

Miss America 2024 is active-duty Air Force officer, Harvard Student: Meet Madison Marsh

[Jay Stahl](#) | USA Today

The [newly minted Miss America](#) is the competition's first active-duty Air Force officer.

[Miss Colorado Madison Marsh](#) was crowned Miss America during the Sunday night ceremony in Orlando. Marsh is a 2023 alum of the Air Force Academy with a degree in physics and a graduate student at the Harvard Kennedy School.

During the pageant, Marsh spoke about her mom Whitney's 2018 death from pancreatic cancer and participated in interviews about her groundbreaking dual status as a crown holder and U.S. servicemember.



submitted photo

Marsh founded the Whitney Marsh Foundation with family members. She has raised over \$250,000 for pancreatic cancer research, according [to her official bio](#). She was crowned by 2023 Miss America Grace Stanke, a nuclear engineering student from

Wisconsin. Miss Texas, Ellie Breaux, was named first runner up.

The 2024 Miss America competition was held over a dayslong stretch in Orlando for the first time ever. Marsh's winnings include a \$60,000 tuition scholarship.

[Miss America was established in 1921](#) as the "Inter-City Beauty Contest" and first held on the famous boardwalk of Atlantic City, New Jersey. The competition has gone through many changes since 2018, including ditching swimsuits, location changes and no longer wanting to be referred to by organizers as a "pageant."

The Miss America competition calls itself "one of the nation's largest providers of scholarship assistance to young women" and "a platform to amplify women's voices during times in our country's history when they have been needed most."

Contributing: Drake Bentley, Jamie Rokus, Elise Brisco, Barbara VanDenburgh.



Round-Up

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

Christopher Carlton (IN)
Immediate Past National Commander

Joseph Navarrete (NM)
Leading Candidate for National Commander

William Clancy III (NY)
Trailing Candidate for National Commander

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

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

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

All information must be submitted by noon each Friday.

[PNVC Jeff Vrabel, Sr.](#), Editor
[Rusty Myers](#), Contributor
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Donald "JR" Hall, Jr.

National Commander

Representing More Than Me,

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

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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 | [Team Vrabel](#)

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

Robert L. Bristo

Central National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

Second Wednesday Quarterly

September 13, 2023 | December 13, 2023

March 13, 2024 | June 12, 2024

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

Meeting ID: 930 6046 3298 | Passcode: 140 802

Good Day Central Region!

"The Price of Greatness is Responsibility."
Winston Churchill

Now comes the hard part! We are over the 75% mark and now we must fight for every membership card we can. We MUST get on the phone and call all of our comrades that have not yet renewed their 2023-2024 dues! Retention IS the key!

Is this going to be Easy? No, but you my friends are ANYTHING but weak! Together, to solve this problem we recognize our share of this responsibility!

We, the Central Region, are Unstoppable! Seven of eight detachments in our region have exceeded the 60% goal! We improved 2.61% over the January 11th report! We are ONLY 23.97% from our 100% goal!

Remember, where there is no struggle, there is no strength!

President Calvin Coolidge once said, "Nothing in the world can take the place of Persistence. Talent will not..., Genius will not..., Education will not..., the slogan 'Press On' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race."

And press on we will! Congratulations to the 53 detachments that reached the 60% goal, you are doing an outstanding job! The 75% goal is on Valentine's Day, so let's love ourselves a little and make and surpass that goal!

Now for our numbers...

There was a bit of a shift within the Central Region with this report. Illinois slipped to third place replaced by Minnesota which recorded an 8.65% jump since my last report! Way to go Minnesota! The next

largest gain came from the Detachment of West Virginia, climbing 5.93% putting them above the 60% mark! A couple of detachments has increases of 2.22% (Ohio) and 2.18% (Indiana) with the rest of the region in the one's as follows, Illinois (1.85%), Michigan (1.49%), Wisconsin (1.32%), and Kentucky (1.08%). At this moment we are only .32% ahead of the Midwest region, BUT we are also only 2.84% behind the first place Southeast region!

US General George S. Patton said, "Accept challenges so that you will feel the exhilaration of Victory!"

Go Get-em Central Region!

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

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

Butch Ray, Central Region Membership Chairman

John R. Cook

Northeast National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

THIRD Wednesday Quarterly

September 20, 2023 | December 20, 2023

March 20, 2024 | June 19, 2024

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

Meeting ID: 980 7046 7820 | Passcode: 469 153

James R. Fischer

Western National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

THIRD Wednesday Quarterly

September 20, 2023 | December 20, 2023

March 20, 2024 | June 19, 2024

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

Meeting ID: 964 2285 1563 | Passcode: 433 552

What's up, Westside?

Great job for knocking out 2023 membership out of the park. I am super stoked to say we finished as the number 1 region at 106.78%. Congratulations to all. As a nation, we hit a new all-time high of 380,743

members and the 46 detachments made or exceeded 100% in membership. Keep up the great work you all are doing, and I know we can be the number 1 region for this year too!

Be The One!!! Be the one for those who need you, but above all else, do it for you. Be the one who works to be the best one they can be—the one who's not defined by others' judgment. Be the one who takes the box they've been put in and kicks down all the walls. Be The One!!!

To the world, you may be one person, but to the one person, you are the world. Thanks again for everything you do for this great organization.

Terry A. Harris

Midwest National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

Fourth Wednesday Quarterly

September 27, 2023 | December 27, 2023

March 27, 2024 | June 26, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 924 0402 2733 | Passcode: 371 685

Linwood A. Moore

Southeast National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

First Wednesday Quarterly

September 6, 2023 | December 6, 2023

March 6, 2024 | June 5, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 945 1723 1230 | Passcode: 58543

BE THE ONE

If you're a veteran in crisis or concerned about one, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive 24/7 confidential support. Dial 988 then Press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat or text 838255.

First year of VA's new suicide prevention policy impacts nearly 50,000 veterans, former servicemembers

The American Legion | January 17, 2024



In the first year of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) [new policy](#) allowing eligible veterans and certain former servicemembers in acute suicidal crisis to go to any VA or

non-VA health-care facility for no-cost emergency healthcare, 49,714 veterans and former servicemembers have used this benefit — providing them with life-saving care and saving more than \$64 million in health-care costs.

This policy has helped prevent veteran suicide by guaranteeing no cost, world-class care to eligible individuals in times of crisis — including emergency room care, inpatient, or crisis residential care for up to 30 days, outpatient care for up to 90 days, and transportation costs. The policy has also increased access to no-cost emergent suicide care for up to 9 million veterans, because eligible veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system or go to a department facility to use this benefit.

Since 2021, VA has worked aggressively to expand support for veterans in crisis, including [launching the 988 \(then press 1\)](#) to help veterans connect more quickly with caring, qualified responders through the Veterans Crisis Line; [partnering with community-based suicide prevention organizations](#) to provide veterans with on-the-ground support; expanding [firearm suicide prevention efforts](#); and encouraging veterans to reach out for help through a [national veteran suicide prevention awareness campaign](#).

“There is nothing more important to VA than preventing veteran suicide — and this expansion of no-cost care has likely saved thousands of lives this year,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “We want all veterans to know they can get the care they need, when they need it, no matter where they are.”

Any veteran — enrolled in VA or not — can go to a VA or non-VA emergency room for no cost emergent suicidal care under this policy. Additionally, this benefit covers certain individuals who do not meet the requirements to be considered a veteran, including those who were released from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable. It also covers

servicemembers — including reservists and National Guard members — who served at least 100 days on active duty under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location. Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma are also covered.

This benefit was created by the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act of 2020. Under this policy, eligible individuals receive:

- Emergent suicide care provided by, paid for, or reimbursed by VA.
- Expanded access and eligibility (Individuals do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit).
- Assurance that they will not be responsible for costs associated with emergency suicide care, including emergency transportation.
- Referral for appropriate VA programs and benefits they may be eligible for following the period of emergent suicide care.

