

Next Goal

90%

April 19, 2023

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

Volume 4 | Number 30 | Issue 181 | April 16, 2023

Will Russia survive Putin's war?

Alan W. Dowd | April 10, 2023



"Nations are not eternal," French philosopher Ernest Renan observed in 1882. "They have a beginning, and they will have an end."

That's something to keep in mind as we assess the damage Vladimir Putin's war against Ukraine is doing to Russia.

Cannon fodder. The situation in Russia is increasingly fraught. Putin believed he would seize Ukraine in three days, show off the capabilities of the Russian army and revive the Russian Empire. Instead, he has galvanized and unified Ukraine, broken the Russian army and set in motion forces that could fracture Russia itself.

Those forces now unleashed in Russia are embodied by restive and resentful people groups who see a window of opportunity opening, as well as military fiefdoms who could play the role of kingmaker or nation-maker in the wake of Putin's debacle in Ukraine. Let's start with Russia's restive ethno-national groups.

By its own census tally, the Russian Federation enfolds 193 ethnic groups and 270 languages. Unlike America, which is indeed highly diverse, Russia's

ethno-national groups aren't held together by a shared idea. Nor are they assimilated into something bigger than their group. Nor does it appear that Putin's regime has the power – or largesse – to hold them together indefinitely. As an *Economist* analysis <u>details</u>, "For the past decade the main job of the Moscow-appointed governors has been to provide votes for Putin. In exchange, they received a share of oil revenues and the right to rule as they see fit." These regions and statelets could break away if Putin falls.

The Russian Federation enfolds more than 80 autonomous regions, districts, and territories. These include Chechnya, an enclave in southern Russia which has fought unsuccessful wars for independence against Moscow in the 1800s and 1900s; Dagestan, a region with 33 distinct nationalities; the Ural Republic, which attempted to go independent in 1993; Tatarstan, Siberia and Karelia, each of which declared "sovereignty" in the early 1990s; Kalmykia, which has made moves toward independence; Bashkortostan, which claims political autonomy; the vast Sakha Republic in eastern Russia; and scores of other regions. One of those regions is the St. Petersburg district, where members of the city council have called on the Russian legislature "to indict the Russian president for treason and remove him from his post."

Moscow's apparent use of ethnic minorities as cannon fodder in Ukraine could add fuel to the bitter resentment that already smolders in Russia's hinterlands. The British Ministry of Defense, for example, reports that the death rate of troops deployed from eastern Russia to Ukraine as a percentage of the population is "30 to 40 times higher" than the death rate of troops deployed from the Moscow region.

see PUTIN page 21



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)

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Jack Youngs (ID)

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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 jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com. If you need assistance, please send an email to same.

All information must be submitted by noon each Friday.

PNVC <u>Jeff Vrabel</u>, Sr., Editor <u>Rusty Myers</u>, Contributor Lou Michaels, Contributor



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



RENEW ONLINE TODAY







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 regained 2nd place again. Your "BELIEVE AND RECEIVE" is surely incredible. I congratulate all eight Detachments for succeeding in regaining 2nd place once again. We also moved a little closer to 1st place Southern Region.

The Central Region was 2.01% on April 10, to now 1.64% closer to the 1st place Southern Region. The Beast from the East will not take this lightly. The Central Region only passed up the Eastern Region by a mere 0.29%. We are less than a week away from the April 19 Target Date Goal, with only one Detachment at 0.96% away from the goal. All five Regions are doing extremely well in membership. We have forty-five Detachments at or above goal. We have National reporting that we are sitting at 93.81%, with 345,000 members.

Remember to "BE THE ONE" and at the same time, stay "SALSTRONG" for our purpose and cause.

Robert L Bristo, Membership Chairman Central Region



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

BETHEONE

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 or text 838255.

Posts prioritizing Be the One initiative

The American Legion | April 13, 2023

American Legion posts are rallying around the organization's initiative to <u>Be the One</u> to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. Take, for example, American Legion Post 532 in Hayesville, N.C. The post will host a <u>Challenge 2.2 Walk</u> later this month to raise

3 | BETONE | Round-Up

awareness and eliminate the stigma related to mental health treatment.

Some other recent examples:

- In Maryland, American Legion Post 2 is <u>creating</u> <u>a support group</u> for survivors of Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs). Members are partnering with VA to offer services to local veterans as a way to address the Be the One campaign.
- In Simsbury, Conn., <u>American Legion Tomalonis-Hall Post 84</u> will be at the New England Air Museum on May 20, raising awareness about Be the One.



photo by Jeric Wilhelmsen

There are many resources available for American Legion Family members to use in support of Be the One. This video is a great tutorial of how a Legionnaire in Arizona used Be the One promotional materials at his post's successful event.

Among other materials that can be found at <u>the resources</u> web page:

- A set of brochures available for down-load: One brochure is a PDF that can be used to educate agencies with mental health services, community partners, local government leaders and others about Be the One. The other brochure is a Word document that can be down-loaded and customized for posts to use at suicide awareness events. The entire back page of the trifold is intentionally left blank (other than directions, which can be deleted) so that posts can fill it with local resources.
- **Branding materials:** A variety of approved American Legion Be the One promotional materials that posts can use to promote the initiative.
- **Banner stand:** This is a print-ready file to send to a local or online vendor for a two-foot by six-foot banner that is vinyl or fabric pop-up display

- Posters: These can be downloaded and printed individually or as the front and back of a sign board for an event.
- Wallet cards: Business-card sized printables with Be The One branding and QR codes. Can be used as single-sided cards, combined for doublesided cards, or added to the back side of a personal business card.
- **Video links:** Vimeo playlist includes videos that can be downloaded and played while offline. They can be shared on social media, posted to the web, and played at post events.
- **A QR Code:** This can be used to direct others to the web page to find information and resources related to the campaign.



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



As of April 16, 2023, 15,423 flags have been placed and reported to honor our veterans since September 1, 2022



BE**™**ONE

Round-Up

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

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

PAGE 1 OF 2

CITIED	VVE		UNDATION	_		INA		LIOKI		
DETACHMENT	l n	2022 Onations	2022 MEMBERSHIP	-	2023 CWF GOAL	١.,	2023 Onations	% OF	DON	ATIONS
DETACHMENT	D	(FINAL)	(FINAL)		(FINAL)		CURRENT)	GOAL	PER	CAPITA
AL - ALABAMA	\$	2,786.00	2,053	\$	2,053.00	\$	1,466.00	71.4%	s	0.7
AK - ALASKA	\$	3,200.00	1,627	s	1,627.00	\$	1,678.00	103.1%	\$	1.0
AZ - ARIZONA	\$	12,170.00	8,076	s	8,076.00	\$	13,249.00	164.1%	\$	1.6
AR - ARKANSAS	-	12,170.00	441	s	441.00	s	700.00	158.7%	\$	1.5
CA - CALIFORNIA	s	6.842.48	10.728	S	10.728.00	s	1.383.56	12.9%	S	0.1
CO - COLORADO	S	23.235.00	2.784	s	2,784.00	S	18,780.00	674.6%	\$	6.7
CT - CONNECTICUT	S	1.580.82	1,856	S	1.856.00	S	1,100.00	59.3%	\$	0.7
DE - DELAWARE	S	1,950.00	2,433	\$	2,433.00	S	250.00	10.3%	\$	0.10
DC - DIST OF COL	۹	1,930.00	113	\$	113.00	1	250.00	0.0%	\$	0.11
FL - FLORIDA	\$	23,230.00	21,568	\$	21,568.00	_	19,421.00	90.0%	\$	0.9
FR - FRANCE	٥	23,230.00		\$		\$				
	_	44 700 00	156	-	156.00	\$	100.00	64.1%	\$	0.64
GA - GEORGIA	\$	11,789.00	4,452	\$	4,452.00	\$	1,753.00	39.4%	\$	0.39
HI - HAWAII	\$	1,016.00	75	\$	75.00	\$	300.00	400.0%	\$	4.00
ID - IDAHO	\$	1,001.00	645	\$	645.00	\$	200.00	31.0%	\$	0.3
IL - ILLINOIS	\$	11,697.83	13,348	\$	13,348.00	\$	4,539.78	34.0%	\$	0.34
IN - INDIANA	\$	32,645.05	35,836	\$	35,836.00	\$	2,125.00	5.9%	\$	0.0
IA - IOWA	\$	2,300.00	4,836	\$	4,836.00	\$	304.00	6.3%	\$	0.0
KS - KANSAS	\$	5,800.00	5,859	\$	5,859.00	\$	925.00	15.8%	\$	0.16
KY - KENTUCKY			2,586	\$	2,586.00			0.0%	\$	-
LA - LOUISIANA	\$	4,692.20	1,773	\$	1,773.00	\$	2,410.00	135.9%	\$	1.36
ME - MAINE	\$	2,610.00	2,596	\$	2,596.00	\$	100.00	3.9%	\$	0.04
MD - MARYLAND	\$	3,100.00	16,051	\$	16,051.00	\$	830.00	5.2%	\$	0.05
MA - MASSACHUSETTS	\$	4,011.00	5,500	\$	5,500.00	\$	5,621.00	102.2%	\$	1.02
MX - MEXICO			31	\$	31.00			0.0%	\$	-
MI - MICHIGAN	\$	8,688.33	24,311	\$	24,311.00	\$	8,062.00	33.2%	\$	0.33
MN - MINNESOTA	\$	17,625.09	11,289	\$	11,289.00	\$	9,281.91	82.2%	\$	0.82
MS - MISSISSIPPI	\$	6,476.00	725	\$	725.00	\$	187.00	25.8%	\$	0.26
MO - MISSOURI	\$	2,332.00	3,197	\$	3,197.00	\$	953.61	29.8%	\$	0.30
MT - MONTANA	\$	1,550.00	1,076	\$	1,076.00	\$	867.00	80.6%	\$	0.81
NE - NEBRASKA	\$	7,638.00	6,913	\$	6,913.00	\$	5,495.00	79.5%	\$	0.79
NV - NEVADA	\$	4,326.00	360	\$	360.00	\$	1,850.00	513.9%	s	5.14
NH - NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$	6.634.00	5,811	s	5.811.00	s	2,488,78	42.8%	\$	0.43
NJ - NEW JERSEY	\$	13,902.00	9,364	\$	9.364.00	\$	3,350.00	35.8%	\$	0.36
NM - NEW MEXICO	\$	200.00	1,504	\$	1,504.00	\$	4,900.00	325.8%	\$	3.26
NY - NEW YORK	\$	4,620.00	29,905	s	29,905.00	\$	11,681.00	39.1%	s	0.39
NC - NORTH CAROLINA	s	5,921.00	2,698	s	2.698.00	\$	4,831,75	179.1%	s	1.79
ND - NORTH DAKOTA	Ť	0,021.00	1,051	\$	1,051.00	Ť	4,001.70	0.0%	\$	
OH - OHIO	\$	6,646.25	30,144	s	30,144.00	\$	8,982.80	29.8%	\$	0.30
OK - OKLAHOMA	9	0,040.23	1,343	s	1.343.00	ľ	0,302.00	0.0%	\$	0.50
OR - OREGON	s	8.214.33	1,428	s	1,428.00	s	2.087.00	146.1%	\$	1.46
PA - PENNSYLVANIA	\$	38.798.86	60,612	s	60.612.00	s	14.092.44	23.3%	S	0.23
PI - PHILIPPINES	\$	350.00	67	\$	67.00	\$	75.00		\$	
	\$			\$		<u> </u>		111.9%	_	1.12
PR - PUERTO RICO		263.00	121		121.00	\$	10.00	8.3%	\$	0.08
RI - RHODE ISLAND	\$	350.00	330	\$	330.00	_	0.750.00	0.0%	\$	-
SC - SOUTH CAROLINA	\$	4,106.00	1,485	\$	1,485.00	\$	2,750.00	185.2%	\$	1.8
SD - SOUTH DAKOTA	\$	1,447.81	1,360	\$	1,360.00	\$	1,451.85	106.8%	\$	1.0
TN - TENNESSEE	\$	2,985.00	1,683	\$	1,683.00	\$	1,693.44	100.6%	\$	1.0
TX - TEXAS	\$	17,953.97	5,584	\$	5,584.00	\$	13,310.39	238.4%	\$	2.3
UT - UTAH	\$	185.00	442	\$	442.00	\$	475.00	107.5%	\$	1.0
VT - VERMONT	\$	8,875.23	3,830	\$	3,830.00	\$	1,950.00	50.9%	\$	0.5
VA - VIRGINIA	\$	6,532.00	4,079	\$	4,079.00	\$	16,077.00	394.1%	\$	3.9
WA - WASHINGTON	\$	1,480.00	2,504	\$	2,504.00	\$	1,675.00	66.9%	\$	0.6
WV - WEST VIRGINIA	\$	4,900.00	2,404	\$	2,404.00	\$	3,227.25	134.2%	\$	1.3
WI - WISCONSIN	\$	707.00	4,173	\$	4,173.00	\$	717.00	17.2%	\$	0.1
WY - WYOMING	\$	6,250.00	1,295	\$	1,295.00			0.0%	\$	-
NATIONAL HQ	\$	4,176.00		\$	-	\$	3,699.91			
GRAND TOTALS:	s	349,789.25	366,511	s	366,511.00	s	203,457.47	55.5%	s	0.5

