



Multiyear member open to 2025 renewals

The American Legion | January 22, 2024



Hilary Ott /The American Legion

If you renewed for the 2024 American Legion membership year prior to the new multiyear membership rollout on Dec. 4, you can now take advantage of a three-year membership starting with the 2025 membership year.

Visit legion.org/renew for the multiyear membership of 2025, 2026 and 2027.

Legionnaires still needing to renew for 2024 or veterans joining the organization for the first time can also lock-in a three-year membership (2024, 2025 and 2026) by visiting legion.org/renew or legion.org/join.

Here is what you need to know about the three-year membership:

- Multiyear membership sign-up is only available on the national American Legion website

(legion.org/renew and legion.org/join). Current or potential members cannot renew or join for a three-year membership at the post level or through MyLegion.org.

- Payment for the three-year membership will be upfront.
- There is not a discounted rate with the three-year membership.
- Membership cards will still be sent annually by Legion posts.
- Those who sign up for a multiyear membership will not receive a renewal notice during the time they have signed up for the multiyear membership.

Please note that the multiyear membership will work just like PUFL. Whatever rate the member renews at is what the post/department/national will receive for the duration of that timeframe. For example, if a member renews today (before national per-capita \$5 dues increase come July 1, 2024), National will receive \$18.50 for the next three years. For example, if a department's per capita is currently \$10 and is going to be raised to \$15 on July 1, 2024, then the department will receive the \$10 for the next three years. Once the member renews after the three-year renewal is up, the renewal rate will adjust to the rate at that time.



A multiyear membership was approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion during the organization's Spring Meetings last May. Resolution 1: Purchase of Multiple Years of Membership approves "a five-year pilot program offering the purchase of three consecutive 12-month member terms at the then current dues rate."

Round-Up

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

Christopher Carlton (IN)
Immediate Past National Commander

Joseph Navarrete (NM)
Leading Candidate for National Commander

William Clancy III (NY)
Trailing Candidate for National Commander

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

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

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

All information must be submitted by noon each Friday.

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

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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*

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 | [Team Vrabel](#)

click a button below for more information

JOIN THE SAL

RENEW
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 **CRE 24**
Central Region Extravaganza
Columbus, Ohio
April 6 - 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

“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?

Teamwork. Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success! Look at our success! January 18, 2024, we needed to hit our 60% goal. Great job Westside!!! Go Alaska,

Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Latin America, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming for hitting the goal. Great job all, we always come on strong. If you need any help or have any questions, please let me know. I am just a call or email away.

Teamwork is the secret that makes common people achieve uncommon results. Thanks again for everything you do for this great organization.

Trust

Energy

Attitude

Motivation

Respectfully For God and Country,

Dan Ashley, Western Region Membership Chairman

Terry A. Harris

Midwest National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

Fourth Wednesday Quarterly

September 27, 2023 | December 27, 2023

March 27, 2024 | June 26, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 924 0402 2733 | Passcode: 371 685

Linwood A. Moore

Southeast National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

First Wednesday Quarterly

September 6, 2023 | December 6, 2023

March 6, 2024 | June 5, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 945 1723 1230 | Passcode: 58543

**Mistakes are proof
that you're trying.**

Ernest Hemingway

Remembering the Greatest Generation

Harding Mallow



Harding Amos Mallow, age 103, a resident of Laurel Mountain, passed from this life Monday, January 22, 2024 at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, WV. He had been in failing health, but death was unexpected.

Harding was born August 17, 1920 in Montrose, a son of the late George Amos Mal-

low and Barbara Jane Smith Mallow. On October 4, 1952, he married the former Texie Bright who survives at home. Also left to cherish his memory are three children, Leon Mallow and wife Terry, Delores Moshuda, and husband Ralph (deceased) and Diane Parks and husband Steven, and grandson George Mallow and wife Katie. Also preceding him in death were six siblings, Guy Mallow, Carl Mallow, Hobart Mallow, Jess Mallow Simmons, Laura Mallow, and Bertha Mallow Lancaster, two infant brothers and son-in-law, Ralph Moshuda.

Harding was a 1940 graduate of Elkins High School and was a Veteran of World War II, serving in the US Coast Guard from August 1942 through October 1945. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree from Davis & Elkins College and a Master of Science Degree from West Virginia University. He taught school in Baltimore for one year and was a science teacher and assistant principal in the Randolph County Schools for thirty-one years.

Harding enjoyed gardening, woodworking, hunting, fishing and was truly at home with nature. He loved spending time with his family and friends.

Friends may call from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm Thursday, January 25, 2024 at the Tomblyn Funeral Home in Elkins. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 am Friday, January 26, 2024 from the funeral home chapel with Rev. Brian L. Seders officiating. Interment will follow at the Mountain State Memorial Gardens near Gilman where full military honors will be accorded at the gravesite by members of the United States Coast Guard, H.W. Daniels Post 29 American

Legion and Tygart Valley Post 3647 Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Kidney Fund, 11921 Rockville Pike, Suite 300, Rockville, MD 20852, <https://secure.kidneyfund.org> in memory of Harding.

The Tomblyn Funeral Home of Elkins is in charge of the arrangements for Harding Amos Mallow. Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.tomblynfuneralhome.com.

To [send flowers](#) to the family or [plant a tree](#) in memory of Harding Mallow, 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 or text 838255.

New York continues to promote Be the One

The American Legion | January 24, 2024

During his tenure as American Legion Department of New York commander from 2022 to 2023, David Riley Sr. [made it a point](#) to bring up the Legion's [Be the One](#) veteran suicide prevention program at all of his stops.

And when Timothy Collmer took over as department commander last summer, he wasn't going to let wane the attention Be the One was getting within the state. That's why he's also made the program a priority, including at the department's Mid-Winter Conference. Collmer briefed the media on Be the One and also announced the department was awarding two grants to organizations that assist at-risk veterans. Discussions also took place on how to recognize veterans who may be at risk and then urge them to receive help.

"Dave and I have been good friends for quite a few years," Collmer said. "(Be the One) was Dave's big thing last year, and I just carried it over. To me, it made sense: Continue on with what we've got going on and help as many veterans as we can along the way."



Department of New York Commander Tim Collmer talks to the media about Be the One during the department's Mid-Winter Conference.

Department of New York photo

A member of Daniel Goho Post 87 in Dansville, Collmer said part of every speech he delivers at Legion functions is on Be the One. For him, an experience assisting a veteran as a county service officer is why preventing veteran suicides is so important to him.

"I was on my way into work one morning, and he called me up and said, 'Tim, I've had enough. I'm going to commit suicide,'" he said. "I said, 'No, you're not.' I went right to his house, took the gun out of his hand, and took him into the office. I was with him until 3 o'clock in the morning at our Bath VA (Medical Center) making sure he got the help he needed. And so, for me, it's personal."

In the past two years, the Department of New York has awarded more than \$500,000 in grants to organizations directly helping veterans at risk of suicide or homelessness. The grants awarded during this year's conference were:

- \$100,000 to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation to fund creative arts therapy for struggling vets; and
- \$30,000 to High and Mighty Therapeutic Riding and Driving Center in Ghent, N.Y., to help fund equine therapy for vets with post-traumatic stress disorder.

"It's unbelievable how well (Be the One) has been received," Collmer said. "I think it's a great thing, and we need to keep on going with it and get those (suicide) numbers down. It needs to be done, and we're going to carry it on."



VA to award \$52.5 million in grants to local organizations working to prevent veteran suicide

The American Legion | January 25, 2024

Today, VA [announced](#) the availability of \$52.5 million in funding for grants to community-based organizations that provide or coordinate suicide prevention services for veterans and their families — including conducting veteran mental health screenings, providing case management and peer support services, delivering emergency clinical services, reaching out to veterans at risk of suicide, and [more](#).

These grants will be awarded through VA's [Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program](#). The [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) provides information about the program, eligibility, and award process. Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. E.T., April 26 and awards will be granted to eligible entities by Sept. 30, 2024. The funds will be used by the selected organizations in fiscal year 2025.

Since 2021, VA has worked aggressively to expand support for Veterans in crisis, including [offering no-cost health care to veterans in suicidal crisis at VA or non-VA facilities](#); [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](#). Moving forward, VA and the [Biden-Harris Administration](#) will continue to work urgently to end veteran suicide through a [public health approach](#) that combines both community-based and clinically based strategies to save lives.

"Veterans in crisis should always have access to the services and support they need — including mental health screenings, peer support, emergency services,

and more,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “There are countless great organizations across America that work side-by-side with VA to do this life-saving work, and we are proud to support their efforts.”

This will be the third round of grants awarded as part of VA’s [Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program](#). In September 2023, VA [awarded grants](#) totaling \$52.5 million to 80 community-based organizations in 43 states, Washington, D.C., Guam, and American Samoa. The grant program is named after Parker Gordon Fox, a sniper instructor who died by suicide at the age of 25.

Grant funding will be divided into two priorities. Under Priority 1, VA will provide opportunities for funding to those entities with existing SSG Fox SPGP awards. Under Priority 2, new organizations can apply for grants worth up to \$750,000. Following the selection of Priority 1 grantee applicants, any remaining funds will be awarded according to Priority 2. VA may prioritize the distribution of suicide prevention services grants under this priority to: (i) Rural communities; (ii) Tribal lands; (iii) Territories of the United States; (iv) Medically underserved areas; (v) Areas with a high number or percentage of minority veterans or women veterans; and (vi) Areas with a high number or percentage of calls to the Veterans Crisis Line.

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.

Rhode Island Legionnaire pays it forward with Be the One

The American Legion | January 26, 2024

Robert Laquerre joined The American Legion in April 2023 at 71 years old after making some life changes. He moved to Charlestown, R.I., and joined Post 34 where he found “a bunch of good people,” he said. “Everybody had a story. Everybody had their own set of circumstances that they had to deal with in their lives, and it was very touching and warming for me.”

