



My wish for the holidays

November 22, 2023

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

This week ushers in the most special time of the year, first with the celebration of Thanksgiving and then the spirit of Christmas will be in full swing.

It's a time when we joyously express gratitude, give thanks for all of our blessings and are more inspired to help others.

This holiday season my wish is that the desire to help others will spread beyond a few weeks and become a priority throughout the entire year. I know there are dedicated American Legion Family members who give their time in a myriad of ways all year long and understand both the power and satisfaction of servant leadership.

They are the unsung heroes of post activities in their local communities.

They deliver food, water, and other resources to those in need.

They mentor children and youth in their hometowns.

They perform honor guard duties.

They clean the gravesites of veterans.

They perform Buddy Checks on fellow veterans, who may need nothing more than to hear a friendly voice or see a familiar face. They are the men and women who make communities stronger through servant leadership. Across America, the need has increased for even more servant leaders like these.

Let's take the goodwill we feel in our hearts now, capture it and seek opportunities to serve our veterans, our military members, their families, and the communities in which we live. No opportunity is too small, no challenge too large.

Join me in expanding the servant leadership we embrace this holiday season and extend it throughout 2024.

From my family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!

Daniel J. Seehafer, National Commander
The American Legion

WATCH ON  **YouTube**

Round-Up

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

Christopher Carlton (IN)
Immediate Past National Commander

Joseph Navarrete (NM)
Leading Candidate for National Commander

William Clancy III (NY)
Trailing Candidate for National Commander

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

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

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

All information must be submitted by noon each Friday.

[PNVC Jeff Vrabel, Sr.](#), Editor
[Rusty Myers](#), Contributor
[Lou Michaels](#), Contributor



Donald "JR" Hall, Jr.

National Commander

REPRESENTING

More

THAN ME

From the Editor

**Make sure you're subscribed
to *The Millennium***

Don't miss out on any of the news from the Sons of The American Legion and the Legion Family. To receive the monthly national SAL e-newsletter, go to Legion.org/Newsletters and log in to subscribe. You'll need your MyLegion account to do so; that gives you access to not only the SAL e-newsletter, but the national American Legion e-newsletters, the Digital Dispatch, membership discounts and much more!

MyLegion.org accounts are to be registered with the email address on your individual membership record that National Headquarters has on file. Registering with an email not listed as your primary email will not provide access to membership details, leadership resources or permissions.

To register an account

1. Go to MyLegion.org
2. Click "Register" in the upper right-hand corner
3. Enter your email in the Register window and click Next. A Verify Account window opens. Leave this page open. Go to your email and retrieve the OTP (One Time Password).
4. Enter the OTP and click Verify.
5. Click Next and you will be logged in.

6. Go to My Account to view membership details.

Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible.

RENEW TODAY!

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

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

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!

“Movement unlocks Momentum!”

And move we did! One look at the attached reports will show you how even small steps create big change. As I have stated before, one day at a time is

the secret to building momentum. Our continual movement has impactful and lasting results. Our membership cards turned in through November 20th show that **the SAL is now 17,164 members ahead of where we were just one year ago!** Last year we set records, and it looks like this year we will be setting new ones all in service to our Veterans!

As some of us prepare for the cooler winter weather will understand, momentum no matter how small is still momentum and it will snowball and get bigger and bigger until it shows that we are making massive actions without even thinking about it! **Action is momentum!** The difference between our dreams and reality is called action.

We are entering into what in the past has been a slower membership turn-in season. The holidays will soon be upon us, but we cannot stop the movement we have started. No excuses, never give up, work hard, be positive, start doing and keep going! **Continue to trust the process and there is no way we can be stopped!**

Now our numbers...

The Central Region jumped 5.58% since my last report!

Leading the Parade this time is the Detachment of Michigan with an impressive jump of 7.10%. Right behind them were the detachments of Indiana and Minnesota with gains of 6.50% and 6.28% respectively. Wisconsin and Illinois followed with increases of 5.43% and 5.15%. Ohio and West Virginia added over 3% each and Kentucky grew by almost 2%. We are still in 3rd place nationally but **with this report we are 3.37% ahead of where we were last year!** Four of our detachments have already reached the 45% and above mark! An interesting fact to take note of is that the Central Region is the only region with five detachments that have over 11,000 members each and look at what we have accomplished!

Central Region, **KEEP UP THE AWESOME WORK!!** Be sure to turn in your **IRA's** and don't forget to recognize your members that may be eligible for the **Blue Brigade Recruitment Award!**

I wish everyone the most blessed of Thanksgiving Holidays!

“Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve

minutes. THIS IS NOT A COINCIDENCE!” –
Erma Bombeck

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!

Thanksgiving reminds us to give thanks and to count our blessings. We are blessed and lucky to enjoy life, and we must remember that every day of our life. The holidays can be rough for some people out there. If you are able, please **Be the One** and help out in any-one in any way you can this holiday season. **I’m the One, You’re the One, Be the One!**

The Western region report. We improved by 3.09% currently at 41.38% total from last report. We are still currently 4th in the nation and right behind Central Region by 3.32%. Our goal is to be at 45% by 12/13/23. Great job to the detachments who are already achieved this. Hawaii at 79.17%, Montana at 58.02%, Idaho at 52.50%, Nevada at 50.90%, Utah at 50.87%, Oregon at 48.24%, Wyoming at 46.07%,

California at 45.47%. Coming on strong Arizona at 37.74%, Alaska at 37.07%, Colorado at 36.65%, Washington at 33.33%, Latin America at 30.30%, New Mexico at 26.68%, and Philippines at 6.33%. May your stuffing be tasty, may your turkey be plump, may your potatoes and gravy have nary a limp, may your yams be delicious, and your pies take the prize, and may your Thanksgiving dinner stay off your things! Happy Thanksgiving, gobble till you wobble.

