



## ROUND-UP

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

Next Goal

# 90%

April 19, 2023

Volume 4 | Number 29 | Issue 180 | April 9, 2023

# Legion Family helps communities following deadly tornadoes

The American Legion | April 5, 2023

In the aftermath of a tornado that damaged hundreds of homes and left many without power, American Legion Post 230 in Martinsville, Ind., leapt into action.

“(We) decided that these people that are putting up the power lines and getting service back restored might need some food and water,” said John McGee, past commander of Post 230. “We came in yesterday and we fed a lot of people in town who didn’t have power, didn’t have a way to fix a meal.”

The National Weather Service reported 22 tornadoes hit Indiana on March 31 and April 1. Five people died in the storms.

It’s part of an already active spring storm season that has seen deadly tornadoes reported in Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, Illinois, Indiana, Delaware, and Missouri since March 24.

Here’s a look at some of the other ways the Legion Family has helped those affected by the storms:

### Arkansas

- Post 91 in Beebe collected two bins full of food and supplies to help those in Wynne, where at least four people died, and the town’s high school was among the heavily damaged buildings.
- Post 17 in Paragould was also collecting donated supplies for the Wynne community.

Mississippi. Post 255 in Fultondale, Ala., collected donations to help tornado victims in nearby Mississippi.

If your post is providing assistance to victims of the tornadoes or other natural disasters, please let us know by emailing [wproffet@legion.org](mailto:wproffet@legion.org).



National Emergency Fund. When natural disasters like tornadoes, floods or wildfires strike, The American Legion’s National Emergency Fund swiftly delivers needed money to veterans in their communities.

[Donate Today](#)



# 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 Midwest 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. All information must be submitted by noon each Friday.

PNVC [Jeff Vrabel, Sr.](#), Editor

[Rusty Myers](#), Contributor

[Lou Michaels](#), Contributor



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

April 19, 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."

# PURPOSE PASSION



**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#

The Central Region has done very well with getting membership and renewals so far. The Beast from the East has moved from April 3 report 0.14% behind the Central Region and has now moved to only 0.05% from tying us.

I have to say that all five Regions have made this the best year yet. "BELIEVE AND SUCCEED" will take everyone pitching in to get those memberships and renewals coming through. Working together with your District, Squadron and Detachment officers, will be a significant part accomplishing this task.

Remember to "BE THE ONE" for our Veterans because they should never think that they are alone. They were there when we needed them and now many Veterans need our support as well.

Robert 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#



**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**

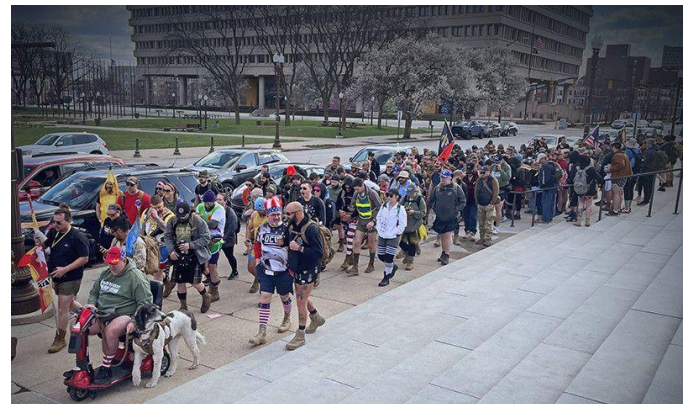
Fourth Wednesday of Each Month  
 7:00 p.m. Mountain Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 847 2013 6661 | 697 464

# BE THE ONE

If you're a veteran in crisis or concerned about one, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive 24/7 confidential support. Dial 988 then Press 1, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat) or text 838255.



**OCW grant benefits suicide-prevention event  
 in Indianapolis**

[Steven B. Brooks](#) | April 4, 2023

The [Irreverent Warriors'](#) Silkies Hike on April 1 in downtown Indianapolis was sponsored by The American Legion via an [Operation Comfort Warriors \(OCW\)](#) grant. The \$3,750 grant covered the cost of food for those 240 or so hikers –



some who came from as far away as San Diego, as well as supplies needed for registration prior to the walk.

But for Douglas Chace, The American Legion's OCW coordinator, the Saturday event was as much about another Legion program as it was about OCW.

"The mission of Irreverent Warriors kind of mirrors our '[Be the One](#)' program in that it's focused on that personal contact to prevent veteran suicides," Chace said. "They use these walks and that dark military humor to recreate that camaraderie from the military and help work through whatever issues they may be having.

"With one of our primary focuses being preventing veteran suicides, our Operation Comfort Warriors is able to step in directly with this event and provide things to support this event and allow things to move forward so we can keep more veterans on our rolls."

Irreverent Warriors is a non-profit with local communities in 37 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, Guam, and Europe. The organization works with other veteran service organizations to provide services such as job placement and housing, as well providing a support network through events such as its Silkies Hikes.

Two previous Irreverent Warriors' hikes in Indianapolis also have received OCW sponsorship, as have similar hikes in Atlanta and Birmingham. Future hikes also will receive American Legion support.

"It's just really easy to come alongside and work with them to achieve the goal of the reduction of veteran suicides," said Chace.

Jason Black, Irreverent Warriors' Indianapolis coordinator, said American Legion support for such hikes "is extremely important. Operation Comfort Warriors' support has been absolutely crucial to what we do. (The American Legion) is always the first organization I mention when I talk to others about the support we get. It's programs like OCW that lets us do what we do."

Black, a U.S. Army veteran with a deployment to Iraq, said he became involved with Irreverent Warriors when he was "dragged to my first hike. Somebody asked me at the last minute, and my wife told me to go. I found out it was exactly what I needed. And I didn't realize how much I needed it or how much I was missing the military camaraderie. It actually set me on the path that I'm on now, extremely involved in the veteran community here in Indiana."

Black also noted a parallel between his organization's mission and that of the "Be the One" initiative. "We bring veterans together using humor and camaraderie to improve mental health and prevent veteran suicides," he said. "We do it through our Silkies Hikes and through our other smaller events. It's working. And it's like the Legion's suicide-prevention program. If I can just reach one person a day ... that's all I ask for every single day I wake up."

Chace has taken part in three Indianapolis Irreverent Warriors' hikes and one in Atlanta and is planning to attend two others this year. "What I've found is the camaraderie renewed really raises your spirits," he said. "In the last week, we lost three veterans in (nearby) Greenwood. We lost a couple of very highly decorated Navy SEALs, all to the suicide. That really emphasizes and highlights the need for an event like this. Thankfully, Irreverent Warriors has them all over the place."

American Legion Past National Commander James Koutz made raising funds for OCW his national commander's project when he was elected in 2012. Support for the program has stayed strong since, including [a March donation of more than \\$111,000](#) from the American Legion Family at Kenneth N Dowden Wayne Post 64 in Indianapolis.

"Post 64 is exceptional. From its inception, Operation Comfort Warriors has received almost \$1 million from that post," Chace said. "The fact that different posts and districts and departments at all levels have continued to support the program does nothing but validate the importance of the program."





## 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

## 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

## Engage your young Sons in April's Children and Youth Month

[Rusty Myers](#), Contributor | April 3, 2023



Over the past year, I have had great success in getting my children (two ALA Juniors and one young SAL) involved in American Legion Family youth events in New Jersey. My hope in writing this is to share something that as a father, a Son, and as a Detachment Children and Youth chairman we've done that works perfectly in concert with April's Children and Youth Month – focusing on getting our young members of the Sons involved.

Of the Four Pillars of the American Legion – Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – the commitment to our youth is the place where the Sons of the American Legion can perhaps leave the longest lasting impact. It is an investment in our future ... not only in our future as an organization but in the future of our great country.

The American Legion has long been a strong advocate for our youth since its inception in 1919. In 1921, this core focus on helping not only the children of our servicemen and veterans but all young people gave birth to the motto "Every Child Gets a Square Deal."

In 1938, April was formally designated as Child Welfare Month – now called Children & Youth Month, since celebrated annually. For April, every entity of The American Legion Family should focus on a project committed to children ... "Our Most Precious Natural Resource."



