

## Seehafer brings 'Be the One' to Maine in aftermath of shootings

[John Raughter](#) | November 9, 2023

The sign posted at the makeshift memorial in front of Schemengee's Bar and Grill in Lewiston, Maine, reflects what many in the community feel. "Fix the mental health system," was the message to a town reeling from a mass shooting on Oct. 25, which took 18 lives. Mental wellness has been a priority for The American Legion as well. National Commander Dan Seehafer leaned on his pastoral background while taking his "Be the One" message to the Department of Maine during a visit Nov. 3-4.

"God gave us two ears for listening," Seehafer said. "For me as an ordained minister, I do it all the time. We have office time. I have it with my members and people in need. We talk. Over 90 percent is listening. When people seek my counsel, they are the ones talking. By the time we are done with my little portion, they say, 'Pastor, I feel a lot better.' And I didn't even basically say a word. So, it's that listening."

Seehafer added his appreciation for Past National Commander Tony Jordan, who referred to him as "the right commander at the right time." It's a sentiment that was shared by many American Legion Family members who met Seehafer during his visits to six different posts in the Pine Tree State.

"I think it's critical that we show family support," added American Legion Auxiliary National President Lisa Williamson, who accompanied Seehafer on some of the post visits. "We know the individual who did these atrocious crimes had some mental health issues and the Legion Family – that's the Legion, the Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion – firmly believe in our Be the One mission. And that mission is to destigmatize mental health. It's been a taboo subject for far too long."

Matt Jabaut is a Lewiston native and The American Legion National Membership & Post Activities Commission Chairman. "I'm lucky in the fact that I have lots of different families and the Legion obviously being a primary one. Some of the first messages I got were from Legion Family members, who were messaging me and saying 'Hey, are you all right?' They know that I'm from Lewiston, that I live in Lewiston, went to Lewiston High School. It's a big part of my community."

Post 153 in Auburn hosted Seehafer for breakfast Saturday. The post is just a few miles from where the shootings occurred. Paul L'Heureux, a member of the post, described the tight-knit community. "When this came about," he said, "nobody knew who the victims were in the beginning. Within the next eight hours after the event, some of the names started to surface. It became apparent that as large as we thought we were here, we weren't. Your thought process became we are not that big. We are a community of one."

Department of Maine Adjutant Jason Hall also noted the small town feel that permeates the state and the impact that such a massive crime has on its residents. "In Maine, every town is a rural town. We're all close knit. Most parts of the country are six degrees away from separation. Maine is two degrees from separation. It almost affected every person in Maine. We either played softball with that person or it was our hairdresser's brother. It was a schoolteacher's aide from your high school. It was somehow connected to every person in Maine."

**AMERICAN  
LEGION**

**BE THE ONE**

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# Round-Up

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**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](mailto: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



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## Donald "JR" Hall, Jr.

National Commander

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REPRESENTING

More

THAN ME

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## From the Editor

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FOUR YEARS! Can you believe that this weekend marks four years since I started our little newsletter, *Round-Up*? A lot has changed over that time, and what was once intended to be a small, regional newsletter, grew into a national informational publication, that sometimes looks like a magazine. It hasn't always been easy, but it has become a labor of love, but there is some bad news.

I received an email from my email vendor that the price will be going up. This was not news I expected, and made me think about the future of *Round-Up*.

Now that we have a monthly publication from the national organization, the end for *Round-Up* may be near. Although *The Millennium* and *Round-Up* are two very different publications. IF *Round-Up* ceases publication, members will lose valuable information that they have gotten used to. Much of this information will not be in *The Millennium*, and that is intentional, as our national newsletter has a different vision and purpose.

I will be evaluating things over the next month, and a final decision will be made in the December 31 edition of *Round-Up*.

I also want to take this time to say thank you to all of our veterans who made sacrifices to serve our great nation. You are not told enough, but thank you for your service!



**Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible.**

**RENEW TODAY!**

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

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

click a button below for more information



*Thank you to our  
Round-Up sponsors*

Juan Cruz Rodriguez, Department of Puerto Rico



HONOR THE VETERAN WHO MADE YOU ELIGIBLE

**RENEW TODAY!**

## 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

Central Region!

Let's test everyone's Latin, shall we? What does "**Defendit Numerus**" mean?

It was first recorded in 1550 in English and it means "**Safety in Numbers**"! A simple explanation is that an individual has more protection in a group than if they were alone. How does this affect membership? If you say there is safety in numbers, you mean that you are safer doing something if there are a lot of people doing that same thing rather than doing it alone! **That's our membership, that is our teamwork!** If we all work together "**safely in numbers**" we can accomplish more than if we try to do it alone!

This phrase is based on a biblical verse in Proverbs and translated in the New International Version of the Christian Bible says... "**For the lack of guidance, a nation fails, but victory is won through many advisors**". For us, that would mean for the lack of **membership** an organization fails, but victory is won through many **workers**!... It takes all of us working together to achieve the common goal of retaining and recruiting the members we need to be sure that we, the Sons of The American Legion continue to support our veterans and the programs of the American Legion Family.

Benjamin Franklin once said... "**For every minute spent in organizing, an hour is earned**". Now is the time to begin organizing our mid-year push for our membership and to continue to grow our great organization. We can continue to keep the SAL moving forward if we just keep working toward the same goal! Now, Benjamin Franklin also said... "**Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing**"... (My writing will soon be forgotten...) But let us **safely go in numbers** and

continue to grow the mission of the Sons of the American Legion! Let us be worthy of being written about!

My friends, remember why you joined and what your **"Why"** is to continue to serve the SAL and our Country!

***"Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they ever made a difference in the world. A Veteran doesn't have that problem"*** - Ronald Reagan

The quote above sums up in my opinion the reason America is the greatest country on earth. We, the Sons of The American Legion, work very hard each and every year to be sure that we recognize and honor the service of not only our ancestors but of all US veterans. This is why growing our membership is so important! The more SAL members we have the more we can do for our service men and women!

They are and were not just soldiers, **they are our heroes**. We owe so much to them. Let us never forget to pray for them and their families. Let us never forget the sacrifices they have made for us. Veterans are symbols of what makes our country great, and we must always honor and respect all they have done to ensure our freedoms.

Because of the efforts of their brave hearts and the undying spirit of our nation's love, we salute the unselfish sacrifices made by all of our veterans!

## Happy Veterans Day!

Now to the numbers...

The Central Region improved by .61% since our last report. At 34.68%, we stubbornly hold onto the third-place slot, but we are only 1.29% ahead of the Western Region which is hot on our heels! Wisconsin grew an impressive 2.07% further solidifying their # 1 position, and Indiana now safely sits above the November 15th goal with a percentage of 35.83%.

Central Region, we need to really pick up the pace and get out there and collect our membership and turn it in. Let us celebrate Veterans Day by showing our commitment to our mission and our purpose. As Vice-Commander Bristo says... **"Believe and Succeed!"**.

What we do today will show to the American Legion Family what our passion to serve, can do to make a difference. **We will be remembered for the**

**work we do here, today!** Let's Honor those we serve by quickly completing the tasks before us!

***"What lies behind us & what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies WITHIN US!"*** - Unknown

**LET'S GO, CENTRAL REGION!!!**

For the Commander, **"Believe and Succeed"**

Butch Ray, Central Region Membership Chairman

***"I'm the ONE, You're the ONE, BE the ONE!"***

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## John R. Cook

Northeast National Vice-Commander

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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

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## James R. Fischer

Western National Vice-Commander

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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!

In the world of membership, collaboration trumps competition, for together we can achieve great things. I truly believe in this Westside.

Speaking of membership, I have included two membership award forms. The first one is the IRA aka Individual Recruitment Award. For the IRA, ward all you need to do is recruit five new members into the sons, fill out the form with requested information and



send it back to me or your regional membership chairman.

The second form is the Blue Brigade Award. The Blue Brigade Award is for the SAL member who signs up 30 or more new members into Sons of The American Legion. All instructions and dates are listed in the forms, please let me know if you have any questions. Let's rock these awards Westside!

The power of membership lies in its ability to bring people together, transcending barriers and building bridges.

The western region improved by 1.00%, currently at 33.39% total from last report. We are still currently 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation and right behind the Central Region by 1.29%. Our goal is to be at 35% by 11/15/23, we are a week away. Shout out to the detachments that have already achieved this. Hawaii at 75.00%, Montana at 49.68%, Idaho at 48.10%, Nevada at 47.03%, Utah at 46.30%, Oregon at 39.37%, Wyoming at 38.30% and California at 37.07%. Coming on strong is Colorado at 31.54%, Latin America at 30.30%, Alaska at 27.87%, Arizona at 27.80%, Washington at 27.52%, New Mexico at 21.30%, and Philippines at 3.80%. The most powerful leadership tool you have is your own personal example.

Thanks again for all you do for this great organization. To all the veterans, thank you for your service.

