



Legion to Congress: Government shutdown jeopardizes national security

The American Legion | September 26, 2023



An aerial view of the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., May 15, 2023. DoD photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Alexander Kubitza

The American Legion today called on Congress to end its political standoff and prioritize legislative action to avert a government shutdown on Sept. 30. In its urgent call for action, The American Legion highlighted potential impacts a disruption to government funding may create. Congress must take additional action to ensure all servicemembers receive pay if a funding lapse occurs.

“It’s time for Congress to prioritize our servicemembers, nation and national security,” American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer said. “On behalf of our 1.6 million dues-paying members of The American Legion, I urge Congress to end its political posturing and take

swift, bipartisan action to prevent the devastation of a government shutdown. The totality of a shutdown would be catastrophic.”

A government shutdown threatens the following consequences:

- **Servicemembers:** Diminished quality of life for servicemembers; financial instability of servicemembers; decreased access to mental health resources; disruption to training, exercises, and operations; financial hardship; reduced access to morale, welfare, and recreation activities.
- **Military Families:** Loss of civilian employment, financial hardship, uncertainty for families facing reassignment.
- **National Security:** Reduced military readiness, diminished deterrence, weakened diplomacy, delays in infrastructure development and increased strain to stretched defense industrial complex.

EDITOR’S NOTE: On September 30, Congress passed a temporary funding bill, which was signed into law by President Biden. As a result, the federal government will remain open until November 17.

Round-Up

Donald "JR" Hall, Jr. (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

Representing More Than Me

From the Editor

It's been a busy week for many of us, as we prepare to travel to Indianapolis for the 2024 Fall Meetings. There is a lot of work to do, and our National Executive Committee, as well as our commissions and committees will get a lot done next weekend as we officially start our new administrative year.

For those attending, safe travels. For those who are unable to attend but would like information, please contact your National Executive Committeeman or Alternate. Reports will also be available from the national organization once all minutes are complete.

This week's movie as I prepare our newsletter; "Pearl Harbor." Definitely worth the time to watch.

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

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

Good day members of the Central Region!

“Our foremost mission is to instill in younger Americans a genuine appreciation of our country and its traditions, and to develop solid character within our members.”

Does this sound familiar? Teaching and getting our younger members involved?

No, this is not an action item that has been developed recently. This is a quote from Past SAL National Commander Jack Jordan who served during our 1997 membership year.

Commander Jack was from Texas and had a **“Six-Shooter”** Award for members who rounded up **“Strays”** (unrenewed members). The very first of these awards went to future National Commander Mike Moss from Colorado! During Jack’s **“Roundup!”** 11,601 members were corralled, and the Sons of the American Legion broke the 200,000-member barrier by 1,302 members. Now that is what I call a good **“Cattle Drive!”**

That year was topped off with another record with \$148,441.62 being donated to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation!

Now time for our numbers! What we need to see is a big increase in our renewal rates. The detachments with the larger membership numbers nationwide are

all showing renewal rates of 20% or more! **My Comrades, I know you can do better!!**

Did you know that according to the 2021 Membership Marketing Benchmarking Report that it can cost five times more to attract a new member than it does to retain an existing one, member retention is arguably as important if not more important than acquiring a new member.

So, get out there and **Renew your members!**

For the Commander,

“Believe and Succeed”

Butch Ray, Central Region Membership Chairman

“I’m the ONE, You’re the ONE, BE the ONE!”

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

What’s up Westside,

I saw a quote from Albert Schweitzer this past week; *“Wherever you turn, you can find someone who needs you. Even if it is a little thing, do something for which there is no pay but the privilege of doing it. Remember, you don’t live in the world all of your*

own.” This just reminded me of our mission Be the One! Another great quote “I’m the One, You’re the One, Be the One!” Butch Ray, I love it brother!

It is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, which bring about the most lasting change. Keep up the great work and thanks again for all you do!

Respectfully 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

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.

Legion, VA prioritize reducing veteran suicide

Henry Howard | September 25

The American Legion and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) both list reducing the number of veterans who die by suicide as a top priority.

Launched in 2021, The American Legion's [Be the One mission](#) aims to destigmatize asking for help, while empowering everyone — veterans, servicemembers and civilians — to take the appropriate action when the life of a veteran or servicemember is at risk.

VA has a range of initiatives that are geared toward getting veterans in crisis the help they need. The most well-known — and for urgent cases — is the 24/7 confidential hotline. Veterans can call 988 and press 1 to be immediately connected to a counselor.



As part of September's Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, VA Secretary Denis McDonough discussed his department's key initiatives, The American Legion's role and more.

Question: Tell me about VA's key initiatives to reduce the number of veterans we lose to suicide.

Answer: This is our No. 1 clinical priority. And we obviously are taking advantage of September to underscore this, but this is a priority every day, of every week, of every month, of every year. I want to just highlight three things.

One, there's a new law, it's called the COMPACT Act ([here's what it means for veterans](#)). If you're a veteran and you're in crisis, and you want to go see a provider, whether you're enrolled in VA or not, this new law allows you to go to a VA hospital or another hospital and get that emergency care. And we'll make sure that we pay for that.

In less than a year, already 32,469 veterans have taken advantage of it. If you need somebody in crisis, don't wait.

Second, you may be far from a hospital. If you're in crisis and you're far from a hospital, pick up a phone and call us. Dial 988 and press 1. We'll get you in touch with mental health professionals if that's what you need.

Third, you may not be in crisis now, or you might be a family member and you just want to be prepared in the event that there might be a crisis. In which case, what we say is 'Don't wait, reach out, and reach out now.' Visit us at www.va.gov/reach. And you'll see on that site a bunch of useful information, tips, contacts that we've developed with our mental health professionals, to make sure that people are prepared now in the event that crisis comes later.

We want vets to know we're here. It's natural to find oneself wrestling with mental health challenges. You don't have to wrestle alone. Family members. You don't have to wrestle alone if your vet is struggling.

Question: Those efforts correlate to The American Legion's Be the One initiative, which is empowering veterans, servicemembers, their family members, anyone to 'Be the One' if a veteran's life is at risk. Tell me about how that plays into the joint effort to get a handle on veteran suicide, and what it means to have The American Legion making this our number one priority.

Answer: With Be the One, the Legion — as a strong national and strong community leader — is challenging not just its members but everybody to be the one, to be there for our veterans, to keep your eyes peeled, to make sure that you're the one who reaches out and checks in on our veterans. We're trying to emulate that.

That's exactly what we need, which is every community across the country, looking out for our vets. Mindful that every one of us not only has the obligation, but every one of us can be that pivotal interlocutor. It's an amazing challenge, and you're showing that it works. We're trying to emulate that with many of the things we're doing. There is something called the Sgt. Fox Suicide Prevention Grants. We just issued [80 grants to community organizations](#).

This is a simple concept based on exactly what the Legion is challenging us to do, which is local communities know their veterans best. So, the Fox Suicide

Prevention Grants program says, 'Hey, let's invest in local community organizations who know their vets best,' and therefore they know what's going to work to get vets their care. They know who can 'Be the One,' and they already have organizations that are being the one to watch out for veterans. That's really a great opportunity.

One of the things we also know, and Be the One underscores this, is we want some distance between a veteran in crisis and lethal means. When you're in your local community, you're keeping your eye out for a veteran in crisis, you can help create that distance. But we also have other tools. Gun safes, gun locks, just so that has some distance between that time of crisis and the lethal means.

Because what we know now is suicidal ideation, this is not a month's long or weeks long thing. This is hours, in some cases minutes, in some cases seconds. When lethal means are locked, that helps us.

Question: When you're assessing progress made by all these efforts, VA's Be the One, USAA's Face the Fight, looking into the future, what would success with respect to the veteran suicide rate look like?

Answer: Bottom line is we won't rest until it's zero, right? That's what success looks like. And the clarity and the strength that comes from that goal is very motivating, but it's also based on a simple concept, which is every single one of our veterans is a person made from an image of God, a hero who has taken an unbelievable oath to protect us all. And we want everyone to be with us. We won't rest until that's the case.

Be the One on Oct. 1

The American Legion | September 26, 2023

Sunday, Oct. 1, is the next American Legion Be the One Day.

On the first day of every month, Legion Family members are encouraged to wear a Be the One item to show their commitment to reducing the stigma around mental health issues among veterans and servicemembers. And to start a conversation about what Be the One is and how to save the life of a veteran. Legion posts should also promote Be the One on the first day of every month.

Throughout the nation, American Legion Family members continue to promote the Be the One mission. Some recent examples include:

- In Maryland, Overlea-Perry Hall American Legion Post 130 hosted a Be the One program. The post invited speakers from the Baltimore County Veterans Commission to discuss this ongoing crisis in the veteran community.
- Also in Maryland, Western Maryland American Legion Post 71 in Oakland promoted Be the One [through an interview with the Garrett County Republican](#). “The American Legion has elevated Be the One to be its top priority, empowering veterans, servicemembers, their families and the community to be part of this initiative,” said Colleen Steffan, Be the One regional coordinator for Post 71.
- In Florida, [Sons of the American Legion Squadron 323 Lehigh Acres](#)’ annual Labor Day Weekend event included promoting Be the One. American Legion Family members carried Be the One signs, posing for pictures that were shared on social media.



Resolution No. 13: Be the One Days, was passed by the National Executive Committee during the 2023 May American Legion Spring Meetings. It calls on Legion Family members to gear up and bring awareness to the Legion’s Be the One veteran suicide prevention initiative on the first day of every month.

Need Be the One gear? You can purchase a [Be the One shirt](#) or [tack](#) through American Legion [Emblem Sales](#).

For American Legion posts, there are many resources available to promote Be the One at [this web page](#). These resources include Be the One posters, customizable brochures, a banner, wallet cards and more. To help in your promotional efforts, this [video is a great tutorial](#) of how a Legionnaire in Arizona used Be the One promotional materials at his post’s successful event.

