



ROUND-UP

Next Goal

90%

April 19, 2023

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

Volume 4 | Number 31 | Issue 182 | April 23, 2023



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

P.O. BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1055 www.Legion.org/sons P: 317-630-1205 F: 317-630-1413

April - 2023

Support Children & Youth Month and celebrate Legion Family Day

Greetings, Sons of The American Legion,

Spring is upon us and it's a busy time of the year. I have a few topics I would like to address:

Children & Youth Month

April is [Children & Youth Month](#), and I trust that you have been active in your community already in showing how the American Legion Family is dedicated to our country's youth.

Of course, as SAL members we are actively supporting our youth year-round, and it's vital that we demonstrate that in our [Consolidated Squadron Reports \(CSR\)](#). I hope you've been recording data for your CSR throughout the year; if not, now is the time to get caught up before the end of the reporting year, May 31.

Data from the CSRs is used to create a final report to The American Legion and Congress, and is critical in demonstrating what the SAL does nationwide.

American Legion Family Day

In February, [I encouraged you to be active participants](#) in your post's American Legion Family Day. Prompted by a resolution from the Detachment of Maryland that was initially approved by the SAL National Executive Committee, this resolution of The American Legion NEC establishes the event to be observed annually on the last Saturday in April, with posts opening their doors to the community and celebrating the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons, and members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The Legion Family is also encouraged to use American Legion Family Day to "Be The One" to help prevent veteran suicide. I hope you've made plans to do so, and I ask you to share your squadron's efforts at Legiontown.org.

Membership

As of April 13, we're at 93.81% of our membership goal — a terrific accomplishment. Please continue to get out into the community and find those former SAL members whose membership has lapsed, as well as those who are eligible for membership but haven't yet joined.

I look forward to standing before the SAL NEC during our Spring Meeting in Indianapolis, May 6-7, to share our outstanding membership numbers as well as the other successes we've achieved so far this year.

Be the One!

With passion and purpose.

Sincerely,

Christopher Carlton
Sons of The American Legion
National Commander

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



ROUND-UP

National Commander

Chris Carlton (IN)

National Vice-Commander Central Region

David Mennel (MI)

National Vice-Commander Eastern Region

Ernie LaBerge (MA)

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Michael Kirschner (CO)

National Vice-Commander Southern Region

Ron Roberts (MS)

National Vice-Commander Western Region

Jack Youngs (ID)

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Leading Candidate

Don "J.R." Hall (MD)

Trailing Candidate

Joseph Navarrete (NM)

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

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

All information must be submitted by noon each Friday.

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

[Rusty Myers](#), Contributor

[Lou Michaels](#), Contributor



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

www.legion.org/membership/standings



RENEW ONLINE TODAY



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

TARGET DATE

April 19, 2023



CHRIS CARLTON

NATIONAL COMMANDER

2022 – 2023



**Chris Carlton, National Commander
Sons of The American Legion**

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

PURPOSE PASSION



DAVID MENNEL
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
CENTRAL REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

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

The Central Region has accomplished another spectacular goal. This calls for a celebration because all eight Detachments made the April 19 goal of 90%. The Central Region was 03% away with the Detachment of MINNESOTA at 89.37%. The Detachment came through and as of the April 19 report MINNESOTA had 90.76%. This was fantastic because it shows that "BELIEVE AND SUCCEED" is instrumental to accomplishing all great expectations.

The Central Region was the only region to have all eight Detachments make the April 19 Target Date Goal. The Detachment of MICHIGAN could be the first Detachment to make 100% goal in a matter of days, being only 1.43% away, or it could be WISCONSIN only 2.79% away. Place your bets now!

I would like to thank you all for your outstanding work at making all this possible. We are truly having the greatest year ever in the Central Region. Remember to do "BE THE ONE" do the "BUDDY CHECKS" and never forget who we are, what we do, and why we do it. We are #SALSTRONG.

There were 49 Detachments that made the April 19 Target Date Goal. We are 17,000 members ahead of schedule for this year. We are 22,501 members ahead of last year. We have 15 more Detachments that made goals from this time last year Nationally.

Robert Bristo,
 Central Region Membership Chairman



ERNIE LABERGE
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
EASTERN REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

Fourth Tuesday of Each Month
 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time
 (605) 313-4388 | 346 8542#



MICHAEL KIRSCHNER
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
MIDWEST REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

First Tuesday of Each Month
 7:00 p.m. Mountain Time
 (605) 313-5379 | 830 520



RON ROBERTS
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
SOUTHERN REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

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



JACK YOUNGS
NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER
WESTERN REGION
2022 – 2023

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

Fourth Wednesday of Each Month
 7:00 p.m. Mountain Time
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)
 Meeting ID: 847 2013 6661 | 697 464

BE THE ONE

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

Wisconsin Legion Family educate youth that action is hope

The American Legion | April 19, 2023

Annastasia "Yiayia" Wischki has driven 18,000 miles the past year in her state of Wisconsin for a purpose – The American Legion Children & Youth pillar. Wischki created a youth program out of District 2 that addresses bullying, self-harm, and suicide.



Be the One 4 Our Youth is an action-oriented initiative that engages youth by giving them a task and mission to address these three topics, whether it's for themselves or others. "I believe that we must empower others to do something if we are to be more effective in addressing the challenges of bullying, self-harm and suicide," said Wischki, District 2 Children & Youth chair. "That is why I created an action-oriented approach. (Author) Ray Bradbury said, 'Action is hope; there is no hope without action.' I believe that."

Be the One 4 Our Youth launched at Random Lake Middle School in Sheboygan County last year and has spread to schools throughout the state. To get into the schools, Wischki tells school superintendents that "this is another tool in your toolbox" to educate youth on how to address bullying, self-harm, and suicide.

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade receive a coloring book featuring Axel Noze the mascot, Wischki's service dog, and his "Band of Buddies." The coloring book talks about the benefits of having a buddy, making new buddies, how to tell a safe adult if someone is extra sad and features the 988 number to call if an adult is not around. There's also a one-page coloring sheet with Axel that says, "Help Axel Noze & his Band of Buddies by looking out for your friends. Tell a safe adult if something is wrong. And remember, anybody can call #988 to talk if they are alone and need help or just to talk. Can you show (by coloring in the open space) Axel Noze what your buddy looks like? Is it a dog or a cat? A fish or a bird? Or maybe a special person?"

The coloring page allows the student to hang it on the fridge for everyone in the family to see and be reminded where to go for help.

Middle and high school students receive a task and a mission through storytelling by Wischki and fellow Legion Riders.

Wischki and the Riders share how a motorcycle may have to get over for a bicyclists or runner. "They're

going down the road in their way. We don't make fun of them. In fact, we make sure they're safe so they can get to where they're going as well. You don't know what someone else is going through." And they stress to "never ever leave someone in distress behind."

Throughout the storytelling, students are given tasks:

- Actively pay attention to those around you
- Report to a safe person any bullying or something that worries you for yourself or another's welfare.
- Use the talk lifeline #988 if no safe person is around to help you or someone else.

"I don't refer to it (988) as a crisis line or a suicide line. I call it a talk lifeline," Wischki said. "Taking action gives hope. And hope means life."

Then they are given a mission:

- Watch out for others.
- Ask safe adults for help.
- Use the 988 talk line.

"I tell the students, if you see something happening to you or someone else and you feel powerless, I need you to find a safe person to tell because that is doing something; you did something about it. Or if an adult or safe person isn't around, call 988.

"I tell the kids telling is doing something. Calling is doing something. Empower them to do something. Give them hope and let them know that what they're doing makes a difference."

Wischki said she and others have driven through a blizzard to provide this education to a K-12 school of 324 students.

"People say Yiayia you have so much energy. I really don't have a lot of energy. But when you're in front of people and you're talking about hope, you need to look like you are convicted in what you believe. I am convicted about our mission. I am convicted about what we are set to do."

Wischki also leaves students with a wearable reminder of hope – an embossed wristband with the words Action is Hope and 988; previous wristbands said Be the One. Since Sept. 1, 2022, 21,600 wristbands have been handed out to students, veterans, families, and community members.

"Action is hope and hope keeps people alive," she said again, adding that when she speaks with students she

always asks if there is a veteran in the home. If there is, she sends the student home with an extra wristband. And if Legionnaires can't get into schools, they speak with school counselors and ask if they would like to have wristbands for the kids they meet with.

The wristbands have reached posts, Legion Family members, VA facilities, mental health clinics, schools and beyond.

"It changes the trajectory; it changes where that life might be headed," Wischki said.

Be the One 4 Our Youth also launched a challenge for middle and high school students to tell what it means to them to Be the One and put that into action. [Watch the powerful message that students at Random Lake Middle school created](#) to share what it means to Be the One. This initiative aligns with the Legion's Be the One campaign to prevent veteran suicides and end the stigma of asking for help.

"No one accomplishes anything alone. I only created the program and lit the spark. The parents, grandparents, all our Legion families, communities, and the youth themselves are the fuel for its growth."

Wischki's involvement with the Children & Youth pillar doesn't end with the Be the One 4 Our Youth initiative. She also started a kindness rock project where rocks are painted by students and others to give to veterans.

Again, Random Lake Middle school were the first to paint rocks for Camp American Legion veterans and their families, a place for them to reconnect. They helped paint over 750 rocks.

And over the past year, over 3,000 kindness rocks have been painted by students, Legion Family members and others for delivery to Camp American Legion, Camp Hometown Heroes (a camp for youth who have lost a parent while on active duty), and to the Milwaukee VA domiciliary, Hoptel unit at Women's Resource Center. Elementary students and Legion Family members helped paint 500 rocks for the Hoptel, a program that provides temporary accommodations for veterans. So, when the veterans leave the facility, they take home a kindness rock and a handwritten card of "affirmation to lift their spirits."