**"One Team, One Goal, One Heart, One Soul. Be the One!"**

Respectfully For God and Country,

Dan Ashley, Western Region Membership Chairman

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## **Terry A. Harris**

Midwest National Vice-Commander

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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

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## **Linwood A. Moore**

Southeast National Vice-Commander

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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.

## **The power of Be the One**

[Cameran Richardson](#) | November 6, 2023

The American Legion has a mission from the post to the national level to end veteran suicide and destigmatize the need to ask for mental help. That mission is Be the One.

The American Legion is calling on everyone to Be the One to save the life of a veteran. And the Department of Arizona American Legion Family is answering that call.

During its fall conference in Oro Valley, Ariz., Nov. 4, the department held a Be the One walk as well as a fireside chat with National Security Commission Chairman Matt Shuman and National Executive Director/Chief Marketing Officer Dean Kessel to learn more about Be the One and how everyone can save a life.

At 6 a.m., around 25 Arizona members of the Legion, Sons of The American Legion, Auxiliary and Legion Riders gathered outside the El Conquistador Hotel to walk in support of Be the One and show the community of Oro Valley how they too can be a part of the mission to save lives.

"We are trying to push this out into the community because the reality is anybody, anybody can check in

on a veteran,” Shuman said. “If we can better educate the community that anyone can be the one to call a veteran, call a friend, check in on them, invite them to an event, see how they’re doing, what we like to call a Buddy Check at The American Legion ... that’s how all of us singlehandedly will put an end to this pandemic of veteran suicide.”

Department of Arizona Commander Steve Sperl walked alongside the Be the One flag that led the walk. He said, “Be the One is as simple as just being there, answering the phone, saying hello, inviting them in for a conversation.” And he gave an example. Recently while at work as a government civilian at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, “I noticed a young man didn’t answer me the way he normally does. I invited him into my office and asked him what was wrong.” Sperl then connected the veteran to a counselor within the squadron “and got him on the right path to talk about what’s going on with him.”

The Legion Family members walking made a stop at a coffee shop to share more camaraderie and their why to joining the Be the One walk. Jennifer Kritzer, a member of Post 29 in Phoenix, joined the walk to bring awareness to Be the One but also because the mission is personal.

“I lost my brother to suicide. So (Be the One) comes very personal to me,” she said. “So, I want to be the one who makes a difference in somebody else’s life. I don’t want any family to ever have to experience what my family has gone through.”

It’s personal for Sperl too and why Be the One is at the forefront of his efforts leading as department commander.

“I’ve deployed several times to good and bad places during my military career, and I was honored to bring everybody home from those deployments. But what I couldn’t do is take care of them when they got home. And I lost two of my close friends due to suicide. So that’s what it means to me to lead this organization from the heart.”

After the coffee and walk, Legion Family members attending the fall conference gathered for a brief presentation on Be the One from Kessel and the fireside chat. Kessel opened with a statement to the audience that “I believe in my heart that there’s no organization in this country that is better positioned to do this (end veteran suicide) because of our reach at the local level and our voice at the national level. That’s the power of this organization and the power of people in this room.”

The first question to Kessel from Shuman was why and how Be the One started.

With mental health and veteran suicide being an issue that veterans from the global war on terrorism face, “it’s incumbent of the veterans in this room to solve that problem so they’re in a better place for the next generation of Legionnaires,” Kessel said. Kessel approached Dave Berkenfield, a retired U.S. Navy SEAL who serves as team manager for Chip Ganassi Racing’s (CGR) Extreme E, because of the Legion’s partnership with CGR about the Legion’s vision to end veteran suicide. But he had a question – how do you measure success?

“Dave doesn’t mince words, ok,” Kessel said, explaining that with paperwork in front of Berkenfield showing the Legion’s vision and question on measuring metrics, “he took the papers on the desk, and he dropped them. He leaned into me ... he said, ‘Dean, the only f\*\*\*ing number that matters is one.’”

Soon after, Be the One became a mission.

“We want to talk about one ... talk about the one we saved today,” Kessel said. “I don’t have all the answers. The answers are in this room. That’s how we solve this. It’s not coming from national on down and spread out. It’s going to come from somebody here.” Additionally, Be the One is the project of American Legion national commanders now and moving forward, and Kessel is speaking with the Sons and Auxiliary on that same messaging. “Think about the power of the messaging, the power of our entire organization – well over 2 million people – working on this issue. We are going to make some things happen with that.”

Shuman then asked if Be the One is working. To which Kessel replied, “yeah,” and gave a powerful example.

During this year’s INDYCAR race in St. Petersburg, Fla., the Legion had its Be the One mobile activation unit for veterans and family attending the race to visit. A young man in the Navy walked up asking for help. “Here was his headspace,” Kessel said. “He was active duty, and he was getting ready to go back out for the 17th time and he said, ‘I don’t want to go. And the only way I don’t go is if I’m not here.’”

The Legion service officer onsite found out the young man was from Jacksonville and loved to ride motorcycles. The service officer not only connected the Navy veteran to mental health services within the VA, but he is also now a member of a Legion Riders chapter in Jacksonville.

“The Riders have wrapped their arms around this young man,” Kessel said, adding that “we check on him twice a month through the VA. So, a pretty powerful day.”

Chip Ganassi Racing won the race that day in St. Petersburg but not in the No. 10 Honda Be the One car that Alex Palou drove. But Kessel still called Chip Ganassi and said, “Congratulations on your race but I’ve got to tell you that we won twice today.” And Kessel shared the story of a life saved.

Ganassi, the son of a World War II veteran, “got choked up. He said, ‘Dean, I’ve never in my life had an opportunity to save somebody’s life through a sponsorship.’ He thanked me and us and is proud to be a partner with The American Legion. This man loves this organization and will do whatever it takes to help Be the One. That’s the power of what we’re doing.”

Shuman then asked how every Legion Family member can Be the One.

Kessel emphasized the need to intervene before there is a crisis, before a veteran or loved one makes the 988 call.

“What can we do? Listen. Take notice,” he said. “The biggest thing is loneliness. If somebody walks through your door at the post, make a beeline there to talk to them. Stop what you’re doing and go say hello, welcome. When you are in the service, you’re part of a tribe. When you come out of service you lose that to some extent. Talk to them because they want to be part of a tribe; they want to be part of a family. We are a Legion Family.”

Shuman added that Legion Family members should call or visit a Legion member they haven’t seen in a while to check in. “If somebody stops showing up to your post, figure out why.”

Because as Kritzer said during the Be the One walk, suicide affects the whole family.

“Suicide is not just a veteran problem. It is a family problem,” Kessel said. “It is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. That’s what it is. I know people who weren’t veterans. I’ve got a friend of mine who killed himself. He thought, ‘my family is going to be better off. I am an anchor around this family.’ But then all that does is you’re transferring the pain from that person to the family when you do that. You’re not releasing it; you’re transferring.

“I’ve heard people talk about that The American Legion can be that second home. I think that’s where our impact is.

“It is so powerful what’s happening in our organization with what we want to do with this mission. I promise you there is nobody situated in this entire country to end this than the people in this room and The American Legion.”

## Impact Report: Buddy Checks go national

The American Legion | November 7, 2023



An American Legion program that debuted in March 2019 went national in October when the Department of Veterans Affairs launched its first Buddy Check Week across the country. The nation’s largest veterans service organization also awarded scholarships, disaster-relief funds, and certificates of recognition to Scouts.

In the October 2023 Membership Impact Report, American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer expresses the organization’s concerns about the war in the Middle East.

And American Legion Baseball alum Corey Seager came up big to help his Texas Rangers win the World Series.

[To see the October Membership Impact Report and those of previous months, visit here.](#)



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## National Commissions and Committees

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Chairmen wishing to have reports published should email them to [jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com) to be included. All meeting information subject to change.

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### Americanism Commission

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*Chris Casey, 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

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### Century Committee

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*Joe Gladden, 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

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### Child Welfare Foundation Committee

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*Mark Nave, 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

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## Children & Youth Committee

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*Joseph Lohman, 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

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### Finance Commission

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*William G. Hill, Chairman*

Third Thursday as scheduled

September 21, 2023 | February 15, 2024

April 10, 2024 | July 18, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 966 1733 0121 | Passcode: 463 702

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### Internal Affairs Commission

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*Christopher Michel, 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, Chairman*

Second Thursday Bi-Monthly

October 12, 2023 | December 14, 2023

February 8, 2024 | April 11, 2024

June 13, 2024 | August 8, 2024

7:30 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 937 1376 7924 | Passcode: 172 912

## Member Training & Development Committee

*Michael Cotton, 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 & Squadron Activities Committee

*Daryl VerStreate Jr., 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](http://www.legion.org/membership/standings).

**SAL Online Renewal** - members can login and renew direct via [www.myLegion.org](http://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](#).