“One Team, One Goal, One Heart, One Soul. Be the One!”

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



November is

**NATIONAL
RENEWAL
MONTH**

HONOR THE VETERAN WHO MADE YOU ELIGIBLE

RENEW TODAY!

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.

National Commissions and Committees

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

Americanism Commission

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

'I think every boy in America ought to go to Boys State'

[Andy Proffet](#) | November 20, 2023

A tradition at American Legion Boys Nation is that exemplary delegates who aren't elected to one of the program's four top offices may be invited back for the next three years to serve as junior counselors.

U.S. Navy Commander Hunter Scott was invited back for just one year as a "JC" – not by choice – but that experience provided a lesson in leadership he would never forget.

"(I learned) for me to be an effective leader, I first need to be comfortable with myself," Scott said during a July 2023 return to Marymount University — home of Boys Nation since 1986.

"And then I would have the intention to not focus on myself but to focus on the people that I would be responsible for leading."

Scott, a special assistant to Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, accompanied then-Chairman Gen. Mark Milley to Marymount [for an unprecedented visit to Boys Nation](#).

The visit also gave Scott a chance to reminisce about his experience at Florida American Legion Boys State and American Legion Boys Nation in the summer of 2002, as well as his one year as a Boys Nation staffer in 2003.

"When I came to Boys Nation in 2002, I was, I think, a very good delegate. I loved our country, still do. I love our government. I love our military. I love all aspects of living a life of service. And so, when I got to Boys State and then was selected to go to Boys Nation, I took the program very seriously; I loved every part of it. I was fully engaged. I introduced legislation. I was involved in all the conversations. I always tried to sit in the front, ask engaging questions, develop relationships with the other boys ... I loved it. And I think the counselors took notice of that, too, because I was invited back to be a counselor."

That chapter of his American Legion Boys Nation story did not turn out as well.

"I was a terrible counselor. Because, upon many years of being able to reflect on this, of my own insecurities. I wanted to be well liked and to be thought of as cool more than I wanted to be, to use Navy words, 'in command,' or responsible for good order and discipline and make sure these boys got the most out of the program. So, I didn't enforce basic discipline standards, I lost control of the group, my group was rowdy and undisciplined, and by the time I realized that I kind of needed to bring in the reins a little bit, it was too late." Given the effectiveness of the lesson he learned from his year as a Boys Nation junior counselor — plus his cherished memories of his time at Florida Boys State and as a Boys Nation delegate — Scott remains an ardent supporter of the programs.

"I think every boy in America ought to go to Boys State. And if you can, Boys Nation. They are really, really incredible programs. It doesn't matter what your dreams or goals are; for me, you can see a direct line to Boys State or Boys Nation, and my path as an officer in the military. Whether you want to go into business or you want to be in healthcare, or you want to be engaged in your community in some regard, I think Boys State makes a lot of sense, because we all

feel the decisions of our government. So, whether we are directly involved, we've got to know how the process works."

With ongoing recruiting shortfalls, Scott also encouraged young people to be open-minded about considering the military as a career.

"The longer I've been in, the more I love it," Scott said while acknowledging he faced an initial "culture shock" when he first entered the service. "One, it gives a real sense of purpose to your life. We all take an oath to support and defend the Constitution; I take that oath very seriously. It is the second most important oath I have taken, the first being to my God. Two, I work with really incredible people, all day, every day. "... I love the sense of service, I love the people, and I love the mission that we do. Being able to protect our democracy and fight to preserve our values all over the world, that is really important to me. I just recommend everyone in high school or college, or at any point, be open-minded to the military, because it is a really, really wonderful life."

WATCH ON  **YouTube**

Century Committee

Joe Gladden, Chairman

Second Tuesday Bi-Monthly

October 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, 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, 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, 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

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

Internal Affairs Commission

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



**RENEW
ONLINE
TODAY**

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.

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](#).

2023 SAL Membership Stats	11/20/23
Total Actual Membership	379,479
Percentage of Goal	103.18
Renewal Percentage	89.09
Quota Detachments	45

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

Public & Media Communications Committee

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

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

Changes coming to American Legion newsletter schedule

The American Legion | November 20, 2023

The American Legion Media & Communications team is adjusting its schedule for its newsletter distribution, starting the week of Nov. 27. (Also, note that due to the Thanksgiving holiday there will not be an Online Update on Nov. 24.)

Starting the week of Nov. 27, these are the changes:

- The American Legion Online Update will move from three times a week to two, going out each Monday and Thursday. What subscribers need to know: If you currently subscribe to both Online Update and Thank You Thursday (TYT), a link to TYT will be included in your Thursday Online Update and you will no longer receive the Thank You Thursday email. If you receive Thank you Thursday but not Online Update, you will continue to receive TYT as normal.
- The Commander's Message, which currently is distributed on Wednesdays, will be sent on an as-needed basis.
- Dispatch will move to twice a month starting in January. The Dispatch, which is packed full of resources, training materials, etc., will continue to provide such content to subscribers but now in a more-timely fashion.

To subscribe to any American Legion newsletter, [please visit this page](#).

