher Houses have up to 21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room, and an inviting living room. Since inception, the program has saved military and veterans' families an estimated \$451 million in out-of-pocket costs for lodging and transportation. It is in this way that a veteran can be surrounded by his family during perhaps some of the most difficult times in their lives. Currently, the Foundation is building its 100<sup>th</sup> house in Atlanta.

A Fisher House is built by the foundation using private funds, then gifted to the federal Secretary of the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA). These facilities are actually built on VA property, and are available to the veteran and their family for as long as they are getting care, at no cost – so their stay can range from a few days, to weeks, to months.

The donation from SAL 105 was raised in a 50/50 raffle held in November and December in 2022, as Squadron 105 has done every year since 2019. This year, the SAL originally printed 400 tickets, which were sold in three days. Another 200 were printed by Thanksgiving, being sold out as well ... which netted a donation of \$1,500. At a meeting in January, the squadron then voted to add \$1,000 on top of what was raised through the 50/50, making the total donation \$2,500.

SAL 105 Adjutant Rusty Myers noted that “This is what the money is here for – for it to be put to work for our veterans.” New member Ron Planer, who joined in December, echoed that sentiment – “I’m proud we can contribute in any way we can.” He earlier commented when at the Fisher House that “...this is exactly why I joined this [the SAL]. This is wonderful ... this is what it’s all about.”

As previous donors, SAL 105 receives periodic emails from Fisher House. One such email came in late December titled “Double your donation TODAY!” As has happened in the past, if the squadron made a donation right then and there online it would be matched – so members of the 105 Executive Board made a decision to make part of the donation before the raffle was pulled. The email went on, “Help us end this year with a big impact! Our friends at Signia are matching \$25,000 in donations today, helping countless families stay in Fisher Houses around the world.” Signia, producing one of the leading hearing aid brands in the world, matched \$1,250 of the Belleville SAL’s donation.

The SAL has never actually been to a Fisher House, though they have done a number of donations over the years exceeding \$7,000.

A portion of the donation was made in person to Belleville's nearest Fisher House, which is located in the Bronx. House Manager Ellen Trbovich was kind and generous enough to arrange a tour and coffee afterward. She noted that “If it wasn't for the VSO's [Veterans Service Organizations]... your donations are greatly appreciated and will go a long way to help the families here. This all helps the veteran in the hospital, so they don't have to worry about their family.”

The crew from 105 toured the entire house on the campus of James J. Peters VA Center, of which there are two. As a press release about the dedication of the two houses when they were built in 2019 states, “A Fisher House creates an instant community for its residents, united by their common mission of supporting a sick or injured loved one, but also provides each individual with a secure and private refuge after a long day at the hospital to rest and recharge.” The accommodations for the 32 families are just that – clean, serene, private, and with all of the comforts of home. Those visiting the house that day remarked on how quiet the house was inside, despite being in the center of the Bronx. These two houses were the 82<sup>nd</sup> and 83 houses built.



James Elsmore, SAL 105 First Vice-Commander; Rusty Myers, SAL 105 Adjutant; Ron Planer, SAL 105; Michael Vahoviak, Bronx Assistant Fisher House Manager; Carl Slaughter, SAL 105; Ellen Trbovich, Bronx Fisher House Manager; Rick Vlasakakis, SAL 105; Steve Sangemino, SAL 105 Commander; Anthony Noto, SAL 105.

Squadron 105 photo

Michael Vahoviak, Assistant Manager, added while chatting over coffee what a big impact these donations have on how the house is operated ... “all of the donations – 100% of them – go to these families. Especially important for those who can't afford it.” The 105 group spent an hour just talking with staff members Ellen and Michael, who were not only very inviting but quite passionate about the VA and the Fisher House Foundation. They also were kind enough to take a

group photo before the trip back across the bridge. On the car ride home, the attendees couldn't stop talking about how much they enjoyed the trip and what a learning experience it was.

After returning home, the group recounted the experience to Post 105's Walter LaBar, an Air Force veteran and the Legion's 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander. He stated perfectly that "...it sounds like another name for the Fisher House should be the 'Dream House,' because it's a dream-come-true for those who need it."

