



American Legion survey reveals veterans' concerns

The American Legion | September 18, 2023



[The American Legion released a nationwide study today](#) to elevate the voice of veterans as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) creates National Standards of Practice (NSP) for dozens of health-care specialties.

The survey release precedes a House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health hearing on the NSP issue. The American Legion will be submitting a statement for the record at Tuesday's hearing, "VA's Federal Supremacy Initiative: Putting Veterans First?"

The Federal Supremacy Initiative was created to set national standards of practice for more than 50 clinical specialties. The standardized set of services means that all health care professionals in a given occupation can perform within VA, regardless of what is permitted by state licensure, certification, or registration.

While many specialties have fairly uniform requirements across the country, the scope of practice for some highly specialized professions varies widely from state to state. The hearing will look at the transparency of the initiative's process, what these standards could mean for patient care and more.

"Veterans service organizations, medical associations, and members of Congress have spoken to VA about

NSP, but the stakeholders who have not been heard from are veterans," said Chanin Nuntavong, The American Legion's executive director of Government Affairs. "We felt it was our responsibility to gather non-anecdotal information and ask veterans about this topic. So, we had an independent third-party company handle the survey."

Pierrepoint Consulting & Analytics LLC conducted the survey of 1,400 veterans between February and April of this year. Survey respondents represented veterans of all ages and service branches.

The American Legion National Executive Committee passed Resolution No. 20, [National Standards of Practice](#), in October 2022. The resolution calls for VA to ensure NSP providers are held to the same level of licensure and certification requirements as those in the majority of states, and that NSPs are consistent with providing the best care possible to veterans.

VA is creating standards for 50 occupations, but Nuntavong said the Legion wanted the survey to be more focused.

"There are many occupations that VA is considering for creating NSPs," he said. "For the purpose of this survey, we selected the occupations we felt would be the most debated – anesthesiologists and nurse anesthetists."

The survey showed veterans overwhelmingly prefer a physician over a nurse to provide anesthesia care during surgery.

In fact, 61% of respondents preferred a physician administer anesthesia care while only 4% chose a nurse. The remainder had no preference.

see SURVEY page XX

Round-Up

Donald "JR" Hall (MD) *National Commander*
Robert L. Bristo (MN) *Central National Vice-Commander*
John R. Cook (NH) *Northeast National Vice-Commander*
Terry A. Harris (KS) *Midwest National Vice-Commander*
Linwood A. Moore (VA) *Southeast National Vice-Commander*
James R. Fischer (CA) *Western National Vice-Commander*

Christopher Carlton (IN)
Immediate Past National Commander

Joseph Navarrete (NM)
Leading Candidate for National Commander

William Clancy III (NY)
Trailing Candidate for National Commander

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

Round-Up is a collection of information procured from various resources to stay better informed on happenings within The American Legion Family, and of other related topics of interest, and makes no claims or guarantees about the accuracy or currency of the contents of this publication, and expressly disclaims liability for errors and omissions.

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



Donald "JR" Hall, Jr.

National Commander



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

BE THE ONE

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

P.O. BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1055 * WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS * P: 317-630-1205

Stand for the Four Pillars, stand for the Legion Family

Greetings, Sons of The American Legion,

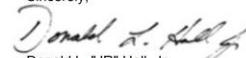
We are off and working to make 2023-24 a great year! What an honor to be elected as your national commander and be able to represent my grandfather's service in the Army during World War II.

"Representing More Than Me" is my slogan for the year because I truly believe that is what the Sons of The American Legion should be all about. As we sign the membership paper it is a commitment to pay respect to our family member's service in our military. Let's make sure that our commitment is worth the sacrifices they made.

I believe in the Four Pillars of our organization, and what they stand for. The American Legion was built believing in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children & Youth and National Security and they are still the core beliefs of what the American Legion Family stands for. I have issued a commander's challenge to all Squadrons to support the Four Pillars and become a National Four Pillar Squadron. To do so, all you need to do is raise one dollar per member each for Operation Comfort Warriors (VA&R), the Child Welfare Foundation (Children & Youth) and your department's Boys State program (Americanism) and hold a blood drive (National Security). You will then receive an award for being a National Four Pillar Squadron. That is not that hard to do, if we plan and work to get it done.

I believe that the Sons of The American Legion can reach new heights and crush our records for hours volunteered and donations. It will take all of us working and believing in the work we do to help our veterans, children, and community. Aaron Tippin sang a song that said, "You've got to stand for something or you will fall for anything." Let's stand for what is right and show that our family's service is worth all of us being the best Son we can be. "Be The One" in more ways than one.

Sincerely,


Donald L. "JR" Hall, Jr.
National Commander
Sons of The American Legion

"Representing More Than Me"

Representing More Than Me

From the Editor

When I sit down to work on *Round-Up*, I always have a movie or show playing. It helps pass the time, and gives me the opportunity to see some stuff I either have not watch for a while, or to see something new. This past week was no exception, as I am also completing our detachment newsletter.

If you have the time, and want to see how things were in the 1940s, I recommend watching "Band of Brothers," "Hacksaw Ridge," "The Pacific," "Saving Private Ryan," "Pearl Harbor," and "Midway." I think I saw them all on Netflix, where these and many other war movies are housed.

Watching these types of movies gives us a little insight into what it may have been like for our

military heroes when they served in war. I don't think anything, but actual footage can show the results of war, but these movies do a pretty good job.

Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible. Renew Today!

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

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

click a button for more information



Thank you to our sponsors

Juan Cruz Rodriguez, Department of Puerto Rico

Remembering the Greatest Generation

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

Anthony C. Lamorte



Salem, MA – Anthony C. Lamorte, age 98, formerly of Salem, died peacefully on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. He was the husband of the late Pamela P. (Perusse) Lamorte.

Born in Lynn, he was the son of the late Joseph and Grace (Grieco) Lamorte. He was raised in Swampscott and was a graduate of Swampscott High School, Class of 1943, and lived in Salem for many years.

Tony bravely served in the United States Army during

WWII, stationed in Europe, and was a Purple Heart recipient. An iron worker, Tony was educated at the Industrial Technical School. He worked for his father, Joseph, at the North Shore Ornamental Iron Company, where he retired after 42 years. He was a member of The American Legion and the Sons of Italy, and was also a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church in Swampscott.

A lifelong craftsman, Tony was a skilled woodworker, spending free time in his home shop and generously sharing beautiful handmade pieces. He loved his hometown of Swampscott, and often walked a favored route in retirement, taking in the view of Egg Rock. Those who loved him will always remember his kind and thoughtful spirit; his consistent gratitude without complaint, particularly after surviving the war; his stories filled with warmth and humor; and his love of the simple pleasures in life.

He is survived and will be missed by his daughter, Joni Bursey; his granddaughters, Christine Webb and her husband Jacob Webb, Dale Horsman and her husband Dave Horsman; his great-granddaughter, Harlow Horsman; his sister-in-law, Kim Lamorte; and his nieces and nephews, Richard Malagrifa, Steven Malagrifa, James Lamorte, and Suzanne Farrell. He was the brother of the late William Lamorte and the late Theresa Malagrifa and her late husband Albert "Mal" Malagrifa.

His visitation will be held on Monday, September 25, 2023 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Solimine Funeral Home, 67 Ocean St (Route 1A), Lynn, with a funeral service beginning at 11:30 a.m. Burial will be in Swampscott Cemetery. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited. Those who prefer may make donations to St. John the Evangelist Church, 174 Humphrey St, Swampscott, MA 01907. Directions and guestbook at www.solimine.com.

To send flowers to the family of Anthony C. Lamorte, please visit [Tribute Store](#).



Robert L. Bristo

Central National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

Second Wednesday Quarterly

September 13, 2023 | December 13, 2023

March 13, 2024 | June 12, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 930 6046 3298 | Passcode: 140 802

Way back in 1972 at the very first SAL National Convention, John Smolinsky was elected National Commander with a theme of "Leadership through Participation in Service." His goals were accomplished largely because of "active" membership.

Active members are satisfied members, and their enthusiasm is what drives others to join our organization. Back then we were young and hungry and eager to help serve our veterans! We started with less than 25,000 members and now stand proud with over 375,000 Sons working American Legion programs. The more members we have, the more we can do!

The Central Region is in 3rd place, with all eight detachments now over the 10% mark. Way you go! A special thank you to Wisconsin and Illinois who are already over 30%!

Central Region! Let's get going! I know we can and will move ahead of the Midwest and Southeast regions! The next turn-in can put us over them in no time!

Start today! Don't put it off. You CAN do something no matter how "small." Think in terms of the long term goal because every step you take is one; you'll be thankful for when you reach your target. Remember you're lapping everyone who's still on the bench!

Do you remember the "Mayne Goal"? In 1995 SAL National Commander Joe Mayne challenged the Sons to bring in 8,000 new members under his theme of "Raising our Standards". Not only did they reach that goal, but exceeded it, and for the first time, the SAL had over 189,000 members and reached another all-time high!

Other the "pandemic" years the SAL (according to the National Membership Record) set all-time highs in

membership every year from 1983 to 2019 and in 2023; membership climbed back to over 377,000 members to set a new record!

Why? Why do we continue to grow? It is because of our Mission! We Sons are committed to serving our veterans to honor not only our forefathers but all US service members who protect our country today! We know all that we do builds a better life for those we serve and for our country that we all love so dearly!

COME ON CENTRAL REGION! Get those cards sent in! With a goal of 129,711 members for our goal, we are larger and need to show our leadership and blaze the trail all the way to victory! Let's make the other regions chase us to each and every membership target date from this point forward!

In 2002 I attended my very first SAL National Convention held that year in Charlotte, NC, a popular location for our American Legion Family conventions as we have also met there in 2014 and of course last month in August of 2023.

SAL National Commander Cliff Smith (the Man, the Myth, the Legend!) had as his theme that year "**Focus on the Future**" and we ended that year with over 266,000 members, pushing us over the quarter million member mark for the first time. Commander Cliff is one of the few to have worn a **SAL Gold cap four times**. Once each as Commander, National Vice Commander, National Chaplain, and National Historian. Cliff truly has the SAL in his heart. This was also the year the "**Blue Brigade**" award was offered for the first time for excellence in recruiting new members.

So let's talk about what needs to happen after you recruit a new member. Of course, you need to keep him a member forever and maybe for life...

One way some detachments do this is with a "**Paid up for Life**" (PUFL) program and/or a "**Five Year Card**" program. I'll talk about PUFL programs in a future update, but a great way to get a jump on your membership each year is with the Five Year Card initiative. Very simply, a squadron gives you five years of membership, but the member only pays for four (4) years. The squadron is making the commitment to pay those members "per-capita" in the fifth year. The Detachment of Illinois has used this program for decades and that is one of the reasons why we jump into the 30% range of membership early on, and we continue to push the program because of how it assists our membership goals.

Now on to our numbers. The Central Region improved overall by 1.38% moving up to 19.84% with 25,741 members and still in 3rd place nationally. All 8 detachments moved forward but we CAN do better! Indiana is now safely at the 20% mark with Minnesota hot on their heels. Ohio and Kentucky are both over 15% with West Virginia sitting at 10.53%.

Using Commander Bristo's theme of **"Believe and Succeed"** I challenge West Virginia and Kentucky to join Wisconsin's percentage. As the three smallest detachments in the region, you three should be leading the race to our goals! I know you can do it!

