

Round-Up

**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL
TARGET DATE**
January 18, 2024



Volume 5 | Number 17 | Issue 216 | December 24, 2023

Merry Christmas!!!

**Help us be there for even more
veterans next year**



SUPPORT VETERANS

In 2023....

Approximately 750,000 VA disability cases were worked, **free of charge**, by accredited American Legion service officers nationwide....

When Vietnam veteran Bill C. returned home from Vietnam, he was awarded a 10% disability rating but over the years Bill started experiencing other medical issues. Bill's son, a veteran himself, advised his dad to meet with an accredited American Legion service officer who had also assisted him. Based on Bill's records the services officer was able to get his rating **significantly upgraded** based on his exposure to Agent Orange and for other mental health issues.

... all because of **you**.

Veterans of this great nation continue to face immense challenges on a daily basis. With your gift to The American Legion, you provide the essential support they need to successfully meet those challenges.

As 2023 rushes to a close, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to The American Legion. Your gift is crucial. You will ensure that the needs of veterans and their families are met in 2024 and beyond.

Thank you for all you do to support our nation's heroes. From all of us at The American Legion, we wish you and your family a safe and happy New Year!

All proceeds from this campaign support The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

**The American Legion
National Headquarters will be closed on the
following days in observance
of Christmas and New Year**

Thursday, December 21

National HQ offices close at 1:00 pm

Friday, December 22 – Monday December 25

Merry Christmas!

Tuesday, December 26

Friday, December 29

Monday, January 1

Happy New Year!

Tuesday, January 2

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,

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

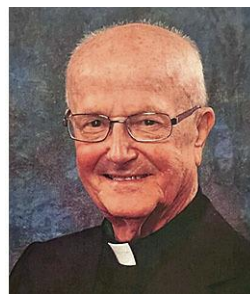
REPRESENTING

More

THAN ME

Remembering the Greatest Generation

The Right Reverend Monsignor Peter P. Tay



Pittsburgh - The Right Reverend Monsignor Peter P. Tay, 98, a retired priest of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, fell asleep in the Lord Sunday, December 10, 2023. He had been a faithful priest for 69 years. He cherished with pride his service in the U.S. Navy on the Midway Islands in the Pacific Theater of

Operations from 1944-1946. His precious values were God, Country, Family and Friends.

He was born on July 7, 1925, one of five children of the late Peter and Mary (Homa) Tay. He was a vocation from St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, Johnstown, PA. Having graduated from Johnstown Central Senior High School, he then studied at the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Detroit, St. Francis College, Loretto, PA, St. Procopius College, Lisle, IL, and then pursued further studies and priesthood formation at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Pittsburgh.

He was ordained to the Priesthood on May 31, 1954,



by the Most Reverend Daniel J. Ivancho at Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA. He served several parishes in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Illinois. His last assignment was Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church on Pittsburgh's North Side from 1968 until his retirement in 2001. He had built the Holy Ghost Social Center on Church property and classroom complex which was dedicated in 1977. He was assigned to several Archieparchial posts including his exemplary performance as Archieparchial Treasurer. Pope Paul VI granted him the title of Right Reverend Monsignor in 1975.

He is survived by his nephew Jenő Lecci and dear family friend, Joan Senchyshyn, several nieces, and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations for Divine Liturgies for his Eternal Memory and Blessed Repose.

The Right Reverend Monsignor will lay in repose in Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, Superior Avenue, North Side, Pittsburgh, on Wednesday and Thursday from 2:00 - 4:00 pm & 6:00 - 8:00 pm. A Panachida will be held on Wednesday at 2:00 pm as his body lies in repose at the church.

Parastas Part 1 for a Priest will be held on Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Parastas Part 2 for a Priest will be held on Thursday at 7:00 pm. at the church. Funeral Divine Liturgy on Friday at 10:00 am in Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church with Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla as the principal celebrant and eulogist and Reverend Father Frank Firko as the Con-Celebrant.

Interment will be in St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Cemetery, Lower Yoder Twp., Johnstown, PA 15906 on Friday at 3:00 pm.

MAY GOD GRANT TO HIS SERVANT THE PRIEST PETER ETERNAL MEMORY AND PEACEFUL REPOSE.

Arrangements entrusted to the Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home, Inc. www.kunsakfh.com.

To send flowers to the family of the Right Reverend Monsignor Peter P. Tay, please visit [Tribute Store](http://TributeStore).

Published in the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* on December 13, 2023

Airman Accounted for from WWII

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency | November 27, 2023



WASHINGTON – The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that U.S. Army Air Force Staff Sgt. Franklin P. Hall, 21, of Leesburg, Florida, killed during World War II, was accounted for July 13, 2023.

In January 1944, Hall was assigned to the 66th Bombardment Squadron, 44th Bombardment Group (Heavy) in the European Theater. On Jan. 21, Hall, a left waist gunner on board a B-24D Liberator *Queen Marlene*, was killed in action when his plane was attacked by German air forces near Équennes-Éramecourt, France. German forces quickly found the crash site and recovered nine sets of remains, which were then interred them in the French cemetery at Poix-de-Picardie. Hall's remains were not accounted for after the war.





Beginning in 1945, the American Graves Registration Command (AGRC), the organization that searched for and recovered fallen American personnel in the European Theater, searched the area around Équennes-Éramécourt. None of the investigations uncovered any leads regarding the disposition of Hall's remains. He was declared non-recoverable on March 01, 1951.

DPAA historians have been conducting on-going research into Soldiers missing from combat around Équennes-Éramécourt and found that X-391 St. Andre (X-391) and X-393 St. Andre (X-393), buried in Normandy American Cemetery, an [American Battle Monuments Commission](#) site, could be associated with Hall. X-391 and X-393 were disinterred in April 2018 and transferred to the DPAA Laboratory for analysis where it was later determined the remains of X-393 belonged to Hall.

To identify Hall's remains, scientists from DPAA used anthropological analysis. Additionally, scientists from the [Armed Forces Medical Examiner System](#) used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and Y-chromosome DNA (Y-STR) analysis.

Hall's name is recorded on the Tablets of the Missing at Ardennes American Cemetery, France, along with others still missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Hall will be buried in Leesburg, Florida, on a date to be determined.

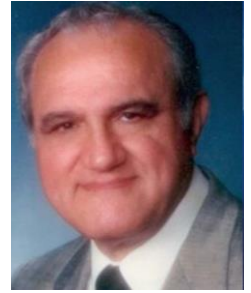
For family and funeral information, contact the Army Casualty Office at (800) 892-2490.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil or find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dod-paa or <https://www.linkedin.com/company/defense-pow-mia-accounting-agency>.

Hall's personnel profile can be viewed at <https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaPro-file?id=aoJto000000cc5REAQ>.

Joseph W. Cherol

[YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio](#) (MyValleyTributes) – Joseph W. Cherol, 98, passed away Thursday, December 14, 2023 in Greensboro, North Carolina at his daughter's home.



He was born on January 3, 1925 in Youngstown and was the son of Rosario and Rachel (Tomaino) Cherol. He was the last sibling of nine brothers to pass away.

He was a graduate of [Chaney High School](#) in 1943 and served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946. After the Navy, he went to the University of Pittsburgh and graduated in 1950 with a business degree. He loved playing football for Chaney and Pitt and also played baseball and boxed in the Navy.

He owned and operated Cherol's Market for 60 years. He is survived by his wife, Laura (DiPiero) Cherol; his daughter, Cynthia Felix; son-in-law, Daniel Felix and grandchildren, Neva and Jon Felix; along with great-grandson, Angelo. He also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be held on Wednesday, December 27, 2023 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at [Schiavone Funeral Home](#), 1842 Belmont Avenue in Youngstown.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, December 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Anthony Church, 1155 Turin Avenue in Youngstown.

In lieu of flowers, monetary donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, D.C. 20090-6011 in Joe's memory.

To [send flowers](#) to the family or [plant a tree](#) in memory of Joseph W. Cherol, please [visit our floral store](#).

From the Editor

I want to take a minute to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas! Please enjoy the time with family and friends, and don't forget the real reason for the season. May your day be filled with happiness, laughter, and love!

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

[JOIN THE SAL](#) [RENEW ONLINE](#) [BE THE ONE](#) [NEF](#)

[VCF](#) [DONATE](#) [EMBLEM SALES](#)



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

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!

The Holiday Season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us. **Be the One!** May your happiness be large, and your bills be small.

Great Job Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Latin America, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming for hitting our 45% December 14, 2023 goal! We keep having more detachments hitting the target date. Great job all and keep on, keeping on the membership momentum!

The Westside report. We improved by 2.48%, currently at 56.29% total from last report. We are still currently 4th in the nation and right behind Central Region by 4.51%, we do have the Northeast region hot on our tails at 55.41%. Just saying. Our next goal is to be at 60% by 01/18/24. Shout out to Hawaii at 85.83%, Montana at 65.81%, Idaho at 65.55%, and Oregon at 64.54 % for already achieving this goal. Coming on in a big way is Nevada at 59.95%, California at 59.46%, Wyoming at 57.61%, Utah at 55.43%, Colorado at 54.88%, Arizona at 54.65, Washington at 50.34%, Alaska at 48.51%, Latin America at 48.48%, New Mexico at 43.99% and Philippines at 8.86%. I

want to take a moment to wish each and every one of you a joyous season. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Joyous Kwanza...whatever your belief or celebration, make it wonderful. Say a prayer or send a positive thought to everyone serving our great country during this time of year.

Thanks again for everything you do for our great organization.

“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

Southern Region we are still in first place in membership great job everyone.



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.

Be the One to make a difference

[Henry Howard](#) | December 18, 2023

WATCH ON YouTube

Vic Martin knows the critical importance of [Be the One](#), The American Legion's primary mission, which aims to reduce the rate of veteran suicide.

After sustaining a brain injury while deployed in the Arabian Gulf, the Navy veteran struggled. He didn't know how to interact with his family. He lacked the tools to live a normal life. He was unsure where to turn for the resources he needed.

"I didn't understand these mental-health diagnoses I was receiving and how they were shaping me as a person," said Martin, commander of Post 275 in La Jolla. "It was really hard on my family. But Be the One is about being that one person who could have reached out to me. It's about that one person who could have intervened and made a difference in my life and my family's life. To no one's fault, I didn't have that. I am going to make sure we have that moving forward. Being the one is a responsibility of all of us."

That's what drove Martin, also the second vice commander of District 22, to serve as the architect of the district's special Be the One Weekend, held at Post 731 in San Diego on Dec. 15-17. Highlights included a presentation by American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer, two Be the One panel discussions, benefits assistance provided by Legion service officers and community organizations sharing information about their resources. Additionally, American Legion Family members performed wellness checks on veterans, a veterans art show was held, kids reveled in a drone demonstration and Santa Claus visited with active-duty military families.

The primary goal was to connect community resources with veterans and families who might need them before or during a time of crisis. Another goal was to boost membership, which was achieved by adding more than 60 members. By both measures, the

event was successful. “Being able to bring families into The American Legion and tell them about and share with them resources that are available not only for their veteran, but for them — that’s fulfilling,” Martin said.

Seehafer kicked off the second day, discussing Be the One and its success to date.

“Everywhere we go, we talk about Be the One,” he said. “It’s catching on. We are making a difference. We change lives and we save lives.”

Be the One is not just a “catchy phrase,” the commander said. “It’s not an initiative. It’s a mission. The one to Be the One to save a life. That’s why I wanted to be here. And why I needed to be here.”

Seehafer noted the overarching purpose of Be the One. It’s the rare opportunity to not just change the life of a veteran, but his or her family as well.

For Legionnaires inspired by the opportunity, they often ask, “Well, what can I do to help?”

“Be yourself and do this,” the commander said, motioning to his ears. “Listen. There are two points that are screaming — financial and relationships. Those are the two that really drive people down into that spiral where they find hopelessness. We want to change that. Give them hope and purpose.”

The San Diego event was an example of how American Legion entities are providing hope, purpose, and resources to veterans in their communities.

American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Autrey James praised District 22.

“It’s really important if you are doing something like this that you are including service officers,” said James, a member of Post 161 in Antioch, Calif. “Service officers have resources available to them that the everyday post member might not be aware of. It’s important to not only include American Legion service officers but other experts from the community that can help veterans.”

Planning a Be the One event? [Check out these promotional materials](#), videos and other resources.

He noted that District 22 created the weekend event, based on the needs and resources in its area, a model that posts and districts of any size can emulate. “This isn’t a cookie cutter plan from national, it’s something

that has to be developed specifically for individual areas.”

James was among members of a panel, moderated by American Legion member and [Be the One podcast](#) host Amy Forsythe. Panel members discussed topics including destigmatizing mental health counseling, which is a goal of the Be the One mission.

“One of the things we — collectively — are bad at is talking about it,” he said, referring to mental health issues and suicidal ideation. “And because we don’t talk about it, it becomes taboo. It makes it difficult for individuals going through crisis to reach out for help. If we are open and talk about it, and encourage others to talk about it, it makes it that much easier for someone going through crisis to know this is safe and say, ‘I need help.’”

American Legion Family members cracked open the door to those conversations during each of the three days. Teams visited former Legionnaires at their homes and made phone calls, performing wellness checks, discussing available resources, and offering comradeship.

With the Be the One weekend in the rear-view mirror, Martin keeps looking forward.

“I’m a big believer in collaboration,” he said. “We as a community need to come together. And I am honored and proud to bring The American Legion into that realm. I don’t want Be the One to become a phrase like, ‘Thank you for your service.’ I want it to have meaning. I want it to have purpose — and it does.”

North Carolina Post 68 is taking a lead on Be the One

The American Legion | December 20, 2023

Members of John E. Jacobs American Legion Post 68 in Leland, N.C., are taking the lead in their community with Be the One — The American Legion’s suicide prevention awareness initiative to end veteran suicide and destigmatize the need to ask for help. John Hacker, Post 68 vice commander, is giving a 20-minute PowerPoint presentation monthly on Be the One at a variety of venues, such as churches, Chambers of Commerce, businesses, and other service organizations (Kiwanis, Rotary Club).