Show us your support for Be the One Days by sharing your events at [legiontown.org](#) under the Be the One category.

National Commissions and Committees

Chairmen wishing to have reports published should email them to jeffvabelsr@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

October 16, 2023 | December 18, 2023

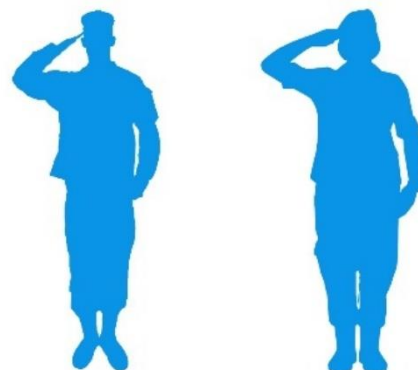
February 19, 2024 | April 15, 2024

June 17, 2024 | August 19, 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

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

Boys State staff encouraged to apply to serve at Boys Nation

[Andy Proffet](#) | September 25, 2023

Senior members of the American Legion Boys Nation staff, along with program director PNC Tom Bock and program coordinator Jeff Bennett, outlined a new

staff application that's in the works during the Boys State Directors Conference last weekend in Indianapolis.

The application form is aimed at creating a database of Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion and other Boys State staff who would be interested in also volunteering to serve on the Boys Nation staff.

Bennett emphasized to those at the conference that it's not aimed at filling specific positions; rather, it's to have information on those who are interested in case there is a staff opening that meets the skills and education of those who apply.



Americanism Commission Chairman Mark Avis and members of the American Legion Boys Nation staff speak during the Boys State Directors Conference in Indianapolis on Sept. 23, 2023.

Andy Proffet / The American Legion

The staff application form is expected to be available on [Legion.org](#) in the next few weeks.

The annual directors conference also afforded the opportunity for several Boys State programs to discuss best practices as Boys States nationwide continue to bounce back from pandemic-related deficits in attendance.

D.L. "Robbie" Robinson, the director of West Virginia's Mountaineer Boys State, noted that their program takes the initiative to reach out to TV stations and newspapers across the state in order to promote the program.

"TV stations ... are always looking for someone to come in and fill time, so you can do that," Robinson said. "Last year we went to three different TV stations in West Virginia and (talked about the program)."

Robinson said it's also important to share the word about Boys State at department conventions and conferences, to ensure that the Legion Family knows about the program.

And “one of the best ways to get boys to your camp is through the boys going back to their school and talking to the lower classes,” Robinson added. “It’s much better coming from them than from some old guy standing behind a podium.”

Oklahoma Boys State chief operating officer Jared Harrison talked about the psychology of recruiting young men to attend the program, notably changing the concept of them volunteering to go to Boys State to them being selected to go to Boys State.

“We’re focusing on a language switch. Instead of ‘who wants to go,’ let’s start identifying the people we want to have go,” Harrison said. “And then you’ll go to them and say, ‘You’ve been selected. You have the opportunity to come to this program...’

“Just that little verbiage can change everything.”

Harrison also pointed out another selling point to recruit attendees: college scholarship offers. He noted that Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia, for instance, offers a four-year, \$20,000-per-year scholarship to any accepted applicant who has participated in Boys State and attends Hampden-Sydney.

“I would ask you, ask your universities that you’re at, if you’re at a college campus, especially if you’re getting a scholarship offer (to your attendees), is that something that can be nationwide or in the region to help out the other programs,” Harrison added.

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.



**RENEW
ONLINE
TODAY**

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

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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

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

Sons of American Legion thank golf tournament sponsors

[Penobscot Bay Pilot](#) | September 23, 2023

The Sons of the American Legion of Rockland held a tournament to help raise money for the veterans of Post 1.

They would like to say thank you to the following area businesses for their support in the Sons of the American Legion/Rockland Coast Guard golf tournament that was held on September 8, 2023 at the Rockland Golf Course.

Without their support this tournament could not be done. The Sponsors are Tom Fence Co. Warren, ME, Kevin Lipson ESQ, Four Corner Variety Union, ME, North Beacon Oyster Rockland, MW, Mid-Coast Maintenance LLC Waldoboro, ME, Lincoln's Country Store Warren, ME, Camden National Bank Camden, ME, Andrews + Sons Construction Nobleboro, ME, Maine Lighthouse Museum Rockland, ME.

Sons of The American Legion honored for membership

[The Mining Journal](#) | September 27, 2023



The Gladstone August Mattson Sons of the American Legion Squad #71 were recently honored with a certificate and flag ribbon commemorating the achievement of 100 percent in membership and continued donation of one dollar per member to the Child Welfare club. Every Squadron that achieves 100 percent by Detachment convention in June will receive the award which will be displayed in the Post club room. There is also a certificate and flag banner that the

squadron can keep in its files for the history of the squadron. Pictured, from left, top, are Dennis Cole, Don Couiliard, George Maciejewski, Guy Patterson, new commander Randy Bruntjens, John Pickard, Bill Germain, Jeff Ware, Dave Bender. In front, from left, are Steve Viau and Robert Snowaert.

Did you know?

- Membership dues for the Sons of The American Legion are payable by October 20 for the upcoming calendar year.
- A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January 1 shall be classified as delinquent.
- If his dues are paid on or before February 1, he shall be automatically reinstated.
- If he is still delinquent after February 1, he shall be suspended from all privileges.
- If he is still under such suspension on June 30 of such year, his membership in the Sons of The American Legion shall be forfeited.
- A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Squadron and payment of current dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs.

The S.A.L. Emblem



The design of our emblem was taken from the emblem of our parent organization, but is oval in shape so as to be easily distinguished.

The star in the center presents our country, and the five points of the star represent the five-point program of the Sons of American Legion.

The sun in the background represents the Sons of The American Legion and the rays represent the loyalty of its membership.

The blue of the emblem, like the blue of our flag, stands for justice.

The two stars in the blue border stand for freedom and democracy.

The wreath below the star is in memory of our comrades, and those of our fathers who willingly gave lives for their country.

The ten points of the emblem represent the ten ideals of every Legion son.

The Ten Ideals

Patriotism. Turn out for Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day parades ceremonies. Learn the proper display of the Flag. Learn the "Pledge of Allegiance."

Health. Write an essay on how to maintain sanitary conditions to promote health in: (1) Your home (2) in the post home (Give examples of sanitation and safety standards in your post home), and (3) in camps and outdoors in general. Explain what you do daily to keep fit.

Training. Become a squadron officer, or assist a squadron officer(s) during and between meetings and activities.

Knowledge. Maintain a passing mark in school. Know the instructions for the and five points of service. Explain what each individual part means. This may be written or oral. Know what the SAL Emblem stands for. If possible, use an Emblem which comes apart so that the Emblem can put together as it is being explained.

Honor. Honorable service in the squadron over a period of six months shall qualify you this award. Honesty of action and purpose, and truthfulness will help you achieve this.

Faith. Good conduct and willingness to obey instructions over a period of six months will earn the squadron's recognition of your faith in its leadership and ideals.

Helpfulness. Develop reasonably consistent attendance at meetings and other functions. Volunteers for tasks for the good of the squadron and be reliable in carrying out your part. Help promote your squadron by signing up at least one new member, and help collect dues from existing members.

Courtesy. Apply yourself diligently to show you are polite and respectful to your comrades, officers, Legionnaires, and others with whom you come in contact.

Reverence. Show where you are a member of some religious organization. Aid in placing markers and flowers on veteran's graves.

Comradeship. Show the tie that binds you to the squadron and the Legion by helping in the annual Poppy Sale, thus aiding disabled veterans. Help cheer some veteran in a hospital or his home.

The Flag. Our Flag "Old Glory" the symbol of the greatest Nation on earth to me represents sacrifice and our country's sacrifice of those unnamed thousands who gave their lives in far away places that we may be free.

The red, white, and blue flying high above our National Cemeteries makes me remember the Flag draped coffins that carried the physical remains of our Nation's heroes to their final resting place.

To me those who gave their final measure of devotion are not gone and their spirit live on. It lives in the symbol of the Nation for which they so proudly died, and it lives in the Flag of the United States of America.



Lisa Williamson, National President
The American Legion Auxiliary



Sports

Remembrance Bowl: more than a homecoming

[Jeff Stoffer](#) | September 29, 2023

A football game that never happened during World War II has kicked off a revival of honor, remembrance, education and patriotism for the entire Locust Valley, N.Y., School District – grades K-12 and beyond – in memory of soldiers who were called to fight and die in the winter of 1944. The game the troops had planned to play on Christmas Day was called off due to the Battle of the Bulge.

In recent years, however, it's been back on, played in Normandy by soldiers of the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions and more recently in the first stateside Remembrance Bowl Sept. 23 at Locust Valley High School.



Locust Valley and Cold Spring Harbor players all wore Remembrance Bowl jerseys signed by the athletes and others on Sept. 23, for the first stateside revival of the 1944 "game that never happened." The project included classroom study into American symbols, military history, and patriotism.

Jeff Stoffer/The American Legion

Organizers and school officials hope the multi-layered program that includes classroom studies, guest speakers and veterans will spread across the country, with support from local American Legion posts.

"We've ventured into these waters to create a project, a game, a curriculum – with no map, no plan – but a guiding idea that American history and love of country needed desperately to be back into schools," said Dr. Kristen Turnow, superintendent of Locust Valley Schools, during one of many gatherings in the days leading up to the Remembrance Bowl game. "The curriculum in this pilot week has been nothing short of

amazing. The response of the students and the level of engagement has been remarkable.”

Patton Legacy Sports – working with Operation Democracy, Amis des Veterans Americans of France, area American Legion posts and others – brought to the community much more than a pep rally ahead of the big rivalry game between the Locust Valley Falcons and the Cold Spring Harbor Seahawks.