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

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

Veterans Employment & Education Commission

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
AUXILIARY



Lisa Williamson,
National President
The American Legion Auxiliary

Sports



Legion Baseball alumni Holliday, Sheffield on Hall of Fame ballot

The American Legion | November 21, 2023

Two former American Legion Baseball players are among the 26 players on the Baseball Writers Association of America (BBWAA) ballot for the Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2024 — one in his first year of eligibility and one in his last.

Matt Holliday (Stillwater, Okla.) and Gary Sheffield (Post 248/Tampa, Fla.) are under consideration for induction into the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. Voting results will be announced Jan. 23, with the induction ceremony taking place during Hall of Fame weekend July 21, 2024.

Holliday played 15 seasons in the major leagues with Colorado, Oakland, St. Louis, and the New York Yankees. A seven-time All-Star and four-time Silver Slugger Award-winning left fielder, he was the MVP of the 2007 National League Championship Series with the Rockies and was a member of the Cardinals' World Series champions in 2011. In 2007, he also led the NL

with a .340 batting average, 216 hits, 50 doubles, 137 RBIs and 386 total bases. Holliday finished his career with a .299 batting average, 316 home runs and 1,220 RBIs. This is Holliday's first year of eligibility for the Hall of Fame.

Sheffield is in his 10th and final year on the BBWAA ballot. He played 22 seasons with Milwaukee, San Diego, Florida, the Los Angeles Dodgers, Atlanta, New York Yankees, Detroit, and the New York Mets. A nine-time All-Star, Sheffield won five Silver Slugger Awards — one at third base and four as an outfielder. He helped the Marlins win the 1997 World Series. A career .292 hitter, Sheffield finished his career with 509 home runs and 1,676 RBIs.

Holliday and Sheffield join former major league managers Jim Leyland (Post 183/Pemberville, Ohio) and Lou Piniella (West Tampa) as Legion Baseball alumni under consideration for the Hall of Fame Class of 2024. The Contemporary Baseball Era Committee will decide Dec. 3 on which former managers may be headed to the Hall.

Leyland won 1,769 games in 22 seasons managing the Pirates, Marlins, Rockies, and Tigers, and led the Marlins to the 1997 World Series title. He was a three-time Manager of the Year Award winner.

Piniella won 1,835 games in 23 seasons as manager for the Yankees, Reds, Mariners, Rays and Cubs. He managed the Reds to the 1990 World Series title and was a three-time Manager of the Year.

Eighty-five American Legion Baseball alumni have been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame:

- Bob Feller (1962)
- Ted Williams (1966)
- Joe Medwick (1968)
- Stan Musial (1969)
- Roy Campanella (1969)
- Lou Boudreau (1970)
- Yogi Berra (1972)
- Early Wynn (1972)
- Warren Spahn (1973)
- Ralph Kiner (1975)
- Robin Roberts (1976)
- Bob Lemon (1976)
- Eddie Mathews (1978)
- Al Kaline (1980)
- Bob Gibson (1981)
- Frank Robinson (1982)
- George Kell (1983)

- Brooks Robinson (1983)
- Don Drysdale (1984)
- Harmon Killebrew (1984)
- Pee Wee Reese (1984)
- Hoyt Wilhelm (1985)
- Bobby Doerr (1986)
- Catfish Hunter (1987)
- Willie Stargell (1988)
- Johnny Bench (1989)
- Carl Yastrzemski (1989)
- Joe Morgan (1990)
- Jim Palmer (1990)
- Gaylord Perry (1991)
- Rollie Fingers (1992)
- Hal Newhouser (1992)
- Tom Seaver (1992)
- Reggie Jackson (1993)
- Steve Carlton (1994)
- Richie Ashburn (1995)
- Jim Bunning (1996)
- Earl Weaver (1996)
- Phil Niekro (1997)
- Nellie Fox (1997)
- George Brett (1999)
- Robin Yount (1999)
- Sparky Anderson (2000)
- Carlton Fisk (2000)
- Dave Winfield (2001)
- Gary Carter (2003)
- Eddie Murray (2003)
- Paul Molitor (2004)
- Ryne Sandberg (2005)
- Wade Boggs (2005)
- Bruce Sutter (2006)
- Tony Gwynn (2007)
- Dick Williams (2008)
- Joe Gordon (2009)
- Jim Rice (2009)
- Whitey Herzog (2010)
- Doug Harvey (2010)
- Roberto Alomar (2011)
- Bert Blyleven (2011)
- Pat Gillick (2011)
- Ron Santo (2012)
- Barry Larkin (2012)
- Bobby Cox (2014)
- Tom Glavine (2014)
- Tony LaRussa (2014)
- Greg Maddux (2014)
- Joe Torre (2014)
- Mike Piazza (2016)
- Jeff Bagwell (2017)

- Tim Lincecum (2017)
- Iván Rodríguez (2017)
- John Schuerholz (2017)
- Trevor Hoffman (2018)
- Chipper Jones (2018)
- Jack Morris (2018)
- Jim Thome (2018)
- Alan Trammell (2018)
- Harold Baines (2019)
- Roy Halladay (2019)
- Mike Mussina (2019)
- Lee Smith (2019)
- Ted Simmons (2020)
- Gil Hodges (2022)
- Fred McGriff (2023)
- Scott Rolen (2023)





THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
First Initial Last Date of Birth _____

Address _____
Street City State ZIP _____

Membership ID# former member _____ Post # _____ Phone # _____ Email _____ Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female

Please check war era and branch of service below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Space Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korea | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WWII | <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts | |

I certify that I have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces since December 7, 1941, and have been honorably discharged or I am still serving.

