



'We stand with Israel'

The American Legion | October 9, 2023



The U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford

CVN-78

The American Legion strongly condemns the violence in the Mideast and extends full support for the U.S. troops heading into the Eastern Mediterranean to deter further escalation, National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer said.

"We find ourselves on the precipice of a war that could lead to the loss of more lives and lead to a broader conflict," Seehafer said. "We stand with Israel and condemn the attacks by Hamas. At the same time, we pray for those lost to the senseless violence and for the safety of our men and women in uniform who are standing by to protect our national interests."

Hamas carried out a massive attack on Israel on Saturday, firing thousands of

rockets while dozens of Hamas fighters infiltrated the border by air, land, and sea. The attack occurred on Simchat Torah, a major Jewish holiday when Jews complete the annual cycle of reading the Torah scroll.

More than 700 Israeli civilians and members of the military had been killed. Another 2,150 were wounded. "The enemy will pay an unprecedented price," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, adding that Israel would "return fire of a magnitude that the enemy has not known."

Additionally, Seehafer pointed out that this attack comes at a time when Congress has failed to act on several major issues related to national security.

"The fact that the U.S. House of Representatives is without a speaker is alarming," he said. "Congress must prioritize filling the speaker's seat and expediting key matters involving our military, as confirming all general officer nominations, funding our military and ensuring our servicemembers get paid."

WE STAND



WITH ISRAEL

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



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

BE THE ONE

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

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

Don't fall out of the habit of supporting our veterans

October - 2023

Greetings Legion Family,

Ready or not, here comes the fall. As fall moves in, days get shorter, darker and the temperature drops, leaving more people to stay inside where it's warmer. That also stops us from seeing each other as much, which means not seeing our neighbors, veterans and friends as much. Darkness is not always good for everyone, so please remember during these times to "Be the One" to do Buddy Checks on your neighbors, veterans and friends. You never know how much a phone call to someone will mean when they are alone.

Veterans Day falls on a Saturday this year, so it removes many excuses why we can't get out to honor our American heroes. I hope each squadron is planning to do something at your home post to let our veterans know that we appreciate their service to our great nation. It is also a great time to have a Flying Flags for Heroes event. That would be a great way to honor all of our veterans who have been called to Post Everlasting. If your post or squadron does not have an event planned, then look for memorials in your area and go place a flag yourself, take a picture of it and post it on Legiointown.org. We all need to find a way to make sure our military, past and present, know that we support them and are here for them.

Remember, you signed up to honor your family member's service, so ask yourself, "What am I doing to truly honor their service?" You don't have to do it the same way I do; honor your family service your own way. Show your pride in your family's service and your appreciation for others. Talk to a veteran in need and "Be the One" to change a life or save a life.

Sincerely,

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

"Representing More Than Me"

Representing More Than Me

From the Editor

Later in this edition, you will find the 2023 Consolidated Reports Summary, published August 25, 2023.

When you look at the report, you will see the nearly \$10 million donated, and over 3.2 million hours volunteered. When you total the donations with the value of volunteer hours, \$114,204.21 was the total volunteer value. These are great numbers that every member of Sons of The American Legion should be very proud about.

On the flip side, we should all be ashamed that we only received 1,853 reports out of 5,938 squadrons. This means that only 31.21% of our members completed this mandatory report. Our numbers would be three times higher if we got as close to 100% reporting as possible.

Can we double, or even triple, our reporting numbers? Absolutely! For my squadron, we keep track on a monthly basis on a CSR spreadsheet. It makes it a whole lot easier at the end of the year when we already have the information and the totals in front of us.

When we see a more accurate picture of what we do, others will notice. People will want to become members when we can accurately brag about what we really do.

Every squadron participates in something. Now is the time to rethink what we do afterwards. Please take the few minutes each month to document your donations and volunteer hours. I think you will be surprised how your numbers increase for the squadron, as well as how impressive our national numbers will be.

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

A few years ago, I had the pleasure of attending the homecoming of American Legion Auxiliary National President Nicole Clapp in her hometown of Gladbrook, Iowa, population 799. Here in this small sleepy farming community is located the Ehrig-McTurk American Legion Post #127 where President Clapp was first exposed to the "Pretty Red Flower" (Poppy) that she used to help hand out when she was a small child. Who knew that many years later she would serve as the "Honorary Jr. Auxiliary National President" during Past American Legion Commander Jake Comer's year and then on to the National stage and serve two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During a dinner at her Post/Unit that weekend, the Commander of Squadron 127 had the opportunity to speak and during his comments, he mentioned that he is frequently asked how a small squadron gets so much done. His answer has stuck with me since that day. He simply said, "we looked around our community and filled the holes." I know of no better way to describe what it is we do all across the nation for our communities! We the Sons of The American Legion "Fill the Holes!" We do what is needed to pick up where others may have failed and do what is needed for the volunteer fire department, the local library, the state Veterans home, as well as our very own Posts, Units and Squadrons!

In Illinois, we have squadrons like this as well. Edgewood Squadron #1168 is very similar to its Gladbrook, Iowa cousin. A Small farming community south of Effingham, Illinois the members meet each month and together decide who in the community needs a little help and with a small cash donation and some SAL labor, they take care of the needs of their community.

This past year, our commitment to helping our communities added up to over 3,288,625 volunteer hours with a value of \$104,578,288!

Now that is filling the holes!

There was a lot of talk this past weekend during the Fall NEC in Indianapolis about how to involve our younger members in all SAL and American Legion programs and activities. No one will argue that the average age of an **SAL** member is today much higher than it was back in 1975 when the modern **SAL** was a very young organization just celebrating its 4th National Convention.

That year the second National Commander from Illinois was elected using the theme **SAL!** No not Sons of The American Legion but **S. A. L. - "Someday America's Leaders."** Commander Greg Reis had been a member of Squadron 626 since the age of 7 and understood how we Sons would have the ability to mold, educate, and develop younger members! Greg was the first National Commander to have 5 National Vice-Commanders serve with him and the very first to host a Commander's Homecoming. Nelson Mandela's quote of **"Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders"** is used way too frequently and overstated, but there is no denying that they are not **"just"** kids, they are and will be our future Leaders! So, it is up to the American Legion Family and other veterans service organizations to take the time to teach our **"Future"** leaders.

As US History and Civics seem to not be a major part of today's educational platforms, it is up to us to take the youth of this nation under our wing and guide them into the future they deserve. **As President Barack Obama said, "If we want America to stay on the cutting edge, we need young Americans to master the tools and technology that will change the way we do just about everything."** As members of the Sons of The American Legion, we need to provide these tools!

It's not about perfection. It's about effort, and when we make that effort every single day; that's where transformation happens! That's how change occurs, and our goals are met!

Keep up the good work my brothers!

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 another quote this past week from Andrew Carnegie *"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."* This reminds me of us hitting the 105% as a Western Region and all Detachments hitting 100% last year and I know we can do it again this year!

Awesome job Westside. The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each individual member is the team.

Thanks again for all you do and keep up the great work.

What an Awesome Fall NEC meeting we had this past weekend. It was great hanging with my American Legion Family and especially meeting my new American Legion Family. Kendall Hailey says, "The greatest gift of family life is to be intimately acquainted with people you might never even introduced yourself to, had life not done it for you." I feel same way about my

American Legion Family, and I am super stoked to be part of this great organization.

The strength of each individual member is the team. Thanks again for all you do and keep up the great work.

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.

Tennessee districts able to 'be the one' for veteran being evicted from home

The American Legion | October 4, 2023

The sign placed in his yard made it very clear how dire the situation was.

A disabled veteran in Johnson City, Tenn., was going to be evicted from his residence in less than four days. His sign stated he had run out of funds and needed help packing up, as well as renting a moving truck.

The daughter of past Greeneville American Legion Post 64 Commander Grady Barefield lives near the veteran, saw the sign and reached out to her father.



Barefield then reached out to American Legion First District Commander Jim McLaughlin to see what could be done to assist the veteran. McLaughlin reached out to Johnson City Post 24 leadership and asked them to look into the situation.

"I need you to go to this house and find out just how legit this is," McLaughlin said he told Post 24 Adjutant [Michael Metzner](#). "If you deem this veteran is in deep trouble and we need to help ... get me a moving date and I'll rally the troops. You just let him know help is on the way."

The situation was serious, and action was taken. As a result, the veteran received both the moving truck and help packing from 10 different First District Legion posts, some from more than 80 miles away. And the work of the First District Legion Family may have also saved a life in the process.

"We all work together. We all communicate with each other," McLaughlin said of the First District. "We all help each other, that is what The American Legion is

supposed to be. The coordination of helping this one veteran was a piece of cake. It touched my heart, there's no doubt about it."

The veteran already had paid for a 26-foot-long U-Haul, but it wasn't close to being big enough to hold all of his possessions, so Post 24 paid for a second U-Haul. And with all the 19 Legion Family members chipping in, everything was packed up in three and a half hours.

"Michael told me over the phone that when he met the (veteran), he was done. His state of depression ... he was at his lowest point," McLaughlin said. "The man's beaten cancer a couple times, so he's not had an easy life. So honest to God, when we showed up that morning ... it made a difference.

"Mike Metzner, he looked at me and said, 'Today we saved a life, boss.' And I said, 'Yes sir, we did.' We're here to help. We're here to be the one."

The veteran's son found him a piece of property in Tennessee to relocate to. And when it comes time to unpack the trailers, The American Legion will be there to assist.

In Tennessee's Third District, Bradley County Post 81 Adjutant Dwight Woodcock said Legionnaires stand ready to assist when the veteran is ready to move into his new residence. "His U-Hauls are in Chattanooga," Woodcock said. "They're waiting to be unloaded as soon as we get the word. We don't kick it down the road. Someone's got to be in charge in real-time."

In addition to serving in multiple American Legion positions, Woodcock also is a mentor within the Tennessee Veterans Treatment Court system. Assisting veterans through the court "is how we change the world and be the one. At least for me it is," Woodcock said. "I'm just doing what I can in Southeast Tennessee."

NEC-approved resolutions focus on mental health

The American Legion | October 13, 2023

The American Legion National Executive Committee passed several resolutions during its annual Fall Meetings Oct. 11-12 in Indianapolis at National Headquarters. All approved resolutions will soon be made available in the [Digital Archive](#). The following are a few that focus on the Legion's Be the One suicide prevention mission, Legion accredited service officers and transitioning servicemembers.

Resolution No. 9: Department of Veterans Affairs S.A.V.E. Training at Posts. The origin of this resolution is from the Department of New York, as VA S.A.V.E. training has been held at the post, district and department level in support of the Legion's [Be the One](#) suicide-prevention mission to save the lives of veterans and destigmatize asking for mental health support. The acronym stands for:

- S** Signs of suicidal thinking should be recognized.
- A** Ask the most important question of all, "Are you thinking of killing yourself?"
- V** Validate the veteran's experience.
- E** Encourage treatment and expedite getting help.