To use this benefit, any eligible individual who is experiencing an emergency suicidal crisis should go to the nearest ER as soon as possible — transportation costs are covered by VA — and tell the ER staff that they are covered by this policy. The ER staff or someone acting on the individual's behalf should notify VA right away by calling 844-724-7842 (TTY: 711) or using [VA's Emergency Care Reporting \(ECR\) portal](#).

If an eligible individual receives a bill for community care after receiving emergency care during or after a suicidal crisis that they believe should be covered by VA, they should contact VA's customer service center as soon as possible at 877-881-7618.

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive free, confidential support and crisis intervention available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Dial 988 then Press 1, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](#), or text 838255.



National Commissions and Committees

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

Americanism Commission

Chris Casey, Chairman

Third Monday Bi-Monthly

October 16, 2023 | December 18, 2023

February 19, 2024 | April 15, 2024

June 17, 2024 | August 19, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 935 4066 0918 | Passcode: 571 659

Century Committee

Joe Gladden, Chairman

Second Tuesday Bi-Monthly

October 10, 2023 | December 12, 2023

March 13, 2024 | April 9, 2024

June 11, 2024 | August 13, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 919 4714 3789 | Passcode: 241 429

Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Mark Nave, Chairman

Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly

September 21, 2023 | November 16, 2023

January 18, 2024 | March 21, 2024

May 16, 2024 | July 18, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 984 7031 4786 | Passcode: 780 858

Children & Youth Committee

Joseph Lohman, Chairman

Second Monday Bi-Monthly

September 11, 2023 | November 13, 2023

January 8, 2024 | March 11, 2024

May 13, 2024 | July 8, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 951 1622 6587 | Passcode: 799 095

Finance Commission

William G. Hill, Chairman

Third Thursday as scheduled

September 21, 2023 | February 15, 2024

April 18, 2024 | July 18, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 966 1733 0121 | Passcode: 463 702

Internal Affairs Commission

Christopher Michel, Chairman

Fourth Thursday Bi-Monthly

October 26, 2023 | December 28, 2023

February 22, 2024 | April 25, 2024

June 27, 2024 | August 22, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 932 2650 4089 | Passcode: 725 519

**DEVOTION TO
MUTUAL
HELPFULNESS**

By Jeff Vinick, Sr.

Legislative Commission

Blair Miles, Chairman

Second Thursday Bi-Monthly

October 12, 2023 | December 14, 2023

February 8, 2024 | April 11, 2024

June 13, 2024 | August 8, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 937 1376 7924 | Passcode: 172 912

Member Training & Development Committee

Michael Cotton, Chairman

First Monday Bi-Monthly

September 4, 2023 | November 6, 2023

January 1, 2024 | March 4, 2024

May 6, 2024 | July 1, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 957 9605 2218 | Passcode: 528 704

Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Daryl VerStreate Jr., Chairman

Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly

September 19 2023 | November 21, 2023

January 16, 2024 | March 19, 2024

May 21, 2024 | July 16, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 989 3388 3350 | Passcode: 546 900

The current SAL membership report can be accessed on the national website at www.legion.org/membership/standings.

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

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

National Convention Committee

Christopher Byrd, Chairman
Second Tuesday Bi-Monthly

September 12 2023 | November 14, 2023
January 9, 2024 | March 12, 2024
May 14, 2024 | July 19, 2024

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

Meeting ID: 953 4866 3402 | Passcode: 670 002

Public & Media Communications Committee

Kevin Chaplin, Chairman
Fourth Tuesday Bi-Monthly

October 24, 2023, | December 26, 2023
February 27, 2024 | April 23, 2024
June 25, 2024 | August 27, 2024

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

Meeting ID: 914 4414 8114 | Passcode: 977 759

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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

Legion posts stepping up for their communities this weekend

The American Legion | January 15, 2024

Two American Legion posts will be opening their doors this weekend to assist others, with a focus on mental health at one post, and on delivering cold-weather assistance at the other.

In Sabattus, Maine, American Legion Post 135 will host a veterans resource fair from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Jan. 20. Multiple resources will be on hand to provide information on mental health questions, as well as to share info on American Legion programs such as the Legion Riders, and other community entities. A Department of Veterans Affairs representative will also be available to answer questions about potential veterans benefits, enrolling in VA health care and more. For more information about the event, click [here](#).



And in Washington, Edmonds American Legion Post 66 will be accepting donations of food and cold weather clothing items to assist Snohomish County

veterans in need during a drop-off event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 20.

The post is asking community members to stop by the post with non-perishable food items, as well as clothing such as hats, gloves, socks, sweaters, and coats. Donated items will be distributed to veterans by the Lynnwood Heroes Café.

“There are over 50,000 veterans in Snohomish County, and many of them need help during winter due to difficult circumstances,” [Post 66 Commander Dan Mullene told My Edmonds News](#).

The post also will accept used American flags, which it will dispose of properly at a later date.

Join virtual training on Buddy Checks

The American Legion | January 17, 2024

Since The American Legion’s Buddy Check program started in 2019, more than 1 million veterans have been checked on by members of the Legion Family. The Internal Affairs and Membership Division is conducting its January Training Tuesday on Buddy Checks – why they are important, how to conduct them, and how they can save the life of a veteran in connection with the Legion’s suicide prevention mission of Be the One.

The Buddy Check training session will be Tuesday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. Eastern. [Register here](#).

The American Legion has refreshed its Buddy Check toolkit and created a new door hanger to help you show veterans that you care about their well-being. Visit legion.org/buddycheck to download the following tools:

- [Buddy Check Toolkit](#) that explains the program, provides steps to conducting a successful Buddy Check, gives sample scripts and more.
- [Buddy Check doorhanger](#) that is printer-friendly and can be customized as a leave-behind when Legion Family members visit a veteran who is not at home.



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



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RIDERS



Kansas ALR chapter keeping tabs on community’s aging veterans

The American Legion | January 17, 2024

Last November, members of American Legion Riders Chapter 140 in Lindsborg, Kan., provided an escort for a World War II veteran celebrating his 100th birthday riding in a 1942 Cadillac limousine.

That ride – and the interaction with the veteran – has led the chapter to take on an even larger role with the aging veterans in the community.

Since providing the escort for U.S. Marine Corps veteran Will Vargus, members of Chapter 140 have been spending Tuesday evenings visiting Vargus and the other veterans living at Bethany Village, a non-profit continuing care community in Lindsborg. Chapter 140 Director Kyle Ableman Sr. said it's a chance to learn more about those veterans while also providing some assistance.

"We've been meeting with other veterans and helping them with any needs they have," Ableman said. "We've been setting up some service officer meetings. Just making sure they have everything they need."

The Tuesday meetings came about after Chapter 140 learned about Vargus' wish to ride in the limo and volunteered to provide an escort. The Riders followed alongside the Cadillac while members of the community came out of their homes [to observe the procession](#) and honor Vargus.

"It's a pretty small town, and a lot of the town turned out on the side streets with flags and put their hands over their hearts," Ableman said. "There were veterans saluting. It was just an amazing ride."

"And it turns out that Will used to ride motorcycles back in the day. He was super excited. He and I got to spend a few minutes talking before the ride. He was telling me about his motorcycles and how he missed it. Seeing his excitement ... and then this all just bloomed from there."

Ableman said in addition to providing assistance, meeting with the veterans at Bethany Village is a chance to talk about shared experiences and learn more about the veterans. "I think it's our duty to remember those veterans," he said. "That's pretty much in everything we say we do as Legion Riders: supporting veterans, community, and everything like that. This is really important to all of us."

"We've heard a lot about veterans being forgotten in homes. To see these guys happy that we come and hang out with them Tuesday nights ... we talk about everything. Their history. There are some amazing stories we can get from some of these veterans."