The program gave birth to pro-America curricula – written and developed by educators with help from military-connected groups – for students of all ages.

- For children from kindergarten to second grade, the focus was on American pride, with lessons on symbols like the U.S. flag, the bald eagle, the Statue of Liberty, and red remembrance poppies, as well as the roles of the different military branches.
- Third through fifth-grade students studied World War II and specifically the relationship between the United States (Locust Valley in this case) and France (Ste. Mere-Eglise, the first French town liberated after D-Day, which received relief from Locust Valley after the war) and how that friendship continues today.
- Older students were offered classes that more deeply explored World War II history, including the films “Mother of Normandy” and “The Sixth of June.” Both documentaries connect to the Locust Valley story and the 1947 establishment of Operation Democracy, a nonprofit organization that arose to help war-torn Ste. Mere-Eglise and was resurrected 18 years ago to pay contributing tribute to the relationship between the towns, which helped start Sister Cities International.

In the days leading up to the Sept. 23 football game, students assembled in auditoriums, classrooms, the high school gym, and other locations in the community to honor veterans, military service, and the community’s legacy of support for those who have served in uniform.

“I’m excited about the work that we’ve done here to really cherish our history ...” said Dr. Turnow, who has one son deployed in the U.S. Armed Forces and another getting ready for boot camp. “...just being in the classrooms and seeing all of our students from kindergarten all the way up to the 12th grade learn a little more about who we are as Americans – what brings us together, what keeps us together – and really think about the historical moments and pay tribute to all the

men and women who have done so much for us, to ensure that we have our freedom.”

Academics, athletics, and military service were among the highest values of World War II Gen. George S. Patton, a former Olympic athlete who was in command of the camp in 1944 when the original football game – promoted as the “Champagne Bowl” because it was in Reims, heart of champagne production – had to be canceled due to the fighting.

A commemorative journal to inaugurate the first stateside Remembrance Bowl put it this way: “The athletes will represent the soldiers who would have played in the game, many of whom never made it home. The spectators, sharing this sacred duty of remembrance, will represent those who would have been there to witness this celebratory game.”

Helen Patton, granddaughter of the famous four-star general, discovered a yellowed program promoting the Champagne Bowl while doing some research in 2017. “I opened it up, and it was blank inside,” she told one of the crowds in Locust Valley prior to the game. “That must have been where that little white paper was supposed to go to give you all the details of the game, who was playing, where you might be eating afterwards, who to thank... well, that part didn’t happen. Those guys got the green light.”

She asked the football players from both teams to “be conscious of those who couldn’t play.”

Michelle Strauss, who leads Patton Legacy Sports for the Patton Legacy Foundation, reiterated that message to the players: “You stand in the shoes of the soldiers who could not play the game that never happened. Think for a moment about what you are doing Saturday – you’re finishing their game ... you’re playing the game that didn’t get played. What you’re doing is making history.”

Chloe Gavin, daughter of Lt. Gen. James Gavin, who commanded paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division in predawn jumps behind enemy lines before the beach landings on D-Day, reminded the students that the freedom they enjoy today was purchased by soldiers not much older than them.

“They were only 18, 19 or 20 years old,” Gavin said. “Most of you are close to that age now. Can you imagine yourself going into combat? They couldn’t either. But those young soldiers in 1944 survived because of teamwork in their lives, in combat. When they were under enemy fire in Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge, Holland, and Sicily, they were fighting for each

other. They were fighting to survive. They had to rely on each other in the middle of a firefight. No one could just quit. They survived because of determination and because of their trust in each other.

“During the past week, you’ve learned about the battle of Normandy. What happened matters because it changed the course of history. A lot of those 18- and 19 year-olds didn’t come home ... you’re living a nice life here because those young men were willing to fight in a foreign country. Some of them had to give up their lives ... for you, so you could be here. All of us here tonight – players, parents, teachers, coaches, friends, myself – we owe a debt to those young men.

“Keep those players in your hearts when you play on Saturday. Take their courage, determination, and teamwork and use it in what you do. You and I – all of us here – need to repay our debt to those young men. They gave us time. They gave us our lives here. We need to use the time they gave us and use it to do good in our lives.”

Locust Valley Board of Education Chair Margaret Marchand described the curriculum and the project as “an overwhelming success. The most incredible response has been coming from the children.” She noted that hundreds of middle school students who watched “Mother of Normandy” on Sept. 21 were rapt by the film and its story of Simone Renaud, who launched the AVA in France after World War II. “I’ve never seen 11, 12 and 13-year-olds not move for 68 minutes straight. It was riveting.”

Speaking to students, AVA President Maurice Renaud described the turmoil, death and destruction of the German occupation and the war into which he was born. “So, understand why we have such a great remembrance, and how grateful we are for the American soldiers who gave their lives or got wounded there, coming to a country where they did not speak the language – did not know anybody there – it’s a real supreme sacrifice which we have to admire. I have to thank all the American people for what you did for us in 1944.”

Speakers explained another local connection to the students. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., a founder of The American Legion, grew up in nearby Oyster Bay and is now immortalized in a Statue of Liberation in Ste. Mere-Eglise. It was there, in August 1944, where he was temporarily laid to rest after dying of a heart attack five weeks after storming Utah Beach.

As Operation Democracy has evolved over the last two decades, it has made another American Legion-

involved connection with the high school: Flags for Freedom. Howard A. Van Wagner American Legion Post 962 in Locust Valley and Operation Democracy have presented a 3-by-5 cloth U.S. flag – along with a U.S. Constitution – to each graduating senior in an annual commencement day ceremony for the last several years.

“This is what I call civic pride in local history that has relevance to current events,” said Cathy Soref, president emeritus of Operation Democracy. “Locust Valley High School has become the most fantastic school – an example of what education should be in the United States of America. We hope to spread this, to instill a sense of pride to our students, pride in being American.”

“This is amazing,” Bayville American Legion Post 1285 member Renato Spampinato said at a breakfast before the homecoming parade. “The Patton Foundation – it’s unbelievable how they are supporting us. This is wonderful – a fantastic situation. The curriculum. People coming from around the country...from around the world.”

The Air Force veteran added that even he has learned a lot about the community’s military history through the Remembrance Project. “It’s a shame I didn’t know this stuff before. The kids are asking questions (and learning that) we’re not such a bad country. In fact, we’re a pretty damned good country. And we happened to save the world.”

Strauss announced that four students who went through the Remembrance Project curriculum and two of the football players will join the Patton Sports Legacy group in Normandy next June for the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

Expecting the program to expand widely, she said Locust Valley will always be known as the origin. “Locust Valley will always be our template. We will always connect with Locust Valley to improve the education from the curriculum. We will always be in partnership with Locust Valley, hopefully for years to come, as the project evolves.”

Helen Patton agrees that this first stateside effort was a big success. “We are gathering our steam to see what is needed next ... I’m so happy that the hope I had at the moment of seeing that (invitation to the Champagne Bowl) for the first time is being made good on.

This is going to have legs.”

Connecting in the great frontier

The American Legion | September 29, 2023



Sean Latham of Post 28 and Laura Dean of Post 1 flank participants in the American Legion video game tournament at University of Alaska Anchorage's eSports lounge in June, the first of its kind.

Photo via Laura Dean

Depending on the method of transportation, the distance from Anchorage, Alaska, to Seattle varies from just under 1,500 to just under 2,500 miles – a lot of distance for a plane, car, or legs to cover. But the internet can bring people together wherever in the world they are.

The American Legion's recent focus on e-gaming supports the organization's priorities on everything from suicide prevention to membership recruitment. And it's gaining traction at Legion posts in Alaska. Below, Laura Dean, former adjutant of Jack Henry Post 1 in Anchorage, talks about how her post and others are establishing a new culture for a new age.

Where did the inspiration for taking this on come from? How much pre-existing gaming enthusiasm was there in your post family? The initial idea came from California's Ronald Reagan-Palisades Post 283 and Andre Andrews, who a couple of our post members met as well as visiting the Regiment Gaming booth, at the national convention in 2021. We were all Persian Gulf and post-9/11 veterans, and the discussion had already been started about things Alaska Legion posts could provide beyond a restaurant/bar. When we heard the research of how video games can help reduce suicide and depression, it became a no-brainer to champion it. We took the idea back to Post 1, wrote a resolution supporting it and creating our own Video Game Committee, and brought it to our department convention that spring. At this point, other posts in Alaska had also been looking at how to pursue gaming. For example, Post 13 in Sitka hosts weekly tabletop game nights.

Post 28, which is located in Anchorage like Post 1, was also interested in video games.

Our post took our idea and started socializing with our members and community contacts to figure out how to pursue this in Alaska. Nuvision, a regional credit union, sponsors Post 1's Memorial Day BBQ and loved the idea of using video games to combat suicide, so they made a donation in support of it. Post 1 then partnered with Post 28, the Wounded Warrior Project-Alaska, Stack Up, the Stephen Cohen Clinic and University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) to host the first American Legion video game tournament in June at UAA's eSports lounge. Next, Post 28 hosted a booth for Stack Up and Regiment Gaming at their AlaskaFest event, which Post 1 volunteered to help run.

Post 1 had now received a grant from GCI, a local telecommunications company, to further the video game efforts. Along with Post 28, we plan to host more tournaments over the winter, including competitions between our local high school eSports teams and veterans. Eventually, both posts hope to have their own eSports lounges in their buildings, and to figure out a way to help Alaska posts in more austere locations participate too (particularly due to internet connectivity issues).

What is the process of getting equipment installed? What have been the costs so far? Verizon got wind of our efforts and donated a new Xbox to Post 1, which we will be installing with one of our TVs in our meeting room. A member also donated an old Nintendo Wii as well. Eventually, for our eSports lounge, we hope to install four gaming computers. We have worked with Regiment Gaming to create a gaming PC buildout that comes to approximately \$2,500, including the desk and chair, and we are actively fundraising to purchase that equipment.