## 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

May 6, 2023 @ 9:30 a.m.  
Sheraton Indianapolis Circle West - LL  
during the SAL National Spring Meetings

July 27



**FLYING FLAGS  
FOR HEROES**  
[www.flyingflagsforheroes.com](http://www.flyingflagsforheroes.com)

As of April 7, 2023, **15,423**  
flags have been placed and  
reported to honor our veterans  
since September 1, 2022

## 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

This commitment to do something in April can be anything youth-focused, big or small – which can run from making a donation, all the way to planning, creating, and executing a program which is either a one-time event or is run continually. One easy way to do this is to focus on our young SAL's – through programs like the Ten Ideals Medal or the Five-Star program.

"The Ten Ideals" teaches the elements of patriotism, health, knowledge, training, honor, faith, helpfulness, courtesy, reverence, and comradeship. This is a national award for younger members preparatory to Five Star program, though this one is run by the local squadron. Once the Son completes all of the steps, the squadron can order a medal from Emblem Sales. For more, go to [www.legion.org/documents/pdf/sons\\_tenideals.pdf](http://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/sons_tenideals.pdf). This is a fantastic way to engage the younger members of your squadrons.

In my home detachment of New Jersey, the award was given to my 7-year-old son Jake this past September at a squadron meeting after completing the course with me – and this young SAL was absolutely beaming with pride. He was so excited that the next day he asked if he was allowed to wear the medal to school to show his friends.



Another way is by promoting the Five Stars Medal. The five points are patriotism, citizenship, discipline, leadership, and Legionism. For each point that the member tests for and passes, he may receive a star pin available through Emblem Sales. After a member has received 5 stars, he is awarded the Five Star Award, a gold-plated

medal bearing the SAL emblem and the symbolism of the five points. A Power Point on this is available as well – [www.legion.org/documents/pdf/sons\\_fivestar.pdf](http://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/sons_fivestar.pdf).

In doing either of these programs, you are generating life-long interest in these younger members of the Sons. The national-level committee for Children and Youth puts enough emphasis on these two programs that they are running a National Children and Youth Academy for the second year in a row at the National Convention in Charlotte, where young Sons have a chance to complete these projects at the convention and receive the medals that week.

But it doesn't have to stop there – partner with your local ALA Juniors who run programs like these as well, which included the ALA Patch Program. The most important thing, though, is to engage our youngest Sons – don't just have them as a name on a roster, get them involved. Have them help at meetings, give them jobs at events or ceremonies, make them feel involved ... give them an outsized role or tasks to own, showing the public that you can start as a member of the SAL at birth, and that we value the involvement of our youth not just during Children and Youth Month but throughout the year.



Jake Myers



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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](#)



### Legion voices heard in new Congress

The American Legion | April 3, 2023

The American Legion let key lawmakers know the organization's positions on employment issues, VA health-care legislation and costly legal fees charged to disabled veterans during a flurry of late-March testimony on Capitol Hill. In two days, American Legion testimony was presented three times before members of the newly begun 118th Congress. [Complete American Legion written testimonies and statements for the record can be viewed online at legion.org/legislative/testimony.](#)

On March 29, American Legion Legislative Director Lawrence Montreuil delivered the organization's positions on seven [pending bills to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs](#), including support for H.R. 234, known as

Gerald's Law, that would extend veteran burial benefits to those who pass away outside of VA hospitals or long-term care facilities. He also reiterated the Legion's opposition to lost VA benefits for Gold Star Spouses who remarry and support for H.R. 854 – with amendments – that would lift the remarriage penalty.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division Director Tiffany Ellett [delivered testimony on pending VA health-care legislation](#), including H.R. 41, which would require VA to set appointment dates and times on the same day enrolled veterans place calls to make them. She also addressed the Legion's support for improvements to VA's caregiver-support system and legislation to increase the number of VA patient advocates.

American Legion policy analyst Matthew Brennan of the Veterans Employment & Education Division [submitted the organization's positions on 11 bills or pending legislation](#), including one that would make permanent VA's VET-TEC pilot program that connects veterans with training programs that would put them into position for jobs in high-demand, well-paying computer careers.

To stay up to date on American Legion testimony and bills the organization is tracking, visit the [Grassroots Action Center](#) where members are urged to report their interactions with members of Congress or their staff on the [Congressional Contact Report Form](#). In March 2023 alone, 320 congressional engagements were reported as Legionnaires nationwide.

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## 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

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**YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
MATTERS**

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## 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).

SAL Online Renewal - members can login and renew direct via [www.myLegion.org](http://www.myLegion.org) or quick renew by clicking here [SAL Online Renewal](#)

SAL New Member Kit is now online and ready for purchase.

[New Member Kit \(SAL\) - American Legion Flag & Emblem](#)

additional membership information appears later in this edition

Thank you all for your incredible efforts in making this membership year nothing short of SPECTACULAR thus far. The numbers speak for themselves.

The deadline to have a preprinted membership card for 2024 is May 17. If a member has not joined/renewed and been transmitted by then, they will NOT receive a preprinted card.

Commander of the Year nomination forms must be in by Friday, May 5 prior to the opening of the National Membership Committee meeting at Spring NEC. Criteria, instructions, and forms are found below.

<https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/documents/SAL%20Squadron%20Commander%20of%20the%20Year%20Award%20Criteria.pdf>

<https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/documents/SAL%20Squadron%20Commander%20of%20the%20Year%20Award%20Nomination%20Form%20-%20fillable.pdf>

## 2023 SAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT AS OF: APRIL 5, 2023

#	DETACHMENT	2023 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 90% TARGET 4/19/2023	2023 ACTUAL MBRSH	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2023 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	77	-25	94	122.08%	100.00
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	-254	1,480	108.66%	86.70
3	PUERTO RICO	123	-20	131	106.50%	85.95
4	MEXICO	31	-4	32	103.23%	51.61
5	FRANCE	158	-13	155	98.10%	87.82
6	FLORIDA	21,519	-1,684	21,051	97.83%	79.18
7	DELAWARE	2,430	-147	2,334	96.05%	81.05
8	OREGON	1,414	-83	1,356	95.90%	75.82
9	MICHIGAN	24,271	-1,419	23,263	95.85%	83.89
10	GEORGIA	4,490	-245	4,286	95.46%	80.38
11	WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	-126	2,252	95.34%	78.21
12	VIRGINIA	4,109	-211	3,909	95.13%	80.61
13	MARYLAND	16,058	-767	15,219	94.78%	84.60
14	RHODE ISLAND	336	-16	318	94.64%	81.21
15	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	-68	1,394	94.64%	79.59
16	MAINE	2,617	-112	2,467	94.27%	81.08
17	WISCONSIN	4,187	-167	3,935	93.98%	81.54
18	OHIO	30,636	-1,107	29,679	93.61%	85.34
19	PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	-1,904	56,627	93.13%	84.84
20	VERMONT	3,818	-116	3,552	93.03%	84.09
21	ILLINOIS	13,398	-390	12,448	92.91%	83.41
22	TENNESSEE	1,718	-42	1,588	92.43%	74.41
23	ARIZONA	8,004	-183	7,387	92.29%	72.87
24	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	-128	5,237	92.25%	80.48
25	NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	-23	973	92.14%	81.02
26	NEBRASKA	7,015	-137	6,450	91.95%	87.04
27	KANSAS	5,919	-109	5,436	91.84%	81.61
28	COLORADO	2,729	-48	2,504	91.76%	78.05
29	LOUISIANA	1,790	-31	1,642	91.73%	81.76
30	WASHINGTON	2,485	-42	2,278	91.67%	71.62
31	IOWA	4,857	-80	4,451	91.64%	80.56
32	NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	-40	2,494	91.46%	74.37
33	IDAHO	644	-6	586	90.99%	72.81
34	ALABAMA	2,066	-17	1,876	90.80%	76.76
35	NEW YORK	29,864	-235	27,113	90.79%	82.35
36	MISSOURI	3,219	-23	2,920	90.71%	79.45
37	INDIANA	36,387	-196	32,944	90.54%	82.18
38	NEVADA	357	-2	323	90.48%	67.96
39	CONNECTICUT	1,867	-9	1,689	90.47%	80.28
40	NEW JERSEY	9,386	-33	8,480	90.35%	79.70
41	ALASKA	1,608	1	1,446	89.93%	71.41
42	NEW MEXICO	1,483	17	1,318	88.87%	70.95
43	MISSISSIPPI	722	9	641	88.78%	75.27
44	MINNESOTA	11,378	146	10,094	88.72%	80.54
45	CALIFORNIA	10,714	180	9,463	88.32%	73.46
46	MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	93	4,805	88.29%	77.64
47	MONTANA	1,108	19	978	88.27%	81.93
48	OKLAHOMA	1,348	30	1,183	87.76%	68.82
49	TEXAS	5,569	268	4,744	85.19%	69.21
50	WYOMING	1,298	84	1,084	83.51%	73.05
51	PHILIPPINES	70	8	55	78.57%	77.94
52	ARKANSAS	447	51	351	78.52%	66.44
53	UTAH	449	65	339	75.50%	61.05
54	KENTUCKY	2,609	395	1,953	74.86%	63.55
55	DIST OF COL	114	36	67	58.77%	46.90
Grand Totals:		367,798	-8,856	339,874	92.41%	81.41