While people may think Wischki has a rock quarry in her backyard she said, the rocks are purchased from Home Depot, and she provides the paint if needed. The desire for the rocks has skyrocketed departmentwide because of the benefits they provide.

"Did you know that it was actually a mental health tool for the teens that painted them? The hidden therapeutic purpose of this project was one of mindfulness, learning to be in the present, non-verbal communication, and a simple act of kindness. All proven to provide mental and physical benefits irrespective of age."

She gave the students at Random Lake Middle school a pizza party for their help. After thanking the students, "I said, 'Don't answer me, but you painted those rocks to give hope to those veterans and that family. Why the picture that you did or why the words that you wrote? Think about that.' It helps them to understand where their safe place is or what is the thing that they can think of in that moment, they can go to that place, or that word or put that picture in their mind and they're going to be ok."

Wischki said thanks to the support of Department Commander Julie Muhle, Second District Commander Jim Johnson, Second District Legion Riders Director Corey Doehrmann, and Legion Family members, "I have been given support, affirmation, and latitude to be the best advocate for our youth and families. Leadership that allows for innovation is so important if we're going to stimulate the minds, if we're going to move forward and we're going to stay relevant, active, and visible in the community."



Post 211 Commander Len Lieber.

Photo by Mike Schrull

Ohio Legion post starting PTSD support program

The American Legion | April 18, 2023

Len Lieber has been involved with and around people in the U.S. military "all of my life, just about." The 84-year-old commander of American Legion Post 211 in Avon Lake, Ohio, served in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1963, and also spent 50 years as an advocate for abused

children, serving as both an executive and practitioner to assist those abused with dealing with their trauma.

Now Lieber is shifting that expertise and passion to another aspect of mental health – veterans experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). On June 8, Lieber will facilitate the first support group meeting at Post 211 for veterans who are battling PTSD.

“Why I wanted to do this for vets is that bad things have happened to incredibly decent people who are veterans of multiple wars,” Lieber said. “I’ve known military people who served in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the wars in the Middle East. I’ve met people from every single one of those situations. And I have to tell you, for me they are some of the greatest people I’ve ever met. And at this point in my life, the greatest gift I can give is the skills that I’ve developed ... and helping them deal with the demons that they’re terrorized to openly talk about with people.”

Lieber was a part of developing a counseling program that eventually spread across the nation. “From then on in, I believed that group counseling, group treatment – whatever you want to call it – was one of the best ways of helping people deal with their demons,” he said. “I’m very transparent about what I went through. I’ve had multiple experiences that have led to my own demons. And I realized when I was doing group counseling ... I realized that I was comforted by working with them. As they spoke about their demons, I was able to relate very easily.”

Lieber said seeing how some Vietnam veterans were treated when they returned to the United States was part of the motivation behind forming the support group. “I wanted to help people I knew who came back. It was a disgrace for this country to treat veterans terribly – many of whom had no choice and were sent to Vietnam. You don’t send your warriors into war and do that to them when they come back. It was shameful.”

Lieber will provide his phone number to those who are a part of the support group so that they can reach him outside of the meetings. And while he believes in getting help from professional therapists, he also sees the value in sharing your experience with your peers.

“The people that know what PTSD is all about are the people who experience it,” he said. “Most therapists don’t understand what it feels like to have PTSD. To be sitting in your lounge chair and all of a sudden you have a panic attack because you’ve had a flashback. If we can pull people together who are privately suffering from the demons, they’re carrying around ... they can

be a part of an extended family and are healing each other.”

“They know that the post is there to serve them. That’s what the Legion is for: to serve veterans. That’s why I joined. I’m there to serve.”

Remembering the Greatest Generation

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



NATIONAL COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Advisory Committee

Joe Mayne (MN), Chairman

Americanism Commission

Chris Casey (NE), Chairman

Fourth Thursday of Bi-monthly

7:30 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom meeting](#)

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

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

July 27



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

As of April 20, 2023, **15,423**
flags have been placed
and reported to
honor our veterans
since September 1, 2022

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION

ACTION ALERT

APRIL 2023

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SONSAMERICANISM

AMERICAN
LEGION

APRIL IS
CHILDREN & YOUTH
MONTH



TOP NEWS

- THE AMERICANISM COMMISSION WILL MEET IN-PERSON ON SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023, 9-30 AM IN CIRCLE WEST - LL AT THE SPRING NEC MEETINGS.
- THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND (NEF) HAS PROVIDED NEARLY \$500K IN GRANTS TO VICTIMS OF HURRICANE IAN. REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY.
- NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE PLANS FOR JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS INVOLVEMENT FOR 2023-2024. LEARN MORE BY VISITING WWW.LEGION.ORG/SHOOTING

FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES

THIS IS AN ONGOING PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION. PLEASE REMEMBER TO REGISTER YOUR FLAG PLACEMENTS AND UPLOAD PICTURES AT WWW.FLYINGFLAGSFORHEROES.COM



CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORTS (CSR)

REMINDER TO BEGIN GATHERING THE DATA FROM YOUR 2022-2023 SQUADRON ACTIVITIES. EVERY SQUADRON DOES SOMETHING! THE CSR CAN BE COMPLETED VIA MYLEGION OR FIND A PDF COPY BY VISITING WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS/PUBLICATIONS

DON'T FORGET

Century Committee CENTCOM

Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH), Chairman

Second Thursday of Each Month

7:00 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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

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

Finance Commission

William G. Hill (MD), Chairman

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom meeting](#)

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

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](#)

Make fixes first, then proceed with rollout, Legion recommends

The American Legion | April 20, 2023

The American Legion has expressed its support for a House bill that would address VA's Electronic Health Record Modernization implementation issues, which have endangered the lives of veterans.

On April 19, The American Legion submitted a statement for the record (SFR) to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation at its hearing. In the SFR, The American Legion specified why it is backing HR 592, the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization Act.

Specifically, the legislation would block VA from carrying out certain activities under EHRM until certain improvements and certifications are in place.

It would also address some major problems facing the EHRM program rollout by implementing reasonable recommendations and requiring two main certifications from current facilities using the EHRM system — Oracle Cerner Millennium — before it is deployed elsewhere. Those are:

- A monthly average uptime of 99.9 percent for facilities currently using the Oracle system. The American Legion believes an average monthly uptime of 99.9 percent would allow the maximum ability for VA to deliver world-class care to our veterans.
- The requirement that any new EHRM system will not launch in a new facility unless the facility's director, chief of staff, and Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN) director certify that the facility and its staff are prepared for system deployment and use.

The Legion supports HR 592 through [Resolution No. 83: Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record](#), which was approved by its National Executive Committee during the national convention in 2016.

"The American Legion supports the implementation of an electronic health record and wants the EHRM program to succeed and serve veterans safely. HR 592 and the Oracle Cerner Millennium system will provide the capabilities to ensure that American veterans receive the world-class care they deserve," The American Legion statement concluded.

Member Training and Development Committee

Mike Monserud (IA), Chairman

First Monday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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

Membership Committee

Thom Skelley (TX), Chairman

Third Tuesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

(605) 472-5756 | 771 7294

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

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.

Congratulations to the **49 Detachments** that have met or exceeded the 90% target on April 19. We are 17,000 members ahead of schedule for this year; 22,501 members ahead and have 15 more Detachments

that made goal from this time last year, and are on our way to HISTORY!

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HARD WORK-KEEP THE FAITH, KEEP UP THE EFFORT and KEEP THAT MEMBERSHIP ROLLING IN!!



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

April 20, 2023

TO: National Officers, Detachment Commanders and Adjutants
FROM: Anthony W. Wright (PA), National Adjutant
SUBJECT: 90% - Membership Target Date

"CONGRATULATIONS"

Thank you for all your efforts so far this membership year. Our standings as of our 90% membership target date (4-19-2023) are posted below:

2023 Membership Goal:	367,798
Total Membership:	348,716
Percentage Of Goal:	94.81%
2023 Renewal Rate:	83.09%
Detachments Making Goal:	49

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

GREAT JOB!!

Next scheduled renewal notice to be mailed: **MAY 26, 2023** (3RD OF 3)

Next membership target date: **MAY 17, 2023** **100%**

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

National Convention Committee

Christopher Byrd (NC), Chairman

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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

National Executive Committee Liaison Committee

Jim Stewart (NV), Chairman

National Vice-Commander Selection Committee

James Hartman (MD), Co-Chairman

David Stephens (IN), Co-Chairman

Public and Media Communications Commission

Kevin Chaplin (VA), Chairman

Fourth Tuesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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

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.

An improved American Legion newsletter lineup

The American Legion | April 17, 2023

Big changes are coming to the American Legion Online Update, which has been distributed on Thursdays for more than a decade.

Starting the week of April 24, The American Legion will launch a new newsletter — "Thank You Thursday." Subscribers will receive exclusive offers, great deals, and even free stuff as a way of expressing our gratitude for your service and commitment to The American Legion. If you were previously signed up for Member Discount Benefits you are already subscribed to Thank You Thursday. American Legion members who would like to sign up for the newsletter, [can do so here](#).

That means that the ALOU will move to Friday, starting with the April 28 edition. ALOU subscribers also automatically receive the Monday Briefing Online Update and the Wednesday Commander's Message Online Update. To sign up to receive each newsletter, [go here](#).

Additionally, the move to Friday will usher in a new feature for the newsletter. Based on the popularity of the "top 5" news items in each Monday Briefing, Friday's Online Update will include a "top 5" stories from the past week you may have missed. The top 5 stories will be included in each Friday edition and will include a recap and link to each story.