“My belief is that to save a vet as well as Be the One, it has to be local because we’re the ones here in the field that’s working with veterans, the community and the community knows us, they identify with us,” Hacker

said. And when he gives a Be the One presentation or is advocating throughout the community, Hacker uses resources from the [Be the One website](#) such as the customizable brochure and banner.



American Legion Post 68 Vice Commander John Hacker.

Hacker's presentation starts off with him stating that "suicide is a scary word, and everybody's been around it in some way. It's affected us, and veteran suicide is a tragedy. We take our very best citizens, and we bring them in the military, train them to be the best in the world. Then they come out of the military and those first couple of years is probably the most critical time for them to get adjusted back into the civilian world." Hacker understands the criticalness of those first few years following the transition from military to civilian life. That's why he's making Be the One his mission.

Eric, who was in the same Army unit as Hacker, came to Hacker following their return home from Vietnam. He said, "You know Hack, Vietnam has got me all messed up. Tell me what to do. You've always told us what to do, how to do things.' I said, 'You take Vietnam, you put it in a box, you tape it up real tight, you stick it in the back of a closet somewhere. You forget about it, and you go back to school.'"

About 17 years after that conversation, Hacker learned that Eric died by suicide two years following service. "That really struck me because I thought, did I have something to do with that? As I do more of my research, we know the first two to three years after they get out of the service is the most critical part. If we can catch them and help them in those first two or three years, we might be able to save a life."

During his presentation he shares the conversation with Eric. Then Hacker shows a photo of Eric and says, "There's my why. There's my reason why I do this." Then he implores the community to Be the One. "The American Legion is made up of a legion of veterans," Hacker said. "The veterans I deal with have

retired and now they want to give back to their community and the Legion takes the lead. We are the biggest (veteran service organization), and we can make a difference. We are making a difference in Brunswick County here in Leland. We are the one."

In the several Be the One presentations Hacker has given within the community of Leland, the response has been "amazing," Hacker said, adding he received a standing ovation at one. "People ask me, 'How do I talk to a veteran?' I say, 'Let's practice.'"

Hacker said it's important to ask a veteran their MOS (military occupational specialty). "Veterans understand their MOS probably better than their Social Security Number. When you find out what their MOS is and you share yours, we create that relationship. That's what you have to do. You have to create a relationship with the veteran and that's what we advocate."

Thank you to our Round-Up sponsors

Juan Cruz Rodriquez, Department of Puerto Rico



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	12/18/23
Total Actual Membership	380,353
Percentage of Goal	103.41%
Renewal Percentage	89.29%
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.myLegion.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



American Legion brings Gifts to the Yanks Annual program in Illinois honors veterans in nursing homes

[Scott Marion](#), *The Intelligencer* | December 20, 2023



Rick and Leonard Harper from Venice-Madison American Legion Post 307 in Granite City distributed gifts to veterans at Granite Nursing and Rehabilitation Center as part of the annual Gifts to the Yanks program.

The Intelligencer

GRANITE CITY — Local American Legion posts are once again doing their part to bring holiday cheer to veterans.

Venice-Madison American Legion Post 307 in Granite City is among the posts participating in the Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave program, which was instituted in 1944 to help remember hospitalized veterans, distributes Christmas gifts annually to veteran patients at all the VA hospitals, extended care facilities and local nursing homes in Illinois.

The program is administered by the American Legion Department of Illinois, with the support of American Legion posts and auxiliary units throughout the state. The American Legion Department of Illinois is the only one that is carrying on this program.

Funding permitting, the gifts to the veterans typically include a jacket, sweater or robe, a blanket, a gift bag (with different bags for men and women), and a sweatshirt.

“We place collection containers at businesses that help us to raise money, starting in June until the end of November,” 22nd District Commander and Post 307 Adjutant Al Mahan said.

“Currently we have six businesses that participated, and over the course of two years, we have managed to collect over \$4,000 that is used to provide our less

fortunate brothers and sisters in arms, with gifts at Christmas.”

Mahan noted that the social aspect of the Gifts to the Yanks visits is more important than the clothes and other items that the American Legion volunteers distribute to the veterans.

“When we go to visit the veterans in these facilities, they are happy to see that they are not forgotten,” said Mahan, who is also the 5th Division and 22nd District committee chairman for Gifts to the Yanks. “As soon as we walk in and they see, their faces light up and they’re glad to see us again. The hardest part about doing this is they don’t really care about the gift; they just want company.

“It is hard to leave them because some of them may not have a family, or they live too far away. This is where we come in to help fill the void. If you have a veteran that has served and is in a facility, just think of them and show them that they are not forgotten, after all they protected us and provided for us, now it is our turn to do the same for them.”

Wes Sterling, meanwhile, is the commander of Edwardsville American Legion Post 199, which is making 112 Gifts to the Yanks deliveries at seven nursing homes in the Edwardsville area. As of Tuesday afternoon, Sterling still had three more stops and he and his wife Eva, who is president of the Post 199 Auxiliary, were wrapping gifts for those visits.



“We have cookies and cupcakes going out for them, but because of concerns about COVID, most of the places we’re going to don’t want us to have parties for the veterans, which we used to do all the time,” Sterling said. “The auxiliary oversees most of it and they raised over \$2,000 this year. We don’t know where we

rank this year, but we’ve been No. 1 in state in money raised for the last three years.

“We had a collection jug here where people could donate, and we also raise money from other events. We got a lot of money from our Fourth of July fireworks and it’s something we do throughout the year.”

After the donations are received from the different Legion posts in District 22, Sterling and the other post commanders meet Mahan at Bobby's Frozen Custard in Maryville, where they bring the gifts for delivery.

"We usually have about seven big boxes and we're giving blankets to everybody this year," Sterling said. "We have about eight people, mostly auxiliary members and volunteers, baking cookies and cupcakes.

"We miss not being able to get into these places and have the parties with these veterans. They miss socializing with us and I had always had fun doing it. They always have the best stories."

Post 307 has three facilities that it provides gifts for — Cedarhurst of Granite City, Granite Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and Stearns Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Granite City. The deliveries were made on Dec. 16, and this year Post 307 broke down into three teams to take the gifts to the veterans and to visit with them.

The Post 307 contingent featured:

Team 1: Granite Nursing and Rehabilitation Center — Richard Harper and Leonard Harper (six veterans).

Team 2: Cedarhurst of Granite City — Commander Don Scheyer, Adamah Ruach and Frank Fedora (seven veterans).

Team 3: Stearns Nursing and Rehabilitation Center — 22nd District Commander and Post 307 Adjutant Al Mahan, Debbie Mahan and Commander Don Scheyer Post 307 (12 veterans, two women and 10 men).

"Previously it was just me and Don Scheyer, and it takes a long time for a couple individuals to go to each place and still spend some time with each veteran," Mahan said. "Don and I started training other members of our post on what we do, and we can spend more time with the veterans if we split things up."

Mahan added that Post 307 plans to start visiting veterans at nursing homes and other extended care facilities for their birthdays as well as the Christmas visit for Gifts to the Yanks.

"We want to be there more than once or twice a year," Mahan said.

Sterling has been doing all the deliveries for Post 199 this year, but he hopes to get some assistance in the future.

"I'm thinking next year is going to be different because we just added new chapters for Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Riders," Sterling said. "They're all willing to volunteer, but this year it was kind of last minute because those groups just got started."

Sterling saluted Mahan for his work in the Gifts to the Yanks program.

"Al does a lot, including going to Bloomington this year and picking up presents for all these different posts," Sterling said. "He's the district commander and he picked them all up in his motor home."

Scott Marion is a feature reporter for the Intelligencer. A long-time sportswriter, he has worked for the Intelligencer since December 2013. He is a graduate of Brentwood High School and the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

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: Less than two years old and growing fast

[Laura Edwards](#) | December 19, 2023

On Dec. 12, [Task Force Movement \(TFM\)](#) conducted a board meeting at The American Legion's National Headquarters office in Washington, D.C., to get updates on the initiative's longstanding trucking and cyber components and its newest area of emphasis, health care. Updates came from industry, agency, military, and veterans groups that have teamed up to close gaps in the labor market with men and women who have served in uniform.

Unions, from those representing public utilities to elevators, continue to be involved with TFM programs and advancing veterans quickly into well-paying

career paths. New board member Frank Christensen, general president of the International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC), for instance, touted his group's long involvement with the Helmets to Hardhats program and the success the labor organization has had with veteran employees.

The board was updated on several pieces of legislation of interest to TFM and heard reports on each of the three main arms of the initiative.



Task Force Movement meets at The American Legion National Headquarters office in Washington, D.C., Dec. 12.

Laura Edwards/The American Legion

Trucking: Teresa Watson, director of the Minority Professional Truckers Association, discussed what her group has been doing for independent owner-operators and farmers in the Southeast. Through a partnership with Cargill, the drivers can access classes on topics like profit/loss statements and communicating with shippers. Watson related instances of owner-operators going into the fields themselves to help farmers bring out their crops, and in 2024 expanded town-hall meetings will include both groups.

Jason Turner, vice president of talent and growth initiatives at ArcBest, described the “tale of two environments” in the trucking field between owner-operators and employees, and announced that 1,000 veterans have been brought into trucking careers through the company's involvement with the DoD SkillBridge program.

Cyber: New TFM Cyber Chairman Dr. Jack Dever, CEO of Lockhaven Solutions, described being “absolutely energized ... by the opportunity that's out there” as he has gotten up to speed about veterans who may be coming out of the service with skills needed to fill a shortage of over 700,000 nationwide. He explained that cyber essentially equates to risk management, which touches many industries, including trucking and health care.

Dr. Yashika Neaves, chief of strategic plans and initiatives at the DoD Military-Civilian Transition Office, updated the group on the latest developments in SkillBridge. SkillBridge 2.0 is a combination of traditional training programs for the military-connected community and new ones. The focus is set to shift from credentialing to employment. Program approvals are moving again after a 60-day hold to catch up on the backlog, and Neaves said a new governance structure will bring SkillBridge more visibility, including at VA.

Health Care: TFM Healthcare Chairwoman Emily Haas said she has had many conversations with employers since this component's inception in August, including such heavy hitters as Johnson & Johnson and Northwell. Staffing needs span the industry, from manufacturing and nursing to mental health and care-taking. Conversations with individual states have also begun, she explained.

State relations will be a focal point for TFM overall in 2024, according to Board Treasurer Brandon McPherson, senior vice president of strategy and operations for Warner Music Group. Another will be the pursuit of funding and scholarships from state and national sources; the next three to four months are “our time to shine,” he commented, adding that the initiative is “well-positioned” to take advantage of opportunities.

That position is thanks, in part, to board members' involvement in these fields preceding the initiative's introduction in the spring of 2022. TFM Executive Director Elizabeth Murray-Belcaster, president of EMB Consultants, Inc., says the genesis goes back to around 2010, when she and others first noted that service-members were coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan to an overall dismal job market – with one notable exception being trucking. That's when the work began that has led to today's TFM components. The American Legion has maintained a steady position of support for advancing veterans into specialized career fields and transferring military training time into credits for certification and licensure in those that require separate training.

TFM Chairman Patrick Murphy told the board that virtual Hiring Our Heroes job fairs, put on by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, are set for Jan. 31 and Feb. 21, specifically in the areas of technology, cybersecurity, and health care. Military-connected applicants can register for them online. Information on the Jan. 31 event that will focus on technology and cybersecurity can be found [here](#). Information about the Feb. 21 event that will focus on health care can be found [here](#).

Among those serving on the TFM Steering Committee is American Legion Veterans Employment & Education Division Director Joseph Sharpe.

Buddy Checks let veterans know 'somebody cares'

The American Legion | December 20, 2023



American Legion Post 64 Service Officer Craig Annis.
Steve Smull

Craig Annis, a service officer for American Legion Post 64 in Phoenix, was reading an article in *The American Legion Magazine* about Buddy Checks. With a large population of older veterans in the post, Annis

thought it was a great opportunity to call and check in on them.

"It just seemed like the right thing to do, and to get in contact with a lot of our members who don't necessarily come to the meetings," he said.

Post 64 has 139 members. And over the course of two months, Annis made over 100 phone calls. For those with no phone number listed, he sent emails and mailed letters.

"I have to tell you, I'm 78 years old. I was a salesman all my life. I owned my own company for 20 years and retired, and I don't know that I've ever in my lifespan had such a rewarding experience in terms of talking to men and women who have served and are now on the latter stages of their life. They were so appreciative to just be contacted," Annis said.

The phone calls resulted in members coming to Post 64's November meeting who have never been before, helping a few with burial information in a national cemetery, answering questions about the PACT Act, helping with other service benefits, and sharing when post meeting days and times were, along with upcoming events. The phone calls also led Annis to learn that several members lived alone or that they were no longer able to drive. The post is now discussing about picking up members who want to come to meetings but can't drive or getting a 10-12 passenger van.

"The vast majority were just thankful to have had somebody call from our post," Annis said. "A couple of members that are way younger than I am, were like, 'Craig, that's really nice of you to take the time to call me. I really appreciate that.'"

Before making the calls, Annis broke the membership list down by date of birth, calling the older members first. Between October and November, he spent over 100 hours connecting with post members.

"I know that sounds like a lot of hours, but if you break that out, I would typically work maybe two to three, at the most five hours a day, and had many days that I just took a break or had other things going on in my life. The rewarding part of it is it's never, 'Oh darn, I have to sit and make calls.' It was exciting to look forward to who you might get to meet and what you might find with needs, and that's sort of what a service officer does.

"It's just a wonderful sense of accomplishment after you've talked to, you know, older members, middle-aged members, younger members, and when they all get back to you say, 'Hey, thanks for taking the time.'" Other Post 64 members have expressed interest in making Buddy Checks as the plan moving forward for Post 64 is to conduct them at least quarterly. Annis hopes other posts see the value of calling their members and start their own Buddy Checks.