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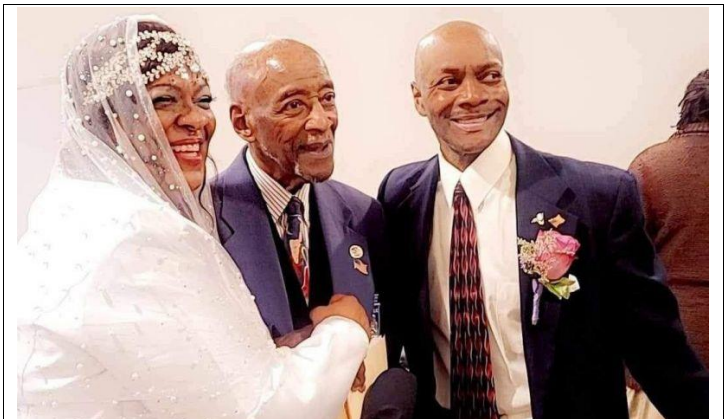


Lisa Williamson,
National President
The American Legion Auxiliary

New York Auxiliary member coordinating Black History Month event to honor veterans

The American Legion | January 17, 2024

Oaré Beyah is a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 229 in Utica, N.Y., through the military service of her father, a U.S. Army veteran who has passed away. Beyah said her service through the Auxiliary – which includes serving as Unit 229's chaplain – is a way to both honor and remember her father.



Auxiliary Unit 229 Chaplain Oaré Beyah (left) and U.S. Army veteran Steve Taylor (right) are co-organizing a Black History Month event to honor Black veterans.

photo provided

An extension of that is an event Beyah is coordinating for Black History Month. On Feb. 3, a day-long event in the area will serve as a tribute to Black veterans in the area.

The day will start with a tribute ceremony honoring Black veterans at the Raymour and Flanigan Furniture and Mattress Store in nearby Yorkville, which will be followed in the afternoon by a memorial wall display honoring the service and sacrifice of veterans at the Carol L. Crooms Cultural Center in Utica. The entire event is open to the public.

Beyah said the day is an opportunity to honor both her father's service and the service of all Black veterans.

"We owe an immense debt of gratitude to the Black veterans who have valiantly served our country," Beyah said. "This event is our way of recognizing their unwavering commitment and honoring their sacrifices made to protect our nation and its freedoms.

"It's personal for me because I miss my father so much. It's a way to extend his legacy. And it's also something I teach in my grief care class. When we grieve so deeply for a loved one, this is a way to express our grief: to extend the love that we've shared with those that have gone on."

Beyah said last fall she'd attended another event in the area and noticed a lack of Black veterans in attendance. She hopes that will change with the Feb. 3 event. "We have a lot of (Black veterans) here, but they just don't fellowship with one another," she said. "Socialization is vital to them, because a lot of them ... don't know who to reach out to. So, I'd say it's very important for them to do something like this – and for the community as a whole. We don't know what our history is."

Beyah credited Utica resident Steven Taylor – the first Black elected to the Utica City Council – with being a driving force to make the event happen. Taylor served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War but served stateside. He said his appreciation for those who served in Vietnam grew after the war ended, and he hopes the Feb. 3 event can show them that appreciation.

"When I got out of the service, it was right around the time where the veterans were coming back from Vietnam," Taylor said. "They made an impression on me. They didn't treat me differently – 'you didn't go over (to Vietnam). You weren't in a battle.' They embraced me. And they would embrace us young, new veterans, as if we were their young brothers. They looked out for us.

"And they didn't show any signs of fatigue and struggle and pain. But it was a part of their lives. They don't like to talk about it, but they were very sensitive about what they'd been through. So I thought (the event) was an opportunity for a healing of some sort. Let's let these veterans know we appreciate them. We know what they've went through, and we're going to forever honor the service that they gave to this country. This is deeply personal to me as a veteran."



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Sports

Unique schedule for Legion Baseball in Iowa

Richard Walker | January 17, 2024

Iowa's place in American Legion Baseball history will always be strong if for no other reason than the first ALB alumnus to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame is the legendary Bob Feller, from Van Meter, Iowa.

The state, at least since 1946, has held a unique distinction in national American Legion Baseball competition as the only state that plays its regular season games in the spring and not the summer.

The logistics of such a schedule would seem to create a competitive disadvantage for Iowa's teams when they begin national competition.

Recent American Legion World Series coach Andy Volz of Cedar Rapids Post 671 isn't sure if it is or isn't. "That's a good question," Volz said during Post 671's 2023 ALWS appearance in Shelby, N.C. "Somebody a lot smarter than me should answer that. I like it in the summer because when we watch our kids play, we don't freeze to death, and we can get 40 games in.

"But is it an advantage or disadvantage for Legion baseball or travel baseball? I really don't know."

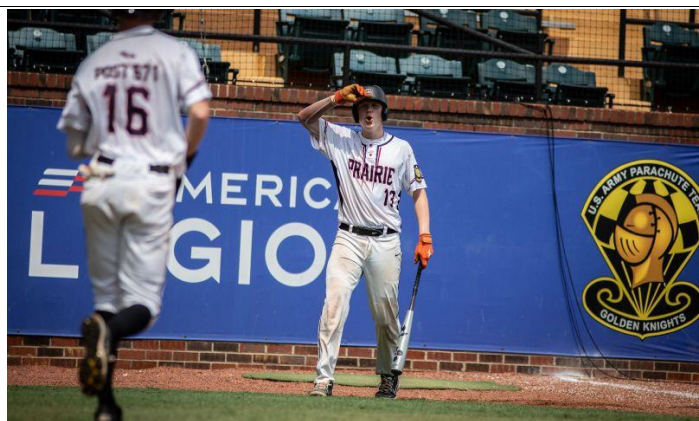
On the field, at least recently, it hasn't proved to be a disadvantage.

Iowa's state champion has made three ALWS appearances since 2018: Dubuque County in 2018 and 2021 and Cedar Rapids last August.

The 2018 team snapped a 32-year ALWS drought as Cedar Rapids' old Post 5 team had made the state's five appearances from 1971 to 1986. Waterloo Post 138 was the state's first ALWS participant in 1964.

The nature of the American Legion Baseball schedule for Iowa teams has been altered over the years.

When regular season games were moved to the spring in 1946, after high school competition was held in the summer months, the top ALB teams played a state tournament in early August to determine the national participant.



Shraden Lechtenberg of Cedar Rapids, IA. Post 671 celebrates after a run by Kade Knock of Cedar Rapids, IA. Post 671 during Game 2 of The 2023 American Legion World Series at Veterans Field at Keeter Stadium in Shelby, N.C., on Thursday, August 10
Chet Strange/The American Legion

Three times in the last four years, Iowa's ALB state tournament was simply played in the first week of May, shortly after the regular season competition had ended.

"We start in the middle of March, weather permitting, and we finish in the first of May," Volz said. "After our state tournament, the guys go on and play for their high schools and we pick them up about a week and a half before the regionals and get ready to play."

Last season, Post 671 defeated defending state champion Merville Post 303, 10-6, in the title game on May 7 at Cedar Rapids.

"They did it that way because of the high school season," Volz said. "They found that in the past a lot of kids wanted to go on vacation and not complete the season with their Legion teams. So the Iowa Legion made the decision to do the tournament before the high school season."

Last summer, Post 671 didn't play a game from May 7's state tournament championship until Aug. 2, the first game of the Great Lakes Regional in Midland, Mich.

Not that the time off had an impact as Cedar Rapids rolled to five straight regional wins to advance to the ALWS.

Iowa teams will continue on with their schedule as the Iowa High School Athletic Association voted in support of keeping that schedule last August.



American Legion Baseball enjoys a reputation as one of the most successful and tradition-rich amateur athletic leagues. Today, the program registers more than 5,400 teams in all 50 states, including Canada and Puerto Rico.