5

MAINE MARYLAND MASSACHUSETTS	\$ \$	2,610.00 3,100.00 4,011.00	156 2,596 16,051 5,500	\$ \$ \$	2,596.00 16,051.00 5,500.00	\$	100.00 830.00 5,621.00	3.9% 5.2% 102.2%	\$	0.04 0.05 1.02
NEW HAMPSHIRE NEW JERSEY NEW YORK	\$ \$	6,634.00 13,902.00 4,620.00	5,811 9,364 29,905	\$	5,811.00 9,364.00 29,905.00	\$ \$ \$	2,488.78 3,350.00 11,681.00	42.8% 35.8% 39.1%	\$ \$	0.43 0.36 0.39
PENNSYLVANIA RHODE ISLAND VERMONT	\$ \$ \$	38,798.86 350.00 8,875.23	60,612 330 3,830	\$ \$ \$	60,612.00 330.00 3,830.00	\$	14,092.44	23.3% 0.0% 50.9%	\$ \$	0.23
WEST VIRGINIA Total:	\$	4,900.00 91,331.91	2,404 140,961	\$	2,404.00	\$	3,227.25 44,790.47	134.2%	\$	1.34

WISCONSIN	s	707.00	4,173	\$ 4,173.00	\$ 717.00	17.2%	\$ 0.17
ОНЮ	\$	6,646.25	30,144	\$ 30,144.00	\$ 8,982.80	29.8%	\$ 0.30
MISSOURI	\$	2,332.00	3,197	\$ 3,197.00	\$ 953.61	29.8%	\$ 0.30
MINNESOTA	\$	17,625.09	11,289	\$ 11,289.00	\$ 9,281.91	82.2%	\$ 0.82
MICHIGAN	\$	8,688.33	24,311	\$ 24,311.00	\$ 8,062.00	33.2%	\$ 0.33
IOWA	\$	2,300.00	4,836	\$ 4,836.00	\$ 304.00	6.3%	\$ 0.06
INDIANA	\$	32,645.05	35,836	\$ 35,836.00	\$ 2,125.00	5.9%	\$ 0.06
ILLINOIS	\$	11,697.83	13,348	\$ 13,348.00	\$ 4,539.78	34.0%	\$ 0.34
CENTRAL REGION							

4.00 0.31 5.14 1.46 1.12 1.07
0.31 5.14 1.46 1.12
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1.64
1.03
•

Total:	\$	68,780.20	43,664	\$	43,664.00	\$	51,299.19	117.5%	\$	1.17
VIRGINIA	\$	6,532.00	4,079	\$	4,079.00	\$	16,077.00	394.1%	\$	3.94
TENNESSEE	\$	2,985.00	1,683	\$	1,683.00	\$	1,693.44	100.6%	\$	1.01
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$	4,106.00	1,485	\$	1,485.00	\$	2,750.00	185.2%	\$	1.85
PUERTO RICO	\$	263.00	121	\$	121.00	\$	10.00	8.3%	\$	0.08
NORTH CAROLINA	\$	5,921.00	2,698	\$	2,698.00	\$	4,831.75	179.1%	\$	1.79
MISSISSIPPI	\$	6,476.00	725	\$	725.00	s	187.00	25.8%	\$	0.26
LOUISIANA	\$	4,692.20	1,773	\$	1,773.00	\$	2,410.00	135.9%	\$	1.36
KENTUCKY	\$	-	2,586	\$	2,586.00	\$	-	0.0%	\$	-
GEORGIA	\$	11,789.00	4,452	\$	4,452.00	s	1,753.00	39.4%	\$	0.39
FLORIDA	\$	23,230.00	21,568	\$	21,568.00	\$	19,421.00	90.0%	\$	0.90
ARKANSAS	\$	-	441	\$	441.00	\$	700.00	158.7%	\$	1.59
ALABAMA	\$	2,786.00	2,053	\$	2,053.00	\$	1,466.00	71.4%	\$	0.71
SOUTHERN REGION										
DETACHMENT	D	ONATIONS (FINAL)	MEMBERSHIP (FINAL)		GOAL (FINAL)	I	ONATIONS CURRENT)	GOAL		CAPITA
		2022	2022	2	2023 CWF		2023	% OF	DON	ATIONS

Total:	\$ 64,074.78	28,800	\$ 28,800.00	\$ 45,729.24	158.8%	\$ 1.59
WYOMING	\$ 6,250.00	1,295	\$ 1,295.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
TEXAS	\$ 17,953.97	5,584	\$ 5,584.00	\$ 13,310.39	238.4%	\$ 2.38
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$ 1,447.81	1,360	\$ 1,360.00	\$ 1,451.85	106.8%	\$ 1.07
OKLAHOMA	\$ -	1,343	\$ 1,343.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
NORTH DAKOTA	\$ -	1,051	\$ 1,051.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
NEW MEXICO	\$ 200.00	1,504	\$ 1,504.00	\$ 4,900.00	325.8%	\$ 3.26
NEBRASKA	\$ 7,638.00	6,913	\$ 6,913.00	\$ 5,495.00	79.5%	\$ 0.79
MONTANA	\$ 1,550.00	1,076	\$ 1,076.00	\$ 867.00	80.6%	\$ 0.81
MEXICO	\$ -	31	\$ 31.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
KANSAS	\$ 5,800.00	5,859	\$ 5,859.00	\$ 925.00	15.8%	\$ 0.16
COLORADO	\$ 23,235.00	2,784	\$ 2,784.00	\$ 18,780.00	674.6%	\$ 6.75

ı	NATIONAL HQ:	\$ 4,176.00		\$ -	\$ 3,699.91		
1	GRAND TOTAL:	\$ 349,789.25	366,511	\$ 366,511.00	\$ 203,457.47	55.5%	\$ 0.56

SAL DONATIONS AS OF: APRIL 14, 2023

2022 SAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF: DECEMBER 31, 2022 (FINAL

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

Departments certify winners for National Oratorical Contest

The American Legion | April 13, 2023



Nearly 50 high school students will gather in Indianapolis April 22-23 to speak on the U.S. Constitution for The American Legion's National

Oratorical Contest and compete for over \$203,000 in scholarships. The competitors won their respective American Legion post, district, and state-level oratorical contests to earn a spot at the national level.

The National Oratorical Contest is held at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel where the 49 orators will compete in the quarterfinals. They will present a rehearsed eight- to 10-minute oration on an aspect of the Constitution in front of judges, as well as a three- to five-minute speech on an assigned topic discourse. The top nine contestants will advance to the semifinals. After again presenting their prepared oration and assigned topic, the top three semifinal contestants will advance to the championship finals.

The championship finals will be held Sunday, April 23 at 10 a.m. EDT, and will be streamed on Facebook Live at facebook.com/americanlegionhq. The top three finalists will compete for \$67,500 in scholarships –first place receives \$25,000; second place \$22,500; and third place \$20,000.

Each department (state) winner who participates in the quarterfinal first round receives a \$2,000 scholarship. Those who advance to the semifinal round receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship.

2023 department oratorical winners

Alabama: Christine Johnson Alaska: Madisen Lundamo Arizona: Caleb Rasor Arkansas: Alexis Childs California: Mahee Haswani Colorado: Mae Webster

Connecticut: Venice Montanaro Delaware: Alexander Budd Florida: Nurfat Ishaque France: Kennedy Lange Georgia: Andrew Fleming Hawaii: Lehua Norris Idaho: Bridger Benson Illinois: April Zhang
Indiana: Haley Bock
Iowa: Thanvee Paga
Kansas: Ian Fahncke
Kentucky: India Young
Louisiana: Hailey Wolff
Maine: Shawn Jiminez
Maryland: Diya Jha

Massachusetts: Samuel Gonser

Michigan: Andrew Kil Minnesota: Megan Blonigen Mississippi: Jonathan Baker Missouri: Jana Rawashdeh Montana: Ella Pheifer Nebraska: Mary Worthing Nevada: Abigail Cook

New Hampshire: Emily Aloise **New Jersey:** Benjamin Duvelson

New Mexico: Zia Miller New York: Ian Chung

North Carolina: Paige Greene North Dakota: Casey Kruger

Ohio: Guhan Krishnan Oklahoma: Jesse LaBahn Oregon: Hannah Hurty

Pennsylvania: Amelia Summers South Carolina: Henry Overbay South Dakota: Elena Andrews Tennessee: Abigail Whicker

Texas: Max Kinser
Utah: Jocelyn Brown
Vermont: Jeswin Antony
Virginia: Trenton McMillen
Washington: Emma Lo
Wisconsin: Mya Koffie
Wyoming: Emma Johnson

Texas post provides local school safety buckets for emergency preparedness

The American Legion | April 12, 2023

When Chris Holt, commander of <u>American Legion</u> <u>Darren Tate Post 425</u> in Amarillo, Texas, heard that assistant principal Chris Young of Heritage Hills Elementary wanted to have safety buckets inside all 50 classrooms to provide assistance in case of an emergency like a tornado, the post immediately stepped forward to meet the need.

Holt, whose wife works at the elementary, said to Young, "Let me take this to my members and let me see what we can do for you." Post 425 ran with the idea and has currently provided 16 safety buckets since January when it began fundraising and

collecting donations. The buckets contain a fire extinguisher, water, snacks, trash bags, duct tape, pry bar, first aid material, disposable gloves, a lid cover that can also be utilized as a toilet seat for the bucket, a shower curtain for privacy and more.



"We wanted a wide variety of items, so the idea and purpose of these buckets is to give our teachers and our staff the resources they would need to feel confident in taking care of our kids in an emergency situation," Young told the Amarillo Globe-News.

Post 425's goal is to provide a bucket for all 50 classrooms at Heritage Hills Elementary. Holt said they also hope to provide the same safety bucket to other schools in the district and inspire Legion posts nationwide to supply safety buckets to classrooms in their school district.

Training will be provided to each teacher at Heritage Hills Elementary on how to use the items in the bucket during an emergency and store the bucket in a safe place.

"We know that we have different items throughout the school, but to have an entire bucket of supplies, that would be helpful in each classroom. It brings a lot of confidence to each of our teachers and our parents and community, knowing that we are doing everything we can to make sure the students remain safe and keep their focus on education, not safety," Young added.

Post 425 received its temporary charter in August 2022 and is named after a U.S. Navy Afghanistan veteran whose mother is a Unit 425 Auxiliary member. Post 425's membership has been active in the community from the start. "You have to be active in the community. If you're not active and you're not giving to the community, nobody is going to help you or give back to you," Holt said.

7

He is looking forward to turning in the paperwork soon for Post 425's permanent charter and showing how the post supported the Legion's Children & Youth pillar and April as Children & Youth Month through the safety buckets.

"We came through for a school that requested emergency buckets that can be used for any type of natural disaster," Holt said. "The school board is impressed that a veteran organization has taken a liking to their school and that we could do this for them."

Finance Commission

William G. Hill (MD), Chairman

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time
<u>Join Zoom meeting</u>
Meeting ID: 957 1342 7326 | 44846
(877) 853-5257

May 6 (NEC) | July 13

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

Legislative Commission

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

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

NEVER FORGET WHY YOU STARTED

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.

SAL Online Renewal - members can login and renew direct via 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.

With just under a week left before the 90% target date of April 19th, we are sitting at 93.81% nationally, with over 345,000 members!!

We have 45 Detachments at or above goal so far with a number of others well within range to do so. This is an historic year for membership. Numbers are higher and have come in sooner than anyone can recall in recent memory. Thank you all, each and every day for your efforts.

RECRUIT-RENEW-REINSTATE

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





SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION 2023 SPRING MEETINGS

SHERATON HOTEL MONUMENT SUITE, LOWER LEVEL

Customer Service Representatives will be available to take orders to be shipped NO merchandise nor nametags will be onsite for purchase.