2023 SAL Membership Stats	as of 11/08/2023
Total Actual Membership	378,928 103.03% of goal
Renewal Percentage	88.95%
Detachments at 100%	44



**RENEW  
ONLINE  
TODAY**



**YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
MATTERS**

## National Convention Committee

*Christopher Byrd, 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

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## Public & Media Communications Committee

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*Kevin Chaplin, Chairman*

Fourth Tuesday Bi-Monthly

October 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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## Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

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*Bruno Williamson, 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

THANK  
YOU  
for all you do  


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## Veterans Employment & Education Commission

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*Jim Coates, 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



AMERICAN  
LEGION  
RIDERS

### American Legion riders kick off 'Winter Stamping Tour'

[Staff](#) | Nov 6, 2023

How would you like to support our Veterans while patronizing businesses that you probably already frequent? Now you can.

American Legion Post 90 Cape Coral is part of a charity "Winter Stamping Tour" that started on Nov. 1 and runs until Feb. 28, 2024.

The American Legion Riders of Florida's District 13, of which Post 90 in Cape Coral is a part, includes 17 Legion Posts in Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, and Hendry Counties. Legion Riders have visited businesses all over the area and signed them up to be a sponsor. For \$100 a business gets a coupon in a "stamp passport booklet." These booklets are available to Legion members and the public for \$10.

Money raised will be used to help American Legion Posts in Lee County that were severely damaged by hurricane Ian to repair and rebuild. Many Posts suffered storm damage, but four Posts, Fort Myers Beach, Port Charlotte, Sanibel/Captiva, and Bonita Springs had catastrophic damage.



Laurene Flower gets a check from Cathy Tobias at Ralph's Place in Cape Coral.

photo provided

The book includes 63 businesses who are participating. Anytime a person visits one of these businesses with their book, they can get it stamped. No purchase is necessary.



American Legion Riders Mike Flower and "ET" Moore get ready to head out on the tour.

photo provided

At the end of the four months if you have at least 10 businesses "stamped," you can mail in the booklet and have a chance to win up to \$500.

Legion Riders are a part of the American Legion Family which also includes the Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion. Together they support Veterans in need, community organizations and youth programs.

To locate a Post where you can purchase a booklet go to [floridalegion.org/findpost](http://floridalegion.org/findpost). Follow the tour on Facebook at 'District 13 Winter Stamping Tour.' Post 90 Cape Coral is at 1401 SE 47th St. in Cape Coral.



**AMERICAN  
LEGION**  
**AUXILIARY**



Lisa Williamson,  
National President  
The American Legion Auxiliary

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## Sports

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**Sons of The American Legion Membership Application**

Detachment of \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron No. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ Recruited by \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Street) \_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran through whom eligibility is established \_\_\_\_\_

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

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


(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (By Applicant or Parent)

Eligibility certified by \_\_\_\_\_ (Post Adjutant)

00-001 (2013)


**RECEIPT**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received of \_\_\_\_\_

**For God and Country** \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of dues for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ in

Squadron \_\_\_\_\_, Detachment of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

## 2023 Veterans Day discounts

The American Legion | November 8, 2023

The American Legion presents its annual list of Veterans Day deals and discounts for veterans, service-members, their families and caregivers. This list was compiled by staff research and verified, wherever possible, with the business.

Please note that these offers are subject to change and may not be available in all areas. It is recommended

that you verify with the restaurant, retailer, or other business you plan to visit.

The list is not comprehensive. If you have a suggestion of something to add to the list, please contact us. Please include details and a link to the offer so we can verify it.



Lucas Carter

### RESTAURANTS

**Applebee's** – Free meal at select Applebee's locations on Saturday, Nov. 11. Choose from eight entrée options. Dine-in only. Must provide proof of military service.

**Bob Evans** – On Saturday, Nov. 11, Bob Evans will offer a special menu of seven homestyle favorites available to veterans and active duty military for free. Dine-in only. Bring proof of service. [Bob Evans | Veterans Day](#)

**Bigby Coffee** – Free hot or iced brewed coffee up to 24 oz for all veterans.

**Bill Gray's** – On Saturday, Nov. 11, veterans get a free meal which includes a World's Greatest Cheeseburger, regular fries, and a regular soda. Must present military ID or other proof of service. [Facebook](#)

**Biscuit Belly** – On Friday, Nov. 10, veterans get a free bacon, egg and cheese, sausage, egg and cheese or chicken biscuit and a drip coffee or fountain drink. [Saluting Our Heroes: Biscuit Belly's Veterans Day Treat](#)

**BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse** – Receive a free Chocolate Chunk Pizookie with a minimum purchase of \$11.95. Valid Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023 for dine-in only. Must present military ID or other proof of service. [bjsrestaurants.com](#)



**Buffalo Wild Wings** – Free 10-piece boneless wings and regular fries for all active and retired military personnel on Saturday, Nov. 11. Dine-in only. Must show valid proof of service.

**Chicken Salad Chick** – Veterans and active military will receive a free Chick Meal and regular drink on Saturday, Nov. 11 in honor of Veterans Day.

**Chili's** – All veterans and active military members can get a free meal from a select menu on Veterans Day at all participating Chili's Grill and Bar restaurants. Dine-in only. Must provide military ID to redeem offer. [Free Veterans Day Meals 2023 | Chili's Grill & Bar \(chilis.com\)](#)

**Cicis Pizza** – Veterans and active-duty military eat free on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023.

**Coco's Bakery** – Free homestyle breakfast for veterans and active-duty military on Saturday, Nov. 11. Dine-in only. Must show proof of service. Limit one meal per person.

**Denny's** – Select Denny's locations offer a free meal to veterans and active-duty military. Must provide proof of service. Give your local store a call in advance to be sure they are offering this deal.

**Eat'n Park** – 10% discount to veterans and their families throughout November when dining in.

**Fox & Hound** – On Monday, Nov. 13, veterans and active military get a free meal from select menu items.

**Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers** – All veterans and active military personnel will receive a free Freddy's Original Double with Cheese combo meal card redeemable through Nov. 30, 2023. No purchase necessary. [Honored to Serve Those Who Served | Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers \(freddys.com\)](#)

**Gold Star** – Complimentary meal (up to \$12 off your order with proof of service). Available for dine-in, carry out or drive-thru.

**Golden Corral** – On Monday, Nov. 13 from 5 p.m. to close, Golden Corral is offering a free "Thank you" dinner to active duty and retired military heroes. Dine-in only.

**The Greene Turtle** – Veterans eat free on Saturday, Nov. 11, all day. Restrictions apply. See store for details.

**Hacienda Mexican Restaurants** – Free large Wet Burrito on Nov. 11. Proof of U.S. military service required. One Wet Burrito per person. [Promos & Events :: Hacienda Mexican Restaurants \(hacienda-fiesta.com\)](#)

**Hooters** – Free select dinner entrees with purchase of a beverage and proof of service. Entrée choices include 10-piece boneless wings, Hooters burger, grilled chicken sandwich, buffalo chicken sandwich, and buffalo chicken salad. This offer is valid for dine-in only at participating Hooters locations.

**Hoss's Family Steak & Sea House** – On Saturday, Nov. 11, veterans get 20% off their meal and beverage. Dine-in only. Must provide proof of service. [Special Offers | Hoss's Steak & Sea House \(hosss.com\)](#)

**Hy-Vee** – On Friday, Nov. 10 from 6-10 a.m., veterans and active military members enjoy a free dine-in breakfast. Plus 15% off grocery purchases in-store and online on Nov. 10 only.

**Joe's Crab Shack** – On Saturday, Nov. 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., veterans get 20% off their meal when they dine-in. Must show valid military ID. [Veteran's Day | Joe's Crab Shack | Seafood Chain in the US \(joescrabshack.com\)](#)

**Lucille's Smokehouse BBQ** – On Friday, Nov. 10 to Saturday, Nov. 11, active-duty military, and veterans get a complimentary meal (choice between pulled pork sandwich or fried chicken). Dine-in only. Must provide proof of service. No purchase necessary. Active-duty military and veterans will also receive a \$10 Thank You card, redeemable from 11/24/23 to 12/3/23.

**McCormick & Schmick's** – On Sunday, Nov. 12, veterans, active-duty military, Gold Star parents and Gold Star spouses get a half-priced entrée from a select menu. Dine-in only. Must show valid military ID. [Veterans, We Salute You | McCormick & Schmick's | Seafood & Steaks in the US \(mccormickandschmicks.com\)](#)

**Menchie's Frozen Yogurt** – On Saturday, Nov. 11, veterans get their first 6 oz of frozen yogurt for free. Must show valid military ID. [Menchie's Frozen Yogurt: Frozen Yogurt: Frozen Yogurt: Yogurt Shop: www.menchies.com](#)

**Mission BBQ** – On Saturday, Nov. 11, veterans get a free sandwich. [Home - MISSION BBQ \(mission-bbq.com\)](#)

**Nekter Juice Bar** – On Saturday, Nov. 11, all veterans can get a free 16 oz juice or smoothie. Must show valid military ID.

[Free Drink for Veteran's Day 2023! – Nékter Juice Bar \(nekterjuicebar.com\)](https://nekterjuicebar.com)

**Perry's Steakhouse & Grille** – On Friday, Nov. 10, veterans get a complimentary pork chop lunch when accompanied by a guest purchasing one lunch or dinner entrée. Available from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dine-in only. On Saturday, Nov. 11, veterans can order a three-course dinner from Perry's Military Menu from 4-6 p.m. for \$39. Dine-in only, only for seating before 6 p.m. Military ID required.

