



## A scholarship for children of the fallen, disabled

The American Legion | January 9, 2024

If you are the child of a parent who lost their life while honorably serving on active military duty on or after 9/11 or is a post-9/11 veteran with a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher, you are eligible to apply for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship.

[The 2024 American Legion Legacy Scholarship application is online.](#) The application deadline is March 27.



American Legion Legacy Scholarship recipient Reese Reiling who attends UMass Boston.

Since the Legacy Scholarship's first grant in 2004, 825 military children of the fallen and disabled have received over \$6.2 million in financial assistance for higher learning. The following are ways the scholarship has helped recipients:

“Receiving this scholarship over the course of my medical school career has truly been a life-changing opportunity for me. This scholarship helped me alleviate the financial stress that comes with the rigorous training required to become a doctor.”

“Thank you for awarding me with The American Legion Legacy Scholarship. It is a great privilege to be a recipient of your generosity, and I look forward to utilizing these funds in pursuit of my college education. Your help will allow me to pursue my dreams of becoming an officer of the CIA and for that I am extremely grateful.”

The Legacy Scholarship provides financial aid for graduate or post-graduate tuition, books, room and board, meal plans and other supplies needed to achieve a higher education. It is a needs-based scholarship – the grant amount each scholarship recipient will receive will be based on his or her financial need after all federal and state aid is exhausted. Recipients will have a year to use the grant and may reapply to The American Legion Legacy Scholarship up to six times.

The number of scholarships awarded, and the amount of financial aid granted to each awardee (this includes returning applicants) will be determined on donations to the scholarship fund and one's financial needs.

For additional information about the scholarship and eligibility requirements, please [learn more here](#).

The 2024 American Legion Legacy Scholarship recipients will be selected by The American Legion's Committee on Youth Education during the organization's annual Spring Meetings in May.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**HAWAI'I**  
**QUOTA DETACHMENT**

# 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](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com). If you need assistance, please send an email to same.

**All information must be submitted by noon each Friday.**

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

## FOLLOW US:



## Donald "JR" Hall, Jr.

National Commander

Representing More Than Me,

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

# REPRESENTING

# More

# THAN ME

## From the Editor

Don't forget 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](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com) | [Team Vrabel](#)

click a button below for more information

JOIN THE SAL

RENEW  
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BE THE ONE

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• • • TEAM • • •  
**VRABEL**

 **CRE 24**  
Central Region Extravaganza  
Columbus, Ohio  
April 9 - 7, 2024

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# Robert L. Bristo

Central National Vice-Commander

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## 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

Hello Central Region!

**Boy! Do you guys know how to start a new Year!!**

**THE CENTRAL REGION IS IN 2nd PLACE!!!!**

Since the January 2nd report, the region **jumped 5.50% to land at 73.92%**! Six of our Central Region detachments have reached or exceeded the 60% January target, with the other two knocking on the door!

I cannot be prouder of the work you have done and are doing! **If we keep up this pace the Central Region will reach 100% in just under 6 weeks!** Remember consistency transforms average into excellence! If we cannot stop thinking about it, we cannot stop working for it! We only need to recruit or renew 34,482 members to reach our goal!

**“Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try.” - President John F. Kennedy**

**Talking about accomplishment!** December 31st closed out the 2022-2023 SAL Membership year. **My brothers, we set a new “All-Time-High” in membership with 103.52% having 380,743 members and with 46 detachments reaching or exceeding 100%; and WE ARE ON TRACK TO BLOW THAT NUMBER OUT OF THE WATER!!!**

Please keep sending me your Individual Recruitment Award forms. They are coming in at a good pace and the first round of pins have been mailed out. Don't forget to be looking for a SAL Recruiter of the year and those that may qualify for a Blue Brigade Recruiter Jacket!

Now is the time to push on and keep our momentum moving along. Remember what President Franklin D.

Roosevelt said...” **The only limit to the realization of tomorrow will be the doubts of today.**” My friends, I have no doubts! We will reach our goals!

Now for our numbers...

We are in 2nd place but only by a slim margin of .39% ahead of the Midwest Region, but we are only 3.29% behind the 1st place Southeast Region. **Let's push on to be in 1st place and make this a real race to the finish line!**

**The largest gain for this report was from the Detachment of Michigan that jumped a whopping 10.04%!** They were followed with large gains from Indiana (5.84%), and Ohio (5.53%). West Virginia and Illinois followed by adding 4.86% and 4.21% respectfully. The region closed out with Wisconsin moving up 2.07%, Kentucky with 1.50% and Minnesota with 1.01%.

What do you think past SAL National Commander Grant Jamieson would think of our progress? At the end of the 5th National Convention in 1976, we had a total membership of 29,484 members. A jump of 4,796 members from the previous year. Now we are on the doorstep of reaching 400,000 members all in the service to our veterans! **May our legacy continue!**

Central Region, keep up the good work!

**“I'm the ONE, You're the ONE, BE the ONE!”**

For the Commander, **“Believe and Succeed”**

*Butch Ray, Central Region Membership Chairman*

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# John R. Cook

Northeast National Vice-Commander

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## REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

THIRD Wednesday Quarterly

September 20, 2023 | December 20, 2023

March 20, 2024 | June 19, 2024

7:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 980 7046 7820 | Passcode: 469 153

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## James R. Fischer

Western National Vice-Commander

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### REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

THIRD Wednesday Quarterly

September 20, 2023 | December 20, 2023

March 20, 2024 | June 19, 2024

8:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 964 2285 1563 | Passcode: 433 552

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## Terry A. Harris

Midwest National Vice-Commander

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### REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

Fourth Wednesday Quarterly

September 27, 2023 | December 27, 2023

March 27, 2024 | June 26, 2024

7:00 p.m. Mountain | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 924 0402 2733 | Passcode: 371 685

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## Linwood A. Moore

Southeast National Vice-Commander

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### REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

First Wednesday Quarterly

September 6, 2023 | December 6, 2023

March 6, 2024 | June 5, 2024

8:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 945 1723 1230 | Passcode: 58543



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## Remembering the Greatest Generation

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### Mary Louise Petrusko



[HUBBARD, Ohio](#) – Mary Louise Petrusko, 101, died Saturday morning, January 6, 2023, at a Countryside at the Elmwood.

She was born July 31, 1922, in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio a daughter of Samuel and Mary Carano DePaul and was a lifelong Hubbard resident.

Mrs. Petrusko, a homemaker, was a member of the St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church.

She served with the Women's United States Naval Reserve, known as WAVES, during World War II.

Her husband, George J. Petrusko, whom she married on June 21, 1952, died on November 17, 2013.

Mary leaves two sons, George (Terri) Petrusko, Jr. and Michael (Pam) Petrusko, both of Hubbard; a daughter, Gina (Chris) Zametz of Sarasota, Florida; four grandchildren, Joni Petrusko, Joshua Petrusko and Christopher and Sean Zametz; a granddaughter-in-law, Elaunah Petrusko and two great-grandchildren, Dominic and Alexander Petrusko.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, George; a brother, Anthony DePaul; three sisters, Caroline Carano, Helen Doughman and Virginia Balestrino and a grandson, Michael G. Petrusko, Jr.

Family and friends may call on Monday, January 15, 2024, one hour prior to the services, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Kelley-Cummins Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 7:00 p.m. with Rev. Michael Swierz officiating, followed by military honors provided by the Trumbull County American Legion Honor Guard.

The interment will be at Hubbard Union Cemetery. Please visit [www.kcummins.com](http://www.kcummins.com) to send condolences to the family.



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

# 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](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat) or text 838255.

## The unifying force of Be the One

[Henry Howard](#) | January 8, 2023

Nothing unites American Legion Family members in purpose like Be the One.

That was on full display during the ninth annual Veterans Expo on Jan. 5-6 at American Legion Post 69 in Avon Park, Fla. Veteran after veteran talked about their personal connections to [Be the One](#), which aims to reduce the number of veterans lost to suicide.

They've lost comrades. They've grieved for family members. They've vowed to do all they can to Be the One.

That starts with Larry Roberts, Post 69 commander, a service officer and event mastermind. To Roberts, every veteran from every war era, every branch, will always be his battle buddy.

"I'm never going to leave a veteran behind," he said, noting his service spanned from 1988 to 2001. "I don't care if the veteran is from World War II or up until now. A veteran is a veteran."

About 15 years ago after encountering an issue with VA, Roberts vowed to turn that experience into a quest to help other veterans. He became a service officer when he moved to Avon Park. Now he has more than 200 relationships with agencies, nonprofits and others that can assist veterans. His passion, his relationships and his personal journey all led to his mission.

"I was suicidal," Roberts explained. "By doing this, I now have coping skills to help myself and fellow veterans."

And it's not just veterans.

The expo also shined a light on a little-discussed topic: kids lost to suicide. Next to a table displaying 22 boots representing veterans lost to suicide each day, was another table with 16 teddy bears. One for each child lost to suicide daily.

"It means a lot to have this here," said Jessica Moore, department second vice commander. "This post realized it's not just veterans. Sixteen kids are taking their lives every day. The kids are losing their parents to war, disease. It's affecting them so they are doing it." Since its inaugural year when it had 14 vendors, the expo has grown — not just in numbers, but in its impact.

Just a few hours after the event began, Roberts ticked off success story after success story. Veterans were receiving help with increased benefits. A homeless veteran was connected with a resource he needed.