My Comrades! Keep up the Good work!

For the Commander,

Butch Ray, Central Region Membership Chairman

"I'm the ONE, You're the ONE, Be the ONE!"



National Vice-Commander speaking to the Minnesota American Legion Family during Legionville.

Lou Michaels



National Vice Commander Robert Bristo calling bingo at the 57th Annual Legionville Camp-o-ree in Brainard Minnesota.

Lou Michaels

John R. Cook

Northeast National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

THIRD Wednesday Quarterly

September 20, 2023 | December 20, 2023

March 20, 2024 | June 19, 2024

7:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 980 7046 7820 | Passcode: 469 153

James R. Fischer

Western National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

THIRD Wednesday Quarterly

September 20, 2023 | December 20, 2023

March 20, 2024 | June 19, 2024

8:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 964 2285 1563 | Passcode: 433 552

Shout out to Detachments Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Oregon, Nevada, California, Arizona, and Colorado for hitting the 10% target date on

9/13/23. We are off to an amazing start and thank you all for everything you do.

Thank you for being the rock stars that you are.

I'd like to say how stoked I am to be a part of the American Legion Family. Shout out to all my brothers who are looking out for me. I can't thank you enough for showing me proper protocol and providing the requested documents from these emails. You guys are the best!

I'd also like to welcome Colorado, Mexico, New Mexico, Montana, and Wyoming to the Western region. As we like to say, "West is the Best!" and we are going to have some fun this year!

Our Western region business meeting call was awesome. Thank you all who were able to attend. The next one will be 12/20/23 at 8:00 p.m. est.

So far, we are fourth place as a region. Our next target date is 10/18/23 and we need to be at 25%. I know we usually start off slow and finish big, so no worries there.

If you need anything or have any questions, please let us know.

Thanks again for all you do and making a difference!

For God and Country,

Dan Ashley, Western Region Membership Chairman

Terry A. Harris

Midwest National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

Fourth Wednesday Quarterly

September 27, 2023 | December 27, 2023

March 27, 2024 | June 26, 2024

7:00 p.m. Mountain | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 924 0402 2733 | Passcode: 371 685



**RENEW
ONLINE
TODAY**

Linwood A. Moore

Southeast National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

First Wednesday Quarterly

September 6, 2023 | December 6, 2023

March 26, 2024 | June 5, 2024

8:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

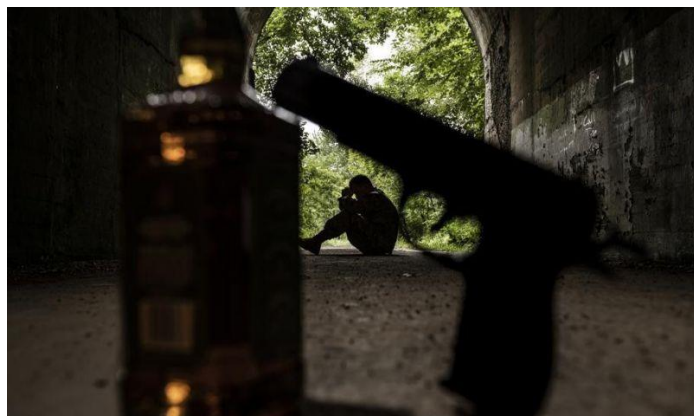
Meeting ID: 945 1723 1230 | Passcode: 58543

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.

Senators plead for improved response to veterans suicides after report reveals hotline failure

Corey Dickstein/Stars and Stripes | September 22, 2023



Joshua J. Seybert/U.S. Air Force

The Department of Veterans Affairs must improve mental health care access for veterans with suicide risks, senators told VA officials on Wednesday in the wake of an inspector general report that found problems with the agency's crisis hotline for suicide prevention.

"We've had so damn many hearings on mental health, and it doesn't seem like anything has changed," Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., told VA officials during a hearing

of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. "There's no doubt in my mind that you want to do your best for veterans, and you're trying to do the best for your veterans."

"But this is really frustrating for me to say, but we've got to do better. We just have got to do better."

Wait times to see mental health specialists are too long, and too few veterans at risk for suicide are actively in the VA's health care system, multiple senators said. New authorities for expanded mental health care access via telehealth have been implemented too slowly, Tester told Matthew Miller, the executive director for suicide prevention at the VA's Veterans Health Administration.

The committee would "probably give you anything you asked for when it comes to mental health," Tester, who is the chairman of the Senate panel, told Miller. "We just need to make sure that what you're asking for is something that can actually make a difference."

Suicides are multifaceted and complex, Miller told the committee, thanking senators for granting the VA several new authorities via legislation in recent years that are helping the department improve.

The VA's most recent veteran suicide statistics show a slight decrease in suicides among veterans in 2020, but suicides among Americans with military service time far outpaced the rate among civilians. That year, 6,146 veteran deaths were ruled suicides. Data for 2021 is expected to be released in the coming months. Nonetheless, Miller acknowledged the VA faces many challenges in suicide prevention from technical issues implementing telehealth services to a shortfall of qualified mental health specialists to hire.

"With no single cause, there is no single solution to suicide for veterans," he said.

The hearing came just days after the VA inspector general published a report that found a Texas veteran died by suicide within an hour of receiving subpar help from the VA's Veterans Crisis Line in 2021.

The [IG report released Sept. 14](#) found crisis line responders failed to recognize the veteran's suicide risk or implement a prevention plan after engaging in a 75-minute, 80-text conversation. The veteran — a male in his 30s with diagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder, major depressive disorder, alcohol-use disorder, obstructive sleep apnea and documented past suicidal behavior — advised he was in a "shed with a belt around a hook that hangs from the rafters of the

shed." Less than an hour after the crisis line conversation, the veteran hanged himself, the investigation found.

In that incident, crisis line staff also failed to properly document communications with the veteran and failed to inform local VA officials in Texas about the death, according to the IG. The inspector general also found the VA was not properly monitoring or reviewing responders' conversations and actions with potentially suicidal veterans to ensure the highest quality of care.

Miller said Wednesday that the crisis line has since improved. The VA has installed silent monitors to track call responders' actions and is working on improving its ability to maintain records of text messages.

The [VA's crisis line](#) has grown in use in recent years. The hotline received more than 750,000 calls before July 2022 to July 2023, about a 12.5% increase from the previous year. Another 250,000 veterans contacted the crisis line via text or chat message during that time, according to the VA.

Miller said the VA has vastly expanded its crisis line, hiring more than 900 individuals to work as responders and quality controllers since 2021 when it had about 550 responders. He told lawmakers that he believes the problems highlighted in the IG report have largely been addressed, and more improvements are imminent.

"I, as a veteran, grieve the loss of this veteran. From the painful lens of retrospective review, we wish we could have done some things differently. It's our earnest desire and pledge to apply the wisdom gained through this review to strengthen processes as we continue to serve veterans, who are at the center of all we do, even at this very minute as we answer calls," Miller said. "We're better than what was depicted in that report, and we have to do better than what was depicted in that report."

Senators from multiple states lamented the wait times that veterans face in attempting to receive care from the VA, including mental health care. Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., said waiting periods in her home state stretched from about one week in Nashville to more than 90 days at a rural clinic in northern Tennessee.

"I hear a good bit about this" from constituents, Blackburn said. "This access issue is one we have got to solve."

Miller said the VA is working toward ensuring veterans in crisis receive immediate mental health care when they need it. If a veteran is in crisis, he should be seen at a local clinic, he said.

“Same day access is the first step that should be in place at every local facility regarding this,” he told senators. “That’s what should occur.”

Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, said the VA needed to speed up its telehealth improvement efforts to decrease wait times and better respond to veterans when they face a crisis, such as suicidal thoughts. Miller agreed.

“I think telehealth is an opportunity to provide the care nationwide that perhaps might not be available, particularly in a rural area,” King said. “What I hear from my veterans in Maine – they really like the care they are getting from the VA ... The question is access – when do they get the care? And that’s a large issue.”

VA awards \$52.5 million for preventing veteran suicide

The American Legion | September 20, 2023



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on Sept. 20 awarded \$52.5 million in grants to 80 community-based organizations working to prevent veteran suicides.

The grants, part of the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program, were awarded to organizations in 43 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and American Samoa. They will help these organizations provide or coordinate the provision of suicide prevention services for eligible veterans and their families. For more information and the list of awardees, visit the [SSG Fox SPGP website](#).

Reducing the rate of veterans who die by suicide is the focus of The American Legion’s highest priority, [Be](#)

[the One](#). The mission is aimed at reducing the perceived stigma associated with mental health treatment, raising awareness about the issue and empowering everyone to take the appropriate action when a veteran may be at risk.

Additionally, VA announced:

- **Its new PSAs on suicide prevention:** The PSA directs viewers to the website [VA.gov/REACH](https://www.va.gov/REACH) where veterans and family members can navigate a range of resources available to help in a time of need. That’s why the new PSA asks the question: “When was the last time you asked for help?” [Learn more here](#).
- **New program yields results:** More than 32,000 veterans in crisis have received free emergency health care under a [new VA program](#). Since Jan. 17, veterans in acute suicidal crisis have been able to go to any VA or non-VA health-care facility for emergency health care at no cost – including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days.
- **988 number hits milestone:** Since the launch of “Dial 988 then press 1” as the shortened Veterans Crisis Line number in July 2022, the crisis line has fielded more than 1.1 million contacts. This includes over 953,000 calls, an increase of 12.1% from the same timeframe from the previous year, with an average speed to answer of 9.48 seconds. There was also a year-over-year increase in text messages (58.1%) and online chats received (10%).

“There is nothing more important to VA than preventing veteran suicide — nothing,” VA Secretary Denis McDonough said. “One veteran suicide is one too many, and VA will continue to use every tool at our disposal to prevent these tragedies and save veterans’ lives.”



National Commissions and Committees

Chairmen wishing to have reports published should email them to jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com to be included. All meeting information subject to change.

100th Anniversary Committee

Part of CENTCOM

Kevin Winkleman (TX), Chairman

Advisory Committee

Joe Mayne (MN), Chairman

Americanism Commission

Chris Casey (NE), Chairman

Third Monday Bi-Monthly

November 16, 2023 | December 18, 2023

February 19, 2024 | April 15, 2024

June 17, 2024 | August 18, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 935 4066 0918 | Passcode: 571 659

Century Committee

Jeff Vrabel Sr. (OH), Chairman

Second Tuesday Bi-Monthly

November 10, 2023 | December 12, 2023

March 13, 2024 | April 9, 2024

June 11, 2024 | August 13, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 919 4714 3789 | Passcode: 241 429



Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Mark Nave (PA), Chairman

Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly

September 21, 2023 | November 16, 2023

January 18, 2024 | March 21, 2024

May 16, 2024 | July 18, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 984 7031 4786 | Passcode: 780 858

Two CWF recipients share impact of grant

The American Legion | September 20, 2023

Connecting pediatric patients virtually!

• **Virtual Camp** was created in 2020 during the pandemic as a pivot and alternative to the Johns Hopkins Children's Center Camp All-Stars.

• In 2023, this camp has expanded to include 11 children's centers across the U.S. and offers events including bingo, trivia night, escape room activities and guided art classes.

• An opportunity for kids to connect with others who truly understand what they are going through.