[Facebook](#)

**Red Lobster** – Go to Red Lobster on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to get a FREE Shrimp & Chips entrée voucher which can be redeemed 11/13 through 12/10. Active-duty military, reserves and veterans simply show proof of service. Tax and gratuity not included. Dine-in only.

**Sheetz** – On Saturday, Nov. 11, veterans and active-duty military personnel can get a free half turkey sub and a regular size fountain drink. Offer includes extras and add-ons to the sub. A free car wash will also be available to veterans and active-duty military. Offer only applies to the \$9 car wash option and only available at Sheetz stores that have a car wash. Military ID or proof of service required.

**Shrimp Basket** – Free popcorn shrimp basket served with French fries, signature shrimp slaw, two hushpuppies and a corn fritter. Dine-in only, available all day on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023. Valid Military ID or proof of service required.

[SHRIMP BASKET SALUTES MILITARY WITH A FREE POPCORN SHRIMP BASKET ON VETERANS DAY - SHRIMP BASKET](#)

**White Castle** – Offering a free individual combo meal or breakfast combo meal to all veterans and active-duty service members who dine at a participating White Castle restaurant. Offer valid on Saturday, Nov. 11. No purchase necessary, but Military ID will be required.

## ATTRACTIONS

**Colonial Williamsburg** – Offering free admission during Veterans Day weekend, Friday through Sunday, Nov. 10-12, to all active-duty military, reservists, veterans, National Guardsmen, and their immediate dependents.

[Veterans Day Weekend \(colonialwilliamsburg.org\)](https://colonialwilliamsburg.org)

## RETAIL

**Office Depot & OfficeMax** – 25% in-store discount, available Nov. 11-13 with valid military ID

**Plunge** – Plunge partnered with GovX to offer a discount up to \$150 on cold plunge ice baths. Available for all current and former U.S. military members, military spouses, and dependents and first responders. Offer available through their online portal.

**UFC Gym & UFC Fit** – Complimentary recovery services, passes, membership deals and more at UFC GYM and UFC FIT locations. Special offers available starting Saturday, Nov. 11 through to the end of November.

**Sleep Number** – 20% off discount on most Sleep Number smart beds, bases, furniture, and bedding.

[Military - Sleep Number](#)

**Target** – 10% discount that can be used twice through Nov. 11. Verify eligibility at [www.target.com/circle/military](https://www.target.com/circle/military).

**Tractor Supply** – On Saturday, Nov. 11, all service-members, veterans and their dependents get a 15% discount in stores nationwide. Must present military ID or other proof of service.

**Rite Aid** – 15% discount at any Rite Aid store location from Friday, Nov. 10 to Sunday, Nov. 12. Must show military ID. Rite Aid Rewards membership required.

**Spotless Brands** – Complimentary car wash from Friday, Nov. 10 to Saturday, Nov. 11 at Ultimate Shine Car Wash, Okie Express Auto Wash, and Flagship Carwash.



Happy  
**Veterans Day**

Honoring All Who Served



# Squadron Everlasting

to have a member's information listed here, please send to [jeffvabals@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvabals@gmail.com)

## Willie Dupree



Willie Dupree of Anniston Alabama, passed away on August 15, 2023, at the age of 66, at Regional Medical Center in Anniston Alabama.

Funeral Services for Mr. Willie Dupree were Saturday, August 26, 2023, at 12:00 pm, at Goodson Funeral Home Chapel in Anniston Alabama with Reverend Edward Bolton, Eulogist.

Visitation was Saturday, August 26, 2023, from 11:00am-12:00pm at Goodson Funeral Home Chapel.

## Harry Andrew Bedgood



Harry Andrew Bedgood, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, went home to be with God on November 3, 2023.

He was a man of strength and unwavering determination. Born on March 12, 1950, Harry lived his life to the fullest and made an impact on everyone fortunate enough to know him. Harry was a proud member of the Citronelle and Mobile Seniors Golf Association and the Myrtle Beach Hackers Golf. He was passionate and willing to share his knowledge with those on the course, especially young golfers from Citronelle High School's golf team and the Summer Youth camp. As a season ticket holder for all Alabama Crimson Tide home football games, Harry proudly cheered on his favorite team. He lived for those exhilarating moments of victory and cherished the time spent with family and friends. "Roll Tide Roll" Family was at the heart of Harry's life. For 52 years, he stood together with his loving wife Edna Fretwell Bedgood. Their bond was unbreakable, nourished with faith by love, trust, and shared experiences.

Harry leaves behind three treasured daughters: LaRae Frolik (Tracy), Heather Bedgood, and Mandy Phillips (Eric). He was a pillar of strength guiding them with his wit and wisdom, providing them with unconditional love. His daughters will forever carry his spirit within their hearts and always remember "Don't worry about what you cannot change. Change what you can." In addition to being a caring father, Harry experienced great joy in being a grandfather to Andrew Whatley, Savanna Reed (Grady), Rose Bedgood, Charley Phillips, William Phillips, Kenny Zabel, and Jonny Zabel. Being with them filled his life with joy and peace. Harry's legacy will live on through the memories they shared together. Harry's great-grandchildren, Kaiden and Brantley, were the cause of laughter and wonder that brought a smile to his face. Harry leaves behind his sister, Nora Garney (Tom), brothers, Steve Bedgood (Rhonda), and JP Grandquest (Bobbi Carol), and sister in law Angie Bedgood. Harry was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse L. Bedgood, Sr., and Mary Grandquest; his sister, Geraldine Bedgood; his brothers, Jesse L. Bedgood, Jr. (Pat) and Rusty Bedgood; and his grandparents, Harry and Ruth Babcock.

In the community, Harry proudly held the esteemed role of Alabama State Commander of the Sons of the American Legion. With unyielding humility and dedication, he served as the current adjutant and a member of the Honor and Color Guard for Post 164. Throughout his life, Harry held many titles within the organization, including 1st Vice Commander. His commitment to service touched countless lives and left an indelible mark on those he encountered.

Outside of his accomplishments, Harry will be remembered for his remarkable personality. He was headstrong and stubborn at times, but he had a special gift for making everyone feel welcomed and valued. Harry never met a stranger and could carry on a conversation with anyone along his path. Harry was truly one of a kind.

Harry Andrew Bedgood's legacy will continue to live on through unforgettable memories with family,

friends, and co-workers including fishing with his grandson William, outings with numerous golf partners, countless football games and events, and traveling with the American Legion and representing Mobile Mardi Gras.

Visitation services will be held on November 6, 2023 at Restoration Church in Citronelle. From 9:45 AM to 11:00 AM, friends and family will have the opportunity to pay their respects and share comforting memories of Harry. A funeral service will follow at 11:00 AM. Burial to follow in Pine Crest Cemetery.

"My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person; he believed in me" -Jim Valrano

Pallbearers: Andy Whatley, Jay Bedgood, Mike Bedgood, Tracy Frolick, Eric Zabel, and Grady Reed.

Honorary Pallbearers: Ricky Bedgood and the Honor Guard of American Legion Post 164.

To order [memorial trees](#) or send flowers to the family in memory of Harry Andrew Bedgood, please visit our [flower store](#).

## Ronald L. Daniel



Ronald Lee Daniel, 56, of Bucyrus, died Sunday, November 5, 2023 at Kobacker House following a brief battle with cancer.

He was born January 8, 1967 in Bucyrus to the late Bill Daniel and Bobbie (Black) Richards who survives along with her husband Gary Richards. As a young man, Ron enjoyed the farm life and while in school, was a member of 4-H and FFA. Ron was a 1985 graduate of Wynford High School and although he didn't continue farming as a career, he still enjoyed the peacefulness that being in the country offered. He spent a number of years working at Dana Corp in Upper Sandusky and also installed carpet for Furner's in Bucyrus. He mostly enjoyed the interaction with customers while helping them to feel better about their homes.

During his youth, he was an active member of Epworth UMC and had served as an acolyte. Ron was also a member of the Sons of the American Legion, and the Bucyrus Moose Lodge, where he enjoyed socializing with friends and family.

Ron was happiest being around his grandchildren and was their

biggest fan. If they were involved in something, he was there cheering them on. He liked the holidays, to catch up with family as well as spend more time with the little ones. Ron was also an avid sports fan. He loved classic cars in general and spent years pulling for Dale Earnhardt Sr. The OSU Buckeyes and Cleveland Browns were his football teams of choice and on every gameday, he was somewhere with family or friends expecting and/or hoping for a win.

Ron kept his yard looking neat and tidy and he considered himself a grill master when it came to cooking steaks. If you were picked on, or poked at to annoy you, then you knew you were loved. He cherished the companionship that Rosco (his dog) offered and for relaxation, Ron enjoyed listening to classic rock music while enjoying a cold Busch Light.