"When I did my oath in 1988 that means I got it for life," said Roberts, who is also the department chairman for Project Vet Relief. "Once you're a soldier, you're always a soldier. You have it in your blood for life. We're battle buddies."

One of his battle buddies is Moore, member of Post 323 in Lehigh Acres. Moore, a Navy veteran who served during Operation Desert Storm, draws a connection between Buddy Checks and Be the One.

"It's being there for somebody, calling, texting, stopping by and visiting, asking them to get a cup of coffee," she said. "Just to let them know that you are there to listen to them. It's personal. And it's personal to them to let them know you are there for them."

At the onset of COVID, Moore was stuck at home alone after her daughter left for college. "It was very hard. I was doing 10 to 20 Buddy Checks a night. But it wasn't just for them, it was for me."

Moore knows the pain of losing someone to suicide. Soon after she became a post officer, she experienced a difficult loss. Her mentor was lost to suicide.

"It was my first dealing with it. It wasn't talked about it then like it is now. But something like this brings up those memories. It's not something that's new, it's been going on for years. For those memories to come back and reawaken again it was really hard. It affects the kids, the families, the brothers and sisters. These are my brothers and sisters. This is my family."

Moore underscored the importance of the expo throughout the entire community. "It's not just The

American Legion and other veterans service organizations that need to see it. It's the communities that need to see what happens when we lose a brother's or sister's life."

The two-day event began when dozens of American Legion Riders, other cyclists and two dozen other vehicles escorted the Global War on Terrorism Wall on a 22-mile journey to Post 69. At the post, the convoy was greeted by Boy Scouts holding flags, veterans, and others.

Dozens of vendors, nonprofits and others that provide services to veterans were on hand. Service officers were also available to assist veterans, noted Department Commander Michael Raymond, an Air Force veteran.

"One of the best things about this event is it's a one-stop shop for everything veterans need," Raymond said. "It's all here. It is one of the best run, well-organized events like this. The veterans population looks forward to this event every year. It's a great event for veterans to get together with their families."

Raymond, who was post commander for six years, recalled losing members to suicide as well as a close family member.

**WATCH ON**  **YouTube**

"(Be the One) does mean a lot to me," he said. "No. 1, my daughter's best friend, an Iraq vet, took his own life. Her husband found him. When she found out we were doing this program, she was all in. That's why it is kind of special to me."

Raymond shared a success story, illustrating how post members worked together to keep an at-risk veteran from committing suicide. "That's what this is all about. We've got to stop this disease, called veteran suicide."

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## National Commissions and Committees

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

## Americanism Commission

*Chris Casey, Chairman*

Third Monday Bi-Monthly

October 16, 2023 | December 18, 2023

February 19, 2024 | April 15, 2024

June 17, 2024 | August 19, 2024

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

Meeting ID: 935 4066 0918 | Passcode: 571 659

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## Century Committee

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*Joe Gladden, Chairman*

Second Tuesday Bi-Monthly

October 10, 2023 | December 12, 2023

March 13, 2024 | April 9, 2024

June 11, 2024 | August 13, 2024

7:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 919 4714 3789 | Passcode: 241 429

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## Child Welfare Foundation Committee

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*Mark Nave, Chairman*

Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly

September 21, 2023 | November 16, 2023

January 18, 2024 | March 21, 2024

May 16, 2024 | July 18, 2024

7:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 984 7031 4786 | Passcode: 780 858

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## Children & Youth Committee

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*Joseph Lohman, Chairman*

Second Monday Bi-Monthly

September 11, 2023 | November 13, 2023

January 8, 2024 | March 11, 2024

May 13, 2024 | July 8, 2024

7:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 951 1622 6587 | Passcode: 799 095



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## Finance Commission

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*William G. Hill, Chairman*

Third Thursday as scheduled

September 21, 2023 | February 15, 2024

April 18, 2024 | July 18, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 966 1733 0121 | Passcode: 463 702

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## Internal Affairs Commission

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*Christopher Michel, Chairman*

Fourth Thursday Bi-Monthly

October 26, 2023 | December 28, 2023

February 22, 2024 | April 25, 2024

June 27, 2024 | August 22, 2024

6:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 932 2650 4089 | Passcode: 725 519

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## Legislative Commission

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*Blair Miles, Chairman*

Second Thursday Bi-Monthly

October 12, 2023 | December 14, 2023

February 8, 2024 | April 11, 2024

June 13, 2024 | August 8, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 937 1376 7924 | Passcode: 172 912





# Member Training & Development Committee

*Michael Cotton, Chairman*

First Monday Bi-Monthly

September 4, 2023 | November 6, 2023

January 1, 2024 | March 4, 2024

May 6, 2024 | July 1, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 957 9605 2218 | Passcode: 528 704

# Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

*Daryl VerStreate Jr., Chairman*

Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly

September 19 2023 | November 21, 2023

January 16, 2024 | March 19, 2024

May 21, 2024 | July 16, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 989 3388 3350 | Passcode: 546 900

The current SAL membership report can be accessed on the national website at [www.legion.org/membership/standings](http://www.legion.org/membership/standings).

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

**SAL New Member Kit** is now online and ready for purchase. [New Member Kit \(SAL\) - American Legion Flag & Emblem](#).

Gentlemen,

I have a favor to ask. PNC Kevin Winkelmann, Chairman of the SAL PUFL ad-hoc committee, is in need of a favor. He needs to know how many Detachments in the Central Region currently have a "Paid up for Life" (PUFL) membership program.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience so that I can get this information back to Chairman PNC Winkelmann.

I thank you for your assistance on this issue.

Best regards,

Butch Ray, Central Region Membership Chairman

## December Impact: Claims reps complete big year

The American Legion | January 9, 2024



Accredited American Legion service officers helped veterans obtain more than \$16.5 billion in VA disability benefits in 2023, and national staff appeals representatives handled no fewer than 13,187 claims.

Their work capped a big year in American Legion service and advocacy that also included an all-time-high Operation Comfort Warriors grant delivered in Alabama; a big jump in the Tango Alpha Lima podcast audience; and growing support for the Legion's Be the One mission.

To see the December 2023 American Legion Membership Impact Report, as well as those from previous months, click [here](#).

# 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



**PROUD POSSESSORS  
OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**

# 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](http://www.legion.org/dispatch) or you can subscribe to the monthly Digital Dispatch newsletter by visiting [www.legion.org/newsletters](http://www.legion.org/newsletters), click on "Dispatch" where you will be directed to [www.myl-egion.org](http://www.myl-egion.org) where members will sign in to subscribe. For questions about Dispatch stories, email [Dispatch@legion.org](mailto:Dispatch@legion.org).

## Enter the Media & Communications Contest

The American Legion | January 10, 2024

A benefit of membership in The American Legion Media Alliance (TALMA) was participation in its annual contest. The contest recognized the media efforts American Legion Family members do at the post, district, and department level to promote the good of the organization. Even though TALMA dissolved last year, the contest has remained and expanded in effort to recognize the great work of all Legion Family members.

All Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion members, Auxiliary members, and Legion Riders can enter the 2024 Media & Communications Contest! Visit [legion.org/media/contest](http://legion.org/media/contest) to get started. Deadline for submissions is April 15.

The Media & Communications Contest has seven categories for submissions: websites, publications, visual media, social media campaigns, editorial/news writing, editorial/informational writing, and public relations/community outreach.

There is a \$5 fee per entry submission. All entries must have been published during the 2023 calendar year.

For reference, see the [2023 contest winners](#).

The Innovation Award and Chairman's Award will continue to be presented with the Media & Communications Contest. Winners of the awards get a plaque and a \$50 Emblem Sales credit. More about the awards:

- Innovation Award: This rewards innovation in media. Nominees may submit for this but don't have to for consideration. Judges will consider the award winners and other nominees to select a winner that demonstrated true innovation.
- Chairman's Award: A "Best in Show" award. Nominees don't submit specifically for this. The judges consider award winners and select one that goes above and beyond the others.

Media & Communications Commission members and Media & Communications National Headquarters staff will select the winners in each category. The winners will then go before the entire Media & Communications Commission for approval during Spring Meetings in May.

Don't wait! Start submitting your work now for us to recognize you.

If you have questions, please email [dispatch@legion.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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

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SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION



AMERICAN  
LEGION  
RIDERS

## Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

*Bruno Williamson, Chairman*

Second Monday Bi-Monthly

November 29, 2023 | December 11, 2023

February 12, 2024 | April 8, 2024

June 10, 2024 | August 12, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 971 3717 7471 | Passcode: 712 824

## Veterans Employment & Education Commission

*Jim Coates, Chairman*

Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly

November 19, 2023 | December 21, 2023

February 15, 2024 | April 18, 2024

June 20, 2024 | August 15, 2024

7:00 p.m. Eastern | [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 989 2627 5747 | Passcode: 26060





**AMERICAN  
LEGION  
AUXILIARY**



Lisa Williamson,  
National President  
The American Legion Auxiliary



**WELCOME TO Fabulous LAS VEGAS NEVADA**

**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

## Sons of The American Legion Membership Application

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

00-001 (2013)



## RECEIPT

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

**For God and Country**

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

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

By \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you to our  
Round-Up sponsors*

**Juan Cruz Rodriquez,  
Department of Puerto Rico**



# Squadron Everlasting

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

## Robert "Jeff" Seigler



Robert "Jeff" Seigler, 71, of Wellsville, passed away peacefully on January 4, 2024, at East Liverpool City Hospital.