AKF'S NATIONAL CAMP PROGRAM PARTICIPATING SITES	
Johns Hopkins Children's Center - Baltimore, MD	Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health - Indianapolis, IN
The Phoenix Children's Center - Phoenix, AZ	UPMC Children's Hospital - Pittsburgh, PA
Cincinnati Children's Hospital - Cincinnati, OH	UI Sts. Family Children's Hospital - Iowa City, IA
Stanford/Lucile Packard Children's Hospital - Palo Alto, CA	Texas Children's Hospital - Houston, TX
Children's National Hospital - Washington, DC	Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters - Norfolk, VA (New)
Boston Children's Hospital - Boston, MA (New)	

2023 Virtual Camp Sponsors



Two 2023 American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant recipients spoke during the virtual Children & Youth Conference on Sept. 16 about how the CWF grant is supporting their organization's mission.

[Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation](#) was awarded \$9,450 for its project "Heads UP Pittsburgh: Baseline Concussion Testing Partnership." The grant is helping to provide baseline concussion testing and education for youth.

The mission of the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation is to "be the champions of all youth in our community, on and off the ice, through the power of hockey." The mission is supported through four pillars: wellness; youth hockey; education; and community. The Heads UP Pittsburgh Concussion Baseline Program falls under the wellness pillar.

The concussion baseline testing, known as ImPACT (Immediate Post Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing), started in 2011 and began pediatric

testing in 2015. ImPACT was developed in 1999 by University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Sports Medicine physicians and “is the first and only concussion-specific medical device to be approved by the FDA,” said Rob Dingle, HSD, LAT, ATC, concussion outreach coordinator for UPMC Sports Medicine. Over 30,500 tests have been administered to Pittsburgh area youth, as well as concussion education provided. “That is in itself pretty remarkable. The program just continues to grow.”

The computerized test provides data. “The test itself does not diagnosis a concussion,” Dingle emphasized. “The data that the test presents along with the bigger more important part of the whole process is the doctor coming in, performing a very thorough evaluation. That data helps reinforce what the doctor finds.”

There are two versions of the test – adult (ages 10-plus) and pediatric (ages 5-9) – it’s free for youth ages 5-18, and it’s offered in numerous locations throughout the Pittsburgh region. The CWF grant is helping to provide educational fliers and pamphlets for parents about:

- Concussion overview
- Common signs and symptoms
- What to do when injury occurs
- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center concussion treatment

“The thing with concussions, it doesn’t have to happen from sports. It can happen in everyday life,” Dingle said. “There is still a lot of unknowns, there is still a lot of questions on concussions and that’s why the education part of this is very, very important. Because we feel if we can educate those parents, educate those kids, ... make them aware of the proper treatment, the proper things to do when injury does occur.”

“Thank you for your support of this program; it is truly appreciated. Thank you for everything The American Legion does to help support kids and youth throughout the country.”

[American Kidney Fund](#) of Rockville, Md., was awarded \$25,000 for its project “American Kidney Fund Virtual Camp: National Camp for Pediatric Kidney Patients.” This grant will help the American Kidney Fund conduct virtual camps for kids with kidney disease.

Prior to COVID, an in-person camp was held at Johns Hopkins Children’s Center in Baltimore where staff from the American Kidney Fund would spend time

with the kids and provide activities. But once COVID hit, “the loneliness and isolation and the challenges the children were having becoming compounded, and so we pivoted from an in-person camp, and we moved to having a virtual camp with monthly activities,” said Daniell Griffin, senior director of Individual Giving for the American Kidney Fund. “Over the last couple of the years, this one virtual camp has now evolved to the National Virtual Camp. This is the fastest-growing program that we have at the American Kidney Fund.

“The greatest impact is seeing that kidney disease does not define who these children are. It increases their confidence and their self-esteem wow decreasing their feelings of isolation and loneliness. But more than anything it also gives them the opportunity to form friendships with other children who have a shared experience.”

In 2023, the camp expanded to include 11 children’s hospital centers across the United States with more 300 children participating. The virtual camp is held over Zoom and includes bingo, trivia night, science, magic, and guided art classes. Materials are shipped to every child before the virtual camp at no charge to the families or hospitals that participate. And each child receives a swag bag. “It’s an opportunity for kids to connect with others who truly understand what they are going through,” Griffin said. “It provides children with a break from hospital treatment and allows them to enjoy just being a kid.”

Griffin provided a few camp testimonials:

“I haven’t had many opportunities to make friends since starting high school because I was traveling so much for dialysis, had my kidney transplant, was in the hospital a lot, and COVID. This virtual camp has been my only opportunity to make new friends.”
Lexie – camper

“She finally gets to feel like she is special. For so long she has been placed on many diet and lifestyle restrictions because of her CKD. This has been the first time she has received something positive from this condition.” Erin – parent

“On behalf of the children, the families, the American Kidney Fund, we just cannot thank you enough for your generosity and support of the National Virtual Camp,” Griffin said. “This program has made such a great impact in the lives of children and families.”

Children & Youth Committee

Joseph Lohman (MD), Chairman

Second Monday Bi-Monthly

September 11, 2023 | November 13, 2023

January 8, 2024 | March 11, 2024

May 13, 2024 | July 8, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 951 1622 6587 | Passcode: 799 095

Finance Commission

William G. Hill (MD), Chairman

Third Thursday as scheduled

September 21, 2023 | February 15, 2024

April 18, 2024 | July 18, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 966 1733 0121 | Passcode: 463 702

Internal Affairs Commission

William Clancy III (NY), Chairman

Fourth Thursday Bi-Monthly

October 26, 2023 | December 28, 2023

February 22, 2024 | April 25, 2024

June 27, 2024 | August 22, 2024

6:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 932 2650 4089 | Passcode: 725 519



Legislative Commission

Blair Miles (AL), Chairman

Second Thursday Bi-Monthly

October 12, 2023 | December 14, 2023

February 8, 2024 | April 11, 2024

June 13, 2024 | August 8, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 937 1376 7924 | Passcode: 172 912

Member Training & Development Committee

Michael Cotton (DE), Chairman

First Monday Bi-Monthly

September 4, 2023 | November 6, 2023

January 1, 2024 | March 4, 2024

May 6, 2024 | July 1, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 957 9605 2218 | Passcode: 528 704

Membership Committee

Daryl VerStreate Jr. (NY), Chairman

Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly

September 19 2023 | November 21, 2023

January 16, 2024 | March 19, 2024

May 21, 2024 | July 16, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 989 3388 3350 | Passcode: 546 900

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.



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

TO: NATIONAL OFFICERS, DETACHMENT COMMANDERS & ADJUTANTS
FROM: ANTHONY W. WRIGHT (PA), NATIONAL ADJUTANT
SUBJECT: 10% - MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE

"CONGRATULATIONS"

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS SO FAR THIS MEMBERSHIP YEAR. OUR STANDINGS AS OF OUR 10% MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE (9-13-2023) ARE POSTED BELOW:

2024 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 382,111
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: 66,144
PERCENTAGE OF GOAL: 17.31%
DETACHMENTS MAKING GOAL: 47

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

GREAT JOB!!

MANY DETACHMENTS SHOULD ACHIEVE THIS MEMBERSHIP GOAL SOON!

NEXT SCHEDULED RENEWAL NOTICE MAILED: OCTOBER 23-27, 2023 (1 OF 3)

NEXT MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2023 (25%)

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

National Convention Committee

Christopher Byrd (NC), Chairman

Second Tuesday Bi-Monthly

September 12 2023 | November 14, 2023

January 9, 2024 | March 12, 2024

May 14, 2024 | July 19 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 953 4866 3402 | Passcode: 670 002

National Executive Committee Liaison Committee

Jim Stewart (NV), Chairman

National Vice-Commander Selection Committee

James Hartman (MD), Chairman

David Stephens (IN), Co-Chairman

Paid Up For Life (PUFL) Adhoc Committee

Kevin Winkleman (TX), Chairman

Public & Media Communications Committee

Kevin Chaplin (VA), Chairman

Fourth Tuesday Bi-Monthly

November 24 2023 | December 26, 2023

February 27, 2024 | April 23, 2024

June 25, 2024 | August 27, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 914 4414 8114 | Passcode: 977 759

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

Subcommittee on National Appointments

William Matoska (MD), Chairman

Subcommittee on Resolutions

Ned Fox (CA), Chairman

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Bruno Williamson (IL), Chairman

Second Monday Bi-Monthly

November 29, 2023 | December 11, 2023

February 12, 2024 | April 8, 2024

June 10, 2024 | August 12, 2024

8:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 971 3717 7471 | Passcode: 712 824

SURVEY continued from page 1

Additionally, 52% of veterans said they would seek care outside of VA if their only choice was to have a nurse administer anesthesia. Another question revealed that 71% of veterans believe VA will have a different standard of care if nurse anesthetists replace physician anesthesiologists.

Other results related to anesthesia included:

- **Question:** In your opinion, is it important that your anesthesia care during surgery be provided by a physician anesthesiologist?
Responses: 74% important, 18% not important and 8% don't know.
- **Question:** Surgery and anesthesia are inherently dangerous. Many VA patients have underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, arthritis, or chronic pain that put them at greater risk for surgical

complications. Requiring physician involvement is a necessary safeguard.

Responses: 61% strongly agree, 31% somewhat agree and 8% somewhat disagree or strongly disagree.

- **Question:** Not one top-rated civilian hospital in the U.S. allows nurse-only anesthesia care. Veterans deserve the same level of high-quality care during surgery as non-veterans get at top-rated hospitals.

Responses: 64% strongly agree, 27% somewhat agree and 9% somewhat disagree or strongly disagree.

Among other key findings:

- Roughly nine in 10 veterans expect the same quality of health care as the top-rated non-VA hospitals.
- Just 6% of veterans in VA health care would not recommend it to fellow veterans.
- Veterans with Burn Pit exposure are 30% more likely to be enrolled in VA health care.
- 60% of veterans suffer from multiple health issues.

PACT Act special VA enrollment deadline is Sept. 30

The American Legion | September 18, 2023

The graphic features a blue header with the text 'PACT ACT SPECIAL HEALTH CARE ENROLLMENT PERIOD'. Below this, it says 'Visit VA.gov/PACT to learn more!'. There are three eligibility criteria listed: 1. 'Did you serve in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War?' followed by '-OR-'; 2. 'Did you serve in combat against hostile forces after November 11, 1998?' followed by '-AND-'; 3. 'Were you discharged or released between 09/11/2001 and 10/01/2013?'. To the right of these criteria is a calendar icon showing 'ENDS SEPTEMBER 30'. At the bottom, it states 'It's free, no annual costs, and your health care may be free as well!' with a VA logo and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs logo.

Under the PACT Act, there is a special opportunity for post-9/11 veterans to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. Those eligible are veterans who were discharged or released between Sept. 11, 2001, and Oct. 1, 2013 and who hasn't enrolled in VA health care before. Also, to be eligible, the veteran must meet one of the following:

- served on active duty in theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War; or
- served in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after Nov. 11, 1998.

The quickest way to [enroll in VA health care is at this link](#). Veterans also can enroll by calling 877-222-8387 or by visiting their local VA medical facility or clinic.

“The PACT Act is one of the largest pieces of legislation that VA has had in the last 30 years, and it comes with a ton of opportunity to get veterans the benefits and the health care they deserve,” said Lisa Pape, senior advisor for the Deputy Under Secretary of Health. While veterans may not see a need to enroll now before the deadline since they are not sick, Pape said, “even if they don’t need us today or are not interested in getting their health care services today from the VA, better to have them on the rolls while this enrollment period is open then to try and fit in for some different reason down the road.”