Post 1 has also identified that our internet infrastructure needs to be upgraded in order to support quality video gaming. In total this will cost approximately \$11,000 to complete, mostly due to installing coaxial outlets throughout the building.

E-gaming naturally takes a lot of relevance out of people's physical locations. But have you found that living in a more isolated part of the country/world has made connecting online easier than it would be for someone in, say, New England? I wouldn't say it necessarily makes it easier, but it definitely augments our connection to the world. Due to our location, Alaskans tend to have a very strong local community. E-gaming provides another venue for people to connect and, perhaps,

find the support they need for whatever issues they have going on. Studies conducted by WebMD and reviewed by Dan Brennan, M.D., have proven this; video games increase the sense of community and belonging, rather than decrease it as we were told growing up.

Have you personally encountered any instances of people finding new relief from their symptoms in gaming? Yes. One veteran has moved to a new job in an isolated part of Alaska, away from their established support network. They are using gaming for distraction, mental stimulation, and connection with that support network. Another veteran uses video games as a way to check in on their nephew, who struggles with depression.

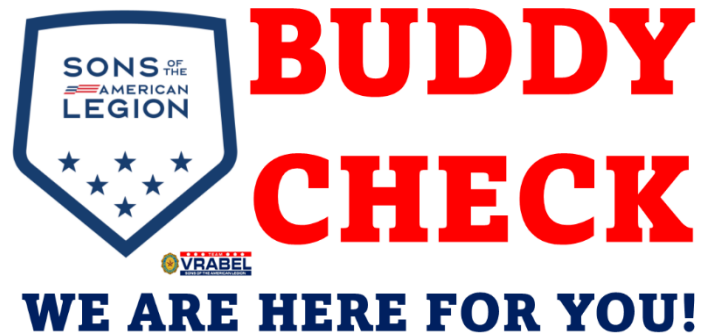
What should a post looking into this be mindful of, especially in terms of potential problems? It's not simply installing a computer or Xbox and buying a couple of games, though that can be a good start. E-gaming and eSports are incredibly diverse, so we definitely recommend asking your membership what types of gaming they would like. For example, Sitka Post 13 found that tabletop gaming was a larger draw than video games for the time being, so they put effort there. At Post 1 it's video games, so that's what we're focusing on.

You're also going to run into issues combating the stigma that Legion posts are old, dark, and dank. Consider partnering with a local eSports lounge in the beginning to draw people in (and reduce initial costs), then try bringing them into your post. Another benefit of partnering is that you don't have to provide in-house tech support too.

Finally, start creating relationships with companies and organizations that already run video game tournaments. Each game is going to be a bit different about how to run the tournament, and it gets exponentially more complex if you want to hold a geo-diverse tournament. They should already have the know-how, which will reduce headaches all around (plus the volunteer manpower!).

Are there plans to expand in Alaska, beyond Post 28? Yes! Post 1 and Post 28 hope to figure out the "secret sauce" for Legions in Alaska so we can share that information with all our other posts. We hope to figure out how to hold tournaments so our posts can compete against each other, and we can

have veterans competing all across the state! Given how big Alaska really is, this will be a super-cool feat to achieve.



Squadron Everlasting

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

James "Jim" P. Wilbanks



James "Jim" Paul Wilbanks, 69, of Gentry, Arkansas passed away Saturday, September 23, 2023, at the Siloam Springs Regional Hospital.

Jim was born on December 28, 1953, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was the son of Paul Wilbanks and Martha Dean Collins Wilbanks. He married Marie B Wind Perlick on March 12, 1993, in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

Jim enlisted in the United States Air Force in March of 1972 and served with honor until his retirement as a Tech Sergeant in March of 1992, having served in the Vietnam War and the first Gulf War. After his retirement Jim tried his hands at several endeavors including owning and operating a Dive shop in Florida, working for Office Depot in Georgia, and then working for Fagan's Hardware after moving to Gentry. Jim held a Bachelor of Science in Telecommunications Management.

Jim was very involved and active in The American Legion, holding several offices including being recently elected as National Executive Committeeman for the Sons of the Legion, Arkansas Detachment Adjutant of the Sons of the Legion, Department of Arkansas District 1 Commander, Londagin - Hardcastle Post 159 Gentry Adjutant, Siloam Sons of the Legion Squadron 29 Adjutant, and Past Commander of Siloam Post 29. He also had been active with the Sagar Creek Arts Center building sets and working with sound.

He is survived by his wife, Marie Wilbanks of the home; his mother, Martha Dean Wilbanks of Towne Lake, GA; one son, Jason (Jena) Wilbanks of Portales, NM; one daughter, Karla (Mike) Kahler of Benton, TX; three step sons, Carl (Jennifer) Fogger of Jefferson, NC, Edward (Claire) Perlick of Miramar, CA, and Joseph Zelk of

Gentry, AR; one step daughter, Teresa Widrick of South Weber, Utah; one brother, Richard Wilbanks of Lubbock, TX; one sister, Anita (Mike) Dodd of Canton, GA; nineteen grandchildren and multiple nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws.

Visitation will be held at the Victory Missionary Baptist Church in Gentry on Friday, September 29, 2023, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. Funeral service will follow immediately after the visitation, with Pastor Bill Sheffield officiating and military honors. Private interment to follow at a later date.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Londagin-Hardcastle Post 159, P.O. Box 1159 Gentry, AR 72734 or to The American Legion Charities Be The One, <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/give>.

To order [memorial trees](#) or send flowers to the family in memory of James "Jim" P. Wilbanks, please visit our [flower store](#).

John Michael Collins



CURWENSVILLE - John Michael Collins, 66, of Curwensville, passed away Friday, Sept. 22, 2023 with his loving family by his side.

His battle with serious medical issues in recent years showed his courage and unmatched strength in facing life's challenges.

John, the youngest of four brothers, was born on Oct. 19, 1956, to Hugh N. and Mary C. Collins.

To always ensure above all else that his family was taken care of, he worked hard in the truck driving industry until his retirement from Conway Express in 2016.

On Aug. 7, 1982, John married his beloved wife Patricia and built a beautiful life with her filled with countless blessings.

John was a member of Noble Lodge No. 480, the Jaffa Shrine Band, Clearfield Shrine Club, Clearfield Elks, V.F.W. Auxiliary,

Curwensville Moose, Sons of the American Legion Clearfield, and several others. He was also a lifetime member of the Curwensville Rescue Hose and Ladder.

He took great pride in being a member of the Shriners. Most of all he loved being a Road Runner, driving children to their out-of-town appointments, even when he wasn't in the best health himself and continued for as long as he was able.

John lived a full life as a husband, dad, brother, son, friend, but what brought him the greatest joy, "Pappy John." He had a true heart of gold when it came to giving to others - from benefit dinners, raising money for families in need, volunteering his time for local organizations, donating meals, cooking dinners, spearheading committees, and giving the perfect gifts to his family.

John loved spending countless hours in his garage surrounded by family and friends. Sunday morning breakfasts, family gatherings, birthday parties, delicious meals, movie watching, conversations, and quality time laughing around the table were some of the best and most memorable moments.

John is survived by his wife, Patricia; his children, Dustin (Nicole) Collins of Curwensville, Jamie (Rick) Gerda of Virginia, Mark Collins of Lumber City, Spencer (Brandi) Collins of Grampian and Penni (Jeff) Muth of Luthersburg; his brothers, Jim Collins (Carol) of Colorado, and Dave (Cindy) Collins of Clearfield. He is also survived by seven grandchildren, Kacyn Collins, Megan and Aidan Gerda, Jade Collins, Shaelinn, Devin, and Tyler Muth. John will surely be missed by Jade, his cherished Boxer who was always by his side. He will forever be in the hearts of his family who loved him dearly.

Along with his mother and father, John was preceded in death by his brothers, Donald and Randy (Beaver) Collins; and granddaughters Madelyn and Makayla Gerda; and his first Boxer, Kassie.

Funeral Services will be held at the Beardsley Funeral Home and Crematory, Curwensville on Tuesday at 1 p.m. with Roger Lee McGary officiating.

Interment will follow at the Mt. Zion Cemetery, Olanta.

Friends and family will be received at the Beardsley Funeral Home and Crematory, Curwensville on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Family suggests memorial contributions be made to [Shriners Hospitals for Children](#).

To sign the on-line guest book, go to www.beardsleyfuneralhome.com.

Published by The Progress from Sep. 24 to Sep. 25, 2023.

Danny Alan Pemberton



MITCHELL - Danny Alan Pemberton, 74, passed away Saturday, September 23, 2023, at Indiana University Health Bedford

Hospital.

Born June 28, 1949, in Bedford, he was the son of Winfred J. "Wink" and Juanita M. (Tow) Pemberton. He married Jonna Dale Ely on June 8, 1968 and she survives.

Danny was a 1967 graduate of Mitchell High School and retired from General Motors. He was a member of the Paoli Masonic Lodge No. 119 F.&A.M., The Sons of American Legion Post No. 250, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 9107 Auxiliary. Danny enjoyed woodworking, riding his motorcycle, and shooting guns. His granddaughters were his world and he loved spending time with them.

Surviving is his wife, Jonna Dale Pemberton of Mitchell; children, Lisa Dawn Fish of Mitchell, and Alan Wayne Pemberton of Mitchell; grandchildren, Abby Danielle Fish, Alexandra "Ally" Dawn Fish, Ashlyn River Pemberton, and Marcus Donald Fish; great-granddaughter, Brynlee Michaela Fish; and his beloved dog, Annie.

His parents; granddaughter, Anna Renae Fish; brother, Steven Pemberton; and in-laws, James and Mary Ely, preceded him in death.