He was born on June 18, 1952, in East Liverpool, the son of Robert E and Evelyn J (Thomas) Seigler.

Jeff had a fulfilling and diverse career throughout his life. For 17 years, he served as a dedicated Police officer for the City of Salineville. Later, he found deep fulfillment as a Minister at the United Methodist Church. In addition, for 39 years, Jeff worked as a Modeler for Sterling China Company in Wellsville, OH.

Jeff was an esteemed member of the community and enjoyed being part of the Sons of the American Legion Post 573. His commitment to his work and community exemplified his strong character and dedication to serving others.

Jeff is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Deena (Wallace) Seigler, whom he married on May 23, 1981. He also leaves behind his cherished daughters: Danielle (Rich Szucs) Seigler of Maple Heights, OH, Jamie (Ryan Adkins) Batton, and Samantha (Lacy Dokes) Seigler, both of East Liverpool. Jeff was a devoted grandfather to Rebecca, Damian, Draven, and Keaton. He had the joy of welcoming his great-granddaughter, Iris, and was eagerly anticipating the arrival of a great-grandson, Ryder.

Jeff was preceded in death by his parents, Robert E and Evelyn J (Thomas) Seigler, and his beloved sister, Pamela Seigler. Although he will be deeply missed, Jeff's memory will live on in the hearts of his family and friends.

Visitation will take place on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, from 2-4 p.m. and from 6-8 p.m. at the MacLean Chapel of Care Funeral & Cremation Specialists on Riverside

Avenue in Wellsville, OH. The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, January 10 at 12 p.m. Jeff will be laid to rest in Spring Hill Cemetery.

## Andrew David Howerton



Andrew David Howerton, 23, of London passed away unexpectedly Friday, January 5, 2024, at Madison Health.

Born July 18, 2000, at Doctor's West in Columbus, he was a son of Angela (Boggs) and Bart Howerton.

Drew was a 2020 graduate of Madison Plains where he played multiple sports including his favorite, football. He was employed as custodian at F.O.E and prior to that, a teacher's aide at the Presbyterian Church in London. He had attended the South Solon Church of Christ in Christian Union, as well as Newport Methodist. He belonged to and was a color guard for the Sons of the American Legion, Post #105 and he loved playing sports, video games, hunting with his Dad and brother, hanging out with Jenica and all his friends, watching horror movies and his recent passion was golfing but his true passion was making music. Survivors include his girlfriend Jenica Phillips, mother and step-father Angie (Mike) Miller, father and step-mother Bart (Heidi) Howerton, grandparents Jill Boggs (Nelson Palmer), Donald (Bonnie) Miller, Harold (Lisa) Howerton, Allen (Cheryl) Webb and Mike (Lynn) Alexander; great grandmother's Hilda Webb and Geraldine Reed; siblings Taylor (Travis) Chaffin, Ty Sollars, Josh Corwin, Landon and Mayci Miller; nieces and nephews, Roselyn Chaffin, Reagan, Maylan, Blayze and Blade Miller; aunts and uncles Jeremy Boggs, JaeJae Cutlip, Robin Perigo, Lisa Whited, Jerry Mason Boggs, Lynda & Josh Wood, Seth (Amanda) Howerton, Dawn Webb, Christa (Todd) Russell and Jared (Shana) Alexander; numerous aunts uncles and cousins including his special cousin Kelsey Boggs, and a Multitude of friends (to many to list) including his best buds Wesley, Matthew, CJ and Pauly D.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather Jerry Lee Boggs, great-grandparents Bill Webb, Mary Edwards, Joyce and Kenneth Robertson, aunt and uncle Ruth and Jim McGraw and his best friend Mason Cordell.

Friends may call at the Coughlin Building at the Madison County Fairgrounds, 205 Elm Street, London from 3-7 PM Thursday, January 11, 2024. A funeral service will follow at 7 PM with Pastor Phil Starr officiating.

Monetary donations & flowers for Drew may be sent to the funeral home.

The family is being served by the EBERLE-FISHER FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY, 103 N. Main Street, London, Ohio 43140, where online condolences for the family may be sent to [www.eberle-fisherfuneralhome.com](http://www.eberle-fisherfuneralhome.com).

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Andrew David Howerton, please visit our floral store.

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

## David Griffen Oldham



David Griffen Oldham Sr., 64, of New Paris, passed away at home on January 9, 2024.

David was born April 14, 1959, in Johnstown, Pa. He was the son of the late Lyle and Delores Oldham (Kokoruda) of Alum Bank.

On June 14, 2014, he married Darlene Oldham (Hockenberry).

David is survived by two daughters: Shannon, fiancé of Luis Lopez, and Kaleigh, wife of Gregory Schoen; son, Jacob; stepdaughter, Deana; grandchildren: Hailey, Mallory, Aleyah, Jack, and James; great-grandchildren: Syllas, Brynley, and Levi; and step grandchildren: Ethan, Ezra, and Elizabeth. He was the brother of Lyle (Gue), husband of Beth, and Reon.

He was preceded in death by his son, David Jr., and life-long best friend, Thomas (Blimp) Yarnell. David graduated from Chestnut Ridge High School in 1977. He was a long-haul truck driver and owner operator for 43 years. He was a former street stock dirt track race car driver, # 7N'7. He was a life-long NASCAR and Steelers fan who watched and attended countless

races with Jacob and games with Shannon. He loved the outdoors and camping and playing cards. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and was known by many as the best around at skinning a deer. A force to be reckoned with around a campfire, no bonfire ever burned bigger than Dave's. He was an enthusiastic storyteller and loved recalling his childhood spent at Oldham's Auto Salvage, as well as retelling many an inebriated adventure. Dave never met anyone he couldn't share a beer with yet would remind everyone to "limit yourself to one more," advice that was rarely taken in his presence. Dave also never met an argument he couldn't win, and many will fondly remember him as never having been wrong in his entire life.

David was a member of the Sons of the American Legion, Post 113; VFW Post 9219 of Pleasantville; Chestnut Ridge Bow & Gun Club; and Masonic Lodge No. 524 of Everett. He was Methodist and attended Horne Church of Pleasantville and Riot Church of the Nazarene. He will be missed greatly by his friends and family and would like to remind everyone who attends his services to "Drive fast and tell the truth."

Friends and family will be received on Saturday, January 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at the J. Edward Blackburn Funeral Home. A Masonic service will be held on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. The funeral service will be held on Sunday, January 14, at 11 a.m. at the J. Edward Blackburn Funeral Home.

Interment will be held at Pleasantville Cemetery.

Arrangements by the J. Edward Blackburn Funeral Home.



# RENEW!

# AMERICAN LEGION



Daniel J. Seehafer,  
National Commander  
The American Legion

Dan Seehafer, National Commander  
The American Legion

## SVA NATCON: ‘The shared journey that forges our bond’

[Jeff Stoffer](#) | January 8, 2024

[View Photo Gallery](#)

The meeting room filled with post-9/11 veterans. Soon, they were instructed to assemble in teams, six or more, to a table. A team leader was quickly appointed for each group, a QR code was scanned, and ideas flowed. The objective of this mini-think tank: policy priorities for student veterans in 2024 and beyond.

Soon appearing on the screen at the front of the room were terms, some bolder than others, plugged into smartphones by the team leaders. The “word cloud” displayed their thoughts as they talked. Stipend reform. Disconnect. Break pay. Advocating for caregivers. Healthcare reform. Reserve and National Guard transition. Fix work study.

In a sense, this Saturday-afternoon brainstorming session encapsulated much from a multi-faceted final day of sessions at the 16th Annual Student Veterans of America National Conference in Nashville, Tenn. U.S. Coast Guard veteran Tammy Barlet, SVA’s vice president for government affairs, told the group representing college campuses across the country that “SVA’s policy priorities come from conversations just like this.”

After the students completed their discussions, each team leader spoke for the groups. In time, many of the same issues featured during the three-day

conference came up – improvements to the GI Bill, mental health support, health-care access, better pre-discharge preparation for transition to civilian life and more.

Leading one table of veterans was Kevin O’Neil, American Legion Veterans Employment & Education Division policy analyst, who offered his group’s support for the Legion’s long-held position that the GI Bill must be made more equitable for members of the National Guard and Reserve components and that their transition challenges must be better addressed.



American Legion Veterans Education & Employment Division policy analyst Kevin O’Neil, far right, helps lead a discussion about priorities for student veterans heading into 2024, and beyond.

[Jeff Stoffer/The American Legion](#)

O’Neil joined American Legion Veterans Employment & Education Division Director Joseph Sharpe and Executive Director James Baca in breakout sessions at the conference, which included a National Headquarters booth that promoted the organization’s [Be the One](#) mission to prevent veteran suicide and to introduce young veterans to the organization and its work. Many who visited the Legion booth were Legionnaires already, and American Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer and Past National Commander Denise Rohan were on hand to greet them. [Seehafer spoke at Friday’s Government Affairs general session.](#)

More than 100 breakout sessions and other activities in and around Opryland drew thousands of SVA members from across the country, each with a different story to share with their fellow veterans.

Leading them was Jared Lyon, national president and CEO of SVA since 2016, who reflected in the opening session of the conference on his own journey after discharge. “At the time, I was a 28-year-old Navy veteran ... and I stepped into a new chapter.