Signed by applicant _____ Date _____ Name of recruiter _____

If you are a new member, send this completed application with annual dues to The American Legion, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206 (check www.legion.org/join for dues amount), or take it to a local post. To locate a post near you, click on "Find a Post" at www.legion.org.

01/7010



DUES RECEIPT (please print)

Date _____
Received from _____
\$ _____ for 20 _____ dues
Recruiter's name _____
Recruiter's signature _____
Recruiter's phone # _____



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth date _____

Name _____
First Initial Last Recruited by _____
Initial Last

Address _____
Street City State ZIP Phone _____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

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

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

(c) Relationship of applicant to veteran _____

Has applicant previously been a member of the SAL? _____ Where? _____

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion and apply for membership.

Email _____ Transmit \$ _____ for 20 _____ annual membership dues

Signed by applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Eligibility certified by _____

Mail completed application to Sons of The American Legion department/state headquarters. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current detachment address, go to The American Legion department/state headquarters, or visit www.legion.org.

01/7010



DUES RECEIPT (please print)

Date _____
Received from _____
\$ _____ for 20 _____ dues
Squadron No. _____
Department of _____



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email _____ Unit # and Location _____

Date of Birth (Required) _____
☐ Birth - 17 ☐ 18 and older

Have you been a member previously? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, fill in below, if known.)

Previous Unit City/State _____ ALA ID# _____

Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Date _____

Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance.
Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due.
Membership pending approval of application.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Through-Name of Veteran (if living, must be American Legion member) ☐ Living ☐ Deceased

If Living: American Legion Member ID # _____ Post # _____ City _____ State _____
☐ Deceased (If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.)

Veteran served: (check all that apply)

- ☐ WWI (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)
- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply): | <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada | <input type="checkbox"/> WWII |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War | <input type="checkbox"/> Korea | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama | | |

Applicant's relationship to the veteran:

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Male Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Mother |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grandmother | <input type="checkbox"/> Sister | <input type="checkbox"/> Self |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Descendant (daughter, granddaughter) | | |

To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification _____ Date _____



DUES RECEIPT (please print)

Date _____
Received from _____
\$ _____ for 20 _____ dues
Recruiter's name _____
Recruiter's signature _____
Recruiter's phone # _____

Squadron Everlasting

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

Michael Edward Wanzie



Piscataway, NJ – Michael Edward Wanzie, 54, passed away suddenly at his home on November 15, 2023. Born in

Somerville to Irene and the late Edward Wanzie, Mike was a lifetime resident of Piscataway.

He was a Senior Marketing Manager at Panasonic USA in Newark. Mike had a love for classic cars, especially Corvettes. He belonged to the Drive Time Corvette Club, was a member of the Piscataway BPO Elks Lodge #2414 and the Sons of the American Legion in Piscataway.

Mike enjoyed relaxing on the beach and would never miss the opportunity to watch the Philadelphia Eagles (Go Birds!). In his youth, he was a former baseball player and that carried through to him coaching Little League. Mike loved doing home improvements and lawn care and had a passion about music, especially Elvis, The Beach Boys, Frank Sinatra, and Country.

A born patriot, craft handyman, and a true, selfless family man, he loved to be with his children and his pets, (Humphrey, Elvis, and Cosmo.).

Predeceased by his father Edward Wanzie and father-in-law Robert Krasnansky, Mike leaves behind his wife of thirty years, Donna Wanzie, and their children; Marisa Rieth and her husband Ryan of Winter Garden, FL, Justin Wanzie of West Chester, PA, Evan Wanzie and his wife Christine of Bradenton, FL. He will be missed by his mother Irene Wanzie of Piscataway, sister Cynthia Piano and her husband Vincent of Piscataway, mother-in-law Phyllis Krasnansky of Bound Brook, brother-in-law and his family, Bob, Susanne and Christopher Krasnansky of Le Rouret, France, brother-in-law Kevin Krasnansky of Bound Brook, as well as his nieces and their family, Brittany, Raymond, Chloe and Scarlett Rose

of Whitehouse Station and Erica Piano of Highland Park.

Visitation will be held at Piscataway Funeral Home, 18 Stelton Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854 on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 from 4pm until 8pm and on Wednesday, November 22, 2023 beginning 9:00am. Prayers will be held in the funeral home on Wednesday at 9:30am followed by a 10:00am funeral mass at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Piscataway. Committal words will follow in the chapel of Somerset Hills Memorial Park in Basking Ridge.

Please visit Mike's interactive webpage at www.PiscatawayFuneralHome.com to send online condolences to his family.

Raymond L. Smith



TERRE HAUTE - Raymond L. Smith, 85, passed away November 19, 2023 in his residence.

He was born July 31, 1938, in Seelyville to Frank and Rosie (Hogue) Smith. He was a mechanic for UPS where he retired in 1994.

Raymond is survived by his daughters, Cathy Leeann Garvey (James) and Virginia Rose Curtis (Don); sons, Raymond "Joe" Smith (Sherri) and Greg Alan Smith (Helen Jean); sisters, Jeanette Auterson and Mae "Lucy" Long; 14 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren with one on the way; numerous nieces and nephews; and his best friend, Larry Harmon. He is preceded in death by his first wife Beverly Ann Smith, second wife Judy Ann Johnson, 11 brothers and sisters, and one grandchild.

Raymond was a member of the Moose Lodge, Sons of the American Legion, and Teamsters Local 710.