You can find out more about Fisher House, and how to help, at [fisherhouse.org](http://fisherhouse.org).



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Vickie Koutz, National President  
The American Legion Auxiliary

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National  
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May 26 this year



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# SPORTS

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## Legion Baseball alumni to represent U.S. in World Baseball Classic

The American Legion | February 10, 2023

Two former American Legion Baseball players are part of Team USA in the World Baseball Classic coming up in March.

Catcher J.T. Realmuto (Post 170/Midwest City, Okla.) and pitcher Daniel Bard (Post 337/Pineville, N.C.) are among the 30 players representing the United States in the tournament, taking place for the first time since 2017 after being canceled in 2021 due to the pandemic.

The Americans won the fourth World Baseball Classic, in 2017. Japan won the inaugural tournament in 2006 and repeated in 2009, with the Dominican Republic winning the title in 2013.

The 2023 tournament will consist of 20 teams divided into four pools. Team USA is in Pool C with Mexico, Colombia, Canada, and Great Britain, and will play their pool games in Phoenix from March 11-15.

The other pools:

Pool A, in Taichung, Taiwan, March 8-12: Chinese Taipei, Netherlands, Cuba, Italy and Panama.

Pool B, in Tokyo, March 9-13: Japan, Korea, Australia, China and Czech Republic.

Pool D, in Miami, March 11-15: Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Israel and Nicaragua.

Pool play will be a round-robin, double-elimination tournament, with the top two finishers in each pool advancing. The winners and runners-up from Pools A and B will meet in single-elimination quarterfinal play March 15-16 in Tokyo, while teams advancing from Pools C and D will play quarterfinal games March 17-18 in Miami. The semifinals are scheduled for March 19-20 in Miami, with the championship game March 21 in Miami.

Team USA's pool play schedule:

- March 11: vs. Great Britain, 7 p.m. MT, Fox.
- March 12: vs. Mexico, 7 p.m. MT, FSI.
- March 13: vs. Canada, 7 p.m. MT, FSI.
- March 15: vs. Colombia, 7 p.m. MT, FSI.

More information available at [WorldBaseballClassic.com](http://WorldBaseballClassic.com).

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## SQUADRON EVERLASTING

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

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### Francis R. "Buzz" Reyell



Francis R. "Buzz" Reyell, 75, of Beartown Road, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023, at the UVM Health Network-CVPH with family by his side. He was born in Plattsburgh on Sept. 22, 1947, the son of the late Bess and Norris Reyell.

Buzz spent his whole life in Beartown surrounded by his family and friends. As Beartown historian, Buzz enjoyed holding court with his chosen family any time someone stopped in. He worked on the family farm and drove truck for his father. In 1972, he entered the NYSP Academy. He retired as a trooper in 1997. After taking a year off, he began his second career working for N.J. Bru-nell Blacktopping. He retired after 20 years at age 70.

Linda moved in on April 12, 1990 but if you asked Buzz, he would tell you it was the second Thursday in April. He finally broke down and asked her to marry him and on July 25, 1998, they finally tied the knot. They spent time taking camping trips, and visiting Topsail, N.C.

Buzz enjoyed hunting over the years, including on

horseback with his dad and brothers to Cold River; he was a member and Past President of Stillwater Hunting Club, and Sons of the American Legion Post 1618 in Saranac. He was Mr. Fix It. He never believed in throwing something away if it could be fixed. Coffee-black. Beer-Genny Light. Sweets-all of them.

He is survived by his wife of over 24 years, Linda O'Connell-Reyell, his children and their spouses, Bill Reyell, Laura and Brian Gokey, Peter Reyell and companion Lori Babbie; his siblings and their spouses, Fred and Kathy Reyell, Cindy Reyell and companion Tom Gillott, David Reyell and companion Art McKee; a sister-in-law, Lana Wilson; a brother-in-law, Lowell Way; his grandchildren, Duncan Reyell, Michael Gokey, his great-grandchildren, Audrey, Adalyn and Olivia Gokey and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins, and his Beartown family.