I found myself navigating a new world that seemed designed for a different age group where bureaucratic mazes felt an awful lot more like obstacles than pathways. Back in 2010, I had just finished my associate degree and was a transfer junior at Florida State. I couldn't have felt more like a fish out of water. My first few weeks on campus was a time of questioning. Was this college journey the right path for me? These experiences, these challenges that we face, they are not just mine – they are ours. It's the shared journey that forges our bond. Together, we are committed to creating campuses where every student veteran, every military-connected student, every family member, every caregiver, every survivor feels welcomed and like they belong from day one."

Among the student veterans was American Legion Post 293 Patchogue, N.Y., member Nate Gardner, SVA chapter president at St. Joseph University-Long Island, who drew a standing-room-only crowd to hear his story about a service dog named Kenzo he obtained free of charge from [America's VetDogs](#) that changed his life after severe back and ankle injuries and a battle with cancer. "My life changed the day I met Kenzo," the Air Force veteran explained. "Learning and training and the help the dogs give is an amazing experience. Better yet, the bond begins to grow between you and the dog. It's absolutely breathtaking to be in the class, with seven or eight other vets, and see how service dogs are individually helping all the other vets. Everyone is there for their own reason. These dogs are not trained all the same."

Kenzo, who slumbered at the base of the podium as Gardner talked, demonstrated in the session how the service dog can, for instance, retrieve a mobile phone on command if something happens. Others in attendance – some accompanied by their own service dogs – wept upon hearing about Kenzo's effect on Gardner, physically and emotionally. "Plainly and simply, they are trained to perform specific tasks and services on command to help. They are different and much more formally trained than emotional support and therapy animals."

In times of stress or depression, Kenzo "can feel my mental state, as well. I was depressed with a lot of anxiety about my health and my future. Kenzo is trained for PTSD. If I feel overwhelmed, or if I can't take what's happening around me, he will come over and put his head on my lap and just stare at me. He will not leave my lap until I'm ready ... These dogs do change and save lives."

He said Kenzo dramatically improved his relationships with others, including his family, as well as other veterans. His service dog accompanies him on campus and in his day-to-day activities.

"It costs us more than \$50,000 to breed, raise, train and place every single service dog that we provide," said Mike Rosen, chief marketing officer of the non-profit America's VetDogs, established in 2003. "We do not charge a penny to the people we serve, including flying you from wherever you may live to New York, putting you up for two weeks, where you are in class with a cohort of anywhere from six to 11 other veterans or first responders who are getting their service dogs, and you are then trained at that time. So, we train the humans to be handlers."

Support for veterans with disability ratings and those facing mental health struggles, school complications, career questions, as well as other transition-related issues were common threads throughout the conference, which included a strong presence by the Department of Veterans Affairs – which brought in disability claims staff, who joined American Legion service officers, in a three-day clinic to help young veterans file for their benefits. VA Secretary Denis McDonough urged the student veterans to file and get enrolled in VA. "We want to serve you," he told SVA members Friday. "We want you in our care. And we will not rest until we have you in our care. So, please apply for your VA care benefits (and) re-apply if you've been denied before."

One breakout session on Saturday focused on VA's concentrated effort to stop fraud and exploitation of veterans. Tahina Montoya, Strategic Advisor to the Chief Veterans Experience Officer, led a session to collect from veterans their experiences with fraudulent attempts – a conversation that ranged from unscrupulous schools that fail to provide promised degrees and career opportunities to homeless shelters that consume VA disability compensation from needy veterans and predatory firms that extract veteran benefits and big fees for claims representation often offered free of charge.

"[VSAFE – Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion](#) – is an initiative that launched to get after trust," Montoya told a group of veterans. "Veterans are susceptible to fraud for a variety of different reasons. Just to give you an idea of the fraud landscape, in 2022, it was determined that veterans experienced over \$292 million worth of loss. And that is only based on the numbers that have been reported. So, think about the folks who don't even know that they are being



defrauded who, if they do know, they don't know where to report it or how to report it."

VSAFE is an effort by VA to corral all the various forms of veteran fraud and exploitation, understand the issue more fully, and act upon it. In December, Montoya said, a presidential task force had its initial meeting "and started talking about how we get after this."

One way is a VSAFE "listening tour" that has begun to gather examples from veterans across the country, representing nine different demographics, from student veterans to the elderly. "We are going on a six-month sprint to have listening sessions like this to hear straight from the source. We're not going to assume what the fraud is. We're not going to assume that because I experienced fraud in this way, it's the only way or the most prevalent way. We want to hear it straight from the source." She said VA will be looking to student veterans, staff, veterans service organizations and others to capture all the types of fraud and exploitation occurring.

"Once we hit all of the demographics of the veteran population that we hope to, we're going to consolidate that information, and it's going to help inform the resources we develop ... and also how we start getting after solutions ... All the information that you guys provide is going to inform what we do, and how we further develop, this VSAFE initiative."

She also let students know that a dedicated VA hotline – 1-800-827-1000 – is available for veterans to report suspected fraud.

Also included in the conference were multiple sessions that demonstrated the importance of community service, fitness and networking with local veterans service organizations and others in communities. Community service and projects like those undertaken by The Mission Continues – which led a Thursday unity project with SVA to revitalize Blue Hole Farm, an eco-friendly community space that augers against food insecurity and advances green technologies – were encouraged for young veterans seeking to attain the same sense of purpose they knew in the military.

"You can't come home and take off that uniform and thrive without the support of a community," explained Lisa Hallett, executive director and co-founder of [Wear Blue Run to Remember](#), which led the SVA group on a 1.4-mile Remembrance Run Saturday morning. "Communities possess belongingness and purpose, and we know that those are two

important protective factors that fight against suicide. There is power in partnering with our local veterans service organizations so that we can provide opportunities for community and belongingness."

She later facilitated a panel discussion with veterans leading efforts to strengthen communities and local veterans networks through non-profit programs they represent.

Army combat veteran T'Liza Kiel, director of alumni engagement for [The Mission Continues](#), made the point among her fellow veterans that "Your network is your net worth."

That point was made clear in hundreds of ways during the conference, among student veterans, caregivers, VA, The American Legion, employers, and dozens of others throughout the conference -- including one dog named Kenzo.

## Past and present Boys State staff encouraged to apply to serve at Boys Nation

The American Legion | January 10, 2024

Current and former Boys State staff interested in serving on staff at American Legion Boys Nation are encouraged to apply.

A printable application form is available online by clicking [here](#).



Boys Nation Staff awaits for the arrival of Boys Nation Delegates at Marymount University in Arlington, Va., on Saturday, July 22, 2023.

Hilary Ott /The American Legion

The application form is aimed at creating a database of Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion and other Boys State staff who would be interested in also volunteering to serve on the Boys Nation staff. The application is not aimed at filling specific



positions; rather, it's to have information on those who are interested in case there is a staff opening that meets the skills and education of those who apply.

Applications must include the department adjutant's signature.

Service on the Boys Nation staff requires a minimum 11-day commitment in July for the program, including arrival in Washington, D.C., in advance of the young men selected to represent their states at Boys Nation. This year's Boys Nation program is July 21-27, with staff arriving a few days earlier.



**Boys Nation.** At Boys State / Nation, participants learn the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county, and state governments.

## January at the Museum



Happy New Year! As you may be aware, 2024 marks the 80-year anniversary of D-Day (June 6, 1944). To mark this remarkable time in our history, we are preparing a year-long salute to the Greatest Generation featuring Veteran stories, events, and insights from World War II. We'll begin with our new exhibition opening on January 12 – [Lost Man Blues: Jon Schueler – Art and War](#). 1st Lieutenant Schueler was a B-17 navigator in the U.S. Army Air Corps whose art is largely influenced by his views from the skies over Europe. We invite you to come out to the NVMM and watch our website and social channels to see what's next!

### FEATURED EVENTS



\$1 ADMISSION

Join us on Martin Luther King Jr. Day for \$1 Museum admission.

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day \$1 Admission Monday, January 15 | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Plan now to visit the NVMM on MLK Day for \$1 admission. We know you and your family or friends will be inspired by the courage of all those who have fought for our freedoms.

### WELLNESS GOALS



## Resilience & Wellness Program

If working on your personal wellness is one of your New Year's resolutions, we invite you to try our Jiu Jitsu and yoga classes held regularly at the NVMM.

[NVMM Jiu Jitsu](#)

Hands-on classes bring world-class instructors and experienced and proven leaders who teach the gentle art of jiu jitsu. The art of Jiu Jitsu helps build confidence and provides real-world tools to conquer the challenges participants face each day.

[NVMM Yoga](#)

Relieve stress, build resilience, and maintain optimal fitness with our free NVMM Yoga program. Each Thursday and Sunday, one of our certified instructors will lead a class through basic poses to

advanced movements to help you find your inner peace of body and mind.

*All classes are free, but registration is required. We believe in having a welcoming and safe learning environment for all levels of experience; beginners to advanced individuals are welcome.*

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— THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Stay connected to key dates in our nation's history.