He will be deeply missed by his mother and stepfather, Bobbie and Gary Richards; daughters, Amanda (Ryan Schiefer) Daniel and Candy Daniel and fiancé, Brian Coots; loving grandchildren, Brennan Payne, Sophia Ortega, Madisyn Kiener, Braedyn Kiener, Steven Schiefer, Ethan Schiefer, and Blayne Schiefer; brother Ryan (Becca) Richards and their four children, James, Kyra, Shelby and Reece as well as two cousins who he was extremely close with, Eric Black and Kelly Black.

Calling hours for Ron will be held from 4 - 7 pm Sunday, November 12 at Wise Funeral Service, 129 W. Warren St., Bucyrus. Please feel free to show up in your favorite Buckeyes or Browns attire as Ron would appreciate the casual and laid-back attire. He will be privately laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery. [www.wisefuneral.com](http://www.wisefuneral.com)

## Robert Joseph Holda



Robert Joseph Holda, known as "Bob" or "Sponge Bob" to many of his friends,

joined the communion of saints on November 6, 2023. Bob, a lifetime native of Lafayette, Indiana, was born July 20, 1953. He died at age 70.

Bob earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management from the School of Hospitality at Purdue University, following his graduation from Central Catholic High School. Bob's grade school experience was at St. Boniface Catholic School. In



his early years, Bob was an active member at St. Boniface Catholic Church. He was a member of St. Mary's Parish for all of his adult life, and often frequented St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. Bob was involved in the life of St. Mary's, having served as a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Choir Member, and Instructor for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Bob was a member of The Knights of Columbus Council 456 and a member of the General de Lafayette 4th Degree Assembly in Lafayette.

He served as an Assistant Food Service Director for Ball State University in Muncie Indiana, as a manager for several fast-food organizations, and as a Business Manager for his dad, Nick Holda, at Tippecanoe Furniture & Upholstery Company for many years. Bob also served as a caregiver for a number of individuals, following the death of both of his parents,

Nick and Rosella Holda, for whom he also provided years of care.

He truly believed others should understand what caregiving involved. He became a fierce advocate for caregivers, making sure that they had opportunities for respite and relief. In fact, he was an author of a chapter "Respite Tourism for Family Caregivers" in an internationally published journal. He most recently served as an instructional aide at Miller Elementary School, working with autistic and special needs children whom he loved and who loved him. He found his niche working with these kids and it was the joy of his life.

He enjoyed spending time with his friends at the American Legion, Post 11 and was a member of the Sons of the American Legion. He called being with them his "social therapy."

Bob believed in family. He believed that friends could become family! His sense of humor always was there to make everyone laugh as well. In fact, he could find something to joke about even in the worst situation. One of his last postings was that "the most beautiful things in life are not things. They are people, places, memories, and pictures! They are feelings, and moments, and smiles, and laughter." That sums up our dear Sponge Bob who will be missed by us all!

Bob will be remembered as a gentle, caring, outgoing and jovial individual who was strong in his beliefs. He was preceded in death by his parents, Nicholas and Rosella Holda. He is survived by his sister, Dolores Thayil in Gold Canyon, Arizona and brother, Bill Holda who lives near Kilgore, Texas.

A Mass celebrating his life will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral,

Wednesday November 15 at 4:00 P.M. Fr. Dennis J. O'Keeffe officiating. He will be interred with his mother and father at Tippecanoe Memory Gardens at a later date. Memorials may be made to St. Mary's Cathedral for music ministry.

Hahn-Groeber Funeral Home is caring for the Holda family. Please leave memories and condolences at [www.hahngroeberfuneralhome.com](http://www.hahngroeberfuneralhome.com).

# RENEW



Daniel J. Seehafer,  
National Commander  
The American Legion

## Veterans Day: a celebration of service

November 8, 2023

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

Veterans Day is a time of celebration. It's a time to celebrate the service of all who have worn the uniform. Our uniforms may have been different colors, but we all served under the red, white, and blue. And we all took an oath that we were willing to sacrifice our lives for this great nation.

Regardless of whether a veteran has or has not been in combat, there is a bond that we all share. Veterans have all practiced the servant leadership that is needed to make a great military work.

It is this servant leadership that Americans everywhere should acknowledge the service of the millions of men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces since our nation's founding in 1776. And while Veterans Day discounts at restaurants and businesses are a great way to say, "Thank you for your service," it is the camaraderie between our brothers and sisters that we are the most thankful for.

Veterans Day is a perfect time to check on the well-being and needs of our comrades. A simple "How are you?" is your opportunity to Be the One for a veteran who may need to know that someone cares, someone will listen.

Last month during the Department of Veterans Affairs first National Buddy Check Week, American Legion Family members [made thousands of phone calls](#) to veterans. Department of Ohio American Legion Auxiliary Historian Dayna Beyer made Buddy Checks and said that veterans "were surprised to get the call. They had a chance to talk about what they are doing, how they are feeling, and what we could do for them. It was surely well worth it for sure." Your phone call matters.

As we celebrate Veterans Day on Saturday, another celebration will be happening on Friday, Nov. 10 – the 248th birthday of the Marine Corps. As all Marines know, Semper Fi is shorthand for Semper Fidelis, which in Latin means "always faithful." It is the motto of the Marine Corps.



Semper Fi is also an apt description of The American Legion's relationship with anyone who has served in our U.S. Armed Forces. We must always "preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars."

Always faithful.

We will always mourn the veterans who are no longer with us, but we also forever celebrate their lives on this Veterans Day, and every day.

## **'Go beyond thanks:' New survey reveals we should do more than simply thank our veterans for their service**

The American Legion | November 8, 2023



As the nation prepares to observe Veterans Day this year, USAA hopes to challenge the nation to go beyond simple gratitude to create real, positive impacts in the veteran community. A new survey sponsored by USAA reveals disparities between young military/veterans and their older counterparts in how they prefer to be recognized for their service. The survey was conducted by Endeavor Analytics and YouGov.

Of note, nearly 70% of younger military/veterans say they feel uncomfortable or awkward when someone says "Thank you for your service" to them. Conversely, only 24% of military/veterans aged 65+ say they feel uncomfortable or awkward when someone says the phrase to them.

"This data shows that military service members and our veterans want Americans to go beyond small talk to connect with them on a deeper level, including learning more about their service, honoring each veteran's service in ways in which they feel comfortable talking about it," said retired Army Maj. Gen. Robert F. Whittle, Jr., SVP, chief of staff at USAA.

In response to these findings, this Veterans Day, USAA is introducing a new campaign hosted at [USAA.com/veteransday](https://usaa.com/veteransday) that encourages Americans to "Go Beyond Thanks" to honor our military and veterans by going beyond simple gratitude to create real, positive impacts in the community this holiday and every day.

This approach also encourages conversations about mental wellness, asking for help and veteran suicide prevention to break stigmas around such topics. USAA sees a connection between having such meaningful conversations and the veteran suicide prevention initiative [Face the Fight™](#) that USAA launched with founding partners Humana and Reach Resilience, an Endeavors Foundation.

The survey also found that older military/veterans are 76% more likely than the younger generation to connect with each other in person on the holiday, with younger military/veterans preferring to connect via social media.

"We know that personal connection is a critical component to mental health and suicide prevention," said Katy Dondanville, Psy.D., UT Health Science Center San Antonio. "Rather than simply offering our thanks, we should be looking for ways to go beyond small talk and create more meaningful connections with veterans and better understand their service."

USAA's goal is to make a positive impact in the veteran community and honor those who have dedicated themselves to the service of our country.

"We owe our veterans a debt of gratitude, but we also owe it to them to build a supportive community around them," said Wayne Peacock, USAA president and CEO. "And that community must find ways to have meaningful and tangible impacts on our veterans' lives. That's our duty, and it's why we are advocating for the public to go beyond traditional words of gratitude on Veterans Day."

This week, many Americans will see examples of social influencers that will "Go Beyond Thanks," including NFL player Aidan Hutchinson [@aidanhutch97](#), gamer Stone Mountain [@stonemountain64](#), and digital creator Ayumi Lashley [@ayumiofficial](#). The survey also revealed 28% of civilian respondents do not know or are not sure why we celebrate Veterans Day. USAA believes there is an opportunity to educate the public on why we observe Veterans Day each year and inspire all Americans to check in with a veteran, as it can mean so much, especially if they are struggling.

## USAA teams up with The American Legion to Go Beyond Thanks

USAA is also teaming up with The American Legion to “Go Beyond Thanks” by providing three Legion posts with new exercise equipment centers. As veterans increasingly connect and engage in conversations with fellow veterans through exercise in their quest to remain fit, USAA is providing this equipment at posts in Las Vegas, Noblesville, Ind., and San Antonio. The equipment is scheduled to be installed in the coming months.

“The American Legion posts are a place to serve and advocate for our veterans and the military community,” said Waco Hoover, who is leading the Be the One platform for The American Legion. “A key goal of Be the One is to go further upstream than the point of crisis to identify solutions that will improve mental health and reduce veteran suicide. The installation of these exercise centers will enhance the experience of our veterans and further cement these posts as a place they can convene and remain physically and mentally healthy together.”