He was predeceased by his parents, a brother-in-law, Lance Wilson; a sister, Theresa Way; as well as his many hound dogs, the last being Scottie, Dancer, and Maggie Mae. Calling hours will be held on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Brown Funeral Home, 29 Broad St. in Plattsburgh. Services will follow at 2 p.m. in the Brown Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will be in St. Alexander's cemetery at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of the North Country.

Arrangements are entrusted to the Brown Funeral Home in Plattsburgh. Online condolences may be offered at [www.brownfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.brownfuneralhomeinc.com).

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### Steve Nelson



NORTHFIELD, MN — Steve Nelson, age 69, passed away Wednesday evening, February 8, 2023, at Fairview Ridges Hospital in Burnsville with family by his side.

Steven Wayne Nelson was born February 15, 1953, in Northfield, Minnesota, to Rueben and Shirley (Swenson) Nelson. He was raised in Northfield, graduated from Northfield High School in 1971, and attended Faribault VoTech to study carpentry. He began his construction career working for Dallas Hass and Don Pavsek.

In 1973, Steve married Gail Nelson. After marriage they lived in Northfield and later divorced. On September 24, 1982, Steve married Karen Estrem. After living in

Northfield, they moved to Dundas where they made their home and raised their family. They divorced in 2001.

In the early 1980's Steve established his own business - Steve Nelson Construction. Steve continued in construction and shared his passion with his son Chris, and they evolved the business name to C. S. Nelson Construction. He remained working with Chris until his health failed.

Steve was an active member of the Sons of the American Legion in both Northfield and Cannon Falls, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Cannon Falls Veteran's Memorial. He was active with the Dundas Dukes ball club and helped in constructing their original stadium. He enjoyed bowling, hunting, fishing, spending time at the family cabin and visiting with family and friends. Steve was quick witted, affable, and social. He was loved and will be missed. Survivors include children Jaime (Mike) Remington of Lakerville, Carrie Nelson (Justin Brown) of Anchorage, Alaska, Christa Nelson of Rosemount, Christopher "Kip" Nelson of Elko New Market, Jennifer (Jeff) Mahoney of Lakeville, Kelly Nelson (Jason Thompson) of Lonsdale; 9 grandchildren Carson, Emma, Reese, Cooper, Dylan, Alexis, Madilynn, Fallon and Duke; his mother, Shirley Nelson of Northfield; and 3 brothers Dale (Joan) of Dennison, Mark (Lorie) of Northfield, Bryan (Stacy) of Northfield; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his father Rueben and his nephew Matthew.

Visitation will be 4:00PM - 7:00PM, Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at the Bierman Funeral Home in Northfield. Funeral services will be 11:00AM Thursday, February 16, 2023, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield. Visitation will begin at 10:00AM and a reception at the Northfield Golf Club will follow. Memorials are preferred to Sons of the American Legion.



I want to recognize the magnificent effort that it is taking place in our membership program. As you have read, we are ahead of last year's pace, and are on tap to make history through the end of June.

With all five regions passing the February 15 target date, and four exceeding the March 15 target date and the 80% goal, there is no reason we will not hit quota, and hit it early.

As I have been saying for the past four years, we need to change the culture of our membership program. I think members are starting to understand the importance of renewing early. They are understanding how much of an impact renewing early makes.

I also want to recognize and congratulate the Detachment of Oregon for achieving quota, currently at 101.91% of its members paid and an 82.83 renewal rate. Keep up the awesome work!

As we all know, Be the One it at the forefront of the American Legion Family as we all try to help prevent veteran suicide. Sons play a vital role, and we need to make sure we are making resources available.

Later in this edition, you will find some clipart I created that we can all use. Please put it in your email signature line, in publications, print and hang on bulletin boards, and share on social media. It only takes a second, and it could save a live. Will you Be the One to help? **Who's next?**

**Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible. Renew Today!**

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

[jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com) | [Team Vrabel](#)

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## Central Region Extravaganza

2023 marks the first year that a gathering of members in the Central Region is officially taking place. Taking place the weekend of April 21 - 23, 2023 CREI has a jam-packed line-up of great presenters and speakers. Attendees will learn, participate, have fun, and most importantly, come together to further the mission of the American Legion Family.