January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 24: International Day of Education

January 27: International Holocaust Remembrance Day

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Membership drives our mission to tell even more stories. [Explore yours today.](#)

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### National Veterans Memorial and Museum

300 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 362-2800 | [www.nationalvmm.org](http://www.nationalvmm.org)

## Taiwan, South China Sea dominate first US-China military dialogue in 3 years

Alex Wilson/Stars and Stripes | January 11, 2024

Beijing will make no “concession or compromise” regarding Taiwan, Chinese military officials told their U.S. counterparts during the first face-to-face military dialogue between the two countries in four years.



U.S. Navy photo

U.S. and Chinese representatives met at the Pentagon on Monday and Tuesday to discuss military-to-military relations, global security, and regional issues, according to readouts of the meeting released Wednesday by the Pentagon and China's Defense Ministry.

The discussions — led by Michael Chase, deputy assistant secretary of defense for China, Taiwan and Mongolia, and Chinese army Maj. Gen. Song Yanchao — were the first between the two global powers' militaries since 2021; direct talks were shelved after former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August 2022.

President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in November during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in San Francisco, where Xi agreed to resume the talks, the Pentagon said in its news release.

Chase “underscored the importance of maintaining operational safety” in the Indo-Pacific and reiterated the United States’ promise to “fly, sail and operate safely and responsibly wherever international law allows,” according to the Pentagon’s news release.

China urged the U.S. to “reduce military presence and provocative actions in the South China Sea,” Beijing’s defense ministry said in its news release. China will make no “concession or compromise on the Taiwan question and demanded the U.S. abide by the One China principle,” the release states.

Under the “One China” policy, the U.S. acknowledges Beijing’s view that it has sovereignty over Taiwan, which split from the mainland in 1949, but considers the island democracy’s status unsettled.

Beijing also called on the U.S. to “stop arming Taiwan, and not support Taiwan independence,” according to the release.

China considers Taiwan, a functionally independent democracy since 1996, as a breakaway province that must be reunified with the mainland, by force if necessary.

The military dialogue coincided with a visit from Taipei’s de facto ambassador to the U.S., Alexander Yui, Taiwan’s Foreign Ministry said in a new release Wednesday.

Yui met Tuesday with House Speaker Mike Johnson and said the two countries’ relationship is based on “such shared values as freedom and democracy,” according to the release. Yui also said he hopes to continue working with Congress.

China protested the meeting and called on the U.S. to break official ties with Taiwan, according to a transcript of Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning’s press conference on Wednesday.



“There is only one China in the world. Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. China firmly opposes the U.S. having any form of official contact with the Taiwan region,” she said.

The Biden administration is already planning to send an unofficial delegation to Taiwan following Taipei’s presidential election this weekend, The Associated Press reported Thursday, citing an unnamed senior administration official.

The official indicated that an in-person meeting is “the most effective way” to convey U.S. policy to the new Taiwanese government, the report said.

While the delegation would be made up of former senior officials and technically be an “unofficial visit,” the move could still drive a wedge between the tenuous relationship between Washington D.C. and Beijing.

## New Jersey’s community directory a way get Legion brand out while providing a service

The American Legion | January 11, 2024



In 1971, American Legion Post 469 in Longport, N.J., took over the responsibility of putting together the Longport Directory, which includes the name, address, and phone number of residents of the Jersey Shore borough.

The sale of ads and space in the directory help fund the various programs Post 469 conducts throughout the year. But it’s not just a fundraiser for the post. It’s also providing a service to the community – and to the many tourists who visit the area during the summer months.

“Longport has maybe 1,000 people in the winter months,” Post 469 Commander Larry Pacentrilli said. “But it’s mostly people from Philadelphia and New York who come down during the summer. We have 5,000 to 6,000 (tourists). So, this is kind of thing that they can keep by the phone.”

“And this is mostly an elderly community. So, a lot of them still remembers when they used to look in a phone book, rather than go to a computer or have it already in their cell phones.”

In addition to listing contact info for local residents, the directory also includes information such as flood hazard safety tips and emergency contact numbers, dates of community events, trash, and recycling regulations, and more.

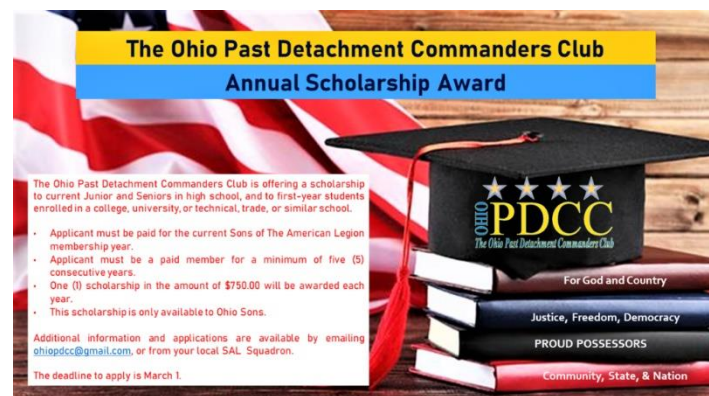
The directory is given to residents at no cost prior to July 4 each year. Local businesses and residents are given the opportunity to purchase advertising or sponsorships in the directory.

“People will say, ‘Oh, I saw your company in the Longport Directory,’” Pacentrilli said. “So, it’s really not hard to find advertisers.”

Pacentrilli said proceeds from the directory provide some financial assistance to the post’s annual [Wounded Warrior Week](#), when the post provides an all-expense paid, week-long vacation for a disabled veteran and his or her family. But the ad sales go mainly to funding other post programs and sponsorships, such as Longport’s Memorial Day parade and other remembrances events, as well as providing cash awards for winners of the post’s Constitution Essay Contest and Character and Citizenship Awards presented to local students.

But for Post 469, the directory also a chance to get to know its community while providing a service.

“People get to know us this way. I can’t tell you how many people we’d never meet or get to talk to if it weren’t for the Longport Directory – business-wise and residents,” Pacentrilli said. “It’s so people in Longport know there is such a thing as The American Legion and that we do things to help veterans. And we help the community out. It helps get our brand out there and make people feel good about us, as well as us feeling good about helping the community.”



# Read Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech in its entirety

January 16, 2023 | [TALK OF THE NATION](#)



Civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. addresses the crowd at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., where he gave his "I Have a Dream" speech on Aug. 28, 1963, as part of the March on Washington.

AFP via Getty Images

Monday marks Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Below is a transcript of his celebrated "I Have a Dream" speech, delivered on Aug. 28, 1963, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. NPR's *Talk of the Nation* aired the speech in 2010 — listen to that broadcast at the audio link above.



Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders gather before a rally at the Lincoln Memorial on Aug. 28, 1963, in Washington.

National Archives/Hulton Archive via Getty Images

**Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.:** Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves

who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.

But 100 years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself in exile in his own land. And so, we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition. In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check.



When the architects of our republic the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men — yes, Black men as well as white men — would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked insufficient funds.

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt.



We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so, we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.

We have also come to his hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism.



Civil rights protesters march from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial for the March on Washington on Aug. 28, 1963.

*Kurt Severin/Three Lions/Hulton Archive/Getty Images*

Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. 1963 is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual.

There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining

our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.



We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force. The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny.

And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back.

There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, when will you be satisfied? We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities.

We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one.

We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating for whites only.

We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote, and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote.

No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.



I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive. Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our Northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed.

Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends.

So even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live

out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.



People clap and sing along to a freedom song between speeches at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963.

*Express Newspapers via Getty Images*

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day down in Alabama with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, one day right down in Alabama little Black boys and Black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform



the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning: My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. And so let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that, let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, Black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at last. Free at last. Thank God almighty, we are free at last.

## Who was Dr. King?

[Wikipedia](#)

Martin Luther King Jr. (born Michael King Jr.; January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an American [Baptist](#) minister, activist, and [political philosopher](#) who was one of the most prominent leaders in the [civil rights movement](#) from 1955 until [his assassination](#) in 1968. A [Black church](#) leader and a son of early civil rights activist and minister [Martin Luther King Sr.](#), King advanced [civil rights for people of color](#) in the United States through the use of [nonviolent resistance](#) and [nonviolent civil disobedience](#) against [Jim Crow laws](#) and other forms of [discrimination in the United States](#).

King participated in and led marches for the [right to vote](#), [desegregation](#), [labor rights](#), and other civil

rights. He oversaw the 1955 [Montgomery bus boycott](#) and later became the first president of the [Southern Christian Leadership Conference](#) (SCLC). As president of the SCLC, he led the unsuccessful [Albany Movement](#) in [Albany, Georgia](#), and helped organize some of the nonviolent 1963 protests in [Birmingham, Alabama](#). King was one of the leaders of the 1963 [March on Washington](#), where he delivered his "[I Have a Dream](#)" speech on the steps of the [Lincoln Memorial](#), and helped organize two of the three [Selma to Montgomery marches](#) during the 1965 Selma voting rights movement. The civil rights movement achieved pivotal legislative gains in the [Civil Rights Act of 1964](#), [Voting Rights Act of 1965](#), and the [Fair Housing Act of 1968](#).

The SCLC put into practice the tactics of nonviolent protest with some success by strategically choosing the methods and places in which protests were carried out. There were several dramatic standoffs with segregationist authorities, who frequently responded violently. King was jailed several times. [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) (FBI) director [J. Edgar Hoover](#) considered King a radical and made him an object of the FBI's [COINTELPRO](#) from 1963 forward. FBI agents investigated him for possible communist ties, spied on his personal life, and secretly recorded him. In 1964, the FBI mailed King [a threatening anonymous letter](#), which he interpreted as an attempt to make him commit suicide.