Our Special Orders Representative will be on hand to answer your non – catalog item questions!

Open Saturday and SUNDAY! MAY 6TH 7:00am-Noon May 7TH 1:00pm-6:00pm

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 or you can subscribe to the monthly Digital Dispatch newsletter by visiting www.legion.org/newsletters, click on "Dispatch" where you will be directed to www.myLegion.org where members will sign in to subscribe. For questions about Dispatch stories, email Dispatch@legion.org.

Subcommittee on Resolutions

Ned Fox (CA), Chairman

Subcommittee on National Appointments

Donald Allisot, Jr. (ME), Chairman

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Seth A. Rippe (NE), Chairman

Fourth Monday of Each Month 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

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

BE™ONE | Round-Up

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

SONS OF THE









Spanky Memorial Golf Outing

June 10th, 2023 Little Apple Golf Course, Bellville Ohio

Shotgun start at 9:00am

4 Person Team

\$200 entry fee per team

Includes skins, cart, donuts and juice at the start, hot dogs at the turn, and pork chop dinner to follow.

\$400 payout for first place

\$200 payout for second place

All proceeds will benefit Honor Flight / Richland County Honor bus for veterans

Sponsored by Sons of the American Legion Squadron #535

If you would like to put a team in or make a \$100 hole sponsor, please contact Craig Smith at 419-631-3743 or Call Bruce Hayes at 419-566-1838





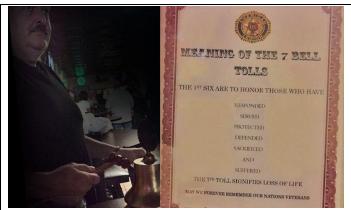
Embracing remembrance

The American Legion | April 10, 2023

Belgium was the site of fierce fighting during the two world wars. Remembrance of the conflicts and those who died in them remains a priority for today's Belgians. One of these is John Sterkendries, a longtime motorcycle rider who has embarked on a multi-leg trip around the border of the United States with a goal of raising awareness of the sacrifices of the past while seeing American sites of remembrance.

Sterkendries' father, Andre, and his own father engaged in a form of resistance during World War II – both worked at a railyard, and they and others would take advantage of "excessive" steam released by machinists to smuggle food off German wagons,

distributing it among families in need. Says John, "If they were ever caught doing this, they would be executed by firing squad." His father later spent time in Germany with Canadian occupying forces.



John Sterkendries during a visit to Gen. Smedley D. Butler Post 701 in White Oak. PA.

Photos via John Sterkendries

When Andre Sterkendries returned to Belgium, he opened a body shop where John spent a lot of time growing up. All kinds of vehicles fascinated him, but especially motorcycles: "From the moment I could reach the pedals I was already riding old motorcycles behind our company," John remembers. He has bought, restored and traversed Europe on the bikes for years.

In 2017 John's daughter, Axelle, moved to Pittsburgh to attend college. He began visiting the United States frequently, and decided to see it in his favorite way: by motorcycle. He purchased a bike in Virginia in 2019 and took it back to Pittsburgh for a test run. The Doughboy Foundation's website hosts Sterkendries' "Journey Log"; he says there of riding through Glassport, Pa., "I was astounded by the fact that every lamppost had a picture of a U.S. soldier attached to it. This kind of veteran pride is something that is unheard of in Belgium."

Of course, all nations have their own ways of remembering the past. A World War I anniversary exhibition called "Coming World Remember Me" in Ypres, Belgium, featured 600,000 small clay statues, each meant to represent a Belgian life lost during the war. After the exhibition closed, the public was invited to take the statues. John Sterkendries obtained a few, with explanatory leaflets, and the second part of a plan he had formulated fell into place.

Sterkendries decided to ride his motorcycle around the border of the continental United States – a trip he measures at 25,000 kilometers, or a little more than 15,500 miles – visiting U.S. war memorials (especially those of World War I) and seeking opportunities to donate his Ypres statues. Since then, he has gone, in pieces, as far as Houston, with the occasional side trip. His daughter helped him develop a website for his travels, where he tells of his numerous encounters with the memorials – and the public, with whom he has swapped stories of history and service. Some of those meetings have taken place at American Legion posts, as far back as his Glassport stop. As he tells it on his website:

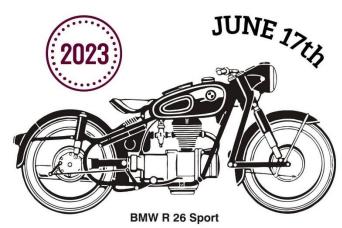
"After a short visit to [a Glassport veteran] memorial, I walked back to my motorcycle, passing a building with the name 'American Legion' on it. Not knowing much about this topic, I asked an older gentleman who was sitting outside what the phrase meant exactly. He explained to me what American Legion does for the veterans. I told him that my family also had quite a few stories about the two world wars. After we talked a bit more, I said goodbye to the man and proceeded to walk back to my motorcycle when he called me back. He told me that there were a few people that would like to talk to me and invited me to follow him. Walking behind him through a small party and past a disco bar, we stopped at a door which led to a room/bar with quite a few older gentlemen sitting around. The man that I met outside introduced me to all of them; many of them were veterans. I spent the entire afternoon talking and listening to their stories. At one moment, one of the men walked up to me and handed me a flag. I recognized it to be the flag that was attached to a large cross near the monument. *He proceeded to tell me that each flag at the cross* represents a victim of one of the many wars. I was allowed to receive this flag, which represented one of his family members. Shortly after, a second man proceeded to do the same. I was deeply moved by this gesture. These flags now have a special place at my home in Belgium."

The donations of statues were hampered by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, but Sterkendries has <u>donated</u> a few, and is determined to obtain and donate more. He is asking the public for information on places where he can do so; his email address is john@sterkendries.cc.





ohio Valley 2023 Freedom Ride



800 Wooster St Marietta, OH

First out: 11:00 am, last in: 4:00 pm

Start/End @ American Legion Post 64

Contact- Bobby Fitzgerald-740-568-9009



Vernon Hill American Legion Riders BIKE and CLASSIC CAR Nights!!

Starts JUNE 2nd @ ...

BAND SCHEDULE:
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June 16 TONY SOUL
PROJECT
July 7 SALTY SISTERS
PROJECT
July 21 A NIGHT OF ZEPPELIN
August 4 MYCHAEL DAVID
BAND
August 18 CANDY CRIMINAL
September 1 WILD COMBO
September 15 TONY GARCIA



BAND



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



Vickie Koutz, National President The American Legion Auxiliary









Entree, Salad, Bread & Butter, Dessert

AMERICAN LEGION

EDWARD C HEADMAN POST 217

2817 Van Alstyne St,

Wyandotte, MI 48192 (734) 282-2698

Mark your calendar

Sunday, May21st, 2-6pm

BBQ Ribs Dinner \$16 per person

ntree, Coleslaw, Bread & Butter, Dessert

Questions:Contact Carolyn Ciungan (734)904-3836



Sports



Armstrong to feature American Legion livery this weekend in Long Beach

The American Legion | April 13, 2023

Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) rookie driver Marcus Armstrong and the rest of the NTT INDYCAR SERIES head west this weekend for the Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach. And The American Legion's "Be the One" suicide-prevention initiative again will be featured prominently.

For the first time, Armstrong's No. 11 Honda will feature The American Legion livery, complete with betheone.org present on the design. Armstrong is driving the No. 11 Honda on street circuits and road courses this season for CGR. The 22-year-old New Zealander made his NTT INDYCAR SERIES debut in impressive fashion, finishing a rookie-best 11th in the season-opening Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg.

"I've been looking forward to racing (in Long Beach) for quite some time," Armstrong said via CGR media. "It was one of the races that was circled on my imaginary calendar as a race I was really looking forward to. It's an iconic race, obviously, and I remember thinking about racing here when I was in math class back in school. I was in class then searching for visor camera on-boards. Now, I'm headed there to race this weekend in the American Legion Honda." Both Alex Palou – who finished third in the PPG 375 at Texas Motor Speedway driving The American Legion No. 10 Honda – and Marcus Ericsson, who won the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, both will carry American Legion branding on their cars this weekend. Ericsson currently is second in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES point standings, while Palou is fifth and will attempt to make his 50th career INDYCAR start.

The Long Beach street course covers 167.28 miles over 85 laps. The nearly two-mile course features 11 turns and encircles the Long Beach Convention Center – which houses a Family Fun Zone and numerous displays during the race weekend – and runs down scenic Shoreline Drive. The course offers numerous passing opportunities.

The weekend broadcast schedule (all times ET):

- Friday, April 14 Practice 1, 6-7:15 p.m., Peacock.
- Saturday, April 15 Practice 2, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.; qualifications, 3:05-4:20 p.m. (both Peacock).
- Sunday, April 16 warmup, noon-12:30 p.m. Peacock; race, 3-6 p.m., NBC and Peacock.

Four Things to Look for at Long Beach (via INDYCAR)

- 1. Newgarden on repeat? Since 2008 only Alexander Rossi has ever been able to back up one Long Beach win with another he did it in 2018-19. Josef Newgarden has the potential to double down after scoring his first victory at Long Beach last season. Newgarden won that race coming off a thrilling win at Texas Motor Speedway. He enters 2023 looking in the same situation after his win at Texas on April 2. Can the Team Penske star score back-to-back races at Texas and Long Beach for the second year in a row?
- 2. **It's not where you start...:** With the exception of Rossi's wins in 2018-19, the pole has not been the place to start at Long Beach. Just five drivers have ever won Long Beach from the top spot, and while pole sitters have scored podium finishes in recent races Newgarden was second in 2021 –they've also finished 15th or worse just as often (Colton Herta 23rd in 2022, Ryan Hunter-Reay 20th in 2014, Dario Franchitti 15th in 2012, and Justin Wilson 19th in 2008).
- 3. ... It's where you finish: Pato O'Ward and Scott Dixon are the only drivers so far this season to sweep the top five. O'Ward has back-to-back second-place finishes at St. Petersburg and Texas, while Dixon has finishes of third (St. Pete) and fifth (Texas). Keeping that mark could be a challenge for both. O'Ward has only one top-five at Long Beach (third in 2022) in three previous starts while Dixon has six top-five finishes in 15 previous races at Long Beach.



Veterans in INDYCAR: Ben Christian

Steven B. Brooks | April 13, 2023

Throughout the 2023 INDYCAR season, we'll be highlighting veterans who work within the racing series, whether for Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR), INDYCAR or other racing teams.

This week we're highlighting Ben Christian, a race transport driver, and the inside rear tire changer for Rahal Letterman Lanigan (RLL) Racing's No. 30 car driven by Jack Harvey. Christian served in the U.S. Marines as a machine gunner from 2009 to 2013, with deployments to Haiti and then Helmand Province in Afghanistan.

Christian spoke with American Legion Social Media Manager Steven B. Brooks about the opportunity to work for RLL and what he's taken from his military training into the civilian world.

The American Legion: What brought you to RLL Racing in 2019?

Ben Christian: The short answer is I was (working for Andretti Autosport) in Indy Lights (now Indy NXT) and was looking to move up to INDYCAR. They gave me the offer that I liked to come over and work on their INDYCAR operation. I took that and have been there ever since.

Question: What's the experience been like, working at the highest level of open-wheel racing in the United States and being able to be a part of a team that's had the success that Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing has had?

Christian: It's great. It's absolutely amazing. This racing is so tight, and the margins are so thin because everyone's that competitive. It's a really exciting career to have.

Question: Why did you join the Marine Corps?

Christian: When I joined the Marine Corps, I didn't really have a whole thought-out plan. I knew I was planning on doing one enlistment because I was planning on using the GI Bill and the college benefits. When I finished with my active-duty service, I wasn't entirely sure where I wanted to go. I ended up going to a few automotive schools and getting an education before I landed (at RLL).

Question: What have you been able to take from your military training and apply to your life in the civilian world? **Christian:** One thing the military, in generally, can definitely teach you when trying to get into this type of field – especially where I'm in a position where we compete at such a high level – that takes a lot of patience and a lot of confidence. And you have to have a real deep understanding of sometimes things that take a long time to develop. I feel like that's one of the things, it's not part of what job you do specifically in the military, but the military itself can teach you that by way of their training and how they go about things.

2023 American Legion Baseball Scholarship nomination form available

The American Legion | April 12, 2023



Applications are available online for the 2023 American Legion Baseball Scholarship. The fillable nomination form is available here.