Visitation will be Saturday, November 25, 2023 from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm in Samaritan Funeral Home with funeral services starting at 1:00 pm in the funeral home. Burial will follow in Highland Lawn Cemetery. Online condolences may be left at: www.samaritanfunerals.com.

To send flowers to the family of Raymond L. Smith, please visit TributeStore.com.

Daniel P. Bekar



COLUMBIANA — Daniel P. Bekar, 74, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and mentor, passed away peacefully, Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023, at Hospice House in North Lima, surrounded by loved ones.

Dan was born March 17, 1949, in Rochester, Pa., the eldest son of Daniel and Gatha Rayburn Bekar. Dan graduated from East Liverpool High School in 1967, having been a pivotal member of the ELHS football and gymnastics teams. After high school, he attended Kent State University, earning a bachelor's degree in education. After graduating from Kent State, Dan began his teaching career in Stow before moving to Columbiana, where he spent the rest of his career.

His time at the Columbiana schools was spent teaching, coaching, and mentoring elementary, middle school and high school students. Dan taught industrial arts, health and physical education classes at Columbiana High School, Columbiana Middle School, and Joshua Dixon Elementary School. Dan was also heavily active in coaching the high school football and wrestling teams for many years, where he became affectionately known by many names such as "Mr. B.," "Dan the Man" and "The Ogre," among others, by his students and athletes. Dan helped shape the success of his students and athletes not only in the classroom and through sports, but also in their lives. Dan was named "Coach of the Year" for wrestling and was inducted into the Columbiana Hall of Fame in 2020. Upon his retirement from Columbiana Schools, he became certified in OSHA training and worked at McMaster's Farms as a safety director.

Dan was very active within the Columbiana community, not only as a teacher and coach, but also as a business owner, Columbiana City Council, Columbiana City Planning Commission, Sons of the American Legion (locally and at the state level) and the Columbiana Hall of Fame Committee. Dan was also a Master Mason at Negley Lodge 565 F&AM. Dan loved being active within the community and took great pride as a member of the

American Legion Color Guard to honor those who served our country.

Dan was a beloved member of the community, particularly by his students. There are countless stories of his mentorship describing his influence in his students' lives.

Dan is survived by his children, Craig (Laurie) Putnam of Broadview Heights, Tammie (Paul) Birmingham of Girard, Pamela (George) Barton of Girard, Curt (Sheila) Putnam of Austintown and Clay (Tina) Putnam of Michigan City, Indiana; brother, Larry (Brenda) Bekar of East Liverpool; nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; and friend, Jean Bookman.

Dan was preceded in death by the love of his life, Donna Bekar; his parents, Daniel and Gatha Bekar; and his niece, Jackie Bekar Shultz. The family will receive friends to celebrate his extraordinary life, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023, at the Warrick-Kummer-Rettig Funeral Home in Columbiana. Funeral services will be held 1 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home, with the Rev. Chad Johnson officiating. Burial will follow in Columbiana Cemetery, where Dan will be laid to eternal rest with his life love, Donna Bekar.

Memorial donations may be made in Dan's name to the Firestone Stadium Complex, c/o Columbiana Athletic Boosters, 700 Columbiana-Waterford Road, Columbiana OH 44408, Attn: Restoration.

Family and friends may view this obituary and send condolences at www.familycareservices.com.

RENEW



AMERICAN LEGION



Daniel J. Seehafer,
National Commander
The American Legion

Hollywood veterans inspire others into film industry

The American Legion | November 21, 2023

Hollywood actors Julia Ling and Hiram Murray have their personal stories for joining the U.S. military. Navy Reservist Lt. Ling knew she wanted to serve in response to being thankful for growing up in America and for her freedom after watching her parents struggle through the painful memories of slavery and genocide in their home country before fleeing to the United States. Murray was attending film school in his home state of New York and working with the New York City Police Department when “9/11 happened on my watch, in my back yard.” That’s why he joined the Marine Corps.

Ling and Murray, members of American Legion Hollywood Post 43, have combined their two passions of acting and military service into a mission through [Veteran Powered Films](#) (VPF). They join [this week’s episode of The American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast](#) to discuss VPF.

Veteran Powered Films hires and casts veterans, invites veterans to be a part of the movie-making industry through roles on screen or behind the camera, and promotes veteran-owned businesses. And VPF is helping to reduce veteran suicide by giving veterans a purpose again.

For Ling, who launched her acting career in “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” and has starred in the TV series “Chuck,” “E.R.,” “Grey’s Anatomy” and “House,” VPF started “from a really dark place. I was actually really depressed at the time, and we learned that a lot of veterans were taking their lives. It was the inspiration, the idea that we want to help stop veteran suicide by involving (and inspiring) veterans in movie-making by hiring and casting them.”

That mission has grown to helping “veterans as much as we can – anything that will help give that little spark,” Ling added. VPF has a new trailer called “[Homestead](#)” that is a family drama horror starring Murray.

Murray said the movie industry and military service are connected, with both having a mission. And VPF wants to show veterans that connection.

“It’s a collaborative experience ... you know one team, one fight. We all have a mission,” said Murray, who has starred in roles on Fox’s “Touch” starring opposite Kiefer Sutherland and “Lethal Weapon” starring opposite Damon Wayans. “When you’re on set the mission is to get the project done. When you’re in the military, you’re on a team and you have to know the man in front of you’s job and the man behind you’s job in case something goes wrong. You can still pick up and carry on to accomplish that mission. It’s the same thing on a movie set.”