Funeral service will be at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, September 28, in the Memorial Chapel of Chastain Funeral Home & Cremation Center with Pastor Dwight Dunbar officiating. Burial will be at Mitchell Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. until the service on Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorial Gifts: White River Humane Society

RENEW

Larry Grube



Larry Lee Grube, 77, of Coldwater, Ohio, passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023.

He was born on Aug. 5, 1946, in Celina, Ohio, to the late Edward and Mary Agnes (Brunswick) Grube.

Larry is survived by his wife of 50 years, Theresa (Kahlig) Grube, whom he married on July 27, 1973; his son, Charles (Karen) Grube of Fort Recovery; his grandchildren, Ray, Claire and Josh Grube; his siblings, Lavern (Barb) Grube of Fort Recovery, Mark (Donna) Grube of St. Marys, Ohio, Mike (Vicki) Grube of Fort Recovery and Allen (Jean) Grube of Fort Recovery; his in-laws, Dick Huelsman, Joe (Ruth) Kahlig, Bernice Tittle, Kate (Roger) Sudhoff, Rita (Mike) Knap-schaefer, Lucy (Chuck) Staugler, John (Diane) Kahlig, Mary (Tim) Heinrichs, Jim (Sue) Kahlig, Margie (Gary) Wendel, Bets (Bob) Gillis, and Tom Kahlig; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Larry was preceded in death by his son, Jerry Lee Grube, and his infant daughter, Sarah Jane Grube; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Ray and Irene (Westgerdes) Kahlig; and his sister-in-law, Barb Huelsman.

Larry worked for Schmitt's Fur Farm for 17 years before he joined J&M Manufacturing, where he retired after 35 years. He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion, St. Peter Catholic Church, and the Men's Sodality. Larry enjoyed spending time with his family and friends and helping Charlie on the farm. He also enjoyed going to North End for the morning coffee group.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023, at St. Peter Catholic Church with Father Alexander Witt celebrating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Guests may visit with Larry's family on Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023, from 3 until 7 p.m. and again on Wednesday from 9 to 9:45 a.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery.

Memorial contributions may be given to EverHeart Hospice, 1350 N. Broadway St., Greenville, OH 45331.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting www.brockmanboeckmanfh.com.

Tim Wilkerson



Tim Stephen Wilkerson, 53, of Brookville, Indiana, passed away on Thursday, September 21, 2023. Tim was born in Quantico, Virginia on March 22, 1970, to Pamela Kay Wilkerson and the late Robert Keith Wilkerson. Tim attended Brookville High School and Whitewater Career Center with a focus in welding trades. He soon joined the workforce at Valley Welding in Harrison, Ohio where he spent 11 years as a fabricator/welder. Tim served as a volunteer firefighter with the New Trenton Volunteer Fire Department at just the age of 16 and continued to serve his community for the following ten years where he created many lifelong friendships. Beginning in the winter of 1995, Tim began his passion for law enforcement doing ride-alongs at the Laurel Police Department and shortly thereafter became a reserve police officer. He quickly learned that being in the back seat of a police cruiser with a cage and both doors closed does not usually end well. In 1998, he transitioned to Assistant Town Marshall, attended the ILEA Town Marshal Basic Training Session 200353, and served until 2003. In the Spring of 2000, Tim began apprenticeship with Cincinnati Ironworkers Union Local 372 where he became a journeyman ironworker and foreman on several projects within the tri-state including the Freedom Center, Great American Ball Park, and Belterra Casino.

In December 2003, his desire for police work earned him a full time position with the Brookville Police Department and shortly thereafter attended the ILEA Basic Session 158. In 2014, he was sworn in as Brookville Police Department's Chief of Police where he served until December 2017. In May 2018, Tim became employed with Owens Corning in Brookville, Indiana. Along with sending massive amounts of Tik Tok's, he enjoyed being given the title of "Certified Fork Lift Operator" by his three daughters. No matter what you called him; Wilkerson, Wilkie, 24-26, Daddy, Pap, Uncle Turkey, Kaboose, Easy Money, Barney, Tooth, Dickie Doo, or my ex-husband, he was loved by all!

Tim was a member of the Warthogs MC since 2020 where he served as the Vice-President of the Hoosier

Chapter. He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion Post #77, Brookville Harmony Masonic Lodge #11, and a lifetime member of the Brookville VFW Post 2014.

Tim is survived by and shared three daughters with Kate Baldwin; Taylor Makenzie Bankson (Eric) of Greenville, Ohio, Kinley Reese Wilkerson of Indianapolis, Indiana and Ellie Kalyn Wilkerson of Plainfield, Indiana; cherished grandson, Colt Bankson; mother, Pamela Kay Wilkerson (Phil Bruce) of New Trenton, Indiana; siblings, Mike Wilkerson (Shannon) of Okeana, Ohio, Lisa Morgan (Brian) of New Trenton, Indiana, Cindy Mann (Jimmy) of Richmond, Indiana; Gary Wilkerson of Marion, Indiana, Michael Wilkerson (Laura) of Indianapolis, Indiana, Rick Wilkerson of Indianapolis, Indiana and many other loving relatives and friends.

Tim was preceded in death by his father, Robert Keith Wilkerson and grandson, Levi Roy Bankson. Funeral services will be held at 11 AM on Friday, September 29 at Cook Rosenberger Funeral Home in Brookville, Indiana with Rev. David Heinzelman officiating. Visitation will be held 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM on Thursday, September 28 at Cook Rosenberger Funeral Home. Burial will be at Maple Grove Cemetery in Brookville.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made to the Tim Wilkerson Memorial Scholarship Fund online at www.FCCFIN.org or to a charity of the donor's choice, both of which can also be brought in or mailed to the funeral home. To sign the online guestbook or to leave a personal condolence please visit www.cookrosenberger.com. The staff of Cook Rosenberger Funeral Home is honored to care for the family of Tim Wilkerson.

Richard Allen Musgraves



Richard Allen Musgraves, 86 of Geff, IL passed away at 5:53 PM, Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at Fairfield Memorial Hospital. Richard was born June 24, 1937, in Fairfield, IL, the son of Edgar Preston Musgrave and Beulah Iris Hill. After graduating from Fairfield High School in 1955, he joined the Navy and studied electrical engineering. Richard served 4 years, spending time on aircraft carriers USS Bennington, USS Bon Homme Richard, and USS Ticonderoga.

After the Navy, he attended

Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. Richard became a student worker at the Central Research Shop, a facility serving the various schools at the university, and eventually became the Shop Supervisor. The shop designed and built projects requested by university faculty from the Life Sciences to the SIU Marching Band. He built carts to carry the band's kettle-drums into the stadium, and the weathervane that sits atop Pulliam Hall.

Marsha Ann Smith and Richard married in 1961, beginning a romance for the ages and a partnership that included family, and many projects that they accomplished together.

In the 1960's, when Buckminster Fuller was a professor at the SIU School of Design, Fuller's students, including Richard, built a prototype for a geodesic dome which was erected on Campus Lake Drive. It is still on display at the SIU campus.

Richard was active in community service, including the Boy Scouts of America and the SIU fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega. While working at SIU, he became the Ranger at the Egyptian Council Little Grass Boy Scout Camp south of Carbondale. Richard and his wife, Marsha, lived there 14 years. The Scout Camp was the delight of his life.

Richard retired from SIU in 1994 after 32 years of service, and he and Marsha moved to the family farm southwest of Geff, IL. For many years he was active in the Geff Ruritan Club and the Sons of the American Legion in Fairfield. Richard was an inventor, builder, and philosopher.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Marsha Ann Musgraves; son Timothy Allen (Linda Hill); daughter Laura Christine; grandchildren Rigdon, Jack, Kate, and Maria; sister Doris Elaine Musgrave Born; and six nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his mother and father, sister Rebecca Rae Edgington, and niece Teresa Elaine (Edgington) Stanford.

There will be a Celebration of Life at 1 PM, Saturday, October 21, 2023, at Johnson and Vaughn Funeral Home in Fairfield. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to SSM Health Hospice of Mt. Vernon, or to the [Alzheimer's Association](http://www.alzheimers.org), and will be accepted at the funeral home.

Published by The Southern Illinoisan from Sep. 25 to Sep. 26, 2023.

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

Joseph W. Jakubielski



CROWN POINT, IN - Joseph W. Jakubielski, 54 of Crown Point, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at the IU Health Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis. Loving father of Matthew and William Jakubielski; cherished mother of his children, Pattie Joseph Jakubielski; beloved son of Fred Jakubielski and the late Barbara (Schreier) Jakubielski; dearest brother of Jeff (Cheryl) Jakubielski and Linda (late Tony) Dockemeyer; many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and extended family members.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. with a Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at St. John the Evangelist Church, 10701 Olcott Ave., St. John, IN, with the Rev. Sammie L. Maletta, officiating; cremation to follow; visitation at the Baran Funeral Home, 1235-119th St., Whitening, on Friday from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. and at the church on Saturday from 12 noon to time of services. Expressions of sympathy may be placed on-line at [www.baranfh.com](#). Joseph Jakubielski was born on

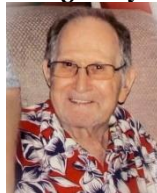
August 14, 1969 and was a lifelong resident of the Calumet Region. He was a graduate of Andean High School, Class of 1987 and was a member of St. John the Evangelist Church, St. John. A talented carpenter, he was a member of Local 1005 and was a member of the Sons of the American Legion and the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Cedar Lake. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and Chicago Bears fan. Joe loved a good laugh and was always the life of the party. A devoted father, Joe will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the [American Cancer Society](#), would be appreciated. (219) 659-4400.

Published by The Times on Sep. 28, 2023.