Hilary Ott/The American Legion

Resolution No. 9 strongly encourages American Legion posts to host VA S.A.V.E. training classes and to invite local community, government agencies, not-for-profits, and businesses to participate in the training.

American Legion posts interested in hosting a VA S.A.V.E. training class can facilitate it through their local VA Medical Center's suicide-prevention team. A post can locate contact information for their local suicide prevention team through the [Veterans Crisis Line Resource using this link](#). Once on the website, enter a ZIP code and press search. Then select the box next to Suicide Prevention Coordinators and press search again. Once completed, you will be provided with the closest suicide prevention coordinator and their contact information.

The NEC also passed **Resolution No. 5**, which calls on Congress to pass legislation funding continued research of emerging therapies, such as MDMA, Ibogaine, 5-MeO-DMT and psilocybin, to address veteran suicides, and for VA to conduct research on these

emerging therapies and funding and training of VA clinicians on safe administration.

Resolution No. 10: Oppose Claims Reviews by Private Companies. Legislation currently pending in Congress, Preserving Lawful Utilization of Services for Veterans Act (PLUS Act) proposes amendments to Title 38 of the United States Code to allow private companies, including foreign-owned entities, to handle the review of claims for benefits under laws administered by the VA Secretary. The American Legion has concern regarding the protection and security of sensitive data and medical information of military veterans and believes government entities responsible for reviewing claims for benefits possess the necessary expertise, understanding and accountability to serve the unique needs and circumstances of military veterans.

Resolution No. 10 affirms the Legion's stance that only properly trained VA-accredited representatives should be authorized to file initial claims, and it urges Congress to pass legislation to restore criminal penalties for persons or companies, including those with foreign ownership, violating VA rules regarding representing or charging veteran fees to file, prepare or prosecute initial VA claims without VA accreditation. The resolution also urges Congress to fully fund and support VA staffing for the enforcement of criminal penalties, as well as for oversight of new VA-accredited persons and companies; and it urges VA and Congress to support the efforts of VA-approved and accredited organizations like The American Legion so they can ensure veterans and their families continue to receive free representation when filing a VA benefits claim. If you need help finding an American Legion accredited service officer, [click here](#).

Resolution No. 13: Transition Assistance Program App. An estimated 200,000 servicemembers separate from the military every year, and while active duty servicemembers must begin Transition Assistance Program (TAP) no later than 365 days before separation or retirement, the Government Accountability Office found in its December 2022 report that 70% of transitioning servicemembers did not start TAP at least 365 days in advance. And the report showed 25% of servicemembers requiring maximum transition support did not attend a two-day individual training track or were waived from attending by unit leaders.

In Resolution No. 13, The American Legion "urges Congress to direct all federal executive branch agencies involved in the Transition Assistance Program to establish a private-public partnership to create a

transition app with an artificial intelligence component;" and that the app equip active-duty servicemembers and veterans with the necessary information on the resources and benefits available to them.

In line with TAP, the NEC passed **Resolution No. 6**, which "urges Congress to mandate that separating servicemembers utilizing Department of Defense mental health services who find themselves in need of additional support post-transition are made eligible to use the Veterans Health Administration behavioral and mental health services for up to 12 months from their date of separation, with the first six months of copay requirements waived."

National Buddy Check Week Kick-Off with The American Legion and Veterans Affairs



Join The American Legion and Veterans Affairs in kicking off the first National Buddy Check Week where veterans can reach out to fellow veterans and make an impact on the Nation.

We all remember our Battle Buddies.

We served our nation together. Learned how to be good service members together. Helped each other through trying times. We were always there for each other, no matter what.

While our active-duty service has concluded, our commitment to fellow veterans has not. That's the driving force behind The American Legion's Buddy Check program, which began in 2019.

The American Legion is thrilled that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is taking the lead in National Buddy Check Week this October. We are just as honored to be partnering with VA in a kickoff webinar on Oct. 16 to highlight the importance of making connections this week.

[VA's first-ever Buddy Check Week – get involved! - VA News](#)

Speakers include:

	Matthew Miller, PhD, MPH Executive Director VA Suicide Prevention
	John Boerstler Chief Veterans Experience Officer
	Autrey James, Chairman Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission The American Legion

Mon, Oct 16 | 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EDT | Online event

[Register Here](#)

National Commissions and Committees

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

100th Anniversary Committee

Part of CENTCOM

Kevin Winkleman (TX), Chairman

100th Anniversary Sub-Committee Officially Meets

Bill Towns, Past National Historian

History was made October 6, 2023, at the Fall NEC Century Committee Meeting as CENTCOM Chairman Jeff Vrabel Sr. called for the first official report of the 100th Anniversary Sub-Committee. Vice Chairman PNC Bob Worrell started by introducing the Initial sub-committee members working on this important project. PNC Kevin Winkelmann (TX) Chairman, PNC Robert “Bob” Worrell (IN) Vice-Chairman, PNC David Faust (WI), PNC Greg Doc Gibbs (NY), William “Bill” Towns (OH).

The objectives are to:

- Compile a complete written history of The Sons of The American Legion.
- Assist each Detachment to complete their history.
- Encourage each Squadron to complete its history.
- Celebrate starting at the 2027 National Convention through the 2033 National Convention.
- Convention 2027 Highlighting 1932-1951 *The Beginning*
- Convention 2028 Highlighting 1952-1971 *The Rebirth*
- Convention 2029 Highlighting 1972-1991 *The Formative Years*
- Convention 2030 Highlighting 1992-2011 *The Growth Years*
- Convention 2031 Highlighting 2012-2031 *The Defining Years*
- Convention 2032 Kicking of the yearlong Centennial Celebration.
- Profile Squadrons with 60 plus years of service.
- Profile former award winners.
- Highlight 50 plus year members.
- Open Conventions 2027-2032 with a video about the highlighted period.
- Plan and carry out all activities of the Centennial Celebration.
- Work with Committees on Membership, Convention, CENTCOM, Public Media, and others as needed.
- Do a Time Capsule fundraiser to be kept at National Headquarters until 2132.
- Develop a Founders Award to honor members for serving the programs we support.
- Present The American Legion with a gift in honor of our Centennial (large and dynamic).



For this to happen we are requesting that each Detachment appoint a point of contact to the 100th Anniversary Sub-Committee. There is also a need for every American Legion Family Member to collect, and record old documents, pictures, awards, newsletters, and items of interest. To register as a Detachment Contact, Donate Historical Items (Digital Copies are acceptable), or just to find out additional information contact:

Chairman PNC Keven Winkelmann
knwink@msn.com

Vice-Chairman PNC Bob Worrell
rworrel23@icloud.com

Past National Historian Bill Towns
docbill@neo.rr.com

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

Legion awards \$238,750 to Boys State, Girls State participants

The American Legion | October 12, 2023



The 2023 Samsung American Legion Scholarship recipients have been named. The 86 scholarship recipients – who attended either the 2022 American Legion Boys State or Auxiliary Girls State session – were selected by The American Legion's Committee on Youth Education during the organization's annual Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Oct. 7.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship awarded 10 national scholars with \$10,000, 10 runners-up with \$5,000, and 71 state finalists each will receive \$1,250 for undergraduate study.

National Scholars by region

- Central Region: Allison Hughes (PA) and Sydney Kirages (IL)
- Midwest Region: Keatin Hertz (MT) and Ashton Extrand (MN)
- Northeast Region: Noel Villepigue (CT) and Adrianna Hutton (DE)
- Southeast Region: Jordan Smothers (GA) and David David III (TX)
- Western Region: Charles Hiatt (CA) and Dayson Macdonald (UT)

Runners Up by Region

- Central Region: Austin Hinkley (MI) and Henry Pahlow (WI)
- Midwest Region: Tess Meggison (IA) and Amber Maluschka (CO)
- Northeast Region: Brady Barrett (NY) and Madeline Hutton (NY)
- Southeast Region: Matthew Murray (AR) and Anna Eaves (LA)
- Western Region: Maikyleigh Cater (AZ) and Braylee Peterson (ID)

The recipients earned the award based on several criteria, including participation in the 2023 session of American Legion Boys State or Auxiliary Girls State, and being a direct descendant of a wartime veteran eligible for American Legion membership.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is available for high school juniors who participate in the current session of Boys State or Girls State and are direct descendants (or legally adopted children) of wartime veterans eligible for American Legion membership. The Samsung scholarship supports undergraduate studies (e.g., room and board, tuition, and books), and each applicant is selected according to his or her involvement in school and community activities, academic record, and financial need.

For more information about the scholarship, visit legion.org/scholarships/samsung.



Century Committee

Joe Gladden (MD), 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



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

What is VoterVoice?

[VoterVoice](#) is a comprehensive digital advocacy solution to help the American Legion mobilize American Legion Family Members, amplify the American Legion message, and take action on the legislation and regulations that matter to you.

The American Legion's Legislative Division uses VoterVoice as its grassroots advocacy platform for connecting the American Legion Family members and advocates with their members of Congress. VoterVoice allows The American Legion to contact every member of Congress on large, national campaigns as well as target specific members on key committees that pertain to The American Legion's legislative priorities.

It's Simple & Painless and just freaking easy!! Take two minutes and become an advocate for all veterans! Joining VoterVoice allows you to continue supporting the ideas and beliefs of The American Legion, The American Legion Family, and the individual who gave you eligibility to join the Sons and become the Sons member you are today.

Washington Conference 2024

Included later in this issue is the final draft of this year's Washington Conference including bus schedules and other pertinent information. The Legislative Commission is looking for a big crowd this year and bus seating is first-come-first-serve. The American Legion will cut it off where they deem necessary, so it's important to get this filled out and sent in as soon as possible. Chairman Miles will be sending another reminder to near the first of the year, as many wait until their Mid-Winter Conference to get this done.

Again, thank you for helping the Legislative Commission accomplish its main goal for the 2023-2024 year.

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) Ad hoc 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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RENEW

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

Honoring repatriated Vietnam War Air Force pilot: 'This is what we do'

[Steven B. Brooks](#) | October 12, 2023

One of the missions of The American Legion is to work toward achieving a full accounting of all POW/MIAs from the Gulf War, Vietnam War, Cold War, Korean War and World War II. This means returning living POWs, the repatriation of their remains, or finding convincing evidence why neither of these is possible. And once a former POW or MIA is accounted for and returned home to a final resting place, members of the American Legion Family often are among those welcoming that former servicemember home.

Such was the case on Oct. 10, when Legion Family members from across North Carolina descended upon the town of Waynesville for the funeral of former Vietnam War MIA Capt. Fred M. Hall. A U.S. Air Force pilot, the then 25-year-old Hall was shot down during a mission in Quảng Nam Province in 1969. His crash site wasn't located until 1995, and it wasn't until last

March that he was identified – more than 54 years after the F-4 Phantom he served as navigator on crashed.

With the Great Smoky and Blue Ridge Mountains as the backdrop, Legion Honor Guards stood near Hall's gravesite in Green Hill Cemetery, as other Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary members, Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Riders helped stage a flag line that the caisson and riderless horse passed by as it reached its final stop. Hall was born and raised in Waynesville and was buried with full military honors near his parents' graves.