To get the word out about the approaching deadline, the VA has sent 274,000 emails and 425,828 letters to unenrolled post-9/11 combat veterans. And a text message campaign is also underway.

“That Sept. 30 date is going to come fast, and we really want our veterans to have an opportunity to be on the rolls,” Pape said.

Additional resources regarding PACT Act eligibility and benefits:

- [PACT Act VA Health Care Eligibility](#)
- [PACT Act and Gulf War Post 9/11 Era Veterans \(va.gov\)](#)
- [Accessing PACT Act Benefits and Services \(va.gov\)](#)

The American Legion has accredited service officers to help you, free of charge, understand your benefits or file a claim. [Find one near you by searching here](#).

Legionnaires build safe walkway for Korean War veteran

The American Legion | September 18, 2023

It was brought to the attention of American Legion Post 1170 members in Round Lake, Ill, that a 90-year-old Korean War veteran was in need of assistance.

Rito Alvarez, who served in the U.S. Army from 1952-1954, moved from Texas to Round Lake to live with his daughter, Aida, and her family following the passing of his wife. “The family did what they could to make the transition as smooth as possible, but there was a problem with the driveway they didn’t have the means or skills to address,” said Post 1170 Gregory Corcoran.

Corcoran said the walkway between the house and the driveway was in disrepair. Concerned for her father’s safety, Aida reached out last June to the Village of Round Lake Beach for help. Village of Round Lake officials then reached out to Officer Ed Pluvios, the Round Lake Beach Police community liaison officer, who worked with Corcoran at the Police Bike Rodeo event in June to see if Post 1170 could provide the needed repairs to the driveway.



In three days, “members of Post 1170 inspected the work site, secured donations, rallied 15 volunteers and begun work to correct the situation,” Corcoran said. Working 10-plus hour days, Legion Family and community members, Aida, her husband, and son, removed the broken walkway, dug foundations, and installed a new brick paver walkway from the front door of the house to the street.

The sand and gravel was donated by Lurvey Landscaping Materials, the brick pavers by UNILOCK, and a truck for hauling materials was donated by Victor Hernandez of 2-3 Logistics, Inc. “Without these donations, and the willingness of local companies to come to the aid of this veteran, this work could not have been accomplished,” Corcoran said.

Now completed, “the walkway offers Mr. Alvarez a safe and comfortable path to move into and out of his new residence, as well as a comfortable place to spend some time outside and enjoy the good weather. In their way of thanking the volunteers, the Alvarez family made a real Texas BBQ with all the fixings on the last day of work. It was fantastic! It was an awesome way to spend Father’s Day weekend.”



DoD announces effort to make it easier for those discharged for sexual orientation to obtain corrective relief

The American Legion | September 20, 2023

On the 12th anniversary of the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT), Department of Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced an effort to make it more accessible and efficient for veterans who were discharged based on their sexual orientation to obtain corrective relief. This includes the launch of [a new web platform](#) that consolidates DADT resources.



“Over the past decade, we’ve tried to make it easier for servicemembers discharged based on their sexual orientation to obtain corrective relief,” Austin said in a statement. “While this process can be difficult to navigate, we are working to make it more accessible and efficient. In the coming weeks, we will be initiating new outreach campaigns to encourage all servicemembers and veterans who believe they have suffered an error or injustice to seek correction to their military records.”

During a Pentagon briefing earlier today, Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks provided more details about her department’s new initiative. “DoD will, for the first time, begin proactively reviewing the military records of veterans discharged because of their sexual orientation, who may be eligible for discharge upgrades, but have not yet applied,” she said. “We’ll start with those discharged during the period of ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.’ Where the VA and the National Archives might have digitized records that can help expedite our review, we’ll seek to collaborate with them. And when we find indications that someone’s less-than-honorable discharge was due to their sexual orientation, we’ll put their name forward to their respective military department’s review board for

consideration. As we do this, we will be laser-focused on preserving the privacy and dignity of each veteran.”

Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Jim Coates (NY), Chairman

Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly

November 19, 2023 | December 21, 2023

February 15, 2024 | April 18, 2024

June 20, 2024 | August 15, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 989 2627 5747 | Passcode: 26060



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

NJ Post 105 Family gets visit from SAL National Commander

[Rusty Myers](#) | September 16, 2023

Belleville, NJ – The Post 105 American Legion Family of Belleville, New Jersey again ran its annual fundraising picnic, this year with record attendance. Held on American Legion Day, a day recognized by both chambers of Congress in 2009, saw the Annual Picnic with over 300 attendees – including the National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion.

“This fundraiser supports the veterans throughout the whole year ... all of the money from this goes to our vets, *every single dime*,” proclaimed SAL Commander Steve Sangemino while serving as Master of Ceremonies.

Though the ‘doors’ officially open at 1:00 p.m., planning for the event starts as soon as the previous years’ picnic ends. Since 2019, the Belleville Post’s 100th anniversary, the picnic has been growing steadily to become an event which is the social event of the season for Legion members, friends, and family. “It’s a day to celebrate being together ... and a day where we raise money to support the Four Pillars of the American Legion,” noted SAL Adjutant Rusty Myers. The picnic is held annually on the 3rd Saturday in September.

Attendees come for the clams, the refreshments, oldies music by “The Jersey Tones,” and of course the BBQ. Legionnaires Walter LaBar and Jack Robuck always man the grills, cooking up sausage, chicken, hot dogs, and hamburgers – but other posts pitch in as well to help, including Post 299 Commander Mike Serchio, who runs the team that shucked 1,500 little-neck Cap May clams this year. Members from across the post family volunteer their time the day-of to serve food, to empty garbage, sell shirts and tickets, and to do anything that needs to be done to smoothly run such a large event. Towards the end of the day, Belleville Historical Society President Michael Perrone even dropped by with his vintage Good Humor ice cream vendor bike to hand out frozen treats to everyone, all decked out in his vintage uniform.

The picnic, though, is more than food and good company – it is a day to celebrate why we exist as an American Legion Family, which includes veterans, Sons, and Auxiliary members ... to focus on carrying on our missions of supporting Americanism, Veterans Affairs, Children and Youth, and National Defense.

At around 2:00 p.m., SAL 105 Commander Steve Sangemino took the mic to welcome everyone to the event. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, he introduced the New Jersey SAL National Executive Committeeman (NEC) Bob Phillips, Jr., who then introduced the National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion Donald “JR” Hall, Jr of Maryland.



“I have to say just one thing ... thank God for our veterans,” exclaimed National Commander Hall. “My slogan this year is ‘Representing More Than Me’ ... We should all be representing more than ourselves. Sons, Auxiliary, the Legion, and the Riders – all out there doing what we do to take of our veterans, our children, and our communities.”

Commander Hall dropped by Belleville while being on his official visit to New Jersey over the weekend, visiting Posts and going to events throughout the state. Stops throughout his weekend in NJ were Posts 262 and 281 in Camden County, the NJ Vietnam Memorial in Holmdel, the POW MIA Watchfire in Seaside Heights, and the Battleship New Jersey. Post 105 was also lucky enough to be selected as one of the locations to visit, representing the Legion Family in action in northern New Jersey.



Hall was elected national commander only three weeks beforehand at the national convention in Charlotte, NC, and is charged with leading an organization

of sons and grandsons of veterans which has reached this year a record 376,000 members nationwide.

"I like a party, and this folk, this looks like a party ... continue all the great work you do here!" concluded National Commander Hall in addressing the crowd.

This was followed by a benediction written for the occasion by SAL Chaplain Carl Slaughter ... "God thank you for the opportunity to gather outdoors to celebrate this picnic and the American Legion ... bless this meal, and our time together. Teach us to accept all of your gifts with a grateful heart." The day was indeed the perfect day to celebrate, held under sunny skies with temperatures in the 70's.

Everyone enjoyed the remainder of the day, until it ended when the sun went down around 7:00 p.m. The event was filled with laughing, singing, dancing, and fun. The Auxiliary had everyone playing some sort of hoop-jumping game, while cornhole was set up on the other side of the parking lot. A birthday was even celebrated ... as a testament to the commitment to our veterans that the Post 105 Family has, 14-year old American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) member Abigail Myers asked to spend her birthday selling tickets, helping to raise money for those who served. All of the attendees surprised her by singing "Happy Birthday" to her and giving her a cake and card, in which was a very sizeable gift that many beforehand donated to.

Members of the SAL also held a separate fundraiser to benefit our local cancer foundation, Belleville-based Gail's Angels, which serves to help breast cancer moms with special needs children. This was the third year it was held at the picnic. At the end of the day, the Sons raised an additional \$2,000 for that charity.



Detachment of New Jersey leadership with SAL National Commander Hall and his Aide, Tom Deal.

submitted photo

That night, Facebook was flooded with posts about how much everyone enjoyed the day. "Salute to Post 105 and their SAL for a great time" noted Essex County Commander Terry Scantlebury. ALA Jackie Elmore said simply "it was absolutely wonderful!" while Naomi Rosas thanked all for "a great time with delicious food and great friends." ALA Cheryl put up her typical 100-plus pictures of everyone enjoying themselves, and ALA Unit 105 President MaryAnn Slaughter wrote "an amazing time with the best people."

The Post 105 Family would like to thank everyone for coming, and sends a special thank-you to all of our supporters in the community who donated to support every facet of this fundraising event. Belleville and the surrounding area is a place filled with such unbelievable generosity, and the following have our eternal gratitude for their continued support of our veterans:

Brix Restaurant and Pizza Bar, Algeri's Pizza, Agave Maria, Michael's Roscommon House, ShopRite of Belleville, JK's Boathouse Pub, Michael V's Catering, Essex Cigar, Solar Di Minho, Belleville Pizza, 3 Guys Pizza, Me and Tommy's Restaurant, La Sicilia, Pizza Village Café, Angelo's Gourmet, Notches De Columbia.

Deli Boy, The Chandelier, Bagels Plus, Salon Pizzaz, Krauser's of Belleville, Ritacco's Pizzeria, Queen Margherita Trattoria, Bella Paese Deli Pizzeria, Luna's Firewood Tavern, BGL, The Oakley Kitchen and Cocktails, Gone with the Wings, Nutley Diner, Chestnut Café, Cubita Café, Jim Dandy's, Hero King, Nicky Boys Pizza Joint.



Rusty Myers, Ed Hall, and National Commander Don "JR" Hall, Jr.

submitted photo



SAL NEC Phillips, NJ Detachment Commander Barnes, NJ Detachment Vice-Commander Taylor, and American Legion Essex County Adjutant DelTosto.

submitted photo

Gold Finger Nail Salon, Sanoma Bistro Bar and Grill, Shop Rite on Nutley, Bagel Boy II, BEAUtiful Salon, Emeralds Corner, Chevy's of Clifton, Rutt's Hutt, Clifton Commons Wine and Spirits Stop and Shop of Clifton, Krug's Tavern, Six Points Pub, Cousins Pizza, Bloomfield Steakhouse, Obal's Inn, Bud Lake Diner, Pampered Chef, Thirty-One, Nonna's Kitchen.