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The American's Creed

Resolution passed by U.S. House of Representatives

April 9, 1918

I believe in the United States of America, as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

by William Tyler Page

**SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**



Sons of The American Legion Membership Application

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____ Date _____

Name _____ Recruited by _____

(First) (Initial) (Last) (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 _____

Guide available to conduct Four Chaplains Sunday service

The American Legion | January 16, 2024

On Feb. 3, 1943, the U.S. Army Transport Dorchester was hit by a German U-boat torpedo as it was transporting troops in the North Atlantic to an American base in Greenland. The ship sank, killing 672 of the 902 officers and enlisted men, merchant seamen and civilian workers aboard. But for those who survived, they were left with the memory of the courage and leadership exhibited by four chaplains of different faiths, who, in sacrificing their lives, created a unique legacy of brotherhood.

As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, Rev. George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Rev. Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic) comforted the wounded and directed others to safety. One survivor watched the chaplains distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men. As the Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.



On or about Feb. 3 each year, American Legion posts nationwide commemorate the selfless acts of the Four Chaplains on

that year's designated Four Chaplains Day; this year, Four Chaplains Sunday is Feb. 4. Posts wanting to conduct a Four Chaplains service can use our [Four Chaplains Sunday guide](#), which is free and available to download.

Those posts doing so are encouraged to reach out to local newspapers, radio and TV stations, and social media to increase interest and possible media coverage, as well as share their story and photos from the service at www.legiontown.org.



Central Region Extravaganza

Columbus, Ohio

April 5 - 7, 2024

In the next few weeks, registration will open for the Central Region Extravaganza 2024. The event will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2024 at the Embassy Suites Columbus Airport. There will be events planned for both Friday and Saturday evenings, as well as a great day of training and educational opportunities.

If you would like to be a presenter, or have a topic you would like covered, please send an email to jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com.

Please keep an eye out for more information, and we hope to see you in Columbus!



Detachment of Ohio Commander David L. Dilts looks on as National Vice-Commander Central Robert Bristo brings greetings to The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio during the Ohio American Legion Family Mid-Winter Conference January 19-21, 2024

Jeff Vrabel Sr.

Squadron Everlasting

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

John T. White



AKWESASNE (WWNY) - John T. White, known to many as "Johnny Bullets," 83, of St. Regis Road, peacefully passed away Friday afternoon, January 12, 2024

in the comfort of his home with the love of his family at his side.

Johnny Bullets was born on April 18, 1940 in St. Regis, Quebec the son of the late Thomas and Elsie (Terrance) White and attended Bombay schools. On October 31, 1970, he married Gladys M. Oakes in Boston Hills, New York.

At age 15, Bullets started working as an ironworker, working throughout the country with several locals, but most of his work career was with Local 440 in Utica and Local 6 in Buffalo. Bullets was also a skilled musician and was one of the founding members of the Thunder-tones. Not only a musician, but he was also a song writer and was the first musician to play live on the New CKON radio station. He was also a talented builder and was extremely creative which is evident around his house with the many "gadgets." He was a member of the Akwesasne Death Benefits, Moose Lodge, and Sons of the American Legion.

Bullets is survived by his wife, Gladys; his children, Dickie and Jamie Oddo of Snye, Bart and Carrie Oddo of Tuscarora, Tammy White, and Danny Lazore of Akwesasne, and Char White and Atonwa Benedict; 10 grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by two brothers, James "Spike" White and Andrew White.

Friends may call at the Akwesasne Homemakers beginning at 1:00 PM Tuesday until the time of services on Wednesday at 11:00 AM with Rev. Jerome Pastores, officiating. Following cremation, burial will be held in St. Lawrence

Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing may consider memorial contributions be made to the Akwesasne Homemakers.

Arrangements are under the care and guidance of the Donaldson Funeral Home, Massena, where friends may share memories and offer condolences online at www.donaldsonfh.com.

James Robert White



James Robert "Jimmy" White, 79, of Uniontown, passed away peacefully, with his loving family by his side, Thursday, January 11, 2024, in the Uniontown Hospital.

He was born January 9, 1945, in Uniontown, a son of late Robert and Dorothy Crago White.

He is survived by his high school sweetheart and loving wife of 60 years, Karen Huber White; and his three daughters, Amy Jo Ambrisco (Brian), Debra Lynn White (Steve McGalla), and Lisa Marie Hampe (Michael); grandchildren, Matthew Hampe (Nikki), Kaley Kanuch, Ally Ambrisco, Jayce Hampe, and Tanner Ambrisco.

He was known and loved for his many attributes including Elvis Tribute Artist and honorary life member and commander of the Sons of the American Legion Post 51.

He also held the occupation as a machinist at Census for 51 years and was an ordained minister with Universal Life Church.

His additional hobbies included being a Sensei Shotokan karate instructor, and a member of the Fairchance Gun Club.

Family and friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, January 16, in the DONALD R. CRAWFORD FUNERAL HOME, Hopwood, where visitation continues from 10 until the 11 a.m. hour of service Wednesday, January 17.

Interment will follow in Sylvan Heights Cemetery.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be given to the American Legion Post 51, 508 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401.

Allen G. Chytracek



Allen "Cy" Chytracek, age 88, of Cannon Falls, died Saturday, January 13, 2024 at Cannon Rivers Senior Living.

Allen was born in Cannon Falls on April 20, 1935, the son of Albert and Margaret (Schiller) Chytracek. He was a lifelong resident of Cannon Falls, attending Cannon Falls High School. Following school, Cy worked as a truck driver for most of his career, and also had been in sales. In 1955, he was married to Joan Miller. They later were divorced. On November 18, 1982 Allen married Ione Lappi. As a youth, Cy attended St. Pius V Catholic Church in Cannon Falls.

Cy was an avid golfer, and also enjoyed outdoor sports such as hunting and fishing. He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion. Cy and Ione enjoyed time they spent on Mille Lacs Lake.

Survivors include his children Robin (Spencer) Stewart, Kathy (Todd) Swanson, and Jay (Donna) Chytracek; step-children Cheryl (Jim) Goettig, Steve Lappi, and Vicki (Dan) Teske; grandchildren Shelly (Craig) Ritz, Katie Danny Meyers, Cory (Eve) Friesen, Cody Chytracek, Angie (Cody) Henry, Aaron (Courtney) Stewart, Megan (fiancé Jake Armstrong) Johnson, Madison (Mike) Herrell, Carson Chytracek, and Tyler Chytracek; step-grandchildren Ashley Lappi, Olivia Teske, and Jesse Goettig; brother Dana Chytracek; many great-grandchildren; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Cy was preceded in death by his wife Ione, son Bret Chytracek, his parents, sisters Mary and Patty, and brothers Eugene and Jerry.

A memorial gathering will be held at the V. F. W. in Cannon Falls on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 from 3-6:00 pm, and Interment will be in the Cannon falls Cemetery in the Spring. Lundberg Funeral Home is assisting the family, and online condolences are welcome at www.LundbergFuneral.com.

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

Michael L. "Mike" Elder



LAMAR — Michael L. "Mike" Elder, 60, passed away on January 11, 2024.

He was born on March 26, 1963 to the late Elton and Bertha (Naviaux) Elder.

Mike was a 1981 graduate of Tell City High School. He was united in marriage on June 26, 1983 to Brenda Hagedorn, enjoying 40 years together.

Mike's love of football began in the seventh grade where he played through his senior year of high school. He enjoyed watching football, deer hunting, going to shooting matches and concerts at the Lincoln Amphitheater. He loved all dogs, especially his coon hounds and his special buddy, Pepper. A people person, Mike was outgoing and never met a stranger. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion Post #115.

Surviving is his wife, Brenda Elder of Lamar, and his sister, Lisa Graham (Steve) of Tell City.

Per Mike's request, there will be no services. Huber Funeral Home, Tell City is assisting the family with arrangements.