"I think if we keep getting the word out there about what the value is with Buddy Checks, hopefully more and more posts will realize it's a simple process and easy to do," he said. "We all like to know that somebody's thinking about us. You know, that's a natural need that I think we all have. We want to know somebody cares."

Legion post builds four tiny homes on property for homeless veterans

The American Legion | December 19, 2023

Homeless veterans in Tennessee now have shelter as they find employment, health care and financial stability. Four tiny single-unit homes have been built on property owned by and adjacent from American Legion Post 207 in Spencer, Tenn. The vision for the homes was that of Post 207 Commander Hansel Moore. The result, coined VITAL (Veterans In Transition American Legion), was made possible from Post 207's relationships within the community.

"We are extremely excited about this," Moore said. "It's a culmination of about three years of planning and a lot of hard work. I'm proud of this. I'm proud that we were able to do it through The American Legion."

The idea for housing homeless veterans came to Moore, an Air Force veteran and VA nurse, after

meeting one who shared that he lived in the woods alongside several other veterans. Moore felt “it wasn’t right that I’ve got 12 brothers and sisters that are living in the woods” about five miles from his house.



Property next to the Legion post was for sale. “And the only purpose it was serving was to grow grass,” said Moore, who pictured tiny homes on it for homeless veterans. But the property cost was more than the post could afford. That was until a veteran from out of state visited Post 207 and saw what the post could do with more land.

Post 207 underwent renovations several years ago and is the first Legion post in Tennessee to put in VA telehealth access for use by veterans in the rural area. The veteran told Moore the post was going to grow and asked how much the property for sale was.

“I said how much they want for it or how much do you think I can get it for? He said, ‘How much do you think you could get it for?’ I told him and this guy, who I really didn’t know, reached into his pocket and pulled out his checkbook (and wrote a check for more than the property). He said, ‘I want you to go tomorrow and buy that property.’

“It’s just incredible, the whole process, and it’s been a group effort.”

The 400-square-foot single unit homes feature a living room, bedroom, kitchenette, and bathroom. They are built out of concrete, even the roof. “These are going to last long after I’m gone,” Moore said. “And they look beautiful.”

The homes were built from 100% donations.

“It was just through building relationships with people in the community and people who have a heart for veterans,” Moore said.

Once the tiny homes started going up, phone calls started pouring in. People wanted to help. One community member, who renovates buildings, called Moore offering leftover material such as bathroom sinks, mirrors and light fixtures. Brand new windows were also donated.

Since the homes sit on a hill that slopes to the Legion post, the plan is to put in a gutter system on each unit where rainwater will be collected in large bins. The rainwater will then be used for a victory garden that the veterans and Legion members will use.

“You step back and it’s kind of overwhelming, but in a good way,” Moore said. “I think we just lit a fuse, and it’s going to be pretty cool what comes next.”

The American Legion has partnered with other organizations and several resources to identify homeless veterans. Veterans will be vetted beforehand and live in the homes for up to one year. During that time, Post 207 members and other community organizations will assist the veterans with a pathway to long-term stability.

“It’s not just housing ... we have social workers involved, we have medical people involved, we have chaplains, we have financial planners, we have job placement individuals specifically for veterans. We will start working with them on day one to meet their mental health and physical health needs. Then we will work on their financials and hopefully within a year they’ll be able to put enough funding away, and they will be able to live independently and move on with a very successful life.”

Moore hopes the tiny homes built next to Post 207 “is a catalyst for Legion posts across the country to say, ‘It can be done.’ Because realistically if we (a rural county of 6,000 people) are able to do it where we are, it can happen. You have to get out there and make those relationships and that’s what this is all about. It was the culmination of relationships and doing what you say you’re going to do.”





SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

Servicemembers Participate in Annual Wreaths Across America Event

Max Lonzanida, Naval Weapons Station Yorktown
December 18, 2023

Servicemembers from Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Coast Guard Training Center-Yorktown, and Joint Base Langley-Eustis joined hundreds of civilian volunteers at Yorktown National Cemetery on Saturday, December 16th to lay wreaths as part of a Wreaths Across America event.

The annual event coincided with similar events at over 4,000 participating cemeteries nationwide as part of Wreaths Across America Day, which ensures that no Veteran, regardless of where or when they served, is never forgotten.

Captain Scott Rae, Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Training Center-Yorktown provided some remarks during the solemn event. "Lying here before us and in cemeteries throughout this nation are men and women who gave their lives so that we can live in freedom and without fear," said Captain Rae, before a crowd of uniformed service members and members of the public who packed closely to hear his remarks. "There are many men and women serving today in all branches of the military, here at home and in places far away, that most of us have never heard of. These men and women are part of the best-trained, best-equipped force in the world. We honor them and their families for the sacrifices they make each day to keep our country safe from terrorism, hatred, and injustice," he concluded.

Colonial National Battlefield Park's Superintendent, Jerri Marr echoed those remarks during her closing. "Remember, we are not here today to decorate graves. Each wreath is a gift of appreciation from a grateful America," she superintendent Marr. "These live balsam fir wreaths symbolize our honor to those who have served and are serving in the armed forces of our great nation and to their families who endure sacrifices every day on our behalf."

The brief ceremony concluded with the symbolic laying of wreaths by uniformed servicemembers from all three peninsula area military installations.



Among the service members laying symbolic wreaths representing their branch of service was Lance Corporal Lal Mawi, who is assigned to the Marine Corps Security Force Regiment.

He placed a wreath in memory of those who have served and continue to serve in the United States Marine Corps. Chief Yeoman Angela Talarico followed and placed a wreath in memory of those who have served and continue to serve in the United States Navy.

Both service members are assigned to Naval Weapons Station Yorktown. U.S. Army Veteran David Ahrens, a member of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 75, fought back tears as he laid a wreath in honor of the 93,129 servicemembers from all branches whose last known status was as a Prisoner of War or Missing in Action. His wreath honored those brave servicemembers who have never returned home, and whose sacrifices will never be forgotten.

Thereafter, volunteers converged on boxes containing fresh balsam fir wreaths and distributed them to be laid at over 1,500 headstones within the cemetery. Of the 2,183 burials at Yorktown National Cemetery, 747 are known and the remaining 1,436 are unknown. Many headstones mark the final resting place of multiple servicemembers, and the vast majority of those interred there are Soldiers who perished during the Civil War.

Standing out among the burials is plot number 1420, where U.S. Navy Landsman Wilson Bell is buried. Bell, who was assigned to USS Minnesota, died in 1907.

The cemetery was officially designated as a national cemetery in 1866, when over 50 deceased Union Soldiers were re-interred from burial sites within a 50 mile radius.

The cemetery lies adjacent to the location where the British surrendered to then General George Washington in 1781, ending the Revolutionary War and paved the way for the nation's independence from the British. That victory is celebrated annually in Yorktown on October 19th as Yorktown Day.

By 1400, each headstone was adorned with a freshly laid wreath. This small gesture, carried out by scores of volunteers ensured that those interred there are remembered during this annual event that brought together servicemembers from each peninsula area military installation and participants from across the region.

NJ Sons participate in Wreaths Across America

Rusty Myers | December 16, 2023

Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 105, along with some of the Posts veterans and American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) members, took a trip for the third year in a row to Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown, NJ to participate in Wreaths Across America Day on 16 December. The squadron donated \$350 of wreaths for the day, as did American Legion Post 105 – with the squadron's wreaths going to Doyle Cemetery, Lakewood Cemetery in Cinnaminson, Holy Cross Cemetery in North Arlington, Belleville's St. Peters, and Glendale Cemeteries, and to Washington DC's Arlington National Cemetery.



submitted photo

“Each December on National Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 3,700 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad”, per the WAA website. A person or organization can donate \$15 per wreath to have one laid at the foot of a veteran's gravestone, in memory of either a specific veteran at a requested cemetery or in memory of anyone who served at any cemetery.

For the third year in a row, Belleville's SAL 105 has taken the hour and-a-half trip south to NJ's largest state veterans cemetery, where over 88,000 veterans are interred. This year, thirteen participants placed eleven wreaths in Wrightstown on a day which was unseasonably warm for mid-December – over 50 degrees with clear skies.



Klye Brady

submitted photo

The ceremony at Doyle Cemetery was led by Lt. Col Robert Cann of the Civil Air Patrol's New Jersey Wing, where he quoted Ronald Regan:

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”

In quoting that, the colonel emphasized that it is so unbelievably important to include our children and younger Americans in honoring our veterans in events such as Wreaths Across America Day.

Upon the conclusion of the opening ceremony, once Lt. Col. Conn gave instructions on how to place the wreaths, the Belleville Legion Family began working on tracking down the eleven specific veterans on the list of those to honor. About a month beforehand, the squadron began making a list of parents, uncles, friends, relatives, and fellow Belleville and Nutleyites who are buried in the cemetery. At each grave, the wreath was ceremoniously laid down by a 105 member who was connected to that veteran, with his or her name read aloud - thanking them for their service. From World War II to Korean War to Vietnam War veterans, these heroes' stories ran the scope of service and sacrifice to this country ... one of them a veteran killed-in-action in the Pacific who was recently returned home; one was an Iwo Jima Marine, one was even a Pearl Harbor survivor ... while another was in the Coast Guard in WWII's Operation Torch, some were Bronze Star or Purple Heart recipients, and one even a three-time Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) holder – of which there are only about 230 in American history. In any event, to whoever the wreath was presented, the moment was very poignant and moving to those watching.

Some of the Belleville Sons have gone each year for the past three years, while others this year attended for the first time. SAL Ralph Legge, who placed a wreath at his US Navy uncle's grave for a second year, noted that "This event has become my favorite part of being a SAL member ... each grave I read somehow bears an image to me of them." "Some [veterans buried] were very young," added SAL 105 Vice Commander James Elmore. "This was a very emotional experience."

After taking about two hours placing wreaths, some of the contingent headed 45 minutes south to honor the grandfather, uncle, and father of dual member and Legion 2nd Vice Commander Ed Hall at Lakeview Cemetery in Cinna-minson. A dual member is one who is both a veteran member of the American Legion, and a member of the Sons of the American Legion honoring their parents or grandparents service.

"This time around was very emotional for me, to have a few fellow SAL members wanting to join me on a further journey than our normal one to honor my family's veterans." Hall said afterward. "You did them and us proud."

Another group went home, along the way placing a wreath at the headstone of John X. Bezerra, a member who passed away a few years ago. Bezerra, a Vietnam Purple Heart recipient, is buried in North Arlington and was very close to ALA Jennifer LaBar, who placed

the wreath. "I will cherish that moment forever," she said.

The day is an unbelievable experience and is open to the general public to assist in placing wreaths. For more information, visit them on the web at www.wreathsassacrossamerica.org.

SAL 105's Kyle Brady, who attended for the first time, placed a wreath at World War II veteran Guilliano Fergonese's grave. "The vast fields of what seemed like endless graves and the substantial amount of people that came to pay their respects to all the men and women who served our country was truly a sight to see ... It was an honor to be included alongside all the other Sons of the American Legion Post 105 to participate in the Wreaths Across America." William Chivil, another SAL first-time attendee, echoed the same – "It was an honor and a privilege that I will not soon forget."

Sons honor DiPetta

Rusty Myers | December 16, 2023

This is a follow-up story to this one on legion.org:

<https://www.legion.org/stories/honor-guard/essex-county-nj-legions-welcome-home-world-war-ii-kia-79-years-later>

Wrightstown, NJ – "I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of Freedom." *Abraham Lincoln in a letter to Lydia Parker Bixby, 1864*



When Aviation Ordinance Mate 1st Class Anthony Di Petta of the US Navy was finally welcomed home after his recovery in the Pacific 79 years after his death, one cannot help but reflect on the poignancy of that quote. Five months after his funeral procession made its way through his hometown of Nutley, NJ, a member of the Sons of the American Legion from Squadron 105 in Belleville places a wreath at his grave on Wreaths Across America Day on 16 December.

He was very much like those five sons of Lydia Bixby who were killed during the Civil War. AOM1c Di Petta was a son. A brother. A patriot. A hero.

He was killed when his TBM Avenger was shot down in the Palau Islands in the Pacific during World War II, along with his two other crewmates on 10 September 1944. His remains were recovered in 2021, and after being identified by DNA testing, were returned home for a military funeral. On the way to his interment at Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery in Wrightstown, NJ, his funeral procession passed through Belleville's neighboring town on Nutley, where Belleville Post 105 provided an honor guard. The procession stopped briefly for a ceremony, then onto a funeral mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel RC Church, then on to Wrightstown for a funeral with full military honors.

As the Squadron does each year, Belleville 105 purchases and places wreaths on the graves of veterans at Doyle Cemetery. Of the eleven wreaths specifically placed on the relatives and friends of members of the Post that day, one wreath was reserved for Di Petta's grave, to be placed by SAL William Chivil.

Chivil is an author, who wrote an article for "The Nutley Journal" about AOM1c Di Petta's story and journey home. It seemed only fitting he place that wreath.

"Anthony Di Petta was 24 years old when he lost his life while serving his country in World War II", Chivil noted afterward. "Standing before his grave nearly 80 years later, I was mindful of his service and the gift of freedom that he and all of our veterans provide."

Following laying down the wreath, and saying Di Petta's name out loud, the members in attendance snapped a slow salute thanking him for the gift of his service and sacrifice.

With over 88,000 veteran's graves at Doyle Cemetery, this one was perhaps more emotional than others. "I feel like this brings the story full circle," writes SAL 105 Adjutant Rusty Myers, who coordinates Belleville's participation in the event. "A wreath is placed, by a Son who painstakingly researched Anthony Di Petta's story - from his hometown no less - on day dedicated to honor and remember all of those who served, ensuring that their memory lives on."



South Carolina Legion Riders chapter assisting military, veterans during holiday season

The American Legion | December 13, 2023



Will Chivil placing a wreath on AOM1c Anthony Di Petra's grave. submitted photo



Located in Columbia, S.C., Fort Jackson serves as the U.S. Army's main production center for Basic Combat Training. When American Legion Riders Chapter 6 Director L.Z.