## 2023 SAL REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

WESTERN REGION - JACK A. YOUNGS (ID)				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal	
HAWAII	77	94	122.08%	
OREGON	1,414	1,356	95.90%	
ARIZONA	8,004	7,387	92.29%	
WASHINGTON	2,485	2,278	91.67%	
IDAHO	644	586	90.99%	
NEVADA	357	323	90.48%	
ALASKA	1,608	1,446	89.93%	
CALIFORNIA	10,714	9,463	88.32%	
PHILIPPINES	70	55	78.57%	
UTAH	449	339	75.50%	
Totals:	25,822	23,327	90.34%	

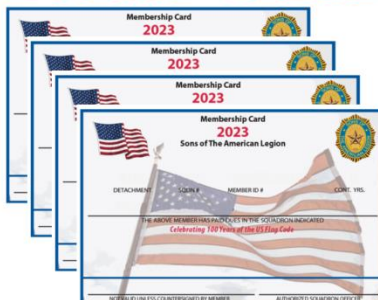
MIDWEST REGION - MICHAEL L. KIRSCHNER (CO)				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal	
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	1,480	108.66%	
MEXICO	31	32	103.23%	
NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	973	92.14%	
NEBRASKA	7,015	6,450	91.95%	
KANSAS	5,919	5,436	91.84%	
COLORADO	2,729	2,504	91.76%	
NEW MEXICO	1,483	1,318	88.87%	
MONTANA	1,108	978	88.27%	
OKLAHOMA	1,348	1,183	87.76%	
TEXAS	5,569	4,744	85.19%	
WYOMING	1,298	1,084	83.51%	
Totals:	28,918	26,182	90.54%	

CENTRAL REGION - DAVID J. MENNEL (MI)				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal	
MICHIGAN	24,271	23,263	95.85%	
WISCONSIN	4,187	3,935	93.98%	
OHIO	30,636	29,679	93.61%	
ILLINOIS	13,398	12,448	92.91%	
IOWA	4,857	4,451	91.64%	
MISSOURI	3,219	2,920	90.71%	
INDIANA	36,387	32,944	90.54%	
MINNESOTA	11,378	10,094	88.72%	
Totals:	128,333	118,734	92.52%	

EASTERN REGION - ERNEST E. LABERGE (MA)				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal	
FRANCE	158	155	98.10%	
DELAWARE	2,430	2,334	96.05%	
WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	2,252	95.34%	
MARYLAND	16,058	15,219	94.78%	
RHODE ISLAND	336	318	94.64%	
MAINE	2,617	2,467	94.27%	
PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	56,627	93.13%	
VERMONT	3,818	3,552	93.03%	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	5,237	92.25%	
NEW YORK	29,864	27,113	90.79%	
CONNECTICUT	1,867	1,689	90.47%	
NEW JERSEY	9,386	8,480	90.35%	
MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	4,805	88.29%	
DIST OF COL	114	67	58.77%	
Totals:	140,932	130,315	92.47%	

SOUTHERN REGION - RONALD E. ROBERTS (MS)				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal	
PUERTO RICO	123	131	106.50%	
FLORIDA	21,519	21,051	97.83%	
GEORGIA	4,490	4,286	95.46%	
VIRGINIA	4,109	3,909	95.13%	
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	1,394	94.64%	
TENNESSEE	1,718	1,588	92.43%	
LOUISIANA	1,790	1,642	91.73%	
NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	2,494	91.46%	
ALABAMA	2,066	1,876	90.80%	
MISSISSIPPI	722	641	88.78%	
ARKANSAS	447	351	78.52%	
KENTUCKY	2,609	1,953	74.86%	
Totals:	43,793	41,316	94.34%	

## EVERY CARD COUNTS





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## National Convention Committee

Christopher Byrd (NC), Chairman

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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

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## National Executive Committee

### Liaison Committee

Jim Stewart (NV), Chairman

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## National Vice-Commander Selection Committee

James Hartman (MD), Co-Chairman

David Stephens (IN), Co-Chairman

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## 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

If you would like to view the Digital Dispatch content visit [www.legion.org/dispatch](http://www.legion.org/dispatch) or you can subscribe to the monthly Digital Dispatch newsletter by visiting [www.legion.org/newsletters](http://www.legion.org/newsletters), click on "Dispatch" where you will be directed to [www.myLegion.org](http://www.myLegion.org) where members will sign in to subscribe. For questions about Dispatch stories, email [Dispatch@legion.org](mailto:Dispatch@legion.org).



### Snapshots of Service

We need members to send in their photos for the Snapshots of Service program, to be considered for a SAL National award.

The photos must represent one of the Four Pillars:

- Americanism
- Children and Youth
- National Security
- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Any SAL Squadron may make up to three submissions for each of the Four Pillars categories. Each submission must be sent in JPG format and accompanied by the proper forms. These submission forms can be found on the SAL National website under Publications and Forms.

<https://www.legion.org/sons/publications>

Email the forms and photos to Chairman Kevin Chaplin at [sons.public.media+snapshots@gmail.com](mailto:sons.public.media+snapshots@gmail.com)



### Videos of Service

This is our newest contest to bring awareness, to the public, about The Sons of The American Legion using social media platforms.

This is also open to all members of The Sons of The American Legion and though it's similar to the Snapshots of Service, this program uses published social media and a link must be submitted to the SAL's Public and Media Communications Commission by email to Chairman Kevin Chaplin at

[sons.public.media+video@gmail.com](mailto:sons.public.media+video@gmail.com)

The submission form can be found on the SAL National website under Publications and Forms.

<https://www.legion.org/sons/publications>

The videos must contain SAL member or members with their covers on or wearing SAL branded clothing during the activity or event that falls under one of three categories.

- Program support
- Community engagement
- Membership and recruitment

The video must be no longer than five minutes in length and published on social media.

The Commission will judge the videos on quality, content, and branding.

The top two entries in each of the three categories will receive a National SAL award.

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## Subcommittee on Resolutions

Ned Fox (CA), Chairman

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## Subcommittee on National Appointments

Donald Allisot, Jr. (ME), Chairman

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## 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

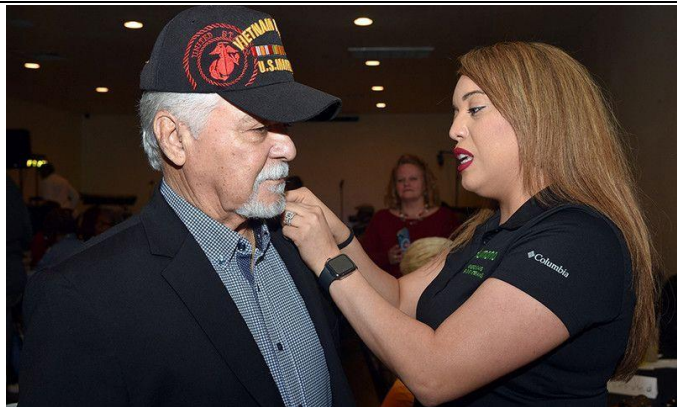
## Legion Family members welcome home Vietnam veterans

The American Legion | April 5, 2023

March 29 marked the 50th anniversary of the last U.S. troops leaving Vietnam. Since 2017, that date has been used to honor Vietnam War veterans, as well as those

servicemembers thought to be either prisoners of war or missing in action.