Condolences may be left online at www.huberfuneralhome.net.

Chester "Chuck" Gamble



Chester "Chuck" Junior Gamble, 67, of Watertown, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, January 15, 2024, after a sudden medical event.

He was born on February 6, 1956, in Watertown, New York, the son of Chester "Chet" and Joan (Baldwin) Gamble. He graduated from General Brown Central High School in 1976. After leaving school he worked several jobs, including at the Carriage House Restaurant and then Century Department Store before retiring due to a disability.

Chuck was a lifelong Buffalo Bills fan and was always rooting for his team. He enjoyed watching the New York Yankees and enjoyed watching NASCAR. He also liked

going for long walks, enjoying the great outdoors, and fishing.

He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion, Dexter American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Post 1400.

He is survived by his siblings: Jody Paige, Sackets Harbor; Billie (Fred) McAdam, East Aurora; Gail Torres, Dexter; a sister-in-law Jackie Gamble, Rome; several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews. Chuck is predeceased by his parents, a brother, Timi – who passed away unexpectedly on December 1, 2023, a brother-in-law, Donald Paige.

Despite the valiant efforts of family members, and compassionate medical professionals, Chuck's sudden passing has left a void in our hearts.

The family wishes to express deep appreciation to everyone who rushed to his aid, offering comfort during those critical moments.

Funeral arrangements are with Johnson Funeral Home, Dexter. There will be a Celebration of Life at the convenience of the family in the Spring.

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


To [send flowers](#) to the family or [plant a tree](#) in memory of Chester "Chuck" Gamble, please [visit our floral store](#).

Richard A. Slattman



CONTINENTAL – Richard A. Slattman, 74, of Continental, passed away at 7:44 a.m., Thursday, January 18, 2024, at Blanchard Valley Medical Center, Findlay. He was born August 17, 1949, in Lima to the late Augustus and Lois (Tracy) Slattman. On May 12, 1989, he married Brenda Long, who survives in Continental.

Other survivors include five children: Troy (Stephanie) Slattman of Napoleon, Tracy (Dennis) Potts, Tabby (Dean) Williamson, Sarah (Patrick) Llewellyn and David (Kelee) Slattman, all of Continental; twelve grandchildren: Taylor (Spencer), Trevor (Brooke), Hunter, Christopher, Gavin (Bree), Madelyn, Brayden, Elias, Elijah, Evie, Gus and Emelynn; two great-grandchildren: Lincoln and Zane; three siblings: Dave (Joanna) Slattman of Continental, Pam (Jimmy Helland) Sigler of Defiance and Sally (Mike) Guilford of Ottawa;



Know a baseball loving 10-12 year old interested in the American Legion World Series?

All applicants are **REQUIRED** to be currently playing (2024) in an organized baseball or softball program (Little League, Dixie, City Parks and Rec. program, etc.)



2024 Bat Boy/Bat Girl Applications Now Open!

Deadline to apply: April 15, 2024

and a sister-in-law, Judy Slattman of North Creek.

He was also preceded in death by two siblings: Gary Slattman and Ida Ankney.

Richard was a retired truck driver and lifelong farmer. He was also a partner in the former Lucky Lanes & Lounge Bowling Alley in Continental. He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion, Continental. He enjoyed softball, golf, and bowling. Richard loved spending time with his friends and family, especially his grandchildren.

Funeral service will begin 11:00 a.m., Monday, January 22, 2024 at HEITMEYER FUNERAL HOME, Continental with Wade Tannehill officiating. Burial will follow at Monroe Cemetery, Continental. Visitation will be held from 2 to 8 p.m. on Sunday and one hour prior to the service on Monday at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Continental Fire Department.

Condolences may be expressed at www.heitmeyerfuneralhome.com.



RENEW!

If you would like to see Round-Up continue, please consider making a donation to offset expenses.

Thank you!

Jeff Vrabel Sr

@Jeff-VrabelSr



venmo

AMERICAN LEGION



Daniel J. Seehafer,
National Commander
The American Legion

Congress must pass spending bill to ensure national security

January 19, 2024

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

Once again, the Department of Defense (DoD) may be faced with another continuing resolution (CR), which would compromise national defense strategy and undermine improving quality of life issues for servicemembers.

In essence, a CR would cap funding at the previous year's levels, providing none of the approved increases and preventing any new programs from beginning that were authorized in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024.

This comes at a time when America is facing multiple national security threats such as China's aggression, Russian provocation and the possibility of the Israel-Hamas war spreading.

It is not the time to be reducing our military capability. But that is exactly what the CR would do.

Consider this: Under a CR, our nation's defense programs would receive \$26.6 billion (3%) less than the \$886.3 billion authorized by the NDAA.

This stop-start-stop-start game also disrupts the hard-working employees of DoD, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). They are the backbone to the services provided to our veterans and the defense of our nation. Their ability to carry out their critical work should not be subjected to the whims of a polarized Congress.

Speaking of Congress, I am scheduled to provide testimony on behalf of our great organization on March 13. If Congress does not sufficiently pass funding to

support our military and VA, you better believe I will make our feelings known loud and clear.

After all, resolution after resolution opposes such inaction by Congress. Among them:

- Our steadfast support for improving quality of life for servicemembers and their families, [Resolution 85](#), approved by the National Executive Committee (NEC) in August 2016.
- Our call for a DoD budget, based on the 2022 National Defense Strategy, [Resolution 11](#), approved by the NEC last May.
- Our military commitments in the Indo-Pacific region, [Resolution 118](#), approved by the NEC in August 2018.

Last but not least, the CR would present a devastating setback for operations by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). In order to fulfill ongoing missions, DPAA received a \$40 million increase in budgeting for FY24. But that would be wiped out due to the CR. Another CR will only continue to hurt our national security.

There is no better time than right now to do the right thing for America, its military members, and their families. Congress must pass an actual spending bill to ensure our military is properly funded throughout this year.

Daniel J. Seehafer, National Commander
The American Legion

Legionnaires encouraged to engage in promoting voting but remain non-political during election cycle

The American Legion | January 18, 2024

This year ushers in a presidential election. And while American Legion posts are encouraged to promote ["Get Out the Vote" \(GOTV\) efforts](#), it is important to remember to remain nonpartisan in the process.

The American Legion is a nonpolitical, nonpartisan organization but advocates for all U.S. citizens to register and vote in all elections. The American Legion does not show preference for or against any particular candidate or political party.



With that mind, here are some dos and don'ts for Legionnaires and posts to follow during the election cycle.

1. **Can I wear my American Legion cap to a political event?** No. The American Legion cap is considered the official legion uniform (see p. 38 of [2024 Officer's Guide](#)). If attending a political event, The American Legion cap, or any clothing with The American Legion emblem visible, must be removed so as not to imply any endorsement by The American Legion.
2. **Can we use our American Legion post for a political event?** When using post facilities to host any candidates, the post must remove American Legion emblems and American Legion flags to avoid any impression of endorsements. Candidates for all parties must be presented equal opportunity to use the facilities on the same terms and conditions as other competing candidates.
3. **Can I get The American Legion at the local, state, and national level to support a candidate running for Congress or any political office?** No. In Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution of The American Legion, "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment." Additionally, the National Charter, approved by Congress, stipulates The American Legion as an organization is nonpolitical. Therefore, The American Legion as an organization is never to help or endorse a candidate. However, you, as a private citizen and not speaking for the organization, can do whatever is legal and ethical to advance his/her candidacy.

Lawmakers race to approve temporary funding bill to keep VA offices open

Svetlana Shkolnikova /Stars and Stripes | January 18, 2024

The threat of a partial government shutdown is looming over Congress this week as lawmakers race to pass a temporary spending bill that would keep Department of Veterans Affairs offices open.

A stopgap spending measure needs to pass the Senate and the House by Friday to maintain funding for veterans affairs, military construction and other federal agencies and programs without interruption.

