

Why America cares about Israel's security

Alan W. Dowd | December 12, 2023



Destruction of the Palestine Tower in Gaza following an Israeli air-strike, October 2023

As Israel continues the arduous, necessary work of uprooting the machinery, infrastructure and high command of Hamas – with U.S. military assets and aid backing Israel's efforts – some are wondering about America's [role](#), [challenging](#) America's [support](#) for Israel, and asking the age-old question that arises every time faraway crises rouse America's attention: "Why should we care?"

It's a fair question, and there's a good answer.

Security First and foremost, America's security is linked to Israel's security.

Israel is America's only democratic ally in a dangerous neighborhood and strategically important part of the world. Israel is home to a key U.S. missile-defense [base](#), stands as America's closest [partner](#) in missile-defense development, and serves as an important ally in [containing](#) Iran and [stunting](#) Iran's outlaw nuclear-weapons program. As President Ronald Reagan observed, Israel is "an integral part of the free world ... Both a secure state of Israel and a stable Mideast peace are essential to our national interests."

Even if Hamas on Oct. 7 had limited its attacks to Israeli citizens, America – as civilization's first responder and last line of defense – would have been obliged to "care" and to respond. But the reality – overlooked by too many – is that Oct. 7 is not just the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, not just the worst terrorist attack in Israel's history, but also ranks among the worst terrorist attacks against America. On Oct. 7, Hamas hordes murdered 33 Americans and took captive another [13 Americans](#). That alone provides a thundering answer to the "Why should we care?" question.

And as the history books remind us, that alone has often been enough to trigger and justify U.S. military intervention: Consider America's response to the [kidnapping](#) of Ion Perdicaris in 1904, the [military operation](#) to free the hostages held by Iran in 1980, the rationale for the U.S. invasion of [Grenada](#) in 1983, the [hunt](#) for the Achille Lauro terrorists in 1985, the unleashing of U.S. commandoes to rescue Americans held hostage by [jihadists](#), [pirates](#) and [terrorists](#) throughout the 2000s – and to [eliminate](#) many of those [enemies](#).

Moreover, Israel was midwifed into existence in 1948 thanks in no small measure to [American resolve and leadership](#). Ever since, the United States has backstopped Israel's security in times of crisis (especially in [1973](#), [2012](#) and [2023](#)). If [Hamas](#) and its patrons in [Tehran](#) were to have their way, Israel would be erased. Not only would that be a crime against humanity; to sit on the sidelines while Israel is mutilated and murdered would render America's word meaningless and undermine America's security commitments around the world. America's alliances are not compartmentalized, but rather an interconnected web of relationships.

see ISRAEL page XX

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



A moving visit to Pearl Harbor

December 12, 2023

Hello again, American Legion Family,

This message may be a little later this month than in the past; that is because I wanted to write this after coming back from our Pearl Harbor trip with your Legion Family leadership. I was so honored to represent the Sons of The American Legion and to travel daily with Commander Seehafer and President Williamson. I was also honored to start the trip by carrying on a tradition of placing 2,390 flags at the Pearl Harbor memorial park with many who showed up at 8 a.m. on a Sunday morning to take part in [Flying Flags for Heroes](#).

And placing a wreath on Monday at the "Punchbowl" — the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific — with four other members from Maryland's Sons representing Sons of The American Legion.

I joined Commander Seehafer, President Williamson, and members of our D.C. office to visit the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), as we were briefed on just how exactly unidentified bodies are still being searched for and how work continues on identifying the remains of many that have been discovered. There is amazing work still happening to make sure our men and women and their families someday have closure.

What an honor to be with our leadership at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7 at the ceremonies to honor all that were there and sacrificed, and the ones that survived that day that will live in infamy. To be able to see the memorial of the Arizona at daybreak, and board the Missouri as Legion Family. Words cannot describe the

amount of emotions and respect I had to be there representing our organization and my grandfather's service. To go onboard the Arizona Memorial is such a feeling and to know you are above the graves of so many that made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. I cannot thank the American Legion Family enough for letting my wife Margie and I experience this all while representing you.

I ask everyone this holiday season to pray for the families of all that never came home, remember they were there to protect our freedom and were part of the greatest generation.

Happy Holidays to you all, remember our men and women serving our great country.

Representing More Than Me,

*Donald "JR" Hall, National Commander
Sons of The American Legion*

REPRESENTING *More* THAN ME

Remembering the Greatest Generation

C. Rolland Lattanner



C. Rolland Lattanner of Dublin, age 100, died November 30, 2023. Born June 26, 1923 in Williams County Ohio, to the late Blair and Mildred Bauer Lattanner. His brother Victor preceded him in death.

He graduated in 1941 from Montpelier High School and became a part "Of the Greatest Generation." He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in early 1943 and served proudly aboard the U.S.S. Pollux in the Atlantic and Southwestern Pacific for 38 months

in World War II. He was discharged in April, 1946 as a first class Petty Officer.

Thanks to his government he entered Ohio University under the GI Bill and graduated in June, 1949. While at O.U. he met his future and beautiful wife, Joy Gears in the Wesley Foundation of the Athens Methodist Church. Upon graduation he was hired by the Farm Bureau Insurance Companies later to become Nationwide. Here he was employed for 39 years and retired in 1988 from the Nationwide Life Insurance Company as an Accounting Division Manager.

He and Joy were married March 4, 1951 in Athens. He was recalled by the U.S. Navy in April, 1951 in the Korean conflict and served aboard Admiral Carney's flagship, the U.S.S. Adirondack in the NATO Naval forces in the Mediterranean for 17 months.

Joy and Rollie lived in the Dublin, Ohio area for 53 years. Rollie was active in Dublin High School sports organizations. He served as Scout Master for the Boy Scout Troop 185 and took fourteen scouts to the Philmont Scout Ranch in NM in 1970. He and Joy were active members of Linworth United Methodist Church since 1959. He served as Youth Leader, Lay Leader, Chairman of the Official Board, and Special Gifts Chairman. He also was an active Mason for 61 years. He was a member and Past Master of the New England Lodge No. 4 in Worthington, Ohio. He served The Grand Lodge of Ohio as District Education Office, District Deputy Grand Master and as Grand Master in 1984. He belonged to several appendant bodies and enjoyed working in the 14th, 21st and 29th degrees in the Scottish Rite and was a 33rd Degree Mason.

Joy and Rollie were blessed with three wonderful children and their pride and joy – seven grandchildren and a great-grandchild. Joy preceded him in death in 2012. He leaves his children Eric (Betsy) Lattanner, Lori (Vincent) McGuire, Lynn (Knox) Brown and grandchildren, Andrew (Lizzi) and Micah Lattanner, Leah (Cooper) Caillier, Zachary (McKinzie) and Brian McGuire, Kira and Addie Brown; a great-granddaughter, Sally Blair; nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

In lieu of flowers family suggests donations in Rollie's name to either 1st Lady's Charity Children's Dyslexia Centers or Linworth Methodist Legacy Fund for Missions.

A celebration of life will be held January 13th at Linworth United Methodist Church at 11:00 AM visitation will be before the service.

www.orwoodyard.com

From the Editor

Please make sure to sign up for *The Millennium*, the organization's new national monthly newsletter. Instructions for how to sign-up appear later in this issue.

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



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

“BELIEVE!” “May you never be too old to search the skies on Christmas Eve!”

Belief is a funny thing when you stop to think about it. Believing is the foundation of almost all of the

world's religions, meditation and positive personal reinforcement are based on a belief process, and in every medical trial, a percentage of those that received a placebo as part of the testing process, get better with no drug controlling the result. **“What the Mind believes, the body will follow.”**

If you Dream it, and Believe it, you will achieve it!

I believe in the mission and the message of the Sons of The American Legion, and I believe in each and every one of you! Together as the Legion Family we achieve great things each and every year. **Now in our 91st year we too have a legacy of service on which to stand pointing to what we have and what we will continue to achieve for decades to come!** I urge each and every one of you to continue your Buddy Checks, to keep calling those members that have not yet renewed their 2023-2024 membership. Continue to push the Individual Recruitment Awards (I have now received 6, these IRA pins will be mailed out soon!) and the Blue Brigade Recruitment Award!

“If you Believe it, you will Achieve it!”

Now for our numbers...

The Central Region is still currently in third place nationally with numbers of 58.62%. A move up of 3.69%. Seven of our eight detachments met and exceeded the December 13th 45% target goal. In fact, 45 detachments nationwide did the same.

The Detachment of Kentucky had the biggest climb since our **“Pearl Harbor”** report with a jump of 7.34%. They were followed by Ohio with an increase of 4.46%. We had four detachments in the **“Threes,”** Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin moved up 3.98%, 3.77%, 3.51%, and 3.11% respectively. Minnesota gained 1.76% and West Virginia had a small gain of .50%

American novelist, poet, author, and illustrator Richelle Goodrich has this to say on belief... **“You may be the only person left that believes in you, but it is enough. It takes just one star to pierce a universe of darkness. Never give up!”**

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!