American Legion posts and Legion Family members across the national annually host or coordinate National Vietnam War Veterans Day events. It was no different this year.



Post 828 submitted photo

The following are a few examples of how The American Legion commemorated the day at the local level. If your post, district, or department conducted a National Vietnam War Veterans Day event, please share your story and photos at [www.legiontown.org](http://www.legiontown.org).

California. In Corona, American Legion Posts 742 and 216 collaborated on a Vietnam War veterans barbecue on March 25 as a way to welcome home Vietnam veterans and thank them for their service.

Connecticut. In Chester, American Legion Post 97 invited the public to a Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony at Chester Memorial Park that included an honor and color guard, as well as a fife and bugle corps.

Delaware. In Lewes, American Legion Post 17's ceremony included Vietnam War veterans being presented with a certificate and lapel pin, and treated to lunch. Post 17 Commander Steve Barrow read the names of the Sussex Countians who perished in the war.

"When they came home, there were no cheers and no parades," [Barrow said of Vietnam veterans](#). "They quietly slipped back into their lives. We need to show them the high measure of esteem we hold for them. We've been holding our applause for 50 years, so let them know how much you appreciate their service."

Iowa.

- In Newton, American Legion Post 111 had a packed house for its ceremony. Sons of The American Legion Squadron 111 member Jeremy Heaberlin made a plaque

bearing the names of the Jasper County veterans who died in Vietnam. The plaque was presented at the ceremony and will be enshrined in the Patriot Club of the American Legion Post 111.

- In Breda, American Legion Post 607 took part in the Vietnam War Veterans Day event at Arthur N. Neu Airport. More than 100 people attended the event, which included on display an A-7 fighter jet that flew multiple missions over Vietnam.

Maryland. In Bel Air, American Legion Harford Post 39 hosted a ceremony to honor Vietnam veterans. Included at the event were military displays of Vietnam War weapons, vehicles and even C-rations. Local dignitaries and politicians attended the event at the post, which provided champagne and cake for the veterans in attendance.

Massachusetts. In South Hadley, American Legion Post 260 and SAL Squadron 260 joined with the VFW and Military Order of the Purple Heart for a ceremony at the South Hadley Public Library. The ceremony honored Vietnam War veterans and their families, and paid special tribute to those who were prisoners of war.

"We as a nation will not rest in our efforts to secure the release of any U.S. personnel still being held against their will or obtain the fullest possible accounting of all missing, and to return all recoverable American remains so that we may relieve the suffering of the families," [said Post 260 Commander Brian Willette](#), who also spoke of mental health issues many veterans faced after coming home from the war. He noted that Post 260 will conduct a "Be The One" event later this year to discuss post-traumatic stress disorder and mental health.

Servicemembers from the community who died while serving in Vietnam were remembered with a wreath-laying ceremony and the sounding of Taps. Gold Star families were also recognized. The event also included the dedication of two new signs, which will be placed on both sides of the South Hadley/Holyoke Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge, to Vietnam veterans.

Montana. Bill Rich, commander of American Legion Post 2 in Helena, delivered the keynote speech during a ceremony at the Montana State Capitol rotunda. More than 100 people attended the event, which included music and a proclamation honoring the 36,000 state residents who served in the U.S. military during the war.

[Rich noted many young Americans don't know of the sacrifices made by the generations before them.](#) "We're losing

that perspective,” he said. “If we lose our sense of history, we’ve lost a lot of our country.”

New York. In Le Roy, Botts Fiorito American Legion Post 576’s ceremony including the reading of a proclamation from the Genesee County Legislature, a rifle salute, and the playing of “Taps.”

North Carolina. In Iredell County, American Legion Auxiliary Units 65 and 401 conducted a ceremony where every Vietnam veteran was presented a pin by the West Iredell JROTC cadets. The cadets saluted each of the veterans, who returned the salute. Vietnam veterans also shared their experiences during the war.

Oklahoma. In Guthrie, the American Legion Family at Lebron Post 58 hosted a Vietnam War commemoration that honored all Vietnam War veterans.

Pennsylvania. In Quakertown, Wallace Willard Post 242 hosted Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Day, which included a complimentary buffet for all Vietnam-era veterans.

Texas.

- In San Antonio, American Legion Post 828 brought the community together to honor the area’s Vietnam War veterans, hosting the event with support from Humana, which distributed commemorative Vietnam War pins. “Our Vietnam veterans have been hit very hard with illnesses and advancing age,” [said Post 828 Commander Burrell Parmer](#). “They are our heroes, and it is fitting to honor them and their loved ones with a meal and entertainment. Our Vietnam veterans did not receive the proper welcome home back then. They are welcome home now and always to include a home with Fred Brock Post 828.”
- In Bandera County, American Legion Post 157 invited all of the area’s Vietnam War-era veterans and their families to a program honoring their service. Veterans received special pins, and were provided with food, drinks, and music.

Virginia. In Lynchburg, American Legion Post 16’s event drew more than 100 people. Vietnam veterans were able to share their stories. One of the speakers was veteran David Harker, who spent more than 1,800 days as a prisoner of war.

West Virginia. In Morgantown, American Legion Post 174 conducted a reception and recognition for Vietnam veterans and their families. Cecil Roberts, the United Mine Workers of America president who was an infantryman in Vietnam, gave keynote remarks during the event.

Wisconsin. In Menominee, American Legion Post 146 hosted its first commemoration of National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The event started outside with the raising of the flag, the singing of the national anthem, the playing of Taps and a three-volley rifle salute.

The ceremony then moved inside, where Vietnam veterans were recognized and had the opportunity to share their experiences.

“This is very near and dear to my heart and has been for years,” [said American Legion Auxiliary Unit 146 President Judy Pier](#), whose husband served in Vietnam.

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## 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

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# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

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## PROUD POSSESSORS OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE

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### Central Region Extravaganza

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER  
IS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023**

2023 marks the first year that a gathering of members in the Central Region is officially taking place. Being held the weekend of April 21 – 23, 2023, CRE23 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 plans to visit American Legion Posts in the area have been confirmed, and transportation has been arranged.

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

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. Use code LDO.



**DEADLINE TO REGISTER  
IS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023**

### NJ Sons donate clothing

[Rusty Myers](#), Contributor | March 30, 2023

EAST ORANGE, NJ – The Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Detachment of New Jersey's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Committee purchased \$850 of needed clothing for the East Orange VA Medical Center this month, helping provide for the veterans who use the facility both short and long term. Sons from Essex County's Squadrons 70 and 105, along with the members from the committee, did the drop off.

In a letter to the Detachment, Latisha Eaves, the Program Support Assistant from the East Orange VA, noted "we simply couldn't achieve what we do without amazing people like you by our side ... None of our success at the Center for Development & Civic Engagement would be possible without generous donors such as yourselves."

The Sons, which are divided organizationally into detachments at the state level and squadrons at the local level, place a focus on helping to provide for our veterans and

their families. One of those ways is through donations to state and federal veterans' homes and hospitals, usually in the form of purchases off of a facility 'wish list' or in events like picnics or Bingo at the facilities.

The Detachment of NJ provides regular donations each year to seven of NJ's veterans' homes and hospitals, which include Veterans Haven North in Glen Gardner, Vets Haven South in Winslow, state veterans homes in Vineland, Paramus, and Menlo Park, and the Veterans Administration facilities at Lyons and East Orange.

This year, the VA&R committee purchased \$850 of items off of the East Orange VA's list. Members of SAL Squadron 70 of Nutley, Squadron 105 of Belleville, and the VA&R committee dropped off six cases to the hospital on Tremont Avenue – which included 48 pairs of shoes, 24 sweatshirts, 36 pairs of sweatpants, and 38 pairs of non-slip socks. Squadron 105 also donated a case of twelve jackets which they received from a January coat drive run by Crawford-Crews Post 251 in Montclair. In the end, this March delivery ended up being an effort made by Legionnaires and Sons from all across Essex County.



Ken Ackerman, Commander Squadron 70, Nutley; Ed Hall, dual members Post and Squadron 105, Belleville; Latisha Eaves, East Orange VA; Rusty Myers, DEC Essex County and member of the VA&R committee; Steve Sangemino, Commander Squadron 105, Belleville.