The Senate on Tuesday night took the first step in advancing a bill to extend funding for the agencies through March 1 and aims to pass the legislation on Thursday. But the House has yet to take action.

The bill, announced by congressional leaders on Sunday, would also keep spending levels flat for the Defense Department through March 8 as lawmakers negotiate a \$1.66 trillion bipartisan funding agreement for all agencies for the rest of the fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30.



Carlos Bongioanni/Stars and Stripes

Senate Majority Chuck Schumer warned Wednesday that chaos in the House, where hard-right conservatives have rebelled against spending measures that do not contain cuts or immigration reform, could derail the legislation.

Members of the House Freedom Caucus, a group of far-right Republicans, have said they would prefer a shutdown to a continuation of the spending priorities of the previous Democrat-led Congress, calling the stopgap bill a "surrender."

"Only in the bizarre world of the hard right is it a surrender to keep the government open," Schumer said.

“Only in the twisted logic of MAGA extremism is it a disaster to extend funding so that VA offices remain open, food inspectors remain on the job, nutrition funding remains in place.”

The impact of a shutdown on the VA would be largely limited to several thousand employee furloughs and the shuttering of offices that provide career counseling and transition-assistance services, including the GI Bill hotline.

Medical centers would remain open and medical and benefits processing work would continue because Congress in 2022 approved advanced funding for them through the fall.

If a stopgap spending bill is not passed by Feb. 2, however, paychecks to troops would stop and Defense Department employees would be furloughed. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., has faced pressure from far-right Republicans to renege on the temporary spending deal but said Wednesday that a stopgap measure was necessary to give Republicans more time to insert conservative priorities into final budget legislation.

“We’re not going to get everything that we want but we’re going to stick to our core conservative principles,” he said. “We’re going to advance fiscal stewardship. I regard this as a down payment on real reform.”

The spending fight ahead will involve the 2024 budget for the Pentagon and the VA as well as 10 other appropriations bills.

The House’s version of the defense spending bill contained measures considered nonstarters in the Senate, including provisions that would overturn the Pentagon’s abortion access policy for troops and slash Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin’s salary to \$1. An effort to insert the abortion access ban into the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act was ultimately rejected by lawmakers during bipartisan, bicameral negotiations. The legislation, which outlines policies for the Pentagon, was approved by Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden last month.

Legion Family members take part in MLK Day of Service events

The American Legion | January 18, 2024

During her official visit to the Department of Delaware, American Legion Auxiliary National President

Lisa Williamson was able to take part in a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service event at American Legion Post 28 in Millsboro.



Post 28 Facebook photo

Williamson enjoyed joining with the more than 70 other volunteers who took part in the event and exemplify the service to community that was promoted by King. But she also came away impressed with the way the American Legion Family at Post 28 works together – something she’s always promoted.

“That Legion Family at Post 28, they do everything. And they do everything well,” Williamson said. “And they do it as a family. They epitomize family. And if you were to look it up in the dictionary, that’s going to be them for Legion Family. That’s what I think all Legion Families across the country should strive to be.”

Members of Post 28’s Legion Family hosted a food drive, putting together more than 200 grocery bags filled with food that will be delivered to the Wilmington VA Medical Center. The collected items will be distributed to veterans who are facing food insecurity. Delaware State Rep. Jeff Hilovsky, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel, also took part in the event, which garnered [local media coverage](#), including [video](#).

Williamson said it was fortuitous that her visit coincided with the service event. “They know I’m a person who likes to roll up her sleeves and participate in projects,” she said, while noting that it wasn’t just a Legion Family event. “They had people from the local hospital helping. They had Rotary Club members there. It was kids. Little kids. And it was teaching them from the get-go that you give back to your communities. It was incredibly heart-warming.”

The following are a few examples of how American Legion Family members commemorated Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Posts who participated in or

hosted MLK Day events are encouraged to share their photos and stories at www.legiontown.org.

Alabama

In Dothan, members of American Legion Post 12 took part in the city's annual MLK Day March.

Florida

- In West Augustine, members of Alton Green Memorial American Legion Post 194 hosted an event that included a presentation from Bernice Harper, who took part in the Civil Rights Movement. The event also included board games, free food, and music.
- In Orlando, members of American Legion Riders Chapter 331 took part in the downtown Orlando MLK Parade.

Michigan

In Dexter, American Legion Post 557 used Martin Luther King Jr. Day to give back through a Red Cross blood drive at the post.

New Jersey

In Burlington, American Legion Post 336 hosted an MLK event that included a speech from State Sen. Troy Singleton and a meal.

North Carolina

In Charlotte, American Legion Post 262 teamed with Revive Church to conduct an MLK Empowering the Community and Resources Event. The event provided free items for children, baby baskets and other resources.

South Carolina

In Laurens, American Legion Post 25 partnered with Keep Laurens County Beautiful and Presbyterian College students for an MLK Day of Service community cleanup in the Watts Mill area.

"We are honored to join hands with Keep Laurens County Beautiful and the dedicated students from Presbyterian College for this MLK Day of Service cleanup," [Post 25 Commander Kevin Farnsworth said prior to the event](#). "Let's make it a day on, not a day off, by working together to enhance the beauty and cleanliness of the Watts Mill community."

Texas

In San Antonio, Fred Brock Post 828's Legion Family joined with others for a wreath-laying ceremony at Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza. The post's annual

MLK Veterans Coffee Social was to follow but had to be cancelled because of inclement weather.



National Vice-Commander Robert Bristo addressing members during the Detachment of Ohio Mid-Winter Conference on January 20, 2024. Officers behind NVC Bristo are Det. Chaplain Todd Bidlack, 2VC Jeff Vrabel Jr., 1VC Tim Conway, NEC Gary Lang, Commander David L. Dilts, Adjutant Scott Thornton, and Asst. Adjutant Shane Eaton.

Jeff Vrabel Sr.



On Saturday, January 20, 2024, the Ohio Past Detachment Commanders Club held its annual Reverse Raffle at American Legion Don Gentile Post 532 in Columbus. This fundraiser benefits The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Following the raffle, National Vice-Commander Robert Bristo sang a few songs and played pool with fellow Sons.

Jeff Vrabel Sr.



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION TARGET DATE MEMO

January 19, 2024

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

“CONGRATULATIONS”

Thank you for all your efforts so far this membership year. Our standings as of our 60% membership target date (1-18-2024) are posted below:

2024 Membership Goal:	382,111
Total Membership:	287,071
Percentage of Goal:	75.13%
Renewal Percentage:	68.07%
Detachments making Goal:	53

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

AMAZING JOB!!

The remaining detachments should achieve this membership goal soon!

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

NEXT MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE: February 14, 2024 (75%)