Harrison in Columbia read that all of the recruits going through basic training are allowed to go home for Christmas, he knew that the Columbia Metropolitan Airport's USO was going to be busy during the holiday season.

That prompted Harrison to assist with those efforts. "I realized how many were going to be going through there and thought of the idea of doing a snack drive," he said. "Most of us (Riders) are recipients of the USO

during our career in the military. So, we know how important it is when you're deployed what the USO does for you. It kind of gives you a home while you're waiting on transportation. It's important to us to make sure they have the resources they need to take care of the currently serving military.

Around \$225 was donated during the drive, and Chapter 6 voted to match that. The chapter used the funds to purchase items at Sam's Club, and combined with items that had been donated already, it was able to present the USO South Carolina with 58 boxes of snacks and 48 cases of water and other drinks.

"We have a pretty close relationship with the USO at the airport because we always go out and do deployment (send-offs) and also welcome homes," Harrison said. "So, we see how much (the donated items) get used."

Chapter 6 doesn't just look to help active-duty military around the holiday season. For 13 years, the Riders have taken part in some form in the Vets Christmas Charity Ride in Columbia. The ride collects Christmas presents for patients at the William Jennings Bryan Dorn Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Columbia, some of whom have no family to visit with them during the holidays. Monetary donations also are collected and presented to the medical center to purchase items for its patients throughout the year.

Chapter 6 is one of the Riders chapters in the area that participates, while Harrison said Chapter 15 (Sumter), Chapter 175 (Dalzell), Chapter 90 in South Congaree and Chapter 193 (Chapin) also participate.

"One thing I noticed this year is, and not just in the Vets Ride, is we had a lot of Legion Riders chapter and a lot of new members come out," Harrison said. "There's a lot of patches now at these events from the American Legion Riders at these events in the community. They're doing great things."

For years, Chapter 6 has made a monetary donation to the ride; this year that amount was \$1,200.

"There are a lot of people that donate gifts, and that's good because (the patients) need the underwear, the socks and things like that," Harrison said. "But throughout the year, they can use the money to go and buy things that didn't get donated or that come up. One year they used the money to buy ice cream because the VA budget didn't include ice cream that year. One year they also bought iPads for those undergoing chemotherapy."

Being able to assist the veterans at the medical center through its donations "feels really good," Harrison said. "A couple years ago when I was working, I had a boss who was in the hospital during that time. And when he came back to work, he said his spirits were so lifted up when they came in with gifts from the Riders. It made him feel so good.

"It makes us feel good that those who are in the hospital during the holiday are going to be able to enjoy it."

Build it and he will ride

[Henry Howard](#) | December 20, 2023

The first conversation between Dennis "Doc" Smith and Gerard Brinkmann sparked new life into the former Navy Corpsman and also into American Legion Post 24 in Tombstone, Ariz.

Smith, who served eight years in the Navy and later joined the Ohio National Guard in 1998, was deployed as a medic in 2005 to Iraq. After being injured by an IED in August 2006, his spinal cord was shattered during surgery, costing him mobility from the waist down.

"The most significant loss was dignity," Smith said. "Everybody looks at you with pity. It's horrible. I didn't go out many places. I didn't like the looks. What's nice about here (the post) is that no one sees a chair. I got a lot of that dignity back."

Brinkmann, the Riders chapter director at the time, learned of Smith's long-ago passion for motorcycles during their initial chat. Even though he hadn't ridden in about 20 years, Smith missed the freedom on the bike. "I love motorcycles. I used to ride," he said.

That comment gave Brinkmann a mission. "I want to see you ride again, if that is what you want to do."

Chapter 24 was quick to approve the recommendation to get Smith a bike he could ride.

"I think we needed it," Brinkmann recalled. "We were coming out of COVID. Everybody was dealing with their own mental crises at the time due to the lack of camaraderie during COVID. The whole American Legion Family here at 24 immediately got behind it."

Chapter 24 members gave their time, expertise, and funding. Donations also rolled in from throughout the area from other Legion posts and community groups. Among them: Chapter 109 in Corona de Tucson and Chapter 141 in Pierce. Gary Button, Riders chapter

director at Post 141, donated his almost brand new Harley-Davidson, worth at least \$10,000. Overall, about \$20,000 worth of motorcycles and cash were raised in roughly seven months.

The Harley needed to be adapted so Smith could freely ride it, wherever and whenever he wanted.

That's where post and chapter members Ron Heilman Jr. and his father stepped in. They coordinated with Smith on his vision for the bike as they performed the work to build him a motorcycle with a sidecar, he could use to stash his wheelchair. They continue providing mechanical support today.

"We're just backyard mechanics, helping brothers and sisters keep their bikes road-worthy," the younger Heilman said.

He recalls the celebration when Post 24 presented Smith with his bike.

"It was tremendous," Heilman said. "I get emotional, even today. He knew something was going on but had never seen it. He had a vision in his head of what it would look like. He had input on different design aspects of it. I was surprised of how well it turned out. It was a proud moment to hand him the keys."



Dennis "Doc" Smith has regained freedom, hope and purpose thanks to the kindness of fellow American Legion Family members at Post 24 in Tombstone, Ariz.

Henry Howard

After the presentation, Smith went for a ride. "It was great. I took it out for a while and got used to everything again. It was fantastic. It was like being home again."

He is making up for lost time, riding about 30,000 miles in the 2 1/2 years he's had the bike.

It was adapted to allow Smith to shift gears with his hands. A kickstand is unnecessary because of the sidecar.

Smith has his freedom back.

"Ten minutes on the bike and whatever was chewing on me is gone," he said. "It's huge for my mental health. When I am on the bike, I'm just like anybody else."

It has also been life-changing for his wife, Terrie, who had not previously ridden with him. "It helped bring me close to the post family and brought us closer together," she said. "It's great with his PTSD, it's great therapy for him and got us more integrated into the Legion."

The bike not only gave Smith freedom, it instilled purpose in him and a drive to give back to the post.

"It's a big post and it's a lot of work but it's worth it," said Smith, now in his third year as post adjutant. "I enjoy it. It's great to be able to help out. It's a little way to give back."

Brinkmann credits Smith with helping the post regain momentum after COVID. "He was the one for us. He brought the post back together. He gave us a sense of purpose. He gave us something to be proud of. He brought us all together as an American Legion Family."

The custom-built bike not only gives him freedom, it has allowed him to help others with his medical training a few times.

For example, during a ride, the group came upon a crash site where a motorcyclist from El Paso, Texas, went off the road.

"Before you knew it, Doc was out of his trike, had the guy in a neck brace and was already treating him," Brinkmann explained. "Once the ambulance arrived, Doc briefed them. They put him on a stretcher and took him away."

Brinkmann and Smith shared a special bond, both serving in the same theater of operations at the same time in 2006 in Iraq. "It's kinda cool to not only help a fellow veteran," Brinkmann said, "but one who was chewing the same dirt I was back in Iraq. It means a lot to me."

Smith is grateful for the bike and the opportunity to return the favor.

"They are amazing," he said of Post 24 members. "It's more than I dreamed of, more than I deserve. There's nothing I can ever do to pay them back for this. Without them, I wouldn't be here."



Lisa Williamson,
National President
The American Legion Auxiliary

American Legion Auxiliary spreads Christmas cheer to local veterans

[Jim Lehocky, SooLeader](#) | December 17, 2023

This is the 6th year the American Legion Auxiliary Post 3 has handed out Christmas gift boxes to veterans.



1 / 9 Veterans in local assisted living facilities and long term care units received Christmas gift boxes today from American Legion Auxiliary volunteers.

Bonnie Taylor/American Legion Auxiliary

Dozens of local veterans in area assisted living facilities and long term care units got a special delivery Saturday.

The American Legion Auxiliary Post 3 spent the past few months getting ready for the day by purchasing and hand-making items for Christmas gift boxes for those who otherwise may not receive anything during this special time of year.

Volunteers spent Thursday packing and decorating the boxes. Saturday, they were delivered.

Each box has snacks, blankets, mittens, toiletries, activity books and more.

The Sault Ste. Marie Yarn Workers handmade hats that were included in the gift baskets.

And this year, they added a military calendar that has fun-facts about the military.

Maggie Merchberger, vice president of the auxiliary, says this is the sixth year they have done this.

It all started in 2018 with an idea.

"I realized that there were a lot of veterans in our assisted living facilities, and it seemed like they were forgotten at Christmas time," she said.

So, she came up with a plan.

"I made up a huge proposal and brought it up to the auxiliary meeting and said to everyone that we need to do something for our veterans at Christmas time," she said.

They created and handed out around 80 gift baskets that first year.

"That first time we handed out the gift boxes, I gave a box to a veteran. The look on his face was, well, his eyes lit up, he had a huge smile, and he said 'Thank you. You didn't forget me this year.' Now if that doesn't pull at your heart strings, I mean, come on," she continued.

"Another brought another veteran a gift box. In his shadow box, he had his military awards. He showed them all to me. He was very proud of those and was proud that he could show them to us. It's those little things that get you. I don't want to see anybody forgotten at Christmas time, especially our veterans," she said.

In total, a couple dozen volunteers took time to help with the project.

The funds to help with the cost of the gift baskets come from their annual Poppy sales, the Legionnaires, the Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Riders.

"We also have had veteran's families donate specifically back to our program so that means a lot too," Merchberger added.

Membership survey helps guide Hollywood's Squadron 43

The American Legion | May 13, 2021

The leadership of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 43 in California wanted to find a way to engage their members in a more meaningful way.

"A survey was an efficient way to better understand their interests and skill sets," said John Di Rienzo, the squadron's first vice commander. "Moreover, we were able to utilize the survey tool offered through our Constant Contact account, which made it easy to execute." Di Rienzo said the survey questions are aimed at gathering details the squadron can use to gauge members' interest in leadership roles, event concepts, and preferred social media platforms.

"Much of what we have learned is practical information including which squadron leadership roles they are interested in pursuing and what sort of activities they would like to see the squadron plan," he said, adding that the survey helped the squadron find its assistant adjutant, Stephen Rinka, and finance officer, Jon Tierney.



The Squadron 43 Luau was becoming an annual summer event before the pandemic.

submitted photo

Some of the questions on the survey include:

- Do you have skills or experience that you would like to contribute to the squadron?
- Which squadron activities are you most interested in?
- What is your preferred social media platform?

- What can we do to improve your membership experience?

The survey also includes a write-in option which allows members to offer their services in everything from photography to nonprofit board operations, Di Rienzo said.

Di Rienzo noted that the survey is useful for both new and existing members, as people's interests and availability can change over time.

"Understanding what a member, new or existing, is hoping to gain from their membership experience is what it's all about," he said. "... Asking members about their interests and skills is a simple way to facilitate engagement and plan activities. It lets your members feel heard and helps you find future leaders."

EDITOR'S NOTE: With the new calendar year just days away, Squadrons may find this article helpful as they plan activities/recruiting drives next year.

Sports



Annual Detachment Fundraiser

The Detachment of Ohio is currently conducting its annual Detachment Raffle. Proceeds will benefit Detachment Commander Dilt's program, [Task Force 20](#).

For additional information, or to purchase tickets, please contact Detachment Second Vice-Commander Jeff Vrabel Jr. at jeffvrabeljr@gmail.com.

			Ohio Sons of The American Legion	
			50/50 Raffle	
Drawing will be held during The Detachment Convention in May 2024				
Winner need not be present			Donation: \$10.00	
Name	Phone	Seller		

MISSION MATTERS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Dear friend of [Wreaths Across America](#),

On behalf of the Wreaths Across America organization and our family of volunteers and supporters across the country, I want to personally thank YOU for your support of the mission to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom.

During this year's National Wreaths Across America observance, more than three million dedicated volunteers – a third of whom are children – placed THREE million veterans' wreaths at 4,225 participating locations across the country. That is more than 500 new locations added to the program since last year! Specifically, at Arlington National Cemetery where this all began, 260,000 veterans' wreaths were placed by more than 30,000 volunteers on a truly gorgeous day.

As I think of those numbers, each of those headstones representing a LIFE of service, and each of those volunteers saying each servicemember's name aloud and sharing a small gesture of gratitude for the freedoms Americans enjoy, I am immensely humbled. I am also truly overwhelmed with pride for the people of this great nation where so many individuals and communities can come together in unity and support for those who have protected our freedom. And most important to me, so many children were taken by the hand and introduced to these men and women and taught about the cost of freedom.

I will say it again: **THANK YOU**. Thank you for your volunteerism, your sponsorships, and your help in sharing the mission all year long!

Thank you most of all for taking the time during this busy season to join us in letting veterans and military families know that their service and sacrifice are both seen and appreciated and that they are not alone in their loss.

Remember. Honor. Teach.

With gratitude,

Karen Worcester



Sons of The American Legion Membership Application

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____ Date _____
Name _____ Recruited by _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____
Address _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____
_____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____
E-mail Address _____ Telephone _____
Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____
(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. _____, Dept. of _____
OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____
(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____
I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and transmit \$ _____ as annual membership dues.
Signed _____ (By Applicant or Parent) _____
Eligibility certified by _____ (Post Adjutant) _____
00-001 (2013)



RECEIPT

Date _____
Received of _____

For God and Country

\$ _____ in payment of dues for 20 _____ in

Squadron _____, Detachment of _____

By _____

Squadron Everlasting

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

David Leo Ball



DAVID LEO BALL, 71, of Kenova, WV, passed away Friday, December 15, 2023, at his residence. David Leo was born May 26, 1952, in Kenova, a son of the late James Leo and Donna Jean Wheeler Ball. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Deborah Sizemore. Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Leigh (John) Stafford; one son and daughter-in-law, Matthew (Becky) Ball; six grandchildren, Hudson, Mack and Teddy Stafford, Abigail, Logan, and Lincoln Ball; and his partner and best friend for over twenty years, Vickie Holley.