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

OCW grant helps provide gaming tournament for Fort Irwin soldiers

Jeric Wilhelmssen | April 19, 2023



Fort Irwin, Calif., is often referred to as an island in the middle of the desert. A National Training Center for the U.S. military the installation is situated in the Mojave Desert 37 miles northeast of the closest town, Barstow.

In an effort to bring entertainment to the troops stationed in this remote locale, the base is in the midst of its second annual Desert Warrior Week. From April 17-21, troops engage in a series of competitions to see who wins the coveted Commanders Cup.

"We're very remote and isolated so this provides them with awesome entertainment and experience," explained Lacey Marshall, with Corporate Sponsorships & Advertising, MWR Fort Irwin. "This is a week where we put on all sorts of contests, and at the end we throw a big party and hand out awards."

One of the first competitions of the week is a video game tournament, in which the soldiers competed playing "Madden" at the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) facility — better known as the Warrior Zone. Through an [Operation Comfort Warriors \(OCW\)](#) grant, The American Legion provided the video games and other accessories, which was delivered by the nonprofit [Stack Up](#).

Marshall said that the grant from OCW that provided the equipment Stack Up brought to them enabled this tournament to go on. "This was asked from the highest of our leadership being the CG (Commanding General) of the installation, Gen. Taylor, and it's something that these guys like and want to have here," she said.

When Marshall received the order to have a Madden video game tournament, they went to Stack Up to help fulfill that order. Stack Up founder and CEO Steve Machuga, a member of American Legion Post 283 in Pacific Palisades, Calif., rolled up the morning of the tournament to the Warrior Zone in his bright red, Stack Up-branded sprinter van with a couple crates of video games and accessories.

Stack Up is described as a military charity supporting U.S. and allied veterans through gaming and geek culture. The organization received a grant from OCW, which enables it to continue its mission.

“Operation Comfort Warrior gave us a big bag of money at the beginning of the year and said continue to do good work with it,” Machuga said. “And we’ve worked with them for some time now and they’ve been great. They allow us or help us to do our mission.”

Due to the OCW grant, Stack Up was able to provide the Fort Irwin Warrior Zone with a VR Oculus Headset and the copies of Madden needed for the tournament, Machuga describes himself as, “one of those gamers who used to get shoved in those lockers back in the day.” He recognized the impact the video game industry has on our culture.

“We are in a different time when gaming has become a multi-million-dollar industry that is outpacing sports and music,” Machuga said. “Those kids who grew up on iPads with Minecraft and Fortnite are now our next generation of soldiers. So, it’s a natural progression. It just happened that this hobby that I loved turned into a global phenomenon.”

The tournament brought dozens of soldiers into the Warrior Zone to compete and watch. Spec. Ivan Lopez with the 111th ACR Iron Horse at Fort Irwin mentioned how recently there have been three tournaments hosted at the MWR Warrior Zone and was excited about the future, “Our regimental sergeant major has gotten light of it, and we now have another one forming,” he said. “And he now sees that gaming is a huge thing that brings a lot of soldiers in.”

When Lopez found out the game for the tournament was going to be “Madden,” he didn’t think many people would show up. But he was surprised by the turnout. Spec. Miguel Sandoval of Fort Irwin’s 211th Gun-Slingers had a good attitude about losing his first match. “Video games are a hobby of mine and I like to test my metal against other players,” he said. “It’s just today, unfortunately, I met a better match. He’s been clearly playing the game longer than I have, and if it were a

different game, it could have turned out differently. But I had fun the entire time.”

Fortunately, Sandoval’s past experience with football gave him something to draw upon when playing this game. He also noted the benefit of having a place like the Warrior Zone at Fort Irwin. “It helps unwind soldiers throughout the day,” he said. “Video games are nothing but a release, a place away from work, just something to enjoy to pass the time.”

His competitor in the match was Pvt. Dylan Deedrick of Dragon Team-Ops Group, who had a much different history playing “Madden.” “I’ve been playing video games ever since I was 6 years old,” he said. “I started playing ‘Madden,’ it was just me, my dad, my little brother, and sisters. We would have fun tournaments with each other. I would always win.”

Deedrick said that while he’s enjoyed other games over the years, “Madden just been the game I just stuck around ever since I was 6.” And when he found out the tournament was going to be “Madden,” he was ready for the competition. “It was my leadership who said we’re going to have a Warrior Week and they said the game is going to be ‘Madden.’ I said, ‘time to test my skills, see how far I get.’”

After dropping off the copies of “Madden” for the tournament, Machuga set up an additional PC in a small private room that provided a direct link to Stack Up’s suicide-prevention Overwatch team. “We have an online presence through Stack Up called Overwatch, which is our 24/7 suicide-prevention team online through a program called Discord,” he said. “It’s for people who don’t have anyone to talk to if they need someone outside of the chain-of-command that they want to talk with.”

Spec. Casey Auman of Vulture Team-Ops Group spoke of the need for an option like the dedicated PC at the Warrior Zone. “I think it’s very valuable,” he said. “Some people aren’t very good at talking to people in person, so that gives them another way to talk about their problems or feelings through the Internet. Some people get sheltered and they are not used to this environment. People come from all over the country and join the Army, so it’s just a different environment for people.”

Marshall also spoke about the dedicated PC. “We find all the time that there are soldiers and officers that need some just someone to talk to and they don’t want to go through their chaplain or chain-of-command for whatever reason,” she said. “This allows them the

opportunity to get what they need and want while staying within the confines of who they can talk to.”

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 AMERICAN LEGION



**PROUD POSSESSORS
OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**

NJ Sons donates cookies to VA hospitals

Rusty Myers, Contributor | April 6, 2023

Basking Ridge & E. Orange, NJ – “It’s much harder to be sad while eating a cookie.....”

In a quote generally attributed to Jim Henson’s Cookie Monster, the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Detachment of New Jersey’s Children and Youth Commission found inspiration in how to make the day of our veterans a little sweeter through a project called “Cookies for Vets.” Working with a few troops of Girl Scouts, the Sons coordinated a project spread over five months which resulted in \$2,200 of Girl Scout cookies being delivered to the New Jersey VA hospitals in Lyons and East Orange.

“It made me feel like I was doing something to make the veterans feel happy, to let them know there are people out there that care about them and want to help them” noted Lilianna Giannone from Girl scout Troop 20122, who helped deliver the cookies.

Girl Scouts from Troops 20122, 20052, 20462, as well as young Sons, SAL members from Squadron 105 of Belleville, and members from the Detachment Children and Youth Commission made the delivery to the two North Jersey VA campuses in early April, which is National American Legion Children and Youth Month. The scouts, mostly from Nutley, NJ, took time out of their spring break to deliver cookies to satisfy the sweet tooth of veterans staying both short and long term at the VA hospitals.

The “Cookies for Vets” project, being run for a second year, is part of the Sons of the American Legion’s commitment to two of its core pillars – Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and Children and Youth. The Detachment of New Jersey, which is the state-level element of the SAL organization, began raising money in December for this project.

The project has grown immensely in both size and scope in a year, between how much was raised and how involved the scouts became. “Last year’s inaugural program raised \$1,000 ... we did over twice that this year”, noted Children and Youth Chairman Rusty Myers, who organized the event, in thank-you letters to all of the donors. “That is amazing, in that all of this has come from individual donations, and from our American Legion Family Posts, Squadrons, Units, and County organizations from throughout the state. That comes down to around 420 boxes for our vets!”

Latisha Eaves, from the VA-NJ’s Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE), was very generous with her laud for the project - “The contribution means a lot for the fact that it helps the steadiness of our commitment to serving those who fought for our freedom. We always believe that through a movement such as the Girls Scouts, we can achieve greatness and teach leadership, courage, kindness and to uninterruptedly do the right thing.”



One of the primary goals of the project is not only to purchase the cookies from the scouts, but to have the girl’s involved from start to finish, from ordering to delivery. The

Girl Scouts say that “when you buy delicious Girl Scout Cookies, you’re helping girls fund life-changing programs, experiences, and learning for themselves and their troops all year long. These experiences broaden their worlds, teach them essential skills, and launch them into a lifetime of success.”

Leading up to the delivery, the Sons met with the scouts at their March meeting held at American Legion

Post 105 to provide context about why doing something like this is important to our veterans. "Delivering cookies to the Vets was a wonderful experience," added scout Mia Oliveras afterward. "It's a small thank you for all they have done for our country".

On this first Thursday in April, first came a drop off of 210 boxes to the Lyons Campus, then a half hour drive to the East Orange campus where the group dropped off the other 210 boxes and met with the VA staff, they had been in contact with over the past few months. At each location, the girls formed a 'bucket brigade,' where they passed the boxes from an SUV filled to the brim with cookies to the loading dock. The smiles and laughter in passing along the cookies from the scouts and young Sons melted the heart of everyone who was there.



One of those East Orange staff members present to help receive the delivery was Vietnam Veteran Earl "Slim" Ayler, who flew in helicopters with the US Army in Southeast Asia. In a moment which was very emotional for everyone present, "Slim" spoke to the girls about being shot down overseas and being missing for a few days before his rescue. He also did the Children and Youth Commission the honor of presenting each Girl Scout with a "Cookies for Vets" patch, to put on their uniform sashes thanking them for their participation. Noted VA Staff member Latisha the next day, "... [we are] thankful that Sons of the American Legion Detachment of New Jersey and the Girl Scouts were equally yoked to allow 'Slim' a platform to share his war story."

The hope is that each bite of a Somoa or a Trefoil cookie reminds these veterans of how much the American Legion Family and Girl Scouts appreciates their service and sacrifice, and at the same time emphasizes to the Scouts our obligation to do what we can as Americans to give back to our New Jersey vets. As Girl Scout

Brinley Sullivan summed up "Cookies for Vets" perfectly, "Delivering cookies made me feel like I was giving back ... A token of thanks."