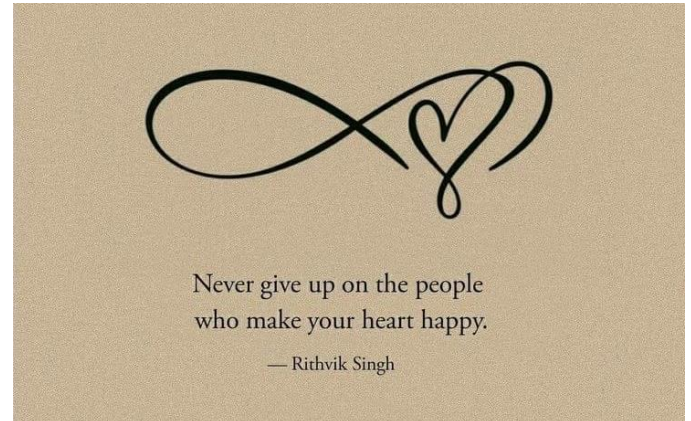
submitted photo

Of the four Sons who assisted in the drop off, Ken Ackerman, commander of Squadron 70 in Nutley, wrote that "I feel very proud to be able to serve our veterans in every way possible." His thoughts were echoed by Ed Hall, who is both a member of the Sons honoring his father's service and an Army veteran himself – "As Sons of the American Legion we constantly strive to help our American veterans who without a doubt put their lives in harm's way to protect and take care of us ... hopefully [we] made some vets very happy

and left them knowing they aren't forgotten and are very much appreciated."

The drop off was planned for 30 March, which was a day after 29 March's Vietnam Veterans Day. In a fitting twist of fate, one of the staff members from the VA who helped load out the cases of clothing was Earl "Slim" Ayler, a Vietnam veteran who flew as a helicopter pilot in the Army. Seeing his hat which proudly displayed that he served in Southeast Asia, the SAL's honored his service by saying to him "Welcome Home."

It is the SAL's hope that these items assist in keeping the supply of clothing stocked for the veterans at the hospital, going a long way to reaffirm the commitment of the Sons of the American Legion to our veterans. Detachment VA&R chairman Patrick Gallagher noted afterwards that "...it's a great honor to do whatever we can to help our veterans across the State of New Jersey."



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 **AMERICAN  
LEGION  
RIDERS**

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 **AMERICAN  
LEGION  
AUXILIARY**

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



Vickie Koutz, National President  
The American Legion Auxiliary





# ALA UNIT 1 FLEA MARKET

APRIL  
29, 2023

9:00AM  
3:00PM

VENDOR BOOTH  
AVAILABLE  
\$30 PER TABLE



AMERICAN LEGION POST 1  
1120 E 8th St Tulsa OK 74120

# SPORTS



Palou drives No. 10 American Legion Honda to third-place finish in Texas  
The American Legion | April 3, 2023

On a day when Josef Newgarden and Pato O'Ward combined to lead 214 of the race's 250 laps, Chip Ganassi Racing's Alex Palou nearly stole the show.

Driving the No. 10 American Legion Honda with the Legion's "Be the One" suicide-prevention initiative featured on his livery, Palou took the lead in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES PPG 375 at Texas Motor Speedway on Sunday with 48 laps to go, led as late as lap 242 and battled Newgarden and O'Ward the rest of the race on his way to a third-place finish.

Newgarden would take the lead on lap 249 from O'Ward just seconds before Romain Grosjean crashed in Turn 2 to end the race on a yellow caution flag.

Palou, who was a lap down at one point in the race, said Sunday's finish felt bigger than third.

"We finished (third) and it feels like a win today," Palou said via Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) media. "The No. 10 The American Legion car was really fast, and I felt very comfortable all weekend, but especially today. It was allowing me to overtake when I wanted and be super racey."

"It was a shame at the end because we were super close to the win. I can't wait for the next one and we'll be ready trying to get our first win of the season in Long Beach."

The third-place finish was the 15th time Palou – who turned 26 on April 2 – has secured a top-three finish for CGR. Palou teammates Scott Dixon (fifth) and Marcus Ericsson (eighth) gave CGR three top-10 finishes. Ericsson is second in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES point standings, while Dixon in third and Palou fifth.

CGR's Takuma Sato qualified seventh but was forced to retire from the race on the 46th lap after spinning in Turn Two and making contact with the wall.

The NTT INDYCAR SERIES next heads to California for the Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach on Sunday, April 16.





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# SQUADRON EVERLASTING

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

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## John Kenneth Roberts



John Kenneth Roberts, 78, of Canton, GA, peacefully transitioned from this earth to his eternal home in Heaven on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at Heritage Hospice.

Ken was born on August 23, 1944 in Marietta, Georgia to the late John H. and Mary M. Roberts. He married the love of life, Pat Fouts, on March 19, 1965. He was

a devoted husband and father and greatly adored his four grandchildren who called him Papa.

Ken graduated from McEachern High School in 1965. He was a plumber for many years. He received an associate degree in applied Electronics from Marietta-Cobb Area Vocational Technical School. He was previously employed with Systems Atlanta, Inc., and the McKesson Corporation. He also greatly enjoyed working for Northside Pharmacy where he delivered medications to elderly members of the community.

Along with his late wife Pat, he nurtured and cared for many babies in local church nurseries for many years. Ken served his country honorably in the U.S. Army from 1966-1968 during the Vietnam War. He was an active member of The American Legion for over 25 years, having served in many leadership roles. He was named the Legionnaire of the Year in 2004. Ken was instrumental in helping plan a trip to Washington, D.C. for WWI veterans to witness the dedication of the WWI Memorial. He was also a member of the Sons of The American Legion.

Ken was an active member of Sutallee Baptist Church, where he regularly attended the Joy Sunday School Class, volunteered with the Brotherhood Men's Ministry, and helped with refreshments during Vacation Bible School. He was always willing to lend a helping hand. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Pat Roberts.

Mr. Roberts is survived by his children, Silas Roberts, Jason

Roberts (Jenny), and Tammy Sweeney (Sean); grandchildren, Brandon Roberts (Brittany), Jake Roberts, Jonathan Sweeney, and Megan Sweeney; sisters-in-law, Paulette Fouts and Lynda Entsminger; nieces, nephews, cousins; beloved dog, Gucci; and host of extended family and friends also survive.

Funeral services are scheduled for 11:00 am Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at Sutallee Baptist Church (895 Knox Bridge Hwy., White, GA 30184) with Rev. Billy Edmondson and Rev. Randy Blanton officiating. Interment will be 10:00 am Thursday, April 6, 2023 at Georgia National Cemetery with military honors. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Tuesday from 2:00 pm until 8:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Sutallee Baptist Church Brotherhood Men's Ministry (895 Knox Bridge Hwy., White, GA 30184 [www.sutalleebaptist.com](http://www.sutalleebaptist.com) 770-479-0101) or House of Today Ministries, Inc. (P.O. Box 2528 Powder Springs, GA 30127 [www.houseoftodayministries.com](http://www.houseoftodayministries.com)).

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Ken, please visit our Tree Store.

Published by Sosebee Funeral Home on Apr. 4, 2023.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](http://SympathyStore.com).

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## James Michael Moran



Brownville, New York (WNNY) - James Michael Moran, 82, of Brownville, NY, passed away peacefully on March 31, 2023 at the Samaritan Medical Center.

He was born on July 18, 1940 in Fulton, NY, son of the late James C. Moran and Margaret A. (Boland)

Melfi.

James graduated from Fulton High School where he played football. He continued playing football at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, SD. Upon returning home he became a journey lineman with IBEW 1249 out of Syracuse for 40 years.

He married Joyce Arnosky of Star Lake, NY on May 10, 1968 in Oriskany, NY. The couple resided in Brownville most of their married lives. Joyce passed away on October 16, 2014. James loved playing football and continued to play for the Red & Black in the 70's, earning an MVP award and was inducted into the Red & Black Hall of Fame. Following his retirement, he spent most of his time at his cottage in Bernhards Bay on Oneida Lake. He was also an avid fisher and hunter. James was a Life Member of the Watertown Elks Lodge #496, member of the Sons of the American Legion in Brownville and Eagles Club.