Leo graduated from Ceredo-Kenova High School in 1970 and was a salesman for Con-Jel and a member of the Sons of the American Legion Post 93 Kenova. David Leo made many lifelong friends at Ceredo-Kenova High School. He cherished these friendships and always looked forward to spending time with his friends. He was a loving father and Papaw, who always told everyone how much he loved them. He made many trips to Kentucky and Colorado to make lasting memories with his kids and grandkids. He will be forever loved and missed by all who knew him.

Friends are encouraged to join us at The America Legion Post 93 on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, for a celebration of life at 5 p.m. Funeral service will be conducted 2 p.m. Thursday, December 21, 2023, at Rollins Funeral Home in Kenova with Mr. Stevie Karr officiating. Interment will follow in Cyrus Cemetery. Friends may call from noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, December 21, 2023, at the funeral home.

Flowers will be appreciated, or memorial donations may be made in David Leo's memory to any area youth sports. Online condolences may be expressed at www.rollinsfh.com.

Published by The Herald-Dispatch on Dec. 19, 2023.

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

Charles "Alfie" Zuver



Charles R. "Alfie" Zuver, 57, of West Unity, Ohio passed away Sunday, December 17, 2023 at his home.

Charles was born April 21, 1966, in Montpelier, Ohio, son of Jimmie Linn and Betty Lou (Routt) Zuver. He was a 1985 graduate of Millcreek-West Unity High School. Charles previously worked at Clark Farms and Jones Welding and Auto Repair.

He was a member of The Sons of the Legion, West Unity American Legion Post 669. Charles loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping. He cherished spending time with his family and dog, Lucy.

Surviving are his mother and stepfather Betty and Duane Stamm of Fayette, Ohio; son, Cody Zuver of West Unity, Ohio; brother, Bob Zuver of West Unity, Ohio; many nieces and nephews. Charles was preceded in death by his dad, Jimmie Linn Zuver; four brothers, James, Tony, Henry, and Douglas Zuver.

To honor Charles' wishes there will be no visitation or services held at this time. The family will hold a celebration of life at a later date.

Arrangements are in the care of Oberlin-Turnbull Funeral Home, 202 North Liberty Street, West Unity. The family request memorial contributions be directed to Oberlin-Turnbull Funeral Home to defray funeral cost.

Condolences may be sent to the family, or the online guest book may be signed at www.oberlinturnbull.com

Daryl Lynn Mathews



Daryl Lynn Mathews, age 71 of Hiawassee, Georgia, passed away on Wednesday, December 13, 2023. Daryl was born on August 19, 1952, in Atlanta, Georgia to the late Mr. and Mrs. Roy and Mary Mathews. He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion, and the CMC Motorcycle Club spending many years riding with his cherished friends. Daryl graduated from Briarwood High School in East Point and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He worked for American Airlines for 30 years before retiring to Hiawassee, Georgia. After retirement, he continued to fly his own plane privately for enjoyment. He was an avid aviation enthusiast as flying was his lifelong passion. He enjoyed motorcycle racing, NASCAR racing, aircraft racing, baseball, and boating. Daryl was easily described by friends as the most loving, caring human being they knew. He was kind, generous and loving to all his family and friends. He was the true definition of a lifelong friendship, having many friends from his grammar and high school days with whom he kept in touch regularly. He will be deeply missed.

Daryl is preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Mary Mathews and twin brother, David Mathews. He leaves behind his loving wife, Dawn Liabastre Mathews; brother Tommy Mathews (Alicia); sister-in-law, Patti Mathews; nieces and nephews, Mary Mathews, Melissa Turner (Britain), Sarah Mundy (Stephen); great nieces and nephews, Brayden, Declan and Laken Turner, and Brighton and Ava Munday; as well as numerous cousins and friends.

A Celebration of Life service details to be announced at a later date.

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

Obituary published on www.Legacy.com by Banister-Cooper Funeral Home on Dec. 18, 2023.

Kelly Lynn Rudolph



Kelly Lynn Rudolph, 76, passed away peacefully at home on December 7, 2023 with his dog Bailey at his side. Kelly

was born February 24, 1947 in Smith County Kansas. He was the seventh child of eight children born to Floyd Vesper and Freda Frances (Lehman) Rudolph. Kelly grew up in Smith County on a farm near Bellaire and graduated from Smith Center High School in 1965. Throughout high school he loved playing football, basketball, and baseball.

After high school, Kelly attended Kansas Wesleyan University. While studying at Kansas Wesleyan, he lived in the faculty quarters at St John Military school where he assisted with students. He played baseball for the Kansas Wesleyan Coyotes and was selected for the KCAC team in 1967. He was inducted into the Kansas Wesleyan Athletic Hall of Fame for Baseball in 2006. Kelly graduated with a teaching degree and moved to Grainfield KS for his first teaching position. After a couple years, he returned to Salina and St. John's Military School which began his long teaching career shaping the lives of the boys at SJMS. He taught History, Social Studies, PE/Health for 42 years. He was most remembered as "Coach" for the football team. Kelly completed a master's degree at Ft Hays State University in 1979. In 1999, Kelly was commissioned as an Honorary Colonel by St John's. He retired in May 2009.

Kelly was an avid outdoorsman. Being outdoors was his favorite place to be, especially when fishing or hunting with his brothers or great friends from St John's. He was a member of the Pioneer Lake Association in Salina. He continued being involved with sports including bowling and golf throughout his life. He also followed his favorite teams every season and never missed watching Kansas City Royals, K State Wildcats, and Kansas City Chiefs on TV. Kelly was also a member of the Sons of the American Legion Post 62. He married Connie Olson in 1998 and they were often at the Legion together.

Those left to remember Kelly include his sister Colleen Ryan of Smith Center, Sisters-in-law Shirley Rudolph of Mankato, and Pam Rudolph of Troy IL, plus many nieces and nephews, longtime friends, and former students. He was preceded in death by his wife; his parents; his brothers, Jerome Rudolph, Billy Rudolph, Larry Rudolph, and JR Rudolph; sisters, Phyllis Bargman and Donna Rudolph; brothers-in-law, Bill Ryan and Fred Bargman; sisters-in-law, Leeta Rudolph and Willa Rudolph.

A celebration of life is planned January 20, 2024 at 3pm at The Blind Pig in Salina Ks. There will be a graveside service later in the spring at the Leasburg cemetery in Smith County.

Posted online on December 15, 2023.

Published in *Salina Journal*.

Shawn M. Flynn



FLYNN - Shawn, 49, New Germany, died December 14, 2023, at home, surrounded by family and friends. Born March 3, 1974, in Johnstown, son of Paul Jr. and Twila (Motchenbaugh) Flynn. Preceded in death by sister, Stephanie Flynn; grandparents, Hilary and Anna Jean (Bimle) Motchenbaugh and Paul Sr. and Anna Jane (Bever) Flynn; and uncles, Wayne, Tom, and Barry Motchenbaugh. Survived by parents; sons, Shawn Flynn; and Kyle Flynn (Jade Regan); grandson, Beau; sister, Melissa (Allan Long); and brother, Michael (Sharon Caldon); and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graduate of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School. Shawn was a member of Sons of the American Legion, Cambria Houndsmen Coon Hunters Association, and was a longtime pest control technician with Ehrlich. He cherished time with family, enjoyed fishing, and loved nothing more than the howl of his hounds on the hunt.

Honoring his wishes, services will be private. Committal, St. Mary's Cemetery.

Arrangements by Charles O. Dimond Funeral Home, Inc., South Fork.

To send flowers to the family of Shawn M. Flynn, please visit [Tribute Store](https://www.tributestore.com).

Steven "Bus" Bussel, 70



Steven "Bus" A. Bussel, 70, of Bluffton, passed away Monday morning, Dec. 18, 2023, at Parkview Hospital Randalia hospice unit in Fort Wayne, after battling a long-time illness.

Steve was born on Aug. 20, 1953, in Bluffton, to Roy and Helen

(McAdams) Bussel. On Nov. 23, 1999, he married Anna M. Snider in Kentucky; together they shared a total of 28 years.

A 1972 graduate of Bluffton High School, Steve retired from Fort Wayne Metals in 2021 after 16 years of service. He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion Post 111 in Bluffton. He was an avid Chicago Bears and I.U. basketball fan, and he also loved watching boxing. Steve loved his wife and his family.

In addition to his wife, Steve is survived by a daughter, Tori (Todd) Brown of Butler; a stepdaughter, Christine (Jon) Newell of Auburn; a stepson, Shawn (Cindy) Moser of Hoagland; six granddaughters, two grandsons and five great-grandkids (and one on the way in March of 2024); and a brother, David (Cathy) Bussel of Bluffton.

Steve was preceded in death by his parents.

No public services are planned at this time. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Memorial contributions in Steve's memory may be made to the American Diabetes Association and can be mailed directly to Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel, 3220 East State Road 124, Bluffton, IN 46714.

Online condolences may be made at www.goodwincalcharnish.com.





WILD WILLY'S WESTERN Rendezvous

Number 10

Tuscany Suites & Casino

Reservations 1-877-887-2261
Room Rates to be Determined
SAL Rendezvous Reservation Code: 0124Sons

Social Gathering @ Pub 365, Your Cost On Friday Night, January 26th, 2024
Leadership Training On Saturday, January 27th, 2024
Lunch Is Served During Lunch Break On Saturday
Saturday Night Dinner Planned at a Local Restaurant, Your Cost

Pre-Registration Fee for event will be \$20.00
until August 31st, 2023
Registration Fee starting September 1st, 2023 will be \$40.00
until December 31st, 2023.
There will be an additional \$5.00 Late Fee
from January 1st, 2024 until the event

Contact Jim Stewart to Register for the event
- Let's have some fun in the sun -

Contact: Jim Stewart: (775) 848-6072 | controller@bordertowncasinorv.com

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES DECEMBER 31



RENEW
TODAY!!!

Don't let the Grinch steal your membership

RENEW!

AMERICAN LEGION



Daniel J. Seehafer,
National Commander
The American Legion

Dan Seehafer, National Commander
The American Legion

Wreaths Across America gives Pennsylvania Legion post a chance to remember, honor & teach

[Steven B. Brooks](#) | December 18, 2023

WATCH ON  **YouTube**

Twenty-year-old Max Cavada, a Penn State University sophomore, is home for the holidays in Mechanicsburg, Pa. And on Dec. 16, he was at Mechanicsburg Cemetery, where he and dozens of other community members placed wreaths on the graves of veterans as a part of Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day.

Cavada's reason for coming out to the event was two-fold – one of which is because he's seen firsthand what World War I Memorial Post 109, which sponsored the WAA event, has done in its community.

"I came out here today to support the veterans, obviously, but also my local Legion post in my town," Cavada said. "I played for the Legion Baseball team – my dad's the coach – so we have a lot of help from them. I just wanted to come out and show support for them, and, obviously, for the veterans who fought for our country and allowed us all these great freedoms that we have."

For Cavada, placing the wreaths was a chance to "to say, 'thank you.' It's a sign of respect. It definitely takes a lot of courage (to serve), and it's a big task, and it's something I'm definitely grateful for. I just want to thank them for that and just ask that God let them rest in peace."

Post 109's WAA sponsorship meant more than 930 wreaths were placed at three area cemeteries: Mechanicsburg Cemetery, Chestnut Hill Cemetery and Lincoln Cemetery – the latter of which included Black soldiers who served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Post 109 had previously raised tens of thousands of dollars to place wreaths at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, which is located just over 30 miles from Mechanicsburg, when the post learned the cemetery was having trouble getting enough wreaths to cover all the gravesites.

But a few years ago, the post decided to focus its energies locally for WAA, taking over responsibility for Mechanicsburg Cemetery. "And then we found out that nobody was doing Chestnut Hill a couple years ago, so we incorporated that with our Sons of The American Legion," said Past Post 109 Commander Jim Comrey, who coordinated the event. "And then right down the road is Lincoln Cemetery, which is where Black veterans are buried. We picked that up."

Post 109 Commander Rick Flinn said moving Wreaths Across America into Mechanicsburg was a chance to localize the event.

"We realized that we serve the community. It's one of the pillars of The American Legion, obviously," Flinn said. "And so, we decided to go ahead and have the emphasis here in Mechanicsburg. We decided to focus on our veterans here in this community."

Post 109's WAA event included participation from the Mechanicsburg Fire Department, the Cumberland Valley High School Key Club, the Trinity High School Patriots' Club, local Scouting participants and other members of the community.

"The idea is to remember, to honor, to teach," Flinn said. "The idea is to get the young folks to understand the value of the veterans who have given their lives to the nation. And the service that they're offering. The idea is to get the community involved. It's not decorating the grave. It's actually remembering."

Comrey said sponsoring a Wreaths Across America event has multiple purposes. "In my opinion, it's to honor our veterans from the past," he said. "And it's to tell the community, 'Hey, The American Legion is here. We're trying to teach the next generation why you have the choices you have. That's one of the

Four Pillars of The American Legion: Children & Youth. Let them learn.”

For Flinn, said taking on a project like Wreaths Across America is why he’s continued to serve after a 38-year career in the military that saw him retire as a Pennsylvania Army National Guard colonel. “I served in the military 38 years,” he said. “When I retired ... I said, ‘I’m going to go ahead and take my retirement and try to serve veterans. That’s why I joined the Legion. The whole point is that we serve veterans and their families in the community, and I’m excited about doing that sort of thing. And this is just an example: That our post could not only serve veterans, past veterans, but serve the community and get the community involved.”

American Legion in Albion gives Toys for Tots, Veterans’ Van Service

The group also gives to Boots on the Ground which sends care packages to vets

[Ginny Kropf](#) | December 16, 2023



Jeff Brien, commander of the Marine Corps League Detachment No. 1271, accepts a check from Roger Ettinger with the Sons of the American Legion for Toys for Tots, while Legion commander Brad Rouse presents a check to Ray Ettinger for Toys for Tots.