Detachment Vice-Commander Steve Sangemino, Ed Hall, Squad-ron 105, and Carlos Rosas.

submitted photo

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Mechanicsville Post 175 ALR
"We Ride with Pride to Serve and Provide"

**BATTLEFIELD
PAKER RUN**

Bike Blessing

Saturday, May 13th

Price for Advance Registration: \$20 single, \$30 double
Price for Day of Event: \$25 single, \$35 double
Price includes lunch, and 1 poker hand for each rider.
Additional cards are \$5 each – limit 2.

Start/Finish Location: American Legion Riders, Post 175
 8700 Bell Creek Rd. Mechanicsville, VA 23116
Sign-In: 8:30am-10:00am; **Blessing:** 10:15am; **Lunch:** upon return
KSU (Kick Stands Up): 10:30am - **Rain or Shine**

ADVANCE REGISTRATION ACCEPTED VIA E-MAIL OR MAIL-IN
DEADLINE FOR ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS MAY 1, 2023.

FOR EMAIL: Send your advance registration request to Lynn Barbour:
mamalynn@gmail.com. You will be sent a PayPal Invoice for your payment and
 notice of registration.

ADVANCE MAIL-IN REGISTRATION

Rider Name: _____ **Passenger:** _____

Address: _____

Phone (cell): _____ **Email:** _____

Add'l Cards: _____ **Total Amount Enclosed: \$** _____

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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



**Vickie Koutz, National President
The American Legion Auxiliary**

Sports

Opening Day Celebration

Rusty Myers, Contributor | April 15, 2023

Belleville, NJ – The Post 105 American Legion Family, which consists of the American Legion’s veterans, the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), and the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), took part in Belleville’s Baseball Opening Day ceremonies by providing a color guard and leading the Pledge of Allegiance. They also had an opportunity to take a fantastic picture with the traveling baseball team they sponsor. The Post also had a few moments to speak to the public about the American Legion’s “Be The One” initiative, which helps to combat the epidemic of veterans suicide.

Post 105 has been asked to have a color guard at the event for the past few years, and this year happened on

a day which was more like summer than springtime. The day also coincided with the dedication of Belleville’s new municipal recreation complex. Said Mayor Michael Melham on his Facebook page, “What a day for Belleville! And what a turnout. Our brand new, 8-lane competitive track is finally open! The blue and gold looks amazing!”

Following the introduction of all of the perhaps thirty teams, all the way from 5-year-olds playing ball to the high school travel teams, Commander Joe Cobiانchi lead the hundreds in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. After the crowd sat down, Commander Joe took a few seconds to speak about veterans suicide and last year’s ‘22 A day’ initiative, and how this country is making progress in helping vets seeking help.

‘22 A Day” was the 2022 American Legion program which brought to light veterans’ suicide and the on-average 22 vets a day who end their life. The program has since been rebranded “Be The One” – focused on eliminating the stigma related to mental health treatment, and in turn, lower the number of veterans who die by suicide every day. The American Legion has elevated ‘Be the One’ to be its top priority, empowering veterans, service members, their family members, and civilians to act appropriately when a veteran may be at risk.

“Tell them about our ‘Be the One’ campaign and our efforts to de-stigmatize the courageous decision to seek mental wellness,” National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola said earlier this year. “Too many veterans take their lives while feeling isolated and alone. Some have no close relatives to whom they can reach out. It is a mistake for them to believe they have no family. Whether they know it or not, they have an American Legion Family.”



After the ceremony, the Post Family tracked down the 14U USABL team which Post 105 and SAL Squadron 105 sponsors for a picture with the color guard and everyone in uniform. This is the third year that the Post and Squadron have sponsored the 'Belleville Junior Bucs.' Their sharp pinstripe uniforms, emblazoned with the Belleville 'B' and also have the Legion seal on one arm and the SAL seal on the other.



Welcome Home Weekley
 U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES 2ND LT.
PHARIS E. WEEKLEY
80 Years Never Forgotten

Join Us May 13th as Dana-Howard-Weekley Post 130 Members Honor & Celebrate the Home Coming of our Founding Post Name Sake 2nd Lt. Pharis E. Weekley. WEEKLEY'S REMAINS WERE RECENTLY LOCATED AFTER 80 YEARS!

In his honor and for his family we start the day with a Motorcycle and Car Procession from Post 69 Avon Park, south to LaBelle Post 130. We are asking and hoping that we can form a line from the foot of Barron Park in LaBelle to Post 130 with flags and yellow Ribbons for his family as they return to LaBelle. This is going to take a lot of Patriots to join us, please try and help if you can.

Dana-Howard-Weekley Post 130 will be hosting a Welcome Home Picnic around Noon on the 13th. The meat will be provided, please bring a covered dish and let's show one of our own all the Love and Respect he deserves.

While celebrating the homecoming of Pharis Weekley - Enjoy stories and photos from the family and hear the background of how they bought him home. Feel free to dress in the spirit of the era as we listen to Music from WWII - and today.

WE WILL BE HAVING 50/50 AND RAFFLE BASKETS TO HELP OFFSET THE COSTS - JOIN THE FUN AND BE A WINNER!

To join the Motorcycle and Car Procession May 13th by Contacting either Post 130 (863-675-8300 or Post 69 (850-718-7773 Larry Roberts) for more information.

U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES 2ND LT. PHARIS E. WEEKLEY WILL BE FORMALLY INTERNED ON MAY 20TH WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS IN AVON PARK WHERE HIS FAMILY NOW RESIDES. WE WILL HAVE MORE INFORMATION AS THIS CELEBRATION COMES TO LIFE.

MAY 13TH, 2023
AMERICAN LEGION POST 130
 699 HWY 80 • LaBELLE, FLORIDA

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Sons of The American Legion Membership Application

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

Name _____ Recruited by _____

(First) (Initial) (Last) (Initial) (Last)

Address _____

(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

E-mail Address _____ Telephone _____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

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

OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and transmit \$ _____ as annual membership dues.

Signed _____ (By Applicant or Parent)

Eligibility certified by _____ (Post Adjutant)

00-001 (2013)

RECEIPT



Date _____

Received of _____

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 jef-fvrabelsr@gmail.com

Nino Amorosi

Nino Amorosi of Monroe, NY, passed away on April 15 2023, at Hackensack University Medical Center in Hackensack, NJ. He was 69 years old. The son of the late Carole (Joewicki) and Daniel Amorosi, he was born on March 22, 1954, in Suffern, NY.

Nino worked for the Village of Sloatsburg, NY. He was a member of the Suffern Volunteer Hose Co., and a member of the Sons of The American Legion, Squadron 488 in Monroe, NY.

Left to cherish Nino's memory are his companion Marge Gaffney and her family, his brother Daniel Amorosi, Jr. and his wife Karen, his sister Linda Dobrinski, and his brother-in-law Ed de Lima. He is additionally survived by his beloved nephew John Dobrinski, Jr., and his wife Tammy, along with their children Daniel and Jason, as well as many more nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his faithful dog, Jack. In addition to his parents, Nino was predeceased by his brother Andy Amorosi, and his two sisters: Danette de Lima, and Dolores Horton.

Nino had dozens of friends and extended family who will miss him dearly. His smile lit up every room he entered. He made friends easily, and helping others was his specialty...when he wasn't busy busting everyone's chops! Nino's passing will leave a huge void in the lives of everyone who knew and loved him.

Visitation will be held from 5-8 p.m. on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at Smith, Seaman, & Quackenbush, Inc. Funeral Home, 117 Maple Ave., Monroe, NY 10950. A Chapel Service will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Cremation will take place at Cedar Hill Crematory in Middle Hope, NY.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, www.heart.org, or to the COPD Foundation, www.copd-foundation.org

Arrangements by Smith, Seaman & Quackenbush, Inc. Funeral Homes, Monroe, NY 10950 (845) 782-8185 or www.ssqfuneralhome.com.

Nicholas B. Schroeder



Columbus Grove, OH – Nicholas B. "Nick" Schroeder, Columbus Grove, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 18,

2023, at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was diagnosed with AML a few weeks earlier. He was born on February 4, 1952, in Lima to David F. and Elaine (Vorst) Schroeder. His mother survives in Columbus Grove.

On May 13, 1978, he married Joan M. Recker, who survives. Nick is also survived by his children: Nathan (Brenda) Schroeder, Angela (Brett Zink) Schroeder, Joseph (Ruby) Schroeder, and Amelia (Jason) Blosser; grandchildren: Elizabeth "Ellie", Grace, Evelyn "Edie" and Nathan "Cole" Schroeder, Isabella Blosser, and one baby girl Schroeder on the way; his brothers: Omer Schroeder, Dave (Beth) Schroeder; sister: Becky (Jim) Shaw; sister-in-law: Shelly Schroeder; sisters and brothers-in-law: Mary Jane (Joe) Eagleson, John (Diana) Recker, Joyce (Don) Giesige, Ron (Roxie) Recker, Tom (Nancy) Recker, Don (Brenda) Recker, and Judy (Joe) Solomon; along with many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his father, Dave; brother, Max; sister, Nancy Albright-Sparks; brother-in-law, Jack Albright; sister-in-law, Diane Schroeder; great niece, Kali Crego; and his in-laws, Norbert and Angie Recker.

Nick grew up on the family dairy farm where he learned responsibility and hard work. He always gave 110% of himself to whatever job he was doing. He enjoyed doing electrical work for family and friends. With his wife's help, he wired the house they built when they got married nearly 45 years ago.

Nick always felt his greatest blessings were his family. He deeply loved them. His grandchildren made him smile and filled him with joy. He was a lifelong member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Columbus Grove, a proud member of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 516, and a life member of the NRA.

He was employed at Philips in Ottawa for over 30 years and 18 years as manager of the Jennings-Gomer elevator, Columbus Grove branch. The last few years he worked as a grain hauler for them.

Per his wishes to be cremated, there will be no public visitation, and a Mass of Christian Burial will be private. The family will have a celebration of life at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of HEITMEYER FUNERAL HOME, Columbus Grove.

Memorial contributions can be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or a charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be expressed at www.heimeyerfhcolumbusgrove.com.

Rodney Peter Fall



Rodney P. Fall, 63, Clear Lake, Wis., passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at Regions Hospital, St. Paul, Minn., following a brave fight against cancer.

Rodney was born Aug. 14, 1959, at Amery, the son of Peter and Diane (Hanson) Fall of Clear Lake. He was the eldest of four children, and was baptized and confirmed at First Lutheran Church of Clear Lake. He attended Clear Lake Public Schools and graduated with the Class of 1977.

Following graduation, he worked with his father at Fall Electric, the family business. He then attended Eau Claire Technical College, studying heating, air conditioning, refrigeration, and appliance repair.

After working and living in the Eau Claire area for a few years, he returned to work with the family business in Clear Lake. Rodney eventually became owner and operator of Fall Electric Company.

He enjoyed working with family members and friends over the years. The homes of many, many families are comfortable and safe because of his dedication to the business.

Rodney was involved in many community service activities over the years, including the Clear Lake Jaycees, Clear Lake Community Club and Sons of The American Legion, for which he recently served as commander.

The community may remember Rodney wearing an elf costume while his friend played Santa, as he helped with the town's Christmas event for children. He enjoyed local festivals and ran food booths at Clear Lake Days, where he was known for his deep-fried Oreos. Among his hobbies, Rodney enjoyed antiquing and attending

threshing bees; camping, hunting, and fishing; music festival campouts; and sharing funny stories or jokes around a campfire.

He was also an avid sports fan and supporter of all Wisconsin teams, especially the Green Bay Packers, for which he was a shareholder. He enjoyed watching games with his friends, and he missed that when his medical treatments kept him from the fun.

Surviving are his parents; siblings Rojean Fall, and Renee Fall and her spouse David Elvin; a brother Ryan Fall and his spouse Nadia Haddad; aunts Helen, Sharon, and Carol; as well as many cousins, caring friends, and customers.

Rodney was preceded in death by his grandparents Carl and Anna Fall, and Edwin and Ragna Hanson; as well as many aunts and uncles, and several close friends.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 22, from United Covenant Church, 348 Fifth St. NW, Clear Lake. Pastor Margaret Grant will officiate. Burial will be held immediately following services at Clear Lake Cemetery.

Visitation will be held 4-7 p.m. Friday and an hour prior to services, both at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials that will be donated to charities Rodney cared about.

Scheuermann Funeral Home and Cremation Services is handling arrangements. Leave online condolences at clearlakefuneralhome.com.

James D. Kricker



Portsmouth, OH – James D. Kricker, 89, of Portsmouth, died Friday, April 14, 2023 at Hillview Retirement Center. He was born February 27, 1934, in Portsmouth, a son of the late Louis T. Kricker, Sr. and Jean (Fairtrace) Kricker.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his twin sister, Mary Kricker, two brothers, Louis T. Kricker, Jr. and George E. Kricker. He is survived by a niece, Kristina (Kricker) Kovas, a nephew, James E. Kricker (Diane), and a great-nephew, Ryan Kricker, all of Colorado Springs, CO, special friends, Michael Russell, Sr., and Becky Russell of Portsmouth, Michael Russell, Jr. of Mount Royal, NJ, and Heather Posey of Frankfort, KY.

Jim spent 38 years working with financial institutions: First Federal Savings & Loan Association, of Portsmouth, First Federal Savings Bank, retiring from Charter One Bank serving as their Southern Ohio Division President.

He was a graduate of Holy Redeemer High School, University of Dayton, earning a BS in Business Administration, served two years in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment of the United States Army, then six years as a Ssgt. with the US Army Reserve and was a member of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church.

Jim was active in many local, volunteer, civic, and cultural organizations. He was a founding member of the Bonneyfiddle Military Museum, a Past President of Portsmouth Area Growth Corp., Past President of the Portsmouth Kiwanis Club, Board Member of Southern Ohio Growth Corp. of Portsmouth, Treasurer of Southern Ohio Museum, Treasurer and Board Member of Portsmouth Murals, Inc. He served several terms as a Board Member of the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce, and three terms for Shawnee State University Development Foundation. He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion Post #23, Portsmouth Area Jaycees, Knights of Columbus Council #471, and Bishop Hartley General Assembly 4th Degree Knights of Columbus.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be 1:00 PM Saturday, April 22, 2023, at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Portsmouth. Burial will follow at Greenlawn Cemetery with Military Graveside Rites performed by the American Legion, James Dickey Post #23. Friends may call at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church one hour before the services. In honor of Jim, please dress casually wearing his favorite color red.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Legion, James Dickey Post #23.

Melcher Hammer Funeral Home in Portsmouth has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Kerry Pfoff



Saybrook, IL – Kerry Pfoff, 63, of Saybrook, passed peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, in the early morning hours of Thursday, April 13, 2023.

Kerry was born on July 26, 1959 in Gibson City to Truman Philip and Bonnie Mae (Johnson) Pfoff. He married his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, Theresa

(nee. Benjamin) Pfoff on May 14, 1982. She survives.

He is also survived by his sons: Danny (Darby) of Mahomet and Kory Pfoff of Normal; grandchildren: Margo and Quincy Pfoff; siblings: Kevin (Carol) Pfoff and Kathy (Dennis) Apgar; brothers and sisters-in-law: Janey Hansen, Richard (Kellie) Benjamin, Kevin (Jan) Benjamin, Greg (Susan) Benjamin, Bob (Debbie) Benjamin, Molly (Wally) Weppeler, Amy (Jeff) Teske; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his infant son, Kendall; by his parents, Phil and Bonnie Pfoff; in-laws, Robert and Barbara Benjamin; sister-in-law, Jeralyn Benjamin; brothers-in-law: Don Hansen and Robin Genzel; nephew, Jeff Hansen.

He was a jack of all trades and DIYer extraordinaire. He was previously employed as a carpenter as well as at Mitsubishi car plant and Ironwood Golf Course. He loved fishing, hunting, and coaching his son's youth sports teams. Near to his heart were Ridgeview sports, the Fighting Illini, and Sons of The American Legion.

Everyone who knew and loved Kerry is invited to celebrate his life with his family and friends on Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Funeral service will take place at Calvert-Belangee-Bruce Funeral Home in Saybrook at 12:30 p.m. Visitation will be beforehand from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the funeral home in Saybrook, as well the day of the service.

The family would like to extend special thanks to Barnes Jewish transplant team, OSF Hospice, and Dr. Galue's team.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Barnes-Jewish Hospital [barnesjewish.org/giving](https://www.barnesjewish.org/giving) or a [charity of your choice](#).

Please view and leave condolences at www.calvertbelangeeburce.com.

Rullell L. Brown



Canastota, NY – Russell L. Brown, 56, of 8789 Lewis Point Road, Canastota, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at Oneida Healthcare, following a sudden illness.

He was born on March 8, 1967, in Oneida, the son of Fred W. Sr. and Arreta (Mason) Brown. Russ has lived in Canastota all of his life, graduating from Canastota High School in 1985. He has been a self-

employed contractor in the area for many years, operating Brown & Sons & Daughter Construction Company, retiring in 2017. He was, also, a big part of the operation of Flo's Diner.

Russ was a member of Sons of The American Legion, Charles Miller Squadron 140 in Canastota, the Tri-Valley Trailriders, Inc., Esta Safety Park Drag Strip in Cicero, and was an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Canastota FFA. He enjoyed spending time at and sharing his creation, Brown's Rusty Pond, snowmobiling, his grandchildren, family, and friends, driving his 1967 Chevy Pick-up, building, and creating, gardening, and loved being our local Santa.

Russ married Susan M. Hoch on January 3, 2005, in Canastota. Surviving besides his wife, Sue, are: his mother, Arreta Brown of Canastota; four sons, Russell and Courtney Brown of Canastota, Kyle Brown of Canastota, Kristopher Brown of Canastota, Jacob and Kayla Smith of Canastota, and Roseanne Brown of Canastota; four daughters, Kimberlee and Matthew Otts of Oneida, Constance Harding of Sherrill, Jodi and Keith Marsala of Canastota, and Cherie and Allen Bealer of California; his ex-wife, Debra Alexander of Ft. Plain; two brothers, Fred, Jr. and Sharon Brown of Catlett, VA, and Michael and Barbara Brown of Verona; three sisters, Catherine and George Kurtz of Madison, Vicki and Angel Johnson of Chittenango, and Debbi Waxenfeld of Wampsville; fifteen grandchildren, Logan Matcham, Lilly Brown, Karson Brown, Paige Harding, Taylor Harding, Andrew Wright, Arrabella Walker, Styx Marsala, Dylan Marsala, Colton Smith, Alyssa Smith, Reid Smith, Brynn Bealer, Abbott Bealer, and Claire Bealer; as well as several nieces, nephews, and cousins. Russell, also, leaves behind many great friends he considered family.

He was predeceased by his father, Fred W. Brown, Sr.

Calling hours will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. on Friday, April 21, 2023, at the J. Homer Ball Funeral Home, Inc., 201 James Street, Canastota. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at the funeral home. Pastor Tony Paredes, of the South Bay Chapel will officiate. Burial will be in Whitelaw Cemetery, Canastota. A Celebration of his Life will be held Saturday beginning at 2 p.m. at Brown's Rusty Pond, 8905 Morris Road, Canastota, which all friends and family are invited to attend.

In his memory, contributions may be made to the Greater Lenox Ambulance Service, Inc., (GLAS), PO Box 382, Canastota, NY 13032, with envelopes available at the funeral home.

Share condolences [atjhomeballfuneralhome.com](https://www.lasting-memories.com/russell-l-brown) <https://www.lasting-memories.com/russell-l-brown>

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).

Jeffery Allen Johnston



Woodbine, MD – Jeffery Allen Johnston, of Woodbine, died suddenly of a heart attack on April 8, 2023, in his home.

Born Sept. 7, 1960, in Wellsville, N.Y., he was the son of William J. Johnston, of Cuba, N.Y., and Cheri Ambrose, of Severna Park.

Jeff will be remembered by all as a kind and generous man. He was a biker, avid hunter and a lover of animals and the outdoors, despite being allergic to both. Jeff and his partner, She-Jay, always enjoyed their trips on their motorcycles, including the 100th anniversary celebration of Harley Davidson in Milwaukee.

Before retirement, Jeff was a machinist. Jeff was a graduate of Bolivar (N.Y.) Central School. His nickname was Ton from his days of playing football for the Bolivar Bulldogs and was a member of the Sons of the American Legion. He also had a part in the John Waters movie, "A Dirty Shame."

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his step-mother, Peggy Johnston; his loving partner of 35 years, She-Jay Travers; brothers Joe Johnston of Bolivar, Jonny Johnston of Lima, Ohio, and Jay (Cheryl) Johnston of Severna Park; step-brothers John (Thana) Smith of Cuba, Tom (Kristen) Smith of Victor, N.Y., and Bob (Karina) Smith of Canandaigua, N.Y.; a step-daughter, Brandyellen Richardson; a step-granddaughter, Charlotte Dicentra; and several nieces and nephews.

Jeff was pre-deceased by his stepfather, Al Ambrose.

A graveside service will be held at noon Saturday (April 22, 2023) at Saint Raphael Cemetery in Eldred, Pa. The family will receive friends at the Bolivar Golf Club immediately following.

Memorials if desired may be made

to Huntington's Disease Society of America, hdsa.org.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).



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.



Lest we Forget



SATURDAY, JULY 29
NLLHOF East/West Vintage Baseball Game

SAVE THE DATE

Memorabilia

RAIN DATE:
SATURDAY, AUG 26

GATES OPEN
1:00 P.M.
Complimentary
Game Tickets:
legends@nllhof.org

Prince George's Stadium
4101 Crain Highway
Bowie, Maryland
(Home of the Baysox)



NLLHOF AUTO SHOWCASE BENEFIT / TROPHIES



Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. 08.06.2022



10:00 A.M..
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
FREE

Dwayne Renal Sims
Founder



2
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2
3



FROM THE EDITOR

Since our last edition, a few more detachments have reached quota. CONGRATULATIONS to the Sons in South Dakota, West Virginia, Georgia, and Oregon. Your hard work has paid off! Keep up the awesome work!

Don't forget that next Saturday is American Legion Family Day. If you are not hosting an event at your post, see if one of your neighbors is and offer to help.

Have a great week!

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

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

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

click a button for more information

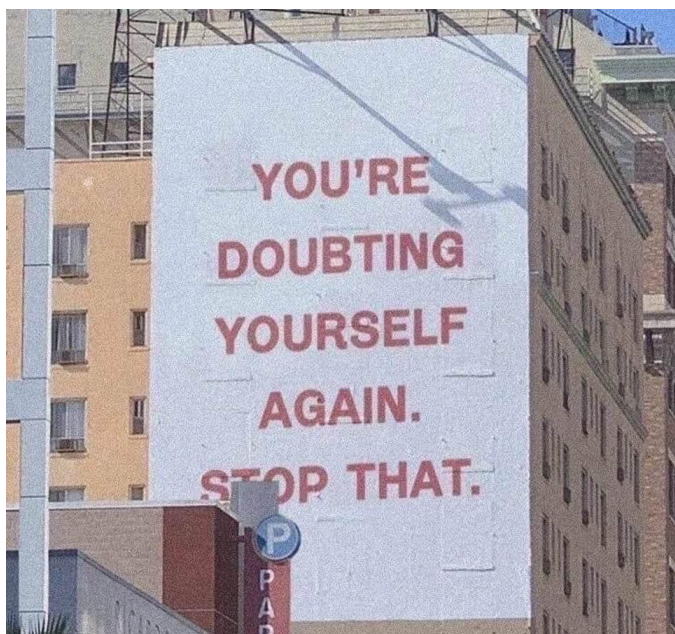
JOIN THE SAL

BE THE ONE

NEF

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EMBLEM
SALES



AMERICAN LEGION



The catalysts for our national security

April 19, 2023

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

America faces threats on a regular basis from adversaries such as Russia and China. Diplomacy plays a significant role in maintaining peace while ensuring our national security in cooperation with our strategic partners.

Our ambassadors fulfill that duty, often without the fanfare they deserve for being on the front lines of maintaining vital relationships with nations from Albania to Zambia.

However, there is an ongoing issue in filling ambassador roles. In fact, The American Legion National Executive Committee passed Resolution 25 in May 2022 expressing concerns about the issue. At the time of the resolution, there were 61 of 190 ambassador positions unfilled with 28 pending approvals by the Senate.

Right now, there are 26 ambassador vacancies worldwide, with 15 nominees awaiting action in the Senate. That vacancy rate is in line with the historical average of 13%. But it's not just the number of vacancies. Some of the openings are in highly strategic or volatile areas of the world. Among them:

Italy, Colombia, Ethiopia, Kuwait, Niger, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands, and the United Arab Emirates.

When an ambassador is not in place, the deputy chief of mission takes on the role as acting chief of mission, formally referred to as chargé d'affaires. Embassies remain fully staffed and personnel rotate on schedules independent of ambassador appointments.

Still, this represents a significant step back from a full-time ambassador. Chiefs of mission typically do not have access to higher levels of government of the host nation, which weakens the communications between Washington and the host nation. Chiefs of missions are also less likely to communicate directly with the U.S. president and receive less attention from the federal government.

The 2022 National Security Strategy (NSS) states that “a competition is underway between the major powers to shape what comes next” in the world, singling out China and Russia as presenting particular but different challenges. Mutually beneficial alliances and partnerships are our greatest global strategic advantage in this competition. We cannot meet these complex and interconnected challenges alone. Therefore, ensuring the greatest number of ambassadorial vacancies are filled is a national security imperative.”

The American Legion believes that our nation is stronger and safer when there is a full contingent of ambassadors in place. That's why I have sent letters to the [president](#) and [senate](#), respectfully urging expeditious action on this matter. It is, after all, a matter of our national security.

Vincent “Jim” Troiola, National Commander
The American Legion

Help identify remaining ‘unknown’ USS Arizona servicemembers

The American Legion | April 17, 2023

There are still 85 “unknown” Navy and Marine servicemembers from *USS Arizona* whose remains are in an unmarked grave. You may be able to help these heroes finally receive a proper burial.

It's part of an initiative, led by Kevin Kline, a member of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 176 in Springfield, Va. He is the executive director of

the *USS Arizona* “Operation 85” project, and also the great nephew of Robert Edwin Kline, a sailor who was killed Dec. 7, 1941, aboard *USS Arizona*.

“Operation 85 is a mission to identify, through DNA, the 85 or more *USS Arizona* crew members, Navy and Marine Corps, whose graves have been buried 10 miles away marked simply as ‘*USS Arizona* unknowns,’” he said. “We are asking for American Legion support as we try every effort we can to reach and locate other family members.”

Kline said the objective right now is to find other family members of the unrecovered *USS Arizona* crew, so they can provide a DNA sample to match with the unknowns. If you are among the family members or know someone who may be, you can begin by contacting a Service Casualty Office (SCO) through [the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency website](#).

Contact the respective branch or civilian department that your family member served in. Once you have established contact, the SCO will send a donor kit with instructions and materials for your DNA sample along with a return shipping container. Your DNA and information will be protected, secured to a case file, and will not be shared with any outside organization.



Posts encouraged to conduct and share their American Legion Family Day events

The American Legion | April 17, 2023

During the 2022 Fall Meetings, The American Legion National Executive Committee passed [Resolution No. 7, American Legion Family Day](#), which established an American Legion Family Day to be observed annually on the last Saturday of April.

This year for Legion Family Day on April 29, posts are encouraged to open their doors to members of their community for the day to recognize and

celebrate the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion members, Legion Riders and American Legion Auxiliary, and to bring awareness to the organization's ["Be the One" initiative](#) to reduce the rate of veteran suicide.

"Tell them about our Be the One campaign and our efforts to de-stigmatize the courageous decision to seek mental wellness," National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola said earlier this year. "Too many veterans take their lives while feeling isolated and alone. Some have no close relatives to whom they can reach out. It is a mistake for them to believe they have no family. Whether they know it or not, they have an American Legion Family."

We've created a Legion Family Day flyer [available for download](#) to help publicize your event, as well as a [toolkit](#) to help plan your event.

If you are planning a Legion Family Day event April 29, please email sbrooks@legion.org. And once you've conducted your event, please share your photos and story with national at legiontown.org.



Photo by Hilary Ott /The American Legion

Indiana post delivers \$5,000 to National Emergency Fund

The American Legion | April 19, 2023

The 2023 storm season already has been an active one, with tornadoes reported in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

And American Legion posts already have stepped up to help, [providing food and other donations](#) to those impacted. And another way one Indiana post has helped out is through a donation to the Legion's [National Emergency Fund \(NEF\)](#), which provides

financial assistance to Legionnaires, posts and Sons of The American Legion impacted by natural disasters.