Through VPF, Ling and Murray are also closing the gap between veterans and civilians by showing that “the only thing that separates us is that we chose to take up the call and serve our country but we’re still husbands, we’re still brothers, fathers, sisters,” Murray said. “The beauty of being in the military is that we take all different walks of life, and we combine them together to make one unit,” said Murray, adding that he’s a father of six, a former law officer, from New York and has Caribbean heritage. “... there’s so many stories there, don’t put me in a box. I’m more than just my title of United States Marine.”

Also in this episode, co-hosts Amy Forsythe and Ashley Gutermuth discuss topics including:

- Banners honoring veterans may be coming down for good due to costs a local Legion post can no longer fund.
- U.S. veterans use art for female Afghan soldiers who fled their country to help process their pain features a recent guest.
- A USAA survey shows we should do more than simply thank our veterans for their service.

Check out this week’s episode, which is among more than 200 Tango Alpha Lima podcasts available [in both audio and video formats here](#). You can also download episodes on Apple Podcasts, Google Play, or other major podcast-hosting sites. The video version is available at [the Legion’s YouTube channel](#).

2024 SAL Membership Report as of: November 20, 2023

#	DETACHMENT	2024 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 45% TARGET 12/13/2023	2024 ACTUAL MBRSHIP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2024 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	120	-41	95	79.17%	71.43
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	-470	1,195	74.18%	65.53
3	FRANCE	168	-47	123	73.21%	66.67
4	LOUISIANA	1,821	-440	1,259	69.14%	64.06
5	WISCONSIN	4,398	-956	2,935	66.73%	60.68
6	GEORGIA	4,887	-789	2,988	61.14%	54.59
7	MONTANA	1,091	-142	633	58.02%	54.94
8	ILLINOIS	13,716	-1,742	7,914	57.70%	54.66
9	IOWA	4,914	-557	2,768	56.33%	52.52
10	MISSISSIPPI	736	-80	411	55.84%	51.79
11	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-274	1,520	54.87%	45.99
12	ALABAMA	2,100	-189	1,134	54.00%	46.98
13	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-93	577	53.67%	48.20
14	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	-128	834	53.12%	43.91
15	IDAHO	659	-49	346	52.50%	39.73
16	PUERTO RICO	156	-10	80	51.28%	47.71
17	NEVADA	387	-23	197	50.90%	43.04
18	UTAH	460	-27	234	50.87%	48.19
19	FLORIDA	23,066	-1,154	11,534	50.00%	41.54
20	OKLAHOMA	1,430	-49	692	48.39%	38.22
21	OREGON	1,534	-50	740	48.24%	38.82
22	TENNESSEE	1,792	-25	831	46.37%	39.49
23	MARYLAND	16,803	-193	7,754	46.15%	41.67
24	WYOMING	1,248	-13	575	46.07%	40.93
25	TEXAS	5,783	-44	2,646	45.75%	39.79
26	INDIANA	37,244	-230	16,990	45.62%	42.00
27	VIRGINIA	4,367	-24	1,989	45.55%	39.10
28	CALIFORNIA	11,292	-53	5,134	45.47%	39.49
29	MINNESOTA	11,435	-16	5,162	45.14%	42.03
30	ARKANSAS	406	3	180	44.33%	34.90
31	NEW JERSEY	9,662	135	4,213	43.60%	39.03
32	RHODE ISLAND	348	7	150	43.10%	36.99
33	KANSAS	6,055	119	2,606	43.04%	39.77
34	CONNECTICUT	1,865	51	788	42.25%	36.37
35	NEW YORK	30,663	1,295	12,503	40.78%	37.29
36	OHIO	31,690	1,350	12,911	40.74%	37.22
37	MICHIGAN	26,236	1,225	10,581	40.33%	35.52
38	NEBRASKA	6,992	330	2,816	40.27%	38.51
39	VERMONT	3,920	205	1,559	39.77%	36.83
40	MISSOURI	3,337	183	1,319	39.53%	34.39
41	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	318	2,126	39.14%	35.23
42	DELAWARE	2,596	175	993	38.25%	32.05
43	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	410	2,302	38.19%	34.19
44	ARIZONA	8,595	624	3,244	37.74%	30.56
45	ALASKA	1,740	138	645	37.07%	30.03
46	COLORADO	2,952	246	1,082	36.65%	30.92
47	WASHINGTON	2,682	313	894	33.33%	25.38
48	KENTUCKY	2,399	306	774	32.26%	27.59
49	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	8,467	19,769	31.51%	28.57
50	LATIN AMERICA	33	5	10	30.30%	12.50
51	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	455	712	27.46%	22.51
52	NEW MEXICO	1,582	290	422	26.68%	19.57
53	MAINE	2,757	909	332	12.04%	10.08
54	DIST OF COL	91	32	9	9.89%	9.09
55	PHILIPPINES	79	31	5	6.33%	5.06
Grand Totals:		382,111	9,715	162,235	42.46%	37.97

2024 SAL Regional Breakdown

Western Region - James R. Fischer, Sr. (CA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	120	95	79.17%
MONTANA	1,091	633	58.02%
IDAHO	659	346	52.50%
NEVADA	387	197	50.90%
UTAH	460	234	50.87%
OREGON	1,534	740	48.24%
WYOMING	1,248	575	46.07%
CALIFORNIA	11,292	5,134	45.47%
ARIZONA	8,595	3,244	37.74%
ALASKA	1,740	645	37.07%
COLORADO	2,952	1,082	36.65%
WASHINGTON	2,682	894	33.33%
LATIN AMERICA	33	10	30.30%
NEW MEXICO	1,582	422	26.68%
PHILIPPINES	79	5	6.33%
Totals:	34,454	14,256	41.38%