You are all rocking and rolling, juking, and jiving and keep membership going strong.

**“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

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.



Tony Gladden Facebook photo

New Jersey Legionnaire sharing Be the One mission with co-workers

The American Legion | December 11, 2023

Growing up in the 1970s, New Jersey Legionnaire Anthony “Tony” Gladden remembers being around Vietnam veterans and watching their struggles. That’s why he’s so passionate about The American Legion’s [Be the One](#) mission to reduce veteran suicide by eliminating the stigma attached to asking for mental health assistance.

And he’s sharing that mission with others.

A past department vice commander and current Department Executive Committeeman, Gladden retired

from the U.S. Air Force and now works as a contractor for the Army Reserve at Fort Dix, and has been wearing red on Fridays as a part Remember Everybody Deployed. But recently, he began urging his co-workers to do the same – while adding a Be the One component to the day.

The result: the majority of his co-workers – most of whom are veterans – are now wearing red on Fridays while also learning about Be the One. The latter resonates with him after watching other veterans struggle when Gladden was growing up.

“When you had struggles, you kept it to yourself,” said Gladden, a member of McKaig-Test-Mullen American Legion Post 455 New Egypt New Jersey. “I remember as a kid, we knew Vietnam veterans, and when they acted crazy weird – and I’m using that term as a kid – we’d say that they were ‘Naming out’ and we ran away from them.

“There’s no way that anyone who spent any amount of time in the military doesn’t suffer some type of post-traumatic stress. From Day 1 when you get to basic training and you have someone in your face ... you get thrown into the deep end of the pool, stripped down and built back up. That’s stressful, and that sticks with you.”

Bringing his co-workers into the Be the One mix started when Gladden looked at the December calendar and realized that Dec. 1 was a Friday. On the first day of every month, American Legion [Resolution 13](#) urges Legion Family members to wear a Be the One item to show their commitment to reducing the stigma around mental health issues among veterans and servicemembers, and to start a conversation about what Be the One is and how to save the life of a veteran.

“We’re allowed to dress down on Fridays, so I hadn’t been able to wear anything (Be the One) on the first of the month until after work,” Gladden said. “I looked at the calendar ... and basically what I did is I said, ‘Hey, why don’t you guys wear red on Friday.’ And when everybody came in wearing red, I started talking to them about veteran suicide, Be the One and all that kind of good stuff.”

Gladden said his co-workers know how involved with The American Legion that he is outside of the office. Without being pushy, he’s made them aware of what the Legion does and the services it offers to veterans, including filing benefits claims.

“A couple of them are members (of the Legion), and a couple of them are talking about becoming members. I invite them to come out with us when we do stuff,” Gladden said. “And now, their eyes are really being opened about what our mission is and what we’re doing.”

Gladden said he felt a need to educate his co-workers on Be the One as well. “This is one of those things. Veteran suicide touches us all in one way, shape or form,” he said. “I had one of my former (servicemembers die by suicide). I felt bad that he died by suicide, but my thing was how were there all these people around him who didn’t have the tools to recognize that he was going through a struggle.

“That’s my thing. I deal with a bunch of people who love the military. I kind of want to make sure that they understand that part ... that part of Be the One. Everyone’s got someone in the military. We see things that are out of character. So, ask the questions, and here’s the information that you can get to them to get them the help they needed.”

Gladden, who has multiple American Legion national committee assignments, is proud his organization has made stemming the tide of veteran suicides a national priority.

“I’m very happy The American Legion realizes some of the mistakes that were made ... and now is recognizing there are issues out there, and we need to make people aware it’s not something to hide from,” he said. “There’s no shame in the game. Let’s get them the help they need. They answered the nation’s call. I’m very happy we’re taking this stance.”

*Thank you to our
Round-Up sponsors*

Juan Cruz Rodriguez, Department of Puerto Rico

National Commissions and Committees

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

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

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

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

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	12/13/23
Total Actual Membership	380,236
Percentage of Goal	103.38
Renewal Percentage	89.26
Quota Detachments	45



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION TARGET DATE MEMO

December 14, 2023

TO: National Officers, Detachment Commanders & Adjutants
FROM: Anthony W. Wright (PA), National Adjutant
SUBJECT: 45% - Membership Target Date

"CONGRATULATIONS"

Thank you for all your efforts so far this membership year. Our standings as of our 45% membership target date (12-13-2023) are posted below:

2024 Membership Goal: **382,111**
Total Membership: **217,329**
Percentage of Goal: **56.88%**
Renewal Percentage: **51.39%**
Detachments making Goal: **51**

Alabama	Delaware	Illinois	Maryland	Nebraska	Ohio	South Dakota	Wisconsin
Alaska	D.C.	Indiana	Massachusetts	Nevada	Oklahoma	Tennessee	Wyoming
Arizona	Florida	Iowa	Michigan	New Hampshire	Oregon	Texas	
Arkansas	France	Kansas	Minnesota	New Jersey	Pennsylvania	Utah	
California	Georgia	Kentucky	Mississippi	New York	Puerto Rico	Vermont	
Colorado	Hawaii	Latin America	Missouri	North Carolina	Rhode Island	Virginia	
Connecticut	Idaho	Louisiana	Montana	North Dakota	South Carolina	Washington	

GREAT JOB!!

The remaining detachments should achieve this membership goal soon!

NEXT SCHEDULED RENEWAL NOTICE MAILED: March 25 - 29, 2024 (2 of 3)

NEXT MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE: January 18, 2024 (60%)

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

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

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.

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.

OPT IN/OUT

I am interested in receiving information on the following topics:

☒ Flag & Emblem

☒ Flag & Emblem Merchandise Offers Deliver To: [EMAIL-HOME:jeffrabels](#)

☒ Media

☒ Commander's Message Deliver To: [EMAIL-HOME:jeffrabels](#)

☒ Digital Dispatch Deliver To: [EMAIL-HOME:jeffrabels](#)

☒ Dugout Deliver To: [EMAIL-HOME:jeffrabels](#)

☒ Flag Alert Deliver To: [EMAIL-HOME:jeffrabels](#)

☒ Legion Riders Deliver To: [EMAIL-HOME:jeffrabels](#)

☒ Online Update Deliver To: [EMAIL-HOME:jeffrabels](#)

☒ SAL Commander's Message Deliver To: [EMAIL-HOME:jeffrabels](#)

☒ Sons of The American Legion Deliver To: [EMAIL-HOME:jeffrabels](#)

☒ Tango Alpha Lima Podcast Deliver To: [EMAIL-HOME:jeffrabels](#)

☒ Training in the American Legion Deliver To: [EMAIL-HOME:jeffrabels](#)

☒ Membership

☒ Join Deliver To: [EMAIL-HOME:jeffrabels](#)

☒ Renew Deliver To: [EMAIL-HOME:jeffrabels](#)

☒ Thank You Thursday Deliver To: [EMAIL-HOME:jeffrabels](#)

☒ Giving Opportunities Deliver To: [EMAIL-HOME:jeffrabels](#)

Save

Cancel



Once you are an account holder and have clicked the boxes to receive email from national headquarters, you will receive an email with a picture like this in it. Just click it and it will take you to the latest edition of *The Millennium*.

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

VA disability rates increase in January



Veterans will see new VA disability pay rates, based on Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) increases on the first business day of the new year.

The COLA year-over-year increase is 3.2%, the Social Security Administration announced on Oct. 12. It was finalized on Dec. 1.

VA has updated information on its website. The charts are designed to help recipients determine eligibility and anticipate the expected monthly payout for their approved VA disability claims, based on the COLA estimate.

Veterans are encouraged to [review this information](#) to assess their individual situations accurately.

ISRAEL continued from page 1

As President Joe Biden noted after the Hamas massacre, “We know that our allies and, maybe most importantly, our adversaries and competitors are watching.”

Those adversaries – tyrant regimes such as China and Russia, terrorist tyrannies such as Iran and North Korea, stateless terror groups such as Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and al-Qaida – are taking deadly aim at the free world.

Hamas [vows](#) to “obliterate” democratic Israel. Toward that end, a thousand Hamas terrorists laid siege to Israel on Oct. 7. Similarly, Hezbollah, which bombards Israeli civilians with rocket and mortar attacks, [envisions](#) taking over Israel. Yemen-based Houthi rebels have attacked [Israel](#) and [U.S. Navy vessels](#).