Among his survivors are his daughter and son-in-law, Kathleen A (Richard) Walters, Adams, NY; a son and daughter-in-law, Michael C. (Jennifer) Moran, Watervliet, NY; a daughter, Kelley S. Hayes, Sioux Falls, SD; three grandchildren, Joshua M. Tuton, Dakota J. Walters and Madalyn R. Moran; two great grandchildren, Noah R. Walters and Scarlett J. Tuton; a sister and brother-in-law, Kathleen (Robert) Cline, Hannibal, NY.

Besides his parents he is also predeceased by his stepfather Vincent Melfi.

Calling hours will be held from 1 to 4 p.m., on Saturday, April 8th at the Johnson Funeral Home, Dexter, NY.

The family would like to thank the staff of SMC 4th floor Pavilion for their kindness and supportive care during our difficult time.

Donations may be made in James memory to the American Cancer Society.

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

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## Ronald D. Golightley



Ronald D. Golightley, a leader in his Sons of the American Legion unit, who became fiscal officer of Wood County's Freedom Township after retiring from a career with the Ohio Turnpike, died Sunday in Ayden Healthcare, Waterville, OH. He was 66.

The cause was complications of a stroke suffered in November, 2021, his wife, Janet Golightley, said.

Township trustees appointed Mr. Golightley in 2014 to

complete the term of fiscal officer David Gerwin, who had died. Among those interviewed for the post, "Ron stood out as someone who was going to take the bull by the horns and run with the job," said Kent Schuerman, now chairman of the trustees.

Mr. Golightley ran successfully in 2015 for a four-year term. He was unsuccessful in his 2019 re-election bid.

The fiscal officer, being elected independently, has the authority "to have a role and have a voice in how local government operates," Mr. Schuerman said. "He was a very passionate individual, passionate about his job. I can't say enough good about him.

"It's being a member of a team with the three trustees," he said. "Ron was not originally from the community. He became an important part of the community."

Mr. Golightley was dedicated to the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 183, affiliated with the legion post in Pemberville. His leadership roles included serving as commander. He eagerly volunteered for activities, including the golf cart raffle at the annual Pemberville Free Fair, with proceeds benefiting charity.

"He was a personable, likable guy," Mrs. Golightley said. "He liked being part of a group that said, 'Yes, we contributed.'"

His son, Andy, added: "He liked the sense of community in Pemberville and pretty much knew everybody. He cared about people."

Mr. Golightley joined other squadron members in helping to coordinate summer tournaments featuring teams from across the United States and Canada at the legion's ballpark. The tradition of the ballpark resonated with him.

"It's a good tradition," said Sam Black, Squadron first vice commander. "Ron was a big Cleveland Indians fan, and he liked baseball, and there was a lot of camaraderie between us guys who were out there doing stuff."

Mr. Golightley was a 30-year employee of the Ohio Turnpike Commission, retiring in 2014 as senior toll collector, and oversaw the Elmore and Fremont gates.

During his career, he worked at turnpike gates from Swanton to the Cleveland area. As senior collector, he trained new employees and was praised for "how thorough and patient he was in that capacity," Mrs. Golightley said. "He was well-known and well-liked.

"He took great pride that in 30 years of work, he missed zero days because of weather," she said. "He might have been late, but he knew he was depended on."

A longtime bowler, he took part in the United States Bowling Congress seniors tournament in 2015 in Wisconsin. He often read two or three books at a time - David Baldacci and James Patterson were favorite authors - and he was a regular patron of the Pemberville Public Library.

He was born Dec. 22, 1956, at what is now Mercy Health St. Charles Hospital in Oregon to Charlotte and Thomas Golightley. He grew up in East Toledo and was a 1974 graduate of Macomber Vocational High School.

Surviving are his wife, the former Janet Kurfess, whom he married Sept. 16, 1983; son, Andy Golightley; sister, Debby Bayes, and a grandson.

Family and friends will be received from 3-7 p.m. Friday at the Marsh & Marsteller Funeral Home, Luckey. Funeral services will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home, with visitation after 10 a.m. The family asks that attendees wear a mask.

The family suggests tributes to the Ability Center, [abilitycenter.org/donate/](http://abilitycenter.org/donate/).

When Monday gets here, let's all try to get as many delinquent members as we can to renew, and see how far past the 90% goal we can get!

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

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

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

[click a button for more information](#)

JOIN THE SAL

BE THE ONE

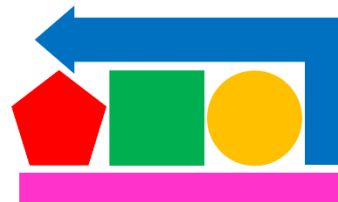
NEF

DONATE

EMBLEM  
SALES



## 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.



With a holiday weekend upon us, I want to wish everyone a blessed time spent with family and friends. Enjoy the services and festivities of the next few days, then it's back at it on Monday.







Now is a great time to sign up for the Grassroots Action Center as the legislative sessions are in full swing. Just last week, American Legion representatives [testified three times on Capitol Hill](#).

Thank you for what you do every day to improve the lives of our fellow veterans, servicemembers and their families.

Vincent “Jim” Troiola, National Commander  
The American Legion

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## Join our advocacy efforts in Congress

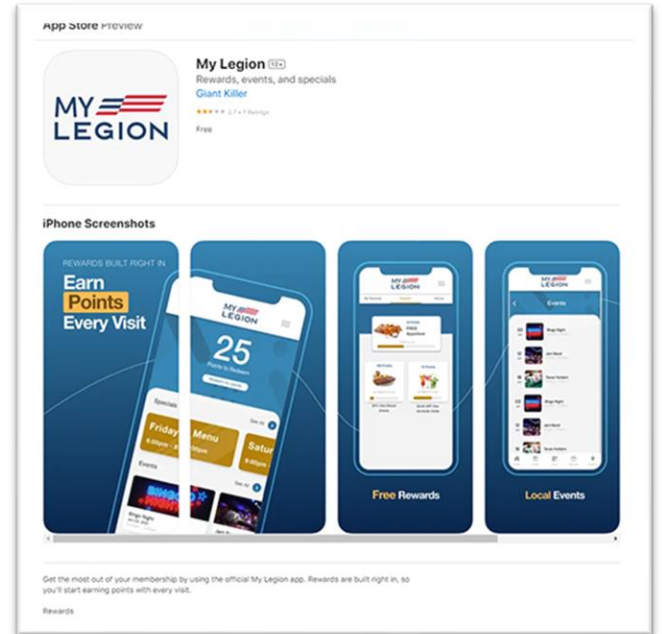
April 5, 2023

Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends,

As the nation's largest veterans service organization, The American Legion wields significant influence on Capitol Hill. That is why it is so critical that our membership is not only strong in numbers but active in advocacy.

Regardless of whether you live in Washington, D.C, Washington County in Illinois or Walla Walla in Washington state, your participation matters. And it's easy to make your voice heard, too. Join our grassroots advocacy via [The American Legion's Grassroots Action Center](#). It offers information to stay informed on the issues and tools to communicate online with lawmakers and the media about [our legislative priorities](#).

Throughout this legislative session, we will ask you to contact your members of Congress to encourage them to pass bills that are among the Legion's priorities. Last summer, when Senate passage of the PACT Act was in doubt, American Legion members responded. More than 34,000 emails were sent, calling on senators to approve the legislation. Thanks to that advocacy effort, millions of veterans — from the Vietnam era through the Global War on Terrorism — are being compensated for their service-connected toxic exposure.



## Legionnaires warned to not download unauthorized My Legion app

The American Legion | April 3, 2023

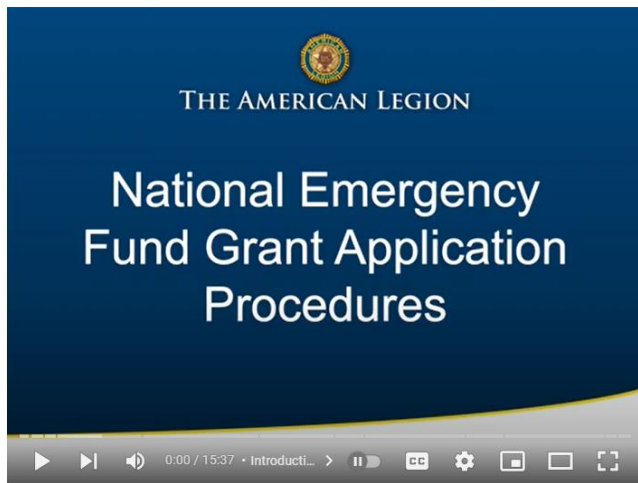
American Legion National Headquarters IT staff has become aware of an unauthorized “My Legion App” currently available from the Android and Apple stores. The app was created by organizations identified as “Giant Killer” (Apple App Store) and “Feel Good 7” (Google Play).