Ginny Kropf

ALBION, NY – Christmas came early to several veterans’ groups in Albion on Friday, with the donation of checks from the Sheret American Legion Post 35, Sheret Post Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion.

The first presentation was checks for \$500 each from the Post and Auxiliary to the Veterans’ Van Service. Dave Kusmierczak of Medina, president of the Orleans County Joint Veterans’ Council, which runs the van service, accepted the check toward purchase of a new van.

“We have two vans that need replacing, and this donation is much appreciated,” Kusmierczak said.

In presenting the check, Post Commander Brad Rouse said, “The Orleans County Joint Veterans Council has a great service they provide to our veterans throughout Orleans County by providing transportation to and from medical appointments to Buffalo, Rochester and Canandaigua.”



Jeff Brien, commander of the Marine Corps League Detachment No. 1271, accepts a check from Pam Taylor, president of the Sheret Post Auxiliary, for the Marines’ Toys for Tots project. At rear is Post commander Brad Rouse and Auxiliary members Wendy Hinkley, Carolyn Gibson and Shirley Smith, and Ray Madigan, treasurer of the Marine Corps League.

Ginny Kropf

Next was a check for \$500 from the Post to the Auxiliary to support their project of sending care packages to veterans serving overseas.

“The American Legion Sheret Post 35 is proud to partner with the Auxiliary in support of their two-year commitment to sending care packages to our troops with Boots on the Ground,” Rouse said. “These troops are still in small numbers in countries like Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.”

This is the second year the Auxiliary has sent care packages to Boots on the Ground, but the first year the Post has assisted them.

“Under my leadership as commander, I am committed to unifying all groups in our post,” Rouse said.

“We have become stronger as a group, and I commit to continuing to strengthen our relationship and the support one another.”



Members of the Sheret American Legion Post 35 in Albion presented a check for \$1,000 on Friday to Dave Kusmierczak, president of the Orleans Veterans Council, toward the purchase of a new van. From left are Shirley Smith, 25-year member of the Sheret American Legion Auxiliary; Brad Rouse, commander of the post; Kusmierczak; Pam Taylor, Auxiliary president; Wendy Hinkley, Auxiliary vice president; and Carolyn Gibson, Auxiliary secretary.

Ginny Kropf

A third donation came from the Auxiliary to the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots.

Auxiliary president Pam Taylor gave a check for \$100 to Jeff Brien, commander of the Marine Corps League Detachment No. 1271.

“Upholding the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary, ‘For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth and promote patriotism good citizenship, peace and security,’” Taylor said. “The American Legion Auxiliary is proud to present this check for \$100 as a donation for a great cause.”

The final donation was a check for \$150, which Rouse presented on behalf of the Post to Ray Madi-gan, treasurer of the Marine Corps League Detachment, for Toys for Tots. An additional \$25 was acknowledged from Joe Gehl of Albion.

The Marines stated the donations will be held and used for Christmas gifts for children of Marines next year.



The American Legion Chester L. Briggs Post 47 donated \$3,500 to Houlton Powersports for toys for area children. Pictured left to right: Anthony 'Juggy' Benn, Tammi Britton, Charlie Clark, Brittani Suttter, and Ellie Hagerman.

Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli, Houlton Pioneer Times

The Post and Auxiliary said they are constantly trying to raise money through raffles and drawings to support causes such as these in the community. The Auxiliary also holds an annual golf tournament, which although small, Taylor said helps fund their causes.



Brad Rouse, left, commander of the Sheret American Legion Post, presents a check to the Auxiliary to support their Boots on the Ground project for those serving in countries, such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait. From the Auxiliary, at left, are president Pam Taylor, Vice President Wendy Hinkley, Secretary Carolyn Gibson and 25-year member Shirley Smith.

Ginny Kropf

Houlton Powersports Holiday Toy Drive means 150 kids have a gift to open

[Kathleen Phalen Tomaselli](#) | December 12, 2023

HOULTON, Maine – When American Legion Cmdr. Charlie Clark Sr., heard that children on a toy drive

list were asking for essentials like toothbrushes and warm blankets, he got involved.

“No child should have to ask Santa for a toothbrush,” he said.

And so, the three branches of the [American Legion Chester L. Briggs Post # 47](#) got busy raising enough money for the children on the Houlton Powersports Holiday Toy Drive list.

“We took care of the whole tree,” Clark said.

On Thursday, the trio donated \$3,500 to the toy drive, with \$2,500 from the American Legion, \$1,000 from the Auxiliary and \$1,000 from the Sons of the American Legion.

“We all know each other very well and we’re a team,” Clark said. “When we get something in our heads, we get it done.”

Now in its fourth year, the Houlton Powersports Toy Drive was able to get presents for 150 students, said organizer Brittani Suitter, Houlton Powersports marketing director.

Suitter contacted Houlton and Hodgdon schools to get a list of children who might be in need.

“We give them a form to fill out and they give us a want and a need list,” she said. “We try to get most things on the list.”

This year some of the children asked for warm bedding, boots, shoes, socks, Sharpies, Pencils, and sketchbooks. And by Thursday, the showroom on Main Street was filled with bags of toys ready to go back to the schools for wrapping.

“This is our second load,” Ellie Hagerman, HPS marketing coordinator said.

They are accepting new unwrapped toys or money donations at the HPS Main Street location until Dec. 18.

According to Clark since he took over as commander in April, Post #47 has raised nearly \$8,000 for the community.

Toy & Coat drive a success

Rusty Myers | December 14, 2023

Belleville, NJ – The American Legion Post 105 Family of Belleville, NJ held its annual giveaway day,

ending our highly successful Toy and Coat Drive as part of the 2023 “Season of Giving”. When the day was all said and done, they gave away over \$7,000 of toys and coats to 119 families in need. And the best part – there was only one bag of clothes and four small boxes left over, meaning everything was distributed to go some good this holiday season.



Sons of the American Legion Squadron 105 of Belleville, NJ

“It was wonderful to help out,” noted Lisa Bocchino. “...An amazing feeling to know and see the faces of everyone that came in.”

The Toy and Coat Drive has been an event at “the Legion” for the past few years, with each year getting larger and larger. This year, preparation began with an unbelievably successful “Christmas in July” event, where around \$5,000 was generated to purchase toys and winter wear for the giveaway six months later. The goal throughout the entire process was to help those in need around the holidays.

Throughout the remainder of the summer and fall, jackets, hats, games, and toys were donated and stored, plus all of the funds raised in July buying hundreds of items to hand out to all ages. In the weeks leading up to the 16 December giveaway, boxes were placed at the Post cantina where anyone could drop by and donate last-minute items. If there was anything which we were missing – infant toys, for example – the Post, Squadron, and Unit donated money above and beyond to fill the void. Members gave donations until the last minute, ensuring that anyone who came got an opportunity to get what they wanted.

Under the direction of Co-chairman Erica Portee, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit which received its charter in January of 2023, the

Post's hall was set up with everything grouped by age and item. Meanwhile, ALA Juniors and Young SAL's downstairs at the club created an assembly line to put together stockings to hand out to kids at the event. The setup took days, and the event was widely publicized to try and help as many families as possible.

And don't forget the hall's decorations – a Christmas Tree, lights, plus an area for St. Nick to take pictures.

In the hours before the giveaway day started, anytime a member would walk into the Post, they would be told to run upstairs and take a peek at the hall and how it was set up – and to a person, everyone had the same response when they returned ... **“WOW!!”**

When the doors opened up at 8am, there was a line outside of the Post. By 1pm, Legion Family members had to make a run to the store and buy more toys to make sure that they didn't run out.

“What an amazing day!” wrote ALA Vice President Debbie Hall on Facebook.” So many families helped, and it truly took a team to make it happen! Thank you to the community and everyone in the Post 105 family for all of your donations.”

Santa also arrived around 3pm, handing out more toys and candy canes to every child who came in. The goal was to do as much for anyone in need as we could – so the giveaway was open to anyone, from anywhere who needed a toy for their child or a coat this holiday season ... no questions asked.

Being fueled by coffee, hot chocolate, cookies, and doughnuts, everyone from the Legion who helped to run the event and walk around assisting the attendees wore as big a smile as the kids who walked out with new toys and treats. “Just unbelievably rewarding” is all SAL 105 Adjutant Rusty Myers could say.

By 7:30 pm, tables were folded and everything else was boxed up and packed away. “We did our job!” enthusiastically noted Portee. There was very little left, with the remainder being boxed up and given to the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 22 for their Toy Drive, with any clothing left being donated to the VA Center at East Orange. Toys were also given to a Toy Drive benefitting the children at Clara Maas Hospital in Belleville.

“It's what we do” commented SAL Commander Steve Sangemino afterward.

With too many donors to mention, and too many hands helping to thank, Post 105's Legion Family is so incredibly proud and humbled to be able to help the community in such a way. Belleville's American Legion is an organization committed to giving back to a town which has been so incredibly supportive and generous over the years, with the hope that in some small way we have made a few families holidays that much happier.



Merry Christmas!

Military will conduct research, clinical trials of psychedelics to treat servicemembers for PTSD, head injuries

Linda F. Hersey/Stars and Stripes | December 19, 2023

The military will conduct research and clinical trials to determine whether cannabis, magic mushrooms and other psychedelic drugs can treat service members suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury under provisions of the defense spending bill approved by Congress last week.



Section 723 of the National Defense Authorization Act, which received final Congressional approval Friday, provides \$10 million in research grants for psychedelic-assisted therapies and for “qualified” plant-based alternative therapies that include cannabis.

Medical cannabis is legal in 38 states, the District of Columbia and three U.S. territories but remains illegal under federal law. Language in the legislation

states that service members can participate in the clinical trials without breaking the law.

The provision in the NDAA, which specifies spending guidance for the Defense Department during the current fiscal year, was spearheaded by three retired military officers — Rep. Dan Crenshaw, R-Texas, a former Navy SEAL; Rep. Morgan Luttrell, R-Texas, also a former SEAL; and Rep. Jack Bergman, R-MI, a retired Marine Corps lieutenant general.

Luttrell suffered a traumatic brain injury, or TBI, in a Black Hawk helicopter crash in 2009. He credits psychedelic-assisted therapy outside the U.S. after his medical discharge with saving his marriage and changing his life.

Under the legislation, the Defense Department will award research grants to universities and government agencies to conduct the tests. Service members with certain medical conditions must receive permission to undertake the medically administered therapies in controlled clinical settings.

Veterans' groups such as Special Operations Association of America have expressed support for the legislation. Limited studies show a decrease in depression, anxiety, and stress among users of certain psychedelic drugs.

David Cook, the executive director, said he knows of SOAA members who received psychedelic-assisted medical therapies and had positive outcomes.

“The results, though small in sample size, have been nothing short of miraculous,” Cook said in an interview with Stars and Stripes.

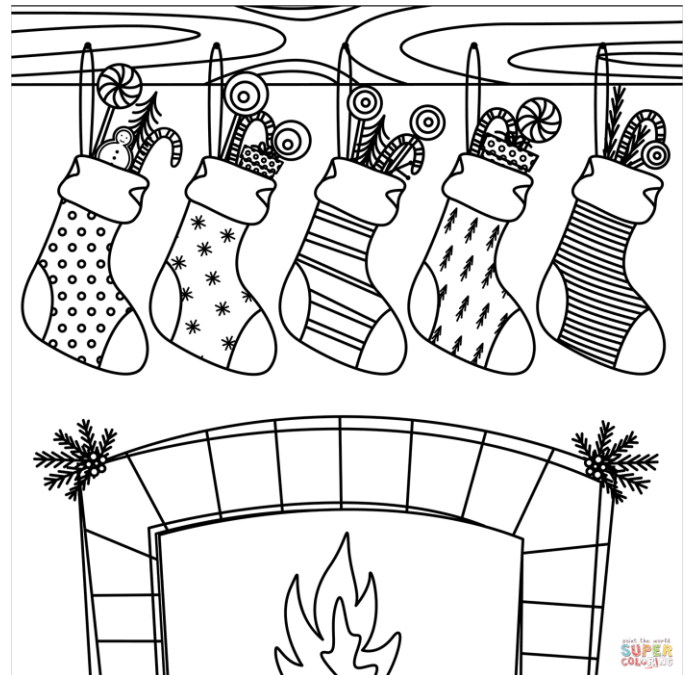
He described the legislation as a life-or-death issue for many veterans experiencing PTSD and the effects of TBI.

“What’s been proposed and implemented in the past is obviously not working today,” he said. “Legislation like this aims to give our heroes more options and hope for life-saving treatments.”

Clinics participating in the study must report their findings to Congress, including the medical conditions treated, outcomes and whether active personnel returned to full duty. Large doses of one of the drugs to be tested, ibogaine, have led to serious cardiovascular problems and death.

Nevertheless, Cook said that SOAA members have been encouraged by greater attention in Congress to pursuing alternative treatments for PTSD and TBI.

“Those of us who are serious about the suicide epidemic gripping our service members and veterans have to pivot in our thinking and approaches to these issues,” Cook said.