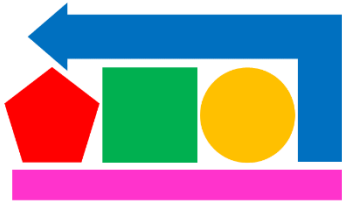
The Embassy Suites Airport in Columbus, Ohio is the location of the Extravaganza, and an evening of fun is planned for Saturday night, as there are tentative plans to visit American Legion Posts in the area.

Attendance is open to Sons, as well as to Legionnaires and members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The event flyer appears later in this edition.

To register, please email [jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com). Please register early, as there is a limit of fifty participants, and spots are filling up fast. Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel.

## Meeting of the Jeffs



There will be a Meeting of the Jeffs on Saturday, April 22, 2023 during the Central Region Extravaganza.

All Jeffs planning to attend the meeting must email [jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com).

Jeffs do not need to attend the conference to attend this very important meeting.



Vincent "Jim" Troiola, National Commander  
The American Legion

## Watch the national commander testify before Congress March 1

The American Legion | February 15, 2023

American Legion National Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola will present the Legion's legislative priorities to a joint session of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs. The presentation is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Eastern Wednesday, March 1.

[Tune in to www.legion.org to watch live or view a replay.](http://www.legion.org)



## Deaths among active-duty troops from fentanyl overdoses rise sharply, Pentagon says

Rose L. Thayer/Stars and Stripes | February 16, 2023

Fentanyl was involved in 88% of the deaths of service members who overdosed on illicit drugs in 2021, a steep increase in five years, according to Defense Department data provided to Congress.

"Our military is not immune to the opioid epidemic," Sen. Edward Markey, D-Mass., said in a statement Wednesday. "The Department of Defense's latest report underscores the urgency of this moment and our need to ensure access to quality care and treatment without stigma or shame."

Five years ago, the synthetic drug was involved in 36% of troop overdose deaths, according to Pentagon data.

Markey and other senators requested data on overdoses from the Defense Department in September and last week received 12 pages from Pentagon officials that included statistics and prevention efforts.

From 2017 to 2021, 15,293 service members overdosed on drugs and alcohol and 332 died. More than half of those

who died had taken fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is more potent than morphine, the report found.

Fentanyl, an approved pain medication being produced and sold illegally, is killing about 70,000 Americans each year, President Joe Biden said earlier this month in his State of the Union speech.

Increasingly, fentanyl is mixed with other illicit drugs or used to replace another drug entirely so that users are expecting something else, and this has led to a rise in deaths from the drug nationwide, according to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Military officials determined service members accidentally overdosed in 84% of the deaths. Just 12% of the deaths were thought to be suicides.

“Every drug overdose is a preventable loss of life, and we must work to do better,” Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Gilbert Cisneros wrote in his letter to senators. “The department continues to evaluate, refine, and improve strategies for overdose prevention to ensure we are making every effort to prevent these tragic deaths.”

About 10% of those who died had previously failed a drug test administered through their service, the Defense Department said.

The Army, which is the largest of the service branches, saw the most overdose deaths during the five-year period, with a slight decrease from 36 deaths in 2017 to 35 in 2021, according to the Defense Department.

However, the Navy and Marine Corps saw the number of deaths in each service double. Eleven sailors died in 2017 and 21 died in 2021. The Marines lost five sailors in 2017 and 10 in 2021.

The Air Force saw overdose deaths increase from nine to 11. The senators requested the data after reading a story in the September issue of Rolling Stone magazine that raised concerns about overdose deaths among soldiers at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Fort Bragg lost 31 soldiers in five years to overdoses, the highest of any installation mentioned in the Pentagon report.

The Defense Department told senators that the rate of overdose deaths during the five-year period is higher in North Carolina than anywhere else — 36 deaths per 100,000

active-duty service members. Washington state had the next highest rate of 29.5 deaths per 100,000 troops, followed by Texas with 28.6.

Cisneros told senators that the Pentagon’s effort to prevent overdose deaths are “focused on integrating all drug-related data, including fatal and non-fatal drug overdoses, to ensure timely data monitoring and improve coordination, messaging, treatment intervention and promote readiness.”