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



George Wayne Barker



George Wayne "Buck" Barker, age 76, of Big Sandy, TN passed away on Thursday, September 28, 2023 at his residence. Mr. Barker was born on December 2, 1946 in Paris, TN to the late Clifton Barker and the late Georgia Hicks Barker. He was also preceded by brothers, Billy Barker and Hickey Barker. Mr. Barker retired from Pest Stop after 23 years of service. He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion Post 228 and the Big Sandy Volunteer Fire Department.

Survived by wife, Pauline Barker of Big Sandy, TN; son Bubba (Frankie) Barker of Big Sandy, TN; daughters: Ronda Reed of Big Sandy, TN; Regina (Del) McIntire of Springville, TN; Tanya (Alan) Pinion of Big Sandy, TN; brother, Clifton Dale (Nancy) Barker of Springville, TN; sister, Kay (Darryl) Holland of Paris, TN; grandchildren, Cody Pinon, Tristin (David) Drake, T.J. Reed, Erin (Ethan) Smith, Kory (Ashley) Barker, Larry George Barker; Great Grandchildren, Marshall, Alina, Lacy, and Leanna.

Visitation with the family will be on Friday, September 29, 2023 from

5:00-8:00 PM and Saturday, September 30, 2023 from 12:00-2:30 PM at Stockdale-Malin Funeral Home in Big Sandy, TN.

Graveside services will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 3 PM at McRaes Chapel Cemetery with Darryl Holland officiating.

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

Obituary published on Legacy.com by Stockdale-Malin Funeral Home - Camden/Big Sandy on Sep. 28, 2023.



AMERICAN LEGION



Daniel J. Seehafer,
National Commander
The American Legion

Congress must ensure our troops are paid

The American Legion | September 27, 2023

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

Once again Congress has driven the nation to the precipice. With a government shutdown closing in, our servicemembers face the prospect of not being paid even as they protect us around the globe.

Unlike the 35-day shutdown that ended in January 2019, no legislation has been passed ensuring that soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, cadets, and guardians are protected during a likely shutdown. That is because members of Congress have chosen quibbling and posturing over collaborating and passing the National Defense Authorization Act, which funds the Department of Defense (DoD).

During the previous shutdown as Congress sat idle, only the Coast Guard was not paid because they are funded through Homeland Security. So, The American Legion went to work. Legionnaires rallied to provide more than \$1 million in Temporary Financial Assistance grants to Coast Guard families in need.

Almost five years later, we find ourselves in a similar grim scenario. This time, each branch of our armed services will require assistance if Congress does not act.

To resolve this, Congress must pass H.R. 5641, the Pay Our Troops Act of 2023. This legislation would take unappropriated Treasury funds and pay our uniformed

military as well as civilian support staff in the event of a government shutdown on Oct 1. [Sign up for our Grassroots Action Center](#) so you can easily contact your representative and encourage them to support this critical legislation.

Without government funding, servicemembers would still continue to serve this great nation. The Pentagon would be able to continue to fund most projects and place orders to ensure national security. Other federal operations related to law enforcement and national security also would continue.



However, this dereliction of duty by Congress will reverberate throughout our military community.

Military families would face compounded challenges in providing food, shelter, and other necessities for their children.

Roughly 800,000 civilian employees at DoD would be furloughed.

In the event of a major national disaster, most employees of the Federal Emergency Management Agency would remain on the job. But National Guard troops, already stretched thin, may be called upon for their response.

It's time for partisan politics to end. It's time to forge an agreement for the sake of our nation. It's time to ensure every military member is paid during a shutdown.

Daniel J. Seehafer, National Commander
The American Legion



National commander pays tribute to Gold Star Families at Oregon Memorial

The American Legion | September 26, 2023



During his official visit to the Department of Oregon, National Commander Daniel Seehafer spoke during the dedication of a Gold Star Families memorial at Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, Ore.

Jason Rickelman/The American Legion

National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer dedicated a memorial to Gold Star Families during a passionate address in Ontario, Oregon Sunday.

"A single tribute is not enough but The American Legion of Oregon is proud to lend its support to the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs in dedicating this beautiful memorial," Seehafer said. "Gold Star families already made this country a better place through their own sacrifice."

Seehafer then read the words of [an 1864 letter that President Abraham wrote to Lydia Bixby](#), a Boston mother who was believed to have lost five sons in battle.

"I pray that our Heavenly father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement and leave you the only cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom. Yours, very sincerely and respectfully, A. Lincoln."

About 60 American Legion Family members, Gold Star relatives and residents of Ontario attended the dedication.

"I believe this event was important to not only convey to our local community that The American Legion will always stand and support our veterans and their families, but also let the world know the level of dedication and professionalism we bring to the table no matter the

task,” said Department of Oregon 1st Vice-Commander Dan Burks. “I don’t believe there could have been a better candidate to spread either message with the dedication and the passion our national commander presents with each speech. It was our pleasure and our honor to host the national commander and have him speak at our event in Ontario that will continue to spread across the state.”

Seehafer pointed out that for Gold Star Families, every day is Memorial Day. “We continue to mourn their loss,” he said of America’s fallen veterans. “But most of all, we will continue to celebrate their lives forever. And we are forever grateful to the Gold Star Families who have sacrificed their greatest treasures, so that we could live free. Free. Thank you so much family. God bless you; God bless America and God bless our Gold Star Families.”

FODPAL presents awards, installs officers at convention breakfast

FODPAL report | September 27, 2023

American Legion leaders from around the world gathered on Aug. 29 in the Charlotte Convention Center to honor Foreign & Outlying Departments and Posts of the American Legion (FODPAL) during the 104th National Convention. FODPAL consists of more than 15,000 Legion members worldwide serving their communities through some 250 posts outside the continental borders of the United States. FODPAL also has members in six posts in Canada, assigned to the following stateside departments: Maine, New York, Vermont, Washington, and Montana. Remembered at the breakfast was FODPAL President Steve Huisman, who entered Post Everlasting on Apr. 23; a chair at the head table was left empty in his honor.

The recipients of the 2022-2023 FODPAL awards are as follows:

Robert J. “Bob” Conrad Award for achieving the highest percentage increase in membership by a FODPAL Department: Department of Puerto Rico. This is the second year running that Puerto Rico has received this honor. Accepting the award was Department of Puerto Rico Commander Carmen Rosario.

Joseph “Joe” Craig Award for achieving the highest percentage increase in membership by a FODPAL post: Dorado Post 45, Department of Puerto Rico. Rosario also accepted this award.

Erle Cocke Jr. Award for outstanding dedication and service to FODPAL and American Legion programs, and Distinguished Service Award: Steve Huisman, Department of Alaska (posthumous). Huisman’s widow, Terri Huisman, accepted the awards.



A group photo of 2023-2024 FODPAL officers.

Photo by Hilary Ott/The American Legion

A certificate of appreciation was presented to the staff of the Legion’s Washington, D.C., office. Executive Director Chanin Nuntavong accepted the certificate.

Jim Grosset was elected FODPAL president for 2023-2024; the full slate of elected officers can be found [here](#).

See a photo gallery [here](#).

What’s affected by the government shutdown

The American Legion | September 29, 2023



During an anticipated government shutdown, due to start Oct. 1 unless Congress acts, critical federal government functions would continue but some important services would be paused.

Of critical importance to the nation and The American Legion is that all members of the military would continue their duties, though they would not receive paychecks. (Earlier this week American Legion National Commander Dan Seehafer [demanded Congress find a solution](#) to ensure that servicemembers would be paid during a shutdown.)

Additionally, hundreds of thousands of civilians in the Department of Defense (DoD) would be furloughed, affecting how the department manages its affairs globally. That includes recruiting new members, which has already been problematic for the service branches.

Here is an overview of how Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) services, as well as other DoD operations, would be affected — if at all — if the government shuts down.

VA services and operations. “We at VA are preparing for all contingencies, including the possibility that a lapse in funding could occur. A lapse would mean that certain Government activities would cease due to a lack of appropriated funding, and that designated pre-notified employees of this agency would be temporarily furloughed. We’ve prepared a contingency plan to execute an orderly shutdown of activities that would be affected by such a lapse. After the lapse ends, furloughed and excepted employees will receive retroactive pay for the furlough period as soon as possible,” according to a statement from the Deputy Secretary.

Specifically, services that will continue:

- Veteran medical care and critical services within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) will continue, as they are financed with other-than-annual appropriations.
- The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) will continue various benefit functions, such as Education Benefit Claims processing and payments, insurance processing, loan guaranty programs, Veteran Readiness and Employment payment processing, VBA National Call Centers (except for Education), Compensation and Pension Claims processing and payments, Decision Review Operations Centers, and management.
- The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) will continue to inter veterans and eligible family members, schedule burials and determine eligibility, process applications for headstones and markers, and update electronic files to ensure timely termination of benefits and next of kin notification of possible entitlement to survivor benefits.

- The Board of Veterans’ Appeals (BVA) will continue to render appellate decisions on veterans’ benefits cases and hold hearings to consider arguments and evidence related to those cases.
- VA compensation and pension benefits and education benefits are funded with other-than-annual appropriations, and the processing of appeals related to the timely and accurate payment of these entitlement benefits to or on behalf of veterans and their dependents is necessary by implication.
- The Veterans Experience Office (VEO) will maintain call center operations for MyVA411 and the PACT Act Contact Center as necessary to prevent disruption to mandatory VA benefit programs and to protect the health and safety of veterans relying on accessible health care through VHA.

Specifically, services that will be paused:

- Certain VBA functions, including the Education Call Center (the GI Bill Hotline: 888-GIBILL-1 or 888-442-4551); The Native American Veterans Direct Loan program (NADL) and the Vendee loan program which offers direct loans will cease. Veteran outreach to include Veteran Readiness and Employment (also known as Chapter 31 or VR&E) and Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (PCPG), or VA Chapter 36 will be suspended.
- Permanent headstone or marker installation by NCA employees; grounds maintenance (mowing, trimming, mulching or other landscape management); processing of new Presidential Memorial Certificates (PMC) or pre-need applications; and awarding of new grants as part of the Veterans Cemetery Grant Program.
- VA will close its public-facing regional offices.