Kearney Auto Spa, Mr. Crabby's of Rockaway Cyndia's Café of Totowa, JSA Transport LLC, Charlie's Nursery Sweets & Cortaditos, The Motorcycle Mall, Lucky 7 Liquors, Pic-a-lilli of Shamony, Gencarelli's Bloomfield, Little Eataly, Shimmer and Shine, Barbersmania, HK Trucking.

Sons bring back Wreaths Across America

[Southeast Iowa Union](#) | September 19, 2023

Montezuma, IA — Sons of the American Legion Montezuma Squadron 169 voted at their Sept. 7 meeting to bring back Wreaths Across America.



The program was held previously for two years in the Montezuma area by the brother's Russ and Roger Cox along with the late Don Young.

"It was suspended during COVID and now the local

and newly developed Sons of the American Legion Squadron 169 of Montezuma feel very strongly that it needs to be brought back beginning this year," said

Montezuma American Legion Commander Ron Hensel in a news release.

Wreath Across America is a nationwide program in which families of veterans can purchase a wreath to be laid upon their loved one's grave.

"Wreaths are purchased locally through the Sons of the American Legion Squadron and veterans' families are given the option of placing the wreath on their departed loved ones (veteran only) grave or give information to the SAL membership and they will do it for you," said Hensel.

"The SAL will only lay wreaths in the Masonic/Jackson Cemetery here in Montezuma."

Families of veterans in other locations, such as the Ewart Cemetery or Golden Rod Cemetery in Deep River, can purchase wreaths and place them themselves.

Application forms will be appearing real soon with an expected cutoff date of Nov. 20.

SAL donates \$250K to Veterans & Children Foundation

The American Legion | September 21, 2023



The Sons of The American Legion approved a \$250,000 donation to the Veterans & Children Foundation during the SAL's 51st National Convention in Charlotte, N.C.

The donation from the SAL Reserve Fund met the guidelines set by a [2017 American Legion resolution](#) that establishes a ceiling for the fund and calls for money in excess of that ceiling to be transferred "to an approved American Legion charity for America's veterans or youth."

"The Sons of The American Legion always strive to support our nation's veterans and youth, and being able to provide this kind of support all at once to the Veterans & Children Foundation is something that every SAL member should be proud of," said SAL National Commander Donald L. "JR" Hall, Jr.



Florida Legion Riders both honor POW/MIAs and their families while educating public on the issue

The American Legion | September 20, 2023

[View Photo Gallery](#)

SAL Thirsty Thursday is making a comeback during the National Meetings in October. This has been a great time in the past for some fun and great comradery.

It will take place on October 5, 2023 at the Louis V. Hider Amvets Post 99 at 2481 Lafayette Road in Indianapolis, which is about 15 or 20 minutes from the Sheraton. The Post is opening their doors for us and looking for many of us to enjoy the evening.

Commander Hall has asked me to spread the word and invite anyone who is available that night to come by. The Post opens at noon and the music starts at 7:00 p.m. Pizza, hot dogs, light fare will be available at the Post.

Commander Hall has been working on his new song that he just wrote (I Love Being National Commander) and will be performing it for the first time. Kevin Mook will be wowing us with hits from the 70s. Joe Gladden will sing his usual 10 songs. Michael and Ned Fox will be stunning us with their version of "California Dreaming" and "I Left My Heart In San Francisco." Yours truly will be singing a special song to all the ladies in attendance by Confederate Railroad. And Dave Stephens will just sit in the back and watch all of us make fools of ourselves because we didn't qualify to be on The Voice.

All kidding aside, we will all be very busy during our stay at the Fall NEC, but this is one night to put business aside and enjoy the friendships we have developed with one another over the years.

Hope to see many of you there.

**Clifford A. Smith,
Past National Commander &
SAL Advisory Committee Member**

Three years ago, Florida's American Legion Riders started their Seven Bridges POW/MIA Remembrance Day Ride & Ceremony. Around 160 riders and 40 passengers took part in the ride, which starts at Adamec Harley-Davidson in Jacksonville, traverses the Seven Bridges of Jacksonville that cross the St. John's River and finishes at the National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum for a ceremony.

A similar ride took place in 2022 on the Saturday after National POW/MIA Recognition Day, with more than 200 motorcycles taking part. And this year's ride, which took place Sept. 16, blew those numbers out of the water: 248 motorcycles and a total of 361 participants.

But as happy as he is to see participation continue to grow, Department of Florida POW-MIA Chairman Denny Luke – a Legion Rider and member of Dewitt B. Tilden Memorial American Legion Post 316 in Atlantic Beach – it's the impact of the ride's mission that really hit home for Luke.

He shared a message he received following this year's ride from one of its participants:

"Dear sir,

This is our first time to participate in this ride of remembrance for our POW and MIA servicemembers. My husband is a Vietnam veteran, and I am a Gold Star Daughter (of a Vietnam War KIA). He was MIA for a short time, and it seemed like an eternity of living hell, of not knowing and hoping. Thank you so much for honoring the POW/MIA daddies, and especially the dad of mine and my siblings."

"It makes you very emotional," Luke said. "There were a lot of people on the ride or at the ceremony who were POWs or are relatives of POWs/MIAs. Any of us who have worn the uniform ... we've sat down and had

a meal with a (fellow servicemember, watched them walk out the door, and the next time we'd see them would be in a flag-draped coffin.

"I can't imagine the heartache of watching your buddy walk through the door and never return. I cannot imagine the strife that family members have when they get the message that their loved one is MIA. To me, that's unimaginable, and I'm honored to honor their sacrifice."

Department of Florida Commander Michael Raymond, American Legion Auxiliary Department President Dee Bell, and Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Gerard Sambets were among the Florida Legion Family leadership who attended the event, with Raymond and Bell riding on the back of motorcycles.

During the ceremony that took place at the National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum, attendees heard from Meghan Wagoner, the daughter of former U.S. Navy pilot Scott Speicher. Shot down on the first day of Operation Desert Storm in 1991, Speicher was missing in action until his remains were found by U.S. Marines in Iraq in 2009.

"She gave a very emotional and moving rendition of everything they went through," Luke said of Wagoner's address. "They had about 18 years of not knowing."

Luke said the purpose of the ride and ceremony isn't just to honor U.S. POWs and MIAs and show support for their families. It's about educating the general public that more than 80,000 servicemembers remain unaccounted for since World War II.

"We put out that the (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) needs DNA samples from any relatives of servicemembers who are MIA," Luke said. "If we can get the word out, quite possibly the remains that have been found but not identified can be identified and brought home. We put this ride on to inform the public the hunt is not over, and they can help by either volunteering, or if they're a relative of an MIA they can submit a DNA sample, and hopefully we can repatriate some of these souls."



**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**



Lisa Williamson, National President
The American Legion Auxiliary

Sports



**BUDDY
CHECK**



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

**SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**



Squadron Everlasting

to have a member's information listed here, please send to jeffrabels@gmail.com

Bobby Dale Grounds



Bobby Dale Grounds, 77, of Morristown, passed away Monday, September 18, 2023, at Morristown Manor in Morristown.

He was born June 1, 1946, in Grammer, IN, the son of George and Ruby (Plumley) Grounds. On July 25, 1987, he married Janet "Kay" (Teaford) Grounds, and she survives.

In addition to Kay, Bobby is survived by his son, Danny Davis and wife, Debbie, of Morristown; daughter, Kimberly Ham of Virginia Beach, Virginia; daughter-in-law, Carol Davis of Terre Haute; sister, Elizabeth Logan and husband, Richard, of Gwynneville, twin sister, Carolyn Bridges and husband, Jerry, of New Palestine; grandchildren, Marshall Davis and wife, Rachel, Kendra Terrell and husband, Ty, and Kyle Ham; great-grandchildren, Dylan Davis, Parker Davis, Carson Ham, Carter Ham, Carly Ham and Archie Terrell; niece, Lisa Garcia and husband, Hector; and nephew, Bruce Logan and wife, Cathy.

Bobby was preceded in death by his parents; son, Darrell Davis; and brothers, Gerald Grounds and Donner Grounds.

In 1964, Bobby graduated from Morristown High School.

He was a crop consultant and chemical applicator for over 50 years, retiring in July of 2017, from Crop Production.

Bobby enjoyed spending time at the American Legion Post No. 102, and was a member of the Sons of the American Legion.

He enjoyed cooking and grilling for the family. Bobby also liked John Deere tractors.

Visitation will be from 10 am to Noon, Friday, September 22, 2023,

at Freeman Family Funeral Homes and Crematory, Frazier Chapel, 124 E. North St. in Morristown.

Funeral services will follow at Noon on Friday, at the funeral home.

Private burial will be at a later date.

Dennis Edward McAdams



Dennis Edward McAdams, 71, of Versailles entered into rest at 6:44 p.m., Saturday, September 16, 2023 at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Edgewood, Kentucky.

Den, Denny, Papaw, Grandpa, and Dad as he was known. He was a kind, humble, and gentle man known by his family and friends.

He was born at Margaret Mary Hospital in Batesville, Indiana, on August 1, 1952 the son of John A. McAdams and Della Mae McMurray McAdams who preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by his brother Kenneth (Nancy) McAdams of Milan, Indiana.

Dennis was married to June Marie Ingram on December 18, 1971. His beloved wife of 48 years preceded him in death. Dennis is survived by his daughter Denise (Shane) Russell of Connersville, his son John McAdams (fiancée Brooke Edwards) of Versailles; 5 grandchildren Denisha Howell (Patrick), Alexis Russell, Hunter McAdams (fiancée Michaela Hornsby), Jackson McAdams, and Shane McAdams; two great-grandsons Allen Howell and Linden Howell; one sister Francis (Dennis) Banks of Moores Hill. He is also survived by his sister in law, brothers in law, aunts and uncles, and several nieces and nephews.

Dennis attended Dearborn County Schools. His greatest joy was his grandchildren. He loved his family, fishing, and a good cold Miller High Life. The Game Show Network and the Andy Griffith Show were his favorite classics. Dennis was very mechanical and technical. He was very knowledgeable in computers. He loved his old country music, playing his guitar and banjo with his grandson.

Michigan Chaplain Workshop

Hosted by the 5th District

When: Saturday October 28, 2023

Time: 9:00am – 2:00pm
Coffee & Donuts will be provided
Box Lunch will be offered for \$5.00

Where: Belmont Armory
1650 House Street, Belmont Mich.

Topics:

- Hospice and Palliative Care
- Benefits You May Not Know
- Veterans Benefits Regarding Funerals
- Chaplain 101

Keynote Speaker: Jenna Slye - Commander
American Legion Post 258

This Workshop is open to Everyone in the American Legion Family from all Post, Units, and Districts

RSVP to Deb Weatherbee by October 23rd, 2023
email - deb560@hotmail.com
Phone - 616-723-2398

Note: This Workshop will not be recorded, and will not be available through Zoom

"Integrating Spiritual Needs From Service Member To Veteran"

He worked for many years for Pierson-Hollowell in Greendale, Indiana as a warehouse clerk. He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion, Osgood. Dennis was absolutely a man of his word. He will be missed and will reside in the hearts of his family and friends forever.

Visitation and funeral services for Dennis will be held Monday, September 25, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with funeral starting at 1:00 p.m. at Stratton-Karsteter Funeral Home in Versailles. Burial will be in the Cliff Hill Cemetery in Versailles.

Memorials may be given to the Ripley County Food Pantry in care of the Stratton-Karsteter Funeral Home in Versailles.