Please do not engage with these sellers or download the app, as they do not have permission to use our name and likeness, and they are charging a monthly fee. The American Legion's intellectual property attorney is exploring legal options.

American Legion National Headquarters has no plans produce a fee-for-service app. We are actively working on a mobile application focused on helping local posts and individual members.

When our official app is ready, it will be announced through official Legion channels and will be identified with The American Legion as the “seller” once published to the app stores.

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## How to apply for an NEF grant

The American Legion | April 5, 2023

The American Legion's National Emergency Fund (NEF) provides up to \$3,000 for qualified Legionnaires or Sons of The American Legion, and up to \$10,000 for qualified American Legion posts which have been affected by [declared natural disasters](#).

To be eligible for an individual grant, the Legionnaire or Son:

1. Must have been displaced from their primary residence due to damage sustained during a declared natural disaster.
2. Must provide copies of receipts of items required to meet immediate needs, such as housing, food, water, clothing, etc., during the period immediately following the disaster.
3. Must be an active member at the time of the disaster and the time of application.

The American Legion has created a presentation which discusses details on the NEF grant, including what the NEF covers and does not cover and how to complete the NEF application. Click [here](#) to view that presentation.

For more details on the NEF, click [here](#).

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## 'Dark clouds of a nuclear war' hang over South Korea after joint drills, North says

David Choi/Stars and Stripes | April 6, 2023

North Korea's state-run news agency on Thursday condemned the United States and South Korea for their largest-ever joint military drills and warned that they raised regional tensions to an “extremely critical phase.”

The “unprecedented” military drills last month targeted Pyongyang, which will respond “through offensive action,” according to a column on the Korean Central News Agency website. The author was identified as Choe Ju Hyon, a purported international security analyst.

The U.S. and South Korean armed forces completed several large-scale drills throughout South Korea last month, including demonstrations on land, in the air and at sea. Presidents Joe Biden and Yoon Suk Yeol [promised in May to increase the size and pace of the allies' military exercises](#) in response to continuing North Korean ballistic missile tests. The two militaries most recently drilled on Wednesday with South Korean F-35A and U.S. F-35B Lightning II stealth fighters, F-16 Fighting Falcons and a B-52H Stratofortress bomber, according to a South Korean Ministry of National Defense news release the same day.

KCNA on Thursday described the allies' recent military maneuvers as bringing “dark clouds of a nuclear war” over the Korean Peninsula. U.S. and South Korean commanders consistently describe their drills as defensive preparations for a Northern attack.

On the ground, the U.S. and South Korean armies [conducted Warrior Shield](#), the largest field exercise by the two countries in six years. The four-day exercise, which ended March 23, included live-fire artillery drills and roughly 1,200 troops at sites as close as 16 miles from the Demilitarized Zone separating the two Koreas.

At sea, thousands of U.S. sailors and Marines [joined their South Korean counterparts](#) for the two-week Ssangyong Exercise, which featured more than 30 ships, 70 aircraft and roughly 50 amphibious assault vessels. Ssangyong included an amphibious landing staged by South Korean and U.S. Marines and the Navy's Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group.

A cross-section of the U.S. warplane inventory took part in Warrior Shield and Ssangyong — Army AH-64E Apache attack helicopters, Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II Warthogs and Marine Corps V-22 Ospreys. Air Force and South Korean bomber and fighter formations flew over the Korean Peninsula in separate training and airpower demonstrations.

In a [separate naval exercise Monday](#), the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group and South Korean destroyers were joined by Japan's JS Umigiri destroyer to practice their defense against North Korean underwater and missile threats. The drills — the first of their kind in seven years — included maritime assistance scenarios, according to the Ministry of National Defense.

North Korea has fired 11 ballistic missiles in eight separate days of testing so far this year. The communist regime [last fired two short-range ballistic missiles](#) on March 27.

South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the most recent missile launches as a demonstration of the North's "vulnerability and insecurity," according to a statement released the day of the launches.

North Korea's latest missile comes roughly three weeks before Biden and Yoon are scheduled to meet at the White House. The state visit on April 26 will celebrate "the historic 70th anniversary" of the U.S. and South Korean alliance, Yoon's presidential office said in a statement last month.

## Jack Holder, Pearl Harbor Survivor Memorial Service

- April 14, 2023
- 1:00 p.m.  
Cornerstone Church  
1595 S. Alma School Rd.  
Chandler, Arizona 85286
- Dress is business casual
- Fellowship to follow on the campus



Jack Holder was a living American Hero who lived to be over 101 years old. He was a distinguished World War II Veterans, and one of the last remaining Pearl Harbor Survivors. As a US Navy Flight Engineer, he flew in well over 100 missions in World War II including the infamous 1942 Battle of Midway, Guadalcanal and all the Solomon Islands, the English Channel, and the Bay of Biscay on the west coast of France.

Jack and his Navy flight crew mates bravely flew those missions wondering for good reason...if each would be their last. In 1948, US Navy Flight Engineer, Jack Holder received an honorable discharge in 1948. He took with him 36 medals and Commendations, which included two Distinguished Flying Crosses.

Post Military, Jack spent over 25 years on corporate and commercial aircraft. First as a Mechanic, then as a Co-Pilot onto becoming a Pilot, which he trained himself and went to school while working. During his days of flying, he took time out to become a Pro-Golfer for two years. Jack is also

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Visit [www.redmountainfuneralhome.com/obituaries](http://www.redmountainfuneralhome.com/obituaries) to express your condolences and/or make a donation for his living memorials and to carry out his final wishes, in lieu of flowers.

*American Legion Family  
Joint Testimonial*

**Saturday, May 20, 2022**  
4:00pm Social Hour | 5:00pm Dinner

**M E N U**

Choice of Maple Bacon Wrapped Pork Loin or Shrimp Stuffed Haddock  
Green Beans  
Mashed Potatoes  
Rolls and Butter  
Dessert  
\$25.00 Per Person  
Program to follow after dinner

RSVP by May 5th  
Mail check and meal choice to Tricia  
Thurston with checks payable to American  
Legion Post 24

Local Hotels:  
Best Western - 207.507.4061  
Hotel Rumford - 207.364.3621  
Blue Iris - 207.364.4495

**Napoleon- Quелlette Post 24**  
184 Congress Street | Rumford, ME





*American Legion Department Commander - Kirk Thurston  
American Legion Auxiliary President - Debra Rumery  
Sons of American Legion Commander - Mike Hustus*

Kitchen Hours Mon-12 & Sat-Sundays Tues 12-7, Fri 12-7 Sun 6:30-7			   AMERICAN LEGION POST 25			1400 US 27 N Lake Placid, FL 33852 863-465-0975
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Every Sunday Chips Ahoy—3 pm  Chef's Choice	Every Tuesday Chips Ahoy—3 pm \$2 Bloody Marys \$1 Drinks Darts—6 pm 	Every Tuesday Chips Ahoy—3 pm SAL Bings—6:30 pm E-Drinks—1 pm \$1 Draft—\$3 Margaritas 	Every Wednesday Ship-Captain-Crew 6 pm 	Every Thursday Poker—1 pm Chips Ahoy—3 pm 	Every Friday Chips Ahoy—1 pm Yonni's Drink Special 11-4 	Every Saturday Chips Ahoy—1 pm Tues 12-7—1:30 pm \$2 Bloody Marys 
 <b>APRIL Drink Special: Raspberry Sparkler - \$4.00</b>						
<b>2</b> Chef's Choice SNL Drink 5-8 pm 	<b>3</b> SAL Meeting - 6 pm 	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b> Wings Steak Night Cowboy 5-9 pm 	<b>6</b> Create a Pizza 4:30-7 pm 	<b>7</b> Prime Rib Fish Fry Jay 6-9 pm 	<b>8</b> Car Show 11-2 Saturday Drivers 
<b>9</b>  CLOSED	<b>10</b> Aux Mtg - 6 pm E Board Mtg - 6 pm Gen Mtg - 7 pm 	<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b> Wings Steak Night Memorials Dance 5-8 pm 	<b>13</b> Create a Pizza 4:30-7 pm 	<b>14</b> Prime Rib Fish Fry Randy Sultans 6-9 pm 	<b>15</b> Megacons Karaoke 5 pm Saturday Drivers 
<b>16</b> Chef's Choice A Lil' Mixed Up 5-8 pm 	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b> Wings Steak Night Tom Hanson 5-8 pm 	<b>20</b> Create a Pizza 4:30-7 pm 	<b>21</b> Prime Rib Fish Fry George & Gwen 6-9 pm 	<b>22</b> Corvette Show 11-2 Saturday Drivers 
<b>23</b> Chef's Choice 6-8pm 5-8 pm Chef's Choice Memorials Dance 8-9 pm 	<b>24</b> 	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b> Wings Steak Night Jay & Lora 5-8 pm 	<b>27</b> Create a Pizza 4:30-7 pm 	<b>28</b> Prime Rib Fish Fry Lee Allison 6-9 pm 	<b>29</b> Saturday Drivers 
<b>30</b>						

Please consider making a donation to support our mission.  
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198 First Street Brentwood, N.Y. 11717  
Deadline for collections is May 7th 2023.  
For further information please contact Chris Cerullo (347)418-7172  
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07/01/23



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04/05/23		NATIONAL   Christopher Carlton (IN), National Commander					
Region		Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date
1	Southern 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	43,793	41,316	(2,477)	94.34%	178	
2	Central 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	128,333	118,734	(9,599)	92.52%	496	
3	Eastern 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	140,932	130,315	(10,617)	92.47%	673	
4	Midwest 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	28,918	26,182	(2,736)	90.54%	35	
5	Western 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	25,822	23,327	(2,495)	90.34%	69	
TOTALS 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		367,798	339,874	(27,924)	92.41%	1,451	



04/05/23		CENTRAL REGION   David Mennell (MI), National Vice-Commander							
Detachment		Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1	Michigan 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	24,271	23,263	(1,008)	95.85%	42	83.89%	9	
2	Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	4,187	3,935	(252)	93.98%	10	81.54%	17	
3	Ohio 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	30,636	28,679	(1,957)	93.61%	31	85.34%	18	
4	Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8	13,398	12,448	(950)	92.91%	83	83.41%	21	
5	Iowa 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	4,857	4,451	(406)	91.64%	-	80.56%	31	
6	Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	3,219	2,920	(299)	90.71%	6	79.45%	36	
7	Indiana 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	36,387	32,944	(3,443)	90.54%	320	82.18%	37	
8	Minnesota 5, 6, 7	11,378	10,094	(1,284)	88.72%	4	80.54%	44	
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		128,333	118,734	(9,599)	92.52%	496			

04/05/23		WESTERN REGION   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	94	17	122.08%	-	100.00%	1	10/10/22
2	Oregon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,414	1,356	(58)	95.90%	-	75.82%	8	
3	Arizona 5, 6, 7	8,004	7,387	(617)	92.29%	36	72.87%	23	
4	Washington 7	2,485	2,278	(207)	91.67%	8	71.62%	30	
5	Idaho 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8	644	586	(58)	90.99%	2	72.81%	33	
6	Nevada 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	357	323	(34)	90.48%	2	67.96%	38	
7	Alaska 3, 6	1,608	1,446	(162)	89.93%	1	71.41%	41	
8	California 1, 5, 6, 7	10,714	9,463	(1,251)	88.32%	20	73.46%	45	
9	Phillippines	70	55	(15)	78.57%	-	77.94%	51	
10	Utah 5	449	339	(110)	75.50%	-	61.05%	53	
TOTALS 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		25,822	23,327	(2,495)	90.34%	69			

04/05/23		SOUTHERN REGION   Ron Roberts (MS), National Vice-Commander							
Detachment		Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1	Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Q	123	131	8	106.50%	-	85.95%	3	03/02/23
2	Florida 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	21,519	21,051	(468)	97.83%	82	79.18%	6	
3	Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	4,490	4,286	(204)	95.46%	6	80.38%	10	
4	Virginia 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	4,109	3,909	(200)	95.13%	38	80.61%	12	
5	South Carolina 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,473	1,394	(79)	94.64%	5	79.59%	15	
6	Tennessee 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8	1,718	1,588	(130)	92.43%	4	74.41%	22	
7	Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,790	1,642	(148)	91.73%	34	81.76%	29	
8	North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2,727	2,494	(233)	91.46%	1	74.37%	32	
9	Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2,066	1,876	(190)	90.80%	2	76.76%	34	
10	Mississippi 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	722	641	(81)	88.78%	-	75.27%	43	
11	Arkansas 1	447	351	(96)	78.52%	-	66.44%	52	
12	Kentucky	2,609	1,953	(656)	74.86%	6	63.55%	54	
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		43,793	41,316	(2,477)	94.34%	178			



04/05/23		MIDWEST REGION   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, 10	1,362	1,480	118	108.66%	-	86.70%	2	02/09/23
2	Mexico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Q	31	32	1	103.23%	-	51.61%	4	03/13/23
3	North Dakota 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8	1,056	973	(83)	92.14%	-	81.02%	25	
4	Nebraska 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	7,015	6,450	(565)	91.95%	-	87.04%	26	
5	Kansas 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	5,919	5,436	(483)	91.84%	8	81.61%	27	
6	Colorado 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2,729	2,504	(225)	91.76%	1	78.05%	28	
7	New Mexico	1,483	1,318	(165)	88.87%	1	70.95%	42	
8	Montana 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,108	978	(130)	88.27%	2	81.93%	47	
9	Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,348	1,183	(165)	87.76%	1	68.82%	48	
10	Texas 1, 3, 4, 5	5,569	4,744	(825)	85.19%	20	69.21%	49	
11	Wyoming 1, 4, 5, 6	1,298	1,084	(214)	83.51%	2	73.05%	50	
TOTALS 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		28,918	26,182	(2,736)	90.54%	35			

04/05/23		EASTERN REGION   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	155	(3)	98.10%	-	87.82%	5	
2	Delaware 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2,430	2,334	(96)	96.05%	8	81.05%	7	
3	West Virginia 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2,362	2,252	(110)	95.34%	-	78.21%	11	
4	Maryland 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	16,058	15,219	(839)	94.78%	23	84.60%	13	
5	Rhode Island 4, 5, 7	336	318	(18)	94.64%	20	81.21%	14	
6	Maine 5, 6, 7, 8	2,617	2,467	(150)	94.27%	8	81.08%	16	
7	Pennsylvania 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	60,803	56,627	(4,176)	93.13%	28	84.84%	19	
8	Vermont 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	3,818	3,552	(266)	93.03%	8	84.09%	20	
9	New Hampshire 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	5,677	5,237	(440)	92.25%	10	80.48%	24	
10	New York 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	29,864	27,113	(2,751)	90.79%	36	82.35%	35	
11	Connecticut 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,867	1,689	(178)	90.47%	8	80.28%	39	
12	New Jersey 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	9,386	8,480	(906)	90.35%	418	79.70%	40	
13	Massachusetts 4, 6, 7	5,442	4,805	(637)	88.29%	106	77.64%	46	
14	Dist. of Columbia	114	67	(47)	58.77%	-	46.90%	55	
TOTALS 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		140,932	130,315	(10,617)	92.47%	673			

04/05/23		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, 8	21,519	21,051	(468)	97.83%	82	79.18%	6	
2	Michigan 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	24,271	23,263	(1,008)	95.85%	42	83.69%	9	
3	Ohio 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	30,636	28,679	(1,957)	93.61%	31	85.34%	18	
4	Pennsylvania 5, 6, 7, 8	60,803	56,627	(4,176)	93.13%	28	84.84%	19	
5	New York 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	29,864	27,113	(2,751)	90.79%	36	82.35%	35	
6	Indiana 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	36,387	32,944	(3,443)	90.54%	320	82.18%	37	
TOTALS		203,480	189,677	(13,803)	93.22%	539			

National Totals 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	367,798	339,874	(27,924)	92.41%	1,451	81.41%		
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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%