DoD personnel. The troops will continue to serve our nation but will not receive their pay unless Congress passes last-minute legislation to ensure they continue to receive a paycheck, something that has been introduced in both the House and the Senate but not yet voted on.

Essential DoD civilian employees would also have to continue working without pay. About half of the Pentagon’s civilian workforce that handle areas such as recruiting and global affairs would be furloughed.

The military is automatically guaranteed pay — and would receive any backpay once a shutdown ends — but money cannot be dispersed until there is an agreed upon spending bill. If the government shuts down Oct. 1, the first payday that would be missed would be Oct. 13. Federal contractors would not receive backpay.

DoD military families. Servicemembers, especially those with young families, will face challenges if there is a shutdown.

“A shutdown would be detrimental for the department,” Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh said earlier this week. “Troops would go without pay. Military families would be impacted, of course. For folks that are not getting paychecks, which impacts how and when [they] can buy groceries, child care, all of these things. We’re hoping that Congress can reach a deal to avert a shutdown. But we are planning for that or taking steps to plan for that, should a shutdown occur.”

Commissaries will be closed on most bases in the continental U.S. Others overseas and in certain remote U.S. locations where no other sources of food are reasonably available for military personnel would remain open.

DoD operations. While servicemembers will continue safeguarding our nation and overseas interests, military training is expected to be compromised. The Pentagon will still be able to make purchases and fund new technology to maintain defense, however, a shutdown would create a lag time in doing so.

From food banks to pay advances, troops have help in a government shutdown

Joseph Ditzler/Stars and Stripes | September 29, 2023

Credit unions and aid societies are standing by to help service members and Defense Department employees who may have to work without a paycheck if a [government shutdown takes place Sunday](#).

Talks on Capitol Hill on Thursday failed to produce even a stopgap measure to keep the federal government running — or pay the military — until Congress can agree to a funding plan for the next fiscal year.

“It’s a unique situation over here, compared to what stateside installations could be dealing with, but we’re going to do our best,” Yokosuka Naval Base spokesman Randall Baucom told Stars and Stripes by phone Friday. “It’s not really that any of our services will be unavailable, it’s just the capacity of those services may be reduced.”

Many of those who do the heavy lifting will likely go without compensation.

Most service members are “excepted” during a shutdown, meaning they must work without pay; many civilian employees, such as [teachers and school-level staff at on-base schools](#), are also excepted, according to a Defense Department shutdown contingency plan compiled in August.

Excepted service members and civilians would receive backpay once the funding crisis is resolved.

Some civilian employees will be furloughed. Others, including many at non-appropriated fund activities such as base exchanges, will continue working, with pay, according to the contingency plan.



Stars and Stripes photo

Help available. For those who hold the line without compensation, some assistance is available to help them pay for rent and groceries.

Navy Federal Credit Union is offering paycheck advances to its eligible account holders with direct deposit, the bank announced on its website Tuesday. Active-duty service members, federal government employees and contractors “who are paid directly by the Federal government” are eligible, provided they have direct deposit with Navy Federal.

USAA is also offering a “one-time, no interest loan” equal to an eligible member’s net pay — from \$500 to \$6,000 — to help bridge a shutdown financial gap. Eligible members must also have payday direct deposit with the credit union.

Additional resources include on-base food banks, Military OneSource, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, the Air Force Aid Society, Army Emergency Relief, Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Relief Society, and the Department of the Navy Civilian Employee Assistance Program.

On Okinawa, rumors circulated that service members will be paid during a shutdown, said Marine Cpl. Joseph Fisher, a computer technician with Combat Logistics Regiment 37 at Camp Kinser.

“I had friends in the last shutdown, and they still got paid,” he said Friday at the Camp Foster commissary. “As far as active-duty service members, I don’t think we have anything to worry about.”

Congress did make sure the military was paid during the last government shutdown, the nation’s longest, from December 2018 to January 2019.

Business as usual, almost. Exchanges and commissaries will stay open, along with Morale, Welfare and Recreation departments, mess halls, fitness centers and “child care activities required for readiness,” according to the contingency plan.

U.S. Forces Japan did not respond Friday to an emailed request for further information on a potential shutdown.

Some services, like family and individual counseling, may be available intermittently during a shutdown, said a spokeswoman for Joint Region Marianas on Guam.

Some programs, such as military housing offices, Warfighter and Family Service Centers and counseling services, will remain open but may experience “delays or service interruptions,” joint region spokeswoman Catherine Norton said by email Friday.

On Okinawa, Marine spouse Ariana Bernard said she was tired of the “back and forth” in Congress and was “a little” concerned about the looming shutdown.

“I feel like it always happens,” she said. “Make a decision earlier. You know the deadline is coming. Everybody else has to make their deadlines, so why not hold them accountable?”

Stars and Stripes reporters Matthew M. Burke, Seth Robson and Alex Wilson contributed to this report.



Public input sought on design of National Global War on Terrorism Memorial

The American Legion | September 26, 2023



BEGIN DESIGN HISTORY SURVEY

Estimated survey length: 5 minutes

Open for your input Sept 26- Oct 17, 2023

The Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation is proud to launch an unprecedented public input campaign inviting the public to share design insight for the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial, which will be built on the National Mall.

The campaign will run for 22 days, representing 22 years of America's ongoing fight against terrorism. As part of this campaign, Americans have an opportunity to design history by providing their thoughts, inspiration, and dreams for the Memorial that will honor all those impacted by the Global War on Terrorism, including uniformed and non-uniformed military personnel, civilians, their families, and everyday men and women who have sacrificed to protect our freedom.

Click the button below to take part in this historic survey and add your voice to help inform the Foundation's design team.

BEGIN DESIGN HISTORY SURVEY

Estimated survey length: 5 minutes

The [Global War on Terrorism \(GWOT\) Memorial Foundation](#) now has a designated site and a designer for its national memorial in Washington, D.C., and its fundraising campaign is in full swing. Now the foundation is asking for the public’s help in designing “the most inclusive war memorial in American history.”

Foundation President/CEO Michael "Rod" Rodríguez stated to The American Legion, “We know that all who have served and sacrificed in this war, as well as their loved ones, have unique experiences they think the memorial should reflect. We want you and people in your networks to help us tell those stories.”

The [“Help Design History” campaign](#) will run for 22 days, Sept. 26 to Oct. 17 – one day for each year the GWOT has been fought. Sept. 26 also marks the anniversary of Operation JAWBREAKER, when Team Alpha from the CIA Special Activities Division became the first Americans deployed to Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks.

This is the public’s chance to express what they think the memorial should look like, and the message it should send to fellow Americans and the world. The American Legion supports the memorial’s construction by [resolution](#).

2024 SAL Membership Report as of: September 28, 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	-52	82	68.33%	63.03
2	FRANCE	168	-61	103	61.31%	55.76
3	LOUISIANA	1,821	-518	973	53.43%	49.36
4	GEORGIA	4,887	-1,082	2,304	47.15%	42.65
5	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	-269	672	41.71%	36.56
6	WISCONSIN	4,398	-648	1,747	39.72%	36.59
7	IDAHO	659	-90	255	38.69%	32.41
8	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-373	1,065	38.45%	32.41
9	MISSISSIPPI	736	-89	273	37.09%	35.17
10	ALABAMA	2,100	-232	757	36.05%	31.67
11	MONTANA	1,091	-113	386	35.38%	33.05
12	ILLINOIS	13,716	-1,377	4,806	35.04%	33.90
13	PUERTO RICO	156	-13	52	33.33%	32.68
14	IOWA	4,914	-284	1,512	30.77%	29.26
15	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-51	320	29.77%	26.17
16	WYOMING	1,248	-57	369	29.57%	26.48
17	UTAH	460	-15	130	28.26%	26.70
18	FLORIDA	23,066	-644	6,410	27.79%	22.04
19	KANSAS	6,055	-99	1,613	26.64%	24.62
20	TENNESSEE	1,792	-29	477	26.62%	22.90
21	TEXAS	5,783	-88	1,534	26.53%	23.57
22	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	-16	408	25.99%	19.64
23	RHODE ISLAND	348	-2	89	25.57%	21.28
24	MISSOURI	3,337	17	817	24.48%	21.12
25	MARYLAND	16,803	135	4,066	24.20%	21.22
26	OREGON	1,534	16	368	23.99%	18.84
27	NEVADA	387	6	91	23.51%	19.85
28	VIRGINIA	4,367	87	1,005	23.01%	18.75
29	INDIANA	37,244	929	8,382	22.51%	20.41
30	CONNECTICUT	1,865	50	416	22.31%	18.35
31	CALIFORNIA	11,292	353	2,470	21.87%	18.47
32	ARKANSAS	406	15	87	21.43%	16.75
33	MINNESOTA	11,435	434	2,425	21.21%	19.83
34	KENTUCKY	2,399	97	503	20.97%	17.67
35	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	235	1,123	20.67%	18.42
36	OKLAHOMA	1,430	68	290	20.28%	17.15
37	NEW JERSEY	9,662	543	1,873	19.39%	17.56
38	DELAWARE	2,596	158	491	18.91%	14.82
39	OHIO	31,690	1,934	5,989	18.90%	16.84
40	VERMONT	3,920	244	736	18.78%	17.34
41	NEW YORK	30,663	2,063	5,603	18.27%	16.36
42	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	417	1,090	18.09%	16.57
43	NEBRASKA	6,992	514	1,234	17.65%	16.63
44	COLORADO	2,952	230	508	17.21%	15.80
45	ARIZONA	8,595	782	1,367	15.90%	12.45
46	MICHIGAN	26,236	2,466	4,093	15.60%	12.74
47	WASHINGTON	2,682	313	358	13.35%	9.00
48	ALASKA	1,740	221	214	12.30%	9.71
49	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	8,585	7,102	11.32%	9.68
50	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	369	279	10.76%	8.09
51	NEW MEXICO	1,582	226	170	10.75%	8.08
52	MAINE	2,757	494	195	7.07%	5.47
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	15,839	79,689	20.85%	18.30