As he began to learn about the Legion Family – Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion, Auxiliary and Legion Riders – the Marine Corps veteran “felt that we were all the same. That we were all one. And they are the ones who were here for me, and I wanted to pay that forward.”



American Legion Family members of Post 34 in Rhode Island pledge to Be the One.

[Legiontown.org](#)

When Laquerre heard about the Legion’s suicide prevention mission with [Be the One](#), he bought over 70 Be the One T-shirts for members of his post family. He then coordinated a photo of everyone in their shirts on Jan. 1 to pledge their support for Be the One in the new year.

It was an opportunity for Laquerre to support Be the One by showing “the world all these people who are special in my life what I see ... that everybody gets to see that our goal is to help everyone. It’s not just the Legionnaires. It’s the SAL, it’s the Auxiliary members. Listen to their stories and reach out to them when they need it. Give them a call. Ask how they’re doing. Do they need a ride someplace? Do you want to be with someone? (The photo) was a way to show appreciation to all those (Legion Family members) who helped me. Because they were the one for me.

“We can help spread the word that we can all Be the One for one another.”



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



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

Illinois American Legion sees a commitment to quality of care at state veterans home

[Cameran Richardson](#)

WATCH ON  YouTube

The nearly 300 veterans and their spouses residing at the historic Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy will soon have new state-of-the-art facilities to move into that will provide enhanced care and amenities for a better quality of life. A 251,000-square-foot long-term care facility and a 74,900-square-foot independent living facility are under construction as part of a \$300 million renovation and rehabilitation project funded by the state of Illinois.

“We’ve always cared for our veterans out here. This home has always been a great place for care,” said Dave Clifford, chief engineer at the Illinois Veterans Home overseeing the construction. “But we sure are glad what we are getting now will better care for these residents. These residents are coming from different theaters, different wars and their needs are changing. This facility will be flexible enough to change with those needs and meet those needs. That is important to us.”

Clifford and Administrator Chuck Newton gave a tour of the new construction to American Legion Department of Illinois leadership and National Vice Commander Mark Shreve of Georgia, who was visiting the department, on Jan. 19. Dressed in personal protective equipment, Shreve, Illinois Past National Commander and Department Adjutant Marty Conatser, Department Commander Delmar Buske, Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Michael Vozar, Auxiliary Department President Angie

Golightly, National Executive Committeeman Roy Weber, and others walked through the long-term care and independent living facility to see for themselves the state-of-the-art facilities veterans and their loved one will call home.

It was important for Conatser to bring department leadership to help spread the word throughout the state to other Legion Family members of the dedication being made at the 138-year-old home to improve care for veterans. “There is a real commitment being made here,” Conatser said. “A lot of our veterans don’t realize that they have made this big of a commitment to bring it up to a state-of-the-art facility. It’s going to be top-notch. This home will eventually be the standard of more of a home setting for our veterans instead of just a room to live in.”

Legion Family members boarded a bus to tour parts of the 211-acre campus and new facilities. They first visited the long-term care facility, which Clifford described by saying, “It’s not a clinical building. You’re going to think you’re home. It’s a unique facility.”

The long-term care facility will house 210 skill-care beds and provide full amenities, to include a movie theater, pub, and a café that the independent living residents will have full access to, verandas and a garden. It also has a state-of-the-art kitchen that will feed all residents, a pharmacy and an expansive laundry room that features a sheet folding and shirt-press machine. Shreve was impressed with the technology of a sheet folding machine.

“This is really a strong commitment to technology and improvement of the quality of life for our veterans,” he said. “I really love to see the improvements and everything that I look at in the lens of our veterans is really their quality of life, and what I see at this facility is a commitment to building that quality of life. And that when a veteran comes here, they’re going to be comfortable, they’re going to be calm and they’re going to be very happy with the things that go on here. If I was a veteran in Illinois, I would want to come here and have this as part of my future.”

Both facilities are designed to provide a home-like environment with hardwood floors, large windows that open, spacious living quarters, tile, woodgrain finishes, barn doors leading to the bathroom, quality finishes, electric fireplaces in the common areas, and more. A covered four-season walkway will connect the two facilities for veterans, their spouses, and staff to use.

The independent living facility will have 80 one-bedroom and studio apartments. Currently, residents living in the two domiciliary buildings were built in 1907 and 1909.

“This is a huge upgrade. Residents deserve this new infrastructure, without a doubt,” Clifford said, adding that the veterans are excited to move in. “The veterans love it. It’s that piece of candy that you reach for but can’t quite get to it yet, but you know it’s going to be good when you get it. They are seeing this project from start to finish. They want to get in those buildings sooner than later. And we want them in those buildings. There’s a hubbub all over campus.”

With the new infrastructure, Clifford is excited to provide the veterans a true dining experience. The food currently served is put in meal delivery trays that, because of transportation, is not always hot, and the same food is put on each tray unless there is a specific dietary need. Now, meals will be served hot and fresh from a buffet, on a real plate, that comes directly from the new high-end kitchen in the long-term care facility.

“It’s going to be a whole different meal experience,” he said. “We want to create an experience for them, and that’s what we are going to do.”

Part of that experience will be the residents will never seeing a commercial truck backed up to the property, as it will all be done in a tunnel system in the back of the long-term care facility. “It’s a neat thing that we are doing here,” Clifford said. “I expect that this home will be an example for a boiler plate for the homes coming up in the future for federal VA homes. I really do see it. It’s going to be a beautiful home.”

The new facilities will be a welcome addition to the beautiful campus that the historic Illinois Veterans Home sits on.

Built in 1886 to serve disabled veterans of the Mexican and Civil War, the Illinois Veterans Home sits on 211 acres of land and is the largest and oldest veterans’ home of the five in Illinois. Among the many things, the property features a chapel, museum, lake in the shape of Illinois for residents to fish, deer park, cemetery where 7,600 men and women are buried, and many historical buildings. The home used to be self-sustained from the city with its own cattle, gardens, coal-burning power plant and water system.

There is an activities director onsite to keep the residents engaged, while the home also hosts a car and tractor show, among other things. Plus, the physical

therapy building has a 94-degree pool with a floor that rises and lowers for aquatic wheelchairs; only one of two in the state. “It’s a great place to live. It really is,” Clifford said.

And The American Legion is a great supporter of the home. A past American Legion Operation Warriors grant provided nine televisions, an Auxiliary member is on staff, and an American Legion pavilion with a large hand-laid stone fireplace overlooks the lake that was the project of Past Department of Illinois Commander Bill Atteberry. “You can put a big fire in there, and yes we do,” Clifford said. “We have people who come here and use it. It’s absolutely beautiful.”

Additionally, members of Post 37 in Quincy consistently support the needs of the veterans with toiletries, clothing, and other necessities. Post member Roger Schwengel would even talk with the veterans at the home about their needs and report that back to the construction crew. “He’s been right there every step of the way as a representative of the veterans,” Clifford said. “He would get a good feel for what they wanted and come back to the construction team and say, ‘Here’s what I’m hearing.’ (The American Legion) is just an incredible organization. They love veterans.”

As the Illinois Veterans Home continues with its multi-million dollar enhancement for the better care of its veterans, Conatser said, “You will see the Legion Family continue to support (the home). They are using the most innovative designs and desires to make it a more family-friendly area, and that makes a big difference. They’ve had troubles in the past, they’re on the right path and they’ve made a major, major monetary to our veterans.”

The long-term care and independent living facility are projected to be done by the spring and summer. It’s a project that after 16 years on staff as the chief engineer, Clifford is proud of what the entire staff has done to provide the best care to veterans and their spouses. “I’ve got a great team of people who I work with as well who are just as invested as I am,” he said. “I simply love taking care of these veterans. They served us, (now) this is my time to serve them.”

One year, \$18.8 billion in veterans benefits claims

The American Legion | January 24, 2024

There are more than 18 billion reasons why our nation’s veterans gave thanks to The American Legion during Fiscal Year 2023, which ended in September.

That's because American Legion accredited service officers secured nearly 19 billion dollars — \$18,800,997,141.62 to be precise — in benefits claims for veterans. That amount exceeds the \$16 billion that veterans received in the previous fiscal year.

Three sites secured more than \$1 billion in FY 2023:

- St. Petersburg, Fla., \$2.4 billion.
- Columbia, S.C., \$1.1 billion.
- Montgomery, Ala., \$1.1 billion.

Also, in the most recent fiscal year, the Legion's Board of Veterans' Appeals Unit represented more than 11,234 appellants — helping them to secure more than \$89,616,242 in retroactive VA claims benefits.

The American Legion's 3,000 accredited service officers provide this expertise at no cost to any veteran, whether they are a Legionnaire or not. Some organizations charge for this service but do not get better results.

"I could not be more pleased with the extraordinary and selfless work of our team of service officers," American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer said. "This represents one of the core values of our organization: assisting our brothers and sisters. It is, in fact, a value that changes lives and saves lives."

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](#)

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SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

Matt Husted Remembers his Great Uncle George Allgier's Military Service: Remembering Our Veterans

[Erie News Now](#) | January 25, 2024

Our weekly series, Remembering our Veterans, continues with the story of a Greene Township man, born and raised on Brown Road.



He was inducted into the U.S. Army on September 20th, 1917, and five months later, he was a Private First Class with the 320th Battalion Machine Gunners, Company C.

Matt Husted, now 59 years old, is a member of the Sons of the American Legion Post 285 in Waterford. He started researching his great uncle, George Allgier, years ago, and those efforts revealed some fascinating information.

"Being a part of something from that era, ya know the Great World War, to have letter from the post...it's tough to understand what they've endured," said Husted. "I knew my uncle growing up, I knew he was a great farmer and was always a gentleman to speak to."

Matt's mother, Therese, now 87, also joined us for the conversation.

"He never spoke to me about the war, when they moved from the farm into town, I got the scrapbooks," said Therese.

George worked on the family farm in the 1960s and passed away in 1980. Farming was his way of life.

To great uncle George and the Husted family, thank you for his story and your service.



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AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY



Lisa Williamson,
National President
The American Legion Auxiliary



Central Region Extravaganza

Columbus, Ohio
April 5 - 7, 2024

Registration is now OPEN for CRE24. If you would like to attend, please email jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com. You must provide your name, detachment, email address, and cell number. **Registration is limited to 50 attendees.**

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!

Sports



Mauer joins Leyland as Legion Baseball alumni in Hall of Fame Class of 2024

The American Legion | January 24, 2024

The number of American Legion Baseball alumni enshrined in Cooperstown will increase to 87 when the Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2024 is officially inducted on July 21.

Jim Leyland, who played Legion Baseball for Post 183 in Pemberville, Ohio, and Joe Mauer, who played a year for Post 606 in St. Paul, Minn., will join Adrian Beltre and Todd Helton in the Hall of Fame this year. The Contemporary Baseball Era Committee [selected Leyland](#) for induction in December, while the Baseball Writers Association of America (BBWAA) selected Beltre, Helton and Mauer. The BBWAA selections were announced Jan. 23.

Two other ALB alumni were on the BBWAA ballot, but neither Gary Sheffield (Post 248/Tampa, Fla.) nor Matt Holliday (Stillwater, Okla.) received the 75 percent of votes needed to be elected. It's the end of the road on the BBWAA side for both, as Sheffield was in his 10th and final year of eligibility while Holliday — in his first year of eligibility — did not receive the 5 percent necessary to remain on the ballot.

Mauer became just the third catcher to be selected to the Hall of Fame in his first year on the ballot, joining Johnny Bench and Ivan Rodriguez. They played Legion Baseball as well — Bench in Anadarko, Okla., and Rodriguez for Post Vega Baja in Puerto Rico.

Mauer spent his entire 15-year career with the Minnesota Twins, winning batting titles in 2006, 2008 and 2009. He was also American League MVP in 2009.

Mauer becomes the third player with ties to Post 606 to reach the Baseball Hall of Fame, joining Paul Molitor and Dave Winfield.

Leyland won 1,769 games in 22 seasons as a manager with the Pirates, Marlins, Rockies, and Tigers, winning the 1997 World Series in the Marlins' fifth year of existence. He also managed Team USA to the 2017 World Baseball Classic title — four years after retiring from major league managing. Leyland was a three-time Manager of the Year, with Pittsburgh in 1990 and 1992 and with Detroit in 2006.

Thank you to our
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Juan Cruz Rodriquez,
Department of Puerto Rico



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 _____ 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 _____

Guided-missile destroyer makes
Navy's first Taiwan Strait
passage of the year

Alex Wilson/Stars and Stripes | January 25, 2024

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A Navy guided-missile destroyer made a trip through the Taiwan Strait this week, the first reported transit by a U.S. warship this year and one China immediately labeled provocative.

The USS John Finn steamed southwest from the East China Sea to the South China Sea over about 13 hours



Wednesday, U.S. 7th Fleet spokeswoman Cmdr. Megan Greene told Stars and Stripes by email a day after the transit.

A Chinese military spokesman said the John Finn's passage was monitored.

"Recently, the U.S. military has frequently carried out provocative actions and maliciously undermined regional peace and stability," an unnamed spokesman for China's Eastern Theater Command said in a Wednesday post on social media website Weibo.

Chinese troops "remain on high alert at all times," according to the post.

U.S. ships and aircraft routinely interact with foreign military forces, Greene said, but all interactions during the John Finn's transit were "consistent with international norms" and didn't impact the trip.

U.S. warships, and less frequently, aircraft, routinely pass through the strait in what the Navy says is an exercise of navigational freedom. China routinely criticizes those transits as provocative.

U.S. military ships and aircraft transited the strait at least 11 times last year, a slight increase over the nine made in 2022.

The John Finn's passage was meant to demonstrate the United States' "commitment to upholding the lawful use of international waters for all nations as a principle" and to "oppose any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo and undermine the rules-based international order" in the region, Greene added.

"No member of the international community should be intimidated or coerced into giving up their rights and freedoms," she said. "The United States military flies, sails, and operates anywhere international law allows."

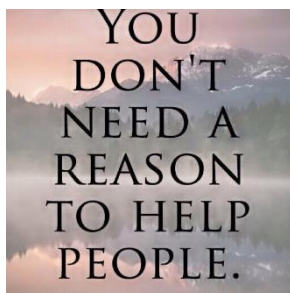
Beijing considers democratic Taiwan a breakaway province that must be reunified with the mainland by force, if necessary.



The John Finn's voyage comes 11 days after Taiwan's presidential elections on Jan. 13. Lai Ching-Te, vice president and member of Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party, is scheduled to be sworn in as president on May 20.

It also comes two days after Taiwan reported tracking six Chinese balloons that flew over, or near, the island, according to Sunday posts by Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense Ministry on X, formerly Twitter.

The last Navy transit of the strait, a P-8 Poseidon patrol and reconnaissance aircraft on Dec. 7, drew a similar response from Beijing.



Squadron Everlasting

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

Gary Lynn Babington



Gary Lynn Babington, 82, of Boonsboro, MD, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 19, 2024, at Doey's House, surrounded by his loving family, after battling the effects of Parkinson's disease. Born September 6, 1941, in Hagerstown, MD, he was the son of the late Frank B. Babington and the late Nellie C. (Kephart) Babington.

Gary grew up with seven siblings on a farm in Boonsboro and graduated from Boonsboro High School in 1959. He started working for the Washington County Roads Department and then became a bricklayer for many years before transitioning to work at Eastalco Aluminum Company in Frederick, MD. Upon his retirement, Gary worked part-time at the Crispant in Frederick, MD.

He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion and loved spending time with family and friends. Gary enjoyed family vacations, supporting his grandchildren and great-grandchildren's activities, and playing the slots. Spending time outdoors was Gary's favorite pastime. He liked to hunt, and he took pride in maintaining the house, the yard, and automobiles.

Gary is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Patricia E. (Flook) Babington; his two daughters — Sheryl L. Bowers and Diane M. Crampton (Will), both of Boonsboro; five grandchildren — Desiree Mills (Jeffrey), Kodi Bowers, Zachary, Bailey and Delaney Crampton; four great-grandchildren — Haven and Andon Bowers, Easton Twigg and Reagan Mills; one brother — Harold Babington; as well as beloved cousins, nieces, nephews, and dear friends. He is preceded in death by three sisters: Gladys Charles, Evelyn Gaver and Janet Stouffer; and three brothers: Leo, Kenneth and Richard Babington. The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at Bast-

Stauffer Funeral Home, 7606 Old National Pike, Boonsboro, MD. A celebration of life service will follow immediately at 11:00 a.m. and burial services will take place at the Boonsboro Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of Washington County (dedicated to Doey's House), 1710 Underpass Way Suite 300, Hagerstown, MD 21740 or to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

The family extends a special thank you to Doey's House (Hospice) for their amazing kindness and care during Gary's final days. They also express their sincere appreciation to Christians Helping in Homes for the support they provided in helping the family to care for Gary while he remained in the comfort of his home over the past several years.

Expressions of sympathy may be offered to the family at www.BastStaufferFuneralHome.com.

Posted online on January 22, 2024.
Published in The Herald-Mail.

Andrew Charles Davis



Andrew Charles Davis, 54, of Fort Johnson, NY, passed away peacefully on January 6, 2024 at Kindred Hospital, Dover, NJ. Andy was born on December 30, 1969 in Brooklyn, NY.

In 2002 Andy moved to the Paradise Point Lexington house, where he lived for 20 years. In December of 2022, Andy moved into the Lexington house on County Route 107 in Fort Johnson, where he lived until his passing.

Throughout his life, Andy was always very involved in his local community. He kept himself and his family busy with activities through the organizations he was a member of, including the Calico Dancers in South Glens Falls, NY, the William J. Varney Sons of the American Legion in Lake Luzerne, NY, the American Indianist Society in Spencer, MA, and the Gourd Dance Society (Warrior Society). He was incredibly proud of his Scottish

heritage and enjoyed listening to bagpipe music and attending the Scottish Games.

One of Andy's nearest and dearest accomplishments was participating in the Special Olympics of New York. He competed in five sports: Nordic skiing, bowling, swimming, track and field, and equestrian events.

Andy will be remembered for his kind and gentle nature, his athleticism, and his love of all things Celtic.

He leaves behind his loving family, including his mother, Judith Eddy of Gansevoort, NY; his uncle, Lawrence Dowe of Nova Scotia; his aunt, Linda Kingman of Boise, ID; as well as many cousins, and his Lexington family.

Andy was preceded in passing by his step-father, James A. Eddy, as well as by his aunt, Sharon MacLean.

In keeping with Andy's wishes, no funeral services will be held. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Betz, Rossi, Bellinger & Stewart Family Funeral Home, 51 Fremont St, Gloversville, NY. Memorial contributions may be made in Andy's memory to the Special Olympics of New York, 94 New Karner Road, Suite 208 Albany, NY 12203.

To [send flowers](#) to the family or [plant a tree](#) in memory of Andrew Davis, please [visit Tribute Store](#).

Larry Al Clayton



ARLINGTON-
TON-
Larry Al Clayton, 72, a resident of Arlington, VT passed away peacefully at

home on Friday January 5th, 2024. He was born on December 27th, 1951 in [Bennington, VT](#) to the late Alford E. Clayton and Betty Jean Streeter. Larry grew up in Arlington and spent the majority of his life there. He graduated from Arlington Memorial High School in the class of 1969.

Larry had a lot of good memories with his wife Joanne. He could always make her laugh.

Larry was employed as an automobile mechanic and specialized in body work. He was also a musician. Everyone that heard his music loved it. He was a member of the

Mt. Clay Band for many years. Larry was a member of the Sons of the American Legion Post #69 in Arlington.

Survivors include his wife of 31 years, Joanne. His loyal companion, Skeeter. His children, Paul Clayton, Amy Clayton, Sara Clayton, Rickey (Becca) Clayton. His step-children; Kimberly McCloud (Jason), Kyleen York (Adam), and Brian Wade (Niti). His 16 grandchildren. A sister, Donna (Dick) Shuttlesworth and his brothers, Randy (Claire) Clayton and Alford E. (Lisa) Clayton Jr. Larry was also survived by many friends and extended family. Everyone loved him deeply.

There will be a graveside service for Larry that the family will announce at a later date. Also, there will be a celebration of Larry's life held this spring.

Memorial contributions in honor of Larry may be made to the Arlington Rescue Squad 66 Chittenden Drive Arlington, VT 05250 or VNA and Hospice of the Southwest Region 7 Albert Cree Drive Rutland, VT 05701.

To plant Memorial Trees in memory of Larry Al Clayton, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

Cody Esser



Cody passed away suddenly on January 18, 2024, at his home in [Ellenton, Florida](#). He

was born on March 3, 1989, in Pontiac, MI, to Kayrn Jones and Richard Esser. Cody graduated from Waterford Mott in 2007 and attended Specs Howard school. He was employed by Heavens Best Carpet Service and Goliath Restoration.

Cody loved playing football for the Corsairs. He was an avid Detroit Lions fan and WAS so excited to see them win a play-off game as well as Michigan winning the national title. He was a phenomenal chef who always insisted on doing the cooking. His favorite place was the ocean and was a history buff.

He was a member of Sons of the American Legion Post 309.

Cody was a gentle soul, who was loved by everyone who knew him. He will be deeply and profoundly missed, especially by his mom, who was his best friend. Our hearts will never be the same.

Cody is survived by his loving mother, Kayrn Jones; father, Richard Esser; brother, Seth Bridges; Aunt Kayla and Uncle Roger; Aunts, Carmen Jones, Laura Baxter (Bruce), Susie Ratledge (Brian) Connie Bell (Dawson) He will be missed by many cousins & friends and his Florida American Legion family. He also leaves behind his cat, Lokey. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Janet & Bill Heron; Clint Jones; Joni and Maury Runyan and Aunt Kathy & Uncle John Corry.

A Celebration of Life will take place on January 24, 2024, at Brown & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory 43rd St. Chapel, 604 43rd Street West, Bradenton, FL 34209. Visitation between 11:00 AM-Noon. Service starts at Noon. Luncheon immediately following the service at the American Legion Post 309, Palmetto, FL. There will also be a Celebration of Life for his Michigan family & friends in April.

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

Gregory A. Six



Gregory A. Six, 58, of New Alexandria, passed away Monday, Jan. 22, 2024. He was born March 10, 1965, in Greensburg, a son of the late Virginia (Neubert) Six.

Greg was a member and financial officer of the Sons of the American Legion, Post 18, in Slickville. He enjoyed playing softball and feeding the deer.

Greg was employed with the University of Pittsburgh as the director of operations and administration at the Center for Social and Urban Research. Greg was a loving and devoted father, son, fiancé, and brother who always went out of his way for others, whether they were family or not. Because of him, every moment was made special. He was our one in a million.

In addition to his mother, Greg was preceded in death by his grandparents, John V., and Claris (Sapp) Six; and uncle, John (Carroll) Six. Greg will be sadly missed by his father, Larry Six; children, Taryn Six and Gregory Six II; sister, Dana Six; fiancée, Kristina Klinzing; and nephews, Michael and Jimmy. Family and friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024, at the VAIA FUNERAL HOME INC., 463 Athena Drive, Delmont (724-468-1177). A

service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Greg's memory may be made to All But Furgotten Animal Shelter, 70 Carpenter Lane, Irwin, PA 15642, or [www.allbutfurgotten.com](#).

To send online expressions of sympathy, obtain grief support information or directions, please visit [www.VaiaFuneralHome.com](#).

Published by Tribune Review on Jan. 24, 2024.

Mark Thomas Crowley



EUSTIS, Fla. - Mark Thomas Crowley, of Eustis, previously of Bolivar, N.Y., passed away Monday (Jan. 22, 2024) after a lengthy illness, with his family at his side, at the Pines Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center of Olean, N.Y.

Born Feb. 9, 1953, in Cuba, N.Y., he was the son of Robert and Mary Congdon Crowley.

He was a graduate of Bolivar Central School, Class of 1972. While in high school he was known as the class clown, always bringing humor to any situation. Active in sports, he lettered in football, basketball, baseball, and track, and was a star high jumper in track.

After high school he started working as a welder for Clark Brothers in Olean. From there he moved to Ohio and later to Connecticut, welding on nuclear submarines. Mark and his loving companion, Dot, then moved to Eustis, where he began driving cross-country trips for Service Trucking Company, until his retirement.

Mark was a member of the Kenyon Andrus Post 772 Sons of the American Legion of Bolivar.

He always looked forward to returning home for special occasions to spend time with his large family.

Surviving are two sons, Shane and Jamie of Florida; three sisters, Norene Ferris of Bolivar, Margaret (William) Johnston of Cuba and Monica Corwin of Belfast, N.Y.; two brothers, Richard (Judy) Crowley of Olean and Daniel (Heidi) Crowley of Bolivar; and several nieces and nephews and their families.

He was predeceased by his parents; three brothers, James, Michael, and John; two special brothers-in-

law, Thomas Ferris and Daniel Corwin; and a loving companion, Dorothy Robb.

Friends may call from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday (Jan. 24, 2024) at the Mark F. Rinker Funeral Home & Memorial Service, Inc., (formerly Schaffner Funeral Home), 554 S. Main St., Bolivar. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Thursday (Jan. 25, 2024) at St. Mary's Church, 111 Wellsville St., Bolivar. Father Michael Reyes, OFM, will be the celebrant. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery, Bolivar.

Memorials may be made to the Allegany County ARC, 196 E. Dyke St., Wellsville, NY 14895; or to Rescue Pups Inc., 3073 Pangburn Road, Friendship, NY 14739.

Published by Olean Times Herald on Jan. 24, 2024.

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

Daily Michael Brown



Daily Michael Brown, 58, passed away Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, at his home in Georgetown. Born in Madison County to

Wilburn Brown and the late Betty Barrett Burge, he was a career welder and millwright. Michael was a proud member of the Sons of the American Legion Scott County Post 24 and loved Harley Davidsons and Muscle Cars.

Michael will be lovingly remembered by his children, Scott Brown, Nicole Davis, and Jaidan Brown, all of Georgetown; fiancé, Bre Branhams; his grandchildren, Layla Grace Ray, and Connor Rydell; a nephew, James (Roxanne) Gilliam of Georgetown; his sister, Delilah Brown of Richmond; a half-sister Melissa (Kevin) Edmonson; and his stepfather Bob (Pamela Stevenson) Burge of Georgetown.

Visitation was held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024 at Tucker, Yocum & Wilson Funeral Home. Funeral Services will begin at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 26, at the funeral home with Brother Charlie Brown officiating. Burial will follow in procession to the Masonic Cemetery of Stamping Ground where pallbearers will be James Gilliam, Tony Coots, Rob Pretsch, Bill Covington, Wayne Duvall, and Steve Barrett. Honorary Pallbearers are Bob Burge and Connor Rydell.

Family and friends are encouraged to leave messages of condolence and share memories on Michael's tribute wall at [www.TuckerYocum-Wilson.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



Daniel J. Seehafer, National Commander
The American Legion

Legion-VFW ‘nomads’ now at forefront of Texas veterans complex

[Jeff Stoffer](#) | January 22, 2024

WATCH ON  **YouTube**

About five years ago, a Vietnam War veteran named Shorty handed Kathryn Chandler a handwritten flyer that looked something like an old west wanted poster. Wanted was a piece of donated land suitable to build a joint meeting hall for American Legion Post 290 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2933 of Dripping Springs, Texas.

“I thought, ‘This is ridiculous,’” she remembers. She reflected on her father, a Vietnam War veteran, and how there must be some way to help. “I thought this would be easy – raise a couple hundred grand and maybe get an acre and maybe get a Mueller building up, you know?”

A half-decade later, she patrols the construction site of a 10-acre campus in the making, a sprawling initiative abuzz with power tools and filled with workers and scaffolding. It’s the emerging centerpiece of a campus called [Patriots’ Hall](#), that has generated millions of dollars in charitable contributions, mostly from the local community, and stands to serve as a model for today’s veterans in central Texas, perhaps beyond. The first building completed on the campus is the new joint home of the local American Legion and VFW posts.

“We were just kind of nomads, moving around wherever somebody would let us visit for a while and have meetings,” explains Jerry Martin, a Vietnam War Marine Corps veteran, and a member of both posts.

The two posts were conceived at the same time 30 years ago, largely by Gary P. Hale and Ronnie Glen “Shorty” Barnett, who assembled about 25 veterans each to apply for charters. Hale, a platoon leader in the Mekong Delta during the Vietnam War, said it was just by coincidence that the American Legion post number assigned to Dripping Springs was 290, same as the U.S. highway number of the four-laner that passes through the community of about 5,000, known as the gateway to the Texas foothills, just outside of Austin.

The posts met in a restaurant at first, then at a high school ag booster barn. Reconstruction at the school meant the posts had to find a different place to meet, so they moved into an old one-room schoolhouse at a boys home, where Shorty had worked, outside of town. The veterans were content, using the place rent-free, until the local volunteer fire department expanded and relocated as the city grew (more than quadrupling in population over the last 30 years). “That old building sitting there became vacant,” Hale explains. “And our old commander talked to the people and said, ‘Is there any way we could get into that building and use it for our hall?’ They allowed us to do that, and we moved into that building. It was a very nice building – an old building – but it was still 1,000 square feet. We had room in the back and had an air-rifle team, an indoor rifle range, and plenty of room to store stuff.”

However, a creek running next to the old fire hall had a propensity to overflow its banks. “When there was a really bad rain, that water would get right up to the foundation,” Hale explains. “It didn’t really flood, as in six inches of water in there, but water crept into the building, and because of that, that building got mold in it. The city, which now owned that building, was concerned about electrical issues and mold ... and finally said they were going to have to shut that building down.”

Homeless again, the posts were granted space in an old rock structure on the high school grounds until that was no longer available, and they moved into a church for a while. About that time, Barnett and Hale began their pursuit of a permanent home. The wanted poster went up around town, and it was published in the local newspaper. Kathryn Chandler, whose husband is Emmy Award-winning actor Kyle Chandler (“Friday Night Lights,” “Argo,” “Zero Dark

Thirty,” and many other films and TV shows), brought the flyer home and “we got involved in it,” says the performer who has also served on the local volunteer fire department. “The next thing was looking for land around Dripping Springs and talking to the mayor, who started to help out. We started looking at (steel) Mueller buildings.”

The Chandlers presented the idea to software entrepreneur Hank Seale and his wife Lyssa, who had been supporters of Dripping Springs community initiatives. “The Seales had a different take,” Kyle Chandler says. “They said this is way too small. This could be big. This could be really important ... much bigger. That’s when it started growing exponentially.”

The American Legion and VFW posts had their champions – the Chandlers, Dr. Mary Jane Hetrick and Amy Doucet as primary forces, and the Seales, with many others soon to step up. Acting on the Seales’ recommendation, the women surveyed veterans from Fort Hood to San Antonio – a swath of the nation with a greater concentration of military-connected population than any other in America – to find out what was really wanted and needed. The idea of a “one-stop shop” for multiple veterans service took shape, as did a bigger identity for Patriots’ Hall of Dripping Springs.

After one promising location fizzled out, the 10-acre site along Highway 290 was secured, thanks to the Seales, and the survey results laid out priorities that would guide a property design tailored specifically for the post-9/11 veteran community. The Meeting Hall of the Legion and VFW posts was finished in January 2021, the cornerstone of a campus where a 7,100-square-foot multi-purpose facility is now under construction, due to open in June 2024, with an adjacent wellness center to follow.

Under the administration of a Patriots’ Hall board of directors that includes the Chandlers, Hetrick, Doucet and four veterans, the project has drawn media attention – as well as onlookers who pass by the construction project alongside Highway 290.

“When we got this hall here, it was like a load off our back,” Hale says. “We finally had something that was ours.” The brand-new structure with overhead support beams that resemble crossed rifles, a library and patio deck now also serves as an election polling place, and the posts sponsor local Scouting units, as well as Boys State participants and VFW youth programs. A portrait of Shorty hangs in a place of honor inside the Meeting Hall, and his wanted poster is

framed and displayed in the library area. He passed away about a year ago, having finally seen his dream come to life.

With more than 100 members, the posts are experiencing growth and some changing demographics. “We’re seeing some younger veterans, Iraq and Afghanistan, showing up here,” says American Legion Post 290 Commander Ben Adair. “One of the things that we wanted to do – *and continue to do* – is not be a canteen, a bar, or anything like that. We want to be an outreach, a place of gathering. We are kind of getting our traction now that we have a home.

“Our community events involve all members of the VFW and The American Legion, and when we lead up to those community events, we hold joint meetings here, with both posts at the same time. There’s a great core of people who do a lot of work for both posts. We see that as our foundation. As we pull more members in, we want to expand what we do.” Once the big building is complete, the opportunity to do that – and achieve even greater awareness for the Legion and the VFW – will be right next door.

“That’s very important,” says VFW Post 2933 Commander Bob De Jong, also a member of the American Legion. “It improves the overall image of the two organizations, especially in the community. The community sees this on a regular basis. They drive by it. They come here to vote. So, the next question is, ‘What do you all do?’ We’ve had a lot of success with recruiting, inquiries, the programs that we do ... we’ve had a lot of people give donations because of that, just simply because their son or grandson – or granddaughter – was a participant or a winner of one of the programs. So, it has been very beneficial. We get a lot more spotlight, and it’s a very positive spotlight.”

“Now that we have a place of our own, through Patriots’ Hall, we are given some control over what happens in this building,” Adair says, adding that the new Meeting Hall’s service as a voting location “attracts folks here, and many of these folks are veterans. And they’re like, ‘Wow, this is really a nice place.’ Some of those folks will wind up visiting us for a meeting or ask us about the Legion, or ask us about the VFW, what we do, what we’re about.”

“Other than our meeting space here, the bigger hall is going to serve the entire central Texas veterans,” Martin says. “One of the physicians here is going to have a facility here where he is going to come periodically. The community is going to be able to use the facility for all kinds of events. They’re going to

have a fishing place here, a stable – things that veterans from all over central Texas will want to come visit and be a part of. I think that gives us an opportunity to really serve veterans.”

Jeff Wells – an Army combat officer of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Legionnaire and one of the veterans on the board of directors for Patriots’ Hall – lists six primary areas the campus will address:

- Basic needs
- Education
- Physical health
- Mental health
- Employment assistance
- VA benefits assistance

“Within each of those categories you will have a bunch of different services that will all be run out of here,” he explains. Included will be VA claims assistance, a high priority veterans expressed in the survey.

The big building, wellness center and outdoor recreational features – which include a fishing pond, fire pits, play areas for children, a walking/running trail, garden, and stables for equine therapy – are all driven by the survey results. “The survey had both options – coming here to do events, veterans-only, or coming here to do events, with your families,” Hetrick explains. “And families always came in higher.”

The project, originally budgeted at \$5.9 million, increased in estimated cost during the COVID-19 pandemic and is now expected to come in at about \$10 million, \$8.4 million of which has been raised. As costs climbed, so too did community support.

“All of this is community money,” Kathryn Chandler says. “We haven’t really approached corporations. We haven’t pitched government entities. We wanted to show our veterans ... that the community supports them. So, after we have this up and running, we want to go to other communities that have the same need and just start planting them there. We will help them get the vision together.”

Navy veteran John Paul DeJoria, co-founder of Paul Mitchell hair products and The Patron Spirits Co., is acknowledged for his key sponsorship with a sculpture and plaque at the entryway to the Meeting Hall that thanks him “for your generous spirit and ... for your service.”

Kathryn Chandler says that DeJoria, who has been a guest investor on the ABC series “Shark Tank,” remains supportive and has suggested “a Shark Tank for veterans, and let’s ask the whole community to come.”

“All of these people just came together,” says Kyle Chandler, who introduced the project to Wells, a personal friend who runs a non-profit called [Walk Among Veterans](#) that pays for World War II veterans to go to Normandy, France, each year during D-Day anniversary ceremonies. “This whole thing has been funded so much by the community. It’s so community-driven. When we have the big opening, it’s kind of exciting to think that all these people who have put their money in the game to see this happen ... this place is going to be filled. It’s going to be something. As it keeps continually growing, the more you learn what veterans need, it becomes more and more precise.”

His wife says she hopes that in 10 years, when she visits Patriots’ Hall of Dripping Springs, “I will pass other ones on the drive here. That would be a dream. This is the flagship here.”

To the Chandlers, who left Hollywood and purchased a rural spread near Dripping Springs in 2007, this kind of project – and the community support around it – “gives you great hope,” the actor says. “It makes you feel proud – proud to be a Dripping Springs person, proud to be a Texan, proud to be an American ... there’s people out there who want to help. People overall are good and want to help, and they want a challenge. And that’s the deal, so you get to give back to some people who offered to take on the ultimate challenge, to put their lives on the line to do something they believe is important. It’s kind of amazing to have the opportunity to be a part of it.”

Military ends rescue search for Navy SEALs lost in maritime raid on ship with Iranian weapons

[Lolita C. Baldor, The Associated Press](#) | January 21, 2024

WASHINGTON — The 10-day search to rescue two Navy SEALs lost in the Arabian Sea during a mission to board a ship and confiscate Iranian-made weapons has been ended and the sailors are now considered deceased, the U.S. military said Sunday.

In a statement, U.S. Central Command said the search has now been changed to a recovery effort.

The names of the SEALs have not been released as family notifications continue.



This undated photograph released by the U.S. military's Central Command shows what it is described as the vessel that carried Iranian-made missile components bound for Yemen's Houthi in the Arabian Sea. U.S. Navy SEALs seized Iranian-made missile parts and other weaponry from a ship bound for Yemen's Houthi rebels in a raid that saw two of its commandos go missing, the U.S. military said Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024.

U.S. Central Command/AP

Ships and aircraft from the U.S., Japan and Spain continuously searched more than 21,000 square miles, the military said, with assistance from the Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center, the U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area Command, University of San Diego – Scripps Institute of Oceanography and the Office of Naval Research.

“We mourn the loss of our two Naval Special Warfare warriors, and we will forever honor their sacrifice and example,” said Gen. Erik Kurilla, head of U.S. Central Command. “Our prayers are with the SEALs’ families, friends, the U.S. Navy and the entire Special Operations community during this time.”

According to officials, the Jan. 11 raid targeted an unflagged ship carrying illicit Iranian-made weapons to the Houthi rebels in Yemen. Officials have said that as the team was boarding the ship, one of the SEALs went under in the heavy seas, and a team-mate went in to try and save him.

The commandos had launched from the USS Lewis B. Puller, a mobile sea base, and they were backed by drones and helicopters. They loaded onto small special operations combat craft driven by naval special warfare crew to get to the boat.

In the raid, they seized an array of Iranian-made weaponry, including cruise and ballistic missile components such as propulsion and guidance

devices and warheads, as well as air defense parts, Central Command said. It marked the latest seizure by the U.S. Navy and its allies of weapon shipments bound for the rebels, who have launched a series of attacks now threatening global trade in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden over Israel’s war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The seized missile components included types likely used in those attacks.

The U.S. Navy ultimately sunk the ship carrying the weapons after deeming it unsafe, Central Command said. The ship’s 14 crew were detained.

Legion to host System Worth Saving town hall in Tampa

The American Legion | January 21, 2024

The American Legion will launch its retooled System Worth Saving (SWS) program in Tampa during a visit the week of Jan. 29.

The visit begins with a SWS town hall conducted by American Legion representatives and VA staff.

All veterans who use or have used the Tampa VA Medical Center are invited to attend the event to share their experiences at the medical center. They are also encouraged to submit a brief question [at this web page](#) so the topic will be addressed during the meeting.

The town hall, which starts at 6 p.m. Jan. 29, will be held at American Legion Post 5, 3810 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, Fla. 33609.

American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Autrey James will be participating in the event.



VA photo

“We have taken a close look at how we can modernize this program to serve our nation’s veterans in the

best way possible,” he said. “VA care is the best care anywhere. Still, there are opportunities to improve. That’s why we work hand-in-hand with VA staff during each of these visits and provide analysis and feedback on what works and what areas to target for improvement. Veterans will be able to share their experiences at the town hall. Afterward, our team will work closely with our teammates at VA to improve the care that veterans receive.”

Each year, the Legion’s Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission conducts a series of site visits to VA medical facilities and regional offices across the country. While on site, American Legion representatives meet with veterans, their families, and VA administrators and employees to discuss issues and solutions at each site. These observations are compiled into a System Worth Saving report that is distributed to VA officials, members of Congress and the public.

Iowa post’s Legion Family turning Buddy Checks into much-needed plowing service

The American Legion | January 23, 2024



A retired U.S. Air Force master sergeant, Kevin Snyder has tried to take what he did in his military capacity and transfer it to his work as a member of American Legion

Nash Post 140 in Kingsley, Iowa.

The post’s sergeant-at-arms and service officer, Snyder, and his wife – Auxiliary Unit 140 President Tamie Snyder – came up with an idea to offer free snow plowing services to the community’s disabled veterans and the widows of veterans. It’s part of the post’s effort to stress community service while performing Buddy Checks on their members.

“We’re a small town. We’ve got a Legion post, but we didn’t have a very active post for a long time,” Kevin said. “We’re trying to reinvigorate membership to be more active. And while the post did a lot of (honor guard appearances at) funerals and such, it just wasn’t working. So, we tried to put our heads together to see what we could do.”

Snyder, when working for the Legion, has tried to duplicate his efforts on active duty. “In the unit I was in ... when a guy would deploy, someone would make sure the car was running, the wife and kids had groceries, the lawn was being cut, whatever needed

to be done,” he said. “We have a lot of older members ... that just can’t get out and get around. And we have members who have passed away and their widows are left behind. Their kids are grown and off living their lives in another state, so these ladies are pretty much left to fend for themselves.

“So, we kind of took it as when I was going out doing Buddy Checks, it was like when I was a first sergeant. You’re looking for things. You’re looking to see if there are groceries in the refrigerator, if the lawn needs cut, if the car’s broken down or has a flat tire. That kind of stuff. And you would just go ahead and go back to your unit and make sure it got taken care of.”

After around two feet of snow hit, Kevin said those needs became pretty clear. “Since we’re out there checking in bad weather and good, our old guys and our widows – who are all Auxiliary members – we thought we’d look around and see what needs doing,” he said. “And since we’ve had these giant snowstorms out here, most of what needed doing was plowing.”

Kevin said 24 residences have been the recipients of the post’s efforts over the course of two weeks, but because of blowing winds, those residences have needed to be plowed and shoveled again multiple times.

“The problem is it takes me two days to get 24 done,” he said. “And at the end of the second day, you’ve got to start all over again because the wind hasn’t stopped here. The drifts are almost worse than the snowstorms.”

Auxiliary members field the phone calls. And there has been a trickle-down effect. Not only as the snowplowing effort expanded to other older widows in the community who are not members of the Legion Family, another community member wanted to assist the effort but wasn’t eligible to join the Legion, so he’s joined the Sons of The American Legion at a nearby squadron (Post 140 doesn’t have an SAL squadron). But it’s created an interest in forming a squadron at the post, Kevin said.

“It’s having an impact where we’re actually having community members who want to join the post,” he said. “As soon as we get 10 guys we’ll start a squadron, because we’ve got guys who want to help. And I can’t tell you how many phone calls my wife has gotten from people wanting to donate to the Auxiliary or join the Auxiliary to be a part of this team that takes care of families.”

It's also reinvigorated the post. "Not only is it helping our Auxiliary members and our older and disabled members, some of the guys that never come to meetings ... they started showing up with shovels ready to shovel walkways and the porches and shovel out the cars," Kevin said. "It's had a real positive effect that way. And the guys that are showing up with shovels have full-time jobs. It's had more of an impact than I thought – and not just on our members, but also on the people that are helping out. A lot of guys have been stepping up. And this is hard work. But it's worked out really well."

National Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter of the Year nominees due Feb. 1

The American Legion | January 24, 2024

The American Legion awards its National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to a law enforcement officer who has exceeded the duty requirements expected of his or her position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement. The National Firefighter of the Year Award is awarded to a firefighter who has exceeded the requirements expected of his or her position and has shown a distinct pattern of community service and professional achievement.



2023 American Legion National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and National Firefighter of the Year on stage at the 104th National Convention in Charlotte, N.C.

Jeric Wilhelmsen/The American Legion

Applications must be submitted to National Headquarters by Feb. 1.

[Download the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year application](#)

[Download the Firefighter of the Year application.](#)

The awards are presented annually at the Legion's national convention where the recipients receive an all-expense paid trip.

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SONS OF THE
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National Americanism Commission
American Legion Family Day
 2024 Guidance

Purpose: to be observed annually on the last Saturday of April (April 27, 2024). It encourages posts to open their doors to members of their community for a day and celebrate our accomplishments.

S.A.L. members can coordinate with their sponsoring Posts to showcase Americanism in the following ways:

- Make sure there is a serviceable American Flag present
- Pamphlets for all Americanism "Youth Programs" should be available.
- Contact your Department regarding the availability of the "Star-Spangled Kids Kits created by the Auxiliary.
- Host a blood drive (falls under Americanism in the S.A.L.).
- Host a flag-etiquette program, including a flag retirement ceremony.
- Place flags to honor veterans and record your event on the Flying Flags for Heroes website.
- A laptop and video screen could be utilized to showcase American Legion Programs supported by your Post.
- Have comic books and coloring books available. They can be ordered from American Legion Emblem Sales.
- Recognize individuals and businesses in your community at the event by utilizing the "SAL Flag Appreciation Certificate"

Questions: email Chairman Casey at
 aproudpatriot1776@gmail.com

@SonsAmericanism

MOH recipient Roger Donlon passes away

The American Legion | January 25, 2024



Retired Army Col. Roger Donlon, the first Medal of Honor recipient of the Vietnam War, passed away Jan. 25.

He was 89.

On July 6, 1964, then-Capt. Donlon was the commanding officer at Camp Nam Dong, Vietnam, when a Viet Cong battalion launched a pre-dawn attack. During the next five hours, Donlon repeatedly exposed himself to heavy fire while defending against the enemy, moving ammunitions and weaponry to effective positions, aiding the wounded, and rallying his men.

Throughout the battle, he was severely injured several times but persevered and insisted others receive medical attention before him. When the sun finally came up, the enemy retreated into the jungle. Donlon's bravery and leadership had resulted in the defeat of the attackers and preserving the lives of the friendly Vietnamese camp defenders and fellow Americans.

He shared his story with The American Legion. "The Legion has been a touchstone for myself, my brother, my whole family," he said.

Donlon, a longtime member of American Legion Post 172 in New York, was also the first veteran of the Vietnam War to receive The American Legion's Distinguished Service Medal in 1966.

"The American Legion has chosen to make its acknowledgement by honoring a man who, to us, symbolizes all of the brave men our country has sent to Vietnam," said National Commander L. Eldon James.

Upon receiving the medal, Donlon said, "We fought to keep what we have, and sometimes I think it is equally important to share what we have."

Freezing out cancer

The American Legion | January 25, 2024

According to SeaTemperature.info, the average water temperature off Seward, Alaska, in January is 40.6 degrees Fahrenheit. (The average temperature off Miami is 72.) The annual Seward Polar Bear Jump-off Festival hosts numerous community events around a group jump into Resurrection Bay

to raise money for cancer research, as teams have been doing – many in costume – since 1986.



Henry Pagan, commander of Seward American Legion Post 28 in Anchorage, won the karaoke contest. He jumped with the Sea Eagles team.

Clare Sullivan

Local [American Legion Post 5](#) played a role in the 2024 festival that it has played since 1986. According to commander Clare Sullivan, the post hosted two steak nights, a breakfast, turkey bowling and a karaoke fundraising night. A post member crafted the karaoke trophy in the shape of Alaska with a Post 5 coin inset.

As for the main event, Post 5 did not jump together, but members participated with other teams as well as Legionnaires from around the state. Sullivan commented, "We often get members of other posts coming down when Seward has events. Alaska really is a small town on a big map!"



**HAVE YOU
PAID YOUR DUES?**

2024 SAL Membership Report: January 25, 2024

#	DETACHMENT	2024 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 75% TARGET 2/14/2024	2024 ACTUAL MBRSHIP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2024 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	120	-39	129	107.50%	89.92
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	-316	1,524	94.60%	81.99
3	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-184	990	92.09%	83.02
4	FRANCE	168	-27	153	91.07%	81.33
5	WISCONSIN	4,398	-633	3,931	89.38%	80.49
6	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	-175	1,352	86.11%	73.02
7	FLORIDA	23,066	-2,384	19,683	85.33%	72.15
8	LOUISIANA	1,821	-133	1,499	82.32%	75.98
9	OREGON	1,534	-101	1,251	81.55%	67.19
10	ILLINOIS	13,716	-898	11,185	81.55%	75.99
11	MARYLAND	16,803	-954	13,556	80.68%	73.86
12	IOWA	4,914	-273	3,958	80.55%	74.45
13	CONNECTICUT	1,865	-93	1,492	80.00%	69.93
14	GEORGIA	4,887	-242	3,907	79.95%	70.30
15	MINNESOTA	11,435	-511	9,087	79.47%	73.90
16	MICHIGAN	26,236	-1,130	20,807	79.31%	71.48
17	OHIO	31,690	-1,348	25,115	79.25%	73.15
18	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-106	2,183	78.81%	65.76
19	ALABAMA	2,100	-75	1,650	78.57%	67.98
20	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	-2,152	49,211	78.43%	73.18
21	VIRGINIA	4,367	-142	3,417	78.25%	68.35
22	PUERTO RICO	156	-5	122	78.21%	73.20
23	VERMONT	3,920	-110	3,050	77.81%	72.74
24	MISSISSIPPI	736	-17	569	77.31%	67.67
25	RHODE ISLAND	348	-8	269	77.30%	66.67
26	NEBRASKA	6,992	-156	5,400	77.23%	74.15
27	MONTANA	1,091	-23	841	77.09%	72.63
28	INDIANA	37,244	-740	28,673	76.99%	71.54
29	DELAWARE	2,596	-37	1,984	76.43%	68.49
30	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	-69	4,589	76.14%	67.81
31	NEW YORK	30,663	-277	23,274	75.90%	69.69
32	ARIZONA	8,595	-31	6,477	75.36%	63.08
33	TENNESSEE	1,792	22	1,322	73.77%	62.40
34	IDAHO	659	8	486	73.75%	56.82
35	DIST OF COL	91	1	67	73.63%	68.18
36	KANSAS	6,055	102	4,439	73.31%	67.89
37	NEW MEXICO	1,582	33	1,154	72.95%	57.42
38	LATIN AMERICA	33	1	24	72.73%	34.38
39	MISSOURI	3,337	79	2,424	72.64%	64.85
40	CALIFORNIA	11,292	267	8,202	72.64%	62.99
41	WYOMING	1,248	38	898	71.96%	64.21
42	TEXAS	5,783	196	4,141	71.61%	61.86
43	MAINE	2,757	99	1,969	71.42%	63.11
44	NEW JERSEY	9,662	359	6,888	71.29%	63.68
45	ARKANSAS	406	18	287	70.69%	56.40
46	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	305	3,769	69.39%	62.88
47	ALASKA	1,740	111	1,194	68.62%	57.28
48	COLORADO	2,952	194	2,020	68.43%	59.06
49	WASHINGTON	2,682	202	1,810	67.49%	54.22
50	UTAH	460	38	307	66.74%	62.39
51	NEVADA	387	35	255	65.89%	56.71
52	OKLAHOMA	1,430	145	928	64.90%	52.28
53	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	271	1,674	64.56%	56.67
54	KENTUCKY	2,399	264	1,535	63.98%	54.82
55	PHILIPPINES	79	15	44	55.70%	53.16
Grand Totals:		382,111	-10,582	297,165	77.77%	70.38

2024 SAL Regional Breakdown

Western Region - James R. Fischer, Sr. (CA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	120	129	107.50%
OREGON	1,534	1,251	81.55%
MONTANA	1,091	841	77.09%
ARIZONA	8,595	6,477	75.36%
IDAHO	659	486	73.75%
NEW MEXICO	1,582	1,154	72.95%
LATIN AMERICA	33	24	72.73%
CALIFORNIA	11,292	8,202	72.64%
WYOMING	1,248	898	71.96%
ALASKA	1,740	1,194	68.62%
COLORADO	2,952	2,020	68.43%
WASHINGTON	2,682	1,810	67.49%
UTAH	460	307	66.74%
NEVADA	387	255	65.89%
PHILIPPINES	79	44	55.70%
Totals:	34,454	25,092	72.83%

Southeast Region - Linwood A. Moore (VA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	1,352	86.11%
FLORIDA	23,066	19,683	85.33%
LOUISIANA	1,821	1,499	82.32%
GEORGIA	4,887	3,907	79.95%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	2,183	78.81%
ALABAMA	2,100	1,650	78.57%
VIRGINIA	4,367	3,417	78.25%
PUERTO RICO	156	122	78.21%
MISSISSIPPI	736	569	77.31%
TENNESSEE	1,792	1,322	73.77%
TEXAS	5,783	4,141	71.61%
ARKANSAS	406	287	70.69%
Totals:	49,454	40,132	81.15%

Midwest Region - Terry A. Harris (KS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	1,524	94.60%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	990	92.09%
IOWA	4,914	3,958	80.55%
NEBRASKA	6,992	5,400	77.23%
KANSAS	6,055	4,439	73.31%
MISSOURI	3,337	2,424	72.64%
OKLAHOMA	1,430	928	64.90%
Totals:	25,414	19,663	77.37%

Northeast Region - John R. Cook (NH)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	168	153	91.07%
MARYLAND	16,803	13,556	80.68%
CONNECTICUT	1,865	1,492	80.00%
PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	49,211	78.43%
VERMONT	3,920	3,050	77.81%
RHODE ISLAND	348	269	77.30%
DELAWARE	2,596	1,984	76.43%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	4,589	76.14%
NEW YORK	30,663	23,274	75.90%
DIST OF COL	91	67	73.63%
MAINE	2,757	1,969	71.42%
NEW JERSEY	9,662	6,888	71.29%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	3,769	69.39%
Totals:	143,078	110,271	77.07%

Central Region - Robert L. Bristo (MN)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,398	3,931	89.38%
ILLINOIS	13,716	11,185	81.55%
MINNESOTA	11,435	9,087	79.47%
MICHIGAN	26,236	20,807	79.31%
OHIO	31,690	25,115	79.25%
INDIANA	37,244	28,673	76.99%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	1,674	64.56%
KENTUCKY	2,399	1,535	63.98%
Totals:	129,711	102,007	78.64%

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SONS OF THE
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01/25/24		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	40,132	(9,322)	81.15%	618		
2	Central 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	129,711	102,007	(27,704)	78.64%	1,711		
3	Midwest 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	25,414	19,663	(5,751)	77.37%	334		
4	Northeast 1, 4, 5	143,078	110,271	(32,807)	77.07%	2,194		
5	Western 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	34,454	25,092	(9,362)	72.83%	450		
	TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	382,111	297,165	(84,946)	77.77%	5,307		

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL
TARGET DATE
February 14, 2024



01/25/24	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
Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,398	3,931	(467)	89.38%	33				
Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	13,716	11,185	(2,531)	81.55%	513				
Minnesota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	11,435	9,087	(2,348)	79.47%	55				
Michigan 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	26,236	20,807	(5,429)	79.31%	436				
Ohio 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	31,690	25,115	(6,575)	79.25%	207				
Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	37,244	28,673	(8,571)	76.99%	182				
West Virginia 1, 5	2,593	1,674	(919)	64.56%	16				
Kentucky 1, 4	2,399	1,535	(864)	63.98%	269				
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	129,711	102,007	(27,704)	78.64%	1,711				

01/22/24		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, 9, 10	120	129	9	107.50%	-	1	89.92%	01/22/24	01/22/24
2	Oregon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,534	1,251	(283)	81.55%	23				
3	Montana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,091	841	(250)	77.09%	3				
4	Arizona 1, 4, 5, 6	8,595	6,477	(2,118)	75.36%	50				
5	Idaho 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	659	486	(173)	73.75%	7				
6	New Mexico 5	1,582	1,154	(428)	72.95%	112				
7	Latin America 4	33	24	(9)	72.73%	-				
8	California 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	11,292	8,202	(3,090)	72.64%	131				
9	Wyoming 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,248	898	(350)	71.96%	-				
10	Alaska 3	1,740	1,194	(546)	68.62%	11				
11	Colorado 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2,952	2,020	(932)	68.43%	69				
12	Washington 4, 5	2,682	1,810	(872)	67.49%	43				
13	Utah 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	460	307	(153)	66.74%	1				
14	Nevada 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	387	255	(132)	65.89%	-				
15	Philippines	79	44	(35)	55.70%	-				
	TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	34,454	25,092	(9,362)	72.83%	450				

01/25/24		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	1,352	(218)	86.11%	19				
2	Florida 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	23,066	19,683	(3,383)	85.33%	343				
3	Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,821	1,499	(322)	82.32%	1				
4	Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,887	3,907	(980)	79.95%	51				
5	North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	2,770	2,183	(587)	78.81%	21				
6	Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	2,100	1,650	(450)	78.57%	23				
7	Virginia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	4,367	3,417	(950)	78.25%	79				
8	Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	156	122	(34)	78.21%	-				
9	Mississippi 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	736	569	(167)	77.31%	3				
10	Tennessee 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,792	1,322	(470)	73.77%	14				
12	Texas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	5,783	4,141	(1,642)	71.61%	63				
13	Arkansas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	406	287	(119)	70.69%	1				
	TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	49,454	40,132	(9,322)	81.15%	256				

01/25/24		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
1 South Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,611	1,524	(87)	94.60%	3				
2 North Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,075	990	(85)	92.09%	-				
3 Iowa 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,914	3,958	(956)	80.55%	26				
4 Nebraska 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	6,992	5,400	(1,592)	77.23%	160				
5 Kansas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6,055	4,439	(1,616)	73.31%	89				
6 Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3,337	2,424	(913)	72.64%	56				
7 Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,430	928	(502)	64.90%	-				
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	25,414	19,663	(5,751)	77.37%	334				

01/25/24		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, 8	168	153	(15)	91.07%	-				
2 Maryland 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	16,803	13,556	(3,247)	80.68%	117				
3 Connecticut 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,865	1,492	(373)	80.00%	54				
4 Pennsylvania 4, 5, 6	62,746	49,211	(13,535)	78.43%	1,540				
5 Vermont 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	3,920	3,050	(870)	77.81%	35				
6 Rhode Island 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	348	269	(79)	77.30%	14				
7 Delaware 1, 4, 5, 6	2,596	1,984	(612)	76.43%	30				
8 New Hampshire 1, 2, 4, 5, 6	6,027	4,589	(1,438)	76.14%	151				
9 New York 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	30,663	23,274	(7,389)	75.90%	113				
10 Dist. of Columbia 4	91	67	(24)	73.63%	-				
11 Maine 5	2,757	1,969	(788)	71.42%	86				
12 New Jersey 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	9,662	6,888	(2,774)	71.29%	10				
13 Massachusetts 1, 3, 4, 5	5,432	3,769	(1,663)	69.39%	44				
TOTALS 1, 4, 5, 6	143,078	110,271	(32,807)	77.07%	2,194				

01/25/24		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	19,683	(3,383)	85.33%	343	7	72.15%		
2 Michigan 1, 4, 5, 6	26,236	20,807	(5,429)	79.31%	436	16	71.48%		
3 Ohio 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	31,690	25,115	(6,575)	79.25%	207	17	73.15%		
4 Pennsylvania 4, 5, 6	62,746	49,211	(13,535)	78.43%	1,540	20	73.18%		
5 Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	37,244	28,673	(8,571)	76.99%	182	28	71.54%		
6 New York 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	30,663	23,274	(7,389)	75.90%	113	31	69.69%		
TOTALS	211,645	166,763	(44,882)	78.79%	2,821				

National Totals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	382,111	297,165	(84,946)	77.77%	5,307		70.38%		
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01/25/24		2024 LEADERSHIP STANDINGS							
Detachment	Det	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1 Commander Hall	Maryland	16,803	13,556	(3,247)	80.68%	11	73.86%		
2 Vice-Commander Bristo	Minnesota	11,435	9,087	(2,348)	79.47%	15	73.90%		
3 Vice-Commander Moore	Virginia	4,367	3,417	(950)	78.25%	21	68.35%		
4 Vice-Commander Cook	New Hampshire	6,027	4,589	(1,438)	76.14%	30	67.81%		
5 Trailing Candidate Clancy	New York	30,663	23,274	(7,389)	75.90%	31	69.69%		
6 Vice-Commander Harris	Kansas	6,055	4,439	(1,616)	73.31%	36	67.89%		
7 Leading Candidate Navaratte	New Mexico	1,582	1,154	(428)	72.95%	37	57.42%		
8 Vice-Commander Fischer	California	11,292	8,202	(3,090)	72.64%	40	62.99%		



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%

ACTION ALERT

JANUARY 2024

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SONSAMERICANISM



TOP NEWS

- BOYS STATE RECRUITMENT IS IN FULL SWING. MAKE SURE YOU ARE MAKING PERSONAL CONTACT WITH SCHOOLS.
- HAVE YOU PLANNED A FLAG EDUCATION EVENT? BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR GUIDANCE FROM THE COMMISSION ON YOUR OWN EVENT!
- REMEMBER TO HOST A BLOOD DRIVE AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE CWF IN ORDER TO BECOME A NATIONAL 4 PILLAR SQUADRON.

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY DAY IS APRIL 27, 2024.

THIS IS A DAY WHERE THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY IS ENCOURAGED TO OPEN THEIR POSTS TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO SHARE WHAT WE DO!

MAKE PLANS NOW TO ASSURE AMERICANISM IS ON FULL DISPLAY. HOST A BLOOD DRIVE, FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY, ETC.

FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES

THIS IS AN ONGOING PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION. PLEASE REMEMBER TO REGISTER YOUR FLAG PLACEMENTS AT WWW.FLYINGFLAGSFORHEROES.COM. THE GOAL IS PARTICIPATION FROM EVERY DETACHMENT.



DON'T FORGET

Instructions

Throughout the year, it is necessary for National to contact squadrons regarding membership renewals, awards, and general communications. In addition, National receives daily requests for post and squadron information from members and potential new members or others who are looking for information about The American Legion at the local level. Maintaining your squadron's current information with National Headquarters has become more important than ever.

Completing an annual Squadron Data Report (SDR) is necessary to inform your Detachment & National Headquarters of pertinent information regarding your squadron and, most importantly, membership renewal information. Complete an annual SDR even if your squadron information has not changed. Any information that has changed can be indicated by checking either the "CHANGE OR CORRECTION" boxes.

Squadron information will be maintained with National's records and published on the legion.org and mysal.org websites and through the "Post Locator" feature. Members who are traveling or have moved, or simply want to transfer, frequently refer to the Post Locator for assistance.

Remember to inform your Detachment & National Headquarters any time a change is made throughout the year.

Each question for the SDR requires specific information. Each question requires the following:

- 1) Enter the actual physical location of the squadron's location.
- 2) Enter the mailing address of the squadron (if different than the physical address). This should be the address where the squadron receives all mail and parcels.
- 3) Enter the dues mailing address that is to appear on the membership renewal notices. It may or may not be the same as the regular mailing or physical address of the squadron.
- 4) Write the dues amount each member pays for the current membership year. If your dues are changing, write the effective date of the new rate. Unless noted otherwise, an effective date of July 1st will be entered to coincide with the first renewal notice of the new membership year. Indicate your junior and dual dues rates, include the maximum age the junior rate is valid, i.e., 18, 19, 20, 21 years of age, etc. All district and or county per capita should be included in the annual squadron dues. The squadron will be responsible for paying any local district or county per capita dues directly.
- 5) Enter the business telephone number of the squadron. (Do not use a personal phone number of a member.)
- 6) Enter the fax telephone number of the squadron, if applicable.
- 7) Enter the squadron email address, if applicable. Enter the email address that is regularly monitored.
- 8) Enter the URL of the squadron website, if applicable.
- 9) Enter the name of the squadron Facebook page, if applicable.
- 10) Enter the date and time of your regularly scheduled squadron meeting. (Ex: 2nd Wednesday @ 7:00pm)

The Annual Squadron Data Report must be signed at the bottom of the page by the Squadron Adjutant or Commander. Unsigned reports will be returned for an authorized signature.

The Annual Squadron Data Report must be forwarded to your Detachment & National Headquarters no later than April 15th in order for squadron information to be processed in time for the first renewal notice.

If there is a subsequent change in the squadron's contact information or a change in the dues amount, the squadron must notify their Detachment & National Headquarters immediately. National Headquarters will not be responsible for reporting incorrect information if the proper notification was not received or if notification was not received in advance of the established deadlines.

NOTICE TO DEPARTMENTS & DETACHMENTS: All annual SDRs must be received at National by April 15th in order to be processed prior to printing the first renewal notices. Please forward as quickly as possible to IT/Data Services after receipt from the squadron; this will help ease processing at National.

MAIL: THE AMERICAN LEGION
ATTN: IT/DATA SERVICES
PO BOX 1954
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206

SCAN & EMAIL: dsforms@legion.org



ANNUAL SQUADRON DATA REPORT (SDR)

20 __ Membership Year

Detachment _____ District/County _____ Squadron # _____

CHANGES ☐ (or) CORRECTIONS ☐

Please type or print in ink and forward to your Detachment and National Headquarters

1) Squadron's Home (Physical) Address: _____
(Street address, city, state and zip code) _____

2) Squadron's Mailing Address: _____
If different than physical address _____

3) Squadron's Dues Mailing Address: _____
If different than physical address _____

Note: If the above address contains a member's name or is being sent to a member's home address as the contact, please provide the member's ID#.

4) Annual Squadron Dues for 20 _____	Regular member	Dual member
Junior member	Max. age	Effective Date
		Month / Day / Year

Note: Include all district and county per capita the squadron will be responsible for paying.

5) Squadron Telephone Number:
Note: DO NOT use personal phone numbers of members

6) Squadron Fax Number:

7) Squadron Email Address: _____

8) Squadron Internet Website: _____

9) Squadron Facebook Page: _____

10) Squadron Meeting Day & Time: _____

Squadron Adjutant or Commander Signature

Date

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Complete and return this form to your Detachment and National Headquarters no later than April 15th. Failure to meet this deadline may prohibit your members from renewing their membership online through mysal.org and cause Renewal Notices to be mailed with incorrect information.