“This is what we do. We’re supposed to follow our preamble to our constitution by remembering all incidents of our associations in the great wars,” said Legionnaire Jim McGill, the past North Carolina American Legion Division V commander and the department commander’s representative to the American Legion Riders for the department. “More importantly, at every American Legion event, we have the remembrance of the POW/MIA chair and the ceremony before every meeting. There’s no better way to honor it than by coming out and showing support as these soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines are returned back to their country from foreign soil.”

A member of American Legion Post 104 in Sylva and the organizer for the Legion’s efforts to honor Hall, McGill was one of a handful of North Carolina American Legion Riders who helped escort Hall’s remains from the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport in South Carolina to Waynesville two days before the funeral.

“This is the second escort that I’ve done,” McGill said. “It’s always a great event. It’s ... again showing support for the fallen. It’s about escorting and remembering and celebrating the life (of the servicemember).”

Honor guards from various posts, including Post 47 in Waynesville – which hosted a reception for Legion Family members following the funeral – and Macon Post 108 in Franklin, stood near Hall’s grave.

Brian Morin, a member of Post 47’s honor guard and a U.S. Navy veteran, said being able to welcome Hall home was “an awesome feeling.” He noted that Hall was missing longer than Morin had been alive.

“I’m 52 years old, and I respect these Vietnam vets and World War II vets. I respect all military,” Morin said. “I joined the service because I love my loved ones back home. I’m on the honor guard so I can honor my fellow vets.”

Department Chaplain Monica Lockwood, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 82 in Shelby, drove more than two hours to attend the funeral.

“It’s to give honor to a veteran who was found ... and put to rest in his city,” Lockwood said. “It’s an awesome experience. I belong to three different honor guards, so serving a veteran that is deceased is my honor and privilege. And the family (of the veteran) appreciates it so much.”

North Carolina Division V Commander Wayne Mihelich, a member of Post 29 in Lenoir, also was in attendance out of a sense of obligation to Hall and his surviving family. “It’s the right thing to do,” he said. “We’re here today to remember him, to pay homage to what he did for our nation, and also to show his family that we’ve never forgotten about him, and so we’re here at the end, also.”

The strong showing by the Legion Family provided an opportunity to continue to make the general public aware of the more than 81,000 U.S. servicemembers still listed as missing in action since World War II.

“Unfortunately, too many people don’t know what our military is,” Mihelich said. “By us getting together here to honor this gentleman ... it reminds everyone of what he did, and of what this station stands for. And what we veterans stand for. Because we never leave those who have fallen in action behind. We always bring them home, and that’s what we’re doing. And to show younger generations how important this is, because some just don’t understand.”

Mihelich helped do the latter by bringing with him the West Caldwell Navy JROTC Color Guard, which won first place in the 2023 American Legion National Convention’s Color Guard contest in the NJROTC

Open Division. Members of the color guard also stood near Hall's gravesite during the funeral.

"I brought them so that they can see what we do, what this is all about," Mihelich said. "And also, to honor the ideals of what this nation stands for, and the captain and his family as they bring him to his final resting place."

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 The American Legion will be opening a Post in Butler [Post 154]

[Sabrina Luciana](#) | October 10, 2023

TRI-BORO, NJ - Sons of The American Legion will be opening a post in Butler [Post 154].

The origins of this group came to fruition as a result of Veterans dying and the need to support the surviving Veterans. The sons of Veterans recognized this need and came together to support this cause by creating the organization: Sons of The American Legion (SAL).

Joseph Pierantoni, Commander of Butler's Sons of The American Legion, has been involved in this organization since 2011. After moving to Butler, he decided to bring the organization to the area.

Last month, the organization was granted a charter, which officially recognizes the organization at a state and county level.

If your grandfather or father is a Veteran, you have the opportunity to become a member and help raise money to support Veterans in the American Legion, as well as other Veteran-focused fundraisers. You will need proof of discharge papers (DD214), or the organization can provide a search via the Veteran's name. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month.

"My father gave so much back, he volunteered at churches and at the American Legion. As he got older, he needed help. I helped him help people. These guys are older now, there are not a lot of WWII guys left, and some of our Vietnam Veterans are in their 70s now; they all need help. This is real-life stuff. It's giving up your time, but it's for a good cause," stated Commander Joseph Pierantoni.

If you are interested in donating or becoming a member, please visit their Facebook page for more information.

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Mandatory Credit: Jeff Thorne

Jeff Thorne
JEFF THORNE PHOTOGRAPHY



National Commander Donald "JR" Hall during a meeting in Indianapolis as part of the 2024 Fall Meetings.

Jeff Thorne

How the ALA Junior Patch Program Benefits Our Younger Members

The American Legion Auxiliary Blog | Posted July 30, 2018

There are several ways American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Juniors and Sons of The American Legion (SAL) youth members can be active participants of The American Legion Family. One route is through the Patch Program. Regardless of residency and whether she/he belongs to a unit or squadron, Junior Auxiliary members and SAL youth members can serve their communities and veterans, and learn about patriotism, health, fitness, and leadership through this program.

There are three levels of patch criteria:

- Red — Level 1: Kindergarten through third grade
- Gold — Level 2: Fourth grade through eighth grade
- Blue — Level 3: Ninth grade through 12th grade (or 18 years old)



Juniors can earn a wide variety of patches through this program.

A special Junior patch has been created for our Junior members and SAL youth to help raise money for the National Presidents' Scholarship Fund.

We hope every Junior and SAL youth will be involved in some activity to raise money for scholarships, which are funded by the Educating Children of Warriors Fund.

Any Junior or SAL youth can earn this patch by raising at least \$5 for each year of their age. For example, a 17-year-old would raise a minimum of \$85 (17 x \$5 = \$85).

Money can be raised in a variety of ways. Juniors and SAL youth can solicit donations from family, friends, Legion Family members, or contribute themselves. They can coordinate fundraising activities such as bake sales. Funds can be raised individually or as a group, but each Junior or SAL youth receiving this patch needs to have raised the required minimum funds for their age. The goal is for the youth of our organization to be involved and aware of the scholarship project. Checks should be made out to *National Treasurer, American Legion Auxiliary* with *National Presidents' Scholarship* in the memo line.



National Commander Hall and National Adjutant Anthony Wright

Jeff Thorne



National Commander Hall and Past National Commander Earl Ruttkofsky.

Jeff Thorne



AMERICAN
LEGION
RIDERS



AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY



Lisa Williamson,
National President
The American Legion Auxiliary

Here are a few examples of the criteria for patches, depending on the grade level:

Red (kindergarten through third grade)

Americanism: Educate yourself about the rights and responsibilities of an American citizen. Must complete three of eight activities. Required: Learn and lead the Pledge of Allegiance at a meeting or your school.

Activities to choose from include enter the Americanism Essay Contest for your age group, draw the American flag and identify the proper number of stars and stripes, or study the history of Independence Day and tell an adult what it means to you.

Gold (fourth through eighth grade)

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation: We assist and enhance the lives of those who have served our country. Must complete six of nine activities. Required: Send eight greeting cards to hospitalized or ill veterans and research three other organizations that help veterans.

Activities to choose from include volunteer to help a veteran or their family with yard work or chores, participate in a stand down for homeless veterans in your community or participate in a special holiday program for veterans through your school, unit, or church.

Blue (ninth through 12th grade)

Education: Educate yourself about the rights and responsibilities of an American citizen. Must complete nine of 12 activities. Required: Tutor another student or adult on an educational topic (reading, math, history, or another subject) for a minimum of five hours, raise \$25 for the National Presidents' Scholarship, and read a minimum of five novels or five non-fiction books during the school year and provide a written log of the books you have read.

Activities to choose from include work with your teacher(s) to invite a veteran into your classroom, volunteer to help in an after-school reading program or organize a patriotic activity in your community in collaboration with The American Legion Family, mayor, or others.

For additional information about the Junior Patch Program, contact the National Junior Activities Committee at junioractivities@ALAforVeterans.org or 317-569-4500.



The patch program benefits both ALA and SAL members. Left to right: ALA National Junior Activities Chairman Pam Ray (2018), Anthony Cella Jr., Tiffany Cella, and Anthony Cella Sr.

Sports





SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



Squadron Everlasting

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

Steven R. Bock

Steven R. Brock, 65, of Camp Hill, passed away on Thursday, October 5, 2023 in his residence with his loving wife at his side following a long courageous nine-year battle with cancer.

He was an electrician with the Commonwealth of PA, Department of Electrical Services, Harrisburg; a member of IBEW Local 143, Harrisburg, Sons of the American Legion Post 143, New Cumberland, VFW Post 7415, New Cumberland and Eureka-West Shore Lodge 302, F&AM, Mechanicsburg. Steve enjoyed fishing, boating, hunting, and the beach, especially Long Beach Island, NJ. But more than anything, Steve cherished each and every moment he spent with his grandchildren.

Steve was born in Allentown, PA, the son of Diane (Stewart) Fearen of Camp Hill and the late John R. Bock.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his loving wife of more than 10 years, Tricia Ann (Lynn) Bock; his sons, Daniel S. Bock (Melinda) of Navarre, FL, and Kevin R. Bock (Heather) of Annapolis, MD; his brother Brad Bock (Kathy) of Dillsburg; his father in law Robert Pop; Mallon of Concord, NH; and his three wonderful grandchildren, Dylan, Alexis and Riley.

A memorial service will be held at noon on Saturday, October 14, 2023 in Parthemore Funeral Home & Cremation Services, New Cumberland with the Rev. Carl Ford Peterson officiating. Visitation with the family will be from 11 am until noon in the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests memorial contributions in Steve's memory to either St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org or to Penn State Health Children's Cancer Research at www.pennstate-health.org/childrens/services-treatments/hematology-oncology.

To send messages of condolence to the family or for driving directions, please visit www.Parthemore.com

Kenneth Kampe



Marquette, MI – Kenneth W. Kampe, age 65, of Marquette, passed away Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at home.

Ken was born September 20, 1958, in Marquette, a son of Herman and Joan (Robinson) Kampe and was raised in Marquette where he loved to snowmobile and go four-wheeling. He attended Marquette Senior High School where he was captain of the swim team, graduating in the Class of 1976. He enlisted in the Army National Guard, while also working for Tire Distributors. In 1984, Ken went into active duty, serving as the recruiter for the Army National Guard in the Upper Peninsula.

Following his honorable discharge in 1998, Ken began a second career at Menards as a contractor representative, retiring in June of 2019. In his spare time, Ken was certified as a master scuba diver and loved diving in the Cayman Islands. His other interests and hobbies included a love of camping, hunting, and attending his children's and grandkid's activities. Family was everything to him. Ken was an avid Vikings fan and really anything but the Packers. He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion, had served as Exalted Ruler of Marquette Elks Lodge B.P.O.E. 405, and was a very strong supporter of White Tails.