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## Legion, Auxiliary, SAL Leaders pay respects to Lincoln

[John Raughter](#) | February 13, 2023

Most historians agree that family was a high priority for President Lincoln, which made the American Legion Family’s expanded role in the 89th annual pilgrimage for the nation’s 16th president particularly significant.

“The keynote speaker at our reception is Sons of The American Legion National Commander Christopher Carlton. The keynote speaker at our breakfast is American Legion Auxiliary National President Vickie Koutz and our keynote speaker at the Lincoln Birthday Luncheon is American Legion National Vice Commander Patricia Harris,” Past National Commander and current Illinois Department Adjutant Marty Conatser said during the American Legion Family leadership reception Saturday. “We wanted all of our family members to play an important role.”



Legion National Vice Commander Patricia Harris, Auxiliary President Vickie Koutz and Sons of The American Legion National Commander Christopher Carlton attend 89th annual Lincoln pilgrimage.

Photo by John Raughter/The American Legion

American Legion Post 32 in Springfield, Ill., has led the longest running annual observance held on Lincoln’s birthday since 1935. Over the years, national political leaders, state dignitaries, local officials, and American Legion Family members from around the country have gathered at the

president's tomb on Feb. 12 and attended related events conducted by Post 32 and the Department of Illinois.

Alluding to Lincoln's early failed campaigns for political office, Carlton suggested that Americans emulate the president's determination to succeed. "He was defeated many times, but he kept going," Carlton said at his tomb. "He was honest, he was funny, he had a sense of humor. I hope we can all be like Abraham Lincoln and remember that everything is possible in America."

"Lincoln had many great character qualities, but a few of them always stand out when his name is mentioned," Koutz said. "Honesty, empathy, and humility. Lincoln worked for the betterment of others and in the interest of others over self. Does that concept sound familiar? American Legion Auxiliary members answer the call of 'service not self' every day for our nation's heroes and their families. Humility was a strong part of Lincoln and is a strong part of our organization."

Sons of The American Legion Squadron 32 Commander James Peters Jr., served as master of ceremony for the observance at the tomb Sunday morning. "Today we celebrate President Lincoln's birthday and commemorate his central role in building America," Peters said. "President Lincoln and his veterans freed millions from slavery, thus purging an ugly, cruel, and inhumane blot for our national character. Moreover, he preserved our union. Freedom is not free."

Harris said that she believes Lincoln would be pleased to see her speak at his tomb. "One hundred and fifty-eight years after his death, a Black female from the South is representing the largest veterans organization as a national officer at a ceremony honoring his life."

After quoting a passage from the Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves, Harris said, "These words codified the famous phrase from the Declaration of Independence that 'All men are created equal.' It is a phrase that is still evolving today – toward women and people of all ethnicities."

Noting that Lincoln had a difficult life that included the loss of close family members, Harris compared his personal struggles with what many veterans face today.

"Too many veterans today are suffering from their own depression," she said. "They feel isolated and alone. Like nobody understands them. This is where The American Legion can step in. We do understand them. We have worn the uniform. Many of us have endured similar experiences.

Since 9/11, we have lost nearly triple the veterans to suicide than were lost in battle during the Vietnam War. Some estimates are of 17-per-day, and I have seen estimates of more than 40-per-day. Rather than focus on statistics, let's just focus on one. We all know that one is too many. Let's be the one, to save that one veteran's life."

Due to his service as a member of the Illinois militia, Harris stated that if The American Legion existed during Lincoln's lifetime, the president probably would have joined.

"With full confidence, I believe that if Lincoln were alive today – and eligible, of course – that he would be a proud member of our American Legion Family. Our legacy, after all, is an extension of his legacy."