Russia [arms](#) Hezbollah, is trying to erase democratic Ukraine, occupies parts of democratic Georgia, and props up tyrants in Syria, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

China ships Russia [dual-use drones](#) to wage war against democratic Ukraine, runs interference for Hamas in [cyberspace](#) and in [diplomatic circles](#), threatens to seize democratic Taiwan, uses military exercises to effectively blockade democratic Taiwan, has [attacked](#) democratic India, [bullies](#) the Philippines democracy, bolsters North Korea’s Stalinist regime, and keeps Tehran’s tyranny afloat with massive [lifelines of credit](#).

Iran uses some of that credit to bankroll [Hamas](#) and [Hezbollah](#), [arms](#) militia that attack U.S. facilities, [targets](#) U.S. personnel and [bases](#), [harbors](#) al-Qaida’s leader, and equips Russia with [kamikaze drones](#) that are being used against democratic Ukraine.

North Korea, too, is sending [arms](#) to help Russia wage an unprovoked war of aggression against democratic Ukraine. North Korean [weapons](#) have found their way to Hamas. And Pyongyang is helping Tehran expand its [missile capabilities](#).

See a pattern? As Secretary of State Antony Blinken [observes](#), “For our adversaries, be they states or non-states, this is all one fight.”

America and the rest of the free world must see the situation in the same light.

Humanity Hamas [ordered](#) its henchmen to “achieve the highest level of human losses” and “kill as many individuals as possible.” Hamas invaders intentionally [targeted](#) elementary schools, [burned](#) people alive, raped women, bludgeoned parents in front of their children, [executed and dismembered babies](#), carried out unspeakable [torture](#), dragged innocents into captivity, and used Israeli and Palestinian civilians as human shields.

These are “crimes against humanity,” an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) general observes, “not just Israel’s problem.”

Indeed, our humanity demands our involvement and our support for the victims. If America responds and cares about the world only when our interests are affected, we cease to be America. (The noble cause of Palestinian statehood isn't synonymous with the vile Hamas cause of destroying Israel. Recognizing that, too, is part of our humanity.)

The notion that, once upon a time, America disregarded humanitarian concerns and focused solely on self-interest is fiction. Responding to Spain's brutal mistreatment of the Cuban people, President William McKinley in 1898 [called](#) on Congress "in the cause of humanity ... to put an end to the barbarities, bloodshed, starvation and horrible miseries." In stinging words that are as apt today as then, he argued, "It is no answer to say this is all in another country, belonging to another nation, and is therefore none of our business," adding that "the large dictates of humanity" compel action.

Following McKinley's lead, President Theodore Roosevelt argued against "cold-blooded indifference to the misery of the oppressed." Even when "our own interests are not greatly involved," he declared, there are times to act "in the interest of humanity at large."

The McKinley-Roosevelt era is not an aberration. Of the 300-plus U.S. military [interventions](#) since 1798, at least 35 fall under the umbrella of humanitarian intervention. The Berlin Airlift was a humanitarian mission, as was the operation to protect Iraq's Kurds after the Gulf War, as was the operation to protect food deliveries in Somalia, as was the intervention to bring an end to ethno-religious warfare in the Balkans. The list goes on and on: helping Indonesia ([2004](#)) and Japan ([1923](#) and [2011](#)) after biblical-scale disasters, preventing Muammar Qaddafi from exterminating his subjects, rescuing Iraq's Yazidis from the Islamic State (ISIS). Many of these had strategic as well as humanitarian implications. The Berlin Airlift rescued a city from starvation and tyranny – and dealt a humiliating blow to Stalin. Helping the Kurds limited Saddam Hussein's reach – and forged what's now a decades-old military partnership. Ending Slobodan Milosevic's campaign of ethnic cleansing saved lives – and stabilized NATO's doorstep.

Stability Speaking of stability, Hamas, Hezbollah, and their puppet masters in Tehran are sources of violent instability. That instability undermines U.S. interests.

History teaches that securing U.S. interests – one of which is undeniably maintaining some semblance of global stability – doesn't happen without effort. It

requires America and its allies projecting power into dangerous neighborhoods, defending borders and the principle of sovereignty, promoting norms of behavior, ensuring freedom of the seas, and fighting terrorism and piracy.

By moving U.S. military assets into the region after Oct. 7, rushing military assistance to Israel and supporting Israel's inherent right to self-defense, the United States is not only promoting regional and international stability. It is smothering a wider war and preventing a tinderbox from igniting. In 2023, as in [1973](#), that is very much in the interests of the United States – and the interests of all people of goodwill.

Published [reports](#) indicate Washington "has sent ... messages to Hezbollah and Iran through third parties, warning them not to intervene." Those messages have been reinforced by U.S. military muscle:

- Literally within hours of the [Iran-backed Hamas siege](#) of Israel, Washington sent the USS *Gerald R. Ford* carrier strike group to the [Eastern Mediterranean](#). Another carrier strike group led by the USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* joined the Ford flotilla, before steaming through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea to [focus on](#) waters closer to Iran. [British](#), [French](#) and [Italian](#) ships have joined the U.S. deterrence armada.
- Washington dispatched amphibious assault and docking ships USS *Bataan*, USS *Mesa Verde* and USS *Carter Hall* – along with the [26th Marine Expeditionary Unit](#) – to the region.
- Washington sent the 6th Fleet's command-and-control ship [USS Mount Whitney](#) to the region. Underscoring America's readiness for further escalation on the part of the Iran-Hamas-Hezbollah-Houthi axis, the Pentagon let it be known that [Vice Adm. Thomas Ishee](#), commander of the 6th Fleet, is aboard *Mount Whitney*. Translation: In the event of additional U.S. intervention, there will be a steel-strong chain of command. (The phrase "additional U.S. intervention" is used because U.S. assets have already engaged the enemy. Operating somewhere in the Red Sea, USS *Carney* [intercepted](#) missiles targeting Israel fired by Iranian-backed Houthi forces.)
- The Pentagon [dispatched](#) a team of military advisers led by Marine Corps Lt. Gen. James Glynn (who fought in Fallujah and later commanded special-operations units in the anti-ISIS to assist the IDF. And Washington [rushed](#) Joint Direct Attack Munitions, 155mm artillery rounds, missile-intercept systems and other ammunition to the

IDF, with [\\$14.3 billion](#) more in military aid on the way.

- The Pentagon [deployed](#) an undisclosed number of F-15E fighter-bombers, A-10 ground-attack bombers and F-16 fighter-bombers to undisclosed bases in the Middle East.
- The Pentagon [announced](#) that an *Ohio*-class submarine armed with 154 land-attack cruise missiles recently arrived in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Rarely does the Navy publicize the movement of its submarines. But when this one surfaced in Iran's neighborhood, the Pentagon released a [photo](#) and delivered a not-so-subtle signal to Iran: Don't try to escalate this any further.

The president ordered America's military to carry out these tasks in the wake of Oct. 7 not to wage war or bomb our enemies or go looking for problems, but rather to contain a war, to deter our enemies and to address a problem before it exploded into something far worse. America's military has been playing this stabilizing role for many decades – in West Berlin and South Korea, in Kosovo and Kuwait, in Eastern Europe and the South China Sea, in the autumn of 1973 and the autumn of 2023.

NEC clarifies, reaffirms Legion support for GUARD Act

The American Legion | December 12, 2023

The American Legion National Executive Committee passed [a new resolution](#) reiterating its support for penalizing unaccredited companies that charge veterans for benefits claims assistance during a special meeting on Dec. 12.

Prior to the NEC vote, American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Autrey James explained what's at stake.



Right now, there are more than 100 unaccredited claims companies "illegally profiting millions of dollars from veterans under the guise of legitimate professionals. Some veterans are being taken advantage of while others are content to pay the exorbitant fees," he said.

These companies charge veterans for assistance with Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits claims that The American Legion provides at no cost to any veteran.

Resolution 1 calls on Congress to:

- Pass legislation that restores criminal penalties for people or companies violating VA rules regarding representing or charging veterans fees to file, prepare or prosecute initial VA claims without VA accreditation.
- Oppose legislation that would allow unaccredited parties to become legal representatives without completing the accreditation process.

There are two bills pending in Congress related to the issue, the Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act and the PLUS (Preserving Lawful Utilization of Services for Veterans) Act.

The American Legion supports the GUARD Act. The legislation would reinstate criminal penalties for unaccredited claim representatives who charge unauthorized fees while assisting veterans with filing a VA disability claim.

Conversely, the PLUS Act would force VA to recognize applicants for accreditation automatically after 90 days, even if they fail to meet VA standards. This legislation also calls for a fee cap of \$12,500 to be paid by the veteran.

"Our national commander made it clear that we oppose the PLUS Act — in September when a letter of opposition was sent to Congress, in October during his visits on Capitol Hill, and again last month in his [published Commander's Message](#)," James said.