On [October 14, 1964](#), King won the [Nobel Peace Prize](#) for combating [racial inequality](#) through nonviolent resistance. In his final years, he expanded his focus to include opposition towards [poverty](#) and the [Vietnam War](#). In 1968, King was planning a national occupation of Washington, D.C., to be called the [Poor People's Campaign](#), when he was assassinated on April 4 in [Memphis, Tennessee](#). His death was followed by national mourning, as well as anger leading to [riots in many U.S. cities](#). King was posthumously awarded the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#) in 1977 and the [Congressional Gold Medal](#) in 2003. [Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#) was established as a holiday in cities and states throughout the United States beginning in 1971; the federal holiday was first observed in 1986. [Hundreds of streets](#) in the U.S. have been renamed in his honor, and [King County](#) in [Washington](#) was rededicated for him. The [Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial](#) on the [National Mall](#) in Washington, D.C., was dedicated in 2011.

## 2024 SAL Membership Report as of: January 11, 2024

#	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	-57	129	107.50%	89.92
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	-524	1,491	92.55%	81.11
3	FRANCE	168	-46	147	87.50%	77.71
4	WISCONSIN	4,398	-1,181	3,820	86.86%	78.81
5	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-259	904	84.09%	75.66
6	LOUISIANA	1,821	-387	1,480	81.27%	75.24
7	FLORIDA	23,066	-4,795	18,635	80.79%	68.60
8	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	-323	1,265	80.57%	68.08
9	IOWA	4,914	-905	3,853	78.41%	72.52
10	MARYLAND	16,803	-2,859	12,941	77.02%	70.80
11	OREGON	1,534	-261	1,181	76.99%	63.10
12	ALABAMA	2,100	-349	1,609	76.62%	66.49
13	MISSISSIPPI	736	-121	563	76.49%	66.99
14	CONNECTICUT	1,865	-302	1,421	76.19%	66.51
15	ILLINOIS	13,716	-2,160	10,390	75.75%	71.04
16	MONTANA	1,091	-169	824	75.53%	71.23
17	GEORGIA	4,887	-741	3,673	75.16%	66.74
18	MICHIGAN	26,236	-3,860	19,602	74.71%	67.51
19	RHODE ISLAND	348	-50	259	74.43%	64.08
20	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-398	2,060	74.37%	62.05
21	OHIO	31,690	-4,440	23,454	74.01%	68.48
22	INDIANA	37,244	-4,882	27,228	73.11%	68.04
23	VIRGINIA	4,367	-552	3,172	72.64%	63.61
24	DELAWARE	2,596	-309	1,867	71.92%	64.54
25	VERMONT	3,920	-464	2,816	71.84%	67.55
26	ARIZONA	8,595	-980	6,137	71.40%	59.94
27	TENNESSEE	1,792	-200	1,275	71.15%	60.39
28	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	-6,886	44,534	70.98%	66.33
29	NEBRASKA	6,992	-766	4,961	70.95%	68.19
30	IDAHO	659	-72	467	70.86%	54.85
31	NEW YORK	30,663	-3,220	21,618	70.50%	64.87
32	ARKANSAS	406	-40	284	69.95%	55.67
33	MINNESOTA	11,435	-1,132	7,993	69.90%	65.07
34	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	-590	4,206	69.79%	62.42
35	KANSAS	6,055	-568	4,201	69.38%	64.65
36	CALIFORNIA	11,292	-992	7,767	68.78%	59.92
37	MISSOURI	3,337	-263	2,265	67.88%	60.34
38	WYOMING	1,248	-94	843	67.55%	60.45
39	TEXAS	5,783	-353	3,823	66.11%	57.33
40	NEVADA	387	-22	254	65.63%	56.46
41	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	-279	3,538	65.13%	58.98
42	UTAH	460	-23	299	65.00%	61.26
43	MAINE	2,757	-115	1,769	64.16%	56.45
44	COLORADO	2,952	-98	1,869	63.31%	54.90
45	OKLAHOMA	1,430	-28	886	61.96%	50.07
46	NEW JERSEY	9,662	-174	5,971	61.80%	55.24
47	PUERTO RICO	156	-2	96	61.54%	56.21
48	NEW MEXICO	1,582	1	948	59.92%	47.05
49	WASHINGTON	2,682	32	1,577	58.80%	47.10
50	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	54	1,502	57.93%	50.69
51	DIST OF COL	91	4	51	56.04%	52.27
52	ALASKA	1,740	81	963	55.34%	46.16
53	KENTUCKY	2,399	199	1,240	51.69%	44.11
54	LATIN AMERICA	33	4	16	48.48%	15.63
55	PHILIPPINES	79	39	8	10.13%	8.86
Grand Totals:		382,111	-46,878	276,145	72.27%	65.55



## 2024 SAL Regional Breakdown

Western Region - James R. Fischer, Sr. (CA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	120	129	107.50%
OREGON	1,534	1,181	76.99%
MONTANA	1,091	824	75.53%
ARIZONA	8,595	6,137	71.40%
IDAHO	659	467	70.86%
CALIFORNIA	11,292	7,767	68.78%
WYOMING	1,248	843	67.55%
NEVADA	387	254	65.63%
UTAH	460	299	65.00%
COLORADO	2,952	1,869	63.31%
NEW MEXICO	1,582	948	59.92%
WASHINGTON	2,682	1,577	58.80%
ALASKA	1,740	963	55.34%
LATIN AMERICA	33	16	48.48%
PHILIPPINES	79	8	10.13%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>34,454</b>	<b>23,282</b>	<b>67.57%</b>

Southeast Region - Linwood A. Moore (VA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
LOUISIANA	1,821	1,480	81.27%
FLORIDA	23,066	18,635	80.79%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	1,265	80.57%
ALABAMA	2,100	1,609	76.62%
MISSISSIPPI	736	563	76.49%
GEORGIA	4,887	3,673	75.16%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	2,060	74.37%
VIRGINIA	4,367	3,172	72.64%
TENNESSEE	1,792	1,275	71.15%
ARKANSAS	406	284	69.95%
TEXAS	5,783	3,823	66.11%
PUERTO RICO	156	96	61.54%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>49,454</b>	<b>37,935</b>	<b>76.71%</b>

Midwest Region - Terry A. Harris (KS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	1,491	92.55%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	904	84.09%
IOWA	4,914	3,853	78.41%
NEBRASKA	6,992	4,961	70.95%
KANSAS	6,055	4,201	69.38%
MISSOURI	3,337	2,265	67.88%
OKLAHOMA	1,430	886	61.96%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>25,414</b>	<b>18,561</b>	<b>73.03%</b>

Northeast Region - John R. Cook (NH)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	168	147	87.50%
MARYLAND	16,803	12,941	77.02%
CONNECTICUT	1,865	1,421	76.19%
RHODE ISLAND	348	259	74.43%
DELAWARE	2,596	1,867	71.92%
VERMONT	3,920	2,816	71.84%
PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	44,534	70.98%
NEW YORK	30,663	21,618	70.50%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	4,206	69.79%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	3,538	65.13%
MAINE	2,757	1,769	64.16%
NEW JERSEY	9,662	5,971	61.80%
DIST OF COL	91	51	56.04%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>143,078</b>	<b>101,138</b>	<b>70.69%</b>

Central Region - Robert L. Bristo (MN)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,398	3,820	86.86%
ILLINOIS	13,716	10,390	75.75%
MICHIGAN	26,236	19,602	74.71%
OHIO	31,690	23,454	74.01%
INDIANA	37,244	27,228	73.11%
MINNESOTA	11,435	7,993	69.90%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	1,502	57.93%
KENTUCKY	2,399	1,240	51.69%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>129,711</b>	<b>95,229</b>	<b>73.42%</b>

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01/11/24		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, 6	49,454	37,935	(11,519)	76.71%	692		
2 Central 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	129,711	95,229	(34,482)	73.42%	1,506		
3 Midwest 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	25,414	18,561	(6,853)	73.03%	344		
4 Northeast 1, 4, 5	143,078	101,138	(41,940)	70.69%	1,813		
5 Western 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	34,454	23,282	(11,172)	67.57%	520		
<b>TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>	<b>382,111</b>	<b>276,145</b>	<b>(105,966)</b>	<b>72.27%</b>	<b>4,875</b>		

01/11/24		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, 7	4,398	3,820	(578)	86.86%	59	4	78.81%		
2 Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5, 6	13,716	10,390	(3,326)	75.75%	130	15	71.04%		
3 Michigan 1, 3, 4, 5	26,236	19,602	(6,634)	74.71%	534	18	67.51%		
4 Ohio 1, 3, 4, 5	31,690	23,454	(8,236)	74.01%	266	21	68.48%		
5 Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	37,244	27,228	(10,016)	73.11%	466	22	68.04%		
6 Minnesota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	11,435	7,993	(3,442)	69.90%	33	33	65.07%		
7 West Virginia 1	2,593	1,502	(1,091)	57.93%	3	50	50.69%		
8 Kentucky 1, 4	2,399	1,240	(1,159)	51.69%	15	53	44.11%		
<b>TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>	<b>129,711</b>	<b>95,229</b>	<b>(34,482)</b>	<b>73.42%</b>	<b>1,506</b>				