2024 SAL Membership Report as of: December 18, 2023

#	DETACHMENT	2024 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 60% TARGET 1/18/2024	2024 ACTUAL MBRSHIP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2024 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	120	-31	103	85.83%	76.47
2	FRANCE	168	-41	142	84.52%	76.36
3	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	-392	1,359	84.36%	73.61
4	WISCONSIN	4,398	-765	3,404	77.40%	70.45
5	LOUISIANA	1,821	-316	1,409	77.38%	71.67
6	IOWA	4,914	-545	3,493	71.08%	66.20
7	MISSISSIPPI	736	-72	514	69.84%	62.91
8	ALABAMA	2,100	-195	1,455	69.29%	60.22
9	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	-142	1,084	69.04%	57.51
10	GEORGIA	4,887	-414	3,346	68.47%	60.82
11	FLORIDA	23,066	-1,882	15,722	68.16%	57.74
12	ILLINOIS	13,716	-1,032	9,262	67.53%	63.62
13	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-69	714	66.42%	58.85
14	MONTANA	1,091	-63	718	65.81%	62.13
15	IDAHO	659	-37	432	65.55%	50.91
16	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-130	1,792	64.69%	54.21
17	OREGON	1,534	-70	990	64.54%	53.21
18	MARYLAND	16,803	-696	10,778	64.14%	58.84
19	TENNESSEE	1,792	-69	1,144	63.84%	54.04
20	MINNESOTA	11,435	-308	7,169	62.69%	58.65
21	PUERTO RICO	156	-2	96	61.54%	56.21
22	ARKANSAS	406	-2	246	60.59%	48.52
23	OHIO	31,690	-8	19,022	60.03%	55.47
24	TEXAS	5,783	2	3,468	59.97%	52.22
25	NEVADA	387	0	232	59.95%	51.39
26	INDIANA	37,244	38	22,308	59.90%	55.66
27	CALIFORNIA	11,292	61	6,714	59.46%	52.11
28	NEBRASKA	6,992	39	4,156	59.44%	57.07
29	NEW JERSEY	9,662	72	5,725	59.25%	53.03
30	VIRGINIA	4,367	34	2,586	59.22%	51.56
31	DELAWARE	2,596	21	1,537	59.21%	52.59
32	CONNECTICUT	1,865	24	1,095	58.71%	50.86
33	NEW YORK	30,663	454	17,944	58.52%	53.85
34	MICHIGAN	26,236	403	15,339	58.47%	52.51
35	VERMONT	3,920	85	2,267	57.83%	54.07
36	WYOMING	1,248	30	719	57.61%	51.08
37	OKLAHOMA	1,430	45	813	56.85%	46.02
38	RHODE ISLAND	348	13	196	56.32%	47.41
39	KANSAS	6,055	252	3,381	55.84%	51.76
40	UTAH	460	21	255	55.43%	52.03
41	DIST OF COL	91	5	50	54.95%	51.14
42	COLORADO	2,952	151	1,620	54.88%	47.27
43	ARIZONA	8,595	460	4,697	54.65%	45.74
44	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	348	3,268	54.22%	48.58
45	MISSOURI	3,337	276	1,726	51.72%	45.60
46	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	455	2,804	51.62%	46.41
47	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	5,386	32,262	51.42%	47.65
48	WASHINGTON	2,682	259	1,350	50.34%	39.61
49	ALASKA	1,740	200	844	48.51%	40.34
50	LATIN AMERICA	33	4	16	48.48%	18.75
51	KENTUCKY	2,399	295	1,144	47.69%	40.69
52	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	334	1,222	47.13%	40.41
53	MAINE	2,757	437	1,217	44.14%	39.53
54	NEW MEXICO	1,582	253	696	43.99%	33.96
55	PHILIPPINES	79	40	7	8.86%	7.59
Grand Totals:		382,111	3,215	226,052	59.16%	53.51

2024 SAL Regional Breakdown

Western Region - James R. Fischer, Sr. (CA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	120	103	85.83%
MONTANA	1,091	718	65.81%
IDAHO	659	432	65.55%
OREGON	1,534	990	64.54%
NEVADA	387	232	59.95%
CALIFORNIA	11,292	6,714	59.46%
WYOMING	1,248	719	57.61%
UTAH	460	255	55.43%
COLORADO	2,952	1,620	54.88%
ARIZONA	8,595	4,697	54.65%
WASHINGTON	2,682	1,350	50.34%
ALASKA	1,740	844	48.51%
LATIN AMERICA	33	16	48.48%
NEW MEXICO	1,582	696	43.99%
PHILIPPINES	79	7	8.86%
Totals:	34,454	19,393	56.29%

Southeast Region - Linwood A. Moore (VA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
LOUISIANA	1,821	1,409	77.38%
MISSISSIPPI	736	514	69.84%
ALABAMA	2,100	1,455	69.29%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	1,084	69.04%
GEORGIA	4,887	3,346	68.47%
FLORIDA	23,066	15,722	68.16%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	1,792	64.69%
TENNESSEE	1,792	1,144	63.84%
PUERTO RICO	156	96	61.54%
ARKANSAS	406	246	60.59%
TEXAS	5,783	3,468	59.97%
VIRGINIA	4,367	2,586	59.22%
Totals:	49,454	32,862	66.45%

Midwest Region - Terry A. Harris (KS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	1,359	84.36%
IOWA	4,914	3,493	71.08%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	714	66.42%
NEBRASKA	6,992	4,156	59.44%
OKLAHOMA	1,430	813	56.85%
KANSAS	6,055	3,381	55.84%
MISSOURI	3,337	1,726	51.72%
Totals:	25,414	15,642	61.55%

Northeast Region - John R. Cook (NH)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	168	142	84.52%
MARYLAND	16,803	10,778	64.14%
NEW JERSEY	9,662	5,725	59.25%
DELAWARE	2,596	1,537	59.21%
CONNECTICUT	1,865	1,095	58.71%
NEW YORK	30,663	17,944	58.52%
VERMONT	3,920	2,267	57.83%
RHODE ISLAND	348	196	56.32%
DIST OF COL	91	50	54.95%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	3,268	54.22%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	2,804	51.62%
PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	32,262	51.42%
MAINE	2,757	1,217	44.14%
Totals:	143,078	79,285	55.41%

Central Region - Robert L. Bristo (MN)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,398	3,404	77.40%
ILLINOIS	13,716	9,262	67.53%
MINNESOTA	11,435	7,169	62.69%
OHIO	31,690	19,022	60.03%
INDIANA	37,244	22,308	59.90%
MICHIGAN	26,236	15,339	58.47%
KENTUCKY	2,399	1,144	47.69%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	1,222	47.13%
Totals:	129,711	78,870	60.80%

SAVE PAPER.
SAVE POSTAGE.
SAVE TIME.



www.legion.org/SAL-renew

QUICKLY AND EASILY RENEW ONLINE
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

12/18/23		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	32,862	(16,592)	66.45%	1,095		
2	Midwest 1, 2, 3, 4	25,414	15,642	(9,772)	61.55%	316		
3	Central 1, 2, 3, 4	129,711	78,870	(50,841)	60.80%	2,836		
4	Western 1, 2, 3, 4	34,454	19,393	(15,061)	56.29%	543		
5	Northeast 1, 4	143,078	79,285	(63,793)	55.41%	3,933		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4		382,111	226,052	(156,059)	59.16%	8,723		

12/18/23		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	3,404	(994)	77.40%	57	4	70.45%		
2	Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5	13,716	9,262	(4,454)	67.53%	16	12	63.62%		
3	Minnesota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	11,435	7,169	(4,266)	62.69%	586	20	58.65%		
4	Ohio 1, 3, 4, 5	31,690	19,022	(12,668)	60.03%	573	23	55.47%		
5	Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4	37,244	22,308	(14,936)	59.90%	807	26	55.66%		
6	Michigan 1, 3, 4	26,236	15,339	(10,897)	58.47%	579	34	52.51%		
7	Kentucky 1, 4	2,399	1,144	(1,255)	47.69%	5	51	40.69%		
8	West Virginia 1	2,593	1,222	(1,371)	47.13%	213	52	40.41%		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5		129,711	78,870	(50,841)	60.80%	2,836				

12/18/23		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	103	(17)	85.83%	1	1	76.47%		
2	Montana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,091	718	(373)	65.81%	17	14	62.13%		
3	Idaho 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	659	432	(227)	65.55%	1	15	50.91%		
4	Oregon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,534	990	(544)	64.54%	45	17	53.21%		
5	Nevada 1, 2, 3, 4	387	232	(155)	59.95%	2	25	51.39%		
6	California 1, 2, 3, 4	11,292	6,714	(4,578)	59.46%	158	27	52.11%		
7	Wyoming 1, 2, 3, 4	1,248	719	(529)	57.61%	-	36	51.08%		
8	Utah 1, 2, 3, 4	460	255	(205)	55.43%	2	40	52.03%		
9	Colorado 1, 2, 3, 4	2,952	1,620	(1,332)	54.88%	99	42	47.27%		
10	Arizona 1, 4	8,595	4,697	(3,898)	54.65%	93	43	45.74%		
11	Washington 4	2,682	1,350	(1,332)	50.34%	86	48	39.61%		
12	Alaska 3	1,740	844	(896)	48.51%	33	49	40.34%		
13	Latin America 4	33	16	(17)	48.48%	-	50	18.75%		
14	New Mexico	1,582	696	(886)	43.99%	4	54	33.96%		
15	Philippines	79	7	(72)	8.86%	2	55	7.59%		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4		34,454	19,393	(15,061)	56.29%	543				

12/18/23		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	1,409	(412)	77.38%	16	5	71.67%		
2	Mississippi 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	736	514	(222)	69.84%	57	7	62.91%		
3	Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2,100	1,455	(645)	69.29%	33	8	60.22%		
4	South Carolina 1, 2, 3, 5	1,570	1,084	(486)	69.04%	30	9	57.51%		
5	Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4,887	3,346	(1,541)	68.47%	96	10	60.82%		
6	Florida 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	23,066	15,722	(7,344)	68.16%	521	11	57.74%		
7	North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2,770	1,792	(978)	64.69%	67	16	54.21%		
8	Tennessee 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,792	1,144	(648)	63.84%	27	19	54.04%		
9	Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	156	96	(60)	61.54%	-	21	56.21%		
10	Arkansas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	406	246	(160)	60.59%	22	22	48.52%		
12	Texas 1, 2, 3, 4	5,783	3,468	(2,315)	59.97%	164	24	52.22%		
13	Virginia 1, 2, 3, 4	4,367	2,586	(1,781)	59.22%	62	30	51.56%		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5		49,454	32,862	(16,592)	66.45%	1,095				

12/18/23		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	1,359	(252)	84.36%	11	3	73.61%		
2	Iowa 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4,914	3,493	(1,421)	71.08%	124	6	66.20%		
3	North Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,075	714	(361)	66.42%	-	13	58.85%		
4	Nebraska 1, 2, 3, 4	6,992	4,156	(2,836)	59.44%	55	28	57.07%		
5	Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4	1,430	813	(617)	56.85%	25	37	46.02%		
6	Kansas 1, 2, 3, 4	6,055	3,381	(2,674)	55.84%	23	39	51.76%		
7	Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4	3,337	1,726	(1,611)	51.72%	78	45	45.60%		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5		25,414	15,642	(9,772)	61.55%	316				

12/18/23		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	142	(26)	84.52%	1	2	76.36%		
2	Maryland 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	16,803	10,778	(6,025)	64.14%	476	18	58.84%		
3	New Jersey 1, 2, 3, 4	9,662	5,725	(3,937)	59.25%	93	29	53.03%		
4	Delaware 1, 4	2,596	1,537	(1,059)	59.21%	68	31	52.59%		
5	Connecticut 1, 2, 3, 4	1,865	1,095	(770)	58.71%	49	32	50.86%		
6	New York 1, 3, 4	30,663	17,944	(12,719)	58.52%	495	33	53.85%		
7	Vermont 1, 2, 3, 4	3,920	2,267	(1,653)	57.83%	116	35	54.07%		
8	Rhode Island 1, 2, 3, 4	348	196	(152)	56.32%	7	38	47.41%		
9	Dist. of Columbia 4	91	50	(41)	54.95%	-	41	51.14%		
10	New Hampshire 1, 2, 4	6,027	3,268	(2,759)	54.22%	151	44	48.58%		
11	Massachusetts 1, 3, 4	5,432	2,804	(2,628)	51.62%	37	46	46.41%		
12	Pennsylvania 4	62,746	32,262	(30,484)	51.42%	2,433	47	47.65%		
13	Maine	2,757	1,217	(1,540)	44.14%	7	53	39.53%		
TOTALS 1, 4		143,078	79,285	(63,793)	55.41%	3,933				

12/18/23		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, 5	23,066	15,722	(7,344)	68.16%	521	11	57.74%		
2	Ohio 1, 3, 4, 5	31,690	19,022	(12,668)	60.03%	573	23	55.47%		
3	Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	37,244	23,308	(13,936)	62.58%	1,807	26	55.66%		
4	New York 1, 3, 4	30,663	17,449	(13,214)	56.91%	17,944	33	53.85%		
5	Michigan 1, 4	26,236	14,760	(11,476)	56.26%	15,339	34	52.51%		
6	Pennsylvania 4	62,746	32,262	(30,484)	51.42%	3,269	48	47.65%		
TOTALS		211,645	122,523	(89,122)	57.89%	39,453				

National Totals 1, 2, 3, 4	382,111	226,052	(156,059)	59.16%	8,723		53.51%		
-----------------------------------	----------------	----------------	------------------	---------------	--------------	--	---------------	--	--



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%

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION (CWF)
DONATIONS REPORT**