Southeast Region - Linwood A. Moore (VA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
LOUISIANA	1,821	1,259	69.14%
GEORGIA	4,887	2,988	61.14%
MISSISSIPPI	736	411	55.84%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	1,520	54.87%
ALABAMA	2,100	1,134	54.00%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	834	53.12%
PUERTO RICO	156	80	51.28%
FLORIDA	23,066	11,534	50.00%
TENNESSEE	1,792	831	46.37%
TEXAS	5,783	2,646	45.75%
VIRGINIA	4,367	1,989	45.55%
ARKANSAS	406	180	44.33%
Totals:	49,454	25,406	51.37%

Midwest Region - Terry A. Harris (KS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	1,195	74.18%
IOWA	4,914	2,768	56.33%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	577	53.67%
OKLAHOMA	1,430	692	48.39%
KANSAS	6,055	2,606	43.04%
NEBRASKA	6,992	2,816	40.27%
MISSOURI	3,337	1,319	39.53%
Totals:	25,414	11,973	47.11%

Northeast Region - John R. Cook (NH)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	168	123	73.21%
MARYLAND	16,803	7,754	46.15%
NEW JERSEY	9,662	4,213	43.60%
RHODE ISLAND	348	150	43.10%
CONNECTICUT	1,865	788	42.25%
NEW YORK	30,663	12,503	40.78%
VERMONT	3,920	1,559	39.77%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	2,126	39.14%
DELAWARE	2,596	993	38.25%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	2,302	38.19%
PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	19,769	31.51%
MAINE	2,757	332	12.04%
DIST OF COL	91	9	9.89%
Totals:	143,078	52,621	36.78%

Central Region - Robert L. Bristo (MN)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,398	2,935	66.73%
ILLINOIS	13,716	7,914	57.70%
INDIANA	37,244	16,990	45.62%
MINNESOTA	11,435	5,162	45.14%
OHIO	31,690	12,911	40.74%
MICHIGAN	26,236	10,581	40.33%
KENTUCKY	2,399	774	32.26%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	712	27.46%
Totals:	129,711	57,979	44.70%

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11/20/23		NATIONAL Donald "JR" Hall, Jr. (MD) National Commander					
	Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date
1	Southeast 1, 2, 3, 4	49,454	25,406	(24,048)	51.37%	1,547	
2	Midwest 1, 2, 3, 4	25,414	11,973	(13,441)	47.11%	699	
3	Central 1, 2, 3	129,711	57,979	(71,732)	44.70%	4,008	
4	Western 1, 2, 3	34,454	14,256	(20,198)	41.38%	1,064	
5	Northeast 1	143,078	52,621	(90,457)	36.78%	4,550	
TOTALS 1, 2, 3		382,111	162,235	(219,876)	42.46%	11,868	

11/20/23		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	2,935	(1,463)	66.73%	144	5	60.68%	
2	Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5	13,716	7,914	(5,802)	57.70%	638	8	54.66%	
3	Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4	37,244	16,990	(20,254)	45.62%	1,388	26	42.00%	
4	Minnesota 1, 2, 3, 4	11,435	5,162	(6,273)	45.14%	137	29	42.03%	
5	Ohio 1, 3	31,690	12,911	(18,779)	40.74%	606	36	37.22%	
6	Michigan 1, 3	26,236	10,581	(15,655)	40.33%	987	37	35.52%	
7	Kentucky 1	2,399	774	(1,625)	32.26%	32	48	27.59%	
8	West Virginia 1	2,593	712	(1,881)	27.46%	76	51	22.51%	
TOTALS 1, 2, 3		129,711	57,979	(71,732)	44.70%	4,008			

11/20/23		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	95	(25)	79.17%	-	1	71.43%	
2	Montana 1, 2, 3, 4	1,091	633	(458)	58.02%	21	7	54.94%	
3	Idaho 1, 2, 3, 4	659	346	(313)	52.50%	9	15	39.73%	
4	Nevada 1, 2, 3, 4	387	197	(190)	50.90%	2	17	43.04%	
5	Utah 1, 2, 3, 4	460	234	(226)	50.87%	4	18	48.19%	
6	Oregon 1, 2, 3, 4	1,534	740	(794)	48.24%	70	21	38.82%	
7	Wyoming 1, 2, 3, 4	1,248	575	(673)	46.07%	3	24	40.93%	
8	California 1, 2, 3, 4	11,292	5,134	(6,158)	45.47%	397	28	39.49%	
9	Arizona 1	8,595	3,244	(5,351)	37.74%	442	44	30.56%	
10	Alaska 3	1,740	645	(1,095)	37.07%	33	45	30.03%	
11	Colorado 1, 3	2,952	1,082	(1,870)	36.65%	27	46	30.92%	
12	Washington	2,682	894	(1,788)	33.33%	48	47	25.38%	
13	Latin America	33	10	(23)	30.30%	-	50	12.50%	
14	New Mexico	1,582	422	(1,160)	26.68%	8	52	19.57%	
15	Philippines	79	5	(74)	6.33%	-	55	5.06%	
TOTALS 1, 2, 3		34,454	14,256	(20,198)	41.38%	1,064			