In mid-April, Atkins Saw American Legion Post 355 on the south side of Indianapolis made a \$5,000 donation to the NEF. Post 355 Commander Duane Sloan, Post Adjutant Guy Clemons and executive board member Donald McCoy traveled to American Legion National Headquarters and presented the check to National Treasurer Shawn Long, who in turned presented the group with a thank-you letter, a certificate of appreciation and a signed photo of American Legion National Commander James Troiola.

The donation was spearheaded by Post 355 member Matthew Longshore, a U.S. Navy veteran. "We've been looking for some different organizations to donate to, and I started looking at the (NEF)," said the 42-year-old Longshore. "I had no idea how much the fund did - \$3,000 a member, \$10,000 for a post for after a storm. We thought that was a pretty good deal. And it helps our brothers and sisters."

While noting that the fund can assist those impacted by such events as a tornado that struck nearby Martinsville, Ind., Longshore said he also appreciates that the NEF is a nationwide program.

"I'm originally from California, and I know of a lot of areas there that have been burned out," he said. "No matter where you are in the country, it's coming. We've got severe weather coming here this time of year. The fire season's coming on the West Coast. And the National Emergency Fund goes everywhere. We're thinking about making this a recurring donation."

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

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

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

3. Must be an active member at the time of the disaster and the time of application.

To apply for an NEF grant, click [here](#). To donate to the NEF, click [here](#).

Dear American Legion Family,

I am writing to inform you about the upcoming **American Legion Family Day** event and the Veterans Yoga Project yoga session. We believe this event will be an excellent opportunity to engage the community and showcase the great deeds and works of the American Legion Family.

American Legion Family Day is celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April, and this year it falls on April 29, 2023. The purpose of this day is to educate, recruit, recognize, and give back to the members who continually support the gift of giving. The American Legion has partnered with the Veterans Yoga Project (VYP), and the session will be live streamed, providing a great way to participate and engage with your local community.

Working with Veterans Yoga Project (VYP), Sons of the American Legion (SAL), and the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), we are excited to bring you this opportunity. This event is a wonderful opportunity for people to come together and show their appreciation for the American Legion Family and the vital role they play in our communities.

We are reaching out to you to ask for your support and promotion of this event. We hope you can help spread the word about this fantastic opportunity by sharing the National Headquarters' YouTube page with your members and local community. The Veterans Yoga Project session with Val Brainerd

TAL YouTube Livestream URL:

<https://www.youtube.com/americanlegionhq>

Thank you for your support and your continued dedication to the American Legion Family. Together we can make this event a great success, and we look forward to your participation.

Thank you,

Kevin M. Mook, National SAL Liaison
Internal Affairs & Membership Division

2023 Memorial Day speech available online

The American Legion | April 19, 2023

On Memorial Day, the American Legion Family will honor the more than 1 million men and women who have lost their lives defending America since the Revolutionary War. An American Legion Memorial Day speech for 2023 is available for American Legion departments, districts, and posts to use for Memorial Day events.

[The speech is available here.](#)

The speech is not meant to be recited verbatim; members are greatly encouraged to amend it to taste and audience.

American Legion posts are encouraged to upload recaps and photos of their Memorial Day celebrations and other community activities to [Legiontown.org](https://legiontown.org). Legiontown is a place for Legionnaires to tell the stories of all the good they do, every day, and to see how other Legionnaires across the country are doing the same.

COMMUNITY FUN DAY
Saturday May 6th 11am to 3pm

60 Big Run Rd.
Delaware, OH 43015
740.362.7478

JOIN THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF OHIO ON SATURDAY MAY 6TH 11AM - 3PM FOR A COMMUNITY FUN DAY!

WE WILL BE HAVING A WATER BALLOON TOSS, DUNK TANK, PIE IN THE FACE, BOUNCE HOUSE OBSTACLE COURSE, TOUCH A TRUCK, KIDS COLORING FOR VETS CRAFT STATION, AND MORE.

FOOD AND BEVERAGES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM PURDY GOOD FOOD TRUCK, AND ICE POPS FOR THE KIDS WILL BE ON HAND FOR FREE.

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL. COME FELLOWSHIP WITH US AND LEARN ALL ABOUT WHAT THE OHIO LEGION DOES FOR OUR COMMUNITIES, YOUTH, AND VETERANS.

PARTNERING WITH: MASH PANTRY, STOCKHANDS, DELAWARE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL, BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS, BERLIN TWP FIRE DEPT., VETERAN COMPANION ANIMAL SERVICES, PURDY GOOD FOOD LLC, ACE HARDWARE, & SUPERGAMES

Saturday May 6th 11am to 3pm

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Big Brothers Big Sisters, MASH, State Highway Patrol, ACE Hardware, VCAAS, SuperGames, FWE, E&H Hardware.

This is a free event. Please bring a canned good to donate to MASH Pantry.

07/01/23



JOHN R. COOK

Candidate for SAL
National Vice Commander
2023 – 2024
61 Nacomia Drive
Madison, NH 03849
(330) 455-7816
cooki46@roadrunner.com

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2023 SAL 90% TARGET DATE REPORT AS OF: APRIL 19, 2023

#	DETACHMENT	2023 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 90% TARGET 4/19/2023	2023 ACTUAL MBRSHHP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2023 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	77	-26	95	123.38%	100.00
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	-297	1,523	111.82%	88.15
3	PUERTO RICO	123	-20	131	106.50%	85.95
4	MEXICO	31	-4	32	103.23%	51.61
5	WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	-272	2,398	101.52%	82.52
6	OREGON	1,414	-148	1,421	100.50%	77.79
7	GEORGIA	4,490	-456	4,497	100.16%	83.69
8	PHILIPPINES	70	-7	70	100.00%	100.00
9	FLORIDA	21,519	-2,150	21,517	99.99%	80.49
10	MICHIGAN	24,271	-2,080	23,924	98.57%	85.85
11	FRANCE	158	-13	155	98.10%	87.82
12	DELAWARE	2,430	-195	2,382	98.02%	82.53
13	WISCONSIN	4,187	-302	4,070	97.21%	83.10
14	MARYLAND	16,058	-1,129	15,581	97.03%	86.32
15	VIRGINIA	4,109	-285	3,983	96.93%	81.82
16	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	-101	1,427	96.88%	81.59
17	ARIZONA	8,004	-546	7,750	96.83%	76.13
18	OHIO	30,636	-1,910	29,482	96.23%	87.26
19	COLORADO	2,729	-164	2,620	96.01%	80.34
20	RHODE ISLAND	336	-19	321	95.54%	81.52
21	PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	-3,137	57,860	95.16%	86.30
22	TENNESSEE	1,718	-81	1,627	94.70%	75.63
23	MAINE	2,617	-123	2,478	94.69%	81.35
24	VERMONT	3,818	-169	3,605	94.42%	84.95
25	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	-245	5,354	94.31%	81.80
26	ILLINOIS	13,398	-568	12,626	94.24%	84.10
27	KANSAS	5,919	-224	5,551	93.78%	82.98
28	WASHINGTON	2,485	-93	2,329	93.72%	72.98
29	CALIFORNIA	10,714	-371	10,014	93.47%	77.03
30	NEBRASKA	7,015	-243	6,556	93.46%	88.18
31	MISSISSIPPI	722	-24	674	93.35%	77.20
32	CONNECTICUT	1,867	-60	1,740	93.20%	81.87
33	LOUISIANA	1,790	-55	1,666	93.07%	82.31
34	IDAHO	644	-19	599	93.01%	74.35
35	IOWA	4,857	-146	4,517	93.00%	81.45
36	NEW YORK	29,864	-890	27,768	92.98%	84.05
37	INDIANA	36,387	-1,070	33,818	92.94%	84.05
38	NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	-78	2,532	92.85%	75.00
39	OKLAHOMA	1,348	-36	1,249	92.66%	73.07
40	NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	-26	976	92.42%	80.97
41	NEW MEXICO	1,483	-31	1,366	92.11%	73.25
42	ALASKA	1,608	-34	1,481	92.10%	72.87
43	MONTANA	1,108	-23	1,020	92.06%	85.28
44	MISSOURI	3,219	-63	2,960	91.95%	79.05
45	ALABAMA	2,066	-40	1,899	91.92%	77.49
46	MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	-98	4,996	91.80%	80.15
47	NEVADA	357	-6	327	91.60%	68.13
48	MINNESOTA	11,378	-87	10,327	90.76%	82.16
49	NEW JERSEY	9,386	-70	8,517	90.74%	79.94
50	TEXAS	5,569	19	4,993	89.66%	72.04
51	WYOMING	1,298	49	1,119	86.21%	75.42
52	ARKANSAS	447	48	354	79.19%	66.67
53	KENTUCKY	2,609	328	2,020	77.42%	65.18
54	UTAH	449	64	340	75.72%	61.05
55	DIST OF COL	114	24	79	69.30%	56.64
Grand Totals:		367,798	-17,698	348,716	94.81%	83.09

2023 SAL REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

WESTERN REGION - JACK A. YOUNGS (ID)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	77	95	123.38%
OREGON	1,414	1,421	100.50%
PHILIPPINES	70	70	100.00%
ARIZONA	8,004	7,750	96.83%
WASHINGTON	2,485	2,329	93.72%
CALIFORNIA	10,714	10,014	93.47%
IDAHO	644	599	93.01%
ALASKA	1,608	1,481	92.10%
NEVADA	357	327	91.60%
UTAH	449	340	75.72%
Totals:	25,822	24,426	94.59%