Ken is survived by his wife, Beth Kampe; daughters, Katy (Mike) Brady of Gwinn, Krissy (Rich) Vanderschaegen of Munising, and Kelly Kampe of Green Bay, WI; his grandchildren, Madalyn Brady, Hayden Brady, and Michael Brady; great-grandson, Theo Brady; his sisters, Judy Brissette, Gail DeMarse, and Bonnie (Kurt) Tatge; and his lifelong best friend, Jim Veiht.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his in-laws.

Friends may call at the Silver Creek Church, in Harvey, on Monday, October 9, beginning at 11:00 am until the time of service at 12:00 noon.

Rev. Kevin Taylor will officiate. A reception will follow in the church fellowship room.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Wounded Warrior Project (support.wounded-warriorproject.org).

Fassbender Swanson Hansen Funeral and Cremation Services is serving the family, where condolences may be expressed online at www.fassbenderswansonhansen.com

Michael J. Peschka



Wilson, KS — Michael J. "Mike" Peschka, of Wilson, Kan., passed away on Oct. 4, 2023, at the Ellsworth County Medical Center in Ellsworth, Kan. at

the age of 70. He was born on April 30, 1953, to James and Rosie (Pelz) Peschka in Ellsworth. He married Karen J. Vague on April 28, 1973, at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Wilson. They were blessed with two daughters: Darcy and Darrin.

Mike grew up on a farm south of Wilson and graduated from Wilson High School in 1971. He went on to Salina Vo-Tech for two years and then worked for Enron and then Mid America Energy where he retired. After retirement, he taught at Barton County Community College.

Mike was very active in the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church and his community. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and Sons of the American Legion. He was the Mayor of Wilson for two terms, served on the Fire Department for 30 years and Economic Development in Wilson for 10 years. He also coached his daughters' softball teams. Mike was a regular blood donor and during his illness required massive amounts of blood and platelets. The family would like to encourage anyone who is able to donate, to please do so as there is such a need.

Mike is survived by his wife, Karen of the home in Wilson; daughters, Darcy (Brad) Hansen of Ellsworth and Darrin (Jon Catalini) Peschka of Camarillo, Calif.; brother, Randy (Nancy) Peschka of Ellsworth; sisters, Linda Nowlin of Joshua, Texas, and Karen M. (Bea Gotschall) Peschka of Geneseo, Kan.; and three grandchildren, Cadence Hansen, Reagan Hansen, and Cecilia Catalini. He is preceded

in death by his parents, James and Rosie Peschka.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023, at 10 a.m. at the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Wilson. Burial will follow in the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will be on Monday 2-5 p.m. at the funeral home in Wilson and 6-8 p.m. at the Church with the family receiving friends until the Parish Vigil and Rosary Service at 7 p.m. Memorials are suggested to Ellsworth County Cancer Fund, Golden Belt Humane Society (Venmo is @GoldenBelt-HumaneSociety), and St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church and may be sent to Plumer-Overlease Funeral Home, 610 24th Street, Wilson, KS 67490. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.plumeroverlease.com.

Funeral arrangements provided by Plumer-Overlease Funeral Home 610 24th Street Wilson, KS 67490 Great Bend (Kan.) Tribune, Oct. 10, 2023

William Ferris



Guy was the fourth of seven children of John and Katherine Ferris. He

was born at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. In effect, he was in the Air Force from Day 1. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. upon his graduation from the University of Notre Dame, Class of '68. His first active-duty assignment was to complete Undergraduate Pilot Training at Reese AFB in Texas. He graduated first in his class. With that honor, he chose to become an instructor pilot, or IP. IP training in the supersonic T-38 Talon at Tyndall AFB, FL was his next stop followed by assignment to the Williams AFB, AZ training base. He was a top flight instructor which garnered him the challenge of teaching pilots from other countries.

After his time in the USAF, Guy attended the University of Georgetown Law School and graduated with top honors.

His love for the military manifested itself later in life when he joined the Quincy, MA Morrisette Post 294 of the American Legion and Squadron 294 of the Sons of the American Legion. He served many roles over the years with these organizations including Vice-Commander, Historian and Sergeant-at-Arms for the Post. He was Vice-Commander,

Historian and Finance Officer for Squadron 294.

He is survived by his six siblings, three children and three grandchildren.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.

Obituary published on www.legacy.com by Hamel-Lydon Chapel & Cremation Service of Massachusetts on Oct. 8, 2023.

Ronald E. Shearer Jr.

Ronald E. Shearer Jr., 60, of Duncannon passed away on Friday, Sept. 22, 2023, at home.

He was born Nov. 10, 1962, to the late Ronald E. Sr. and Doris Jean (Bowers) Shearer.

He was a graduate of Dauphin Votch. He had been employed with his father in building trades and also worked for V&S Construction, Total Mobility Services, working on handicap vehicles for the disabled, and with his brother, Randy Shearer Plumbing and Heating.

He was a member of Sons of the American Legion Post 272, Linglestown. He greatly enjoyed hunting, fishing, loading ammo, camping, boating, attending car races and country dancing.

Surviving are his wife, Vonny V. (Goodling) Shearer; a brother, Randy Shearer and his wife, Jodi, of Linglestown; a sister, Jenny L. Heffner of Harrisburg; a niece, Lindsay Hall; and a nephew, Corie Shearer.

He was preceded in death by a brother-in-law, Robert W. Heffner.

Ronald C.L. Smith Funeral Home, Duncannon, handled arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Central Pennsylvania, 1320 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg 17110, or American Cancer Society, 2 Lemoyne Drive, Suite 101, Lemoyne 17043.

David W. Paynter



Bessemer, MI – David W. Paynter, 80, of Bessemer, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023.

Dave was born on Feb. 14, 1943, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to Vivian (Kelto) and Walter Paynter. He moved to Bessemer as an infant.

Dave attended school in Bessemer and graduated from A.D. Johnston High School in 1962. He worked at Indianhead Ski Resort before the hill was first opened. He learned to operate heavy equipment during the hill construction.

Dave enlisted in the U.S. Army on Nov. 3, 1964. He became an aircraft mechanic and crew chief with the 92nd Aviation Company and flew with his assigned plane into Special Forces camps in Vietnam.

Dave was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for an act of heroism on Dec. 16, 1965, while serving in the Vietnam War. The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded for true gallantry and selfless action in combat against an armed enemy force. Dave was honorably discharged on Sept. 13, 1966. He was proud of his military service and encouraged students to consider the military for direction in life.

Upon his discharge from the Army, Dave attended Gogebic Community College in Ironwood. He also attended Northern Michigan University in Marquette, where he graduated with a degree in industrial arts.

During his 27-year teaching career, Dave taught woodshop, metal shop, drafting, mechanical drawing, math and driver's education for the Wakefield Public Schools. He also served as the Wakefield High School Ski Team coach. He retired from teaching in 1998. Dave often said that the greatest rewards of his teaching career were the friendships he made with students and the impact that his students had on his life. Dave enjoyed seeing his former students out in the community and hearing their life stories.

Dave was a skilled carpenter. He shared his talent with his children, teaching them much more than basic carpentry skills. He was a humble, compassionate, kind, and helpful man. He was so very proud of his kids and their life accomplishments and expressed his pride often.

Dave worked at Powderhorn, Indianhead and Blackjack Ski Resorts as a ski instructor and, after retiring from teaching, as a chair lift operator. His cheery "good morning" greeted many skiers. He was a member of Sharon Lutheran Church in Bessemer, where he served on the church council for a number of years. He

also served on the Gogebic County Federal Credit Union board for several years. He was a lifetime member of the Bessemer American Legion Post 27 and Bessemer Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3673, was a volunteer driver for the local Disabled American Veterans' chapter and a dedicated member of the local military honor guard. Dave was instrumental in establishing the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 27 in Bessemer. He was honored to serve on the construction and set up crew for the Vietnam Moving Wall display in Bessemer, in 2008. Dave loved music and played the bass horn in Marty's Goldenaires for 32 years.

Dave married Kathryn "Kathy" Adams on Jan. 31, 1981, at Sharon Lutheran Church. He often told his kids that Kathy was the love of his life.

Dave is survived by his wife of 42 years, Kathryn Paynter; his children, Kristy (Paul) Recla, Ironwood, Craig Paynter, Bessemer, and Kari (Luke) Spaete, Duluth, Minnesota; his grandchildren, Mason (Kaitlyn) Recla, Logan Recla, Nora Spaete, Casey (Cole) LaBeske, Tyler (Megan) Paynter and Amanda (Mike Lotzer) Paynter; 10 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Luetta Flaa, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Ruth (David) Ruff, Marquette; his sister-in-law, Sue Paynter, of Vermont; three brothers-in-law, Greg (Barb) Adams and Bob Adams, both of Ramsay, and Rick Adams, Bellaire, Michigan; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Papa Dave also enjoyed spending time with his "bonus" grandkids, Amber, Ben, Jake, Joey, Owen, Kaylea, Anna and L2. He will be remembered by a long list of lifelong friends. Dave was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Lee David Paynter; a granddaughter, Judi Paynter; two brothers, James "Tiny" Paynter, and Ron Paynter; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Louis "Ike" and Beverly Adams; and two brothers-in-law, Bob Flaa and Thomas Adams.

David W. Paynter will be remembered at a memorial service on Monday, Oct. 16, at 11 a.m., preceded by visitation at 9:30 a.m., at Sharon Lutheran Church, 100 E. Sellar St., in Bessemer, with Dave's cousin, the Rev. Paul Kelto officiating.

A private committal service will take place at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Bessemer, with full military honors accorded by

the Bessemer American Legion Post 27 and Bessemer VFW Post 3673 Honor Guard, assisted by the U.P. Funeral Honors Team.

Interment will follow.

A luncheon will be served at the VFW Post 3673, 605 W. Lead St., in Bessemer, following the memorial.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the DAV Chapter 66, in care of Tom DeCarlo 520 W. Southland Ave., Ironwood, MI 49938, or Regional Hospice Services, 652 E. Cloverland Ave., Ironwood, MI 49938.

The family wishes to thank Regional Hospice Services, especially Paula, Gary, Matt and Linda; the Gogebic Medical Care Facility staff, particularly the first floor personnel; Jerald Rocco and his staff; Dr. Sheri Ewing and her staff at the Ironwood VA Clinic; and John Frello and Linda at the Gogebic County veterans' service office.

Dave often ended his conversations with, "Thanks for being mine." We all say, "Thanks for being ours." Thanks for the memories, Papa Dave.

To send online condolences, please go to www.lakesidememorialchapel.com.

RENEW



**AMERICAN
LEGION**



Daniel J. Seehafer,
National Commander
The American Legion

Honor on the move

The American Legion | October 10, 2023

On Aug. 4, Westchester County, N.Y., rededicated a set of World War I memorial trees and plaques at the county center in White Plains. The memorial has been moved around in its century-plus history, but the local American Legion post has stood up for it every step of the way.