Detachment	2023 Donations (final)	2023 Membership (current)	2024 CWF Goal (current)	2024 Donations (current)	% of Goal	Donations Per Capita
AL - ALABAMA	\$ 3,399.00	2,076	\$ 2,076.00	\$ 40.00	1.9%	\$ 0.02
AK - ALASKA	\$ 1,978.00	1,763	\$ 1,763.00	\$ 50.00	2.8%	\$ 0.03
AZ - ARIZONA	\$ 46,849.00	8,618	\$ 8,618.00	\$ 51,605.00	598.8%	\$ 5.99
AR - ARKANSAS	\$ 1,460.00	405	\$ 405.00		0.0%	\$ -
CA - CALIFORNIA	\$ 4,480.56	11,328	\$ 11,328.00	\$ 853.00	7.5%	\$ 0.08
CO - COLORADO	\$ 26,105.20	2,983	\$ 2,983.00	\$ 4,950.00	165.9%	\$ 1.66
CT - CONNECTICUT	\$ 1,100.00	1,865	\$ 1,865.00		0.0%	\$ -
DE - DELAWARE	\$ 1,910.00	2,563	\$ 2,563.00	\$ 750.00	29.3%	\$ 0.29
DC - DIST OF COL		88	\$ 88.00		0.0%	\$ -
FL - FLORIDA	\$ 41,980.00	23,289	\$ 23,289.00	\$ 15,600.00	67.0%	\$ 0.67
FR - FRANCE	\$ 100.00	165	\$ 165.00		0.0%	\$ -
GA - GEORGIA	\$ 4,004.00	4,855	\$ 4,855.00	\$ 70.00	1.4%	\$ 0.01
HI - HAWAII	\$ 830.00	119	\$ 119.00		0.0%	\$ -
ID - IDAHO	\$ 200.00	660	\$ 660.00		0.0%	\$ -
IL - ILLINOIS	\$ 11,446.72	13,554	\$ 13,554.00	\$ 3,430.00	25.3%	\$ 0.25
IN - INDIANA	\$ 26,414.31	36,453	\$ 36,453.00	\$ 50.00	0.1%	\$ 0.00
IA - IOWA	\$ 2,004.00	4,897	\$ 4,897.00	\$ 200.00	4.1%	\$ 0.04
KS - KANSAS	\$ 6,602.20	5,956	\$ 5,956.00	\$ 640.00	10.7%	\$ 0.11
KY - KENTUCKY	\$ 50.00	2,373	\$ 2,373.00	\$ 500.00	21.1%	\$ 0.21
LT - LATIN AMERICA		32	\$ 32.00		0.0%	\$ -
LA - LOUISIANA	\$ 3,177.50	1,793	\$ 1,793.00	\$ 1,408.00	78.5%	\$ 0.79
ME - MAINE	\$ 3,501.00	2,748	\$ 2,748.00		0.0%	\$ -
MD - MARYLAND	\$ 5,432.00	16,681	\$ 16,681.00	\$ 2,070.00	12.4%	\$ 0.12
MA - MASSACHUSETTS	\$ 5,879.00	5,370	\$ 5,370.00	\$ 100.00	1.9%	\$ 0.02
MI - MICHIGAN	\$ 9,212.00	26,254	\$ 26,254.00	\$ 5,633.00	21.5%	\$ 0.21
MN - MINNESOTA	\$ 9,281.91	11,277	\$ 11,277.00	\$ 4,534.00	40.2%	\$ 0.40
MS - MISSISSIPPI	\$ 5,143.90	728	\$ 728.00	\$ 773.00	106.2%	\$ 1.06
MO - MISSOURI	\$ 2,153.61	3,364	\$ 3,364.00	\$ 250.00	7.4%	\$ 0.07
MT - MONTANA	\$ 1,717.00	1,070	\$ 1,070.00		0.0%	\$ -
NE - NEBRASKA	\$ 5,735.00	6,924	\$ 6,924.00	\$ 100.00	1.4%	\$ 0.01
NV - NEVADA	\$ 8,938.00	395	\$ 395.00	\$ 3,162.00	800.5%	\$ 8.01
NH - NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$ 4,376.78	6,134	\$ 6,134.00	\$ 2,617.85	42.7%	\$ 0.43
NJ - NEW JERSEY	\$ 9,105.00	9,868	\$ 9,868.00	\$ 2,863.00	29.0%	\$ 0.29
NM - NEW MEXICO	\$ 5,400.00	1,642	\$ 1,642.00	\$ 800.00	48.7%	\$ 0.49
NY - NEW YORK	\$ 14,281.00	30,644	\$ 30,644.00	\$ 3,616.00	11.8%	\$ 0.12
NC - NORTH CAROLINA	\$ 4,931.75	2,719	\$ 2,719.00	\$ 1,158.50	42.6%	\$ 0.43
ND - NORTH DAKOTA		1,058	\$ 1,058.00		0.0%	\$ -
OH - OHIO	\$ 38,070.80	31,396	\$ 31,396.00	\$ 17,993.00	57.3%	\$ 0.57
OK - OKLAHOMA		1,416	\$ 1,416.00	\$ 22.00	1.6%	\$ 0.02
OR - OREGON	\$ 3,201.00	1,541	\$ 1,541.00	\$ 461.00	29.9%	\$ 0.30
PA - PENNSYLVANIA	\$ 32,377.72	62,279	\$ 62,279.00	\$ 10,880.28	17.5%	\$ 0.17
PI - PHILIPPINES	\$ 175.00	78	\$ 78.00		0.0%	\$ -
PR - PUERTO RICO	\$ 185.00	153	\$ 153.00		0.0%	\$ -
RI - RHODE ISLAND	\$ 100.00	348	\$ 348.00	\$ 550.00	158.0%	\$ 1.58
SC - SOUTH CAROLINA	\$ 3,500.00	1,577	\$ 1,577.00	\$ 725.00	46.0%	\$ 0.46
SD - SOUTH DAKOTA	\$ 1,451.85	1,610	\$ 1,610.00		0.0%	\$ -
TN - TENNESSEE	\$ 1,693.44	1,769	\$ 1,769.00	\$ 952.50	53.8%	\$ 0.54
TX - TEXAS	\$ 15,199.14	5,759	\$ 5,759.00	\$ 8,350.00	145.0%	\$ 1.45
UT - UTAH	\$ 475.00	457	\$ 457.00	\$ 300.00	65.6%	\$ 0.66
VT - VERMONT	\$ 10,036.00	3,871	\$ 3,871.00	\$ 1,500.00	38.7%	\$ 0.39
VA - VIRGINIA	\$ 16,977.00	4,382	\$ 4,382.00	\$ 10,152.00	231.7%	\$ 2.32
WA - WASHINGTON	\$ 2,175.00	2,699	\$ 2,699.00		0.0%	\$ -
WV - WEST VIRGINIA	\$ 4,227.25	2,602	\$ 2,602.00	\$ 3,025.00	116.3%	\$ 1.16
WI - WISCONSIN	\$ 2,385.00	4,352	\$ 4,352.00		0.0%	\$ -
WY - WYOMING	\$ 8,678.00	1,236	\$ 1,236.00	\$ 450.00	36.4%	\$ 0.36
NATIONAL HQ	\$ 4,674.91		\$ -	\$ 1,498.00	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Totals:	\$ 424,760.55	380,236	\$ 380,236.00	\$ 164,682.13	43.3%	\$ 0.43



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION (CWF)
DONATIONS BY REGION



Detachment	2023 Donations (final)	2023 Membership (current)	2024 CWF Goal (current)	2024 Donations (current)	% of Goal	Donations Per Capita
Northeast Region						
CONNECTICUT	\$ 1,100.00	1,865	\$ 1,865.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
DELAWARE	\$ 1,910.00	2,563	\$ 2,563.00	\$ 750.00	29.3%	\$ 0.29
DIST OF COL	\$ -	88	\$ 88.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
FRANCE	\$ 100.00	165	\$ 165.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
MAINE	\$ 3,501.00	2,748	\$ 2,748.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
MARYLAND	\$ 5,432.00	16,681	\$ 16,681.00	\$ 2,070.00	12.4%	\$ 0.12
MASSACHUSETTS	\$ 5,879.00	5,370	\$ 5,370.00	\$ 100.00	1.9%	\$ 0.02
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$ 4,378.78	6,134	\$ 6,134.00	\$ 2,617.85	42.7%	\$ 0.43
NEW JERSEY	\$ 9,105.00	9,868	\$ 9,868.00	\$ 2,863.00	29.0%	\$ 0.29
NEW YORK	\$ 14,281.00	30,644	\$ 30,644.00	\$ 3,616.00	11.8%	\$ 0.12
PENNSYLVANIA	\$ 32,377.72	62,279	\$ 62,279.00	\$ 10,880.28	17.5%	\$ 0.17
RHODE ISLAND	\$ 100.00	348	\$ 348.00	\$ 550.00	158.0%	\$ 1.58
VERMONT	\$ 10,036.00	3,871	\$ 3,871.00	\$ 1,500.00	38.7%	\$ 0.39
Total:	\$ 88,198.50	142,624	\$ 142,624.00	\$ 24,947.13	17.5%	\$ 0.17

Central Region						
ILLINOIS	\$ 11,446.72	13,554	\$ 13,554.00	\$ 3,430.00	25.3%	\$ 0.25
INDIANA	\$ 26,414.31	36,453	\$ 36,453.00	\$ 50.00	0.1%	\$ 0.00
KENTUCKY	\$ 50.00	2,373	\$ 2,373.00	\$ 500.00	21.1%	\$ 0.21
MICHIGAN	\$ 9,212.00	26,254	\$ 26,254.00	\$ 5,633.00	21.5%	\$ 0.21
MINNESOTA	\$ 9,281.91	11,277	\$ 11,277.00	\$ 4,534.00	40.2%	\$ 0.40
OHIO	\$ 38,070.80	31,396	\$ 31,396.00	\$ 17,993.00	57.3%	\$ 0.57
WEST VIRGINIA	\$ 4,227.25	2,602	\$ 2,602.00	\$ 3,025.00	116.3%	\$ 1.16
WISCONSIN	\$ 2,385.00	4,352	\$ 4,352.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
Total:	\$ 101,087.99	128,261	\$ 128,261.00	\$ 35,165.00	27.4%	\$ 0.27

Western Region						
ALASKA	\$ 1,978.00	1,763	\$ 1,763.00	\$ 50.00	2.8%	\$ 0.03
ARIZONA	\$ 46,849.00	8,618	\$ 8,618.00	\$ 51,605.00	598.8%	\$ 5.99
CALIFORNIA	\$ 4,480.56	11,328	\$ 11,328.00	\$ 853.00	7.5%	\$ 0.08
COLORADO	\$ 26,105.20	2,983	\$ 2,983.00	\$ 4,950.00	165.9%	\$ 1.66
HAWAII	\$ 830.00	119	\$ 119.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
IDAHO	\$ 200.00	660	\$ 660.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
LATIN AMERICA	\$ -	32	\$ 32.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
MONTANA	\$ 1,717.00	1,070	\$ 1,070.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
NEVADA	\$ 8,938.00	395	\$ 395.00	\$ 3,162.00	800.5%	\$ 8.01
NEW MEXICO	\$ 5,400.00	1,642	\$ 1,642.00	\$ 800.00	48.7%	\$ 0.49
OREGON	\$ 3,201.00	1,541	\$ 1,541.00	\$ 461.00	29.9%	\$ 0.30
PHILIPPINES	\$ 175.00	78	\$ 78.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
UTAH	\$ 475.00	457	\$ 457.00	\$ 300.00	65.6%	\$ 0.66
WASHINGTON	\$ 2,175.00	2,699	\$ 2,699.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
WYOMING	\$ 8,678.00	1,236	\$ 1,236.00	\$ 450.00	36.4%	\$ 0.36
Total:	\$ 111,201.76	34,621	\$ 34,621.00	\$ 62,631.00	180.9%	\$ 1.81

Detachment	2023 Donations (final)	2023 Membership (current)	2024 CWF Goal (current)	2024 Donations (current)	% of Goal	Donations Per Capita
Southeast Region						
ALABAMA	\$ 3,399.00	2,076	\$ 2,076.00	\$ 40.00	1.9%	\$ 0.02
ARKANSAS	\$ 1,460.00	405	\$ 405.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
FLORIDA	\$ 41,960.00	23,289	\$ 23,289.00	\$ 15,600.00	67.0%	\$ 0.67
GEORGIA	\$ 4,004.00	4,855	\$ 4,855.00	\$ 70.00	1.4%	\$ 0.01
LOUISIANA	\$ 3,177.50	1,793	\$ 1,793.00	\$ 1,408.00	78.5%	\$ 0.79
MISSISSIPPI	\$ 5,143.90	728	\$ 728.00	\$ 773.00	106.2%	\$ 1.06
NORTH CAROLINA	\$ 4,931.75	2,719	\$ 2,719.00	\$ 1,158.50	42.6%	\$ 0.43
PUERTO RICO	\$ 185.00	153	\$ 153.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$ 3,500.00	1,577	\$ 1,577.00	\$ 725.00	46.0%	\$ 0.46
TENNESSEE	\$ 1,693.44	1,769	\$ 1,769.00	\$ 952.50	53.8%	\$ 0.54
TEXAS	\$ 15,199.14	5,759	\$ 5,759.00	\$ 8,350.00	145.0%	\$ 1.45
VIRGINIA	\$ 16,977.00	4,382	\$ 4,382.00	\$ 10,152.00	231.7%	\$ 2.32
Total:	\$ 101,650.73	49,505	\$ 49,505.00	\$ 39,229.00	79.2%	\$ 0.79

Midwest Region						
IOWA	\$ 2,004.00	4,897	\$ 4,897.00	\$ 200.00	4.1%	\$ 0.04
KANSAS	\$ 6,602.20	5,956	\$ 5,956.00	\$ 640.00	10.7%	\$ 0.11
MISSOURI	\$ 2,153.61	3,364	\$ 3,364.00	\$ 250.00	7.4%	\$ 0.07
NEBRASKA	\$ 5,735.00	6,924	\$ 6,924.00	\$ 100.00	1.4%	\$ 0.01
NORTH DAKOTA	\$ -	1,058	\$ 1,058.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
OKLAHOMA	\$ -	1,416	\$ 1,416.00	\$ 22.00	1.6%	\$ 0.02
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$ 1,451.85	1,610	\$ 1,610.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
Total:	\$ 17,946.66	25,225	\$ 25,225.00	\$ 1,212.00	4.8%	\$ 0.05

National HQ:	\$ 4,674.91	\$ -	\$ 1,498.00			
Grand Total:	\$ 424,760.55	380,236	\$ 380,236.00	\$ 164,682.13	43.3%	\$ 0.43

SAL Donations as of: December 15, 2023
2023 SAL Membership as of: December 14, 2023



THE AMERICAN LEGION
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION (CWF)
DONATION FORM



For the Betterment of All Children

☐ Yes! I will make a contribution to help America's children.

☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 Other Amt. \$

Please make checks payable to: **"The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation"**

Name

Address

City State Zip

Email Phone

Thank you so much for your contribution!

NOTE: Mail this form with your check to:

The American Legion Donation Processing
P.O. Box 1954
Indianapolis, IN 46206





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