11/11/24		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 <b>Hawaii 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>107.50%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>89.92%</b>	<b>01/08/24</b>	<b>01/08/24</b>
2 Oregon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,534	1,181	(353)	76.99%	12	11	63.10%		
3 Montana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,091	824	(267)	75.53%	5	16	71.23%		
4 Arizona 1, 4, 5	8,595	6,137	(2,458)	71.40%	166	26	59.94%		
5 Idaho 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	659	467	(192)	70.86%	4	30	54.85%		
6 California 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	11,292	7,767	(3,525)	68.78%	1,796	36	59.92%		
7 Wyoming 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,248	843	(405)	67.55%	6	38	60.45%		
8 Nevada 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	387	254	(133)	65.63%	15	40	59.46%		
9 Utah 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	460	299	(161)	65.00%	9	42	62.26%		
10 Colorado 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2,952	1,869	(1,083)	63.31%	11	44	54.90%		
11 New Mexico	1,582	948	(634)	59.92%	-	48	47.05%		
12 Washington 4	2,682	1,577	(1,105)	58.80%	53	49	47.10%		
13 Alaska 3	1,740	963	(777)	55.34%	10	52	46.16%		
14 Latin America 4	33	16	(17)	48.48%	-	54	15.63%		
15 Philippines	79	8	(71)	10.13%	1	55	8.86%		
<b>TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>	<b>34,454</b>	<b>23,282</b>	<b>(11,172)</b>	<b>67.57%</b>	<b>2,088</b>				

01/11/24		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, 7	1,821	1,480	(341)	81.27%	2	6	75.24%		
2 Florida 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	23,066	18,635	(4,431)	80.79%	436	7	68.60%		
3 South Carolina 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	1,570	1,265	(305)	80.57%	12	8	68.08%		
4 Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	2,100	1,609	(491)	76.62%	22	12	66.49%		
5 Mississippi 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	736	563	(173)	76.49%	16	13	66.99%		
6 Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4,887	3,673	(1,214)	75.16%	68	17	66.71%		
7 North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2,770	2,060	(710)	74.37%	46	20	62.05%		
8 Virginia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4,367	3,172	(1,195)	72.64%	43	23	63.61%		
9 Tennessee 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,792	1,275	(517)	71.15%	13	27	60.39%		
10 Arkansas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	406	284	(122)	69.95%	11	32	55.67%		
12 Texas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	5,783	3,823	(1,960)	66.11%	23	39	57.33%		
13 Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	156	96	(60)	61.54%	-	47	56.21%		
<b>TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6</b>	<b>49,454</b>	<b>37,935</b>	<b>(11,519)</b>	<b>76.71%</b>	<b>692</b>				

01/11/24	MIDWEST REGION   Terry A. Harris (KS)   National Vice-Commander								
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
South Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,611	1,491	(120)	92.55%	13	2	81.11%		
North Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,075	904	(171)	84.09%	-	5	75.66%		
Iowa 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	4,914	3,853	(1,061)	78.41%	46	9	72.52%		
Nebraska 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6,992	4,961	(2,031)	70.95%	5	29	68.19%		
Kansas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6,055	4,201	(1,854)	69.38%	225	35	64.65%		
Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3,337	2,265	(1,072)	67.88%	32	37	60.34%		
Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,430	886	(544)	61.96%	23	45	50.07%		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	25,414	18,561	(6,853)	73.03%	321				

01/11/24		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	147	(21)	87.50%	-	3	77.71%		
2	Maryland 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	16,803	12,941	(3,862)	77.02%	270	10	70.80%		
3	Connecticut 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,865	1,421	(444)	76.19%	94	14	66.51%		
4	Rhode Island 1, 2, 3, 4	348	259	(89)	74.43%	10	19	64.08%		
5	Delaware 1, 4, 5	2,596	1,867	(729)	71.92%	34	24	64.54%		
6	Vermont 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3,920	2,816	(1,104)	71.84%	29	25	67.55%		
7	Pennsylvania 4, 5	62,746	44,534	(18,212)	70.98%	1,006	28	66.33%		
8	New York 1, 3, 4, 5	30,663	21,618	(9,045)	70.50%	144	31	64.87%		
9	New Hampshire 1, 2, 4, 5	6,027	4,206	(1,821)	69.79%	98	34	62.42%		
10	Massachusetts 1, 3, 4, 5	5,432	3,538	(1,894)	65.13%	35	41	58.98%		
11	Maine 5	2,757	1,769	(988)	64.16%	56	43	56.45%		
12	New Jersey 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9,662	5,971	(3,691)	61.80%	37	46	55.24%		
13	Dist. of Columbia 4	91	51	(40)	56.04%	-	51	52.27%		
TOTALS 1, 4, 5		143,078	101,138	(41,940)	70.69%	1,813				

01/11/24	2024 SUPER SIX STANDINGS								
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
Florida 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	23,066	18,635	(4,431)	80.79%	436	7	68.60%		
Michigan 1, 4, 5	26,236	19,602	(6,634)	74.71%	534	18	67.81%		
Ohio 1, 3, 4, 5	31,690	23,454	(8,236)	74.01%	266	21	68.48%		
Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	37,244	26,762	(10,482)	71.86%	27,228	22	68.04%		
New York 1, 3, 4, 5	30,663	21,618	(9,045)	70.50%	144	31	64.87%		
Pennsylvania 4, 5	62,746	44,534	(18,212)	70.98%	1,006	28	66.33%		
TOTALS	211,645	154,605	(57,040)	73.05%	29,614				

<b>National Totals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>	<b>382,111</b>	<b>276,145</b>	<b>(105,966)</b>	<b>72.27%</b>	<b>4,875</b>		<b>65.55%</b>		
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2024 National Membership Target Dates			
1 September 13, 2023	10%	6 ♥ February 14, 2024 ♥	75%
2 October 18, 2023	25%	7 March 13, 2024	80%
3 November 15, 2023	35%	8 April 10, 2024	90%
4 December 13, 2023	45%	9 May 15, 2024	100%
5 January 18, 2024	60%	10 July 24, 2024 (DSTG)	105%



# HALF-STAFF CALENDAR

## GETTYSBURGFLAG.COM

2024

PRIDE. LIBERTY. HONOR

JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

MARCH						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

MAY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JULY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

AUGUST						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**MAY 04** NATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL DAY  
Sunrise to Sunset

**MAY 27** MEMORIAL DAY  
Sunrise to Noon

**DEC 07** PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY  
Sunrise to Sunset

**MAY 15** PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY  
Sunrise to Sunset

**SEP 11** PATRIOT DAY  
Sunrise to Sunset

\*Additional half-staff dates are added periodically throughout the year, both state and nationwide.

### How LONG SHOULD I FLY THE FLAG?

**30 DAYS** After the death of a President or Former President.

**10 DAYS** For Vice President, Chief of Justice, Retired Chief of Justice or Speaker of the House.

**2 DAYS** For a member of Congress, day of and day after.

**UNTIL BURIAL** For Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Secretary of a Military Department, Former Vice President or the Governor of a State.

### TYPICAL REASONS FOR HALF-STAFF PROCLAMATIONS INCLUDE:

- Death of principal figures in the U.S. Government
- Death of local government officials
- Death of foreign dignitaries
- Death of a military person
- Death of a civil service person

### Who ISSUES HALF-STAFF PROCLAMATIONS?

Only the President and state Governors can issue a half-staff order for government properties. It will state when and how long the American flag (and/or state flags) should be flown at half-staff.

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ALL-TIME HIGH OF 380,743 MEMBERS, AND THE 46 DETACHMENTS  
THAT MADE OR EXCEEDED 100% IN MEMBERSHIP**