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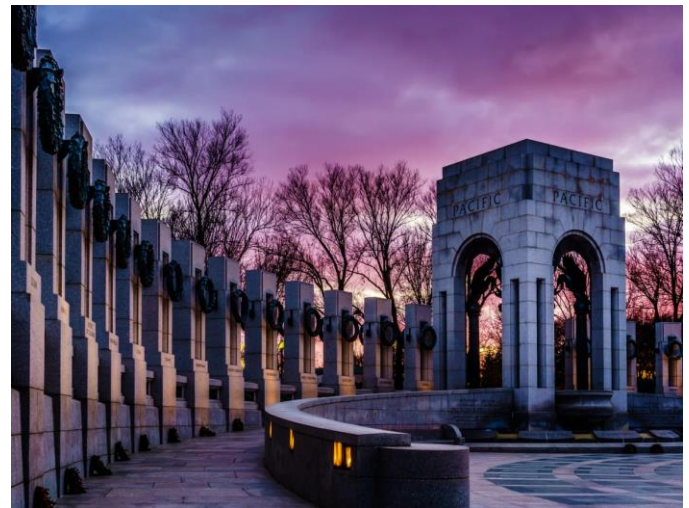
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**EXTRAVAGANZA**

**April 21 - 23, 2023**

**LIMITED TO 50 PARTICIPANTS - PLEASE REGISTER EARLY**



**EMBASSY  
SUITES**  
by Hilton™

**Embassy Suites by Hilton Columbus Airport**  
**Reservations (614) 536-0500**  
**Reservation Code: LDO**  
**Suite Rate: \$129.00 per night**

**Friday evening Social Gathering & Networking**  
**Saturday Training, Presentations, and Guest Speakers**  
**Saturday evening visit local American Legion Posts**

**Topics include:**

**CENTCOM update | Obtaining Discharge Documents**  
**Keeping Members Involved | Building an Effective Youth Program**  
**Honoring Veterans in Health Care Facilities | Servant Leadership**  
**Public Speaking | Being a Military Child | Working with the Media**  
**Be The One - Suicide: Knowing the Signs, Prevention, & Support**

**Meeting of the Jeffs**

**For more information and to reserve your spot at the conference,**  
**please contact Jeff Vrabel Sr. | [jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com)**  
**hotel reservations own your own**

### **Local Attractions**



02/15/23		2023 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS				
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date
1 Southern 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	43,793	36,379	(7,414)	83.07%	235	
2 Central 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	128,333	105,023	(23,310)	81.84%	1,073	
3 Eastern 4, 5, 6, 7	140,932	114,893	(26,039)	81.52%	1,677	
4 Midwest 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	28,918	23,222	(5,696)	80.30%	291	
5 Western 1, 4, 5, 6	25,822	19,853	(5,969)	76.88%	397	
<b>TOTALS 1, 4, 5, 6, 7</b>	<b>367,798</b>	<b>299,370</b>	<b>(68,428)</b>	<b>81.40%</b>	<b>3,673</b>	



02/15/23		2023 CENTRAL REGION STANDINGS David Mennell (MI), National Vice-Commander						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,187	3,585	(602)	85.62%	46	75.66%	8	
2 Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	13,398	11,319	(2,079)	84.48%	407	76.39%	15	
3 Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	3,219	2,714	(505)	84.31%	28	74.46%	17	
4 Ohio 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	30,636	25,604	(5,032)	83.57%	75	77.08%	19	
5 Iowa 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,857	4,007	(850)	82.50%	27	73.17%	23	
6 Michigan 4, 5, 6, 7	24,271	19,701	(4,570)	81.17%	124	72.01%	27	
7 Indiana 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	36,387	29,428	(6,959)	80.88%	359	74.33%	30	
8 Minnesota 5, 6	11,378	8,665	(2,713)	76.16%	7	70.08%	43	
<b>TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</b>	<b>128,333</b>	<b>105,023</b>	<b>(23,310)</b>	<b>81.84%</b>	<b>1,073</b>			