After the vote, American Legion National Commander Dan Seehafer said, "Our agenda was short today but very important. Our position is now crystal clear to all unaccredited firms wishing to exploit veterans, and that is, not on our watch!"

With the current congressional term concluding soon, it is likely the legislation will be a focal point for the next session.

"Your work today will only strengthen our testimony that I deliver to Congress in March," said Seehafer, concluding his remarks.

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES DECEMBER 31



**RENEW
TODAY!!!**

Don't let the Grinch steal your membership

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

Task Force Movement building pillars

The American Legion | December 6, 2023

Just over a year and a half into its existence, [Task Force Movement](#) (TFM) – the public-private initiative started by the Biden-Harris administration in April 2022 to get the veteran-connected community certified and into job fields in dire need of personnel – has already added a third area of emphasis: [health care](#).

On Dec. 12, the TFM board will meet at the Washington, D.C., office of The American Legion. As a member of the steering committee with a centrally located facility, the Legion has hosted TFM meetings in the past, as well as a reception for honored veteran truckers last December.



Honorable Patrick J. Murphy, chairman of the Task Force Movement, speaks during the Taskforce Movement Credentialing Summit during The American Legion's 104th National Convention at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, N.C., on Wednesday, August 30.

Jeric Wilhelmsen/The American Legion

Strengthening the national supply chain, which was stretched to its limits during the COVID-19 crisis, was a prime motivating factor in standing up the initiative, which includes among its partners everything from trucking companies to federal agencies, community colleges to the AFL-CIO, and more.

As well as updates on the first two areas of the initiative – trucking and cybersecurity – and on the newest health-care area, the board will discuss its fundraising and philanthropic efforts, such as scholarships for training and certification.



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

Post 105 Family donates to the homeless

Rusty Myers | December 10, 2023

PETER FRANCISCO PARK, NEWARK, NJ – The American Legion Post 105 Family of Belleville, NJ – made up of the Legion's veterans, American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) members, and Sons of the American Legion (SAL) – spent a Sunday morning in December handing out food, water, coats, and jackets, and treats to the homeless behind Newark Penn Station. A special guest showed up as well handing out candy canes ... Santa!

"...38 minutes, and we handed out all of that stuff – and it was A LOT of stuff!" noted SAL 105 Commander Steve Sangemino at the squadron's general meeting the next day.

Vinnie, serving as a Vice-Commander of the Sons in Belleville, has coordinated these type of events with his wife Lisa for the past few years. In the winter of 2023, they arranged two separate drop-offs of coats and sandwiches to help out the homeless in Newark. This trip on the 10th of December they put together in just a few days, in advance of the holidays.

Many of Newark's homeless congregate in the park behind Newark Penn Station, in what is referred to as "Down Neck" ... the Ironbound section of Newark. Unfortunately, many of those hungry and homeless are families with children.



The night before, Post, Unit, and Squadron members – as well as young auxiliary members and young SAL's - made sandwiches and packed brown paper bags, and put together clothes to hand out. The goal was to drive up to Peter Francisco Park with a few vehicles to distribute everything to folks who were there.

As soon as they pulled up, Santa steps out of the truck with a bag full of candy canes to hand out to the kids. The line to meet “The Big Guy” formed almost immediately.



Though the people in the park were undoubtedly going through some of the worst and hardest times in their lives, they were all nothing but smiles – from the children getting their candy canes and meeting Khri Kringle, to the adults getting PB&J's and sweet treats. Many of those who benefitted from the 115 sandwiches made and the clothes donated thanked the Legion Family members with hugs and kisses – a truly humbling sight.

ALA Unit 105 Chaplain Jackie Elsmore, attending her first trip to feed and clothe the homeless with the Post, noted afterward that “[she] saw desperate people that were down on their luck with the biggest smiles, grateful hearts, and a true appreciation of human kindness. In a sense, they helped me more than I helped them.”



These trips go a very long way to show the American Legion's commitment to community across Essex County. Some of the new-in-the-bag jackets were donated from American Legion Post 251 Montclair, plus all of the food donated came from members who wanted to help out. A true testament to our effort to spread a little holiday cheer.

“We had a good time down there ... and we did what we had to do,” Chairman Ferriole noted afterward.



Steven Cox is the Detachment of Pennsylvania Commander



National Riders chairman urges support for VCF in new video

The American Legion | December 11, 2023

WATCH ON **YouTube**

During last May's National Executive Committee Spring Meetings, it was announced that [The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund](#) has reached a point where it can sustain itself through the foreseeable future. After discussions with leadership of the American Legion Riders – which has made raising money for the Legacy Fund its primary mission via the annual American Legion Legacy Run – it was determined that starting in 2024, the annual charity motorcycle ride will be fundraising for The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF).

Earlier this fall, National American Legion Riders Chairman Mark Clark, who also serves as chief road captain for the Legacy Run, sat down to talk about the switch to fundraising for the VCF and the foundation's critical mission.

“The American Legion Riders have always embraced the priorities of the national leadership. Our national leadership has come to us and asked us to support the Veterans & Children Foundation,” Clark says in the video. “This is a foundation commonly known as ‘the foundation for hope.’ And I think once our Riders understand the importance of it, once they get a chance to kind of peel back that onion and see the impact in changing lives and saving lives that the Veterans & Children Foundation has, that they’ll eagerly embrace that.”

Clark also calls the Legion Riders “a dynamic force for good” while explaining all of the facets of the VCF and how it makes an impact on those it assists. “It provides hope for our veterans and their families especially families with children,” he says. “The American Legion Riders have always embraced doing something for the kids. This foundation does just that.”

Learn more about the VCF [here](#).



Lisa Williamson,
National President
The American Legion Auxiliary



Bracelet to Benefit the Children's Welfare Foundation (C.W.F)

Kenna Shadle a Junior American Legion Auxiliary member of Unit 131 and daughter of Sons of the American Legion District 16 Commander Dave Shadle, wanted to do something special to help raise money for C.W.F, the Number 1 fundraiser project that the Sons of the American Legion has spearheaded for the past several years.

She is crafting these wonderful bracelets and selling them for **\$5.00 each** and all proceeds are going to C.W.F!!! She has set a Goal to raise **\$1,000 by January's D.E.C.**

She is excited about the project and is working making them ever night and the colors of the bracelet is the American Legion's colors Blue/Yellow and are stretchable and easy to slip on and off to wear and to show our pride and strength in our mission for this great cause!

Let's RALLY together and get behind her to make her mission as well as ours a **GREAT SUCCESS & BUY your bracelet(s) today** so that she can reach her goal by the DEADLINE!



If you have any questions or would like to order a Bracelet(s) please contact District 16 Commander Dave Shadle at (570) 367-8631 and **THANK YOU** for Supporting Kenna and C.W.F!!!!!!

Sports

Army sinks Navy in last-second thriller

John Chuhuran | December 11, 2023

It wasn't the greatest ever played, but Saturday's 124th Army-Navy football game had a little bit of everything for the sold-out crowd of 65,878. Ultimately, Army's tenacious goal-line stand in the closing seconds sealed a 17-11 triumph at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass. It was the first time "America's Game" was played in New England.



Warren Rosenberg photo

Fittingly, it was the defense that powered the Black Knights' win. All year long, the defense had kept Army (6-6) in close games and on occasion sparked victory. – including causing and recovering six turnovers in a win against previously unbeaten Air Force last month and taking two more on Saturday.

“Why has it always gotta be like that?” asked winning Head Coach Jeff Monken. “It's always like that. We had a 14-point lead, and one second to go, they're standing there knocking on the door with a chance to tie the game up. Unreal. But I'm proud of our team. What a great win. Both teams just fought like crazy. That's what's great about the game. Their players played hard, played their hearts out. Ours did, too. Fortunately, we came up with a play there at the end and got away with the victory.”

By toppling teams from the other two military academies, the Black Knights won the Commander-In-Chief's Trophy for 2023. The trophy will reside at West Point for the next year, and the team will also get the chance to go to the White House and meet the president.

Heading into intermission, Army took a 10-0 lead on junior Bryson Daily's 4-yard touchdown pass to senior Tyson Riley and Quinn Maretzki's 47-yard field goal in the final two seconds before the break. Both teams struggled for the first 12 minutes of the third quarter. A video review negated an apparent special team's touchdown for Arm and ignited the dormant Navy offense, which marched 70 yards on 12 plays, highlighted by substitute senior quarterback Tail Lavatai's 25-yard dash on the third snap. The drive stalled on the Army 19 and Nathan Kirkwood booted a 37-yard field goal to make it 10-3 just under 12 minutes into the second half.

Late in the fourth quarter, Army sophomore linebacker Kailb Fortner charged uncovered from the left

and stripped the ball from Navy, scooping it up and sprinting 44 yards into the end zone to give Army a 17-3 lead with just 4:49 to play.



“It was a crazy, crazy surreal moment, but we called a play where I blitz off the edge and kind of contain or else a linebacker will come inside,” Fortner said. “I almost missed the defensive call, but I came, and I hit the ball. It's almost kind of like I planned it the way it bounced in my hands. I saw on the Jumbotron a sea of gold (Army) jerseys behind me, and I kind of let off, but it was just a surreal moment.”

Navy (5-7) responded with exceptional controlled aggressiveness. Lavatai, who had missed the last four games with injury, masterfully completed consecutive passes of 13, 15, 14 and 14 yards – the last into the end zone to Jayden Umbarger to make the score 17-9. Playing for a possible victory, Navy attempted a two-point conversion, but Lavatai's pass missed the mark. Lavatai, who relieved ineffective starting senior QB Xavier Arline in the second quarter, was inserted into his final game and became the offensive force Navy needed – completing 16 of 26 passes for 179 yards and rushing for 90 yards on 19 carries.

Army's three-and-out on the ensuing possession gave the Midshipmen the ball on the Navy 27e with just 1:39 left. Lavatai, with senior poise, ran for nine yards and then completed passes of 28, 9, 10 and 11 yards to give Navy a first-and-goal on the Army 6 with just :30 and no timeouts left.

In a situation where a run that did not score would run out the clock, Lavatai took the snap, looked left and tossed a bullet that sailed beyond sophomore Brandon Chatman. On second down with :26 remaining, he tried to hit sophomore Eli Heidenreich in the middle, but the ball was just beyond reach.

On third down, sophomore Alex Tecza took two steps over the line of scrimmage and cut hard right toward the sideline. Lavatai led him perfectly as Tecza pulled the ball to his chest, but Fortner was in the right spot again, grasping the receiver around the torso and bringing him down on the Army 2 with 22 ticks of the clock left. One final desperate effort saw Lavatai keep the ball as the entire Navy squad tried to bunch together and push forward like a rugby scrum, but Army matched them man-for-man and kept Navy one yard short of the goal.

“Our kids fought their tails off, “Navy Head Coach Brian Newberry said. “We had a chance to possibly tie it there at the end. It's tough – you don't have any timeouts, the clock's running, you can't run anyone off field. These guys never quit. The experience they've had here is going to serve them well when they're out leading young sailors and Marines when tough times come your way.”

The Black Knights took possession with :03 left, but there was no room to maneuver, so Daily (56 yards passing, 89 yards rushing) took the snap and danced around until the clock went to 0:00 before stepping out the back of the end zone to end the game with a two-point Navy safety.

Fortner led the Army defense with 10 tackles, while the team's senior duo of Leo Lowin (nine) and Jimmy Ciarlo (seven) led by example and coordinated coverage that held the group from Annapolis to just 130 rushing yards, nine offensive points and 26:29 of possession. Junior Max DeDomenico grabbed the game's only interception and ran it back yards to Navy's defensive stars were junior Colin Ramos (game-high 16 tackles), sophomore Luke Pirris (nine) and senior Eavan Gibbons (nine).

American Legion Baseball Fundraiser with chance to see Savannah Bananas

The Central Ohio Knights of American Legion Post 171 in Westerville is raffling off 2 sets of 4 tickets to see the Savannah Bananas on May 25, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m. The game will be played at Huntington Park, home of the Columbus Clippers.

Tickets are \$10 each.

For more information, and to purchase your tickets, please contact team manager Fred Valentine at (614) 975-1272 or americanlegionknights@gmail.com.

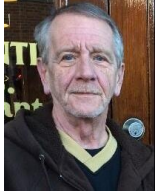


I WANT YOU TO RENEW!!!

Squadron Everlasting

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

William George Rosenberger



William "Bill" George Rosenberger, 74, of Lancaster passed away on December 6, 2023. He was born in Lancaster to the late William A. and Anna Rosenberger and was a lifelong resident of Lancaster. Bill was a graduate of J.P. McCaskey High School with the Class of 1967. He was an avid Cleveland Browns football fan and also enjoyed hiking and baseball. Bill was a member of Post 34 Sons of the American Legion. He was a loving and devoted husband and father who adored his family.

Bill leaves behind his wife of 33 years Lisa Rosenberger; two children, Erik and Aimee Rosenberger; a sister, Beverly Foltz all of Lancaster. He was preceded in death by his parents.

In honor of Bill's wishes there will be no formal services and any future services will be announced by his family. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Hospice and Community Care, 685 Good Dr., Lancaster, PA 17601.

Arrangements by the Clyde W. Kraft Funeral Home, Inc. Landisville/Columbia www.clydekraft.com

Arrangements by the Clyde W. Kraft Funeral Home, Inc. Landisville/Columbia www.clydekraft.com

Thomas J. Caffrey Sr.



Thomas J. Caffrey Sr., 85, of Plains Twp., passed away Thursday evening, Dec. 7, 2023, in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital after suffering a heart seizure at home. Born March 24, 1938, in Plains Twp., he was the son of the late Bernard L. and Catherine A. Padden Caffrey.

Tom was a graduate of Sacred Heart High School, Plains Twp., Class of 1955 and was employed as a laundry aide at Valley Crest Nursing Home until his retirement.

He was a member of Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Plains Twp., and a former member of the Sons of the American Legion, Post 558, Plains Twp.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Thomas J. Caffrey Jr.; and his brother, James Caffrey.

Surviving are his wife of 28 years, the former Carol Krapcha, Plains Twp.; daughters, Gina Caffrey and Lisa Caffrey; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; stepson, Donald Linker and his wife, Cory; three step-grandchildren; five step-great-grandchildren; and his K-9 buddy, Luke.

In accordance with Tom's final wishes, a Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday in Ss. Peter & Paul Church, 13 Hudson Road, Plains Twp. with the Rev. John C. Lambert, pastor, officiating. Those attending the Mass should go directly to church. A livestream of the Funeral Mass will be on the parish's Facebook page. Interment will be held in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Plains Twp. There will be no calling hours.

Arrangements are entrusted to Corcoran Funeral Home, Inc., 20 S. Main St., Plains Twp.

Memorial donations may be made to SPCA of Luzerne County, 524 E. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702. For information or to leave Tom's family a message of condolence, please visit www.corcoranfuneralhome.com.

Published by Citizens Voice from Dec. 9 to Dec. 10, 2023.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](http://SympathyStore.com).

Philip Dean Letterman



Philip Dean Letterman, 59, of Jasper, passed away surrounded by family at 4:35 p.m. CST on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Newburgh, Indiana.

Dean was born in Huntingburg on January 23, 1964, to Gayle and Cendia (Borden) Letterman.

He had previously run the printing press for The Herald and Impressions Printing.

He was a musician, especially a guitarist, and was an avid woodworker. He loved spending time with his children and grandchildren, and his dogs.

He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion.

Surviving are his fiancé, Kathy Klee of Jasper; two children, Tyler (girlfriend, Sarah Joas) Letterman of Birdseye and Whitney (significant other, Brent Williams) Letterman of Jasper; seven grandchildren; his mother, Cendia Letterman of Jasper; and two sisters, Darla (Bill) Niehaus of Ferdinand and Lisa (Russell Mehringer) Letterman of Huntingburg.

Preceding him in death is his father, Gayle Letterman and his stepmother, Sharon Letterman.

A Celebration of Life visitation will be held from 2:00-6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at the Becher-Kluesner North Chapel in Jasper, Indiana.

A funeral service will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at the Becher-Kluesner North Chapel. Pastor LG Lance will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of the family.

Condolences may be made at www.becherkluesner.com.

Jerry Wayne Tumbleson



Jerry Wayne Tumbleson, age 73 of Manchester, Ohio, passed away on Friday, December 8, 2023.

Jerry was born on March 7, 1950 in Bentonville, Ohio, the son of the late Theodore Paul and Betty Ann (Hughes) Tumbleson. In addition to his parents, Jerry was preceded in death by his wife, Rita Kay Tumbleson (Shumaker) and his brother William Franklin Tumbleson.

Jerry was a retired delivery driver for the Interstate Brands Corporation (Butternut) and a member of the Sons of American Legion, Squadron 325, Manchester, Ohio. He was an avid sports fan, enjoyed

watching his grandkids play sports, and was always up for a challenging game of cards or a relaxing boat ride. Jerry was always there to lend a hand to his friends and family.

Jerry and his girlfriend, Jackie Smith, were together for 18 years. He is survived by his son Jeffrey Wayne (Melissa) Tumbleson; one grandson Joshua Wade Tumbleson; one granddaughter, Miranda Kay Tumbleson; his stepson, Les Sweeney; two step granddaughters Bethany Sweeney and Emily Sweeney; one great step granddaughter Remi Sweeney; sister, Sue Ann Tumbleson; and several nieces and nephews.

Jerry was a devoted son, brother, husband, boyfriend, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

Family and friends may pay their respects during his Celebration of Life on December 16, 2023 at the Manchester Nazarene Church Fellowship Hall, from 2 – 4 p.m.

Donations can be made to the V Foundation for Cancer Research.

David Clancy



NEW ULM—David Clancy, 80, of New Ulm died Saturday, December 9, 2023 at the Sleepy Eye Care Center in Sleepy Eye.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 11 a.m. Friday, December 15th at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm with Father Nathan Hansen celebrating the Mass. Burial will follow in the New Ulm Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will be 4 – 7 p.m. Thursday and 9-10:30 a.m. Friday at the Minnesota Valley Funeral Home in New Ulm. To leave an online condolence for his family or to sign the guest book go to www.mvfh.org.

Dave is survived by his wife Sandy of New Ulm; a daughter, Dawn (Brian) Clyne of Searles; sons, Bryan (Debra) Clancy of Courtland, John (Crystal) Clancy of Lakeville, Mike (Gwen) Clancy of Castle Rock Colorado; ten grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren; and by his brother, Roger Clancy. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his sister, Mary Jo Snyder.

David John Clancy was born August 4, 1943 in Sherburne to Eugene and Martha (Faber) Clancy. He was united in marriage to Sandra Rohman on November 12, 1960 in Trimont. Dave was employed at American Artstone for 45 years and

also owned and operated Clancy Fire Extinguisher for 42 years until his retirement. He had many hobbies including fishing, deer hunting, card playing, gardening, and spending time at his property on Fox Lake. Dave was very active in the New Ulm community as he was a member of the Cathedral Parish, New Ulm Fire Dept. for 23 years serving as Chief for 2 years, Sons of the American Legion for 39 years, MUFBA, Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Assoc, and in charge of Sunday Sinners at Turner Halle for many years.

Dave will be deeply missed by family and friends.

Alfred Keim Jr.



Alfred Keim Jr., 85, of Nappanee, IN, passed away at 6:59 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, at Elkhart General Hospital.

He was born Dec. 11, 1937, in Nappanee to Alfred Sr. and Mary (Ingle) Keim. Alfred was a Nappanee High School graduate. On Dec. 14, 1957, he married Janet Rose Deter in Churubusco, Indiana. She preceded him in death Jan. 21, 2023.

Alfred had worked for Vitreous, Kinder Manufacturing and for 35 years at Selmer's Co. He was a lifetime area resident. Alfred was a member of Nappanee Sons of The American Legion. He enjoyed bowling, camping, fishing and played softball in his younger years.

Surviving are his three daughters, Darlene (Jim) Hill, Nappanee, Brenda (Randy) Schmucker, Etna Green, Annette (Dan) Slabaugh, Warsaw; and one son, Robert (Tina) Keim, Goshen; nine grandchildren, Chris Keim, Jesse (Sam) Schmucker, Brooke Ward, Amy Slabaugh, Dannyjo Slabaugh, Amber Slabaugh, Alex (Gianna) Keim, Timothy (Jenna) Keim and Christian Pfeiffer; 18 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and a sister, Patricia (Dave) Leichtman, Arizona. He was preceded in death by a brother, Edward Keim.

Graveside service will take place at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, at Union Center Cemetery. Pastor Jason Rohde, of Nappanee Missionary Church, will officiate.

Memorial contributions in Alfred's name can be given to Nappanee Sons of The American Legion Post 154 or Heart to Heart Hospice.

Arrangements are with Thompson-Lengacher & Yoder Funeral Home, Nappanee.

Published by The Elkhart Truth on Dec. 12, 2023.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](https://www.sympathy.com).

Todd J. Traylor



Todd J. Traylor, 57, of Jasper, passed away at 6:08 p.m. on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper, Indiana.

Todd was born on October 22, 1966, in Jasper, Indiana, to Thelbert and Mary Lou (Vonderheide) Traylor.

He was a 1986 graduate of Jasper High School.

He most recently worked for Pluto Corporation. He previously had worked as a welder for Versteel.

Todd was a member of the Sons of the American Legion.

He was very knowledgeable about sports and was an avid sports fan, particularly following Notre Dame, the Chicago Cubs, and I.U.

He is survived by his daughter, Mila Jo Kavanaugh of Jasper; his mother, Mary Lou Traylor of Jasper; 11 siblings, Steve Traylor of Vincennes, Rhonda (Pat) Englert of Jasper, Karla Traylor of Cape Coral, Fla., Sheila (Keith) Klem of Jasper, Scott Traylor of North Pole, AK, Shawn (Lisa) Traylor of Ireland, Pat (significant other, Diane Brownback) Traylor of Belle Fourche, S.D., Kurt (Angie) Traylor of Jasper, Malana (Kurt) Hedinger of Jasper, Brian (Kelly) Traylor of Evansville, and Brad (Susie) Traylor of Evansville; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death is his father, Thelbert Traylor, an infant sister, Mary Traylor, a sister-in-law, Patricia Traylor, an infant niece, Melissa Traylor, and one nephew, Dustin Klem.

A celebration of life visitation for Todd J. Traylor will be held from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 18, 2023, at the Becher-Kluesner Downtown Chapel in Jasper, Indiana.

Private family inurnment will be held at a later date in the Fairview Cemetery Mausoleum in Jasper, Indiana.

Memorial contributions may be made to put toward the funeral expenses.

Condolences may be made at www.becherkluesner.com.

Richard Lindberg



ONEONTA - Richard L. Lindberg, 68, passed away peacefully on Dec. 8, 2023, at Bassett Hospital, Cooperstown.

He was born July 8, 1955, in Oneonta, the son of David A. and Dorothy (Jacobs) Lindberg.

Richard graduated from Oneonta High School in 1972. He married Judy Schaffer on July 7, 1979, in West Oneonta. He worked at a variety of restaurants in the Oneonta area.

He was a member of the Loyal Order of Moose, Fraternal Order of Eagles and Sons of the American Legion.

He is survived by his wife, Judy Lindberg; children, Angie (Robert) Lynch and Richard Jr. (Jessica) Lindberg; grandchildren, Ashlee (Amanda), Allison (Anthony), Kaitlynn, Skye, Landon, Hailie, Madison, Jordyn and Paisley; great-granddaughter, Avainna; siblings, Bonnie Marble, Betty Barnes, Esther Root, Debbie (Walt) Stretch, Doug Lindberg, Norma (Robert) Nellis, Susan (Ivan) Norton, Donald (Dody) Lindberg, and Frankie Lindberg; sister-in-law, Lillian; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents; and siblings, Barbara, David, Iver, Anna and John.

Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 14, at Lewis, Hurley & Pietrobono Funeral Home, 51 Dietz St., Oneonta.

The funeral will be at 11 a.m., Friday, Dec. 15, at the funeral home, with the Rev. Frank MacCracken officiating. Interment will be in Oneonta Plains Cemetery.

Share online expressions of sympathy at www.lhpfuneralhome.com.



RENEW



AMERICAN LEGION



Daniel J. Seehafer,
National Commander
The American Legion

Dan Seehafer, National Commander
The American Legion

Senate approves defense bill with largest pay raise for troops in 22 years

Svetlana Shkolnikova/Stars and Stripes | December 14, 2023

The Senate approved a compromise \$886 billion defense bill on Wednesday that will give service members the largest pay raise in more than two decades and invest in efforts to counter threats around the world.



Carlos Bongioanni/Stars and Stripes

Senators passed the National Defense Authorization Act, an annual must-pass bill setting policy for the Pentagon, by a vote of 87-13. The legislation must still be approved by the House but is set to raise basic pay for troops in January by 5.2%, the biggest hike in 22 years.

The pay increase was one item to which lawmakers in the Senate and House agreed. The chambers this year passed starkly different versions of the defense

bill, with the House padding its legislation with divisive social issues. Those provisions were largely stripped out after months of bipartisan negotiations. “I’m pleased the final version of the NDAA has many of the strongest provisions of the Senate’s original bill,” Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said in remarks before the vote. “We’ll give our service members the pay raise they deserve.”

Junior troops struggling with finances could see additional benefits under a measure that allows the Defense Department next year to give a monthly bonus to ranks E-6 and lower.

A Republican effort in the House to give the same service members a 30% raise was left out of the final defense bill. Other conservative priorities that included overturning the Pentagon’s travel and leave policy for troops seeking abortions and other reproductive health care were also scrapped.

Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, tried to resurrect a proposal to end the abortion access policy on Tuesday but was unsuccessful. Republican opposition to the policy led to a 10-month blockade of senior military promotions by Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., that Ernst played a role in ending this month.

Republicans said they were proud of the provisions that they were able to push through into the final defense bill, most notably the reigning in of the Pentagon’s diversity, equity, and inclusion programs.

“I’m pleased that this year’s NDAA takes measures to keep our military’s focus on war fighting and not the dissemination of woke ideologies by Pentagon bureaucrats,” said Sen. John Thune, R-S.D.

The bill is “laser-focused” on threats the U.S. faces, including strategic competition with China and Russia and the danger from Iran, North Korea, and violent extremism, said Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Lawmakers worried about China’s growing Navy rejected the Pentagon’s request to shrink the U.S. fleet, instead authorizing investment in new ships. They also approved the transfer of Virginia-class submarines to Australia as part of a historic security pact that will create a new fleet of nuclear-powered submarines to counter China’s influence in the Pacific. The bill expands the U.S. military’s presence in the Indo-Pacific region and provides resources for training, advising, and building up the capacity of the military of Taiwan, the island nation that China considers its rightful territory. Ukraine will also continue

to receive military support through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, a longstanding program that purchases equipment and weapons for Ukraine. Multiple measures in the bill tackle weapon supply issues caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year. They aim to replenish the Pentagon's stockpiles and help the U.S. maintain "our own state of readiness and the deterrent effect that goes along with it," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

"Simply put, the NDAA will support our troops, strengthen our military readiness and implement a raft of reforms to strengthen national security," he said.

Engage Your Post Members: Training Tuesday on Writing Resolutions

Dear Legionnaires and family,

Join us for a special edition of Training Tuesday, scheduled for next Tuesday, prior to the holiday season. This session takes a fresh approach by highlighting the art of writing resolutions to acknowledge and appreciate post members.

Date: Tue, Dec 19

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM EST

Location: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/b15ae472-ea79-47ab-a1ee-of1b2f0bb39c@dd9d243c-8688-470f-8812-4ceb7ac50b6c>

In this session, we'll explore the power of resolutions in engaging and uplifting our Legion community. The focus will be on crafting resolutions that recognize the contributions of our post members. This unique perspective not only encourages engagement but also fosters proficiency through regular resolution practice.

Your participation is crucial in making this Training Tuesday a success. We encourage you to spread the word among all American Legion Family members.

Let's unite in our commitment to strengthen our Legion by learning to acknowledge our post members through resolutions.

Register now and extend this invitation to others within your network to join us for this insightful session.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to the Legion's mission.

Kindly,

Erin E. Bosser,
Member Engagement & Training Coordinator
Internal Affairs & Membership Division
The American Legion

If you have any training ideas for Training Tuesday, the newsletter or anything else, please email legion-training@legion.org



2024 SAL 45% Target Date Membership Report as of: December 13, 2023

#	DETACHMENT	2024 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 45% TARGET 12/13/2023	2024 ACTUAL MBRSHP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2024 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	120	-48	102	85.00%	76.47
2	FRANCE	168	-65	141	83.93%	75.76
3	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	-623	1,348	83.67%	72.97
4	LOUISIANA	1,821	-574	1,393	76.50%	70.78
5	WISCONSIN	4,398	-1,368	3,347	76.10%	69.35
6	IOWA	4,914	-1,158	3,369	68.56%	64.01
7	ALABAMA	2,100	-477	1,422	67.71%	58.78
8	ILLINOIS	13,716	-3,074	9,246	67.41%	63.54
9	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	-348	1,054	67.13%	55.80
10	GEORGIA	4,887	-1,051	3,250	66.50%	59.34
11	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-230	714	66.42%	58.85
12	FLORIDA	23,066	-4,821	15,201	65.90%	55.81
13	IDAHO	659	-134	431	65.40%	50.76
14	MONTANA	1,091	-210	701	64.25%	60.91
15	TENNESSEE	1,792	-311	1,117	62.33%	52.79
16	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-479	1,725	62.27%	52.22
17	MISSISSIPPI	736	-126	457	62.09%	57.14
18	OREGON	1,534	-255	945	61.60%	50.81
19	PUERTO RICO	156	-26	96	61.54%	56.21
20	MARYLAND	16,803	-2,741	10,302	61.31%	56.13
21	NEVADA	387	-56	230	59.43%	50.89
22	NEBRASKA	6,992	-955	4,101	58.65%	56.31
23	NEW JERSEY	9,662	-1,284	5,632	58.29%	52.15
24	OHIO	31,690	-4,189	18,449	58.22%	53.75
25	CALIFORNIA	11,292	-1,475	6,556	58.06%	50.88
26	VIRGINIA	4,367	-559	2,524	57.80%	50.39
27	INDIANA	37,244	-4,741	21,501	57.73%	53.57
28	WYOMING	1,248	-157	719	57.61%	51.08
29	MINNESOTA	11,435	-1,437	6,583	57.57%	53.77
30	TEXAS	5,783	-702	3,304	57.13%	49.74
31	NEW YORK	30,663	-3,651	17,449	56.91%	52.34
32	DELAWARE	2,596	-301	1,469	56.59%	50.02
33	MICHIGAN	26,236	-2,954	14,760	56.26%	50.51
34	CONNECTICUT	1,865	-207	1,046	56.09%	48.76
35	KANSAS	6,055	-633	3,358	55.46%	51.39
36	ARKANSAS	406	-41	224	55.17%	43.35
37	OKLAHOMA	1,430	-145	788	55.10%	44.41
38	UTAH	460	-46	253	55.00%	52.03
39	DIST OF COL	91	-9	50	54.95%	51.14
40	VERMONT	3,920	-387	2,151	54.87%	51.15
41	RHODE ISLAND	348	-32	189	54.31%	46.26
42	ARIZONA	8,595	-736	4,604	53.57%	44.80
43	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	-405	3,117	51.72%	46.28
44	COLORADO	2,952	-193	1,521	51.52%	44.13
45	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	-323	2,767	50.94%	45.77
46	MISSOURI	3,337	-146	1,648	49.39%	43.55
47	LATIN AMERICA	33	-1	16	48.48%	18.75
48	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	-1,593	29,829	47.54%	43.93
49	KENTUCKY	2,399	-59	1,139	47.48%	40.50
50	WASHINGTON	2,682	-57	1,264	47.13%	36.79
51	ALASKA	1,740	-28	811	46.61%	38.58
52	MAINE	2,757	31	1,210	43.89%	39.31
53	NEW MEXICO	1,582	20	692	43.74%	33.72
54	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	158	1,009	38.91%	33.03
55	PHILIPPINES	79	31	5	6.33%	5.06
Grand Totals:		382,111	-45,379	217,329	56.88%	51.39

2024 SAL Regional Breakdown

Western Region - James R. Fischer, Sr. (CA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	120	102	85.00%
IDAHO	659	431	65.40%
MONTANA	1,091	701	64.25%
OREGON	1,534	945	61.60%
NEVADA	387	230	59.43%
CALIFORNIA	11,292	6,556	58.06%
WYOMING	1,248	719	57.61%
UTAH	460	253	55.00%
ARIZONA	8,595	4,604	53.57%
COLORADO	2,952	1,521	51.52%
LATIN AMERICA	33	16	48.48%
WASHINGTON	2,682	1,264	47.13%
ALASKA	1,740	811	46.61%
NEW MEXICO	1,582	692	43.74%
PHILIPPINES	79	5	6.33%
Totals:	34,454	18,850	54.71%

Southeast Region - Linwood A. Moore (VA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
LOUISIANA	1,821	1,393	76.50%
ALABAMA	2,100	1,422	67.71%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	1,054	67.13%
GEORGIA	4,887	3,250	66.50%
FLORIDA	23,066	15,201	65.90%
TENNESSEE	1,792	1,117	62.33%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	1,725	62.27%
MISSISSIPPI	736	457	62.09%
PUERTO RICO	156	96	61.54%
VIRGINIA	4,367	2,524	57.80%
TEXAS	5,783	3,304	57.13%
ARKANSAS	406	224	55.17%
Totals:	49,454	31,767	64.24%

Midwest Region - Terry A. Harris (KS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	1,348	83.67%
IOWA	4,914	3,369	68.56%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	714	66.42%
NEBRASKA	6,992	4,101	58.65%
KANSAS	6,055	3,358	55.46%
OKLAHOMA	1,430	788	55.10%
MISSOURI	3,337	1,648	49.39%
Totals:	25,414	15,326	60.31%

Northeast Region - John R. Cook (NH)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	168	141	83.93%
MARYLAND	16,803	10,302	61.31%
NEW JERSEY	9,662	5,632	58.29%
NEW YORK	30,663	17,449	56.91%
DELAWARE	2,596	1,469	56.59%
CONNECTICUT	1,865	1,046	56.09%
DIST OF COL	91	50	54.95%
VERMONT	3,920	2,151	54.87%
RHODE ISLAND	348	189	54.31%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	3,117	51.72%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	2,767	50.94%
PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	29,829	47.54%
MAINE	2,757	1,210	43.89%
Totals:	143,078	75,352	52.66%