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

2024 SAL 60% Target Date Membership Report: January 18, 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	-47	119	99.17%	89.92
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	-533	1,500	93.11%	81.61
3	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-345	990	92.09%	83.02
4	WISCONSIN	4,398	-1,239	3,878	88.18%	79.74
5	FRANCE	168	-46	147	87.50%	77.71
6	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	-372	1,314	83.69%	70.80
7	FLORIDA	23,066	-5,259	19,099	82.80%	70.17
8	LOUISIANA	1,821	-394	1,487	81.66%	75.47
9	IOWA	4,914	-968	3,916	79.69%	73.69
10	MARYLAND	16,803	-3,241	13,323	79.29%	72.70
11	OREGON	1,534	-289	1,209	78.81%	64.72
12	MINNESOTA	11,435	-2,121	8,982	78.55%	73.09
13	PUERTO RICO	156	-28	122	78.21%	73.20
14	GEORGIA	4,887	-881	3,813	78.02%	68.86
15	ILLINOIS	13,716	-2,414	10,644	77.60%	72.47
16	ALABAMA	2,100	-357	1,617	77.00%	66.88
17	CONNECTICUT	1,865	-316	1,435	76.94%	66.99
18	MISSISSIPPI	736	-124	566	76.90%	67.26
19	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-456	2,118	76.46%	63.89
20	VERMONT	3,920	-645	2,997	76.45%	71.73
21	OHIO	31,690	-5,142	24,156	76.23%	70.46
22	MICHIGAN	26,236	-4,249	19,991	76.20%	68.75
23	RHODE ISLAND	348	-56	265	76.15%	65.80
24	VIRGINIA	4,367	-692	3,312	75.84%	66.46
25	MONTANA	1,091	-172	827	75.80%	71.51
26	INDIANA	37,244	-5,695	28,041	75.29%	70.01
27	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	-9,371	47,019	74.94%	69.95
28	NEBRASKA	6,992	-1,033	5,228	74.77%	71.93
29	ARIZONA	8,595	-1,221	6,378	74.21%	62.34
30	DELAWARE	2,596	-358	1,916	73.81%	66.23
31	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	-781	4,397	72.96%	65.09
32	LATIN AMERICA	33	-4	24	72.73%	34.38
33	TENNESSEE	1,792	-220	1,295	72.27%	61.26
34	IDAHO	659	-80	475	72.08%	55.76
35	KANSAS	6,055	-714	4,347	71.79%	66.67
36	NEW YORK	30,663	-3,567	21,965	71.63%	65.83
37	MISSOURI	3,337	-364	2,366	70.90%	63.14
38	NEW JERSEY	9,662	-1,046	6,843	70.82%	63.30
39	CALIFORNIA	11,292	-1,221	7,996	70.81%	61.56
40	WYOMING	1,248	-131	880	70.51%	62.85
41	ARKANSAS	406	-42	286	70.44%	56.16
42	TEXAS	5,783	-506	3,976	68.75%	59.52
43	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	-434	3,693	67.99%	61.57
44	MAINE	2,757	-218	1,872	67.90%	59.96
45	ALASKA	1,740	-119	1,163	66.84%	55.79
46	NEVADA	387	-23	255	65.89%	56.71
47	NEW MEXICO	1,582	-92	1,041	65.80%	51.16
48	UTAH	460	-26	302	65.65%	61.26
49	COLORADO	2,952	-159	1,930	65.38%	56.40
50	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	-100	1,656	63.86%	56.30
51	DIST OF COL	91	-2	57	62.64%	59.09
52	WASHINGTON	2,682	-67	1,676	62.49%	50.17
53	OKLAHOMA	1,430	-35	893	62.45%	50.25
54	KENTUCKY	2,399	173	1,266	52.77%	45.05
55	PHILIPPINES	79	39	8	10.13%	8.86
Grand Totals:		382,111	-57,804	287,071	75.13%	68.07

2024 SAL Regional Breakdown

Western Region - James R. Fischer, Sr. (CA)

Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	120	119	99.17%
OREGON	1,534	1,209	78.81%
MONTANA	1,091	827	75.80%
ARIZONA	8,595	6,378	74.21%
LATIN AMERICA	33	24	72.73%
IDAHO	659	475	72.08%
CALIFORNIA	11,292	7,996	70.81%
WYOMING	1,248	880	70.51%
ALASKA	1,740	1,163	66.84%
NEVADA	387	255	65.89%
NEW MEXICO	1,582	1,041	65.80%
UTAH	460	302	65.65%
COLORADO	2,952	1,930	65.38%
WASHINGTON	2,682	1,676	62.49%
PHILIPPINES	79	8	10.13%
Totals:	34,454	24,283	70.48%

Southeast Region - Linwood A. Moore (VA)

Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	1,314	83.69%
FLORIDA	23,066	19,099	82.80%
LOUISIANA	1,821	1,487	81.66%
PUERTO RICO	156	122	78.21%
GEORGIA	4,887	3,813	78.02%
ALABAMA	2,100	1,617	77.00%
MISSISSIPPI	736	566	76.90%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	2,118	76.46%
VIRGINIA	4,367	3,312	75.84%
TENNESSEE	1,792	1,295	72.27%
ARKANSAS	406	286	70.44%
TEXAS	5,783	3,976	68.75%
Totals:	49,454	39,005	78.87%

Midwest Region - Terry A. Harris (KS)

Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	1,500	93.11%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	990	92.09%
IOWA	4,914	3,916	79.69%
NEBRASKA	6,992	5,228	74.77%
KANSAS	6,055	4,347	71.79%
MISSOURI	3,337	2,366	70.90%
OKLAHOMA	1,430	893	62.45%
Totals:	25,414	19,240	75.71%

Northeast Region - John R. Cook (NH)

Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	168	147	87.50%
MARYLAND	16,803	13,323	79.29%
CONNECTICUT	1,865	1,435	76.94%
VERMONT	3,920	2,997	76.45%
RHODE ISLAND	348	265	76.15%
PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	47,019	74.94%
DELAWARE	2,596	1,916	73.81%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	4,397	72.96%
NEW YORK	30,663	21,965	71.63%
NEW JERSEY	9,662	6,843	70.82%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	3,693	67.99%
MAINE	2,757	1,872	67.90%
DIST OF COL	91	57	62.64%
Totals:	143,078	105,929	74.04%

Central Region - Robert L. Bristo (MN)

Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,398	3,878	88.18%
MINNESOTA	11,435	8,982	78.55%
ILLINOIS	13,716	10,644	77.60%
OHIO	31,690	24,156	76.23%
MICHIGAN	26,236	19,991	76.20%
INDIANA	37,244	28,041	75.29%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	1,656	63.86%
KENTUCKY	2,399	1,266	52.77%
Totals:	129,711	98,614	76.03%

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

SONS OF THE
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01/18/24		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	39,005	(10,449)	78.87%	533		
2 Central 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	129,711	98,614	(31,097)	76.03%	1,712		
3 Midwest 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	25,414	19,240	(6,174)	75.71%	455		
4 Northeast 1, 4, 5	143,078	105,929	(37,149)	74.04%	3,424		
5 Western 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	34,454	24,283	(10,171)	70.48%	584		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	382,111	287,071	(95,040)	75.13%	6,708		

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
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01/18/24		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	3,878	(520)	88.18%	40	4	79.74%		
2 Minnesota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	11,435	8,982	(2,453)	78.55%	201	12	73.09%		
3 Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5, 6	13,716	10,644	(3,072)	77.60%	247	15	72.47%		
4 Ohio 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	31,690	24,156	(7,534)	76.23%	521	21	70.46%		
5 Michigan 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	26,236	19,991	(6,245)	76.20%	203	22	68.75%		
6 Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	37,244	28,041	(9,203)	75.29%	486	26	70.01%		
7 West Virginia 1, 5	2,593	1,656	(937)	63.86%	-	50	56.30%		
8 Kentucky 1, 4	2,399	1,266	(1,133)	52.77%	14	54	45.05%		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	129,711	98,614	(31,097)	76.03%	1,712				

01/18/24		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 Hawaii 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	120	119	(1)	99.17%	-	1	89.92%		
2 Oregon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,534	1,209	(325)	78.81%	10	11	64.72%		
3 Montana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,091	827	(264)	75.80%	2	25	71.51%		
4 Arizona 1, 4, 5	8,595	6,378	(2,217)	74.21%	87	29	62.34%		
5 Latin America 4	33	24	(9)	72.73%	8	32	34.38%		
6 Idaho 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	659	475	(184)	72.08%	5	34	55.76%		
7 California 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	11,292	7,996	(3,296)	70.81%	120	39	61.56%		
8 Wyoming 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,248	880	(368)	70.51%	1	40	62.85%		
9 Alaska 3	1,740	1,163	(577)	66.84%	188	45	55.79%		
10 Nevada 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	387	255	(132)	65.89%	-	46	56.71%		
11 New Mexico 5	1,582	1,041	(541)	65.80%	90	47	51.16%		
12 Utah 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	460	302	(158)	65.65%	3	48	61.26%		
13 Colorado 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2,952	1,930	(1,022)	65.38%	46	49	56.40%		
14 Washington 4, 5	2,682	1,676	(1,006)	62.49%	24	52	50.17%		
15 Philippines	79	8	(71)	10.13%	-	55	8.86%		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	34,454	24,283	(10,171)	70.48%	584				