According to Post 135 Commander Dan Griffin, the rededication came three years after the memorial's most recent move, when it was uprooted by the State of New York in 2020 so the center and parking lot – which the

memorial rings – could be used for temporary medical facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The post played an important role in getting the memorial restored, partially through Griffin's other role as service officer at the county Veterans Service Agency.

The whole history of Post 135 and the memorial are commingled. According to a [report](#) by WRRV, post founder and first commander Frederick Gross "spearheaded" the creation of the memorial. It was dedicated on Armistice Day 1921 (the post received its initial charter in July 1919), with a parade featuring World War I, Spanish-American War and Civil War veterans. A box of Belleau Wood soil was mixed with the soil at the memorial.

In 1931, the memorial was rededicated after its first move, to make way for the new county center; Post 135 assisted with that as well. The 2023 rededication included the reading of the 49 names included on the 49 plaques, some by Griffin. An additional historical project of his has been helping restore a cannon from USS *Maine* for display. "People are trying to eliminate history," he said, "and I'm trying to keep it out."

The American Legion changes and saves lives

The American Legion | October 11, 2023

Less than two weeks ago, there was the possibility of another government shutdown where funding for troops, border patrol and other vital government services would come to a halt.

During the last government shutdown in 2019, the U.S. Coast Guard continued to report for duty while their paychecks were stopped, but The American Legion stepped up and provided more than \$1 million in Temporary Financial Assistance to Coast Guard families in need. “Incredibly, Congress still has not passed legislation to pay the Coast Guard if a shutdown occurs before the passage of a Homeland Security appropriation. And this year we faced – and still face – the possibility that no branch of the U.S. military would have its members paid on time,” said National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer to members of the National Executive Committee on Oct. 11 during Fall Meetings in Indianapolis at National Headquarters.

“While we certainly dodged a bullet on September 30, we are definitely not out of the woods. The current funding only runs through November 17. While VA assures the public that it will continue to provide health care and other essential services, Secretary Denis McDonough said at a press conference on September 22 that there would be no outreach. Again, no outreach. We should be thankful that VA’s first National Buddy Check occurs next week (Oct. 16-20) – before another potential shutdown.

“We know that outreach saves lives. That’s the whole purpose of our Buddy Checks and any peer-wellness program for that matter. The numbers may not yet show it, but the progress that has been made toward removing the stigma and raising awareness about veteran suicide in recent years has been monumental. And family, we can’t stop. Not now, not ever.”

Although VA went on the record in September saying that the Veterans Crisis Line and essential health care services will not be impacted during a government shutdown, “we do know that the added anxiety that comes with a shutdown is something that veterans do not need.

“It is Congress that has the constitutionally mandated responsibility to pass a budget, it is the president who has the constitutionally mandated responsibility to sign a budget and it is The American Legion’s constitutionally protected right to raise heck when they don’t.

If there is a shutdown, we really need to apply the pressure that Congress passes a Pay Our Troops Act, one that will ensure our military and our Coast Guard are paid throughout the duration.” Seehafer encouraged Legionnaires to [sign up for the Legion’s Grassroots Action Center alerts](#) to stay informed on legislative issues that The American Legion supports. “Let’s make our voice known every single day.”

Seehafer added that a “gridlock in Washington is never good but particularly dangerous when our strong ally, Israel, is engaged in a full war against Hamas terrorists. We know the impact that the 9/11 attacks had on our nation. Ladies and gentlemen, this is exactly why America must always maintain a strong national defense and secure borders.”

More than a million PACT Act-related claims have been filed through the middle of September. According to Military.com, one in three of the 570,000 approved claims have come back with zero percent ratings. “It is a safe bet that a good number of the zero-percent ratings and denied claims were not filed with the assistance of an accredited American Legion service officer,” Seehafer emphasized. “Doesn’t it make sense that a trained expert – and that’s what our service officers are – be at the side of the veteran or the surviving family member as they navigate this complicated process? Not a shark. Not a predator, but instead a lifesaver, a buddy, a true friend as they know how to navigate this complicated process.

The Legion’s service officers are specially trained to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to veterans and their families as they navigate the VA claims process. For assistance in filing a VA claim, [contact a Legion service officer](#). And it is The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation help make their work possible through training “that changes lives and saves live,” Seehafer said. “I just know that I can count on each of you and your departments to continue to support this essential American Legion program with a financial gift.”

Seehafer also addressed the Legion’s new Base Assessment and Servicemember Experience program – BASE – that aims to address quality of life matters that affect service members and their families. National staff will visit military installations to hear from servicemembers about areas of concern – housing and barracks, health care, day care, spousal employment opportunities, education, mental health, food, financial insecurity, commissary, and exchange access, and more.

“We are not trying to fill the role of an Inspector General, but we are veteran advocates, and we offer a

wealth of experience on what works well and what doesn't," Seehafer said regarding the BASE program. "We can carry the concerns and messages of the military community directly to Congress and the White House. Informed advocates are effective advocates!"

"When I think of the many great programs that have been generated in this very room (the NEC Room at National Headquarters), it strengthens my belief, my conviction, and my resolve that The American Legion truly changes lives and saves lives. That family is not just rhetoric. That is reality. Therefore, let's show the world who we truly are and what membership in The American Legion really means. And that's service. Service that changes lives and saves lives."

"We continue to change and save lives with a mission like Be the One. Be the One. Saving one veteran, or even their family member, one at a time. Now that's The American Legion. That is you. And even me."

For Idaho post, every week is Buddy Check Week

The American Legion | October 12, 2023



The members of American Legion Post 113 in Meridian, Idaho, made Buddy Check calls on fellow veterans in the past. But when a post member died by suicide, the membership knew something needed to change.

That led to the post starting its duty office program in September. From 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on weekdays, a member volunteers to come to the post to make Buddy Check calls from a database of members. That will continue next week during the Department of Veterans Affairs [National Buddy Check Week](#), when veterans are asked to make a pledge to contact up to 10 of their battle buddies and friends from service, as well as complete peer wellness, resiliency and S.A.V.E. suicide prevention training.

"We've had one suicide that could have been prevented had we gotten to the guy in time," Post 113 Chaplain and First Vice Commander Dan Pruett said. "It just kind of kicked us in the butt and said to us that this is really important. We really need to put an effort into this. Now it's going really good."

As members make the Buddy Check call, they update the list they are using. Those members who asked to not be called again are taken off the list.

But Pruett said the Buddy Check calls he's made have been met with positive responses. "They're very appreciative," he said. "They think, 'Boy, I didn't know you were going to do this. It was a call out of the blue.' And they like that."

To kick off Buddy Check Week, The American Legion is teaming with VA for a webinar to highlight the importance of making connections during the week. You can register for the webinar [here](#). [Join the webinar here](#).

For American Legion Family members conducting Buddy Checks next week and beyond, we've created resources to assist your effort:

- [Buddy Check Toolkit](#) that explains the program, provides steps to conducting a successful Buddy Check, gives sample scripts and more.
- [Buddy Check doorhanger](#) that is printer-friendly and can be customized as a leave-behind when Legion Family members visit a veteran who is not at home.

And if your post, district or department is planning a Buddy Check event, please remember to share your stories and photos from the event in the [Buddy Check](#) section of Legiontown.

Department of Mexico to change name

The American Legion | October 12, 2023

American Legion posts within the Department of Mexico voted during its 2023 department convention to change its name to the Department of Latin America. Resolution No. 16 requesting this name change was brought forth to the National Executive Committee Oct. 11 during the Legion's Fall Meetings, and it was passed.

The resolution states that "the Department of Mexico has developed American Legion posts in the sovereign countries of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Cost Rica, Panama, Columbia, Ecuador and Argentina," and these countries "identify themselves as Latin America countries."

"The name change would greatly enhance the Department of Mexico's ability to recruit new members and

start new posts in countries south of the Rio Grande by giving them an identity” that they can identify with.

12 CENTCOM posts affected by Tuberville block could hamper US aid to Israel, lawmakers say

Svetlana Shkolnikova | October 12, 2023



Triniti Lersch/U.S. Navy

Twelve senior military positions that help lead U.S. forces in the Middle East are caught in Sen. Tommy Tuberville’s hold on military nominees, and some lawmakers fear the understaffing will impact U.S. support to Israel.

The posts in U.S. Central Command, including the deputy commander and the commander of the Navy’s 5th Fleet, are either being held by temporary commanders, junior officers or officers doing two jobs at once, said Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Ariz.

“As we reposition our own forces and support our ally Israel with intelligence, logistics and other assistance, we need U.S. leadership to be as strong and focused as possible,” Kelly, a former naval aviator, said Thursday. “This hamstringing our regional military leadership during a crisis. Period.”

Kelly is the latest lawmaker to lash out at Tuberville, R-Ala., for retaining his hold on more than 300 general and flag officers as Israel goes to war against the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip in retaliation for the deadliest attack on Israel in more than 50 years.

Tuberville instituted his block in February to push the Pentagon into dropping its abortion access policy for service members. He said Sunday that he will not back down even as the U.S. surges warships and aircraft to the Middle East to back up Israel and prevent the fighting from spiraling into a broader conflict.

“The holds are not affecting our military readiness and they are certainly not affecting the readiness of other countries,” Steven Stafford, Tuberville’s spokesman, said Thursday.

Stafford did not comment on whether Tuberville will try to force individual votes on any of the affected Central Command positions when the Senate returns from recess next week.

Tuberville’s attempt to bring the nomination of Gen. Eric Smith, the Marine Corps commandant, to a standalone vote last month prompted the Democrat-led Senate to confirm Smith and two other positions on the Joint Chiefs of Staff individually in a process that spread over two days. The Senate typically speeds through groups of military nominations via unanimous voice votes.

The Middle East-related positions affected by Tuberville’s hold include the CENTCOM deputy director for strategy, plans and policy, the deputy commander and reserve vice commander of U.S. Naval Forces in CENTCOM, the deputy commander of U.S. Air Forces Central, the commander of the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing, the commanding general of the I Marine Expeditionary Force, the commanding general of the 1st Sustainment Command, the assistant division commander of the 1st Marine Division and the defense attaches to Israel and Iraq, according to Kelly.

Jonathan Lord, director of the Middle East security program at the Center for a New American Security, a centrist Washington think tank with ties to the Pentagon, said the positions are all important for maintenance, logistics, readiness, and sustainment of U.S. forces and for planning military operations.

“These are all critical roles on any given day, but with the U.S. supporting Israel in this moment of crisis with a whole host of possible contingencies that could stem from that, this is not the time to be understaffed,” he said.

John Kirby, the White House National Security Council spokesman, said Thursday that there are no plans to put American troops on the ground as Israel prepares a likely ground invasion of Gaza, where a handful of Americans are believed to be held hostage.

But the U.S. military has shored up support for Israel in other ways, deploying the USS Gerald R. Ford carrier strike group to the Eastern Mediterranean a day after Hamas militants attacked Israel on Saturday. A second U.S. carrier strike group bound for the region is set to depart Friday from Norfolk, Va.