11/20/23		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	1,259	(562)	69.14%	22	4	64.06%	
2	Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4	4,887	2,988	(1,899)	61.14%	120	6	54.59%	
3	Mississippi 1, 2, 3, 4	736	411	(325)	55.84%	3	10	51.79%	
4	North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4	2,770	1,520	(1,250)	54.87%	54	11	45.99%	
5	Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4	2,100	1,134	(966)	54.00%	33	12	46.98%	
6	South Carolina 1, 2, 3	1,570	834	(736)	53.12%	106	14	43.91%	
7	Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4	156	80	(76)	51.28%	-	16	47.71%	
8	Florida 1, 2, 3	23,066	11,534	(11,532)	50.00%	872	19	41.54%	
9	Tennessee 1, 2, 3	1,792	831	(961)	46.37%	90	22	39.49%	
10	Texas 1, 2, 3	5,783	2,646	(3,137)	45.75%	153	25	39.79%	
12	Virginia 1, 2, 3	4,367	1,989	(2,378)	45.55%	93	27	39.10%	
13	Arkansas 1, 2, 3	406	180	(226)	44.33%	1	30	34.90%	
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4		49,048	25,226	(23,822)	51.43%	1,367			

11/20/23		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, 5	1,611	1,195	(416)	74.18%	86	2	65.53%		
2 Iowa 1, 2, 3, 4	4,914	2,768	(2,146)	56.33%	231	9	52.52%		
3 North Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4	1,075	577	(498)	53.67%	1	13	48.20%		
4 Oklahoma 1, 2, 3	1,430	692	(738)	48.39%	6	20	38.22%		
5 Kansas 1, 2, 3	6,055	2,606	(3,449)	43.04%	227	33	39.77%		
6 Nebraska 1, 2, 3	6,992	2,816	(4,176)	40.27%	67	38	38.51%		
7 Missouri 1, 2, 3	3,337	1,319	(2,018)	39.53%	81	40	34.39%		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3	25,414	11,973	(13,441)	47.11%	699				

11/20/23		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	123	(45)	73.21%	11	3	66.67%		
2 Maryland 1, 2, 3	16,803	7,754	(9,049)	46.15%	616	23	41.67%		
3 New Jersey 1, 2, 3	9,662	4,213	(5,449)	43.60%	174	31	39.03%		
4 Rhode Island 1, 2, 3	348	150	(198)	43.10%	7	32	36.99%		
5 Connecticut 1, 2, 3	1,865	788	(1,077)	42.25%	29	34	36.37%		
6 New York 1, 3	30,663	12,503	(18,160)	40.78%	629	35	37.29%		
7 Vermont 1, 2, 3	3,920	1,559	(2,361)	39.77%	98	39	36.83%		
8 Massachusetts 1, 3	5,432	2,126	(3,306)	39.14%	101	41	35.23%		
9 Delaware 1	2,596	993	(1,603)	38.25%	93	42	32.05%		
10 New Hampshire 1, 2	6,027	2,302	(3,725)	38.19%	211	43	34.19%		
11 Pennsylvania	62,746	19,769	(42,977)	31.51%	2,561	49	28.57%		
12 Maine	2,757	332	(2,425)	12.04%	18	53	10.08%		
13 Dist. of Columbia	91	9	(82)	9.89%	2	54	9.09%		
TOTALS 1	143,078	52,621	(90,457)	36.78%	4,550				

11/20/23		2023 SUPER SIX STANDINGS							
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1 Florida 1, 2, 3, 4	23,066	11,534	(11,532)	50.00%	872	19	41.54%		
2 Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4	37,244	16,990	(20,254)	45.62%	1,388	25	42.00%		
3 New York 1, 3	30,663	12,503	(18,160)	40.78%	629	35	37.29%		
4 Ohio 1, 3	31,690	12,911	(18,779)	40.74%	606	36	37.22%		
5 Michigan 1	26,236	10,581	(15,655)	40.33%	987	37	35.52%		
6 Pennsylvania	62,746	19,769	(42,977)	31.51%	2,561	49	28.57%		
TOTALS	211,645	84,288	(127,357)	39.83%	7,043				

National Totals 1, 2, 3	382,111	162,235	(219,876)	42.46%	11,868		37.97%		
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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%

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

November 11th, 2023

To: 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. Then 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 respect for the sacrifices made by our Nation's military in the defense of liberty and freedom.

In 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 in the Washington area continue.

Representatives from each detachment or their designee would be able to choose a location to lay their wreath, in areas where the bus stops 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 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 with 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, 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 so we are offering to purchase your tickets for the Tram ride in advance to speed up the process. The group rate for the Tram ride is **\$15.50** each. Please include it on the request form. Veterans can get a cheaper rate but **MUST** purchase on their own with a qualified ID, we are unable to purchase for them.

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

We will order box lunches while 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**

The 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

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

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

9:30 am: Board Busses, load Wreaths and depart.

9:30 am: Depart Washington Hilton

9:50 am: Arrive Arlington National Cemetery

1. Tour of Tomb Guards Quarters (if available)
2. Group photograph of all participants
3. Prayer by National Chaplain

11:15 am: Wreath laying Ceremony at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier

12:30 pm: Depart the Arlington National Cemetery

12:45 pm: Arrive at the Vietnam Wall Memorial

1. Lunch
2. Group photograph of all participants
3. Wreath laying ceremony by National Commander with prayer by National Chaplain

2:00 pm: Depart the Vietnam Wall Memorial

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

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 with prayer by National Chaplain

3:30 pm: Depart the World War II Memorial

4:00 pm: Arrive at Washington Hilton Hotel