01/18/24		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 South Carolina 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	1,570	1,314	(256)	83.69%	13	6	70.80%		
2 Florida 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	23,066	19,099	(3,967)	82.80%	301	7	70.17%		
3 Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,821	1,487	(334)	81.66%	6	8	75.47%		
4 Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	156	122	(34)	78.21%	8	13	73.20%		
5 Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	4,887	3,813	(1,074)	78.02%	16	14	68.86%		
6 Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	2,100	1,617	(483)	77.00%	2	16	66.88%		
7 Mississippi 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	736	566	(170)	76.90%	2	18	67.26%		
8 North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	2,770	2,118	(652)	76.46%	19	19	63.89%		
9 Virginia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	4,367	3,312	(1,055)	75.84%	87	24	66.46%		
10 Tennessee 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,792	1,295	(497)	72.27%	4	33	61.26%		
12 Arkansas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	406	286	(120)	70.44%	1	41	56.16%		
13 Texas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	5,783	3,976	(1,807)	68.75%	74	42	59.52%		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	49,454	39,005	(10,449)	78.87%	219				

01/18/24	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	1,500	(111)	93.11%	8	2	81.61%		
North Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,075	990	(85)	92.09%	-	3	83.02%		
Iowa 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	4,914	3,916	(998)	79.69%	40	9	73.69%		
Nebraska 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6,992	5,228	(1,764)	74.77%	249	28	71.93%		
Kansas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6,055	4,347	(1,708)	71.79%	125	35	66.67%		
Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3,337	2,366	(971)	70.90%	29	37	63.14%		
Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,430	893	(537)	62.45%	4	53	50.25%		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	25,414	19,240	(6,174)	75.71%	451				

01/18/24	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
France 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	168	147	(21)	87.50%	-	5	77.71%		
Maryland 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	16,803	13,323	(3,480)	79.29%	277	10	72.70%		
Connecticut 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,865	1,435	(430)	76.94%	4	17	66.99%		
Vermont 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	3,920	2,997	(923)	76.45%	72	20	71.73%		
Rhode Island 1, 2, 3, 4, 6	348	265	(83)	76.15%	6	23	65.80%		
Pennsylvania 4, 5	62,746	47,019	(15,727)	74.94%	1,803	27	69.95%		
Delaware 1, 4, 5	2,596	1,916	(680)	73.81%	22	30	66.23%		
New Hampshire 1, 2, 4, 5	6,027	4,397	(1,630)	72.96%	65	31	65.09%		
New York 1, 3, 4, 5	30,663	21,965	(8,698)	71.63%	137	36	65.83%		
New Jersey 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9,662	6,843	(2,819)	70.82%	814	38	63.30%		
Massachusetts 1, 3, 4, 5	5,432	3,693	(1,739)	67.99%	130	43	61.57%		
Maine 5	2,757	1,872	(885)	67.90%	88	44	59.96%		
Dist. of Columbia 4	91	57	(34)	62.64%	6	51	59.09%		
TOTALS 1, 4, 5	143,078	105,929	(37,149)	74.04%	3,424				

01/15/24		2024 SUPER SIX STANDINGS								
Detachment		Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1	Florida 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	23,066	19,099	(3,967)	82.80%	301	7	70.17%		
2	Ohio 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	31,690	24,156	(7,534)	76.23%	521	21	70.46%		
3	Michigan 1, 4, 5, 6	26,236	19,991	(6,245)	76.20%	203	22	68.75%		
4	Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	37,244	28,041	(9,203)	75.29%	486	26	70.01%		
5	Pennsylvania 4, 5	62,746	47,019	(15,727)	74.94%	1,803	27	69.95%		
6	New York 1, 3, 4, 5	30,663	21,965	(8,698)	71.63%	137	36	65.83%		
TOTALS		211,645	160,271	(51,374)	75.73%	3,451				

National Totals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	382,111	287,071	(95,040)	75.13%	10,926		68.07%		
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01/18/24		2024 LEADERSHIP STANDINGS								
Detachment		Det	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
Commander Hall		Maryland	16,803	13,323	(3,480)	79.29%	10	72.70%		
Vice-Commander Bristo		Minnesota	11,435	8,982	(2,453)	78.55%	12	73.09%		
Vice-Commander Moore		Virginia	4,367	3,312	(1,055)	75.84%	24	66.46%		
Vice-Commander Cook		New Hampshire	6,027	4,397	(1,630)	72.96%	31	65.09%		
Vice-Commander Harris		Kansas	6,055	4,347	(1,708)	71.79%	35	66.67%		
Trailing Candidate Clancy		New York	30,663	21,965	(8,698)	71.63%	36	65.83%		
Vice-Commander Fischer		California	11,292	7,996	(3,296)	70.81%	39	61.56%		
Leading Candidate Navaratte		New Mexico	1,582	1,041	(541)	65.80%	47	65.80%		



2024 National Membership Target Dates			
1 September 13, 2023	10%	6 ♥ February 14, 2024 ♥	75%
2 October 18, 2023	25%	7 March 13, 2024	80%
3 November 15, 2023	35%	8 April 10, 2024	90%
4 December 13, 2023	45%	9 May 15, 2024	100%
5 January 18, 2024	60%	10 July 24, 2024 (DSTG)	105%

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

2023 2024

INDIVIDUAL RECRUITMENT AWARD FORM (IRA)

Date

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

Recruiter Name Member ID#

Email Address

Phone Number Detachment Squadron #

☐ MAIL TO RECRUITER ☐ MAIL TO SQUADRON

Mailing Address

City State Zip

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMEN:

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

VISIT WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS/PUBLICATIONS FOR OTHER AWARDS AVAILABLE



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P: 317-630-1205

Make your Squadron a National Four Pillars Squadron

January - 2024

Happy New Year American Legion Family,

I hope everyone has had a safe holiday season and now is ready to get rolling in 2024. While 2023 saw the Sons reach a new all-time high in membership, we cannot spend too much time celebrating that. We need to use that as fuel to keep doing what we are and getting even better. I know by the commitment that we see from all of our members that this year can be better!! Thanks to everyone that is still working membership and knows how important it is to our organization.

Has your Squadron made plans to support the Four Pillars Challenge? If not, now is the time to do so; as you get rolling in 2024, make your Squadron a "National Four Pillars Squadron." Taking part in this challenge is truly doing exactly what we should all be doing, supporting the Four Pillars of The American Legion. Just a dollar a member based on 2023 ending membership to Operation Comfort Warriors (VA&R), Child Welfare Foundation (Children & Youth) your department's Boys State program (Americanism) and have or support a blood drive for National Security. You can do it!! Let's do it together and raise money and awareness of our programs of The American Legion Family. We have Squadrons that have completed the challenge and we say, "thank you." It's time we all "Step Up to The Challenge" to support The American Legion. We will make the effort to award Squadrons as the year goes on when leadership travels to your departments.

Washington Conference is just around the corner, and if you watch the news, you can see that in these times it is important that we stand up and fight for the rights of our veterans. Many say, "I will do anything to support our veterans," yet they don't get on the legislative bus and ride it. We need to make sure our elected officials know that we are part of the Legion Family, and we support the American Legion's agenda. "Representing More Than Me" is just that - your opportunity to help the members of your family and our veterans get what they deserve from our government. I look forward to seeing everyone in D.C. as we continue to work to make our organization strong.

God Bless The USA,

Donald L. "JR" Hall, Jr.

National Commander

Sons of The American Legion

"Representing More Than Me"