Central Region - Robert L. Bristo (MN)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,398	3,347	76.10%
ILLINOIS	13,716	9,246	67.41%
OHIO	31,690	18,449	58.22%
INDIANA	37,244	21,501	57.73%
MINNESOTA	11,435	6,583	57.57%
MICHIGAN	26,236	14,760	56.26%
KENTUCKY	2,399	1,139	47.48%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	1,009	38.91%
Totals:	129,711	76,034	58.62%

SAVE PAPER.
SAVE POSTAGE.
SAVE TIME.



www.legion.org/SAL-renew

QUICKLY AND EASILY RENEW ONLINE

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

12/13/23		NATIONAL Donald "JR" Hall, Jr. (MD) National Commander						
	Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date	105% Date
1	Southeast 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	49,454	31,767	(17,687)	64.24%	612		
2	Midwest 1, 2, 3, 4	25,414	15,326	(10,088)	60.31%	318		
3	Central 1, 2, 3, 4	129,711	76,034	(53,677)	58.62%	1,548		
4	Western 1, 2, 3, 4	34,454	18,850	(15,604)	54.71%	309		
5	Northeast 1, 4	143,078	75,352	(67,726)	52.66%	1,767		
	TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4	382,111	217,329	(164,782)	56.88%	4,554		



12/13/23		CENTRAL REGION Robert L. Bristo (MN) National Vice-Commander								
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1	Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	4,398	3,347	(1,051)	76.10%	100	4	69.35%		
2	Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5	13,716	9,246	(4,470)	67.41%	507	8	63.54%		
3	Ohio 1, 3, 4	31,690	18,449	(13,241)	58.22%	156	24	53.75%		
4	Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4	37,244	21,501	(15,743)	57.73%	465	27	53.57%		
5	Minnesota 1, 2, 3, 4	11,435	6,583	(4,852)	57.57%	33	29	53.77%		
6	Michigan 1, 3, 4	26,236	14,760	(11,476)	56.26%	284	33	50.51%		
7	Kentucky 1, 4	2,399	1,139	(1,260)	47.48%	2	49	40.50%		
8	West Virginia 1	2,593	1,009	(1,584)	38.91%	1	54	33.03%		
	TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4	129,711	76,034	(53,677)	58.62%	1,548				

12/13/23		WESTERN REGION James A. Fischer Sr. (CA) National Vice-Commander								
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1	Hawaii 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	120	102	(18)	85.00%	-	1	76.47%		
2	Idaho 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	659	431	(228)	65.40%	10	13	50.76%		
3	Montana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,091	701	(390)	64.25%	18	14	60.91%		
4	Oregon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,534	945	(589)	61.60%	11	18	50.81%		
5	Nevada 1, 2, 3, 4	387	230	(157)	59.43%	-	21	50.89%		
6	California 1, 2, 3, 4	11,292	6,556	(4,736)	58.06%	72	25	50.88%		
7	Wyoming 1, 2, 3, 4	1,248	719	(529)	57.61%	1	28	51.08%		
8	Utah 1, 2, 3, 4	460	253	(207)	55.00%	-	38	52.03%		
9	Arizona 1, 4	8,595	4,604	(3,991)	53.57%	73	42	44.80%		
10	Colorado 1, 3, 4	2,952	1,521	(1,431)	51.52%	28	44	44.13%		
11	Latin America 4	33	16	(17)	48.48%	6	47	18.75%		
12	Washington 4	2,682	1,264	(1,418)	47.13%	4	50	36.79%		
13	Alaska 3	1,740	811	(929)	46.61%	73	51	38.58%		
14	New Mexico	1,582	692	(890)	43.74%	13	53	33.72%		
15	Philippines	79	5	(74)	6.33%	-	55	5.06%		
	TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4	34,454	18,850	(15,604)	54.71%	309				

12/13/23		SOUTHEAST REGION Linwood A. Moore (VA) National Vice-Commander								
	Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1	Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,821	1,393	(428)	76.50%	41	4	70.78%		
2	Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2,100	1,422	(678)	67.71%	45	7	58.78%		
3	South Carolina 1, 2, 3, 5	1,570	1,054	(516)	67.13%	2	9	55.80%		
4	Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4,887	3,250	(1,637)	66.50%	94	10	59.34%		
5	Florida 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	23,066	15,201	(7,865)	65.90%	277	12	55.81%		
6	Tennessee 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,792	1,117	(675)	62.33%	16	15	52.79%		
7	North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2,770	1,725	(1,045)	62.27%	10	16	52.22%		
8	Mississippi 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	736	457	(279)	62.09%	12	17	57.14%		
9	Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	156	96	(60)	61.54%	2	19	56.21%		
10	Virginia 1, 2, 3, 4	4,367	2,524	(1,843)	57.80%	46	26	50.39%		
12	Texas 1, 2, 3, 4	5,783	3,304	(2,479)	57.13%	66	30	49.74%		
13	Arkansas 1, 2, 3, 4	406	224	(182)	55.17%	1	36	43.35%		
	TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	49,454	31,767	(17,687)	64.24%	16,759				

12/13/23		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, 6, 7	1,611	1,348	(263)	83.67%	23	3	72.97%		
2 Iowa 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4,914	3,369	(1,545)	68.56%	74	6	64.01%		
3 North Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,075	714	(361)	66.42%	60	11	58.85%		
4 Nebraska 1, 2, 3, 4	6,992	4,101	(2,891)	58.65%	35	22	56.31%		
5 Kansas 1, 2, 3, 4	6,055	3,358	(2,697)	55.46%	78	35	51.39%		
6 Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4	1,430	788	(642)	55.10%	37	37	44.41%		
7 Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4	3,337	1,648	(1,689)	49.39%	11	46	43.55%		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	25,414	15,326	(10,088)	60.31%	318				

12/13/23		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, 6, 7	168	141	(27)	83.93%	10	2	75.76%		
2 Maryland 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	16,803	10,302	(6,501)	61.31%	155	20	56.13%		
3 New Jersey 1, 2, 3, 4	9,662	5,632	(4,030)	58.29%	15	23	52.15%		
4 New York 1, 3, 4	30,663	17,449	(13,214)	56.91%	206	31	52.34%		
5 Delaware 1, 4	2,596	1,469	(1,127)	56.59%	13	32	50.02%		
6 Connecticut 1, 2, 3, 4	1,865	1,046	(819)	56.09%	32	34	48.76%		
7 Dist. of Columbia 4	91	50	(41)	54.95%	18	39	51.14%		
8 Vermont 1, 2, 3, 4	3,920	2,151	(1,769)	54.87%	100	40	51.15%		
9 Rhode Island 1, 2, 3, 4	348	189	(159)	54.31%	-	41	46.26%		
10 New Hampshire 1, 2, 4	6,027	3,117	(2,910)	51.72%	101	43	46.28%		
11 Massachusetts 1, 3, 4	5,432	2,767	(2,665)	50.94%	64	45	45.77%		
12 Pennsylvania 4	62,746	29,829	(32,917)	47.54%	836	48	43.93%		
13 Maine	2,757	1,210	(1,547)	43.89%	217	52	39.37%		
TOTALS 1, 4	143,078	75,352	(67,726)	52.66%	1,767				

12/13/23		2024 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	15,201	(7,865)	65.90%	277	12	55.81%		
2 Ohio 1, 3, 4	31,690	18,449	(13,241)	58.22%	156	24	53.75%		
3 Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4	37,244	21,501	(15,743)	57.73%	465	27	53.57%		
4 New York 1, 3, 4	30,663	17,449	(13,214)	56.91%	206	31	52.34%		
5 Michigan 1, 4	26,236	14,760	(11,476)	56.26%	284	33	50.51%		
6 Pennsylvania 4	62,746	28,993	(33,753)	46.21%	29,829	48	43.93%		
TOTALS	211,645	116,353	(95,292)	54.98%	31,217				

National Totals 1, 2, 3, 4	382,111	217,329	(164,782)	56.88%	4,554		51.39%		
-----------------------------------	----------------	----------------	------------------	---------------	--------------	--	---------------	--	--



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, 2024 (DSTG)	105%





Christmas Word Search

HINTS:

BELL
CANDY CANE
CHIMNEY
CHRISTMAS
CUPID
DANCER
DASHER
ELF
FROSTY
GIFT
JINGLE
LIGHTS
NORTH POLE
NUTCRACKER
PEACE
REINDEER
RUDOLPH
SANTA CLAUS
SLED
SNOWFLAKE
SNOWMAN
STAR
STOCKING
TOY
TREE
WREATH

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