MIDWEST REGION - MICHAEL L. KIRSCHNER (CO)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	1,523	111.82%
MEXICO	31	32	103.23%
COLORADO	2,729	2,620	96.01%
KANSAS	5,919	5,551	93.78%
NEBRASKA	7,015	6,556	93.46%
OKLAHOMA	1,348	1,249	92.66%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	976	92.42%
NEW MEXICO	1,483	1,366	92.11%
MONTANA	1,108	1,020	92.06%
TEXAS	5,569	4,993	89.66%
WYOMING	1,298	1,119	86.21%
Totals:	28,918	27,005	93.38%

CENTRAL REGION - DAVID J. MENNEL (MI)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
MICHIGAN	24,271	23,924	98.57%
WISCONSIN	4,187	4,070	97.21%
OHIO	30,636	29,482	96.23%
ILLINOIS	13,398	12,626	94.24%
IOWA	4,857	4,517	93.00%
INDIANA	36,387	33,818	92.94%
MISSOURI	3,219	2,960	91.95%
MINNESOTA	11,378	10,327	90.76%
Totals:	128,333	121,724	94.85%

EASTERN REGION - ERNEST E. LABERGE (MA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	2,398	101.52%
FRANCE	158	155	98.10%
DELAWARE	2,430	2,382	98.02%
MARYLAND	16,058	15,581	97.03%
RHODE ISLAND	336	321	95.54%
PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	57,860	95.16%
MAINE	2,617	2,478	94.69%
VERMONT	3,818	3,605	94.42%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	5,354	94.31%
CONNECTICUT	1,867	1,740	93.20%
NEW YORK	29,864	27,768	92.98%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	4,996	91.80%
NEW JERSEY	9,386	8,517	90.74%
DIST OF COL	114	79	69.30%
Totals:	140,932	133,234	94.54%

SOUTHERN REGION - RONALD E. ROBERTS (MS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
PUERTO RICO	123	131	106.50%
GEORGIA	4,490	4,497	100.16%
FLORIDA	21,519	21,517	99.99%
VIRGINIA	4,109	3,983	96.93%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	1,427	96.88%
TENNESSEE	1,718	1,627	94.70%
MISSISSIPPI	722	674	93.35%
LOUISIANA	1,790	1,666	93.07%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	2,532	92.85%
ALABAMA	2,066	1,899	91.92%
ARKANSAS	447	354	79.19%
KENTUCKY	2,609	2,020	77.42%
Totals:	43,793	42,327	96.65%

04/19/23		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	42,327	(1,466)	96.65%	172	
2	Central 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	128,333	121,724	(6,609)	94.85%	509	
3	Eastern 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	140,932	133,234	(7,698)	94.54%	561	
4	Midwest 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	28,918	27,005	(1,913)	93.38%	66	
5	Western 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	25,822	24,426	(1,396)	94.59%	430	
	TOTALS 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	367,798	348,716	(19,082)	94.81%	1,738	



04/19/23		CENTRAL REGION David Mennell (MI), National Vice-Commander						
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	Quota Date
1	Michigan 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	24,271	23,924	(347)	98.57%	77	85.85%	10
2	Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	4,187	4,070	(117)	97.21%	49	83.10%	13
3	Ohio 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	30,636	29,482	(1,154)	96.23%	60	87.26%	18
4	Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8	13,398	12,626	(772)	94.24%	55	84.10%	26
5	Iowa 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	4,857	4,517	(340)	93.00%	25	81.45%	35
6	Indiana 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	36,387	33,818	(2,569)	92.94%	81	84.05%	37
7	Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	3,219	2,960	(259)	91.95%	3	79.05%	44
8	Minnesota 5, 6, 7, 8	11,378	10,327	(1,051)	90.76%	159	82.16%	48
	TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	128,333	121,724	(6,609)	94.85%	509		

04/19/23		WESTERN REGION Jack Youngs (ID) National Vice-Commander						
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	Quota Date
1	Hawaii 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Q, 10	77	95	18	123.38%	-	100.00%	10/10/22
2	Oregon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Q	1,414	1,421	7	100.50%	2	82.52%	04/17/23
3	Philippines 8, 9	70	70	-	100.00%	-	100.00%	04/10/23
4	Arizona 5, 6, 7, 8	8,004	7,750	(254)	96.83%	262	76.13%	17
5	Washington 7, 8	2,485	2,329	(156)	93.72%	8	72.98%	28
6	California 1, 5, 6, 7, 8	10,714	10,014	(700)	93.47%	155	77.03%	29
7	Idaho 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8	644	599	(45)	93.01%	3	74.35%	34
8	Alaska 3, 6, 8	1,608	1,481	(127)	92.10%	-	72.87%	42
9	Nevada 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	357	327	(30)	91.60%	-	68.13%	47
10	Utah 5	449	340	(109)	75.72%	-	61.05%	54
	TOTALS 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	25,822	24,426	(1,396)	94.59%	430		

04/19/23		SOUTHERN REGION Ron Roberts (MS), National Vice-Commander						
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	Quota Date
1	Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Q	123	131	8	106.50%	-	85.95%	03/02/23
2	Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Q	4,490	4,497	7	100.16%	65	77.79%	04/19/23
3	Florida 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	21,519	21,517	(2)	99.99%	65	80.49%	9
4	Virginia 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	4,109	3,983	(126)	96.93%	16	81.82%	15
5	South Carolina 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,473	1,427	(46)	96.88%	-	81.59%	16
6	Tennessee 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8	1,718	1,627	(91)	94.70%	1	75.63%	22
7	Mississippi 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	722	674	(48)	93.35%	-	77.20%	31
8	Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,790	1,666	(124)	93.07%	15	82.31%	33
9	North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2,727	2,532	(195)	92.85%	-	75.00%	38
10	Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2,066	1,899	(167)	91.92%	8	77.49%	45
11	Arkansas 1	447	354	(93)	79.19%	2	66.67%	52
12	Kentucky	2,609	2,020	(589)	77.42%	-	65.18%	53
	TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	43,793	42,327	(1,466)	96.65%	172		

04/19/23		MIDWEST REGION Michael Kirschner (CO), National Vice-Commander						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
South Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Q, 10	1,362	1,523	161	111.82%	5	88.15%	2	02/09/23
Mexico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Q	31	32	1	103.23%	-	51.61%	4	03/13/23
Colorado 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	2,729	2,620	(109)	96.01%	-	80.34%	19	
Kansas 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	5,919	5,551	(368)	93.78%	7	82.98%	27	
Nebraska 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	7,015	6,556	(459)	93.46%	8	88.18%	30	
Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,348	1,249	(99)	92.66%	15	73.07%	39	
North Dakota 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8	1,056	976	(80)	92.42%	2	80.97%	40	
New Mexico 8	1,483	1,366	(117)	92.11%	-	73.25%	41	
Montana 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,108	1,020	(88)	92.06%	10	85.28%	43	
Texas 1, 3, 4, 5	5,569	4,993	(576)	89.66%	10	72.04%	50	
Wyoming 1, 4, 5, 6	1,298	1,119	(179)	86.21%	9	75.42%	51	
TOTALS 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	28,918	27,005	(1,913)	93.38%	61			

04/19/23		EASTERN REGION Ernie LaBerge (MA) National Vice-Commander							
Detachment		Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
West Virginia 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Q		2,362	2,398	36	101.52%	30	82.52%	5	04/17/23
France 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		158	155	(3)	98.10%	-	87.82%	11	
Delaware 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		2,430	2,382	(48)	98.02%	2	82.53%	12	
Maryland 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		16,058	15,581	(477)	97.03%	71	86.32%	14	
Rhode Island 4, 5, 7		336	321	(15)	95.54%	-	81.52%	20	
Pennsylvania 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		60,803	57,860	(2,943)	95.16%	172	86.30%	21	
Maine 5, 6, 7, 8		2,617	2,478	(139)	94.69%	1	81.35%	23	
Vermont 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		3,818	3,605	(213)	94.42%	14	84.95%	24	
New Hampshire 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		5,677	5,354	(323)	94.31%	12	81.80%	25	
Connecticut 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		1,867	1,740	(127)	93.20%	-	81.87%	32	
New York 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		29,864	27,768	(2,096)	92.98%	262	84.05%	36	
Massachusetts 4, 6, 7, 8		5,442	4,996	(446)	91.80%	25	80.15%	46	
New Jersey 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		9,386	8,517	(869)	90.74%	2	79.94%	49	
Dist. of Columbia		114	79	(35)	69.30%	-	56.64%	55	
TOTALS 4, 5, 6, 7, 8		140,932	133,234	(7,698)	94.54%	591			

04/19/23		2023 SUPER SIX STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
Florida 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	21,519	21,517	(2)	99.99%	65	80.49%	9	
Michigan 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	24,271	23,924	(347)	98.57%	77	85.85%	10	
Ohio 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	30,636	29,482	(1,154)	96.23%	60	87.26%	18	
Pennsylvania 5, 6, 7, 8	60,803	57,860	(2,943)	95.16%	172	86.30%	21	
New York 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	29,864	27,768	(2,096)	92.98%	262	84.05%	36	
Indiana 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	36,387	33,818	(2,569)	92.94%	81	84.05%	37	
TOTALS	203,480	194,369	(9,111)	95.52%	717			

National Totals 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	367,798	348,716	(19,082)	94.81%	1,738	83.09%		
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Q Quota

- 1 Met 09/14/22 goal of 10%
- 2 Met 10/13/22 goal of 25%
- 3 Met 11/09/22 goal of 35%
- 4 Met 12/14/22 goal of 45%
- 5 Met 01/19/23 goal of 60%
- 6 Met 02/15/23 goal of 75%
- 7 Met 03/15/23 goal of 80%
- 8 Met 04/19/23 goal of 90%
- 9 Met 05/17/23 goal of 100%
- 10 Met 07/16/23 goal of 105%





SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

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
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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