Richard Pack



yette.

Richard Pack, 90, of Crawfordsville passed away Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023, at Franciscan East in Lafa-

Richard was born Sept. 18, 1932, at Houston, Texas, the son of Frances Necco Pack and Hollis O. Pack.

He was a graduate of Yazoo City High School, Yazoo City, Mississippi; attended Purdue University; and graduated from the Indiana State Police Academy in 1956. He joined the Indiana State Police as a trooper. Richard retired in 1976 as a sergeant after 20 years serving Montgomery County. After his retirement he began a second career as a safety inspector with Fauber Construction.

Richard married Sharon A. Cochran on Dec. 18, 1964. Richard was the love of Sharon's life, and she was for him. He and Sharon enjoyed the years together living in the country with horses, many cats and dogs, country dancing, being snow birds in Florida and many card games with family and friends. Richard especially enjoyed target shooting with his sons and spending time with his children and grandchildren. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and Scottish Rite, VFW, Moose Lodges in Florida, and Sons of American Legion Darlington Post.

Richard is survived by his wife of 58 years, Sharon; sons, Ryan N. Pack

of McCordsville and Richard (Connie) Pack Jr. of Crawfordsville; daughter Dennie (Ken) Walters of Avon; five grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, stepfather, brother, and sister-in-law.

Cremation was chosen with a memorial service at 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30 at the Darlington American Legion. A celebration of life will follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Darlington American Legion Post 302, 201 W. South St., Darlington, IN 47940 or the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County, 1104 Big Four Arch Road, Crawfordsville, IN 47933.

Condolences can be made at www.burkhardtff.com.

Adrian J Vasquez



Beloved husband of Estela (nee Garcia); loving father of Adrian; cherished son of Antonio and Juliana (nee Jiminez); fond grandfather of Leia; dear brother of Antonio (Jr.) and Edward; fond uncle of Edward Jr., Michael, Melissa, Monica, Michelle, Teresa, and Nelly; cherished great uncle of Cameron, Alonna, Ethan, Aubrey, Daniela, and Emily.

Member of Sons of the American Legion Post #231. Memorial Visitation will be held on Friday;

September 29th from 4:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. at Michael Coletta Sons., 544 West 31st Street., Chicago. Memorial Visitation on Saturday from 9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. with procession to St. Paul's Catholic Church for Mass of Christian Burial 11:00 A.M. Inurnment St. Mary Cemetery.

To send flowers or to the family or plant a tree in memory of Adrian J Vasquez, please visit our floral store.

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

Obituary published on Legacy.com by Michael Coletta Sons Funeral Home, Ltd. on Sep. 21, 2023.

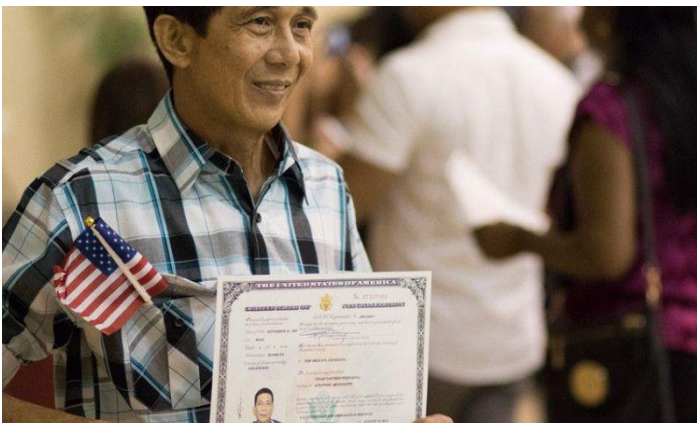
RENEW



Daniel J. Seehafer,
National Commander
The American Legion

Support our immigrant veterans

September 20, 2023



Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

Every day, a group of 45,000 honorable servicemembers risk their lives to keep America safe.

Their patriotism, selfless service and love for our country is no different than ours.

However, too often they find their path to U.S. citizenship a complicated, bureaucratic maze filled with uncertainty. And instead of becoming American citizens through their military service, these veterans are denied that opportunity and left to find a new homeland, or risk their life to return to their native country.

The American Legion supports H.R. 4569, the Veteran Service Recognition Act of 2023, which honors the sacrifices of our immigrant servicemembers by giving them enhanced opportunities to become U.S. citizens and preventing their unjust deportation from the country they swore an oath to defend.

Reps. Mark Takano, D-Calif., and Maria Elvira Salazar, R-Fla., are co-sponsoring the bipartisan legislation. In a letter I sent to them, I wrote, “Men and women who served honorably should not face undue barriers to citizenship or face deportation from the country they served or fought to defend. Congress must act to ensure our nation honors the service of non-citizen immigrants who have honorably served our nation.”

As veterans, we owe it to our brothers and sisters who are caught in this quagmire. While our birthplaces may be different, our love of country is the same.

Join The American Legion in calling for Congress to streamline the process for immigrant veterans to more easily obtain their citizenship which they earned through their service to our country. [Sign up for our Grassroots Action Center](#) so you can easily contact

your representative and encourage them to support this legislation.

Thank you for your support and your continued service to making this nation the greatest one on earth.

Daniel J. Seehafer, National Commander
The American Legion

Remember the heroes, account for the missing

September 13, 2023



Since our nation last observed POW/MIA Recognition Day, our country lost yet another hero who epitomizes the purpose of such remembrances. Hiroshi H. Miyamura was a second-generation American born in Gallup, N.M.

A member of the American Legion Department of Colorado, Miyamura served with the famed all-Nisei 100th Infantry Battalion in World War II. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War, and it was there that his actions would ultimately lead President Eisenhower to present him the Medal of Honor during a 1953 White House ceremony.

As a machine gun squad leader with the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, [Cpl. Miyamura is estimated to have killed at least 50 enemy soldiers](#) during a Chinese nighttime attack near Taejon-Ni, Korea in 1951. He refused to abandon his wounded comrade, Joe Annello, during that battle and carried him even after both were captured. When his captors threatened to shoot Miyamura if he did not drop Annello, his wounded friend convinced him to listen. The enemy showed no mercy as a severely wounded Miyamura, and his fellow POWs were forced to march 300 miles with little food over a 5-week period.

Through indomitable will, Miyamura survived his 28 months of captivity. Miraculously, so did Annello and the two later reunited in Gallup. The battlefield actions that led to Miyamura's Medal of Honor were initially classified Top Secret by officials who feared that the enemy might retaliate against him if they had known the extent of the harm that he inflicted on their forces. On November 29, 2022, Hiroshi Miyamura, transferred to what we in The American Legion refer to as Post Everlasting. He was 97.

On September 15, our nation will not only officially recognize POWs like Miyamura and Annello, but all U.S. servicemembers that remain missing in action. According to the [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency \(DPAA\)](#), more than 81,000 are unaccounted for in actions since World War II. Just more than half are presumed lost at sea.

The American Legion is extremely supportive of the DPAA's mission to provide the fullest possible accounting for these missing heroes. In the coming months, I plan to visit the DPAA lab in Hawaii to receive a briefing on its latest efforts. Communities around the country still hold burials for repatriated heroes, whose remains were scientifically identified by the dedicated scientists at the DPAA. If you are related to someone who is MIA, [you may be able to donate a DNA specimen and assist in identification efforts.](#)

At the 67th National Convention of The American Legion, delegates adopted Resolution 288 which encourages the designation of a POW/MIA chair at all our official meetings. While the symbolism is powerful, the real value of the chair program is to keep this issue at the top of our agenda. The public, and especially the family members of these heroic men and women, deserve nothing less.

A night of mandatory fun and laughs

[Henry Howard](#) | September 18, 2023

It was truly a fun day when the Operation Heal*arious comedy tour was held Sept. 15 at American Legion Post 223 in Killeen, Texas.

You might even say it was mandatory.

After all, the emcee was Army 1st Lt. Austin von Letkemann, or better known to his [Instagram followers as Mandatory FunDay](#).

"It's evolved to become popular and serve as an inspiration to some people," he said about his Instagram

channel that features his comedy videos that poke fun at various parts of the military. “But at the end of the day, I enjoy making people laugh and bringing levity to a frustrating industry at times, which is the military.”

Being a content creator with a following of more than a half million people on Instagram, von Letkemann has dealt with his share of feedback. “You either get thick-skinned or you don’t survive,” he said.

Von Letkemann recalls the first time he published an Instagram clip that gained traction. “It was surprisingly nerve-racking. I was trying to go viral, get big. And then when it finally happened, I was scared I would get in trouble. But the response overwhelmingly from the military, leadership and even civilians — with no affiliation with the military — was really positive.”

The Best Medicine Brigade is winding down its Operation Heal*arious nationwide tour to find the funniest veterans and military-affiliated family members. At each stop, five comedians perform five-minute sets, which are scored by a panel of judges to determine the winner who will go on to the national finals.

The American Legion is sponsoring the comedy tour as part of its [Be the One initiative](#) to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. The comedians know full well that comedy can be part of a way to break down the walls with a veteran who may need assistance with mental health issues.

“There are different lenses that you can see through in different situations,” Von Letkemann said. “You can choose to laugh, or you can choose to cry. For those of us who choose to do comedy, we choose to laugh and to make others laugh. My favorite part of Operation Heal*arious and Best Medicine Brigade is that they have weaponized the power of laughter.”

Like many servicemembers and veterans, Von Letkemann has lost buddies to suicide.

“I know more people who have died by suicide than who have died in combat,” he said. “In fact, my story is not unique among our community. Part of ‘being the one’ is being that person who will reach out and be willing to use that skillset to help others. For some of us that is making people laugh. But it doesn’t take that specific skillset to Be the One.”

Post 223 Commander Steven Driscoll says Be the One is an important mission for the 103-year-old post. He recalled some people he lost to suicide including a nephew and friends he served with.

“This is a big deal for the whole post,” said Driscoll, an Army veteran. “It’s huge. It was an honor that they asked us to host. With Be the One, you just have to be there, to listen and to pay attention. See a person sitting in the corner, by themselves? Go over and talk to them. That’s being the one. We’re creating a social atmosphere so if someone has been missing for a while, someone else will call them to check up on them.”

Air Force veteran Kim Wadsworth, of Burleson, Texas, won the highly competitive contest in front of a crowd of 250 servicemembers, veterans and family members. Wadsworth, who sports a mohawk hairstyle, focused her act on her experiences as a lesbian, growing up in a small Texas town and her service.

“If Oliver Stone was to direct a really good lesbian war movie, you’re looking at her,” she said. “In the bush.”

Turning her to upbringing, she describes herself as “a friend bologna sandwich wrapped in a Moon Pie, drizzled with Karo Syrup, and washed down with Natty Light. That’s right I said Natty Light, cause deep inside, I’m a city girl.”

As an Air Force veteran, Wadsworth said it felt strange to be in a room mostly filled with Army soldiers and veterans. Still, “you can’t hurt my feelings. I still get a disability check for all of these paper cuts.”

Afterward, Wadsworth alluded to the mental health issues that many veterans and servicemembers are going through.

“This win means so much in so many ways!” she said. “It solidifies that my push to grow as a comedian is starting to get noticed! But more importantly, just being able to watch people that are going through some sort of pain or trauma laugh and enjoy themselves is a feeling that gets deep in my soul. Laughter bridges so many societal gaps and I am truly excited and honored to be a part of the ride.”