A small group of American special operations forces are also assisting Israel's military with planning and intelligence, according to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., said CENTCOM officers who should be helping the U.S. military response are "unable to do so as a result of Sen. Tuberville's one-man political blockade."

"It has never been clearer that he is singlehandedly threatening our military's readiness and global stability," Duckworth, a former Army helicopter pilot, said in a statement. "As has been true for months, he must lift his hold immediately so that our military can wield the full range of our nation's capabilities as it works to support our Israeli allies."

It is not clear if the Senate will act on any of the CENTCOM nominees next week, though Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., said pressure is mounting to break Tuberville's hold. Two positions on the Joint Chiefs, the chief of naval operations and the Air Force chief of staff, are included in the stalled nominations.

"When we get back, I think you're going to see this ice jam break and we're going to start to confirm our military," Kaine said this week in an MSNBC interview.

Lord, a former staff member for the House Armed Services Committee, said it will be difficult for the public to discern the effects of Tuberville's hold on the Middle East though that does not mean the military is not having to navigate hurdles and obstacles as a result of the block.

"The U.S. military is going to overcome and adapt to provide everything it needs to our close partner Israel," he said. "It is unclear to me that from the outside looking in, you're going to see any deficiency, but that is a testament to the U.S. military and not to the unimportance of these holds and the damage that they're doing to the processes and the leadership of the force."

Letter to the Editor

Voter Voice. We talk about it, yet... fail to communicate the easiest method(s) - A QR Code for sign up or an active link.

I'm signed up, however, I was unable to locate in recent National PDF communiqués:

- An active link to [Voter Voice](#) (for the casual reader)
- A QR Code for the savvy adults or to aid the 9-year-old to further aid the "adult" SAL members

It seems reasonable that at every meeting - everywhere - we place multiple QR codes about the room - take 5 minutes - from the meeting - everyone gets 3 minutes of information on WHY and then they are directed to SIGN UP.

As we continue our path of communicating Be the One... perhaps at the same time add Voter Voice - side-by-side.

What better way to communicate BE THE ONE to our legislators than to have ready access to Voter Voice.

Not a sermon...just a thought.

V/r,

Jeff Thorne

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you, Jeff, for the great idea. As a result of your suggestion, we have created the codes for use by members of the American Legion Family.



2024 IS NOW
SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION
RENEW TODAY!!!

by Jeff Vrabel, Sr.



National Overall Totals	
Dollars Donated	\$9,626,133
Hours Volunteered	3,288,625
Value of One Vol. Hour*	\$31.80
Volunteer Hours Value	\$104,578,288
Total Volunteer Value	\$114,204,421

Pillar	Donations	Hours	Hours Value*
Americanism	\$3,618,952	1,693,574	\$53,855,663
Children & Youth	\$1,367,160	157,893	\$5,021,001
Vets Affairs & Rehab.	\$1,497,915	898,126	\$28,560,407
Vets Employ & Edu.	\$141,783	22,002	\$699,664
Internal Affairs	\$3,000,323	517,030	\$16,441,554

*As reported by: [Independent Sector](#) in [April 2023](#) .

Americanism	
<i>Boys State / Girls State</i>	\$204,182 in Donations to Boys State / Girls State with 34,983 Hours of Participation
<i>Legion Ed. Programs</i>	\$10,116 in Donations to 5-Star / 10-Ideals Progs. with 1,934 Hours of Participation
<i>Flag Programs</i>	\$191,726 in Donations to Flags Presented (All) with 165,867 Hours of Participation 367,659 Flags Presented (All Sizes / Events)
<i>Flag Education</i>	\$37,941 in Donations to Flag Education Progs. with 56,066 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Ed. Programs</i>	\$457,368 in Donations to Scholarships Awarded with 21,230 Hours of Participation
<i>Oratorical Contest</i>	\$9,211 in Donations to Oratorical Contest with 3,086 Hours of Participation
<i>Color Guard</i>	\$120,955 in Donations to Color Guard with 80,165 Hours of Participation
<i>Community Service</i>	\$1,092,307 in Donations to Other Organizations with 931,588 Hours of Participation
<i>Scouting</i>	\$217,429 in Donations to Scouting with 81,049 Hours of Participation
<i>Jr. Shooting Sports</i>	\$39,568 in Donations to Jr. Shooting Sports with 11,478 Hours of Participation
<i>Am. Legion Baseball</i>	\$212,856 in Donations to Am. Legion Baseball with 26,678 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Teams</i>	\$164,562 in Donations to Other Teams with 19,181 Hours of Participation
<i>Blood Drives</i>	\$48,054 in Donations to Blood Drives with 7,870 Hours of Participation
<i>Nat'l Emer. Fund</i>	\$76,308 in Donations to Nat'l Emergency Fund with 3,337 Hours of Participation
<i>Legacy Schol. Fund</i>	\$45,650 in Donations to Legacy Scholarship Fund with 7,824 Hours of Participation
<i>Other Amer. Projects</i>	\$690,718 in Donations to Other Amer. Projects with 241,240 Hours of Participation

Children and Youth	
<i>Child Welfare Foundation</i>	\$304,330 in Donations to Child Welfare Found. with 21,675 Hours of Participation
<i>Special Olympics</i>	\$129,194 in Donations to Special Olympics with 10,259 Hours of Participation
<i>Children's Miracle Net.</i>	\$31,487 in Donations to Children's Miracle Net. with 1,409 Hours of Participation
<i>Ronald McDonald House</i>	\$20,850 in Donations to R. McDonald House with 952 Hours of Participation
<i>Children's Organ Transplant Assn.</i>	\$32,125 in Donations to Child. Org. Trans. Assn. with 4,095 Hours of Participation
<i>TAL Vets. & Child. Found.</i>	\$71,935 in Donations to T.A.L. Vets. & Child. F. with 19,698 Hours of Participation
<i>Other C&Y Projects</i>	\$777,239 in Donations to Other C&Y Projects with 99,805 Hours of Participation

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation	
<i>VAMCs & Facilities</i>	\$230,968 in Donations to VAMCs & Facilities with 28,870 Hours of Participation
<i>State Vets Facilities</i>	\$119,229 in Donations to State Vets Facilities with 13,864 Hours of Participation
<i>Nat'l Vets Assist. Day</i>	\$29,627 in Donations to Nat'l Vets. Assist. Day with 3,306 Hours of Participation
<i>Op. Comfort Warriors</i>	\$51,990 in Donations to Op. Comfort Warriors with 4,832 Hours of Participation
<i>Fisher House</i>	\$94,679 in Donations to Fisher House with 8,130 Hours of Participation
<i>Other VA&R Projects</i>	\$971,422 in Donations to Other VA&R Projects with 839,124 Hours of Participation

Veterans Employment and Education	
<i>VE&E Projects</i>	\$141,783 in Donations to VE&E Projects with 22,002 Hours of Participation

Internal Affairs	
<i>Other Totals</i>	\$3,000,323 in Donations, Not Covered Above with 517,030 Hours, Not Covered Above

1,853 / 5,938 (31.21%) Squadrons Reporting

376,154 Total Members

15 / 614 (2.44%) Districts Reporting

2024 SAL Membership Report as of: October 12, 2023

#	DETACHMENT	2024 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 25% TARGET 10/18/2023	2024 ACTUAL MBRSHP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2024 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	120	-54	84	70.00%	63.87
2	FRANCE	168	-65	107	63.69%	57.58
3	LOUISIANA	1,821	-554	1,009	55.41%	5.91
4	GEORGIA	4,887	-1,314	2,536	51.89%	46.74
5	PUERTO RICO	156	-38	77	49.36%	47.71
6	WISCONSIN	4,398	-910	2,009	45.68%	41.98
7	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	-331	734	45.56%	39.94
8	IDAHO	659	-120	285	43.25%	34.51
9	ILLINOIS	13,716	-2,202	5,631	41.05%	39.40
10	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-444	1,136	41.01%	34.49
11	UTAH	460	-73	188	40.87%	39.14
12	ALABAMA	2,100	-324	849	40.43%	34.92
13	MONTANA	1,091	-149	422	38.68%	35.85
14	MISSISSIPPI	736	-91	275	37.36%	35.45
15	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-120	389	36.19%	32.35
16	WYOMING	1,248	-102	414	33.17%	29.59
17	IOWA	4,914	-378	1,606	32.68%	31.09
18	FLORIDA	23,066	-1,465	7,231	31.35%	24.98
19	TENNESSEE	1,792	-88	536	29.91%	25.17
20	KANSAS	6,055	-294	1,808	29.86%	27.52
21	OREGON	1,534	-75	458	29.86%	23.68
22	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	-69	461	29.36%	22.12
23	TEXAS	5,783	-248	1,694	29.29%	25.73
24	MARYLAND	16,803	-606	4,807	28.61%	21.32
25	VIRGINIA	4,367	-154	1,246	28.53%	23.40
26	OKLAHOMA	1,430	-38	395	27.62%	24.03
27	CALIFORNIA	11,292	-265	3,088	27.35%	23.45
28	ARKANSAS	406	-9	110	27.09%	20.75
29	MISSOURI	3,337	-67	901	27.00%	23.30
30	CONNECTICUT	1,865	-27	493	26.43%	22.32
31	INDIANA	37,244	-510	9,821	26.37%	23.99
32	RHODE ISLAND	348	-4	91	26.15%	21.80
33	NEVADA	387	-1	98	25.32%	21.12
34	NEW JERSEY	9,662	-30	2,445	25.31%	22.88
35	VERMONT	3,920	12	968	24.69%	22.85
36	NEBRASKA	6,992	73	1,675	23.96%	22.92
37	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	63	1,295	23.84%	6.25
38	KENTUCKY	2,399	41	559	23.30%	19.51
39	MINNESOTA	11,435	211	2,648	23.16%	21.48
40	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	157	1,350	22.40%	20.60
41	DELAWARE	2,596	83	566	21.80%	16.96
42	NEW YORK	30,663	1,068	6,598	21.52%	19.39
43	OHIO	31,690	1,304	6,619	20.89%	18.65
44	COLORADO	2,952	137	601	20.36%	17.97
45	ALASKA	1,740	86	349	20.06%	15.65
46	MICHIGAN	26,236	1,320	5,239	19.97%	16.57
47	ARIZONA	8,595	460	1,689	19.65%	15.38
48	WASHINGTON	2,682	231	440	16.41%	11.24
49	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	223	425	16.39%	12.95
50	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	6,763	8,924	14.22%	12.35
51	NEW MEXICO	1,582	214	182	11.50%	8.53
52	MAINE	2,757	480	209	7.58%	25.26
53	LATIN AMERICA	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	1,751	93,777	24.54%	21.59