**2023 SAL Year-End Membership Report as of: December 31, 2023**

#	DETACHMENT	2023 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 105% TARGET 12/31/2023	2023 MBRSHIP FINAL	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2023 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	77	-38	119	154.55%	100.00
2	PUERTO RICO	123	-24	153	124.39%	95.08
3	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	-181	1,611	118.28%	91.17
4	PHILIPPINES	70	-5	78	111.43%	100.00
5	NEW MEXICO	1,483	-85	1,642	110.72%	83.79
6	NEVADA	357	-20	395	110.64%	80.38
7	WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	-123	2,603	110.20%	88.46
8	ALASKA	1,608	-79	1,767	109.89%	84.75
9	COLORADO	2,729	-120	2,985	109.38%	87.61
10	OREGON	1,414	-56	1,541	108.98%	82.88
11	WASHINGTON	2,485	-93	2,702	108.73%	82.22
12	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	-193	6,154	108.40%	91.04
13	FLORIDA	21,519	-731	23,326	108.40%	86.25
14	MICHIGAN	24,271	-790	26,275	108.26%	92.66
15	GEORGIA	4,490	-146	4,860	108.24%	89.07
16	ARIZONA	8,004	-221	8,625	107.76%	83.43
17	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	-31	1,578	107.13%	88.53
18	VIRGINIA	4,109	-70	4,384	106.69%	88.09
19	CALIFORNIA	10,714	-112	11,362	106.05%	85.23
20	DELAWARE	2,430	-15	2,566	105.60%	87.83
21	OKLAHOMA	1,348	-6	1,421	105.42%	81.78
22	MAINE	2,617	-9	2,757	105.35%	89.33
23	NEW JERSEY	9,386	-30	9,885	105.32%	90.64
24	FRANCE	158	0	166	105.06%	94.27
25	MISSOURI	3,219	12	3,368	104.63%	87.74
26	WISCONSIN	4,187	38	4,358	104.08%	87.73
27	MARYLAND	16,058	153	16,708	104.05%	91.15
28	TEXAS	5,569	78	5,769	103.59%	81.30
29	RHODE ISLAND	336	5	348	103.57%	88.48
30	LATIN AMERICA	31	1	32	103.23%	54.84
31	TENNESSEE	1,718	35	1,769	102.97%	80.79
32	NEW YORK	29,864	662	30,695	102.78%	91.67
33	IDAHO	644	15	661	102.64%	81.29
34	PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	1,440	62,403	102.63%	91.90
35	OHIO	30,636	749	31,419	102.56%	92.14
36	UTAH	449	14	457	101.78%	76.89
37	VERMONT	3,818	135	3,874	101.47%	90.47
38	ILLINOIS	13,398	507	13,561	101.22%	89.55
39	MISSISSIPPI	722	28	730	101.11%	81.31
40	IOWA	4,857	200	4,900	100.89%	87.27
41	KANSAS	5,919	258	5,957	100.64%	88.54
42	ALABAMA	2,066	92	2,077	100.53%	84.41
43	INDIANA	36,387	1,729	36,477	100.25%	89.45
44	NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	51	1,058	100.19%	87.43
45	LOUISIANA	1,790	87	1,793	100.17%	86.69
46	CONNECTICUT	1,867	93	1,867	100.00%	86.90
47	NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	143	2,720	99.74%	79.44
48	MINNESOTA	11,378	636	11,311	99.41%	88.88
49	NEBRASKA	7,015	440	6,926	98.73%	92.52
50	MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	342	5,372	98.71%	84.87
51	MONTANA	1,108	92	1,071	96.66%	88.61
52	WYOMING	1,298	127	1,236	95.22%	82.68
53	KENTUCKY	2,609	361	2,378	91.15%	75.31
54	ARKANSAS	447	64	405	90.60%	77.54
55	DIST OF COL	114	32	88	77.19%	60.18
<b>Grand Totals:</b>		<b>367,798</b>	<b>5,445</b>	<b>380,743</b>	<b>103.52%</b>	<b>89.36</b>

## 2023 SAL Regional Breakdown

Western Region			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	77	119	154.55%
PHILIPPINES	70	78	111.43%
NEW MEXICO	1,483	1,642	110.72%
NEVADA	357	395	110.64%
ALASKA	1,608	1,767	109.89%
COLORADO	2,729	2,985	109.38%
OREGON	1,414	1,541	108.98%
WASHINGTON	2,485	2,702	108.73%
ARIZONA	8,004	8,625	107.76%
CALIFORNIA	10,714	11,362	106.05%
LATIN AMERICA	31	32	103.23%
IDAHO	644	661	102.64%
UTAH	449	457	101.78%
MONTANA	1,108	1,071	96.66%
WYOMING	1,298	1,236	95.22%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>32,471</b>	<b>34,673</b>	<b>106.78%</b>

Southeast Region			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
PUERTO RICO	123	153	124.39%
FLORIDA	21,519	23,326	108.40%
GEORGIA	4,490	4,860	108.24%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	1,578	107.13%
VIRGINIA	4,109	4,384	106.69%
TEXAS	5,569	5,769	103.59%
TENNESSEE	1,718	1,769	102.97%
MISSISSIPPI	722	730	101.11%
ALABAMA	2,066	2,077	100.53%
LOUISIANA	1,790	1,793	100.17%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	2,720	99.74%
ARKANSAS	447	405	90.60%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>46,753</b>	<b>49,564</b>	<b>106.01%</b>

Midwest Region			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	1,611	118.28%
OKLAHOMA	1,348	1,421	105.42%
MISSOURI	3,219	3,368	104.63%
IOWA	4,857	4,900	100.89%
KANSAS	5,919	5,957	100.64%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	1,058	100.19%
NEBRASKA	7,015	6,926	98.73%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>24,776</b>	<b>25,241</b>	<b>101.88%</b>

Northeast Region			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	6,154	108.40%
DELAWARE	2,430	2,566	105.60%
MAINE	2,617	2,757	105.35%
NEW JERSEY	9,386	9,885	105.32%
FRANCE	158	166	105.06%
MARYLAND	16,058	16,708	104.05%
RHODE ISLAND	336	348	103.57%
NEW YORK	29,864	30,695	102.78%
PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	62,403	102.63%
VERMONT	3,818	3,874	101.47%
CONNECTICUT	1,867	1,867	100.00%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	5,372	98.71%
DIST OF COL	114	88	77.19%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>138,570</b>	<b>142,883</b>	<b>103.11%</b>

Central Region			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	2,603	110.20%
MICHIGAN	24,271	26,275	108.26%
WISCONSIN	4,187	4,358	104.08%
OHIO	30,636	31,419	102.56%
ILLINOIS	13,398	13,561	101.22%
INDIANA	36,387	36,477	100.25%
MINNESOTA	11,378	11,311	99.41%
KENTUCKY	2,609	2,378	91.15%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>125,228</b>	<b>128,382</b>	<b>102.52%</b>

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# MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

JANUARY 15, 1929 - APRIL 4, 1968

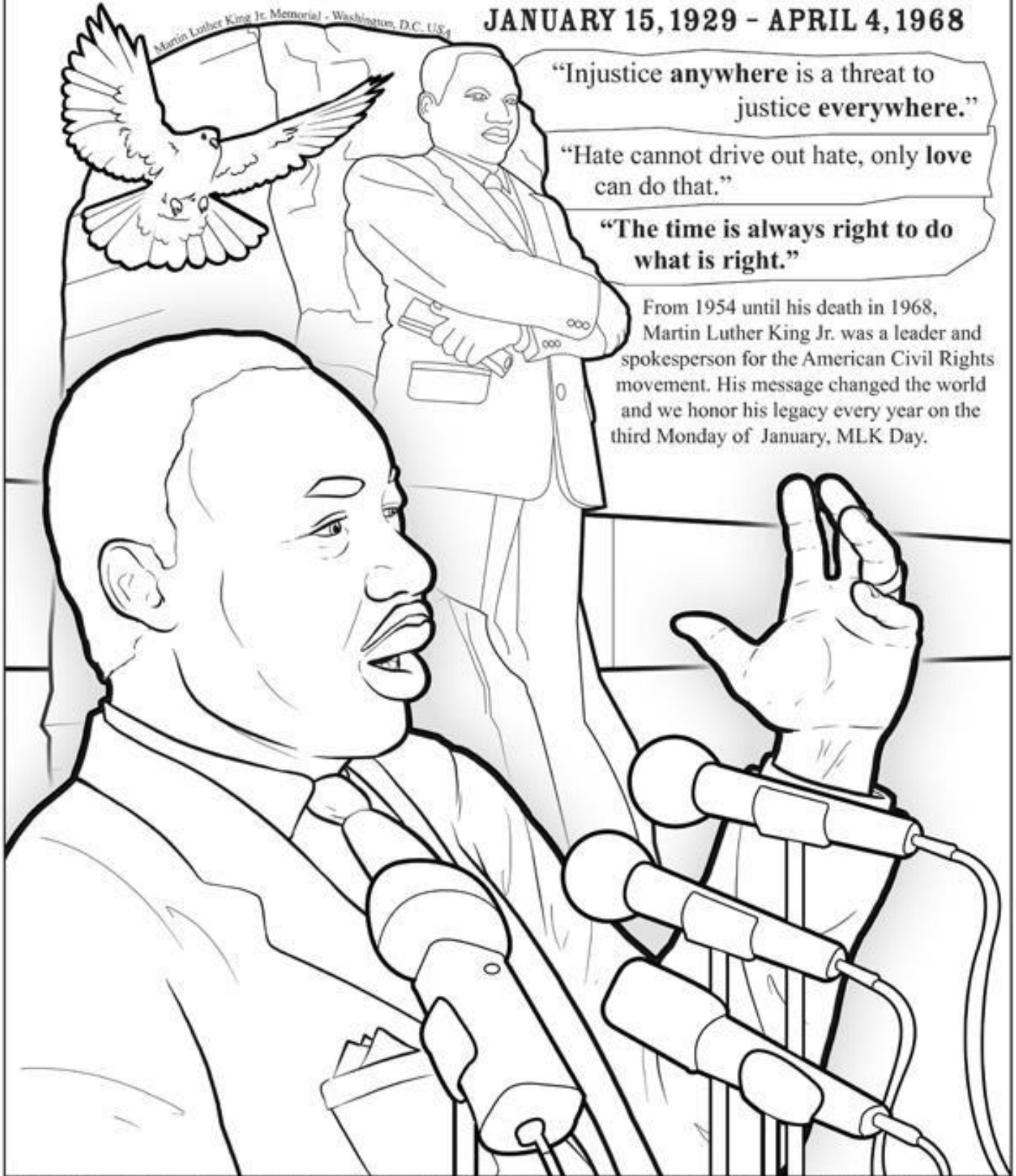
Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial - Washington, D.C. USA

"Injustice **anywhere** is a threat to justice **everywhere**."

"Hate cannot drive out hate, only **love** can do that."

"The time is always right to do what is right."

From 1954 until his death in 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was a leader and spokesperson for the American Civil Rights movement. His message changed the world and we honor his legacy every year on the third Monday of January, MLK Day.



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