Wadsworth now advances to the finals with nine other comedians. One group of five will compete for a championship in Los Angeles on Nov. 4 while the others will square off to determine another champion in Las Vegas on Nov. 9.



Vietnam veteran commemorations continue

The American Legion | September 22, 2023

The [United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration](#) continues to conduct sizable Welcome Home events across the country celebrating and honoring Vietnam War veterans and their families. Still to come in 2023: a partnership with the Navy Office of Community Outreach for Philadelphia Navy Week (Oct. 9-15), in conjunction with the Navy's birthday; and events around Fleet Week in San Diego Nov. 6-12, in conjunction with Veterans Day.

The commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the war was launched in 2012. Congress penned five objectives for the campaign; the first is "To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States, and to thank and honor the families of these veterans." Vietnam Veteran lapel pins are among the markers distributed. Planning is underway for 2024 events, and the final official commemoration event will be held on National Vietnam War Veterans Day 2025, March 29.



**EMBLEM SALES
SAL SATURDAY**
at the Sheraton Hotel



**2023 FALL MEETINGS
STORE OPEN
OCT 7, 2023
7 AM - NOON**

**THERE WILL BE NO
MERCHANDISE ON SITE!**

**PRE-ORDER BY 10/5 FOR PICK UP ON
SAT, OR ORDER WITH REPS ON-SITE**

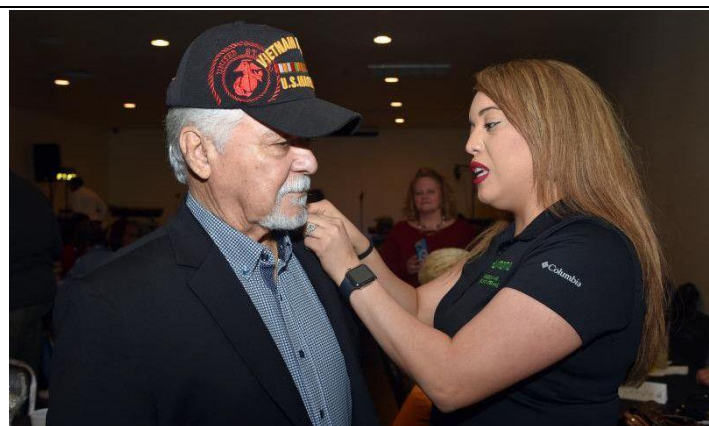
EMAIL ORDERS TO:

Lfarmer@legion.org

Or

Arichardson@legion.org

**SHERATON HOTEL
MONUMENT SUITE, LOWER LEVEL**



Navy veteran and Humana Veteran Engagement Executive Andrea Ortiz presents Marine Corps veteran Steve Mendiola with a Vietnam War commemorative pin during the National Vietnam War Veterans Day program hosted by Fred Brock American Legion Post 828 in San Antonio in March. The program featured a meal sponsored by Humana and free live entertainment.

Photo by Post Commander Burrell Parmer/Post 828

Over the last 10 years, "thousands upon thousands" of commemorative-partner organizations across the country have conducted such events on their own, including American Legion posts. Posts that have not yet done so but wish to can learn about the process and find resources on the commemoration's [website](#). Partners are encouraged to [report](#) their event for inclusion on the website, and posts are encouraged to share recaps of their events on [Legiontown](#).

Fall Word Search

C U W V B F K S Q S W H A R V E S T H G
O Y S M A N T A T O U U O G K R P M L E
A C F D F O O T B A L L W B T Q W O Z B
S E E Z Z A G E R Y N T U E N I B E X R
W J P N X T B U W A A P P L E C I D E R
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A P R V S A U U R K K P P Z M H R B C T
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CORN
AUTUMN
BONFIRE
BOOTS
OCTOBER
RAKE

THANKSGIVING
HARVEST
LEAVES
CARNIVAL
APPLES
APPLE CIDER

PUMPKIN
FOOTBALL
SWEATER
NOVEMBER
SEPTEMBER
SUNFLOWER



2024 SAL Membership Report as of: September 21, 2023

#	DETACHMENT	2024 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 25% TARGET 10/18/2023	2024 ACTUAL MBRSHIP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2024 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	120	-51	81	67.50%	62.18
2	LOUISIANA	1,821	-487	942	51.73%	48.15
3	FRANCE	168	-37	79	47.02%	41.21
4	GEORGIA	4,887	-1,008	2,230	45.63%	41.29
5	WISCONSIN	4,398	-613	1,712	38.93%	35.86
6	IDAHO	659	-83	248	37.63%	31.49
7	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-309	1,001	36.14%	30.64
8	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	-179	582	36.13%	31.50
9	ALABAMA	2,100	-205	730	34.76%	30.61
10	MISSISSIPPI	736	-64	248	33.70%	31.95
11	ILLINOIS	13,716	-1,034	4,463	32.54%	31.58
12	MONTANA	1,091	-70	343	31.44%	29.35
13	UTAH	460	-14	129	28.04%	26.47
14	IOWA	4,914	-136	1,364	27.76%	26.27
15	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-29	298	27.72%	24.16
16	FLORIDA	23,066	-165	5,931	25.71%	20.36
17	KANSAS	6,055	0	1,514	25.00%	23.21
18	WYOMING	1,248	2	310	24.84%	22.19
19	TEXAS	5,783	13	1,433	24.78%	22.20
20	TENNESSEE	1,792	7	441	24.61%	21.13
21	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	9	384	24.46%	18.62
22	MISSOURI	3,337	53	781	23.40%	20.88
23	OREGON	1,534	31	353	23.01%	18.19
24	MARYLAND	16,803	486	3,715	22.11%	19.39
25	INDIANA	37,244	1,604	7,707	20.69%	18.75
26	VIRGINIA	4,367	192	900	20.61%	16.86
27	CALIFORNIA	11,292	525	2,298	20.35%	17.32
28	ARKANSAS	406	20	82	20.20%	16.00
29	RHODE ISLAND	348	17	70	20.11%	17.49
30	NEVADA	387	21	76	19.64%	16.28
31	MINNESOTA	11,435	660	2,199	19.23%	17.97
32	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	352	1,006	18.52%	16.40
33	OKLAHOMA	1,430	94	264	18.46%	15.88
34	CONNECTICUT	1,865	127	339	18.18%	14.61
35	PUERTO RICO	156	11	28	17.95%	16.99
36	DELAWARE	2,596	184	465	17.91%	13.84
37	NEW JERSEY	9,662	705	1,711	17.71%	16.06
38	VERMONT	3,920	292	688	17.55%	16.19
39	OHIO	31,690	2,464	5,459	17.23%	15.34
40	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	506	1,001	16.61%	15.26
41	NEBRASKA	6,992	657	1,091	15.60%	14.64
42	KENTUCKY	2,399	228	372	15.51%	12.86
43	COLORADO	2,952	307	431	14.60%	13.40
44	ARIZONA	8,595	902	1,247	14.51%	11.52
45	NEW YORK	30,663	3,357	4,309	14.05%	12.57
46	MICHIGAN	26,236	3,003	3,556	13.55%	10.93
47	WASHINGTON	2,682	381	290	10.81%	7.31
48	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	375	273	10.53%	7.90
49	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	9,417	6,270	9.99%	8.53
50	NEW MEXICO	1,582	239	157	9.92%	7.68
51	ALASKA	1,740	272	163	9.37%	7.39
52	MAINE	2,757	505	184	6.67%	5.10
53	MEXICO	33	6	2	6.06%	6.25
54	PHILIPPINES	79	17	3	3.80%	2.53
55	DIST OF COL	91	21	2	2.20%	1.14
Grand Totals:		382,111	23,573	71,955	18.83%	16.53

2024 SAL Regional Breakdown

Western Region - James R. Fischer, Sr. (CA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	120	81	67.50%
IDAHO	659	248	37.63%
MONTANA	1,091	343	31.44%
UTAH	460	129	28.04%
WYOMING	1,248	310	24.84%
OREGON	1,534	353	23.01%
CALIFORNIA	11,292	2,298	20.35%
NEVADA	387	76	19.64%
COLORADO	2,952	431	14.60%
ARIZONA	8,595	1,247	14.51%
WASHINGTON	2,682	290	10.81%
NEW MEXICO	1,582	157	9.92%
ALASKA	1,740	163	9.37%
MEXICO	33	2	6.06%
PHILIPPINES	79	3	3.80%
Totals:	34,454	6,131	17.79%

Southeast Region - Linwood A. Moore (VA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
LOUISIANA	1,821	942	51.73%
GEORGIA	4,887	2,230	45.63%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	1,001	36.14%
ALABAMA	2,100	730	34.76%
MISSISSIPPI	736	248	33.70%
FLORIDA	23,066	5,931	25.71%
TEXAS	5,783	1,433	24.78%
TENNESSEE	1,792	441	24.61%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	384	24.46%
VIRGINIA	4,367	900	20.61%
ARKANSAS	406	82	20.20%
PUERTO RICO	156	28	17.95%
Totals:	49,454	14,350	29.02%

Midwest Region - Terry A. Harris (KS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	582	36.13%
IOWA	4,914	1,364	27.76%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	298	27.72%
KANSAS	6,055	1,514	25.00%
MISSOURI	3,337	781	23.40%
OKLAHOMA	1,430	264	18.46%
NEBRASKA	6,992	1,091	15.60%
Totals:	25,414	5,894	23.19%

Northeast Region - John R. Cook (NH)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	168	79	47.02%
MARYLAND	16,803	3,715	22.11%
RHODE ISLAND	348	70	20.11%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	1,006	18.52%
CONNECTICUT	1,865	339	18.18%
DELAWARE	2,596	465	17.91%
NEW JERSEY	9,662	1,711	17.71%
VERMONT	3,920	688	17.55%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	1,001	16.61%
NEW YORK	30,663	4,309	14.05%
PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	6,270	9.99%
MAINE	2,757	184	6.67%
DIST OF COL	91	2	2.20%
Totals:	143,078	19,839	13.87%

Central Region - Robert L. Bristo (MN)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,398	1,712	38.93%
ILLINOIS	13,716	4,463	32.54%
INDIANA	37,244	7,707	20.69%
MINNESOTA	11,435	2,199	19.23%
OHIO	31,690	5,459	17.23%
KENTUCKY	2,399	372	15.51%
MICHIGAN	26,236	3,556	13.55%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	273	10.53%
Totals:	129,711	25,741	19.84%



09/21/23		NATIONAL Donald "JR" Hall (MD)				National Commander		
	Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date	105% Date
	Southeast 1, 2	44,567	14,350	(30,217)	32.20%	557		
2	Midwest 1	25,414	5,894	(19,520)	23.19%	458		
3	Central 1	134,598	25,741	(108,857)	19.12%	1,791		
4	Western 1	34,454	6,131	(28,323)	17.79%	378		
5	Northeast 1	143,078	19,839	(123,239)	13.87%	1,383		
TOTALS 1		382,111	71,955	(310,156)	18.83%	4,567		