2024 SAL Regional Breakdown

Western Region - James R. Fischer, Sr. (CA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	120	84	70.00%
IDAHO	659	285	43.25%
UTAH	460	188	40.87%
MONTANA	1,091	422	38.68%
WYOMING	1,248	414	33.17%
OREGON	1,534	458	29.86%
CALIFORNIA	11,292	3,088	27.35%
NEVADA	387	98	25.32%
COLORADO	2,952	601	20.36%
ALASKA	1,740	349	20.06%
ARIZONA	8,595	1,689	19.65%
WASHINGTON	2,682	440	16.41%
NEW MEXICO	1,582	182	11.50%
LATIN AMERICA	33	2	6.06%
PHILIPPINES	79	3	3.80%
Totals:	34,454	8,303	24.10%

Southeast Region - Linwood A. Moore (VA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
LOUISIANA	1,821	1,009	55.41%
GEORGIA	4,887	2,536	51.89%
PUERTO RICO	156	77	49.36%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	1,136	41.01%
ALABAMA	2,100	849	40.43%
MISSISSIPPI	736	275	37.36%
FLORIDA	23,066	7,231	31.35%
TENNESSEE	1,792	536	29.91%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	461	29.36%
TEXAS	5,783	1,694	29.29%
VIRGINIA	4,367	1,246	28.53%
ARKANSAS	406	110	27.09%
Totals:	49,454	17,160	34.70%

Midwest Region - Terry A. Harris (KS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	734	45.56%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	389	36.19%
IOWA	4,914	1,606	32.68%
KANSAS	6,055	1,808	29.86%
OKLAHOMA	1,430	395	27.62%
MISSOURI	3,337	901	27.00%
NEBRASKA	6,992	1,675	23.96%
Totals:	25,414	7,508	29.54%

Northeast Region - John R. Cook (NH)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	168	107	63.69%
MARYLAND	16,803	4,807	28.61%
CONNECTICUT	1,865	493	26.43%
RHODE ISLAND	348	91	26.15%
NEW JERSEY	9,662	2,445	25.31%
VERMONT	3,920	968	24.69%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	1,295	23.84%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	1,350	22.40%
DELAWARE	2,596	566	21.80%
NEW YORK	30,663	6,598	21.52%
PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	8,924	14.22%
MAINE	2,757	209	7.58%
DIST OF COL	91	2	2.20%
Totals:	143,078	27,855	19.47%

Central Region - Robert L. Bristo (MN)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,398	2,009	45.68%
ILLINOIS	13,716	5,631	41.05%
INDIANA	37,244	9,821	26.37%
KENTUCKY	2,399	559	23.30%
MINNESOTA	11,435	2,648	23.16%
OHIO	31,690	6,619	20.89%
MICHIGAN	26,236	5,239	19.97%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	425	16.39%
Totals:	129,711	32,951	25.40%

10/12/23		NATIONAL Donald "JR" Hall, Jr. (MD) National Commander						
	Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date	105% Date
1	Southeast 1, 2	49,454	17,160	(32,294)	34.70%	316		
2	Midwest 1, 2	25,414	7,508	(17,906)	29.54%	545		
3	Central 1, 2	129,711	32,951	(96,760)	25.40%	995		
4	Western 1	34,454	8,303	(26,151)	24.10%	416		
5	Northeast 1	143,078	27,855	(115,223)	19.47%	1,318		
TOTALS 1		382,111	93,777	(288,334)	24.54%	3,590		

10/12/23		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
1	Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4	4,398	2,009	(2,389)	45.68%	70	6	41.98%		
2	Illinois 1, 2, 3	13,716	5,631	(8,085)	41.05%	186	9	41.05%		
3	Indiana 1, 2	37,244	9,821	(27,423)	26.37%	412	31	23.99%		
4	Kentucky 1	2,399	559	(1,840)	23.30%	5	38	19.51%		
5	Minnesota 1	11,435	2,648	(8,787)	23.16%	22	39	21.48%		
6	Ohio 1	31,690	6,619	(25,071)	20.89%	78	6619	18.65%		
7	Michigan 1	26,236	5,239	(20,997)	19.97%	222	46	16.57%		
8	West Virginia 1	2,593	425	(2,168)	16.39%	-	49	12.95%		
TOTALS 1, 2		129,711	32,951	(96,760)	25.40%	995				

10/12/23		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
1	Hawaii 1, 2, 3, 5	120	84	(36)	70.00%	-	1	63.87%		
2	Idaho 1, 2, 3	659	285	(374)	43.25%	6	8	34.51%		
3	Utah 1, 2, 3	460	188	(272)	40.87%	-	11	39.14%		
4	Montana 1, 2, 3	1,091	422	(669)	38.68%	25	13	35.85%		
5	Wyoming 1, 2	1,248	414	(834)	33.17%	3	16	29.59%		
6	Oregon 1, 2	1,534	458	(1,076)	29.86%	5	21	23.68%		
7	California 1, 2	11,292	3,088	(8,204)	27.35%	118	27	23.45%		
8	Nevada 1, 2	387	98	(289)	25.32%	-	33	21.12%		
9	Colorado 1	2,952	601	(2,351)	20.36%	-	44	17.97%		
10	Alaska	1,740	349	(1,391)	20.06%	23	45	15.65%		
11	Arizona 1	8,595	1,689	(6,906)	19.65%	200	47	15.38%		
12	Washington	2,682	440	(2,242)	16.41%	36	48	11.24%		
13	New Mexico	1,582	182	(1,400)	11.50%	-	51	8.53%		
14	Latin America	33	2	(31)	6.06%	-	53	6.25%		
15	Philippines	79	3	(76)	3.80%	-	54	2.53%		
TOTALS 1		34,454	8,303	(26,151)	24.10%	416				

10/12/23		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
1	Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4	1,821	1,009	(812)	55.41%	13	3	59.10%		
2	Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4	4,887	2,536	(2,351)	51.89%	11	4	46.74%		
3	Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4	156	77	(79)	49.36%	-	5	47.71%		
4	North Carolina 1, 2, 3	2,770	1,136	(1,634)	41.01%	34	10	34.49%		
5	Alabama 1, 2, 3	2,100	849	(1,251)	40.43%	16	12	34.92%		
6	Mississippi 1, 2, 3	736	275	(461)	37.36%	2	14	35.45%		
7	Florida 1, 2	23,066	7,231	(15,835)	31.35%	172	18	24.98%		
8	Tennessee 1, 2	1,792	536	(1,256)	29.91%	12	19	25.17%		
9	South Carolina 1, 2	1,570	461	(1,109)	29.36%	11	22	22.12%		
10	Texas 1, 2	5,783	1,694	(4,089)	29.29%	23	23	25.73%		
12	Virginia 1, 2	4,367	1,246	(3,121)	28.53%	22	25	23.40%		
13	Arkansas 1, 2	406	110	(296)	27.09%	-	28	20.75%		
TOTALS 1, 2		49,454	17,160	(32,294)	34.70%	316				

10/12/23		MIDWEST REGION Terry A. Harris (KS) National Vice-Commander								
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1	South Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4	1,611	734	(877)	45.56%	15	7	39.94%		
2	North Dakota 1, 2, 3	1,075	389	(686)	36.19%	13	15	32.35%		
3	Iowa 1, 2	4,914	1,606	(3,308)	32.68%	40	17	31.09%		
4	Kansas 1, 2	6,055	1,808	(4,247)	29.86%	118	20	27.52%		
5	Oklahoma 1, 2	1,430	395	(1,035)	27.62%	66	26	24.03%		
6	Missouri 1, 2	3,337	901	(2,436)	27.00%	26	29	23.30%		
7	Nebraska 1	6,992	1,675	(5,317)	23.96%	267	36	22.92%		
	TOTALS 1, 2	25,414	7,508	(17,906)	29.54%	545				

10/12/23		NORTHEAST REGION John R. Cook (NH) National Vice-Commander								
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1	France 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	168	107	(61)	63.69%	2	2	57.58%		
2	Maryland 1, 2	16,803	4,807	(11,996)	28.61%	165	24	21.32%		
3	Connecticut 1, 2	1,865	493	(1,372)	26.43%	37	30	22.32%		
4	Rhode Island 1, 2	348	91	(257)	26.15%	-	32	21.80%		
5	New Jersey 1, 2	9,662	2,445	(7,217)	25.31%	6	34	22.88%		
6	Vermont 1	3,920	968	(2,952)	24.69%	99	35	22.85%		
7	Massachusetts 1	5,432	1,295	(4,137)	23.84%	44	37	26.25%		
8	New Hampshire 1	6,027	1,350	(4,677)	22.40%	37	40	20.60%		
9	Delaware 1	2,596	566	(2,030)	21.80%	4	41	16.96%		
10	New York 1	30,663	6,598	(24,065)	21.52%	241	42	19.39%		
11	Pennsylvania	62,746	8,924	(53,822)	14.22%	683	50	12.35%		
12	Maine	2,757	209	(2,548)	7.58%	-	52	25.26%		
13	Dist. of Columbia	91	2	(89)	2.20%	-	55	1.14%		
	TOTALS 1	143,078	27,855	(115,223)	19.47%	1,318				

10/12/23		2023 SUPER SIX STANDINGS								
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1	Florida 1, 2	23,066	7,231	(15,835)	31.35%	172	18	24.98%		
2	Indiana 1	37,244	9,821	(27,423)	26.37%	412	31	23.99%		
3	New York 1	30,663	6,598	(24,065)	21.52%	241	42	19.39%		
4	Ohio 1	31,690	6,619	(25,071)	20.89%	78	43	18.65%		
5	Michigan 1	26,236	5,239	(20,997)	19.97%	222	46	16.57%		
6	Pennsylvania	62,746	8,924	(53,822)	14.22%	8,241	50	12.35%		
	TOTALS	211,645	44,432	(167,213)	20.99%	2,144				

National Totals 1	382,111	93,777	(288,334)	24.54%	3,590		21.59%			
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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%

JR's Journey Homecoming

***National Commander
Don "JR" Hall***



***Friday April 12, 2024
Through
Saturday April 13, 2024
In
Linthicum, MD***

Homecoming For Don "JR" Hall National Commander

Greetings

Maryland wants to welcome you to our Detachment and to our home to share in the Homecoming for Don JR" Hall. National Commander 2023-2024. We have put together a number of activities and festivities that we are sure you will enjoy. The Homecoming activities start Friday April 12, 2024 and concluding on Saturday night April 13, 2024. Accommodations have been reserved at the Westin Baltimore Washington Airport BWI located at 1110 Old Elkrigde Landing Road Linthicum Heights, MD 21090.

Activities

For those earlier arrivals. There are many sites just an Uber away including the Home of Our National Anthem Fort McHenry, for those gamblers, the Horse Shoe Casino located in Baltimore and many more interesting destinations can be found simply by Googling.

Glen Burnie Post 40 Dinner

Starting on Friday evening, JR's Post home will be hosting a dinner at Glen Burnie Post 40 starting at 6 PM. The cost will be \$40.00 and includes a Crab Cake and Chicken Dinner, cash bar and transportation to and from the event. The shuttles will be leaving at 5:45 PM from the hotel and the final return will be at 11 PM.

Naval Academy Trip

Saturday morning will be the start of a great trip and tour of our Nation's Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. The cost will be \$60.00 and will include your transportation, tour and lunch. Buses will be departing at 9 AM for the Academy. We will be doing a guided tour by foot. For any special needs, please reach out to Tom Deal at 443-206-0402. We will also be having lunch at the Officer's Club as part of your package. We will be arriving back at the hotel by 3 PM.

Homecoming

We will be holding the Homecoming Banquet to honor our National Commander Don "JR Hall at the Westin Hotel starting at 6:00 PM. There will be a Meet and Greet Cocktail Hour from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM, followed by the Homecoming Banquet Dinner and Program.

For More Information

Joe Lohman	Bill Matoska	Joe Gladden
Homecoming Chairman	Chief of Staff	Campaign Chairman
301-275-4887	443-710-9664	443-742-0842
squadron60@verizon.net	matoskaw@yahoo.com	joeglad123@aol.com

***Homecoming
For Don "JR" Hall
National Commander***

Activities

Friday April 12, 2024

Check-In: **Homecoming Events Check-In**
Noon-5 PM Executive Board Room at the Westin Hotel

Dinner: **Glen Burnie American Legion Post 40**
5:45 PM Two shuttles will be on a loop from the Westin Hotel to Glen Burnie Post 40 and back again
Cost \$40.00 includes:
Crab Cake and Chicken Dinner.
Cash bar available
Shuttles to and from the hotel to the Post
11:00 PM The final shuttle will be leaving Post 40.

Saturday April 13, 2024

Day Trip: **Naval Academy**
9:00 AM: The bus will leave the Westin Hotel
Baltimore Washington Airport BWI for the Naval Academy
We will be touring the Academy and having lunch at the Naval Academy Officer's Club
1:45 PM: The bus will leave the Naval Academy

Homecoming:
6:00 PM: Meet and Greet Cocktail Hour
7:00 PM: Dinner
Program Following Dinner
10:00 PM Social Time Following Program

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For Don "JR" Hall
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Program Following Dinner
10:00 PM Social Time Following Program

***Homecoming
For Don "JR" Hall
National Commander***

Homecoming Dinner

Appetizers

Cheese Display

Fruit Display

Dinner: (Buffet Style)

- Maryland Crab Soup
- Artisanal Rolls with Sweet Butter
- Arugula, Spinach, Cranberry, and Walnut Salad
 - Old Bay Roasted Shrimp over Rice
 - Grilled BBQ Chicken
- Miniature Crab Cakes (3 per person)
- Corn and Tomato Sauteed with Fresh Basil
 - Seasonal Grilled Vegetable Display
- Seared Flat Iron Steak with Roasted Balsamic Mushrooms, Orange Caramelized Onions, & Red Wine Demi
 - Pan-seared Mahi
- Chef's Selection of Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert:

- Chef's Choice Dessert Selection-Carrot Cake, Cheesecake and Yellow Cake

**Mixed Drinks, Domestic and Imported Beers
Will Be Available**

***Homecoming
For Don "JR" Hall
National Commander***

Homecoming Ad Program Book

Detachment: _____

District: _____

Squadron Name & #: _____

Responsible Person: _____

Whole Page Ad: \$75.00

Half Page Ad: \$40.00

Quarter Page Ad: \$25.00

Program booklet page size 11" x 8.5"

Please provide art work, if possible. Will accept hand created ads.

******Ads must be received by March 1, 2024******

Make Checks payable to: National Support Fund

Please forward all ads to:

Bill Matoska

3115 Orchard Ave.

Baltimore, MD 21234

If you are unable to attend, a copy of the Program Book
can be sent to you. Please mail to:

***Homecoming
For Don "JR" Hall
National Commander***

Registration:

Detachment: _____

Attendees: _____
Name email address

Name cell phone

How <u>Many?</u>			Total <u>Amount</u>
_____	Friday Night Dinner Post 40 @	\$40.00	_____
	(dress is casual)		
_____	Saturday trip Naval Academy @	\$60.00	_____
	(dress is casual)		
_____	Homecoming Banquet @	\$60.00	_____
	(dress is formal-coat & tie)		
_____	Homecoming Program Ad @	\$_____	_____

Make checks payable to: Total _____

National Support Fund

Check # _____

Send all info to:

Bill Matoska
3115 Orchard Ave
Baltimore, MD 21234

***Homecoming
For Don "JR" Hall
National Commander***

Hotel Accommodations:

Westin Baltimore Washington Airport BWI

1110 Old Elkridge Landing Road
Linthicum, Heights, MD 21090
443-577-2300

Special Rate Per night: \$163.85 (includes 13% tax)
Overnight Parking \$8.00

To make reservations by phone call: 888-236-2427

Use group code "ALH" to book your room.

ALHALHC for Double-Queens

ALHALHE for Standard Kings

If problems the event name is Sons of The American Legion

The generated link for the group is:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1688143655253&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Reservations must be made by March 25, 2024

***Homecoming
For Don "JR" Hall
National Commander***

Area Posts:

Glen Burnie American Legion Post 40
Home of National Commander Don "JR" Hall
500 5th Avenue
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
410-761-9869
www.glenburniepost40.org
Approx. 6.4 miles from hotel

Patrick Henry American Legion Post 34
5526 Belle Grove Road
Baltimore, MD 21225
410-789-9682
Approx. 5.1 miles from hotel

Howard L. Turner American Legion Post 276
8068 Quarterfield Road
Severn, MD 21144
410-969-8028
www.americanlegionpost276.org
Approx. 10.1 miles from hotel

Sons of The American Legion



Blair Miles, Chairman
National Legislative Commission
Sons of The American Legion
2355 Grapefarm Road
Brewton, Al 36426
E-mail: goplugs@hotmail.com

October 9th, 2023

To: All Members of The Sons of The American Legion

Re: Wreath Laying Ceremonies, Washington DC, Sunday February 25, 2024

The Sons of The American Legion National Commander Don "JR" Hall, on Sunday **February 25, 2024**, will be placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery at 11:15 am. From there we will be stopping at the Vietnam Wall Memorial, then a final stop at World War II Memorial. This notification will allow members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Riders friends and families to attend and show our respect for the sacrifices made by our Nation's military in the defense of liberty and freedom.

In the previous years, Detachments have placed their wreaths at various areas in Washington DC, that the National Organization received from the American Legion Family and many tourists have made positive statements seeing the wreaths from Detachments placed around the Washington area. We feel that this is a very positive outcome and are recommending any Detachment wishing to lay a wreath or have a wreath laid for them in the Washington area to continue.

Representatives from each Detachment or their designee would be able to choose a location to lay their wreath, some placed wreaths at areas that the bus rented by the National Organization stopped to do ceremonies, and others at a later time placed wreaths in various locations around Washington DC. I will be ordering wreaths for National Commander Hall, and in order to have the wreaths appear in conformity, we will order wreaths as a group for each Detachment, Department, Unit or Squadron; the cost of the wreaths this year will be **\$200**.

I will provide each Detachment a separate receipt from the florist shop for each wreath ordered, if requested. Checks should be made payable to Blair Miles and mailed to my home address. Below is an order form. Please send back only the bottom portion of this letter and keep the top section for your records. **I must receive the completed order form and payment by February 3, 2024, in order to ensure your Detachment has a wreath ordered. (No payment, no wreath, no group rate!)**

At Arlington National cemetery we will be going to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The tomb is a walk uphill from the visitor center and you may walk or take the tram. The tram fee purchased that day is **\$19.50**. This year we are again adding an offer to purchase your tickets for the Tram ride to the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in advance to speed up the process of getting to the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier quicker. Group rate for the Tram ride is **\$15.50** each. If you would like to be included, fill it in on the form and we will purchase group rate tickets. Veterans can get a cheaper rate but **MUST** purchase on your own with qualified ID, we cannot purchase them for you.

The National Organization will again this year rent two buses to transport individuals to and from the wreath laying ceremonies. In an effort to fully take advantage of this we will be taking **requests** for seats on the buses with the wreath order. **It is very important, if you reserve a seat that you be in attendance and if you cannot, please contact Blair Miles ASAP (Cell # 251-238-7002).**

We will also again this year order box lunches for on the bus “it is highly recommended that individuals take advantage of this as it is a long period to go without eating.” The cost will be **\$10.00** each - you will have a choice of turkey, ham or roast beef. Payment and choice will be needed along with the wreath order.

If you need further information or have questions, I can be contacted by phone during the day at 251-238-7002 or by email: **goplugs@hotmail.com**

WREATH & LUNCH ORDER FORM - WASHINGTON CONFERENCE WREATH LAYING
on SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2024
Deadline for submissions to be received is February 3, 2024

DETACHMENT _____ CONTACT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CELL PHONE # _____ E-MAIL _____

Wreath Request (\$200) – (Name of Detachment) _____ Total \$ _____

Box Lunch (\$10.00 each) Turkey # _____ Ham # _____ Roast Beef # _____ X \$10.00 Total \$ _____

Arlington National Cemetery General Admission Group Rate (TRAM)

Total Arlington tickets _____ x \$15.50 each Total \$ _____

Total Paid for Wreath, Lunch and Arlington Tram: Total enclosed \$ _____

Number of Seats Requested for Bus - # _____

Name of others attending and Cell # (Please fill out completely to allow for better communication) -

Name _____ Cell # _____

Name _____ Cell # _____

Name _____ Cell # _____

Name _____ Cell # _____

PAYMENT MUST BE ENCLOSED. ORDER WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PAYMENT!!!
Make check payable to: Blair Miles and mail to: Blair Miles, 2355 Grapefarm Road, Brewton, Al 36426

2024 American Legion Washington Conference **Sons of The American Legion Memorial Wreath Laying Schedule**

Meet at: Washington Hilton Hotel

1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington DC, 20009

At 9:00 am SAL National Commander Don “JR” Hall will address attendees.

Pictures of Wreaths with SAL National Commander Hall can be taken between 9:15 and 9:30 am.

Board Busses and load Wreaths at 9:30 am

Depart: Bus will leave from lower level of hotel promptly at 9:30 am, Sunday February 25, 2024

Leave Washington Hilton at 9:30 am

Arrive at Arlington National Cemetery at 9:50 am

1. Tour of Tomb Guards Quarters if available
2. Group photograph of all participants
3. Prayer by National Chaplain
4. Wreath laying Ceremony at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier 11:15 am
5. Depart the Arlington National Cemetery at 12:30 pm

Arrive at Vietnam Wall Memorial at 12:45 pm

1. Lunch
2. Group photograph of all participants
3. Wreath laying ceremony by National Commander at the Vietnam Wall Memorial with prayer by National Chaplain
1. Depart the Vietnam Wall Memorial at 2:00 pm

Arrive at the World War II Memorial at 2:30 pm

1. Group photograph of all participants with Detachment wreath placement with National Commander
2. Wreath laying ceremony by National Commander at the WWII Memorial with prayer by National Chaplain
3. Depart the World War II Memorial at 3:30 pm

Arrival: Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington DC, 20009 @4:00 pm