Team managers and head coaches of post-affiliated American Legion

Baseball teams must submit nominations for the American Legion Baseball Scholarship by July 15.

The American Legion awards between \$22,000 and \$25,000 in scholarships to deserving baseball players each year. Each Department Baseball Committee may select a player from its department to receive this scholarship. The American Legion will award several scholarships each year depending on the number of applicants and interest earned from the trust fund.

Any team manager or head coach of an American Legion post—affiliated team may nominate a player for consideration of this award. The scholarship application, letters of recommendation and certification form must be completed, postmarked, and mailed to the department headquarters no later than July 15. Three letters of testimony must be attached to the nomination form.

Department Baseball Scholarship winners receive \$500. Each certified Department Baseball scholarship winner shall be considered for The American Legion All-Academic Team sponsored by Diamond Sports.

Eight players selected by a scholarship selection committee at The American Legion World Series will receive an additional \$2,500 scholarship. A ninth player, selected as the most outstanding member of the All-Academic Team, will be awarded an additional \$5,000 scholarship.

All-Academic Team winners will retain their \$500 scholarship from their department.

Scholarship recipients will be eligible to receive their scholarships immediately upon graduation from an accredited high school. Scholarship winners must utilize the total award within eight years of their graduation date, excluding active military time.

Legion Baseball flashback: Remembering Tim McCarver

Richard Walker | April 12, 2023

Most casual sports fans remember Tim McCarver, the award-winning broadcaster who died Feb. 16 at age 81.

Some know he was a 21-year major leaguer, two-time All-Star, two-time World Series champion and a rare four-decade major leaguer as he played in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

But even fewer know that his path to baseball greatness came through Shelby, N.C.



Fifty years before the American Legion World Series first came to Shelby, McCarver and his Memphis American Legion Post 1 teammates

were back-to-back American Legion Baseball regional champions at Shelby's old Sumter Street ballpark in 1957 and 1958.

Under the direction of coach Tony Gagliano for Post 1 and at Christian Brothers High School, McCarver was a three-sport star who signed with the St. Louis Cardinals after his 1959 high school season on June 7 before making his major league debut four months later.

A star end in football, forward in basketball and catcher in baseball, McCarver would later have all three of his high school jerseys retired and be inducted into the inaugural class of the Memphis Sports Hall of Fame.

At Shelby, McCarver was a standout in both of Memphis' regional tournament wins.

In 1957, he was a top hitter for a team that swept through the sectional capped by a 10-2 victory over Front Royal, VA. And in 1958, McCarver had two hits and one RBI in a 4-0 win in a regional championship game victory over host Shelby Post 82.

Each year, Memphis lost in the sectional final the following week — in 1957 to Greer, S.C., and in 1958 to New Orleans.

When McCarver signed with the Cardinals, he was considered a "bonus baby" by virtue of his \$75,000 signing bonus and the fact that he was 17.

"He was probably the premier All-American boy in Memphis," said J.J. Guinozzo, a Memphis native and longtime American Legion World Series official scorer. "He's the only player I can think of who made all-city in football, basketball, and baseball.

"In football, he was an end and helped his high school win championships. He was offered football scholarships to Arkansas and Memphis State but baseball was his main thing and so he signed with the Cardinals."

McCarver spent all or parts of the next four seasons in the minor leagues — including half a season for the hometown Memphis Chicks — before becoming the Cardinals' full-time catcher in 1963.

In 1964, his 10th inning home run gave St. Louis a win in Game 5 of the Cardinals' seven-game World Series victory over the New York Yankees. He was again a World Series champion for the Cardinals in 1967 and a National League All-Star in 1966 and 1967.

McCarver also became a personal catching favorite of future Baseball Hall of Fame pitchers Bob Gibson and Steve Carlton. Eventually, McCarver would also play for the Philadelphia Phillies, Montreal Expos and Boston Red Sox. When he retired from baseball after the 1980 season, he was one of only 29 major leaguers to play in four decades and was ninth among major league catchers by catching 121 career shutouts.

He used his baseball knowledge and expertise to become one of the most trusted announcers in sports, working locally and nationally for NBC, ABC and CBS. A winner of three Emmy Awards for Sports Events Analyst, he was inducted into the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2016.

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and transmit \$as annual membership dues. Signed	Veteran through whom eligibility is established	(Initial) (Last) Recruited by (Street) (City)	Sons of The American Legion Membership Application Detachment of Squadron No Birth Date					
RECEIPT Date Received of For God and Country \$ in payment of dues for 20 in Squadron, Detachment of By								



Squadron Everlasting

to have a member's information listed here, please send to <u>jef-</u> <u>fvrabelsr@gmail.com</u>

Gary S. Zieger

Gary S. "Ziggy" Zieger, 66, of Cicero, IN, passed away on Tuesday evening, March 28, 2023. Born on October 30, 1956, in Pittsburgh, Pa., he was the son of the late Frank J. and Bernadette R. (Dawso) Zieger.

After graduating from South Hills High School in Pittsburgh, he hit the ground running. Gary was a union painter who traveled all over the country perfecting and mastering his craft. He was a 32-year member of Local 47, and proudly served two terms as Vice President. He was also a member of the Sons of the American Legion, K.V. Elliott Squadron 67 of Sheridan, Ind.

Ziggy learned early in his career that all work and no play will age you quickly. He loved being outdoors and always gravitated towards activities that let him spend time outside. Being on the water, whether it was fishing, swimming, or boating, was always high up on the list, as were gardening and riding the roads on his motorcycle. Ziggy also loved to play golf, especially at Pebble Brook. Now, sometimes the stars align, and life gives you a freebie. For Ziggy, it was when he discovered that Pebble Brook would let him play for free if he retrieved balls for them ... it might very well be the first time Ziggy ever cried in public.

Ziggy's family was, without a doubt, the most important thing in his life, and included in that group were his friends and neighbors. He was always the first one to show up whenever anyone needed some help, humbly sharing his talents, and wasn't going to leave until the job was complete. When the task at hand was done, there was no better way to relax than playing cards with his friends, especially when it came to his weekly poker games.

Gary is survived by his loving wife, Pamela Lee (Spargo) Zieger. He and Pam were married on January 4, 2004. Also surviving are his son, Brian Christopher Zieger of Indianapolis; granddaughter, Brieanna Zieger; two sisters, Susanna Wilson of Livingston, Texas, and Lori Dowiak (Darvid) of Frederick, Md.; sisterin-law, Vickie Zieger; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank J., and Bernadette R. (Dawso) Zieger; brother, Frank J. Zieger, Jr., and brother-in-law, Bill Wilson.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

 ${\color{red} \textbf{Condolences:}} \ \underline{\textbf{kerchevalfuner-}} \\ \underline{\textbf{alhome.com.}}$

James Michael Moran

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 70s, 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 Člub.

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 greatgrandchildren, Noah R. Walters and Scarlett J. Tuton; asister and brother-in-law, Kathleen (Robert) Cline, Hannibal, NY.

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

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 <u>www.dexterfuneralhome.com</u>.

Gordon E. Holbrook

PHELPS, NY – Gordon E. "Gordie" Holbrook age 71, died on Monday April 3, 2023 at Clifton Springs Hospital & Clinic.

Funeral services and burial will be private.

It is requested that memorial donations be made in memory of Gordie to the Sons of the American Legion Phelps Post #457 1346 Rt. 96 Phelps, N.Y. 14532.

Gordie was born on September 13, 1951 in Clifton Springs, N.Y., the son of the late James and Wanneta Alvord Holbrook.

He retired from G.W. Lisk after almost 40 years of service. He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion Phelps Squadron #457 for 31 years.

He is survived by his sons, Chad (Jessica Elliott) Holbrook and Jason Garling; grandchildren, Lukas, Cayden, Alexis and Mason Holbrook, Madisyn Elliott; brothers and sisters, James (Joyce Brinks) Holbrook, Donald and Larry Holbrook, Janet Yackel, Carol Fox, and Wendy Andreson. He was predeceased by his wife Jean Holbrook.

Funeral arrangements have been made with the Cheney Funeral Home 70 Main Street Phelps.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the <u>Sympathy</u> Store.

Thomas Wheat

Thomas William Wheat, 69, of Warren, Indiana, formerly of Redkey, Indiana, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, April 13, 2023, at his residence.

Tom was born in Portland, Indiana, on Feb. 9, 1954, a son of the late Marjorie Louise (Jackson) and Thomas Wenfield Wheat. He was a 1972 graduate of Redkey High School and was formerly employed as a carpenter for 3M Construction.

Tom was a member of the Sons of the American Legion and an avid Indianapolis Colts and Chicago Cubs fan, enjoyed baseball, basketball, playing pool, watching sprint car, NASCAR, hunting shows, "The Price is Right" and "Gunsmoke," listening to 80s and 90s rock and country music, and spending time with his grandchildren.

He is survived by two daughters, Danielle L. Wheat (Andrew Welty) and Candance R. Morgan (husband: Billy); two sisters, Rebecca L. White (husband: Steve) and Sylvia J. Hedge (husband: Greg); six grandchildren, Caylynn Hamilton, Colton Norris, Cassandra Hamilton, Carrianna Hamilton, Aryal Morgan and Christopher Vebert Jr.; two great-grandchildren, Everley Manlove and Eliana Norris; and several nieces and nepheros

Tom was preceded in death by his parents; and one grandchild, Aryan Morgan.

Services will be private at the convenience of the family at a later date, with burial to follow in Hillcrest Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the funeral home (P.O. Box 25, Redkey, IN 47373) to assist with funeral arrangements.

Arrangements have been

entrusted to MJS Mortuaries – Redkey Chapel.

Guy I. Erdley Jr.

Guy I. Erdley Jr., 64, of Watsontown, died Friday, April 14, 2023, at Milton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Born Oct. 29, 1958, in Lewisburg, he was the son of the late Guy I. Sr. and Alverna (Dershem) Erdley. On Feb. 16, 1980, he married the former Carol Hanselman who survives. Together they celebrated 43 years of marriage.

Guy was a 1977 graduate of Warrior Run High School. He worked for the former Paulson Wire Rope for over 25 years until its closing. Guy later worked for Penske Truck Rental, White Deer.

He was a life member of the Warrior Run Fire Department, Northumberland Fire Co. No. 1, Americus Fire Company, Sunbury, and the NRA. Guy was also a member of the Sons of American Legion Squadron 323, Watsontown.

Guy loved to collect scale model fire trucks, having two full display cases. He enjoyed country music, target shooting and his big blue Ram truck.

Surviving, in addition to his wife, are three sisters and one brother-in-law, Donna and Charles Fisher, Lewisburg, Sharon Merrill, of Loganton, and Sandra Pick, of Milton; two brothers-in-law, Glenn E. Hanselman Jr. and Daniel Hartman, both of Mifflinburg; sister-in-law, Myrna Walter, of Mifflinburg, and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews and great-greatnieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by three brothers-in-law, Carl Pick, Jacob Walter, and Richard Merrill; and a sister-in-law, Aggie Hanselman.

Friends will be received from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 20, at the Grenoble Funeral Home & Crematory, 308 Main St., Watsontown.

Burial will be held privately at the convenience of the family.

The family suggests contributions in Guy's memory be made either to the Warrior Run Area Fire Department, PO Box 8, Watsontown, PA 17777 or to the National Rifle Association online at donate.nra.org/donate.

Expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.grenoble-funeralhome.com.

To send flowers to the family of Guy I. Erdley, please visit <u>Tribute Store</u>.

Todd C. Kesley



Todd C. Kesley, 62, of Yoder, IN., passed away on Thursday, April 6, 2023, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort

Wayne, surrounded by his family.

Born March 5, 1961, in Fort Wayne, he was a son of the late Duane and Carol (Sellers) Kelsey. He is survived by his loving wife of 23 years, Cathy (Collett) Kelsey.

Todd grew up in Roanoke and graduated in 1979 from Huntington North High School. A skilled tradesman in construction, Todd worked for many years for W & W Concrete and was also employed by Masolite and IMI. He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 414 and the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 160.

Todd loved working with his hands and was also an out-doorsman. He spent many happy hours tinkering in carpentry and projects, fishing, and golf, and caring for his home and acreage. He would help anyone who asked and was often called upon by family and friends.

A loving husband, son, and brother, Todd will also be missed by his cats, Frank, and Rusty. Also surviving are Todd's sisters, Valerie Holley of Fort Wayne and Laura Kelsey of Farmland, Ind.; and nephews, Dirk (Autumn) Holley, Ryan (Meggan) Holley and Brandon (Nicole) Holley, all of Fort Wayne; and many great nephews and great nieces.

Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Craig Kelsey.

Visitation is from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 22, 2023, at McElhaney Funeral Home-Roanoke Chapel, 240 Crestwood Drive, Roanoke (IN 46783).

A Celebration of Life and dinner is 5 p.m. Saturday, April 22, 2023, at American Legion Post 160, 1122 North Main St., Roanoke (IN, 46783). Burial will be at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Sons of the American Legion Squadron 160, c/o McElhaney Funeral Home Roanoke Chapel 240 Crestwood Drive, Roanoke, IN 46783.

McElhaney Funeral Home Roanoke Chapel 240 Crestwood Drive Roanoke is entrusted with the arrangements.

Send online condolences at www.mcelhaneyhartfuner-alhome.com.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the <u>Sympathy</u> <u>Store</u>.

Jason Clothier

Jason Clothier, 49, of Springville, Iowa, passed away on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Visitation will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 16, at Murdoch Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Marion, Iowa. Funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 17, at Murdoch Funeral Home & Cremation Service. Burial will be held at a later date at Springville Cemetery.

Jason was born on Feb. 25, 1974, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the son of Glenn Clothier and Pat (Graves) Miller. He was a 1992 graduate of Linn-Mar High School and went on to attend Lincoln Tech School in Des Moines, Iowa. On Aug. 8, 1998, Jason was united in marriage to Darcy Richman in Cedar Rapids. He spent many years as an automotive/heavy truck diesel mechanic and worked the last 18 years as a concrete mixer driver. Jason was very active in his Local 238 Teamsters Union and served as Steward. He was a proud member of the Sons of The American Legion and helped in fundraising activities, including an annual golf outing for the Eastern Iowa Honor Flights.

Jason was an avid Denver Broncos and Iowa Hawkeyes fan. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends, going to concerts, watching NASCAR and loved all things Ford. He was so proud to be Papa to his grandchildren. Jason will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Jason is survived and lovingly remembered by his wife, Darcy Springville, Iowa; his mother, Pat (Tom) Miller of Springville; son, Johnny Buck of New Mexico; grandchildren, Orien and Aurora; sister, Melanie (Jim) Martin-Trainor of Cedar Rapids; their children, Aaron (Anna), Nic (Brittany), Natalie (Dalton), Jami, Christopher, Sarah and Lindsi; mother-in-law, Diane Richman of Cedar Rapids; sisterin-law, Jodie (George) Hunt of Robins, Iowa; their children, Megan and Colin; sister-inlaw, Renee (Loren) Sanders of Montezuma, Iowa; their children, Morgan (Zachary) and Dillon (Isabella); brother-inlaw, Wayne Martin of Cedar Rapids; close friends, Chad (Lindy) Klett, Dave (Tasha) Egan; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Glenn, in 2020.

A memorial fund has been established.

Please share a memory of Jason at www.murdochfuner-alhome.com under obituaries.

Jerry Barr



Jerry B. "J.B."
Barr, resident of Charles
Town, WV
passed away on
Thursday April

6, 2023 at the Hospice of the Panhandle Inpatient Facility in Kearneysville, WV. JB was born in Ranson, WV on June 10, 1953 to the late Paul E. Barr and Barbara Ann (White) Barr.

JB attended Wright Denny Grade School, and graduated from Frederick High School, class of 1971. He also attended FCC, and had a degree in Fire Science and Safety Technology from Shepherd College. He then took numerous courses in fire and rescue from the University of Maryland and West Virginia University, while also accomplishing a Mortuary Science Degree from Catonsville Community College in Catonsville, MD. JB was a licensed embalmer and funeral director.

He was also a member of the Life Member Independent Fire Company, Charles Town/Ranson where he served as Lieutenant and First Safety Officer. He was a life member of the Independent Hose Co. #1, Frederick, MD, and a member of the Citizens Truck Company of Frederick. He was a recipient of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Valor Award for The Miller Chemical Fire Charter and was a First Squadron Commander of The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 71 in Charles Town, WV. JB was a member and past President of the Eastern Panhandle Funeral Directors Association and a member of the National and West Virginia Funeral Directors Associations. JB was also a member of the Charles Town Presbyterian Church

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Linda D. (Stotler) Barr. Also surviving him are his sons, Kirk Cameron Barr and wife Lora, Justin Kyle Barr, and Jeremy Adam Barr and wife Eliza, as well as grandchildren, Caleb V. Barr, Leighton R. Barr, Brogann E. Barr, and Owen S. Barr. His sister, Martha M. (Marcie) Gaines and husband J. Gaines of Fort Pierce, FL survive him and brother, Paul E. (Gene) Barr Jr. and wife Gloria of Walkersville, MD as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding JB in death are his parents, Paul E. and Barbara Ann Barr and his sister, Anna Rae Brown.

The funeral arrangements are held with the Harman Funeral Home, P.A., 305 N. Potomac St., Hagerstown, MD. A memorial service for JB will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday April 14, 2023 at the Charles Town Presbyterian Church, 220 E Washington St, Charles Town WV 25414 with inurnment following at Edge Hill Cemetery, 604 Hunter St., Charles Town, WV 25414.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in JB's name to the Independent Fire Company and Hospice of the Panhandle. Jerry Barr

To plant trees in memory, please visit the <u>Sympathy Store</u>.

John W. Corelli



John W.
Corelli, 68,
of Boca Raton, FL
passed
away on
Friday,

April 7, 2023 at Boca Raton Regional Hospital. He was born on February 1, 1955, the son of Daniel and Maria (Sailer) Corelli. He married Lynn Rieches in Milford on July 5, 1997.

Surviving is his wife, Lynn Corelli of Boca Raton, FL; one brother, Pat (Marie) Corelli of Oregon; two sisters, Rosemarie Banes of Delaware, and Dolores Thompson of Pennsylvania; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Corelli was preceded in passing by his parents and one brother, Daniel Corelli.

John was of the Catholic Faith. He was a lifetime member of the Elks Lodge, belonged to the Sons of the American Legion, and was a charter member of Boca Raton American Legion Riders. He was a boating and motorcycle enthusiast. John loved to play the guitar.

Mr. Corelli was a talented electrician and successful business man. He was the President and Founder of several companies, including, JACEE Electrical Inc. in PA, Nation 1 Electrical Services Inc. in FL, Nation 1 Real Estate Inc. d/b/a Nation 1 Handyman Services in FL, and Nation 1 Management Inc. in FL. John was a master electrician in Florida, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

Funeral services will be on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 11:00 am at Knapp Funeral Home in Milford. Father Michael Powell will officiate. Burial will follow at Maple Grove Cemetery in Milford. Visitation will be one hour prior to the services at the funeral home from 10:00-11:00 am.

Memorials may be made to the Family's Wishes.

Please share a memory of John at www.knappfuner-alhomes.com.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the <u>Sympathy</u> Store.

Robert Fitzgerald



Robert
Delane Fitzgerald, age
60 of New
Boston, died
Thursday,

April 6, 2023 at St. Rita's Medical Center in Lima, Ohio. Robert was born in Brookfield, Missouri on October 8, 1962 to Edwin R. and Emma Shirlene (Davis) Fitzgerald.

Robert was a graduate of Bucklin High School in 1981. He had worked as a truck driver for Hurtt Fab, 26 years at Waller Trucking and most recently for Vance Brothers Inc. He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion in Bucklin, Marceline Eagles Lodge, and the Marceline Masonic Lodge.

He is survived by his mother Shirlene Fitzgerald and David Molloy of New Boston, brother Dale Fitzgerald and wife Terri of New Boston, sister Tamera (Tammy) Sartain and husband Melvin of Marceline, nieces, Malissa Carr and Jason and their children Sadie and Jack of White House, TN, nephew Travis Sartain and Shelby and their children Briar Sartain and Maddox Chaplin of New Boston, niece Tawnya Isaacson of Illinois and her children Tracy Langhoff and Shaun Langhoff of Texas, and two great-great nieces. He is also survived by his beloved dog George. He was preceded in death by his father Edwin, nephew Robert Jon Isaacson and his grandparents.

A visitation will be held Tuesday, April 11, 2023 from 6-8 PM at Delaney Funeral Home in Marceline. Memorials may be made to New Boston Cemetery and mailed to 1720 N. Missouri Ave, Marceline, MO 64658.

To plant Memorial Trees in memory of Robert D. Fitzgerald, please click here to visit our Sympathy Store.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the <u>Sympathy Store</u>.

| Round-Up



We honor our deceased brothers, who lived their lives following your will. We pray that they will be able to rest in peace and receive eternal life. Let your angels touch their hearts and be with them as they await joy. Let your glorious power give eternal rest to their souls.

Amen.









Last week, I printed a copy of *Round-Up* for a friend, and after looking at it for a while, I was unhappy with how it looked, and decided to make a change. I hope you will enjoy this new look, and will continue to support this publication.

Next weekend is busy for the American Legion Family. The National Oratorical Contest is in Indianapolis, here is an Unofficial SAL Gathering in the Eastern Region, the SAL Central Region Extravaganza, and much more. Whatever event you are participating in, please don't forget to share with us, so we can tell your story in future editions.

The SAL National Target Date is Wednesday, April 19, with a goal of 90% paid memberships. Nearly all detachments have hit the mark already, and there is still time for the few who haven't to make it. Keep working hard and let's see how fast we can all be quota!

Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible. Renew Today!

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com | Team Vrabel

click a button for more information

JOIN THE SAL



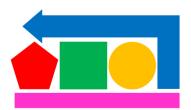








Meeting of the Jeffs



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 <u>jef-</u>fyrabelsr@gmail.com.

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

E AMERICAN LEGION



Our support for children counts

April 12, 2023

Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends,

Nothing was said in The American Legion's founding meetings, conventions, or constitutional documents about a veteran's place in the life of a child. "The subject developed into a major Legion program by sheer natural law," author Richard Seelye Jones wrote in 1946. Back then, the Legion housed homeless children, fed the hungry, bought winter coats for those who were cold and helped them get on track if they fell into trouble.

Today, Legionnaires are still dedicating thousands of hours annually to continue doing such things and helping young people face challenges from domestic abuse to disabilities – and showing them, they are not alone, no matter what they face.

In the most recent membership year, American Legion posts reported 21,131 activities in support of children and youth in their communities. The value of goods supplied by posts for children – from school supplies to holiday meals and wholesome events – came in at no less than \$3,147,217. Monetary

contributions for children and local groups that support them: \$3,620,016.

How do we know this? Because over 67% of posts submitted their <u>Consolidated Post Reports</u> (<u>CPRs</u>) last year. These reports show, in hard facts, the ways in which The American Legion strengthens communities. I only wish we had 100% of posts reporting this phenomenal impact.

As we recognize <u>April as Children & Youth Month in the American Legion Family</u>, I salute those members and posts for tracking their work and submitting their CPRs. Our mentorship of children is a message I love to share during my travels, and real numbers truly bring the message home.

Those who know me understand my personal devotion to this particular pillar of our organization. My wife and I – like many grandparents in our American Legion Family – have few greater joys than spending quality time with our grandchildren, Alexander, Abigail, and Natalia. And, after I retired from a career in the automotive service industry, I soon saw a need in my community that could make a difference for children, as a school bus driver, a job I have grown to love, knowing that if I can start a child's day off with a smile, it's going to be a good day for both of us.

The ways in which The American Legion acts on this purpose are many.

In Champaign, Ill., Post 24 devotes volunteer time and resources for the Tom Jones Challenger Baseball League for children with disabilities. Legionnaires from Post 1587 in New York operate an outdoor program specifically for Seneca Nation 13-yearolds who are learning native traditions, seizing opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, and avoiding unhealthy alternatives. At Fort Riley, Kan., Legionnaires have made a holiday tradition of brightening the lives of active-duty personnel – many from the Warrior Transition Battalion – with children at home. In Wisconsin, Legionnaire Annastasia "Yiayia" Wischki founded Be the One 4 Our Youth, in which she educates schoolchildren about bullying, self-harm and suicide.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation awards hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants each year to extend our organization's reach, through agencies and nonprofits that "contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth."

This pillar of The American Legion has literally composed itself over the years – by "sheer natural law," as the author wrote – because it makes substantial differences in every corner of society, differences veterans are duty-bound to deliver. And if the CPRs tell us anything, they do add up.

Vincent "Jim" Troiola, National Commander The American Legion

PUTIN continued from page 1

Private armies. Add to this combustible kindling the fact that some regions, corporate conglomerates, and individuals have their own militaries.

Topping this list is the <u>Wagner Group</u>. A private military organization numbering in the tens of thousands, the Wagner Group was once the vanguard of Russian military operations – from Georgia and Crimea, to Syria and Libya, to Sudan and Mali. Wagner's founder and leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, enjoyed close ties to Putin. Wagner's personnel had access to the very best military equipment. And Wagner's exploits accorded it prestige in Russia – and fear outside Russia.

In Ukraine, however, Wagner fighters have been eviscerated. Some 40,000 Wagner mercenaries are estimated to have been killed, captured, or disappeared in Ukraine. Wagner's mercenary army has been mauled in Bakhmut – apparently by Kremlin design. Wagner has been cut off from direct communications with the Kremlin and has not received needed ammunition. Prigozhin claims the Russian Defense Ministry is engaged in "an attempt to destroy Wagner."

Putin confidantes, in turn, <u>accuse</u> Prigozhin and his mercenaries of committing war crimes – perhaps an early indication of how Moscow will defend and deflect the forthcoming charges sure to be issued by international tribunals.

With his army being ground down by Ukraine's monthslong defense of Bakhmut – and with little reinforcement from Russian regulars – Prigozhin cryptically <u>said</u> in March, "The Wagner private military group must turn ... into an army with an ideology. And that ideology is the struggle for justice." He added, "We will begin to reboot ... we will start recruiting new people from the regions." (That's a reference to those far-flung territories whose sons Moscow has dragooned into war.)

In what some are <u>calling</u> it "the next Wagner Group," Russian energy giant Gazprom is standing up its own military force. <u>Rosneft</u>, a massive Russian oil company, appears poised to follow suit.

In addition to these corporate armies and Wagner mercenaries and the Russian army, the Interior Ministry, Federal Security Service, Federal Protective Service, Ministry of Emergency Situations and National Guard field quasi-armies. Revamped over the past decade, the National Guard has been described as a "Praetorian guard" for Putin. Including Interior Ministry troops, riot police and special operations commandos, it answers directly to Putin and is focused largely on maintaining internal security.

Some of Russia's semiautonomous regions also have their own military-security forces. British diplomat John Dobson notes that Bashkortostan has a security force of 40,000 loyal to its president, Murtaza Rakhimov.

Chechnya's well-equipped <u>pro-Russian forces</u> are fighting in Ukraine. But there also are <u>pro-Ukrainian Chechen battalions</u> actively fighting against their pro-Russian brethren and against the Russian army. As the *Guardian reports*, the pro-Ukrainian Chechens see a Ukrainian victory as the best path to independence for Chechnya. "We are fighting for a free future for us and for Ukraine," declares one pro-Ukrainian Chechen soldier.

Rebels. More worrisome for Putin: Some Russians are taking up arms against Russia.

With its core comprised of defectors, the Free Russia Legion (FRL) numbers more than 4,000 Russians fighting alongside the Ukrainian military. But FRL has its sights set on Moscow. "We will go to liberate our home – Russia – in order to destroy the Putin regime and establish a new free country in Russia," an FRL fighter recently told *Newsweek*.

The FRL is reviewing thousands of applications. Indeed, there's a deep reservoir of disenchanted and AWOL Russian soldiers. Consider the thousands of Russian soldiers who have refused to deploy; the reports of Russian troops killing their commanding officers and turning basic training into fratricidal massacres and rioting and mutinying; the torrent of social-media posts referencing absentee commanders and worthless equipment, disillusion and desertion. Russian troops from at least 16 regions have posted videos (here, here, here) detailing poor training, incompetent leadership and lack of gear.

An army of mistreated, disgruntled soldiers is a recipe for revolution, as history reminds us.

Chaos. Political scientists note that one indication of state failure is a government that loses its internal monopoly on military force. That appears to be what's happening in Russia.

As Gen. Ben Hodges, former commander of U.S. Army-Europe, observes, "There is a lack of cohesive military structure in Russia." Gen. Mark Hertling, also a former commander of U.S. Army-Europe, adds that these various armed groups, regional forces and private armies will "contribute to chaos" if Putin falls.

Chaos in Russia may already be unleashed. The <u>fires</u>, <u>attacks and bombings</u> all across Russia – airbases and National Guard facilities, police stations, railroad lines, military recruitment centers, government agencies, the headquarters of Putin's political party, <u>assassinations</u> of Putin allies – are evidence of an active anti-regime resistance. Indeed, anti-Putin <u>groups</u> are openly taking responsibility for many of these guerilla-style attacks.

Although Putin's demise – and Russia's defeat in Ukraine – would be welcome news, chaos in Russia would not. Russia's fragmentation into ethnic shards would create countless new national security concerns for the United States. Recall that Russia fields more nuclear weapons than any other nation. Its territory borders regions of vital importance to America's security and prosperity: the Euro-Atlantic, the Indo-Pacific and the Arctic. And its natural resources help sustain many countries.

The worst-case scenario is something bloodier and uglier than Yugoslavia in the 1990s or Lebanon in the 1970s and 1980s. Because of Putin's reckless actions, we should prepare for the worst.

Local American Legion to hold meet & greet Event April 22 at Community Center

The Newtown Bee | April 15, 2023

The American Legion Family is planning a multitown Meet & Greet to be offered on Saturday, April 22, 11 am to 2 pm, at Newtown Community Center, 8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT.

Beverages and breakfast snacks will be served.

All veterans who served honorably are welcome. Veterans do not need to have served overseas to join, nor do they need to live in Newtown. American Legion Posts from multiple towns will be represented; guests will be invited to join the post of their choice. Veteran family members are welcome. A veteran may be living or deceased.

The American Legion honors the service of veterans who have died, and admits their relatives too.

American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion Family will be there as well.

American Legion Auxiliary welcomes spouses, daughters, granddaughters, sisters, mothers, and grandmothers of veterans, living or deceased, or military currently serving. Sons of the American Legion welcomes sons and grandsons of veterans, living or deceased, and military currently serving.

The American Legion is an active organization supporting veterans, veteran families, towns, and schools. Annual activities for the local post include participating in the Newtown Labor Day Parade, and presenting a Kids Fishing Derby, Oratorical Contest (grades 9-12), Boys & Girls State (HS Juniors), Veterans Day at Newtown High School, Valentines for Troops, awards for graduating high school seniors, and Memorial Day ceremonies.

This year's Newtown Memorial Day observance will be Saturday, May 27, at 5 pm, at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, Main Street at Hanover Road. Those who would like to purchase a luminary in memory of someone or in thanks for a person can do so during the Meet & Greet.

To see what the local American Legion has done for Memorial Day the past three years, search YouTube for Taps Along the Housatonic.

Hearts of Hope-Newtown will have members at the Meet & Greet, with prepainted patriotic hearts and heart painting kits available to purchase.

Last year, Hearts of Hope sent over 100 hearts to one of the Army National Guard units that includes Major Sean Lee, DDS, and owner of Newtown Smiles. Earlier this year, about 150 hearts were made for and delivered to the US Air Force Aeromedical Evacuation Unit from McGuire Air Force Base. Captain Gracie Cudney, RN, is the niece of two members from Post 202.

American Legion Department Assistant Service Officer Mary Harris will be present from noon until 2 pm on April 23, answering questions regarding the newly passed PACT Act, veteran service needs, and offering information about filing claims for disability compensation for service-related injuries or illness. Harris works with the Hartford Regional Office at Newington of the Veterans Administration. She is an accredited veteran service officer under the VA's office of general council and a US Army veteran.

American Legion Post 202, which serves Newtown and Brookfield, meets the first Wednesday of every month, August through June, at Newtown Community Center. Meetings begin at 7 pm.

For additional information about the Meet & Greet and/or the local post, contact Post 202 Commander Donna A. Monteleone at AmericanLegionNewtown@gmail.com or 203-577-9568 before 7 pm.



Remembering the Greatest Generation

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



Army says 'no foul play' evident in death of soldier who alleged sexual harassment by superior

Pvt. Ana Basalduaruiz, 21, was found dead on the base Nadine El-Bawab | March 16, 2023

Fort Hood officials are investigating the death of Private Second Class Ana Basalduaruiz, whose family said.

No foul play is evident so far in the death of 21-yearold Pvt. Ana Basalduaruiz, a combat engineer at Fort Hood, Texas, who had served with the division for the last 15 months, Army officials said Thursday.

Basalduaruiz, who was found dead Monday (March 13, 2023), told her mother last month she was being sexually harassed by a superior and her family offered to pick her up from the base, her family told ABC News.

The Army Criminal Investigation Division and the chain of command are actively investigating the facts and circumstances surrounding Basalduaruiz's death, Fort Hood told ABC News.

At this point, Army Criminal Investigation Division officials have confirmed that "no foul play is evident" in Basalduaruiz's death, which remains under investigation, Fort Hood said in a statement Thursday evening.

"Army CID will continue to conduct a thorough investigation and gather all evidence and facts to ensure they discover exactly what transpired. Information related to any possible harassment will be addressed and investigated fully," the statement said.

Army Spc. Vanessa Guillén was murdered at the same base after allegedly being sexually harassed by another soldier. The soldier killed himself while being pursued by police. A report released nearly a year after her death confirmed that Guillén had been sexually harassed by a superior.

An autopsy will be conducted on Basalduaruiz's body Thursday, according to her aunt, Itzi Ortega.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of Pvt. Ana Basalduaruiz, and we extend our sympathies to her father, mother, and her sister," said Lt. Col. Patrick Sullivan, commander, 91st Engineer Battalion. "Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time. She was an exceptional teammate that will truly be missed."



Ana Basalduaruiz, 21, was found dead at Fort Hood, Texas, on Monday, March 13, 2023. Army officials are investigating the circumstances.

photo courtesy Alejandra Ruiz Zarco

Basalduaruiz's family was told they will not hear anything else until the investigation into her death is completed.

According to the Department of Defense's fiscal year 2021 report on sexual assault and harassment in the military, 29% of women and 7% of men experienced sexual harassment. The 29% for women is an increase from the last report on fiscal year 2018 --when 24% of women stated they suffered sexual harassment. The increase was driven by the experiences of enlisted women and those under the age of 25, according to the report.

Basalduaruiz joined the military in 2020 but did not start training until August 2022 because of the pandemic, her aunt said.

Guillén's sister, Mayra Guillén, reacted to Basalduaruiz's death on <u>Twitter</u>. Ortega said Basalduaruiz's family was in touch with the Guillén family as well.

"I'm aware of the death of Ana Basaldua in Ft Hood, TX. May she Rest In Peace. She was only 21 years old ... I will be speaking to the family soon, I find it very sensitive to speak on something I'm not fully aware off yet and this is also very triggering for me ... I need to gather my thoughts and then I'll be able to share them," she said in a Tweet.