02/15/23		2023 WESTERN REGION STANDINGS Jack Youngs (ID) National Vice-Commander						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Hawaii 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Q, 10	77	84	7	109.09%	-	94.74%	1	10/10/22
2 Nevada 4, 5, 6, 7	357	303	(54)	84.87%	12	65.37%	12	
3 Oregon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,414	1,196	(218)	84.58%	11	66.88%	14	
4 Arizona 5, 6, 7	8,004	6,472	(1,532)	80.86%	273	65.23%	31	
5 Alaska 3, 6	1,608	1,252	(356)	77.86%	2	62.30%	41	
6 California 1, 5, 6	10,714	8,040	(2,674)	75.04%	96	63.01%	46	
7 Idaho 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	644	458	(186)	71.12%	1	59.53%	49	
8 Washington	2,485	1,713	(772)	68.93%	2	53.64%	50	
9 Utah 5	449	300	(149)	66.82%	-	56.98%	51	
10 Phillippines	70	35	(35)	50.00%	-	48.53%	55	
<b>TOTALS 1, 4, 5, 6</b>	<b>25,822</b>	<b>19,853</b>	<b>(5,969)</b>	<b>76.88%</b>	<b>397</b>			

02/15/23		2023 SOUTHERN REGION STANDINGS Ron Roberts (MS), National Vice-Commander						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Florida 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	21,519	18,649	(2,870)	86.66%	118	71.31%	4	
2 South Carolina 4, 5, 6, 7	1,473	1,271	(202)	86.29%	10	73.74%	6	
3 Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	123	106	(17)	86.18%	-	52.46%	7	
4 Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,790	1,529	(261)	85.42%	268	77.17%	10	
5 Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,490	3,792	(698)	84.45%	4	71.98%	16	
6 Virginia 4, 5, 6, 7	4,109	3,427	(682)	83.40%	62	71.71%	20	
7 North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	2,727	2,253	(474)	82.62%	589	68.26%	22	
8 Mississippi 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	722	591	(131)	81.86%	-	70.39%	26	
9 Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	2,066	1,673	(393)	80.98%	9	69.86%	29	
10 Tennessee 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,718	1,351	(367)	78.64%	2	63.95%	38	
11 Arkansas 1	447	267	(180)	59.73%	4	50.57%	52	
12 Kentucky	2,609	1,470	(1,139)	56.34%	4	48.63%	54	
<b>TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</b>	<b>43,793</b>	<b>36,379</b>	<b>(7,414)</b>	<b>83.07%</b>	<b>952</b>			

02/15/23		2023 MIDWEST REGION STANDINGS Michael Kirschner (CO), National Vice-Commander						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 South Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Q	1,362	1,388	26	101.91%	3	82.83%	2	02/09/23
2 Kansas 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	5,919	5,008	(911)	84.61%	24	75.86%	13	
3 Nebraska 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7,015	5,686	(1,329)	81.05%	77	77.39%	28	
4 Mexico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	31	25	(6)	80.65%	-	37.71%	32	
5 Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,348	1,076	(272)	79.82%	7	64.13%	33	
6 North Dakota 1, 3, 4, 5	1,056	837	(219)	79.26%	2	69.04%	34	
7 Colorado 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	2,729	2,153	(576)	78.89%	1	67.71%	35	
8 Montana 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,108	868	(240)	78.34%	-	72.63%	39	
9 Wyoming 1, 4, 5, 6	1,298	984	(314)	75.81%	35	66.77%	44	
10 New Mexico	1,483	1,096	(387)	73.90%	76	59.79%	47	
11 Texas 1, 3, 4, 5	5,569	4,101	(1,468)	73.64%	66	60.95%	48	
<b>TOTALS 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</b>	<b>28,918</b>	<b>23,222</b>	<b>(5,696)</b>	<b>80.30%</b>	<b>288</b>			