To learn more about how you can “Go Beyond Thanks” this Veterans Day, please visit [USAA.com/veteransday](https://USAA.com/veteransday). To learn more about Face the Fight, a coalition established by USAA, charged with raising awareness and support for veteran and military suicide prevention, please visit [wefacethefight.org](https://wefacethefight.org).

## Navy investigating 3rd possible suicide this year at Naval Base Kitsap

Gary Warner/Stars and Stripes | November 10, 2023

The Navy is investigating the death of a sailor whose body was found in his residence near Naval Base Kitsap in Washington, service officials said this week. The death, which happened Oct. 22, has been ruled a suicide by the Kitsap County Medical Examiner’s Office. If confirmed by the Navy, the sailor would be the third suicide at NB Kitsap this year.

The Defense Department reported last month that [suicide rates rose 3% between 2021 and 2022](#), the latest statistics available.

The death of the sailor was confirmed in a statement from the USS Nimitz, an aircraft carrier on which the deceased sailor served as an aviation boatswains mate airman. The carrier’s homeport is Naval Base Kitsap. It’s currently at sea on a training exercise.

Two other sailors from Kitsap who died this year were suicides, according to local law enforcement officials. The status of the Navy investigations of the previous cases were not available this week.

In April, a petty officer with Submarine Development Squadron 5 was found dead off the base in Silverdale, a town near the submarine base area at Kitsap. The Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office determined the death was a suicide.

In January, [a sailor assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt was found dead](#) in the enlisted quarters at the naval station. The Kitsap County Medical Examiner’s Office determined suicide as the cause of death.

Two other USS Theodore Roosevelt crew members were previously reported as suicides during the ship’s 18-month refurbishing at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard at Kitsap. The 37-year-old Nimitz-class carrier returned in March to its homeport of Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego.

The Department of Defense Annual Report on Suicide in the Military for 2022, which was released Oct. 26, showed the rate of suicides per 100,000 service members was up 3% from the prior year across all services and including active duty, reserve, and National Guard members.

While suicide rates fluctuated from year to year, the report found “suicide rates for all services gradually increased from 2011 to 2022.”

The report said the military suicide rate is similar to the general U.S. population when adjusted for age and gender. Young, enlisted men in the military are the most vulnerable to suicide. Self-inflicted gunshot wounds are the leading method of suicide.

The report recorded 331 suicides among active-duty service members in 2022. The Marine Corps had the highest rate of suicides, at 34.9 per 100,000. The Army rate was 34.9, the Navy was 20.7 and the Air Force was 19.7. The Space Force reported no suicides in the period of the report.

The Nimitz statement issued Tuesday said the Navy is “here to support our shipmates and we encourage any sailor who is struggling to seek help and support. Chaplains, psychologists, counselors, and leaders are engaged with the crew and are available on board to provide appropriate support and counseling.

Current and former service members who have thoughts of suicide can contact local mental health hotlines or go online to [veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat](https://veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat).

## 2024 SAL Membership Report as of: November 8, 2023

#	DETACHMENT	2024 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 35% TARGET 11/15/2023	2024 ACTUAL MBRSHIP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2024 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	120	-48	90	75.00%	67.23
2	FRANCE	168	-51	110	65.48%	58.79
3	LOUISIANA	1,821	-490	1,127	61.89%	57.21
4	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	-414	978	60.71%	53.15
5	WISCONSIN	4,398	-1,063	2,602	59.16%	53.79
6	GEORGIA	4,887	-1,028	2,738	56.03%	50.04
7	MISSISSIPPI	736	-126	384	52.17%	48.97
8	MONTANA	1,091	-160	542	49.68%	46.74
9	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-399	1,368	49.39%	41.01
10	PUERTO RICO	156	-22	77	49.36%	47.71
11	IDAHO	659	-86	317	48.10%	37.44
12	ILLINOIS	13,716	-1,756	6,557	47.81%	45.58
13	NEVADA	387	-47	182	47.03%	39.85
14	ALABAMA	2,100	-244	979	46.62%	40.36
15	UTAH	460	-52	213	46.30%	43.89
16	IOWA	4,914	-555	2,275	46.30%	43.23
17	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-111	487	45.30%	40.13
18	ARKANSAS	406	-30	172	42.36%	33.00
19	OKLAHOMA	1,430	-77	577	40.35%	32.04
20	OREGON	1,534	-67	604	39.37%	30.31
21	FLORIDA	23,066	-987	9,060	39.28%	31.62
22	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	-54	603	38.41%	29.69
23	WYOMING	1,248	-41	478	38.30%	33.74
24	MINNESOTA	11,435	-292	4,294	37.55%	34.96
25	TEXAS	5,783	-147	2,171	37.54%	32.78
26	MARYLAND	16,803	-401	6,282	37.39%	33.30
27	CALIFORNIA	11,292	-234	4,186	37.07%	31.63
28	TENNESSEE	1,792	-32	659	36.77%	31.05
29	VIRGINIA	4,367	-48	1,576	36.09%	30.01
30	INDIANA	37,244	-308	13,343	35.83%	32.65
31	VERMONT	3,920	-14	1,386	35.36%	32.46
32	NEBRASKA	6,992	-15	2,462	35.21%	33.75
33	KANSAS	6,055	19	2,100	34.68%	31.59
34	NEW YORK	30,663	337	10,395	33.90%	30.72
35	MISSOURI	3,337	68	1,100	32.96%	28.41
36	CONNECTICUT	1,865	43	610	32.71%	27.59
37	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	135	1,766	32.51%	29.25
38	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	199	1,910	31.69%	28.59
39	COLORADO	2,952	102	931	31.54%	26.46
40	RHODE ISLAND	348	13	109	31.32%	26.67
41	NEW JERSEY	9,662	427	2,955	30.58%	27.33
42	OHIO	31,690	1,419	9,673	30.52%	27.47
43	LATIN AMERICA	33	2	10	30.30%	12.50
44	KENTUCKY	2,399	152	688	28.68%	24.40
45	DELAWARE	2,596	175	734	28.27%	22.38
46	ALASKA	1,740	124	485	27.87%	22.07
47	ARIZONA	8,595	619	2,389	27.80%	21.70
48	MICHIGAN	26,236	1,936	7,247	27.62%	23.34
49	WASHINGTON	2,682	201	738	27.52%	20.08
50	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	7,934	14,027	22.36%	19.73
51	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	332	576	22.21%	17.64
52	NEW MEXICO	1,582	217	337	21.30%	15.55
53	MAINE	2,757	700	265	9.61%	7.85
54	PHILIPPINES	79	25	3	3.80%	2.53
55	DIST OF COL	91	30	2	2.20%	1.14
Grand Totals:		382,111	5,810	127,929	33.48%	29.53

## 2024 SAL Regional Breakdown

Western Region - James R. Fischer, Sr. (CA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	120	90	75.00%
MONTANA	1,091	542	49.68%
IDAHO	659	317	48.10%
NEVADA	387	182	47.03%
UTAH	460	213	46.30%
OREGON	1,534	604	39.37%
WYOMING	1,248	478	38.30%
CALIFORNIA	11,292	4,186	37.07%
COLORADO	2,952	931	31.54%
LATIN AMERICA	33	10	30.30%
ALASKA	1,740	485	27.87%
ARIZONA	8,595	2,389	27.80%
WASHINGTON	2,682	738	27.52%
NEW MEXICO	1,582	337	21.30%
PHILIPPINES	79	3	3.80%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>34,454</b>	<b>11,505</b>	<b>33.39%</b>

Southeast Region - Linwood A. Moore (VA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
LOUISIANA	1,821	1,127	61.89%
GEORGIA	4,887	2,738	56.03%
MISSISSIPPI	736	384	52.17%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	1,368	49.39%
PUERTO RICO	156	77	49.36%
ALABAMA	2,100	979	46.62%
ARKANSAS	406	172	42.36%
FLORIDA	23,066	9,060	39.28%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	603	38.41%
TEXAS	5,783	2,171	37.54%
TENNESSEE	1,792	659	36.77%
VIRGINIA	4,367	1,576	36.09%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>49,454</b>	<b>20,914</b>	<b>42.29%</b>

Midwest Region - Terry A. Harris (KS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	978	60.71%
IOWA	4,914	2,275	46.30%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	487	45.30%
OKLAHOMA	1,430	577	40.35%
NEBRASKA	6,992	2,462	35.21%
KANSAS	6,055	2,100	34.68%
MISSOURI	3,337	1,100	32.96%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>25,414</b>	<b>9,979</b>	<b>39.27%</b>

Northeast Region - John R. Cook (NH)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	168	110	65.48%
MARYLAND	16,803	6,282	37.39%
VERMONT	3,920	1,386	35.36%
NEW YORK	30,663	10,395	33.90%
CONNECTICUT	1,865	610	32.71%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	1,766	32.51%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	1,910	31.69%
RHODE ISLAND	348	109	31.32%
NEW JERSEY	9,662	2,955	30.58%
DELAWARE	2,596	734	28.27%
PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	14,027	22.36%
MAINE	2,757	265	9.61%
DIST OF COL	91	2	2.20%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>143,078</b>	<b>40,551</b>	<b>28.34%</b>