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JOHN R. COOK Candidate for SAL National Vice Commander 2023 - 202461 Nacomia Drive Madison, NH 03849 (330) 455-7816 cooki46@roadrunner.com Your Ad Here contact jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com for information This could be your ad Thank You to our Sponsors Place your ad today Don't miss out

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Round-Up

2023 SAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT AS OF: APRIL 13, 2023

		2023 DET.	NEEDED TO MEET	2023		
#	DETACHMENT	YEAR END	90% TARGET	ACTUAL	% OF YEAR	2023
"	BEIMCHWENT	GOAL	4/19/2023	MBRSHP	END GOAL	Renewal %
1	HAWAII	77	-26	95	123.38%	100.00
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	-283	1,509	110.79%	87.86
3	PUERTO RICO	123	-20	131	106.50%	85.95
4	MEXICO	31	-4	32	103.23%	51.61
5	PHILIPPINES	70	-7	70	100.00%	100.00
6	FLORIDA	21,519	-1,980	21,347	99.20%	80.00
7	FRANCE	158	-13	155	98.10%	87.82
8	MICHIGAN	24,271	-1,857	23,701	97.65%	85.16
9	DELAWARE	2,430	-182	2,369	97.49%	82.08
10	OREGON	1,414	-103	1,376	97.31%	76.74
11	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	-97	1,423	96.61%	81.33
12	GEORGIA	4,490	-293	4,334	96.53%	80.92
13	MARYLAND	16,058	-1,039	15,491	96.47%	85.88
14	COLORADO	2,729	-164	2,620	96.01%	80.34
15	VIRGINIA	4,109	-244	3,942	95.94%	81.23
16	WISCONSIN	4,187	-246	4,014	95.87%	82.09
17	OHIO	30,636	-1,743	29,315	95.69%	86.87
18	WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	-131	2,257	95.55%	78.31
19	RHODE ISLAND	336	-19	321	95.54%	81.52
20	MAINE	2,617	-122	2,477	94.65%	81.31
21	PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	-2,662	57,385	94.38%	85.72
22	VERMONT	3,818	-155	3,591	94.05%	84.77
23	ILLINOIS	13,398	-510	12,568	93.81%	83.80
24	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	-209	5,318	93.68%	81.58
25	KANSAS	5,919	-216	5,543	93.65%	82.86
26	ARIZONA	8,004	-257	7,461	93.22%	73.41
27	WASHINGTON	2,485	-79	2,315	93.16%	72.58
28	TENNESSEE	1,718	-54	1,600	93.13%	74.93
29	NEBRASKA	7,015	-208	6,521	92.96%	87.85
30	CONNECTICUT	1,867	-54	1,734	92.88%	81.65
31	IDAHO	644	-16	596	92.55%	74.04
32	NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	-63	2,517	92.30%	74.74
33	LOUISIANA	1,790	-40	1,651	92.23%	81.94
34	NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	-23	973	92.14%	80.87
35	IOWA	4,857	-100	4,471	92.05%	80.87
36	INDIANA	36,387	-664	33,412	91.82%	83.19
37	NEW YORK	29,864	-509	27,387	91.71%	83.03
38	NEVADA	357	-6	327	91.60%	68.51
39	CALIFORNIA	10,714	-164	9,807	91.53%	75.77
40	ALABAMA	2,066	-32	1,891	91.53%	77.34
41	ALASKA	1,608	-17	1,464	91.04%	72.20
	MISSOURI	3,219	-29	2,926	90.90%	79.34
ı	NEW JERSEY	9,386	-52	8,499	90.55%	79.81
44	OKLAHOMA	1,348	-5	1,218	90.36%	71.32
45	MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	-7	4,905	90.13%	79.13
46	MONTANA	1,108	0	997	89.98%	83.33
47	MISSISSIPPI	722	3	647	89.61%	75.41
48	NEW MEXICO	1,483	10	1,325	89.35%	71.34
49	TEXAS	5,569	37	4,975	89.33%	71.81
50 E4	MINNESOTA	11,378	109	10,131	89.04%	80.82
51	WYOMING	1,298	59	1,109	85.44%	74.73
52 52	ARKANSAS	447	50	352	78.75%	66.67
53 54	KENTUCKY	2,609	328	2,020	77.42%	65.18
54 55	UTAH DIST OF COL	449	64	340	75.72%	61.05
55	DIST OF COL	114	24	79 345.034	69.30%	56.64
	Grand Totals:	367,798	-14,016	345,034	93.81%	82.38

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2023 SAL REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

WESTERN R	egion - Ja	ACK A. YOU	NGS (ID)
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	77	95	123.38%
PHILIPPINES	70	70	100.00%
OREGON	1,414	1,376	97.31%
ARIZONA	8,004	7,461	93.22%
WASHINGTON	2,485	2,315	93.16%
IDAHO	644	596	92.55%
NEVADA	357	327	91.60%
CALIFORNIA	10,714	9,807	91.53%
ALASKA	1,608	1,464	91.04%
UTAH	449	340	75.72%
Totals:	25,822	23,851	92.37%

CENTRAL RE	gion - Da	VID J. MEI	NNEL (MI)
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
MICHIGAN	24,271	23,701	97.65%
WISCONSIN	4,187	4,014	95.87%
оню	30,636	29,315	95.69%
ILLINOIS	13,398	12,568	93.81%
IOWA	4,857	4,471	92.05%
INDIANA	36,387	33,412	91.82%
MISSOURI	3,219	2,926	90.90%
MINNESOTA	11,378	10,131	89.04%
Totals:	128,333	120,538	93.93%

SOUTHERN REC	GION - RO	nald E. Ro	OBERTS (MS)
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
PUERTO RICO	123	131	106.50%
FLORIDA	21,519	21,347	99.20%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	1,423	96.61%
GEORGIA	4,490	4,334	96.53%
VIRGINIA	4,109	3,942	95.94%
TENNESSEE	1,718	1,600	93.13%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	2,517	92.30%
LOUISIANA	1,790	1,651	92.23%
ALABAMA	2,066	1,891	91.53%
MISSISSIPPI	722	647	89.61%
ARKANSAS	447	352	78.75%
KENTUCKY	2,609	2,020	77.42%
Totals:	43,793	41,855	95.57%

MIDWEST REGION - MICHAEL L. KIRSCHNER (CO)									
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal						
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	1,509	110.79%						
MEXICO	31	32	103.23%						
COLORADO	2,729	2,620	96.01%						
KANSAS	5,919	5,543	93.65%						
NEBRASKA	7,015	6,521	92.96%						
NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	973	92.14%						
OKLAHOMA	1,348	1,218	90.36%						
MONTANA	1,108	997	89.98%						
NEW MEXICO	1,483	1,325	89.35%						
TEXAS	5,569	4,975	89.33%						
WYOMING	1,298	1,109	85.44%						
Totals:	28,918	26,822	92.75%						

EASTERN R	egion - Ern	EST E. LABER	RGE (MA)
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	158	155	98.10%
DELAWARE	2,430	2,369	97.49%
MARYLAND	16,058	15,491	96.47%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	2,257	95.55%
RHODE ISLAND	336	321	95.54%
MAINE	2,617	2,477	94.65%
PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	57,385	94.38%
VERMONT	3,818	3,591	94.05%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	5,318	93.68%
CONNECTICUT	1,867	1,734	92.88%
NEW YORK	29,864	27,387	91.71%
NEW JERSEY	9,386	8,499	90.55%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	4,905	90.13%
DIST OF COL	114	79	69.30%
Totals:	140,932	131,968	93.64%

	04/13/23	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	41,855	(1,938)	95.57%	307		
2	Central 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	128,333	120,538	(7,795)	93.93%	1,369		
3	Eastern 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	140,932	131,968	(8,964)	93.64%	921		
4	Midwest 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	28,918	26,822	(2,096)	92.75%	317		
5	Western 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	25,822	23,851	(1,971)	92.37%	213		
	TOTALS 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	367,798	345,034	(22,764)	93.81%	3,127		



	04/13/23	CENTRAL REGION David Mennell (MI), National Vice-Commander							
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed	Doveent	Incress	Renewal	National	Quota
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	for Quota	Percent	Increase	Rate	Rank	Date
1	Michigan 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	24,271	23,701	(570)	97.65%	297	85.16%	8	
2	Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	4,187	4,014	(173)	95.87%	74	82.09%	16	
3	Ohio 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	30,636	29,315	(1,321)	95.69%	549	86.87%	17	
4	Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8	13,398	12,568	(830)	93.81%	112	83.80%	23	
5	lowa 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	4,857	4,471	(386)	92.05%	13	80.87%	35	
6	Indiana 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	36,387	33,412	(2,975)	91.82%	300	83.19%	36	
7	Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	3,219	2,926	(293)	90.90%	4	79.34%	42	
8	Minnesota 5, 6, 7	11,378	10,131	(1,247)	89.04%	20	80.82%	50	
	TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	128,333	120,538	(7,795)	93.93%	1,369			

	04/13/23	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	95	18	123.38%	1	100.00%	1	10/10/22
2	Phillippines 8, 9	70	70	•	100.00%	•	100.00%	5	04/10/23
3	Oregon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,414	1,376	(38)	97.31%	'n	76.74%	10	
4	Arizona 5, 6, 7, 8	8,004	7,461	(543)	93.22%	29	73.41%	26	
5	Washington 7, 8	2,485	2,315	(170)	93.16%	12	72.58%	27	
6	ldaho 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8	644	596	(48)	92.55%	6	74.04%	31	
7	Nevada 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	357	327	(30)	91.60%	2	68.51%	38	
8	California 1, 5, 6, 7, 8	10,714	9,807	(907)	91.53%	160	75.77%	39	
9	Alaska 3, 6, 8	1,608	1,464	(144)	91.04%	2	72.20%	41	
10	Utah 5	449	340	(109)	75.72%	1	61.05%	54	
	TOTALS 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	25,822	23,851	(1,971)	92.37%	213			

	04/132	S	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 F	Florida 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	21,519	21,347	(172)	99.20%	170	80.00%	6	
3	South Carolina 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,473	1,423	(50)	96.61%	24	81.33%	11	
4	Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	4,490	4,334	(156)	96.53%	3	80.92%	12	
5	/irginia 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	4,109	3,942	(167)	95.94%	27	81.23%	15	
6	Tennessee 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8	1,718	1,600	(118)	93.13%	5	74.93%	28	
7	North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2,727	2,517	(210)	92.30%	16	74.74%	32	
8 L	ouisiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,790	1,651	(139)	92.23%	4	81.94%	33	
9	Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2,066	1,891	(175)	91.53%	5	77.34%	40	
10	Mississippi 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	722	647	(75)	89.61%	5	75.41%	47	
11	Arkansas 1	447	352	(95)	78.75%	-	66.67%	52	
12	Kentucky	2,609	2,020	(589)	77.42%	48	65.18%	53	
1	TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	43,793	41,855	(1,938)	95.57%	307			

| Round-Up

	04/13/23	MI	DWEST REGIO	ON Michae	l Kirschner	(CO), Natio	onal Vice-Co	mmander	
	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	1,509	147	110.79%	14	87.86%	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	Colorado 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2,729	2,620	(109)	96.01%	2	80.34%	14	
4	Kansas 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	5,919	5,543	(376)	93.65%	68	82.86%	25	
5	Nebraska 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	7,015	6,521	(494)	92.96%	70	87.85%	29	
6	North Dakota 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8	1,056	973	(83)	92.14%	-	80.87%	34	
7	Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,348	1,218	(130)	90.36%	224	71.32%	44	
8	Montana 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,108	997	(111)	89.98%	3	83.33%	46	
9	New Mexico	1,483	1,325	(158)	89.35%	128	71.34%	48	
10	Texas 1, 3, 4, 5	5,569	4,975	(594)	89.33%	112	71.81%	49	
11	Wyoming 1, 4, 5, 6	1,298	1,109	(189)	85.44%	22	74.73%	51	
	TOTALS 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	28,918	26,822	(2,096)	92.75%	629			

	04/13/23		EASTERN REG	ION Ernie	LaBerge (N	/IA) Nation	al Vice-Com	mander	
	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%	7	
2	Delaware 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2,430	2,369	(61)	97.49%	11	82.08%	9	
3	Maryland 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	16,058	15,491	(567)	96.47%	173	85.88%	13	
4	West Virginia 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2,362	2,257	(105)	95.55%	4	78.31%	18	
5	Rhode Island 4, 5, 7	336	321	(15)	95.54%	1	81.52%	19	
6	Maine 5, 6, 7, 8	2,617	2,477	(140)	94.65%	9	81.31%	20	
7	Pennsylvania 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	60,803	57,385	(3,418)	94.38%	337	85.72%	21	
8	Vermont 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	3,818	3,591	(227)	94.05%	31	84.77%	22	
9	New Hampshire 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	5,677	5,318	(359)	93.68%	14	81.58%	24	
10	Connecticut 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,867	1,734	(133)	92.88%	40	81.65%	30	
11	New York 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	29,864	27,387	(2,477)	91.71%	224	83.03%	37	
12	New Jersey 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	9,386	8,499	(887)	90.55%	9	79.81%	43	
13	Massachusetts 4, 6, 7, 8	5,442	4,905	(537)	90.13%	68	79.13%	45	
14	Dist. of Columbia	114	79	(35)	69.30%	-	56.64%	55	
	TOTALS 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	140,932	131,968	(8,964)	93.64%	921			

	04/13/23		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, 8	21,519	21,374	(145)	99.33%	197	80.00%	6	
2	Michigan 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	24,271	23,701	(570)	97.65%	297	85.16%	8	
3	Ohio 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	30,636	29,315	(1,321)	95.69%	549	86.87%	17	
4	Pennsylvania 5, 6, 7, 8	60,803	57,385	(3,418)	94.38%	337	85.72%	21	
5	Indiana 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	36,387	33,412	(2,975)	91.82%	300	83.19%	36	
6	New York 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	29,864	27,387	(2,477)	91.71%	224	83.03%	37	
	TOTALS	203,480	192,574	(10,906)	94.64%	1,904			

National Totals 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	367,798	345,034	(22,764)	93.81%	3,127	82.38%	



Q Quota

1 Met 09/14/22 goal of 10% 6 Met 02/15/23 goal of 75% 2 Met 10/13/22 goal of 25% 7 Met 03/15/23 goal of 80% 3 Met 11/09/22 goal of 35% 8 Met 04/19/23 goal of 90%

4 Met 12/14/22 goal of 45% 9 Met 05/17/23 goal of 100% 5 Met 01/19/23 goal of 60% 10 Met 07/16/23 goal of 105%





SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION 2023 SPRING NEC AGENDA MAY 5 - 7, 2023



FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023

COMMITTEE AND OTHER MEETING TIMES & LOCATIONS

CENTURY COMMITTEE (CENTCOM)	MICHIGAN ROOM - 21ST FL	3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION CMTE	OHIO ROOM - 21 ST FL	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
CHILDREN & YOUTH CMTE	CIRCLE EAST - LL	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
COMMISSION & COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	CIRCLE CENTER & WEST	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
CONVENTION CMTE	OHIO ROOM - 21 ST FL	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT	MICHIGAN ROOM - 21 ST FL	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
MEMBERSHIP CMTE	CIRCLE CENTER & WEST	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS	LIBRARY ROOM - 21 ST FL	6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
PUFL ADHOC CMTE	MERIDIAN EAST - LL	12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
SUB-COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL APPTS	MERIDIAN EAST - LL	8:00 am - 12:00 pm
SUB-COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS	MICHIGAN ROOM - 21 ST FL	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

CHECK DISTRIBUTION LOWER LOBBY FOYER - LL 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

OPENING SESSION (NEC) - MERIDIAN WEST / CENTER - LL - 8:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

POSTING OF COLORS

INVOCATION

POW/MIA EMPTY CHAIR CEREMONY

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

BLUE STAR BANNER CEREMONY

READING OF THE CALL

ROLL CALL

READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

GREETINGS BY NATIONAL SAL LIASION, KEVIN MOOK (MD)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECESS

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE AND OTHER MEETING TIMES & LOCATIONS

AMERICANISM COMMISSION	CIRCLE WEST - LL	9:30 am - 12:00 pm
FINANCE COMMISSION	PANORAMA B - 21 ST FL	10:00 am - 11:00 am
INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION	CIRCLE CENTER - LL	10:00 am - 11:00 am
NVC SELECTION COMMITTEE	MERIDIAN EAST - LL	12:00 pm - 6:00 pm
PUBLIC & MEDIA COMM CMSN	CIRCLE WEST - LL	12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
SUB-COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL APPTS	MERIDIAN EAST - LL	8:00 am - 12:00 pm
SUB-COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS	CIRCLE CENTER - LL	11:00 pm - 12:00 pm
VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION	CIRCLE EAST - LL	10:00 am - 11:00 am
VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION	CIRCLE EAST - LL	11:00 am - 12:00 pm

** MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE REVISED: 4/14/2023

NATIONAL MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (NMI)

NMI - II (PANORAMA BALLROOM) / NMI - III (PANORAMA A) START TIME - 9:30 AM - 21ST FLOOR

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023

Religious Service - Meridian West / Center - LL - 7:45 am General Session (NEC) - Meridian West / Center - LL - 8:45 am

RECONVENE
CALL TO ORDER
SALUTE COLORS
INVOCATION
ROLL CALL

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS:

THE AMERICAN LEGION, NATIONAL COMMANDER, VINCENT J. TROIOLA (NY)
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, NATIONAL PRESIDENT, VICKIE KOUTZ (IN)
THE AMERICAN LEGION, CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT, ROBERT MORRILL (NY)

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS

AMERICANISM COMMISSION - CHRIS CASEY (NE)

- CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE JIM NOBLE (NJ)
- CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE MARK NAVE (PA)

CENTURY COMMITTEE (CENTCOM) - JEFF VRABEL, SR. (OH)

FINANCE COMMISSION - BILL HILL (MD)

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION - BILL CLANCY (NY)

- CONVENTION COMMITTEE CHRISTOPHER BYRD (NC)
- MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MIKE MONSERUD (IA)
- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE THOM SKELLEY (TX)

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION - TOM DEAL (MD)

PUBLIC AND MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION - ROBERT HILL (MD)

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION - SETH RIPPE (NE)

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION COMMISSION - JAMES COATES (NY)

SUB-COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS - NED FOX (CA)

OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
BENEDICTION
RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS
ADJOURNMENT

** MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE REVISED: 4/14/2023

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION (CWF) - DONATIONS BY REGION

Total:	\$	91,331.91	140,961	\$	140,961.00	\$	44,790.47	31.8%	\$	0.32
WEST VIRGINIA	\$	4,900.00	2,404	\$	2,404.00	\$	3,227.25	134.2%	\$	1.34
VERMONT	\$	8,875.23	3,830	\$	3,830.00	\$	1,950.00	50.9%	\$	0.51
RHODE ISLAND	\$	350.00	330	\$	330.00	\$	-	0.0%	\$	-
PENNSYLVANIA	\$	38,798.86	60,612	\$	60,612.00	\$	14,092.44	23.3%	\$	0.23
NEW YORK	\$	4,620.00	29,905	\$	29,905.00	\$	11,681.00	39.1%	\$	0.39
NEW JERSEY	\$	13,902.00	9,364	\$	9,364.00	\$	3,350.00	35.8%	\$	0.36
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$	6,634.00	5,811	\$	5,811.00	\$	2,488.78	42.8%	\$	0.43
MASSACHUSETTS	\$	4,011.00	5,500	\$	5,500.00	\$	5,621.00	102.2%	\$	1.02
MARYLAND	\$	3,100.00	16,051	\$	16,051.00	\$	830.00	5.2%	\$	0.05
MAINE	\$	2,610.00	2,596	\$	2,596.00	\$	100.00	3.9%	\$	0.04
FRANCE	\$	-	156	\$	156.00	\$	100.00	64.1%	\$	0.64
DIST OF COL	\$		113	\$	113.00	\$		0.0%	\$	-
DELAWARE	\$	1,950.00	2,433	\$	2,433.00	\$	250.00	10.3%	\$	0.10
CONNECTICUT	\$	1,580.82	1,856	\$	1,856.00	\$	1,100.00	59.3%	\$	0.59
EASTERN REGION										
		(FINAL)	(FINAL)		(FINAL)	(CURRENT)	GOAL	PER	CAPITA
DETACHMENT		ONATIONS	MEMBERSHIP		GOAL		ONATIONS	% OF		ATIONS Capita
		2022	2022		2023 CWF	l	2023	σ or	DOL.	

Total:	\$ 82,641.55	127,134	\$	127,134.00	\$	34,966.10	27.5%	\$ 0.28
WISCONSIN	\$ 707.00	4,173	\$	4,173.00	\$	717.00	17.2%	\$ 0.17
ОНЮ	\$ 6,646.25	30,144	\$	30,144.00	\$	8,982.80	29.8%	\$ 0.30
MISSOURI	\$ 2,332.00	3,197	\$	3,197.00	\$	953.61	29.8%	\$ 0.30
MINNESOTA	\$ 17,625.09	11,289	\$	11,289.00	\$	9,281.91	82.2%	\$ 0.82
MICHIGAN	\$ 8,688.33	24,311	\$	24,311.00	\$	8,062.00	33.2%	\$ 0.33
IOWA	\$ 2,300.00	4,836	\$	4,836.00	\$	304.00	6.3%	\$ 0.06
INDIANA	\$ 32,645.05	35,836	\$	35,836.00	\$	2,125.00	5.9%	\$ 0.06
ILLINOIS	\$ 11,697.83	13,348	\$	13,348.00	\$	4,539.78	34.0%	\$ 0.34
CENTRAL REGION			_		_			

WESTERN REGION						
ALASKA	\$ 3,200.00	1,627	\$ 1,627.00	\$ 1,678.00	103.1%	\$ 1.03
ARIZONA	\$ 12,170.00	8,076	\$ 8,076.00	\$ 13,249.00	164.1%	\$ 1.64
CALIFORNIA	\$ 6,842.48	10,728	\$ 10,728.00	\$ 1,383.56	12.9%	\$ 0.13
HAWAII	\$ 1,016.00	75	\$ 75.00	\$ 300.00	400.0%	\$ 4.00
IDAHO	\$ 1,001.00	645	\$ 645.00	\$ 200.00	31.0%	\$ 0.31
NEVADA	\$ 4,326.00	360	\$ 360.00	\$ 1,850.00	513.9%	\$ 5.14
OREGON	\$ 8,214.33	1,428	\$ 1,428.00	\$ 2,087.00	146.1%	\$ 1.46
PHILIPPINES	\$ 350.00	67	\$ 67.00	\$ 75.00	0.0%	\$ 1.12
UTAH	\$ 185.00	442	\$ 442.00	\$ 475.00	107.5%	\$ 1.07
WASHINGTON	\$ 1,480.00	2,504	\$ 2,504.00	\$ 1,675.00	66.9%	\$ 0.67
Total:	\$ 38,784.81	25,952	\$ 25,952.00	\$ 22,972.56	88.5%	\$ 0.89

Total:	\$	68,780.20	43,664	\$	43,664.00	\$	51,299.19	117.5%	\$	1.17
VIRGINIA	\$	6,532.00	4,079	\$	4,079.00	\$	16,077.00	394.1%	\$	3.9
TENNESSEE	\$	2,985.00	1,683	\$	1,683.00	\$	1,693.44	100.6%	\$	1.0
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$	4,106.00	1,485	\$	1,485.00	\$	2,750.00	185.2%	\$	1.8
PUERTO RICO	\$	263.00	121	\$	121.00	\$	10.00	8.3%	\$	0.0
NORTH CAROLINA	\$	5,921.00	2,698	\$	2,698.00	\$	4,831.75	179.1%	\$	1.7
MISSISSIPPI	\$	6,476.00	725	\$	725.00	\$	187.00	25.8%	\$	0.2
LOUISIANA	\$	4,692.20	1,773	\$	1,773.00	\$	2,410.00	135.9%	\$	1.3
KENTUCKY	\$	-	2,586	\$	2,586.00	\$		0.0%	\$	-
GEORGIA	\$	11,789.00	4,452	\$	4,452.00	\$	1,753.00	39.4%	\$	0.3
FLORIDA	\$	23,230.00	21,568	\$	21,568.00	\$	19,421.00	90.0%	\$	0.9
ARKANSAS	\$	-	441	\$	441.00	\$	700.00	158.7%	\$	1.5
ALABAMA	\$	2,786.00	2,053	\$	2,053.00	\$	1,466.00	71.4%	\$	0.7
SOUTHERN REGIO	Z									
DETACHMENT	DO	ONATIONS (<i>FINAL</i>)	MEMBERSHIP (FINAL)		GOAL (FINAL)		ONATIONS CURRENT)	GOAL	DONATION PER CAPITA	
		2022	2022		2023 CWF		2023	% OF	DON	ATION

MIDWEST REGION						
COLORADO	\$ 23,235.00	2,784	\$ 2,784.00	\$ 18,780.00	674.6%	\$ 6.75
KANSAS	\$ 5,800.00	5,859	\$ 5,859.00	\$ 925.00	15.8%	\$ 0.16
MEXICO	\$	31	\$ 31.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$
MONTANA	\$ 1,550.00	1,076	\$ 1,076.00	\$ 867.00	80.6%	\$ 0.81
NEBRASKA	\$ 7,638.00	6,913	\$ 6,913.00	\$ 5,495.00	79.5%	\$ 0.79
NEW MEXICO	\$ 200.00	1,504	\$ 1,504.00	\$ 4,900.00	325.8%	\$ 3.26
NORTH DAKOTA	\$	1,051	\$ 1,051.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$
OKLAHOMA	\$	1,343	\$ 1,343.00	\$	0.0%	\$ -
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$ 1,447.81	1,360	\$ 1,360.00	\$ 1,451.85	106.8%	\$ 1.07
TEXAS	\$ 17,953.97	5,584	\$ 5,584.00	\$ 13,310.39	238.4%	\$ 2.38
WYOMING	\$ 6,250.00	1,295	\$ 1,295.00	\$	0.0%	\$ -
Total:	\$ 64,074.78	28,800	\$ 28,800.00	\$ 45,729.24	158.8%	\$ 1.59

NATIONAL HQ:	\$ 4,176.00		> -	\$ 3,699.91		
GRAND TOTAL:	\$ 349,789.25	366,511	\$ 366,511.00	\$ 203,457.47	55.5%	\$ 0.56

SAL DONATIONS AS OF APRIL 14 2023

2022 SAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF: DECEMBER 31, 2022 (FINAL)