02/15/23		2023 EASTERN REGION STANDINGS Ernie LaBerge (MA) National Vice-Commander						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 France 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	158	147	(11)	93.04%	-	83.97%	3	
2 Maryland 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	16,058	13,868	(2,190)	86.36%	154	78.15%	5	
3 Delaware 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	2,430	2,080	(350)	85.60%	9	73.52%	9	
4 Vermont 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	3,818	3,242	(576)	84.91%	1	77.43%	11	
5 New Hampshire 4, 5, 6, 7	5,677	4,756	(921)	83.78%	194	74.61%	18	
6 Pennsylvania 4, 5, 6, 7	60,803	50,311	(10,492)	82.74%	838	76.43%	21	
7 West Virginia 4, 5, 6, 7	2,362	1,946	(416)	82.39%	47	68.92%	24	
8 Rhode Island 4, 5, 7	336	276	(60)	82.14%	1	71.52%	25	
9 Connecticut 4, 5, 6	1,867	1,471	(396)	78.79%	5	70.46%	36	
10 New Jersey 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	9,386	7,395	(1,991)	78.79%	354	70.30%	37	
11 Maine 5, 6	2,617	2,044	(573)	78.10%	1	67.55%	40	
12 New York 4, 5, 6	29,864	23,179	(6,685)	77.62%	57	71.20%	42	
13 Massachusetts 4, 6	5,442	4,113	(1,329)	75.58%	16	67.04%	45	
14 Dist. of Columbia	114	65	(49)	57.02%	-	45.13%	53	
<b>TOTALS 4, 5, 6, 7</b>	<b>140,932</b>	<b>114,893</b>	<b>(26,039)</b>	<b>81.52%</b>	<b>1,677</b>			

02/13/23		2023 SUPER SIX STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Florida 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	21,519	18,649	(2,870)	86.66%	118	71.31%	4	
2 Ohio 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	30,636	25,604	(5,032)	83.57%	75	77.08%	19	
3 Pennsylvania 5, 6, 7	60,803	50,311	(10,492)	82.74%	838	76.43%	21	
4 Michigan 4, 5, 6, 7	24,271	19,701	(4,570)	81.17%	124	72.01%	27	
5 Indiana 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	36,387	29,428	(6,959)	80.88%	359	74.33%	30	
6 New York 4, 5, 6	29,864	23,179	(6,685)	77.62%	57	71.20%	42	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>203,480</b>	<b>166,872</b>	<b>(36,608)</b>	<b>82.01%</b>	<b>1,571</b>			

<b>National Totals 4, 5, 6, 7, 8</b>	<b>367,798</b>	<b>299,370</b>	<b>(68,428)</b>	<b>81.40%</b>	<b>3,673</b>	<b>72.65%</b>		
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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%



# Sons of The American Legion National Commander

## Christopher Carlton



# Homecoming

## BE THE ONE

### March 24 & 25, 2023

**Friday Night Dinner at the Commanders home Post #495 with entertainment.**

**Number of guests**

**X \$20.00 =**

**Saturday visit to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum  
Followed by lunch at Post #500 and trip to Indiana War  
Memorial.**

**Number of guests**

**X \$45.00 =**

**Saturday night Homecoming Dinner at Post #64, buffet style  
Program and Entertainment to follow.**

**Number of guests**

**X \$55.00 =**

**Total Amount =**

### Count me in!

**Name:**

**Guests:**

**Hotel accommodations at Holiday Inn Indianapolis Airport North, an IHG Hotel.  
5601 Fortune Circle W, Indianapolis, IN 46241, 317-348-0033  
Use Link below for booking**

[https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=INDFC&checkInDate=24&checkInMonthYear=022023&checkOutDate=26&checkOutMonthYear=022023&\\_PMID=99801505&GPC=GRS&cn=no&viewfullsite=true](https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=INDFC&checkInDate=24&checkInMonthYear=022023&checkOutDate=26&checkOutMonthYear=022023&_PMID=99801505&GPC=GRS&cn=no&viewfullsite=true)

**Hotel Reservations are available until **2/24/2023****

**Hotel Airport Shuttle Available, 24/7 Call Hotel**

**Transportation to all events, entertainment and breakfast will be provided at hotel listed above.**

**Breakfast Buffet Available at Hotel listed above Saturday & Sunday with advance order check "X" for yes and list number of people below.**

**Saturday:** ☐ **Guests:** ☐ **Sunday:** ☐ **Guests:** ☐

**You may pay by Check or Credit/Debit Card**

**Name on Card:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Card #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EXP:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CVV:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Or,**

**Make check payable to: "Carlton Homecoming"**

**Send Homecoming Reservations and check or CC Info to:**

**Raymond Giehll, Jr.**

**6767 W Brier Creek Dr., New Palestine, IN 46163**

**Preferred, Email to: [rpgiehll@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rpgiehll@sbcglobal.net)**

**Homecoming Reservations RSVP By **3/18/2023****

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TO REACH OUT**

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