2024 SAL Regional Breakdown

Western Region - James R. Fischer, Sr. (CA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	120	82	68.33%
IDAHO	659	255	38.69%
MONTANA	1,091	386	35.38%
WYOMING	1,248	369	29.57%
UTAH	460	130	28.26%
OREGON	1,534	368	23.99%
NEVADA	387	91	23.51%
CALIFORNIA	11,292	2,470	21.87%
COLORADO	2,952	508	17.21%
ARIZONA	8,595	1,367	15.90%
WASHINGTON	2,682	358	13.35%
ALASKA	1,740	214	12.30%
NEW MEXICO	1,582	170	10.75%
MEXICO	33	2	6.06%
PHILIPPINES	79	3	3.80%
Totals:	34,454	6,773	19.66%

Southeast Region - Linwood A. Moore (VA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
LOUISIANA	1,821	973	53.43%
GEORGIA	4,887	2,304	47.15%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	1,065	38.45%
MISSISSIPPI	736	273	37.09%
ALABAMA	2,100	757	36.05%
PUERTO RICO	156	52	33.33%
FLORIDA	23,066	6,410	27.79%
TENNESSEE	1,792	477	26.62%
TEXAS	5,783	1,534	26.53%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	408	25.99%
VIRGINIA	4,367	1,005	23.01%
ARKANSAS	406	87	21.43%
Totals:	49,454	15,345	31.03%

Midwest Region - Terry A. Harris (KS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	672	41.71%
IOWA	4,914	1,512	30.77%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	320	29.77%
KANSAS	6,055	1,613	26.64%
MISSOURI	3,337	817	24.48%
OKLAHOMA	1,430	290	20.28%
NEBRASKA	6,992	1,234	17.65%
Totals:	25,414	6,458	25.41%

Northeast Region - John R. Cook (NH)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	168	103	61.31%
RHODE ISLAND	348	89	25.57%
MARYLAND	16,803	4,066	24.20%
CONNECTICUT	1,865	416	22.31%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	1,123	20.67%
NEW JERSEY	9,662	1,873	19.39%
DELAWARE	2,596	491	18.91%
VERMONT	3,920	736	18.78%
NEW YORK	30,663	5,603	18.27%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	1,090	18.09%
PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	7,102	11.32%
MAINE	2,757	195	7.07%
DIST OF COL	91	2	2.20%
Totals:	143,078	22,889	16.00%

Central Region - Robert L. Bristo (MN)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,398	1,747	39.72%
ILLINOIS	13,716	4,806	35.04%
INDIANA	37,244	8,382	22.51%
MINNESOTA	11,435	2,425	21.21%
KENTUCKY	2,399	503	20.97%
OHIO	31,690	5,989	18.90%
MICHIGAN	26,236	4,093	15.60%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	279	10.76%
Totals:	129,711	28,224	21.76%

09/28/23	NATIONAL Donald "JR" Hall (MD) National Commander						
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date	105% Date
Southeast 1, 2	49,454	15,345	(34,109)	31.03%	653		
Midwest 1, 2	25,414	6,458	(18,956)	25.41%	348		
Central 1	129,711	28,224	(101,487)	21.76%	1,547		
Western 1	34,454	6,773	(27,681)	19.66%	303		
Northeast 1	143,078	22,889	(120,189)	16.00%	1,981		
TOTALS 1	382,111	79,689	(302,422)	20.85%	4,832		

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION



09/25/23	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, 3	4,398	1,747	(2,651)	39.72%	15	6	36.59%		
Illinois 1, 2	13,716	4,806	(8,910)	35.04%	322	12	33.90%		
Indiana 1	37,244	8,382	(28,862)	22.51%	412	29	20.41%		
Minnesota 1	11,435	2,425	(9,010)	21.21%	156	33	19.83%		
Kentucky 1	2,399	503	(1,896)	20.97%	5	34	17.67%		
Ohio 1	31,690	5,989	(25,701)	18.90%	390	39	16.84%		
Michigan 1	26,236	4,093	(22,143)	15.60%	243	46	12.74%		
West Virginia 1	2,593	279	(2,314)	10.76%	4	50	8.09%		
TOTALS 1	129,711	28,224	(101,487)	21.76%	1,547				

09/28/23	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	82	(38)	68.33%	-	1	63.03%		
Idaho 1, 2, 3	659	255	(404)	38.69%	7	7	32.41%		
Montana 1, 2, 3	1,091	386	(705)	35.38%	5	11	33.05%		
Wyoming 1, 2	1,248	369	(879)	29.57%	26	16	26.48%		
Utah 1, 2	460	130	(330)	28.26%	1	17	26.70%		
Oregon 1	1,534	368	(1,166)	23.99%	8	26	18.84%		
Nevada 1	387	91	(296)	23.51%	3	27	19.85%		
California 1	11,292	2,470	(8,822)	21.87%	88	31	18.47%		
Colorado 1	2,952	508	(2,444)	17.21%	73	44	15.80%		
Arizona 1	8,595	1,367	(7,228)	15.90%	44	45	12.45%		
Washington	2,682	358	(2,324)	13.35%	24	47	9.00%		
Alaska	1,740	214	(1,526)	12.30%	11	48	9.71%		
New Mexico	1,582	170	(1,412)	10.75%	13	51	8.08%		
Mexico	33	2	(31)	6.06%	-	53	6.25%		
Phillippines	79	3	(76)	3.80%	-	54	2.53%		
TOTALS 1	34,454	6,773	(27,681)	19.66%	303				

09/28/23	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	973	(848)	53.43%	26	3	49.36%		
Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4	4,887	2,304	(2,583)	47.15%	57	4	42.65%		
North Carolina 1, 2, 3	2,770	1,065	(1,705)	38.45%	44	8	32.41%		
Mississippi 1, 2, 3	736	273	(463)	37.09%	9	9	35.17%		
Alabama 1, 2, 3	2,100	757	(1,343)	36.05%	11	10	31.67%		
Puerto Rico 1	156	52	(104)	33.33%	-	13	32.68%		
Florida 1, 2	23,066	6,410	(16,656)	27.79%	319	18	22.04%		
Tennessee 1, 2	1,792	477	(1,315)	26.62%	8	20	22.90%		
Texas 1, 2	5,783	1,534	(4,249)	26.53%	83	21	23.57%		
South Carolina 1, 2	1,570	408	(1,162)	25.99%	20	22	19.64%		
Virginia 1	4,367	1,005	(3,362)	23.01%	72	28	18.75%		
Arkansas 1	406	87	(319)	21.43%	4	32	16.75%		
TOTALS 1, 2	49,454	15,345	(34,109)	31.03%	653				

09/28/23	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
South Dakota 1, 2, 3	1,611	672	(939)	41.71%	56	5	36.56%		
Iowa 1, 2	4,914	1,512	(3,402)	30.77%	115	14	29.26%		
North Dakota 1, 2	1,075	320	(755)	29.77%	22	15	26.17%		
Kansas 1, 2	6,055	1,613	(4,442)	26.64%	93	19	24.62%		
Missouri 1	3,337	817	(2,520)	24.48%	29	24	21.12%		
Oklahoma 1	1,430	290	(1,140)	20.28%	15	36	17.15%		
Nebraska 1	6,992	1,234	(5,758)	17.65%	18	43	16.63%		
TOTALS 1, 2	25,414	6,458	(18,956)	25.41%	6,458				

09/28/23	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
France 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	168	103	(65)	61.31%	-	2	55.76%		
Rhode Island 1, 2	348	89	(259)	25.57%	10	23	21.28%		
Maryland 1	16,803	4,066	(12,737)	24.20%	180	25	21.22%		
Connecticut 1	1,865	416	(1,449)	22.31%	53	30	18.35%		
Massachusetts 1	5,432	1,123	(4,309)	20.67%	52	35	18.42%		
New Jersey 1	9,662	1,873	(7,789)	19.39%	129	37	17.56%		
Delaware 1	2,596	491	(2,105)	18.91%	5	38	14.82%		
Vermont 1	3,920	736	(3,184)	18.78%	25	40	17.34%		
New York 1	30,663	5,603	(25,060)	18.27%	1,019	41	16.36%		
New Hampshire 1	6,027	1,090	(4,937)	18.09%	57	42	16.57%		
Pennsylvania	62,746	7,102	(55,644)	11.32%	451	49	9.68%		
Maine	2,757	195	(2,562)	7.07%	-	52	5.47%		
Dist. of Columbia	91	2	(89)	2.20%	-	55	1.14%		
TOTALS 1	143,078	22,889	(120,189)	16.00%	1,981				

09/28/23	2023 SUPER SIX STANDINGS								
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
Florida 1, 2	23,066	6,410	(16,656)	27.79%	319	18	22.04%		
Indiana 1	37,244	8,382	(28,862)	22.51%	412	29	20.41%		
Ohio 1	31,690	5,989	(25,701)	18.90%	390	39	16.84%		
New York 1	30,663	5,603	(25,060)	18.27%	1,019	41	16.36%		
Michigan 1	26,236	4,093	(22,143)	15.60%	243	46	12.74%		
Pennsylvania	62,746	8,585	(54,161)	13.68%	1,934	49	9.68%		
TOTALS	211,645	39,062	(172,583)	18.46%	4,317				

National Totals 1	382,111	79,689	(302,422)	20.85%	4,832		18.30%		
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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%

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	