09/21/23	CENTRAL REGION Robert L. Bristo (MN) National Vice-Commander								
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
Wisconsin 1, 2	4,398	1,712	(2,686)	38.93%	101	5	35.86%		
Illinois 1, 2	13,716	4,463	(9,253)	32.54%	253	11	31.58%		
Indiana 1	37,244	7,707	(29,537)	20.69%	292	25	18.75%		
Minnesota 1	11,435	2,199	(9,236)	19.23%	18	31	17.97%		
Ohio 1	31,690	5,459	(26,231)	17.23%	908	39	15.34%		
Kentucky 1	2,399	372	(2,027)	15.51%	8	42	12.86%		
Michigan 1	26,236	3,556	(22,680)	13.55%	211	46	10.93%		
West Virginia 1	2,593	273	(2,320)	10.53%	-	48	7.90%		
TOTALS 1	129,711	25,741	(103,970)	19.84%	1,791				

09/21/23		WESTERN REGION James A. Fischer Sr. (CA) National Vice-Commander								
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
	Hawaii 1, 2, 3, 5	120	81	(39)	67.50%	-	1	62.18%		
2	Idaho1, 2, 3	659	248	(411)	37.63%	7	6	31.49%		
	Montana 1, 2	1,091	343	(748)	31.44%	38	12	29.35%		
4	Utah 1, 2	460	129	(331)	28.04%	6	13	26.47%		
	Wyoming 1	1,248	310	(938)	24.84%	16	18	22.19%		
6	Oregon 1	1,534	353	(1,181)	23.01%	17	23	18.19%		
7	California 1	11,292	2,298	(8,994)	20.35%	173	27	17.32%		
8	Nevada 1	387	76	(311)	19.64%	-	30	16.28%		
9	Colorado 1	2,952	431	(2,521)	14.60%	-	43	13.40%		
10	Arizona 1	8,595	1,247	(7,348)	14.51%	36	44	11.52%		
	Washington	2,682	290	(2,392)	10.81%	48	47	7.31%		
12	New Mexico	1,582	157	(1,425)	9.92%	36	50	7.68%		
13	Alaska	1,740	163	(1,577)	9.37%	1	51	7.39%		
	Mexico	33	2	(31)	6.06%	-	53	6.25%		
15	Phillippines	79	3	(76)	3.80%	-	54	2.53%		
TOTALS 1		34,454	6,131	(28,323)	17.79%	378				

09/21/23	SOUTHEAST REGION Linwood A. Moore (VA) National Vice-Commander								
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4	1,821	942	(879)	51.73%	60	2	48.15%		
Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4	4,887	2,230	(2,657)	45.63%	120	4	41.29%		
North Carolina 1, 2	2,770	1,001	(1,769)	36.14%	38	7	30.64%		
Alabama 1, 2	2,100	730	(1,370)	34.76%	7	9	30.61%		
Mississippi 1, 2	736	248	(488)	33.70%	-	10	31.95%		
Florida 1, 2	23,066	5,931	(17,135)	25.71%	215	16	20.36%		
Texas 1	5,783	1,433	(4,350)	24.78%	1,055	19	22.20%		
Tennessee 1	1,792	441	(1,351)	24.61%	37	20	21.13%		
South Carolina 1	1,570	384	(1,186)	24.46%	6	21	18.62%		
Virginia 1	4,367	900	(3,467)	20.61%	31	26	16.86%		
Arkansas 1	406	82	(324)	20.20%	2	28	16.00%		
Puerto Rico 1	156	28	(128)	17.95%	-	35	16.99%		
TOTALS 1, 2	49,454	14,350	(35,104)	29.02%	557				

09/21/23		MIDWEST REGION Terry A. Harris (KS) National Vice-Commander								
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1	South Dakota 1, 2, 3	1,611	582	(1,029)	36.13%	38	8	31.50%		
2	Iowa 1, 2	4,914	1,364	(3,550)	27.76%	21	14	26.27%		
3	North Dakota 1, 2	1,075	298	(777)	27.72%	37	15	24.16%		
4	Kansas 1, 2	6,055	1,514	(4,541)	25.00%	257	17	23.21%		
5	Missouri 1	3,337	781	(2,556)	23.40%	73	22	20.88%		
6	Oklahoma 1	1,430	264	(1,166)	18.46%	1	33	15.88%		
7	Nebraska 1	6,992	1,091	(5,901)	15.60%	31	41	14.64%		
	TOTALS 1	25,414	5,894	(19,520)	23.19%	5,894				

09/21/23		NORTHEAST REGION John R. Cook (NH) National Vice-Commander								
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1	France 1, 2, 3, 4	168	79	(89)	47.02%	-	3	41.21%		
2	Maryland 1	16,803	3,715	(13,088)	22.11%	153	24	19.39%		
3	Rhode Island 1	348	70	(278)	20.11%	-	29	17.49%		
4	Massachusetts 1	5,432	1,006	(4,426)	18.52%	139	32	16.40%		
5	Connecticut 1	1,865	339	(1,526)	18.18%	47	34	14.61%		
6	Delaware 1	2,596	465	(2,131)	17.91%	11	36	13.84%		
7	New Jersey 1	9,662	1,711	(7,951)	17.71%	57	37	16.06%		
8	Vermont 1	3,920	688	(3,232)	17.55%	50	38	16.19%		
9	New Hampshire 1	6,027	1,001	(5,026)	16.61%	46	40	15.26%		
10	New York 1	30,663	4,309	(26,354)	14.05%	144	45	12.57%		
11	Pennsylvania	62,746	6,270	(56,476)	9.99%	736	49	8.53%		
12	Maine	2,757	184	(2,573)	6.67%	-	52	5.10%		
13	Dist. of Columbia	91	2	(89)	2.20%	-	55	1.14%		
	TOTALS 1	143,078	19,839	(123,239)	13.87%	39,678				

09/21/23		2023 SUPER SIX STANDINGS								
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1	Florida 1	23,066	5,931	(17,135)	25.71%	215	16	20.36%		
2	Indiana 1	37,244	7,707	(29,537)	20.69%	292	25	18.75%		
3	Ohio 1	31,690	5,459	(26,231)	17.23%	908	39	15.34%		
4	New York 1	30,663	4,309	(26,354)	14.05%	144	45	12.57%		
5	Michigan 1	26,236	3,556	(22,680)	13.55%	211	46	10.93%		
6	Pennsylvania	62,746	6,270	(56,476)	9.99%	736	49	8.53%		
	TOTALS	211,645	33,232	(178,413)	15.70%	2,506				

National Totals	382,111	71,955	(310,156)	18.83%	5,811	16.53%				
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2024 National Membership Target Dates					
1	September 13, 2023	10%	6	February 14, 2024	75%
2	October 18, 2023	25%	7	March 13, 2024	80%
3	November 15, 2023	35%	8	April 10, 2024	90%
4	December 13, 2023	45%	9	May 15, 2024	100%
5	January 18, 2024	60%	10	July 24, (DSTG)	105%



Employment Resource & Job Fair

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Coliseo Guillermo Angulo, Calle 24, Carolina, 00985, Puerto Rico



8:30 am - 9:45 am
Employer Check in

9:00 am - 11:00 am
Resource Fair

9:00 am - 11:00 am
Resume & Interview Prep

Visit the Puerto Rico Department of Labor & Human Resources Unit. WIOA representatives will offer career counseling, resume editing, and interview coaching to help you advance your professional aspirations. Don't miss out on this valuable opportunity!

10:00 am - 10:45 am
Employment Workshop
TBD



11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Career Fair

11:00 am - 11:15 am
Opening Remarks

11:15 am - 3:00 pm
Networking

*Parking available onsite \$4.00/All day



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2023 FALL MEETINGS AGENDA FLYER OCTOBER 6 - 8, 2023

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE AND OTHER MEETING TIMES & LOCATIONS

MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CMTE (MT&D)	MICHIGAN ROOM, 21st FL	8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
NATL OFFICER / COMMISSION/COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	CIRCLE CENTER / WEST, LL	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE (CWF)	OHIO ROOM, 21st FL	6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE (C&Y)	CIRCLE EAST, LL	6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION	CIRCLE CENTER, LL	6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS	LIBRARY ROOM, 21st FL	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
PUBLIC MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (PMCC)	ILLINOIS ROOM, 21st FL	6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
SUB-COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS (SONA)	PANORAMA A, 21st FL	6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMM (VA&R)	MERIDIAN EAST, LL	6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
CENTURY COMMITTEE (CENTCOM)	CIRCLE CENTER, LL	7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
CONVENTION COMMITTEE	OHIO ROOM, 21st FL	7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE	CIRCLE EAST, LL	7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
PAID-UP FOR LIFE AD-HOC COMMITTEE (PUFL)	ILLINOIS ROOM, 21st FL	7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMM (VE&E)	MERIDIAN EAST, LL	7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE AND OTHER MEETING TIMES & LOCATIONS

AMERICANISM COMMISSION	CIRCLE EAST, LL	8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
FINANCE COMMISSION	BOARDROOM, 9th FL	8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION	MERIDIAN EAST, LL	8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
SUB-COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS	OHIO ROOM, 21st FL	8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE	CIRCLE CENTER, LL	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (MT&D)	MICHIGAN ROOM, 21st FL	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
NATL VICE COMMANDER SELECTION COMMITTEE (NVCSC)	ILLINOIS ROOM, 21st FL	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
SUB-COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS (SONA)	PANORAMA A, 21st FL	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

OTHER TIMES & LOCATIONS

SAL LEADERSHIP PICTURES	OHIO ROOM, 21 ST FL	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC)	MERIDIAN WEST/CENTER, LL	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
EXPENSE CHECK DISTRIBUTION	FOYER, LOWER LEVEL	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
NEC ORIENTATION & TRAINING	MERIDIAN WEST/CENTER, LL	5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023

MEETING TIMES & LOCATIONS

RELIGIOUS SERVICE	MERIDIAN WEST/CENTER, LL	7:45 AM - 8:30 AM
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC)	MERIDIAN WEST/CENTER, LL	8:45 AM - 11:30 AM

2023 FALL MEETINGS AGENDA FLYER
OCTOBER 6 - 8, 2023

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) AGENDA

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
GREETINGS BY KEVIN MOOK (MD), NATIONAL SAL LIAISON

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS

<u>AMERICANISM COMMISSION</u>	CHRIS CASEY (NE)
CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMITTEE	JOE LOHMAN (MD)
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE	MARK NAVE (PA)
<u>CENTURY COMMITTEE (CENTCOM)</u>	JEFF VRABEL, SR (OH)
<u>FINANCE COMMISSION</u>	BILL HILL (MD)
<u>PUBLIC MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION</u>	KEVIN CHAPLIN (VA)
<u>INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION</u>	BILL CLANCY, III (NY)
CONVENTION COMMITTEE	CHRIS BYRD (NC)
MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT	MIKE COTTEN (DE)
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE	DARYL VERSTREATE, JR. (NY)
<u>LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION</u>	BLAIR MILES (AL)
<u>VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION</u>	BRUNO WILLIAMSON (IL)
<u>VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION</u>	JIM COATES (NY)
<u>SUB-COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS</u>	NED FOX (CA)

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

THE AMERICAN LEGION, NATIONAL COMMANDER	DANIEL J. SEEHAFFER (WI)
THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, NATIONAL PRESIDENT	LISA WILLIAMSON (AK)
TAL, CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT	ROBERT MORRILL (NY)
 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL COMMANDER	 DONALD "JR" HALL (MD)
OLD BUSINESS	
NEW BUSINESS	
FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION	
BENEDICTION	
RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS	
ADJOURNMENT	