Central Region - Robert L. Bristo (MN)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,398	2,602	59.16%
ILLINOIS	13,716	6,557	47.81%
MINNESOTA	11,435	4,294	37.55%
INDIANA	37,244	13,343	35.83%
OHIO	31,690	9,673	30.52%
KENTUCKY	2,399	688	28.68%
MICHIGAN	26,236	7,247	27.62%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	576	22.21%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>129,711</b>	<b>44,980</b>	<b>34.68%</b>

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11/08/23		NATIONAL   Donald "JR" Hall, Jr. (MD)   National Commander					
	Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date
1	Southeast 1, 2, 3	49,454	20,914	(28,540)	42.29%	280	
2	Midwest 1, 2, 3	25,414	9,979	(15,435)	39.27%	177	
3	Central 1, 2	129,711	44,980	(84,731)	34.68%	785	
4	Western 1, 2	34,454	11,505	(22,949)	33.39%	347	
5	Northeast 1	143,078	40,551	(102,527)	28.34%	678	
<b>TOTALS 1, 2</b>		<b>382,111</b>	<b>127,929</b>	<b>(254,182)</b>	<b>33.48%</b>	<b>2,267</b>	

11/08/23		CENTRAL REGION   Robert L. Bristo (MN)   National Vice-Commander							
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date
1	Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4,398	2,602	(1,796)	59.16%	91	5	53.79%	
2	Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5	13,716	6,557	(7,159)	47.81%	3	12	45.58%	
3	Minnesota 1, 2, 3	11,435	4,294	(7,141)	37.55%	17	24	34.96%	
4	Indiana 1, 2, 3	37,244	13,343	(23,901)	35.83%	318	30	32.65%	
5	Ohio 1	31,690	9,673	(22,017)	30.52%	189	42	27.47%	
6	Kentucky 1	2,399	688	(1,711)	28.68%	7	44	24.40%	
7	Michigan 1	26,236	7,247	(18,989)	27.62%	160	48	23.34%	
8	West Virginia 1	2,593	576	(2,017)	22.21%	-	51	17.64%	
<b>TOTALS 1, 2</b>		<b>129,711</b>	<b>44,980</b>	<b>(84,731)</b>	<b>34.68%</b>	<b>785</b>			

11/08/23		WESTERN REGION   James A. Fischer Sr. (CA)   National Vice-Commander							
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date
1	Hawaii 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	120	90	(30)	75.00%	3	1	67.23%	
2	Montana 1, 2, 3, 4	1,091	542	(549)	49.68%	2	8	46.74%	
3	Idaho 1, 2, 3, 4	659	317	(342)	48.10%	6	11	37.44%	
4	Nevada 1, 2, 3, 4	387	182	(205)	47.03%	16	13	39.85%	
5	Utah 1, 2, 3, 4	460	213	(247)	46.30%	5	15	43.89%	
6	Oregon 1, 2, 3	1,534	604	(930)	39.37%	3	20	30.31%	
7	Wyoming 1, 2, 3	1,248	478	(770)	38.30%	-	23	33.74%	
8	California 1, 2, 3	11,292	4,186	(7,106)	37.07%	45	27	31.63%	
9	Colorado 1	2,952	931	(2,021)	31.54%	10	39	26.46%	
10	Latin America	33	10	(23)	30.30%	-	43	12.50%	
11	Alaska	1,740	485	(1,255)	27.87%	3	46	22.07%	
12	Arizona 1	8,595	2,389	(6,206)	27.80%	225	47	21.70%	
13	Washington	2,682	738	(1,944)	27.52%	8	49	20.08%	
14	New Mexico	1,582	337	(1,245)	21.30%	21	52	15.55%	
15	Philippines	79	3	(76)	3.80%	-	54	2.53%	
<b>TOTALS 1, 2</b>		<b>34,454</b>	<b>11,505</b>	<b>(22,949)</b>	<b>33.39%</b>	<b>347</b>			

11/08/23		SOUTHEAST REGION   Linwood A. Moore (VA)   National Vice-Commander							
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date
1	Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,821	1,127	(694)	61.89%	40	3	57.21%	
2	Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4	4,887	2,738	(2,149)	56.03%	-	6	50.04%	
3	Mississippi 1, 2, 3, 4	736	384	(352)	52.17%	8	7	48.97%	
4	North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4	2,770	1,368	(1,402)	49.39%	7	9	41.01%	
5	Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4	156	77	(79)	49.36%	-	10	47.71%	
6	Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4	2,100	979	(1,121)	46.62%	2	14	40.36%	
7	Arkansas 1, 2, 3	406	172	(234)	42.36%	-	18	33.00%	
8	Florida 1, 2, 3	23,066	9,060	(14,006)	39.28%	133	21	31.62%	
9	South Carolina 1, 2, 3	1,570	603	(967)	38.41%	8	22	29.69%	
10	Texas 1, 2, 3	5,783	2,171	(3,612)	37.54%	48	25	32.78%	
12	Tennessee 1, 2	1,792	659	(1,133)	36.77%	14	28	31.05%	
13	Virginia 1, 2, 3	4,367	1,576	(2,791)	36.09%	20	29	30.01%	
<b>TOTALS 1, 2, 3</b>		<b>49,454</b>	<b>20,914</b>	<b>(28,540)</b>	<b>42.29%</b>	<b>280</b>			

11/08/23	MIDWEST REGION   Terry A. Harris (KS)   National Vice-Commander								
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
South Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,611	978	(633)	60.71%	3	4	53.15%		
Iowa 1, 2, 3, 4	4,914	2,275	(2,639)	46.30%	56	16	43.23%		
North Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4	1,075	487	(588)	45.30%	7	17	40.13%		
Oklahoma 1, 2, 3	1,430	577	(853)	40.35%	-	19	32.04%		
Nebraska 1, 2, 3	6,992	2,462	(4,530)	35.21%	107	32	33.75%		
Kansas 1, 2	6,055	2,100	(3,955)	34.68%	4	33	31.59%		
Missouri 1, 2	3,337	1,100	(2,237)	32.96%	-	35	28.41%		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3	25,414	9,979	(15,435)	39.27%	177				

11/08/23	NORTHEAST REGION   John R. Cook (NH)   National Vice-Commander								
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
France 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	168	110	(58)	65.48%	-	2	58.79%		
Maryland 1, 2, 3	16,803	6,282	(10,521)	37.39%	127	26	33.30%		
Vermont 1, 2, 3	3,920	1,386	(2,534)	35.36%	96	31	32.46%		
New York 1	30,663	10,395	(20,268)	33.90%	149	34	30.72%		
Connecticut 1, 2	1,865	610	(1,255)	32.71%	10	36	27.59%		
Massachusetts 1	5,432	1,766	(3,666)	32.51%	123	37	29.25%		
New Hampshire 1, 2	6,027	1,910	(4,117)	31.69%	46	38	28.59%		
Rhode Island 1, 2	348	109	(239)	31.32%	-	40	26.67%		
New Jersey 1, 2	9,662	2,955	(6,707)	30.58%	6	41	27.33%		
Delaware 1	2,596	734	(1,862)	28.27%	12	45	22.38%		
Pennsylvania	62,746	14,027	(48,719)	22.36%	109	50	19.73%		
Maine	2,757	265	(2,492)	9.61%	-	53	7.85%		
Dist. of Columbia	91	2	(89)	2.20%	-	55	1.14%		
TOTALS 1	143,078	40,551	(102,527)	28.34%	678				

11/08/23	2023 SUPER SIX STANDINGS								
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
Florida 1, 2, 3	23,066	9,060	(14,006)	39.28%	133	21	31.62%		
Indiana 1, 2	37,244	13,343	(23,901)	35.83%	318	30	32.65%		
New York 1	30,663	10,395	(20,268)	33.90%	149	34	30.72%		
Ohio 1	31,690	9,673	(22,017)	30.52%	189	42	27.47%		
Michigan 1	26,236	7,247	(18,989)	27.62%	160	48	23.34%		
Pennsylvania	62,746	14,027	(48,719)	22.36%	109	50	19.73%		
TOTALS	211,645	63,745	(147,900)	30.12%	1,058				

<b>National Totals 1, 2</b>	<b>382,111</b>	<b>127,929</b>	<b>(254,182)</b>	<b>33.48%</b>	<b>2,267</b>		<b>29.53%</b>		
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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%

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2023                      2024

## INDIVIDUAL RECRUITMENT AWARD FORM (IRA)

Date

Date Format: mm/dd/yyyy (select date by clicking inside the box)

Recruiter Name  Member ID#

Email Address

Phone Number  Detachment  Squadron #

☐ MAIL TO RECRUITER                      ☐ MAIL TO SQUADRON

Mailing Address

City  State  Zip

**TO QUALIFY:** RECRUIT FIVE (5) NEW MEMBERS INTO THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

**\*\* INCLUDE FIRST & LAST NAME AND MEMBER ID# FOR ALL NEW MEMBERS BELOW (LEGIBLY)**

**\*\* A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE SONS MEMBER JOINING FOR THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP YEAR                      TRANSFERS DO NOT COUNT AS NEW MEMBERS**

**INFO:** PLEASE FORWARD THE NAMES OF NEW AMERICAN LEGION AND/OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS TO YOUR POST OR UNIT FOR USE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE NEW MEMBER INCENTIVE PROGRAMS.

**NOTE:** ONLY ONE (1) AWARD PIN WILL BE PROVIDED TO RECRUITER PER YEARLY INCENTIVE

**\*\* SUBMIT AWARD FORMS BY JUNE 30 TO QUALIFY FOR THIS INCENTIVE \*\***

	<u>FIRST &amp; LAST NAME</u>	<u>MEMBER ID#</u>
1.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**INSTRUCTIONS:** SAVE THE COMPLETED FORM, THEN EMAIL TO THE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN APPLICABLE

**REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMEN:**

NORTHEAST REGION:	ROBERT MANZO (MD)	(EMAIL) <a href="mailto:BMANZO1085@YAHOO.COM">BMANZO1085@YAHOO.COM</a>
SOUTHEAST REGION:	THOM SKELLEY (TX)	(EMAIL) <a href="mailto:THOMSKELLEY@TWC.COM">THOMSKELLEY@TWC.COM</a>
CENTRAL REGION:	HARL "BUTCH" RAY (IL)	(EMAIL) <a href="mailto:BUTCH.ILSAL@GMAIL.COM">BUTCH.ILSAL@GMAIL.COM</a>
MIDWEST REGION:	MIKE MONSERUD (IA)	(EMAIL) <a href="mailto:MIKEMONSERUD@GMAIL.COM">MIKEMONSERUD@GMAIL.COM</a>
WESTERN REGION:	DAN ASHLEY (CA)	(EMAIL) <a href="mailto:POTATO480@LIVE.COM">POTATO480@LIVE.COM</a>

VISIT [WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS/PUBLICATIONS](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS/PUBLICATIONS) FOR OTHER AWARDS AVAILABLE



## BLUE BRIGADE AWARD CERTIFICATION FORM - 2024

**Mail:** THE AMERICAN LEGION  
ATTN: SAL AWARDS  
700 N. PENNSYLVANIA ST.  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

**Email:** [SALawards@legion.org](mailto:SALawards@legion.org)

Contact National Headquarters at the above email if you  
have any questions regarding this award form

**\*\* Award form must be received at National Headquarters by July 31**

The following SAL member in the Detachment of  has enrolled  
30 or **more** new members into Sons of The American Legion membership by **July 31**

(A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE SONS MEMBER JOINING FOR THE CURRENT  
MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DURING THE PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP YEAR.) **TRANSFERS DO NOT COUNT AS NEW MEMBERS**

PLEASE FORWARD THE NAMES OF NEW AMERICAN LEGION AND/OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS  
TO YOUR POST OR UNIT FOR USE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS. CONTACT  
YOUR STATE HEADQUARTERS FOR MORE INFORMATION [LEGION.ORG/DEPARTMENTS](http://LEGION.ORG/DEPARTMENTS)

**Please select the appropriate box below for this Blue Brigade award:**

☐

**1st BLUE BRIGADE AWARD**

☐

**OTHER** (see below instructions)

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Select the "OTHER" box above only if awardee has submitted award form consecutive  
years in a row with no missing years

**\*\* Consecutive year awardees receive an Blue Brigade Certificate and Chevron**

**\*\* 5th plus time awardees for consecutive years will receive above items and \$150.00 Emblem Sales gift certificate**

**Select the appropriate box below for the preferred jacket size:**

SIZES: ( ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ 2XL ☐ 3XL ☐ 4XL ☐ 5XL )

Recruiter Name:  Squadron No.

Phone:  Email Address:  Member ID#

Street Address:  City:  State:  Zip:

Number of **NEW MEMBERS** enrolled  ( *minimum of 30 required* )

**NOTICE: ALL BLUE BRIGADE AWARD ITEMS WILL BE SENT TO THE RECRUITERS  
AMERICAN LEGION STATE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS OFFICE FOR DISTRIBUTION  
ONCE ALL APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN VERIFIED AND VALIDATED**

**\*\* ALL JACKETS ARE CUSTOM MADE TO ORDER BY SIZE AND EMBROIDERED WITH  
RECRUITERS NAME, MEMBERSHIP YEAR ETC. AND CAN TAKE  
APPROX. 6-8 WEEKS TO RECEIVE FROM THE VENDOR**

**INFO:** All new members enrolled must be listed on the national membership database and  
assigned a unique SAL membership ID# before validation. Any new members not listed at the  
time of application submission, will delay the approval process when verified





## BLUE BRIGADE NEW MEMBER CERTIFICATION - 2024

#	Member ID#	First & Last Name	Detachment	Squadron No.
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
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25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				

Department Adjutant - signature

Date ( select date by clicking inside above box)

Detachment Adjutant - signature

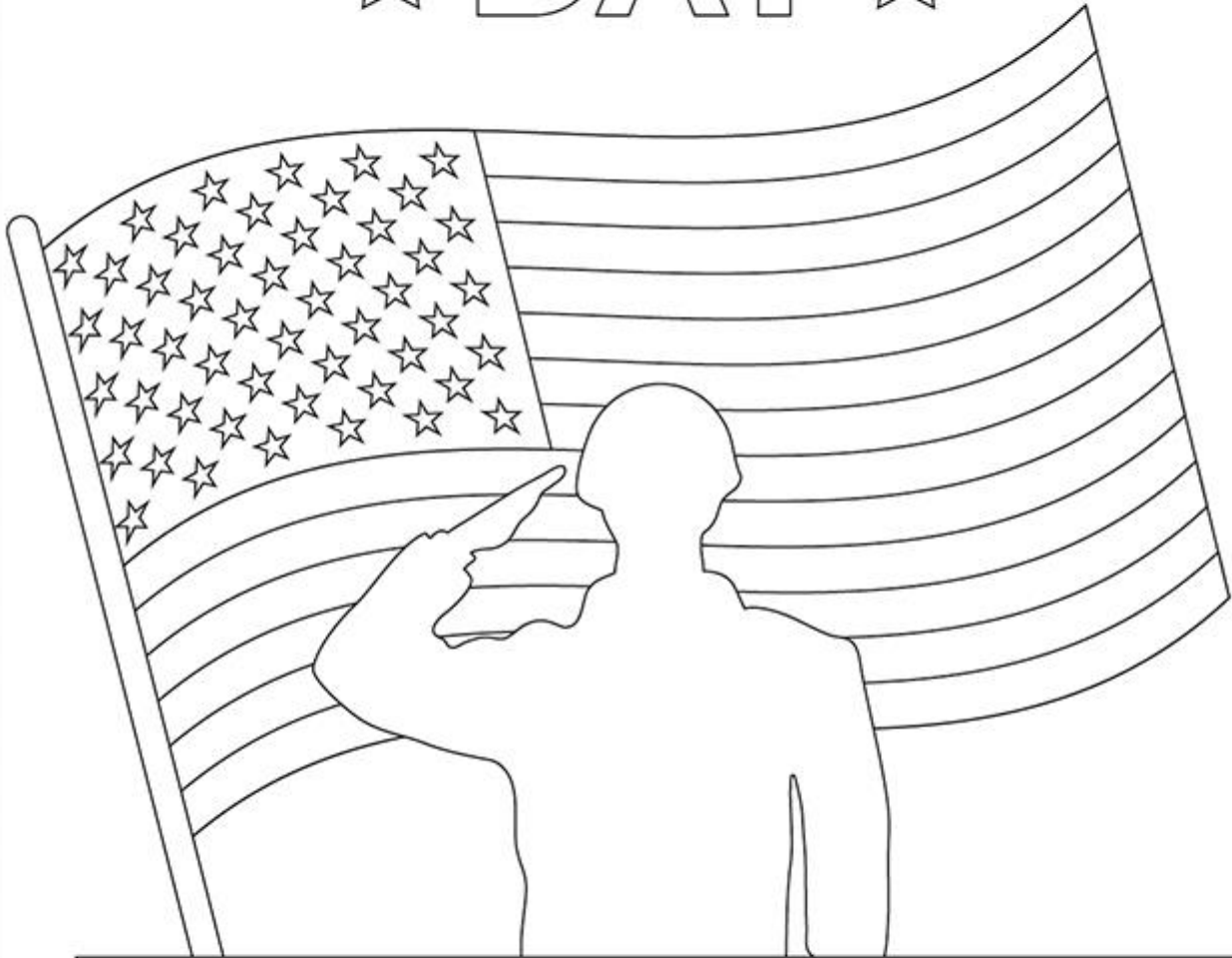
Date ( select date by clicking inside above box )

USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS AS NECESSARY



# VETERANS

# DAY



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED