



A common defense for the ‘global commons’

Alan W. Dowd | February 2, 2024



The guided-missile destroyer USS Gravely (DDG 107) launches Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles in response to increased Iranian-backed Houthi malign behavior in the Red Sea Jan. 12, 2024. As a part of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group, Gravely is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations to support maritime security and stability in the Middle East.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jonathan Word

U.S. and British [airstrikes](#) against Houthi rebels based in Yemen – after weeks of Houthi drone, missile and speedboat attacks targeting international shipping in the Red Sea – have brought into focus how important it is for responsible powers to protect and defend what's known as the “global commons.” If America and its free world allies fail to play this role, the global commons – and indeed the globe – will be swallowed up by chaos.

Under assault. The “global commons” has been described as the “connective tissue” of the global economy – areas around and above the earth that don’t fall within any country’s jurisdiction but which all countries depend on to conduct commerce, communications, and other activities essential to their survival. Enfolding the seas, the skies, space and cyberspace,

the global commons is a “crucial enabler of international security and trade,” as a NATO report explains. “The architecture of the modern international system rests on a foundation of assured access to, and stability in, the commons.”

The crisis in the Red Sea (which under normal conditions carries 15% of global trade) offers a glimpse of what happens when instability limits access to the global commons: [18% of cargo traffic](#) has been forced to reroute. Distance traveled for cargo ships has jumped by 25%. Insurance costs have [skyrocketed](#). Civilian [vessels](#) of more than 50 nations – guilty of nothing more than conducting commerce – have come under threat. Cargo has been lost. The result: Costs for consumers, producers and shippers have spiked, all because of Iran-Houthi piracy.

This helps explain why throughout history, responsible nations – not unlike state troopers patrolling the highways – have worked to enforce rules of the road and maintain some semblance of order in the global commons. This effort began with navies enforcing norms of behavior in international waters and evolved, as mankind’s technologies evolved, to include international airspace, then outer space, then cyberspace.

see DEFENSE page XX



Round-Up

Donald "JR" Hall, Jr. (MD) National Commander
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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
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Donald "JR" Hall, Jr.

National Commander

REPRESENTING

More

THAN ME

Celebrate Americanism and the American Legion Family

Hello again, American Legion Family,

February is Americanism month and time for all of us to get busy spreading the great works of our organizations in the Americanism pillar. We should all be taking time to celebrate being an American in our great country.

Let's start with the basics. Americanism isn't taught in the schools like it once was; we as members of the American Legion Family need to make sure that our youth know just what that flag stands for. We need to make sure they know the pride of being a patriot and caring about what our families have fought for. History cannot be left in the past; we must carry on the 100% Americanism banner. Let's join together to lift our flag and celebrate Americanism together as a Legion family.

As the months are moving quickly, many programs are heading our way under Americanism. Oratorical, Junior Shooting, and Boys and Girls State all are great programs that are starting up and plans are being made for them. Find out what you can do to help these programs; there is a part we can all do. It is when you witness these programs take place that you realize our future is better than the news portrays. So many young men and women take part in these programs which lets us know we are doing the right thing by keeping these programs going strong. The American Legion Family has had so many success stories that have come from the youth who have taken part in our programs, so let us all be a part of more success stories of the future.

At the end of the month, many members of the American Legion Family will gather in Washington, D.C., to make sure that our voices are heard. I look forward to the opportunity to represent the Sons and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and other memorials. I hope that I will see many of you there taking part in our meetings and learning from each other.

Representing our departments, detachments and our family as the American Legion Family makes our voice so much stronger. "Representing More Than Me" isn't just my slogan; it truly is what we all are about.

Representing More Than Me,

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

From the Editor

Kilroy was here

from [Wikipedia](#), the free encyclopedia



Engraving of Kilroy on the [National World War II Memorial](#) in Washington, D.C.

Kilroy was here is a [meme](#)^[1] that became popular during [World War II](#), typically seen in graffiti. Its origin is debated, but the phrase and the distinctive accompanying doodle became associated with [GIs](#) in the 1940s: a bald-headed man (sometimes depicted as having a few hairs) with a prominent nose peeking over a wall with his fingers clutching the wall.

"Mr. Chad" or just "Chad" was the version that became popular in the United Kingdom. The character of Chad may have been derived from a British cartoonist in 1938, possibly pre-dating "Kilroy was here". According to Dave Wilton, "Sometime during the war, Chad and Kilroy met, and in the spirit of Allied unity

merged, with the British drawing appearing over the American phrase."^[2] Other names for the character include Smoe, Clem, Flywheel, Private Snoops, Overby, [Eugene the Jeep](#), Scabooch, and Sapo.

According to [Charles Panati](#), "The outrageousness of the graffiti was not so much what it said, but where it turned up."^[3] It is not known if there was an actual person named Kilroy who inspired the [graffiti](#), although [there have been claims](#) over the years.



A depiction of Kilroy on a piece of the [Berlin Wall](#) in the [Newseum](#) in Washington, D.C.

The phrase may have originated through United States servicemen who would draw the picture and the text "Kilroy was here" on the walls and other places where they were stationed, encamped, or visited. An ad in [Life magazine](#) noted that WWII-era servicemen were fond of claiming that "whatever beach-head they stormed, they always found notices chalked up ahead of them, that 'Kilroy was here'".^[4] [Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable](#) notes that it was particularly associated with the [Air Transport Command](#), at least when observed in the United Kingdom.^[5] At some point, the graffiti (Chad) and slogan (Kilroy was here) must have merged.^[6]

Many sources claim origin as early as 1939.^{[3][7][8]} Earlier examples of the phrase dating from 1937 are unverified.

According to one story, German intelligence found the phrase on captured American equipment. This led [Adolf Hitler](#) to believe that Kilroy could be the name or codename of a high-level Allied spy.^[9] At the time of the [Potsdam Conference](#) in 1945, it was rumored that [Stalin](#) found "Kilroy was here" written in the VIP bathroom, prompting him to ask his aides who Kilroy was.^{[2][10]} War photographer [Robert](#)

[Capa](#) noted a use of the phrase at [Bastogne](#) during the [Battle of the Bulge](#) in December 1944: "On the black, charred walls of an abandoned barn, scrawled in white chalk, was the legend of [Gen. Anthony McAuliffe](#)'s soldiers: KILROY WAS STUCK HERE."^[11]

Real Kilroys. The [Oxford English Dictionary](#) says simply that Kilroy was "the name of a mythical person."^[6]



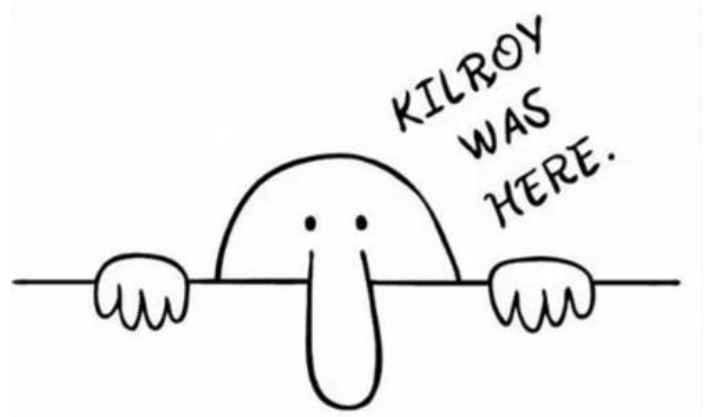
One theory identifies [James J. Kilroy](#) (1902–1962), an American shipyard inspector, as the man behind the signature.^[6] James Kilroy had served on the [Boston](#) City Council and represented the [Roxbury](#) district in the Massachusetts Legislature during the 1930s. He worked at the [Fore River](#)

[Shipyard](#) in [Quincy](#) during the war checking the work of riveters paid by how many rivets they installed.^[13] Usually, inspectors made a small chalk mark which riveters used to erase, so that they would be paid double for their work. To prevent this, Kilroy marked work he had inspected and approved with the phrase "Kilroy was here" in more durable crayon.^[14]

More than 40 candidates claimed to have originated the phrase and cartoon in response to a 1946 contest conducted by the [American Transit Association](#) to establish the origin of the phenomenon.^{[15][8][16]} James Kilroy was credited after his claim was verified by shipyard officials and the riveters whose work he inspected. While Kilroy's marks might normally have been painted over, interior painting was a low priority in the rush to launch ships, so Kilroy's marks were seen by thousands of servicemen who sailed aboard [troopships](#) built at Quincy.^[13] A [New York Times](#) article noted that Kilroy had marked the ships as they were being built as a way to be sure that he had inspected a compartment, and the phrase would be found chalked in places that nobody could have reached for graffiti, such as inside sealed hull spaces.^[16] [Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable](#) notes this as a possible origin, but suggests that "the phrase grew by accident."^[5]

The [Lowell Sun](#) reported in November 1945 that Sgt. Francis J. Kilroy Jr. from [Everett, Massachusetts](#), wrote "Kilroy will be here next week" on a barracks bulletin board at a [Boca Raton, Florida](#), airbase while ill with flu, and the phrase was picked up by other airmen and quickly spread abroad.^[17] The Associated

Press similarly reported Sgt. Kilroy's account of being hospitalized early in World War II, and his friend Sgt. James Maloney wrote the phrase on a bulletin board. Maloney continued to write the shortened phrase when he was shipped out a month later, according to the AP account, and other airmen soon picked it up. Francis Kilroy only wrote the phrase a couple of times.^{[6][18]}



I remember my dad used to draw Kilroy all the time. It may be because he grew up during World War II. Every time I see Kilroy, it reminds me of HIM. Miss ya dad!!!

Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible.

RENEW TODAY!

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com | [Team Vrabel](#)

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VRABEL

 **CRE24**
Central Region Extravaganza
Columbus, Ohio
April 5 - 7, 2024

Remembering the Greatest Generation

Elmer H. Duncan



VERO BEACH, Fla. — Elmer Harry Duncan, known as “Dunc” to all who knew him, was born in New Castle, Pa., Aug. 4, 1923. He passed away at 100 years of age, Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024. He was the son of the late Claude and Nannie Duncan.

Dunc served in the U.S. Navy during WWII on the USS Ganter. He was also called back to serve on an aircraft carrier in the Korean War.

In 1956, he started Duncan’s Bath and Kitchen Center in Poland. He was a master plumber, and very successfully ran his bath and kitchen remodeling company, which is now being operated by the third generation, his grandson, Jason Duncan.

He was preceded in death by his first wife and high school sweetheart, the late Marian Lucile Black, in 1987; and their son, Richard Bruce in 1952. He was also preceded in death by his second wife, Rita McBurney; and his sister, Dori Bintrim of New Castle, Pa.

Dunc leaves behind his loving wife of 31 years, Louise McChallan Duncan. Also surviving are his daughter, Jane White of Fort Mill, South Carolina; as well as his son, Tom Duncan (Cyndi). With his wife, Louise, Dunc was blessed with her two children, Carol David (Mike) from Vero Beach; as well as Jackie Bordeaux (Tony) from Indiana. Dunc’s seven grandchildren are Jennifer, Julie, Jason, Christine, Stephen, Sara, and Eric. His six great-grandchildren are AJ, Kamryn, Avery, Ben, Elston, and Gunner.

Dunc was a member of The American Legion and the Elks Club. He was also one of the founders of the Poland Masonic Lodge. He was a 32nd Degree Mason and Shriner, and a member of the Salem Golf Club.

Dunc enjoyed golfing, playing tennis, reading anything about the Civil War and WWII, and loved playing bridge. He was also a smooth ballroom dancer. Dunc loved texting and visiting with his children and grandchildren on FaceTime.

Dunc very much loved going to church. He served on most committees and enjoyed teaching Sunday school. He was one of the original members of the Wednesday morning men’s prayer breakfast at Poland United Methodist Church, which is still going strong. Dunc had a great memory and was a fantastic storyteller. He enjoyed recording and writing page after page of his childhood and wartime memories that are so entertaining that they may make a memorable book in the future.

Dunc will be sadly missed by many.

A private family service will be at a later date.

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

Happy Superbowl Weekend Central Region!

“Whatever you’re doing today, do it with the confidence of a 4 year-old wearing a cape and a Batman t-shirt” - Unknown

Could you just imagine all of us running around our next get together with capes and speaking in a low voice saying, “I am Batman?” Now that is a vision that makes me smile. But the key word above is the word **confidence!**

It is that 4-year old, I don’t care about the rest of the world, confidence that has allowed us, **the Sons of The American Legion, to have 20,633 more members nationally right now than we did one year ago!** Forty-two of our fifty-five detachments have reached or exceeded next week’s 75% goal and we have reached a membership percentage of 81.95%!

Confidence breeds confidence! When you are confident people around you become more confident in you and themselves and all of you work for a common goal! We don’t adapt to the energy around us, we influence that energy and make it work for us. **We are Confident, Strong, and Successful!** I could not

be prouder of what all of you have accomplished so far and I'm **CONFIDENT** that WE WILL reach and exceed our goal!

Now for our numbers...

The Central Region slowed just a bit with a gain of only 1.44% and we are **BARELY** holding on to second place with a mere .06% ahead of the Northeast Region. We are 1.14% ahead of the Midwest Region but now the Southeast Region is ahead of us by 2.47%!

The Central Region Detachment with the largest jump in this report is Michigan with a bump of 4.74%. Decent increases were also logged by West Virginia (2.93%), Indiana (1.76%), Ohio (1.48%) and Illinois (1.35%). You guys never fail to amaze me! Keep it going! Keep turning in your IRA Applications and remember that the April 15th deadline for Squadron Data Forms is heading our way. Be sure to fill one out if you haven't and if your dues have changed to modify the form you have already sent in!

Let's Get Ready For Some Football!

"A Champion is simply someone who did not give up when they wanted to!" - Tom Landry

Central Region you are my champions! You are the ones that never give up in your quest to serve the Veterans of our country. Just like in football, we the Sons of The American Legion win as a group! We band together for our common goals. **Remember, we may win, and we may lose, but we will never be defeated!**

"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?

Be the One! Be the One who loves when no one else does. Be the One who gives kindness to those who are mean. Be the One who looks past the insult instead seeing the pain that motivated it. Be the One who shines light upon those who sit in utter darkness. Because the impact of Being the One runs far and wide. It brings healing to the wounded, joy to the sad, and hope to those in despair. Be the One!

One of the deep secrets of life is that all that is really worth the doing, is what we do for others. Thanks again for everything you do for this great organization. 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

H A P P Y
Valentine's Day 

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

Southeast Region we are looking good with all 12 Detachments over the 75% and a couple have already reached over 80% and more. Let's keep going forward and don't look back.

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.



Former Navy nurse inspired to Be the One

The American Legion | February 8, 2024

After joining Simon-Gosney American Legion Post 219 in Alexandria, Ky., around a year ago, Vyneta Barnett came across information on The American Legion's [Be the One](#) suicide prevention program. That's when her background kicked in.

A former nurse who spent more than 24 years in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve — including deploying during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield —

before working at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center, she wanted to learn more and also spread the word about Be the One.

"I happened to be on the computer and saw something called Be the One," Barnett said. "Being a former nurse, I said, 'Oh, that's for me.' I'm a nurse, and I know suicide."

Wanting to get the program started at Post 219, she reached out to her former employer and learned about the [VA S.A.V.E. Training](#) that is offered both online and in-person. She set up a training session at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3205, where the post meets. The session was well attended and brought the training not only to Legion members, but to their families. "We had several wives attend with their husbands," Barnett said. "It was a really good program and a really positive experience."

During The American Legion's 2023 Fall Meetings, the organization's National Executive Committee passed [Resolution No. 9](#), which strongly encourages American Legion posts to host VA S.A.V.E. training classes and to invite local community, government agencies, not-for-profits and businesses to participate in the training.

S.A.V.E. Training focuses on four key facets:

- S - Signs of suicidal thinking should be recognized.
- A - Ask the most important question of all, "Are you thinking of killing yourself?"
- V - Validate the veteran's experience.
- E - Encourage treatment and expedite getting help.

Barnett said she wanted to bring the training to Post 219, "because veterans love other veterans. Being a veteran myself and knowing the problems we're going through with mental health — the suicide rate is certainly high not just among veterans, but with civilians and teenagers — it's just something we needed to do." Post 219 Adjutant Angela Murphy called Barnett, "a wonderful person, and (I) am so proud of her work on this. We are already making plans for training this year and including local media."

Barnett said her next goal is to bring Be the One and the S.A.V.E. Training to other posts in Kentucky. "I don't know what happened," she said. "I just saw those three words — Be the One — and said, 'That's me.' I've been working on this, and I know how important it is.

“A lot of veterans, including from Vietnam, are still suffering, and I think we’re going to have a lot more (post-9/11) veterans suffering. I really think the interest is there (to address veteran suicide). We just need to get more started in the community and with other posts in the area.”

American Legion posts interested in hosting a VA S.A.V.E. training class can facilitate it through their local VA Medical Center’s suicide-prevention team. A post can locate contact information for their local suicide prevention team through the [Veterans Crisis Line Resource using this link](#). Once on the website, enter a ZIP code and press search. Then select the box next to Suicide Prevention Coordinators and press search again. Once completed, you will be provided with the closest suicide prevention coordinator and their contact information.

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

DEVOTION TO MUTUAL HELPFULNESS

by Jeff Vrabel, Sr.

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



RENEW ONLINE TODAY



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

Suicide prevention, safeguarding veterans benefits among Legion's 2024 legislative agenda

The American Legion | February 2, 2024

Ahead of The American Legion's Washington Conference, taking place Feb. 25-28, the Legion has released its legislative agenda for the second session of the 118th Congress.

The trifold highlights **just some of the areas of focus** of The American Legion, which will strongly advocate for additional legislation to improve the lives of veterans, servicemembers and their families. Among the areas of focus listed on the agenda:

Suicide prevention and mental health. Suicide remains a top issue in the veteran community. The suicide rate among veterans is nearly double that of civilian counterparts. It is imperative that we simultaneously destigmatize mental health assistance, while increasing access. The American Legion encourages Congress to robustly fund VA's suicide prevention outreach budget and peer support programs. We encourage all Americans to "Be the One" who is willing, ready, and able to have a difficult conversation about suicide and other mental health issues. Legislation supported by The American Legion include PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program (H.R. 2768) and VA Zero Suicide Demonstration Act (H.R. 1639).



Alternative treatments. Data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) shows that in 2021, approximately 2.8 million veterans experienced an illicit drug or alcohol use disorder, with 92.4 percent not receiving treatment. More must be done to ensure veterans have access to the effective treatments they desire. This includes expanding research and access into alternative treatments and emerging therapies. Legislation supported by The American Legion includes TBI and PTSD Treatment Act (H.R. 105).

VA healthcare modernization. The biggest issue in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Healthcare Modernization is the implementation of the new electronic health record modernization program (EHRM). VA has experienced difficulties as the EHRM rollout has progressed. Some issues identified were the differences in the training software compared to end-user software, along with inexperienced instructors providing the training to VA staff. VA

made improvements on these identified issues. As the EHRM rollout is set to resume in 2024, The American Legion continues to call on Congress to provide oversight and to hold VA and other relevant parties accountable for the implementation and functioning of the EHR system. Legislation supported by The American Legion includes The Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization Improvement Act (H.R. 592).

PACT Act implementation and oversight. Since the implementation of Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, VA has screened more than 5 million veterans for toxic exposure. The average time to complete a PACT Act-related claim is 157 days. It is imperative that VA fully leverage the resources made available in the PACT Act to assist in the continued modernization of Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) information technology systems as well as the hiring of additional employees to ensure claims are adjudicated in a timely manner. The American Legion urges Congress to provide the necessary oversight and funding to ensure VA has the resources to properly implement this legislation.

Safeguard veterans benefits. Veterans are facing a growing threat from exploitative entities aiming to capitalize on the benefits rightfully earned through military service. These predatory actors range from claims companies charging exorbitant fees to lawyers seeking sizable portions of VA disability benefit payments. The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation to restore criminal penalties for persons or companies that represent or charge veterans fees to file; prepare or prosecute initial VA claims without VA accreditation; and to oppose any legislation that would allow unaccredited parties to become legal representatives without completing the accreditation process. The American Legion's advocacy role remains focused on safeguarding the well-deserved benefits of those who have served. Legislation supported by The American Legion includes Veterans Benefits Improvement Act (H.R. 1530).

Other legislative areas of focus include concurrent receipt, the GI Bill, military quality of life and more. Download the complete legislative agenda [here](#). For more details on the Washington Conference, click [here](#).

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

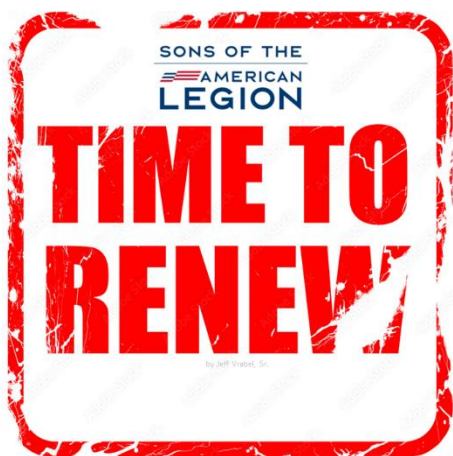
Kevin Chaplin, Chairman
Fourth Tuesday Bi-Monthly

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



VA announces \$5M in special needs grant funding for transitional supportive housing for homeless veterans

The American Legion | February 2, 2024

Today, as a part of ongoing efforts to end veteran homelessness, the Department of Veterans Affairs [published a Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for approximately \$5 million in grants per year (for up to two years) to help veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The funds are available through VA's [Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem](#) Program, which offers financial assistance to eligible community organizations that provide veterans with transitional housing and case management — including connecting eligible veterans to VA benefits, community-based services, and permanent housing. These special needs grants support homeless veterans who are women, elderly, terminally ill, chronically mentally ill, or who have care of minor dependents.

Earlier this week, VA announced that it permanently housed 46,552 homeless veterans in 2023 — surpassing the calendar year goal to house 38,000 veterans by 22.5%. Thanks in part to these efforts, the number of veterans experiencing homelessness has fallen by 4% since early 2020 and by more than 52% since 2010.

“We won’t rest until every veteran has the safe, stable home that they deserve,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “These grants will allow VA — alongside community organizations — to help provide housing and wraparound services to more homeless and at-risk Veterans.”

[Only the 16 existing special need grantees](#) are eligible to apply. Awards will fund two years of operations starting fiscal year 2025 on Oct. 1, 2024, and ending Sept. 30, 2026. Grant applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on April 15, 2024.

[View the special need NOFO](#), and [learn more about GPD](#) or email GPDGrants@va.gov. For more information about VA’s comprehensive efforts to end Veteran homelessness visit [VA.gov/homeless](https://va.gov/homeless).

Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Jim Coates, Chairman

Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly

November 19, 2023 | December 21, 2023

February 15, 2024 | April 18, 2024

June 20, 2024 | August 15, 2024

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

Meeting ID: 989 2627 5747 | Passcode: 26060



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

Managing social media accounts after a passing

Jim Miller/via Crescendo | February 1, 2024

[LEARN HOW YOUR PLANNED GIFT CAN HELP THE AMERICAN LEGION](#)

How do I cancel an individual's social media accounts after they pass? My spouse passed away a few months ago, and their social media accounts are still active.

Deactivating social media accounts is a thoughtful measure that may often be overlooked. Social media plays a large role for many individuals, but when someone passes away, their dormant accounts can become vulnerable to scammers who can hack into them and steal the deceased individual's identity.

Here is a breakdown of how you can cancel or modify various social media accounts.

Facebook: If your spouse used Facebook, you can either "memorialize" or "delete" the account. A memorialized account serves as a place where family and friends can share memories to celebrate the deceased person's life, with the word "Remembering" shown next to the deceased person's name. Once an account is memorialized, the account's postings are still visible on Facebook to the original audience. The user's profile, however, will not show up in public spaces such as people you may know, ads or birthday reminders.

Memorializing an account requires proof of death via death certificate, obituary or memorial card. If, however, you wish to delete the account, you will also need to verify that you are an immediate family member, legal representative, or executor, unless you are the legacy contact on the deceased's account.

Instagram: The policy for deceased users' Instagram accounts is similar to Facebook's since Meta owns both. Your options are to either memorialize or remove the account on their website. But just like with Facebook, you will need to provide proof of death and your relationship to the deceased.

X (formerly Twitter): To deactivate an X account, search online for "How to contact X about a deceased

family member's account" and follow the prompts to fill out a request. After you submit your request, X will email you with instructions for providing more details, including information about the deceased, a copy of your ID and a copy of the deceased's death certificate.

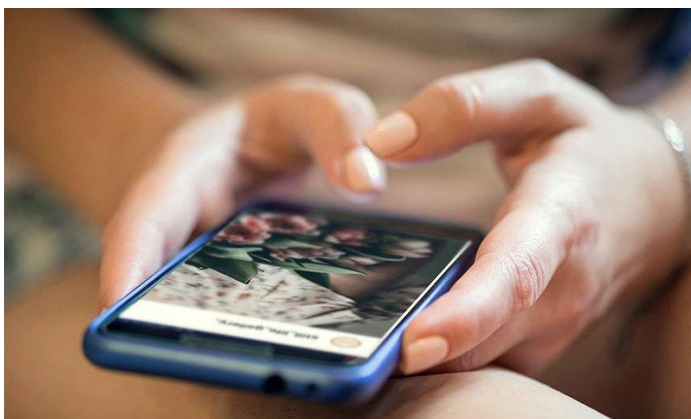
YouTube and/or Google: Google and YouTube are owned by the same parent company, Alphabet. To close one of these accounts, visit Google's support page, fill out their form and upload scans of the death certificate and your ID.

Pinterest: To remove a Pinterest account, email the site with the deceased user's account username, proof of death and proof of relationship to the deceased. If the account is connected to other accounts at Google, Facebook, or X, it is best to delete the Pinterest account before the other accounts.

LinkedIn: To remove a deceased person's LinkedIn profile, submit a request to LinkedIn's Help center. You will need to provide the name and URL to the profile being deactivated, the relationship you have to the deceased, the email address, the date of passing and a link to an obituary.

Snapchat: To delete this account, access "Contact Us" on the company's support page and choose the option for "A person has passed away." From there, follow the prompts for submitting a request. If you do not have the login information, submit a request using their Contact Us form. You will need to submit information to locate the account such as the username, and proof such as a death certificate.

Tumblr: Send an email to Tumblr's Support page requesting removal of the account with the deceased person's username, proof of their death and proof of your relationship to the deceased.



If your spouse had social media through a company not listed here, go to that company's website for information on how to delete the account. If they do not have easy-to-find information, submit a request through a contact page, help page or customer support request.

"Savvy Living" is written by Jim Miller, a regular contributor to NBC's "Today Show." The column, and others like it, is available to read via The American Legion's Planned Giving program, a way of establishing your legacy of support for the organization while providing for your current financial needs. Learn more about the process, and the variety of charitable programs you can benefit, at legion.org/plannedgiving. Clicking on "Learn more" will bring up an "E-newsletter" button, where you can sign up for regular information from Planned Giving.

Veterans sleep outside to raise awareness for homeless veterans

[Megan Marshall](#)

FOND DU LAC, Wis. — The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 75 is organizing its first ever "Freezing for a Reason" event to benefit homeless veterans in Wisconsin.

On Feb. 10, veterans, advocates, and supporters will sleep outside Squadron 75 on Fond Du Lac Avenue. They have been busy setting up tents and cardboard boxes in the snow.



Spectrum News 1/Megan Marshall

"For one weekend we will be out here, but this is a 365-day lifestyle for too many people in our country," said Shawn McCrary, a U.S. Navy veteran, and the commander of Squadron 75. "We really want to emulate what it's like to have to spend a night in conditions like this."

Army veteran Mark Nesbitt, who's helping to plan the event, said one weekend of discomfort is the least they can do for the veterans with nowhere to go in the cold.

“This is a way that we can help them,” said Nesbitt. “We can’t pay everything, but at least we can give them help that they need.”

The “Freezing for a Reason” event includes a variety of ways the public can pitch in. On Feb. 10 from 4 to 7 p.m. there is a spaghetti dinner at Squadron 75 for \$10 per person. There will also be a raffle and 50/50 drawing. Then, from 9 a.m. to noon on Feb. 11, Squadron 75 is offering a pancake breakfast for \$7/person.

The group is also accepting donations. Their goal is to raise \$20,000. Beyond money, they also want to shed light on the need for more resources to help homeless veterans.



Spectrum News | Megan Marshall

“That is what is so hard to wrap my head around sometimes is even though I am setting this up, and I get to take it down in a weekend, this is someone’s reality every day,” McCrary said as he set up the tents and cardboard boxes.

For more information on how to participate or donate to the event, reach out to the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 75 on [Facebook](#).






DEDICATED TO THE MISSION

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 352

1st AND PENNSYLVANIA AVE. SOMERS PT, NJ

14th ANNUAL VETERANS FUNDRAISER

100% OF PROCEEDS BENEFIT VETERANS

BBQ

Sunday May 5th, 2024 – 1 to 5:00

Donation \$25.00 PP At the Door
Or From Any Legion Rider

- BBQ NC Pork & Chicken Platters with Fixens¹
- Includes Draft Beer - Soft Drinks - Desserts
- Mixed Drinks Available at Cash Bar
- Eat In or Take Out Permit # 112657

Rain or Shine Under the Big Tent

Live Music by **“Brandon Ireland Band”**

Door Prizes


Further Info: dqsgn1@comcast.net


Gene : 856.776.3263

The Triple Nickel

To win The Triple Nickel Detachments must complete the following by July 1

- Have 105% Quota
- Charter 5 new Squadrons
- Have an 85% Renewal Rate





SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage



Detachment of Minnesota Commander John Weiss, District 3 Commander Dave Arend, National Vice-Commander Robert Bristo, and Detachment Membership Director Gary Richerson paused for a photo and award during the annual Sweetheart Rally at American Legion Post 225 in Forest Lake, MN.

Lou Michaels



**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**



Lisa Williamson,
National President
The American Legion Auxiliary



*Thank you to our
Round-Up sponsors*

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



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.

Hotel reservations must be made directly with Embassy Suites Columbus Airport. Click [here](#) for hotel information. The deadline to make hotel reservations is March 6, 2024.

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

We are still accepting donations from squadrons, districts, and detachments to help offset the expenses of CRE24. If you would like to help, please email jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com for details.

Thank you in advance for your support!



Valentine's Day Word Search

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

CANDY
CARDS
CUPID
DEAR
DOVES
FEBRUARY
FLOWERS
FRIENDS
HEART

TREATS
VALENTINE
SWEETHEART
RED
LOVE
KISS
PINK
HUG



JINXYKIDS.COM



Sons of The American Legion Membership Application

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



RECEIPT

Date _____
Received of _____

For God and Country

\$ _____ in payment of dues for 20 _____ in

Squadron _____, Detachment of _____

By _____

Jeff Vrabel Sr
@Jeff-VrabelSr



venmo

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

Thank you!

Squadron Everlasting

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

John Michael McAvoy



John Michael McAvoy was called to his eternal home on Jan. 26, 2024. As a 49-year member of Boilermakers Local Lodge 154, Pittsburgh, Pa., John had a wonderful career and life as a construction Boilermaker.

John was a member of the Moose Club since 1978, and has current membership at Lodge 1835 in New Smyrna Beach, Fla.; and Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 285 in Edgewater, Fla.

Throughout his life, he enjoyed fishing, boating, hunting, motorcycle racing, and riding. After retirement, fishing and boating on the Florida waterways filled his days. Caring for his family and all those around him was a special gift he expressed every day. His faith in God was ever present.

He will be deeply missed by his wife Tina; sons John Patrick (Amy) and Michael (Haley); sisters Susie Milby (Thomas), and Sheri McAvoy-Reese; a special grandson Johnny; nieces, Michelle and Kaylan; a nephew, Kyle; along with great-nephews, a great-niece and loving aunts, cousins, and an uncle. John was preceded in death by his parents John F. "Jack" and Patricia McAvoy.

Father Bill Methany will preside for the Catholic Funeral Liturgy at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, at 11 a.m. The family will be present at the Arner Funeral Chapel in Chester on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024, from noon to 2 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. when friends are welcome to visit. Boilermakers Ritual will be held on Sunday during the visitation at 6 p.m. John's burial will be held at Locust Hill Cemetery in Chester.

RENEW!

William Dale "Bill" Dixon



William "Bill" Dale Dixon, 54, of Stump Creek, passed away at home on Friday, February 2, 2024.

He was born in DuBois, a son of Dale Thomas Dixon and Jane Louise (Smith) Dixon. His parents survive and reside in Luthersburg.

He was 1987 graduate of Punxsutawney Area High School.

On April 23, 1994, he married his sweetheart, Michelle "Shelly" Lee Butler. She survives and resides in Stump Creek.

Bill worked as a construction worker for various companies including Glen O. Hawbaker, Francis J. Palo, Inc., and Randy Keller.

He was a member of the Sons of the Sykesville American Legion, the Sykesville Eagles and the "Big O."

Bill always thought of others before himself, to know him was to love him. His biggest enjoyment was his grandsons, they were his life and he had big plans for them once he was feeling better

He also enjoyed woodworking.

In addition to his wife and parents, he is survived by two children, Morgan (Dillon) Teeter of DuBois, and Jonathon Dixon and Alli Ishman of Florida; two grandchildren, Conor and Sean Teeter; two brothers, Timothy (Michelle Radaker) Dixon of Luthersburg and Michael (Sandi) Dixon of Big Run; several nieces and nephews.

In accordance with his wishes, there will be no visitation. Arrangements have been entrusted to Shumaker Funeral Home, Inc., Big Run.

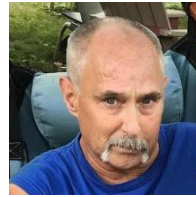
Memorial donations may be made in Bill's memory to Hahne Cancer Center.

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

Published by Tri-County Sunday on Feb. 3, 2024.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.

Butch Eugene Fleshman



Butch "Irving" Eugene Fleshman, also known as Butch, passed

away on January 31, 2024, at the age of 66, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Born on March 19, 1957, in York, Pennsylvania, Butch was a beloved individual whose presence will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Butch was an avid outdoorsman who found joy in fishing and hunting. He had a passion for repurposing natural wood into beautiful carvings and furniture. He took great pride in his membership in the Sons of the American Legion, where he served for many years.

Butch will be remembered as a loving son, father, grandfather, and companion. He is survived by his mother, Evelyn Reed of Fayetteville, Pa.; his daughter, Angela Filkins of Littlestown; and his grandchildren, Lincoln, Cruz, and Memphis. He also leaves behind his sisters, Terri Adkins of Damascus, Va., and Jodi Fleshman of Mt. Shasta, Calif. His companion, Sue Fleshman, was a significant part of his life.

Butch was preceded in death by his father, Perry Fleshman; his brothers, Robert "Bobby" Fleshman and Perry "Bud" Fleshman; his sister, Juanita Fleshman; and his stepfather, Thomas Reed.

Butch completed his education at Gettysburg High School in Gettysburg and went on to pursue higher education at Penn State.

A celebration of Butch's life will be held on Saturday, February 17, 2024, from 2-4 p.m. at the Gettysburg American Legion Post 202, located at 528 East Middle Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325. This gathering will be an opportunity for friends and family to come together and honor Butch's memory.

In honor of Butch's memory, donations can be made to the Sons of the American Legion, an organization that meant so much to him.

Butch will forever be cherished in the hearts of those who knew him. May his soul rest in peace.

Eric L. Kinderman



Eric L. Kinderman, 52, of Daleville, passed away on January 23, 2024, at home. He was born August 28,

1971, in Muncie and lived in the Chesterfield, Daleville area most all his life. Eric was the son of Roger and Margaret Kinderman.

Eric worked for North American Roofing until he experienced a life-changing accident on January 10, 1997. Eric loved family, friends, strangers, pets, and his neighbors. He enjoyed campouts and bonfires, fishing and four wheeling, rock music, remote control cars, racecars, especially NASCAR and Jeff Gordon, as well as the San Francisco 49ers. He showed appreciation for the Daleville Police Department through the display of a blue light in his front yard. Eric was free-spirited, charismatic, and funny. Eric was also a member of the Sons of the American Legion.

He is survived by his two daughters, Casey Kinderman and Hannah Brown; three sisters, Lisa Miller (Moore), Sherry Kohues and Debra Ann Clark; two brothers, Dennis Kinderman and Troy (wife, Tammy) Moore; as well as several aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Service arrangements have been entrusted to Ballard and Sons Funeral Home in Daleville, with support from the Salem Township Trustee. A Celebration of Life for Eric will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions can be made to the funeral home to assist the family with funeral expenses.

You may share a memory or express a condolence of Eric at www.ballardandsons.com.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.

Kenneth Frank Branda



Kenneth "Kenny" Frank Branda, of rural Wilson, passed away on February 1, 2024, at Hays Medical Center in Hays, Kansas, at the

age of 80. He was born on October 19, 1943, to Bohumil "Shorty" and Edith (Mahoney) Branda in Ellsworth, Kansas.

Kenny graduated from Wilson High School in 1961 and went on to attend Fort Hays State University. He chose a ski trip over his finals, which ended his higher education. He married Amy (Hoch) in front of a few close friends and family on June 3, 2005, in rural Wilson.

Kenny farmed his whole life, which began with his father. He started plumbing in 1963 before starting Kennys Construction, Inc in 1972. Kenny was in the construction business for 52 years. Kenny played in the dirt every opportunity he had, whether it was moving and setting up drilling rigs, digging basements, or building roads and terraces. He was a perfectionist in his work and didn't quit until the work was just right. Kenny would also move snow in the winter from the high school parking lot, clear streets, and driveways for those who he knew needed to go to doctors' appointments, etc.

God did not give Kenny patience. He would paint something and have it assembled before the paint even dried. Which resulted in getting paint all over his hands and clothes. Before he was old enough to have a license, he rode his bike to town and traded it for his first car. Later in life Kenny and Amy purchased two jet skis. Kenny had to try them out on the pond before he could get them on the lake. He and the jet ski both ended up on the shore.

Kenny was a member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus (Former Grand Knight), Wilson High School Alumni Association (Coordinator), Sons of the American Legion, Former City Council Member, and Former Wilson Fire Department Chief.

Kenny is survived by his wife, Amy of rural Wilson; daughters, Joan Branda of Trenton, TX, Sharon (Mike) McConnell of South Haven, KS; bonus son, Martin (Courtney) Swart of Canton, KS; five grandchildren, Kristin (Josh) Weger, Jessica (Cody) Douglas, Kaitlin (Roger) Graham, Breanna (Seth) Stroman, James McConnell and his two bonus grandchildren, Kensington and Oliver Swart and ten great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at 10:00 AM at the funeral home in Wilson. Visitation will be on Friday, 6:00-8:00 PM with a Rosary at 7:00 PM at the funeral home. Scattering will take place at a later time in Rural Wilson.

Memorials are suggested to Wilson Alumni Association and Golden Belt Humane Society and may be sent to Plumer-Overlease Funeral Home, P.O. Box 533, Wilson, KS 67490.

Jeffrey H. Atwood



Jeffrey Howard Atwood passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on February 5, 2024. Born and raised in [Middletown, NY](#) and settled with his wife and children in Slate Hill, Jeff was a pillar of the community and loved by all who knew him.

Jeff's entrepreneurial spirit and endless passion for cars drove many ventures in his 68 years; he loved what he did, which ensured he never "worked" a day in his life. Though a real "car doctor", the honor and joy of his life was taking care of his family. Jeff was never without a story or joke to tell and made all feel welcome in his presence. His kindness and generosity were unmatched and his authentic and deep love for others made him a loyal servant and devoted friend.

He will be incredibly missed.

Jeffrey is predeceased by his parents, Howard and Eleanor Atwood, and many friends who will welcome him home with open arms. He is survived by his loving wife of 36 years, Meg, his two daughters Whitney (Andrew) Sienkiewicz and Abbye Atwood (Justin Liess), sisters Patricia (Larry) Linn, Yvonne (Gary) Wakeman, Gail Congalosi (Frank Iacketta), brother Larry (Michelle) Atwood, in-laws Fay (Ginny) Dildine, Kim (Pat) Fagan, Mark Dildine, Todd Dildine (Cheryl Dowd), his nieces, nephews, countless friends, and his adored cat, Louie.

Friends are asked to come share stories and celebrate Jeff's life alongside his family. Calling hours will be held at Applebee McPhillips Funeral Home in [Middletown, NY](#) on Thursday, February 8th from 2-4pm and 6-8pm, as well as Friday, February 9th from 2-3pm, followed immediately by a funeral service.

In Jeff's memory, donations will be collected for Hospice for the loving and respectful care he received, as well as for the Sons of the American Legion Squad 151 to support community service efforts that were so close to his heart.

Arrangements are under the

direction of Applebee-McPhillips Funeral Home, Inc., 130 Highland Avenue, [Middletown, NY](#) 10940.

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

Malcolm "Mac" Manlief



Malcolm L. "Mac" Manlief, 79, of Aurora, IN, passed away Monday, February 5, 2024.

He was born June 20, 1944, in Batesville, IN, son of the late Leslie Manlief and Joan (Weishan) Manlief.

Mac worked in maintenance for Monsanto/Bayer company with 30 years of service.

He was a member of Aurora Eagles, Lawrenceburg Sons of the American Legion, and the Aurora Moose.

Malcolm was an avid golfer and bowler, he enjoyed fishing, and hunting. He loved camping, boating, and waterskiing with the family. Mac enjoyed basketball and baseball. Malcolm loved crossword puzzles and was a huge IU fan. He will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Mac is survived by his loving spouse, Ramona (Fuentes) Manlief, children, Kimberly (Russ) Gardner, Greg (Sonnie) Manlief, Shannon (Rob) Rickett, Jeremy Manlief, Pamela (Tony) Delisle; grandchildren, Jessica (Tim), Tiffany, Kayly Jo (Nick), Courtney, Robin, Brad (Kass), Jace, Christopher (Ashley); great-grandchildren, Brett, Gage, Caydin, Lucas & Skylar; sister, Patricia (Manlief) Wisheart.

He was preceded in death by parents, Leslie and Joan Manlief; 1st wife, Phyliss (Littlefield) Manlief; brother David L. Manlief.

Friends will be received Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Rullman Hunger Funeral Home, 219 Mechanic Street, Aurora, IN.

Services will be held at the Funeral Home, Thursday at 10:00 am.

Interment will follow in the River View Cemetery, Aurora, IN. Contributions may be made to the Aurora EMS.

Visit: [www.rullmans.com](#).

Robert Scott "Bobby" Moore



Robert "Bobby" Scott Moore 38 years old of [Bloomsdale, MO.](#), died Sunday, February 4, 2024.

He was born April 7, 1985 in St. Louis, MO.

Survived by: Father, Charles D. Moore of Bloomsdale, MO; Mother, Linda Moore of Bloomsdale, MO; Son, Braxtyn Andrew Moore; Braxtyn's mom, Erica Ivie; Two Brothers, David S. (Sarah) Moore of Sainte Genevieve, MO, Dustin L. (Emily) Moore of Farmington, MO; Grandfather, Charles L. Moore of Elgin, SC; Aunts, Virginia L. Wall of House Springs, MO, Melissa McKinney of Sainte Genevieve, MO; Kim (Daniel "Danny") Bradley of Camden, SC; Uncles, Kevin (Alena) Moore of Barnhart, MO; Keith (Carolyn) Moore of Mapaville, MO; Steven E. (Danielle) Hendrix of French Village, MO; Gary Hendrix of Festus, MO; Cousins, Nieces, Nephews and Friends.

Preceded in Death by: Grandparents, Darrell and Helen McKinney; Grandmothers, Dorothy Hendrix and Miriam Moore; Aunt, Kathy McKinney; Uncles, Robert Wall and Jerry Dunning.

Celebration of Life will be at Bloomsdale American Legion Hall on Saturday, February 17, 2024 beginning at 12:00 pm at 13879 Bodine Road, Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670.

Memorials can be made to [The Parkinson's Foundation](#).

Robert was a member of Sons of American Legion Post 554 Bloomsdale. He loved to fish, go camping, and was the best fence builder in the county. Robert enjoyed spending time with his son and working on projects together. He will be greatly missed.

Online condolences can be left at [www.baslerfuneralhome.com](#).

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Robert "Bobby", please visit our floral store.

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

RENEW!

Mike Beggs



Michael Earl Beggs, 67, of Ottumwa, died at 2:44 p.m. February 5, 2024 at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City.

He was born December 19, 1956 in Ottumwa to Elvin Earle and Rose Mary Courtney Beggs. Mike married Kimberly Howard and they later divorced.

Mike attended Ottumwa High School and later attended classes at DMACC. He moved to Altoona in 1987 and then to Pleasant Hill. Mike worked at Colonial Bakery in Des Moines and as a custodian at 801 Grand Ave. In 2006 he moved back to Ottumwa.

Mike attended Simpson United Methodist Church in Des Moines, where he was baptized. He was a member of Sons of the American Legion. Mike enjoyed riding his Harley, mushroom hunting, fishing, and camping.

Surviving are children, Jesse Cozad, Justin Beggs of Des Moines, Ryan Beggs of St. Petersburg, FL, Katelyn (Justin) Beggs-Evans of Midlothian, TX and Natelyn (Erick) Villalobos of Cleburne, TX; 6 grandchildren; and siblings, Debra (Chris) Shaw, Sandra Beggs, and Hazen D. Beggs, all of Ottumwa.

He was preceded in death by his parents and step-father, Bill Ward. His body has been cremated. Memorial services will be 10 a.m. Friday, February 9th at Reece Funeral Home with Chaplain Doug McAntire officiating.

The family will be present one hour prior to the service to greet friends. Memorials may be made to O.B. Nelson Post #3 American Legion.

Franklin "Spanky" Smith



Franklin "Spanky" Smith, age 74, of Thompson, passed away Friday, February 2, 2024. He was born November 10, 1949 in Cleveland, the son of Al and Betty (Kramer) Smith.

Frank worked as a tow motor operator for ChemMasters and was a member of Teamsters Union Local #507. He was a longtime member of the South Madison Trap League and the Sons of The American Legion Post 112. He loved helping his

friends and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Darlene; stepdaughters, Debbie (Dominic) Magda and Dawn Wickert; grandchildren, Dominic and Dahlia Magda, Devin Wickert and Travis Sanders; uncle, Roy Kramer, and cousins Sue (Robert) Freeman.

A Celebration of Life will take place at 2 pm on Saturday, February 17th at American Legion Post 601, 1725 Hubbard Road in Madison.

Behm Family Funeral Home of Madison is assisting the family at this time. Online obituary and condolences may be viewed at www.behmfuneral.com.

Charles Miller Lowe



Charles "Chuck" Miller Lowe sadly left us on January 31, 2024, at the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center Bel Air, at the age of 72. Chuck was the epitome of resilience, dedication, and kindness.

Chuck was born on November 6, 1951, in [Havre de Grace, Md.](#), to Charles B. Lowe and Vera (Logan) Lowe. Chuck worked as a master plumber for Amtrak for more than 30 years. His craftsmanship and expertise were unrivaled, and his work ethic was an inspiration to all who knew him. Chuck was the husband of the late Judy Churchman Lowe. The couple had two children, Yancy Lowe and his wife Kenna, and Jolene Calaf and her husband Chris. Chuck was a loving and proud Pop-Pop to his grandchildren: Ethan Calaf, Nathaniel Lowe, Adrian Calaf, and Addison Lowe.

His love and humor will forever be remembered in their hearts. He is survived by his sister-in-law Bonny (Churchman) Skalecky and husband Jim, brother-in-law Robert Churchman and wife Stephanie, six nieces and nephews, and sister Sharon Lowe.

During his life, Chuck was a member of the Sons of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, and Susquehanna Hose Company. He was an avid fan of NASCAR and loved to listen to country and bluegrass music. Chuck enjoyed tractors and steam engines, worked on cars with his best friend Bobby Keen. Everyone who met Chuck felt his genuine kindness. He treated friends as family and was always ready to lend a helping hand, making him known

as "everyone's handyman". Chuck especially loved eating at his favorite restaurants. He also enjoyed attending, supporting, and watching his grandchildren's school performances and extracurricular sports.

The memorial visitation for Charles "Chuck" Lowe will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Zellman Funeral Home, P.A., 123 S. Washington Street, [Havre de Grace, Md.](#) A memorial service will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Zellman Funeral Home, P.A. Pastor Dennis Gilbert will officiate. Interment will be at Angel Hill Cemetery in [Havre de Grace, Md.](#)

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in honor of Judy Lowe, Chuck's wife of 40 years, to the Johns Hopkins Breast Health Services Education, Outreach, and Survivorship Fund. Please make checks payable to Johns Hopkins University and mailed to the Fund for Johns Hopkins Medicine, 550 North Broadway, Suite 722, [Baltimore, MD 21205](#) or made online at <https://secure.jhu.edu/form/surgery>. Please select other and write in your gift memorial.

Messages of condolences and memories to share may be made at www.zellmanfuneralhome.com.

Published by Baltimore Sun on Feb. 7, 2024.

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

Clinton Clark



Clinton Wayne Clark, 61, Berlin, died February 7, 2024 at Memorial Medical Center, Johnstown. Born July 28, 1962 in Cleveland, OH, son of Luther and Carolyn (Hoffer) Clark. Preceded in death by parents and brother Carl "Leroy" Clark.

Survived by his wife of 33 years, the former Ruthanne Platt; children: James (Janel) Coughenour, Christy (Tim) May, Tyler Clark and fiancée Victoria Kimmel, and Alex (Abbee) Clark; nine grandchildren; and sisters Sue (Dan) Gindlesperger and Nancy (Mike) Hutchinson.

Clinton was a 1980 graduate of Berlin Brothersvalley High School. He was a salesman at Center Rock and previously owned Clarks Garage in Berlin. A member of F. & A.M. Lodge 554, New Baltimore

Sportsman's Club, and Berlin Sons of the American Legion. He enjoyed hunting, deer camp, golf, and spending time with his family and friends.

Family will receive friends from 4 p.m. until a memorial service at 6 p.m. Monday at Trinity United Church of Christ, Berlin. Rev. Jay Shaffer officiating. Inurnment Downey Cemetery, Berlin.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be given to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 198, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

Arrangements entrusted to Deaner Funeral Home, Berlin. www.DeanerFuneralsAndCremations.com.

James Dean Thornton



Funeral services for James Thornton will be held on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Algona. Burial will be at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Whittemore.

James Dean Thornton was born Dec. 14, 1955, in Fort Dodge, the son of Robert and Rosanne (Gales) Thornton. He grew up in Livermore, Rutland, and in sixth grade his family moved to Whittemore. He attended school at St. Michael's and later Bishop Garrigan High School, graduating in 1974. After his schooling he began working for Elbert Well Drilling and later Schumacher Well Drilling in Algona.

On Sept. 8, 1984, James was united in marriage to Lori Christensen in Fenton. After their marriage they lived in Whittemore. In 2006, Jim and Lori adopted their son, Gabriel, who meant the world to Jim, and you could tell Jim's face would light up every time he talked about him. Jim worked at Balchem, formerly AI Processors, in Whittemore for 29 years, retiring in September of 2022.

Jim enjoyed bowling, fishing, playing cards, golfing, playing softball, following all Iowa teams in their sporting events, and watching the Minnesota Vikings. He most of all enjoyed the time he was able to spend with his family. He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion Whittemore Post #425. James Thornton died Sunday, Feb. 4 at Mercy Medical Center - North Iowa in Mason City at the age of 68. He is survived by his wife, Lori Thornton of Whittemore; son, Gabriel Thornton of Whittemore;

siblings, John and Kathy Thornton of Clear Lake; JoAnne and Alan Johnson of Hubbard; Joseph and Vickie Thornton of Emmetsburg; Jacqueline and Thomas Ricke of Whittemore; Jeffrey Thornton of Sioux City; Jayne Thornton of Ankeny; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Jim and Deb Christensen of Ankeny; David and Shelley Christensen of Grimes and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and mother-in-law and father-in-law.

Arrangements are being handled by Oakcrest Funeral Services. Condolences may be left at www.oakcrest-funeralservices.com.

Timothy Ray Baird



Timothy Ray Baird, 70 of Bucyrus passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday February 7, 2024 at Avita Hospital,

Galion. He had been fighting Lymphoma for the past year.

Tim was born January 12, 1954 in Shelby, OH to the late Richard and Clara (DeWitt) Baird. He was married October 20, 1984 to Cathy (Cox) Baird who survives. He is also survived by daughter Ashley "Mandy" (Nick) Temple of North Robinson, aunts Delores Batesole, and Marilyn Lowmiller, as well as numerous cousins.

Tim graduated from Bucyrus High School in 1973 and worked at Bucyrus Avita Hospital for 39 years, retiring in 2020. He enjoyed deer hunting, socializing with friends, going to auctions with his dad, and following the Chicago Bears. Tim was a member of the Sons of the American Legion Post 181.

The family would like to express their gratitude for Dr. Das & staff at Cleveland Clinic of Mansfield & also Dr. Wendt & staff of Avita ER in Galion.

The family will receive friends at the Munz-Pirnstill Funeral Home on Monday from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm on Monday where services will be held at 6:00 pm. Memorials may be made to the Crawford County Humane Society and expressions of sympathy can be left at www.munzpirnstill.com.



Larry William Greenwood Jr.



Lebanon, NH - Larry William Greenwood, Jr., born August 12, 1964, in Concord, Massachusetts, to Larry Greenwood, Sr. and Marjorie

Bruce, died February 6, 2024, at Dartmouth Health in the presence of his loved ones.

In 2004, Larry was given a second chance at life when his brother, Wayne, selflessly donated one of his kidneys. That immeasurable gift kept Larry off dialysis and provided him with a better quality of life for much of 15 years.

"Honey", "Fasha", "Daddy", "Pops", "Bampa", "Bum", "Liquid Larry", lived his life to the fullest. Larry suffered from kidney disease and other illnesses throughout his 59 years of life. His will to live was driven by his love for his children, grandchildren, and family. He loved spending time with family and friends.

Larry's passions throughout life were hunting, fishing, and anything sport related. Larry participated in many leagues, be it bowling, billiards, golf, horseshoes, or softball. Larry bowled on the PBA tour and remarkably had twenty-three 300 games. He loved sharing stories of

his bowling career with anyone who would listen. Larry was a member of the Sons of the American Legion Post #22 where he enjoyed the people and rip tickets.

Larry worked for many years perfecting his craft as a professional painter while working alongside his dad. He later ran his own painting business.

Larry's children were born to him and his first wife, Lisa. Larry loved his children and grandchildren with a passion. He and his boys, Larry III (Lala) and Wade (Wadel) often bantered about who knew the most about any given subject. Larry loved watching them bowl and giving them bowling advice. Larry drew strength from his daughter, Jessica (Peanut), who battled childhood cancer. He loved spending time with Jessica and grandkids, Cole, and Gracie. "Bampa" held a special place in his heart for his grandkids.

Larry married his wife, Annie White, in 2005. Together, they enjoyed many years of playing sports, watching the kids bowl, taking the kids overnight to hotels, and making memories with friends and family. Annie was Larry's care partner for which Larry was forever grateful.

Larry is survived by his wife, Annie; son, Larry III, and partner, Alayna; daughter, Jessica, and partner,

Josh; son, Wade, and partner, Sarah; mother, Marjorie; mother, Mary, and father, Larry Sr; sister, Rhonda; brother, Wayne, and wife, Denise; sister, Tammy, and husband, Mikhail; grandchildren, Cole and Gracie; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

Calling hours will be held at Ricker Funeral Home in Lebanon, NH, Tuesday, February 13, 2024, between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. A graveside service at Valley Cemetery will follow at 12:30 p.m. Please consider joining the family for a luncheon at the American Legion Post #22 in Lebanon, NH, following the services.

An online guestbook is available to leave a message of condolence for Larry's family by visiting www.rick-erfuneralhome.com.

Published by Valley News on Feb. 9, 2024.

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



AMERICAN LEGION



Daniel J. Seehafer,
National Commander
The American Legion

Daniel J. Seehafer, National Commander
The American Legion



Falcon American Legion is multi-faceted

[Pete Gawda](#), The New Falcon Herald | February 3, 2024

The American Legion is a worldwide organization of American military veterans and their families who believe in veterans affairs and rehabilitation, national security, children and youth and Americanism, said Chip Kossow, commander of the American Legion Dane R. Balcon Post 2008 in Falcon. At the heart of the Legion are the individual posts embedded in thousands of communities across the country. “The Dane R. Balcon Post 2008 honors Dane Balcon, who attended Falcon High School and then enlisted in the U.S. Army,” Kossow said. “Dane was killed in action in Iraq in September 2007.”

Post 2008 supports local veterans and their families through benevolence, advocacy for veteran affairs and funeral honors, Kossow said. For the children, they charter scouting, host junior shooting sports classes, provide awards and scholarships for JROTC

at Falcon, Sand Creek, and Vista Ridge high schools as well as Boys and Girls State programs. The Falcon Post 2008 also participates in patriotic holiday ceremonies, local charity donations, flag education; and they have adopted a portion of Eastonville Road for cleanup efforts.

The Falcon Post sponsors an Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Riders. They also sponsor Young Guns, a basic rifle safety and marksmanship course for students 12 to 18 years old. Young Guns will have another session in March.

Post 2008 is planning a golf tournament on July 20 at Antler Creek Golf Course. They are looking for hole sponsors, prize donations and participants.

All veterans who have honorably served are eligible to join the Legion as well as their close family members. The Falcon Legion Post meets at Patriot Learning Center, 11990 Swingline Road every fourth Wednesday. For more information, call 719-749-1140, or email legionpost2008@gmail.com or visit the website at <https://www.legionpost2008.com>.

DEFENSE continued from page 1

All of these are under assault by an axis of tyrants and terrorists – led by China, Russia, Iran, and their proxies – that either want to rewrite the rules or reject the rules altogether.

China. China is [illegally claiming](#) waters and islands in the South China Sea, building and [militarizing](#) manmade islands to bolster those claims, [bullying](#) allied ships in international and sovereign territorial waters, and salami-slicing its way to de facto control over a waterway that sustains a third of global trade. Beyond its neighborhood, China has used civilian vessels to [disable](#) undersea gas pipelines connecting Estonia and Finland and sever undersea communications cables connecting Estonia, Finland and Sweden; they’ve also cut ([repeatedly](#)) communications cables connecting Taiwan’s islands. Plus, China has disgorged an armada of civilian fishing vessels to [plunder](#) and [despoil](#) international and sovereign territorial waters.

In the skies, China has conducted numerous illegal [intercepts](#) in international airspace. China has declared an illegal air-defense identification zone above the East China Sea, ostensibly [requiring](#) that any aircraft flying through what is international airspace seek PRC permission to do so – and risk PRC interdiction for failing to do so. Beyond the atmosphere, reckless PRC anti-satellite (ASAT) tests

have [littered](#) space with vast debris fields that threaten commercial satellite activity. One of Beijing's ASAT tests created 3,000 pieces of deadly space debris.

Finally, in the newest domain of the global commons, China is conducting a cyber-siege of the free world: [crashing](#) Taiwan's networks, harvesting intellectual property from free-market economies, [hacking](#) Japan's defense systems, [targeting](#) British members of Parliament, [using](#) email networks to breach European and U.S. government agencies, gaining control over [networks](#) at U.S. defense-related agencies, launching "spear-phishing" [attacks](#) to steal innovations from U.S. firms, penetrating the Office of Personnel Management and compromising the data of 21.5 million Americans, stealing designs for U.S. [weapons systems](#) and erasing hundreds of billions of dollars in wealth every year.

Russia. Russia is engaged in nothing less than piracy throughout the [Black Sea](#). Even before its 2022 assault on Ukraine, Russia was asserting illegal claims – and [recklessly](#) so – in the international waters of the Black Sea and [Pacific Ocean](#). Like China, Russia is suspected of [severing](#) undersea cables linking the Norwegian mainland with satellite stations based on Arctic islands, as well as [other](#) undersea sabotage [operations](#) in and around the Arctic Circle. Russia also is attempting to [restrict](#) maritime activity in Arctic waters, while making outlandish [claims](#) over the Arctic region.

In the skies, Russia has attacked [U.S.](#) and [British](#) aircraft operating in international airspace. In space, Russia in 2021 tested a ground-launched ASAT weapon that "generated more than 1,500 pieces of trackable orbital debris and will likely generate hundreds of thousands of pieces of smaller orbital debris," U.S. Space Command reports.

Moscow has used cyberspace to [penetrate](#) the U.S. electrical grid, implanting malicious software and sleeper switches to allow Russia to disrupt service. In 2021, Colonial Pipeline, which administers the major fuel arteries serving much of the East Coast, was hit by a ransomware cyberattack from a Russia-based group called [DarkSide](#). As the Center for Strategic and International Studies [explains](#), "No cyber-group operates there without Moscow's knowledge." The attack triggered a spike in gasoline prices, gas-station closures, and panic hoarding, as the food supply, livelihoods, and freedom of movement of 100 million Americans were held hostage. That same year, ransomware attacks targeted

meatpacking giant JBS. Again, the ripple [effects](#) were widespread. Plants were idled, meat prices jumped, livestock deliveries were delayed, slaughterhouses were forced to slow production, and restaurants and families faced higher retail prices. And again, a Russian hacking group was behind the [attack](#). Finally, cyberattacks against [hospitals](#) in Oregon, New York and Nevada – all emanating from a group called Ryuk, which is tied to Russian intelligence – crippled their ability to deliver critical care.

Iran and North Korea. Iran has repeatedly threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz, constantly [harasses](#) vessels operating in the Persian Gulf, carries out other [piratical activity](#) in the Persian Gulf and [aids](#) Houthi piracy in the Red Sea. In cyberspace, Iranian cyberattacks have [siphoned](#) intellectual property from U.S. universities and companies. And Iran's Shamoon computer virus destroyed 30,000 computers supporting the Saudi oil industry.

Both Iran and North Korea have [asserted](#) excessive, illegal claims beyond their territorial waters. [North Korea](#) unleashed cyberattacks against U.S. companies conducting COVID-19 research. North Korea's WannaCry cyberattacks triggered chaos in Britain's hospital system. And Pyongyang's DarkSeoul attacks destroyed thousands of computers at South Korea's largest banks and broadcasting companies.

Shared. The United States cannot defend the global commons alone. The global commons, by definition, is a global resource, and so there must be a common defense for the global commons. The good news is that responsible nations are coming together to shoulder this shared responsibility.

In response to the [Iran-aided Houthi attacks](#) on Red Sea shipping lanes, the United States and its allies have forged an ad hoc coalition known as [Operation Prosperity Guardian \(OPG\)](#) to protect – and quite literally [shield](#) – civilian cargo ships from latter-day piracy. Joining the United States in this escort and protection [mission](#) are Britain, Bahrain, Canada, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Spain. In addition, India and Pakistan have sent warships to protect their own vessels.

Importantly, OPG [operates](#) under an already-existing multinational construct known as the [Combined Maritime Forces \(CMF\)](#) – a 39-nation partnership that serves as an umbrella for several naval task forces focused on security, counterterrorism and

counterpiracy in the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean and around the Horn of Africa.

Adm. James Stavridis (former military commander of NATO and former commander of U.S. European Command) pointed out months ago that OPG's defensive mission is simply not enough to protect this swath of the global commons – and address this kind of threat. Thus, [Stavridis](#) called for “offensive action against verified Houthi targets at sea” and “strikes ashore at known Houthi infrastructure.”

That's exactly what U.S. and British air and naval forces – with assistance from Australia, Bahrain, Canada, and the Netherlands – began in mid-January. The fact that the Pentagon recently gave these counterpiracy strikes a codename – [Operation Poseidon Archer \(OPA\)](#) – suggests they could go on for some time.

This sort of punitive and ultimately preventive military action, as Stavridis knows well, is very much in line with how America has defended and ensured freedom of the seas over the centuries. Indeed, America's commitment to freedom of the seas dates to the earliest days of the republic: President Thomas Jefferson's war on piracy – waged all the way “to the shores of Tripoli” – was in defense of freedom of the seas and, in a very real sense, in defense of the global commons. The hundreds of instances of U.S. military [intervention](#) that followed unfold dozens of operations focused on counterpiracy, freedom of the seas, freedom of transit and maritime encroachment.

Template. Efforts such as OPG, CMF and OPA provide a template not just for other at-risk sea lanes, but also for other domains of the global commons.

Regarding other at-risk sea lanes – especially in the Indo-Pacific – it's not difficult to envision U.S., Indian, Japanese, Australian, British, [ASEAN](#) (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and EU naval assets forming another ad hoc taskforce dedicated to freedom of navigation in the South and East China seas. Indeed, from the Arctic Circle and South Pacific, to the Red Sea and Black Sea, to the Mediterranean and South China Sea, the free world could surge what Adm. Mike Mullen, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs, calls a “thousand-ship navy.” Deploying “the best capabilities of all freedom-loving navies of the world,” this navy of navies could promote and defend freedom of the seas on a regional basis.

Similarly, NATO's [Air Policing Mission](#), which relies on a rotating mix of air forces to secure at-risk alliance airspace, serves as a template for efforts to ensure freedom of over-flight in swaths of international airspace now in the crosshairs of China, Russia and Iran.

Similar partnerships are taking shape in space and cyberspace. More than 20 democracies enfold five continents are part of the [Artemis Accords](#), which promote the peaceful use and exploration of space. Some of those allies contribute to Operation Olympic Defender – a U.S.-led effort to extend the proven principles of deterrence into space.

In cyberspace, NATO's cyber-defense center has made room for non-NATO members Australia, Austria, Ireland, Japan, South Korea, Switzerland, and Ukraine. The United States and its [partners](#) have even engaged in [operations](#) to deter, [mitigate](#), [prevent](#) and [punish](#) misuse of cyberspace.

Costs. Protecting the global commons is a costly, endless task. But the years when there were no safe passageways in the global commons, when no one was willing or able to enforce rules of the road – the years of global war – remind us that averting our gaze is far more costly.

The Red Sea crisis is yet another cautionary example of why America and its allies must not only [defend the free world](#), but also protect the arteries that connect and sustain the free world.

Legion, others call on 'swift passage' for Afghan allies support

The American Legion | February 6, 2024

Today, The American Legion joined with other organizations in calling for the U.S. Senate to include legislation in the Emergency National Security Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2024 that will adjust the status of our Afghan allies while assisting those still in Afghanistan and other countries.

The [letter](#) was sent to Senate Majority Leader Sen. Charles Schumer and Minority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell and reads, in part, “It has been over two years since the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and the evacuation of over 80,000 Afghans to the United States; however, the lives of our brave war-time allies remain imperiled. Legislation providing adjustment of status for Afghans in the U.S. and support to the nearly 150,000 Afghan allies still abroad

is vital, and we cannot continue to miss opportunities to include critical provisions in the few legislative vehicles available.”



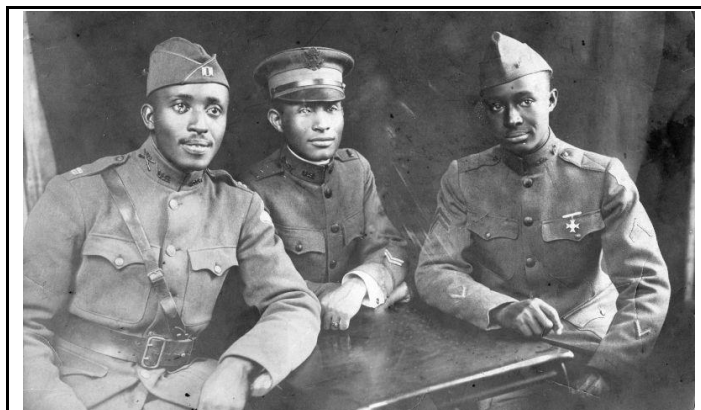
Joining The American Legion in signing the letter were Veterans of Foreign Wars, Operation Recovery, No One Left Behind and With Honor. “Providing a path to permanent, legal residency has broad political support, as evidenced by bipartisan legislation like the Afghan Adjustment Act and the Afghan Allies Protection Act, as well as national polling showing nearly 90% support amongst Americans for fulfilling our promises to our Afghan allies,” the five organizations wrote. “Providing legal residency to our allies after they are fully vetted is a moral and national security imperative. Congress has failed over the last two years to pass necessary legislation. Political infighting and partisan acrimony have made passing bipartisan legislation increasingly difficult, but our allies can no longer be casualties of this inclusion in the Emergency National Security Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2024 and to support passage of the bill.”

American Legion Family members are encouraged to contact their senators and call for Afghan adjustment legislation in the Emergency National Security Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2024 and for passage of the supplemental legislation. Contact your senators through our [Grassroots Action Center](#).

American Legion founder ‘a man of action’

The American Legion | February 8, 2024

A “founder” of The American Legion is considered to be someone with proven attendance at one of the two organizing 1919 caucuses – Paris in March, or St. Louis in May. The attendee lists are not complete, so a full lineup of founders is impossible. But many are known.



“Cap” Ferguson, left, and brothers Daniel and William, in uniform in 1918.

Renea Crozier/Stam Bumgardner

Gurnett Ferguson is on the St. Louis Caucus list, a delegate from West Virginia. He was born in Fayette County on Oct. 17, 1888. His father was a coal miner. Ferguson – or “Cap,” as he was known – grew up just west of Charleston, W.Va., a city he would ultimately devote decades of his life to. Before passing away in 2023, his granddaughter Maria Sisco collaborated with Stan Bumgardner on a [web article](#) on his life and legacy. After graduating from high school and normal school in 1912, he taught and entered the world of real estate.

Ferguson’s full military record was a victim of the 1973 St. Louis records fire, but in 1917 he trained for the Army at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, and was named a company captain in the 365th Infantry, part of the all-Black 92nd Division. The 365th received the Croix de Guerre for its actions in the Vosges Mountains late in the war.

On May 13, 1919, nearly 1,100 soldiers gathered in St. Louis for the first American Legion organizational caucus held in the United States. Delegates from each state/department approved drafts of the preamble and constitution, elected ceremonial officers, adopted “The American Legion” as a name and made plans for the first national convention, to be held in Minneapolis that November. I.K. Stevenson published a booklet in 1980, “The Recording of the Individual Lives of Those Who Acted as Founders of The American Legion,” in which he recounts his conversations with many of the still-living founders. He said of Ferguson, then 91, “Since attending (the) caucus, he has been one of our most enthusiastic Boosters, and his work with his local Legion posts has been wonderful.” In 1922, he spearheaded the charter of Post 57 in Charleston – still in operation – the area’s first Black post.

That same year, the Ferguson Hotel opened, part of a complex of stores and business centers – The Block – that took up an entire city block in a poor area and cost nearly \$3.4 million in 2019 numbers to build. A revolutionary space in a segregated city, it spurred additional investment in the area. Ferguson related to Stevenson his pride at convincing his local bank to take a chance on his dream; as the author recounted, “What pleased (him) more than the confidence of the bankers was what when the loan came due, he was able to repay it. This established his credit standing, and any time another idea developed he always had the bank behind him.”

As the decades passed, Ferguson served on Republican Party executive committees throughout West Virginia, and continued to drive developments in housing and recreational facilities. As a Legion founder, he was listed as a distinguished guest at the 1981 national convention in Hawaii. He died on Dec. 26, 1982, in St. Louis and is buried in West Virginia. Stevenson had characterized him well as “... a man of action. His entire life has been ‘doing things.’”



Support our Afghan allies, Legion tells Congress

The American Legion | February 8, 2024

The American Legion joined other veterans service organizations and U.S. senators on Feb. 8 in calling for Congress to provide support and assistance for our wartime Afghan allies.

Specifically, the Legion is asking for Congress to establish a path to permanent legal residency for 15,000 Afghan allies who supported American troops during the war in Afghanistan. Earlier this week, [the Legion co-signed a letter](#) calling for the Senate to approve such a measure as part of the Emergency National Security Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2024.

The bipartisan legislation is supported by, among others, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., who all spoke at the press conference.

During the press conference, American Legion National Security Commission Chairman Matthew Shuman said, “The American Legion stands firmly, shoulder to shoulder with Sen. Klobuchar, Sen. Moran, Sen. Coons and Sen. Blumenthal, calling on their congressional colleagues to pass legislation that would right a wrong, and bring our Afghan allies to the United States today.”

When the U.S. withdrew from Afghanistan in August 2021, the Taliban immediately regained power. The lives of interpreters and other U.S. allies left behind are at risk under the Taliban control.

“Our Afghan allies have stood alongside America’s servicemembers, protected the stars and stripes and have more than earned their right to call America home, seek citizenship and fly the American flag from the front porch of their own home in this beautiful nation,” Shuman said. “Let me state clearly, and for all to hear, The American Legion, our 12,000 posts across the globe, and our entire American Legion Family, proudly stands firm in our continued support of our allies.”

Other VSOs at the press conference included With Honor Action, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Operation Recovery and No One Left Behind.

American Legion Family members are encouraged to contact their senators and call for Afghan adjustment legislation in the Emergency National Security Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2024 and for passage of the supplemental legislation. Contact your senators through our [Grassroots Action Center](#).

2 new US strikes made against attempted Houthi missile launches, CENTCOM says

Alison Bath/Stars and Stripes | February 8, 2024

U.S. forces carried out two more preemptive strikes on missiles that Houthi militants in Yemen were preparing to launch in their ongoing campaign of attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea, according to U.S. Central Command.

At 9 p.m. Wednesday, U.S. strikes targeted two mobile anti-ship cruise missiles in Houthi-controlled

territory in Yemen, CENTCOM said in a statement Thursday.

Another strike at 11:30 p.m. was made against a mobile land-attack cruise missile, which was determined to be “an imminent threat to U.S. Navy ships and merchant vessels,” CENTCOM said, without specifying what forces were involved.



U.S. Navy photo

The U.S. has launched at least seven strikes in recent days that CENTCOM has described as self-defense. They include targeting 11 anti-ship cruise missiles and one land-attack missile last weekend.

On Monday, U.S. forces also preemptively destroyed two Houthi explosive surface drones, CENTCOM said Tuesday.

The Houthi fighters have said they are attacking commercial and military shipping in the Red Sea as a show of support for Gaza, where war between Israel and Hamas has raged since Oct. 7.

Between Nov. 19 and Feb. 2, the Iran-backed proxy group had attacked or threatened at least 41 commercial vessels in the Red Sea, a Pentagon spokeswoman said Tuesday. That assessment didn't include three Houthi attacks Tuesday with anti-ship ballistic missiles that targeted a Marshall Islands-flagged, Greek-owned bulk carrier in the Gulf of Aden, CENTCOM said Wednesday.

The first missile exploded near the vessel and caused minor damage but no injuries, military officials said. A subsequent missile landed harmlessly in the water near the ship and the third was shot down by the destroyer USS Laboon, which was nearby, according to CENTCOM.

In a separate attack, the Houthis appeared to target a Barbados-flagged, British-owned cargo ship in the

southern Red Sea. All three missiles fired in that attack landed without incident, CENTCOM said.



With the help of American Legion Post 7 in Lake Chapala, Mexico, Army veteran Jose Tinajero claimed the U.S. citizenship he was due decades ago because of his military service.

Jose Tinajero

Legion post in Mexico helps deported veteran return home to United States

[Ken Olsen](#) | February 7, 2024

Jose Tinajero had long since given up returning to the United States when he met Tran Dang at a legal aid workshop for deported veterans in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 2021. He hadn't so much as consulted an attorney since an immigration judge deported him for life 25 years earlier. This after he pled guilty to a state drug charge on the advice of a public defender who assured him his military service would prevent him from being kicked out of the United States.

“I was broken-hearted and beaten,” says Tinajero, who served in the Army from 1976 to 1979. He was also frightened because of the stories he'd heard about Mexico, where he hadn't lived since he was a child. Yet he felt he had no option but to try to rebuild his life in this unfamiliar place.

His exile is finally over. Last spring, with Dang's help and financial support from American Legion Post 7 in Lake Chapala, Mexico, Tinajero was able to return to Washington state to clear his name and claim the citizenship he was due decades earlier because of his military service. Today, he is living and working in the Seattle area and plans to earn his master's degree in computing. “I should have never left,” he says. “I feel like the laws that lead to the deportation of veterans should be amended or repealed.”

[The American Legion shares some of Tinajero's concerns.](#) “Men and women who serve honorably should not face undue barriers to citizenship or face deportation from the country they served or fought to defend,” The American Legion National Commander Dan Seehafer said in a September letter to Congress in support of the Veteran Service Recognition Act of 2023, “Congress must act to ensure our nation honors the service of non-citizen immigrants who have honorably served our nation.”

That’s particularly important as the U.S. military struggles to find enough new recruits, Dang notes.

Migrant to military Tinajero came to the United States from Reynosa, Mexico, with his parents and sister in 1969. They became legal permanent residents and migrant farm workers, following the summer harvest from the Pacific Northwest to the upper Midwest. “You name it, I picked it,” Tinajero says. Winters, his parents worked in Texas’ citrus groves while he and his sister attended school in McAllen, Texas, where they recited the Pledge of Allegiance each morning. “I was part of this country,” Tinajero says.

He joined the Army right after high school, eager to escape McAllen and the tumult of his parents’ breakup.

“I considered myself an American,” Tinajero says. “I wanted to serve my country.” The recruiter told him he’d automatically become a citizen when he joined the Army. “I didn’t have any reason not to believe him,” Tinajero says. Like thousands of other immigrant servicemembers, he was eligible for citizenship because of his military service. But he didn’t realize there was a formal application process – and no one mentioned that requirement to him while he was in the Army.

After four years of active duty and an honorable discharge, Tinajero joined his father planting trees for a variety of timber companies in the southern United States. He eventually landed in Seattle, where he says he fell in with the wrong crowd. Tinajero appeared in court on state drug charges in 1994. His public defender encouraged him to take a plea deal and assured him that his military service would spare him from being deported, he says. Tinajero earned a substantial reduction in his 48-month prison sentence with good behavior. But the moment he was released in 1996, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents took him to a detention facility in Seattle where he was held for another year.

When he appeared before an immigration judge in April 1997, Tinajero expected to have the opportunity to make his case for remaining in the United States. However, because he wasn’t a citizen, his drug offense was grounds for automatic deportation under the harsh federal immigration laws passed in the 1990s. So, the judge instead expelled him for life.

Remain in Mexico Broken, afraid and cut off from his family in the United States, Tinajero worked in the hotel industry and then as a mechanic. He eventually landed a job in a call center and earned his bachelor’s degree in computer science engineering. In 2021, Tinajero met Dang, an attorney and founder of the Rhizome Center for Migrants, which provides legal assistance to people who have been deported to Mexico. She had contacted American Legion Post 7 in an effort to locate and offer assistance to deported veterans who might be allowed to return to the United States under President Biden’s Immigrant Military Members and Veterans Initiative. Post 7 covered food and travel costs that enabled deported veterans from six Mexican states to attend The Rhizome Center’s Veterans Benefits and Citizenship Workshop in Guadalajara in August 2021.

Post Commander Randall Butler says it was an easy decision for him and his board. “We’re here to help veterans,” he says of Post 7, the largest south of the border.

Dang filed a citizenship application on Tinajero’s behalf in October 2022, raising the possibility he would be able to see some of his U.S. family again. But his sister, an Army veteran who lived in North Carolina, died before he was allowed to temporarily return to the United States under what’s known as humanitarian parole. And 19 days before Tinajero was to meet with U.S. Immigration and complete his citizenship application, a 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling made Tinajero ineligible for citizenship based on his military service because of his decades-old state drug conviction.

It’s the sort of misfortune that followed Tinajero for years, Dang says. If the Army had helped him navigate the citizenship application process during basic training in 1976, he wouldn’t have been deported. If Veterans Treatment Court had been available when he was arrested, Tinajero would have had the option of diversion and drug counseling instead of conviction and deportation. If the federal legislation that made Tinajero’s drug conviction grounds for automatic deportation hadn’t become law the day he first appeared before the Immigration Court in 1996, he might have been able to stay in the United States.

And if he had been able to complete his 2023 citizenship interview three weeks earlier, the appeals court decision wouldn't have disqualified him, Dang says. As a result, Tinajero had only one option: clear his criminal record. A pro bono attorney from the law firm of Foster Garvey and the Seattle Clemency Project successfully petitioned a Superior Court judge to dismiss the 1994 conviction based on ineffective assistance of counsel. Tinajero renewed his citizenship application and took the oath July 26. "It means the world to me," Tinajero says. "I've been waiting for this day as long as I can remember."

He credits Dang for turning his life around and American Legion Post 7 for helping make his journey home a reality. "I have nothing but praise for the organization and you guys for being solid with me when I needed it," Tinajero says.

Tinajero is one of 84 veterans to return to the United States under Biden's initiative and one of four deported veterans Dang is helping navigate a possible return to the United States, she says.

For Butler, being a part of the effort to help Tinajero and other deported veterans is a way of fulfilling a promise. "My slogan," he says, "is don't leave a veteran behind."

Ken Olsen is a frequent contributor to *The American Legion Magazine*.

Sports

Livery revealed for No. 8 American Legion Honda

The American Legion | February 5, 2024

Chip Ganassi Racing (CGR) today revealed via social media the livery that rookie Linus Lundqvist will primarily drive during the 2024 NTT INDYCAR SERIES season.

The No. 8 American Legion Honda features prominent branding for both The American Legion and its [Be the One](#) veteran suicide prevention program. Lundqvist will drive the car most of the season, including in the 108th running of the Indianapolis 500.

In November, it was announced that Lundqvist would drive the No. 8 car for CGR. Lundqvist, 24, signed a multi-year deal with Chip Ganassi Racing

on Aug. 31 after setting the fastest lap times in two of his first three INDYCAR races in 2023.



CoForce LLC

"I'm incredibly excited to be partnering with The American Legion for the 2024 INDYCAR season," Lundqvist said at the time of the announcement. "To move on to the next chapter and to be connected to the veteran community makes it even more special. I am privileged to be able to represent such an impactful organization and I am looking forward to our work together with Be The One."

The 2024 NTT INDYCAR SERIES gets started March 10 with the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg in Florida.

Registration open for 2024 American Legion Baseball season

The American Legion | January 31, 2024

Registration for the 2024 American Legion Baseball season is open at baseball.legion.org.

Teams registered after May 15 may be subject to a department late fee through the final deadline of June 1. Please note that each American Legion department may set an earlier deadline for registration.

To learn more about your specific department's state fees and deadlines, [contact your department chairman](#).

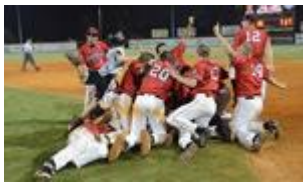
As part of NEC Resolution No. 17 October 2023, and the education and training requirements of Public Law 115-126, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, all adult participants (coaches, managers, volunteers and players, 18 years of age or older) must complete the Abuse Awareness course either

through Protect Youth Sports or USA Baseball. All adult participants (coaches, managers, volunteers and players, 18 years of age or older) must also have a completed and passed background check. Click [here](#) to download the American Legion Baseball Risk Management Guidebook.



The Lincoln, NE. Post 3 team during Game 13 of The 2023 American Legion World Series at Veterans Field at Keeter Stadium in Shelby, N.C., on Monday, August 14.

Chet Strange/The American Legion



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

[Learn more](#)

How to reduce chronic inflammation

Jennifer Campbell | February 2, 2024

Inflammation can be good or bad. It is one of our body's defense mechanisms, by which the immune system recognizes and removes harmful invaders like bacteria and viruses to start the healing process. Inflammation can be acute or chronic.

Acute inflammation is typically induced by tissue damage due to trauma, viral or microbial intruders, or noxious compounds. It starts quickly and becomes extreme in a short amount of time. Symptoms can last a few hours to several days, such as bruising and swelling from a sprained ankle or swollen tonsils with strep throat. The release of chemicals and the compression of nerves in the area of injury cause pain. The pain and swelling encourage reduced use of the injured or painful area to protect from further injury.

In contrast, chronic inflammation is slow and prolonged, lasting from several months to years. The

causes and effects of chronic inflammation vary widely but can often be attributed to autoimmune illness, exposure to toxins, untreated acute inflammation, and lifestyle factors. Chronic inflammation is often referred to as "invisible inflammation," because it doesn't present with physical symptoms like acute inflammation does.

Chronic inflammatory diseases can be associated with certain triggers affecting the digestive system, joints, skin, respiratory system, and organs. Some of the most common diseases caused by chronic inflammation are Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, cancer, heart disease, asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, type 2 diabetes, IBS, and other gastrointestinal issues.

A doctor can determine whether you have chronic inflammation by reviewing your symptoms, performing a physical exam, and checking your lab work.

How to counter chronic inflammation

Diet and exercise have profound effects on managing chronic inflammation since they also manage weight and sleep quality. Even 20 minutes a day of moderate-intensity exercise can reduce inflammation.

Getting enough quality hours of sleep is a game changer when it comes to reducing inflammation. Restricted sleep doesn't allow blood pressure to decline as it should, which can trigger cells in blood vessel walls that activate inflammation. Poor sleep hinders the body's ability to repair itself, leading to prolonged inflammation and deterioration.

Foods can promote or inhibit an inflammatory response. Here are ways your diet can help ward off inflammation:

- Opt for foods high in the antioxidants known as polyphenols. Load up on berries, cherries, plums, red grapes, onions, turmeric, green tea and dark-green leafy vegetables like spinach and kale, as well as nuts and seeds, lean grass-fed beef and coldwater fish.
- Avoid foods with a lot of sugar and refined carbohydrates.
- Eliminate or drastically cut back on foods high in simple sugars like soda, fruit juices with added sugars, sports drinks, and refined carbs such as white flour, cereals, pasta, and other highly processed grains.

- Get rid of processed meat, vegetable and seed oils, trans fats, and foods littered with chemicals, artificial flavors, and colorings.



Army veteran Jennifer Campbell is a certified personal trainer with a master's degree in nutrition education. She is past commander of the California Legion's 24th District and Hollywood Post 43.

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SERVING FROM 9AM-NOON
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3rd Annual Car & Truck Show
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Registration 11-noon
Noon-3:00 pm
Awards & Drawings at 3:00
(Rain Date June 9th.)
Registration \$10.00
Proceeds benefit Veterans Home, services provided to our Veterans & Toys for Tots.
Dash plaques to first 50 cars, Raffle Prizes & More
1st., 2nd. & 3rd. Place
People's Choice Awards
Gift Cards to Meatheads Union
MUSIC By Rich the Lincoln Man
FOOD FUN MUSIC

GOD BLESS OUR VETERANS ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY EVENT
SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024
3PM to 11PM
COACH'S CORNER BAR & GRILL
8118 W. 143RD ST. - ORLAND PAK, IL
\$20
INCLUDES ADMISSION, FOOD & RAFFLE TICKET FOR THE GRAND PRIZE
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- To be part of the world's largest veterans service organization
- Camaraderie

Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible
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Florida post exemplifies veterans helping veterans

The American Legion | The American Legion

Mike Ferullo's 91-year-old Korean War veteran father is bedridden with cancer. Ferullo's mother was able to secure a hospital bed through hospice to be placed in the living room, but several pieces of furniture needed to be moved out to make room for the bed. But with his parents living in Port Orange, Fla., and he in Virginia, Ferullo couldn't quickly make a trip to move the furniture in the short amount of time that the bed was being delivered. That's when a friend advised him to call the local American Legion post for help.

Less than two days after Ferullo spoke with American Legion Post 270 Adjutant Bob McLaughlin, the furniture was moved by McLaughlin and Sons of The American Legion Squadron 270 member John Leone.

"My dad now has a much more comfortable place to be," Ferullo said. "I'm not a member of the post. My father's not a member of the post. They had no questions, no qualms. McLaughlin said, 'This is what we do.' This was a perfect example of veterans helping veterans."

"McLaughlin doesn't know me. He doesn't know my parents, but I'm a veteran and my dad's a veteran. My mom needed help and that's what they did. This is what the military does. It doesn't matter what branch you were in. It doesn't matter what time you serve. You just help each other out. And that's what they did."

McLaughlin was happy that Post 270 could quickly answer the call to help. "That's what we do, and that's what we're supposed to do," he said. "We are happy that we could get it done, and get it done timely. Happy that we could help."

Ferullo, a Gulf War veteran who retired from the U.S. Coast Guard after 32 years of service, will be driving to Port Orange later this month to visit his parents and stop at Post 270 to thank them in person and to join The American Legion.

"I want to join the post because this makes me realize, what am I missing out on? Not being a member of the Legion, if this is what they do. Because maybe down the road another veteran is going to need my help, and I will absolutely drop what I'm doing and go help them because that's what it's about."

"And what's amazing to me is McLaughlin could have very easily said to me, 'I'm sorry, we only do it for post members' or 'We don't do that at all.' Two days later he drives over and moves the furniture. That's just amazing to me. We're just so grateful for them to do that. It renews my faith in humanity."

Ferullo reached out to The American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis to share how Post 270 in Port Orange cared for his veteran father and mother. "I don't think people get recognized enough, and they didn't do it for the recognition," he said. "But I think it's important for them to be recognized. They didn't do it for any other reason than to help, which is amazing to both my mother and me. It gives me a level of comfort to know that if I need something, I can reach out to Post 270 and they will help. Being 11 hours away (from his parents), that's a huge a comfort to my wife and me. We are very thankful for them (Post 270)."

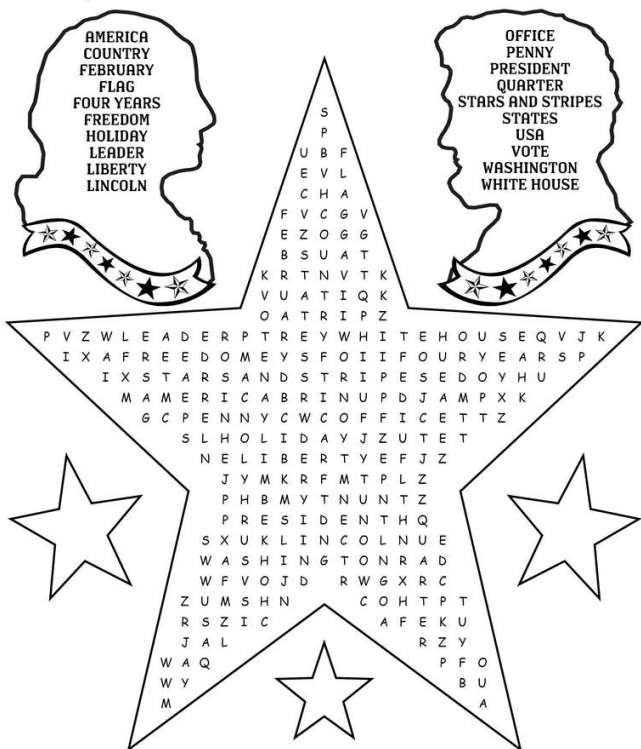


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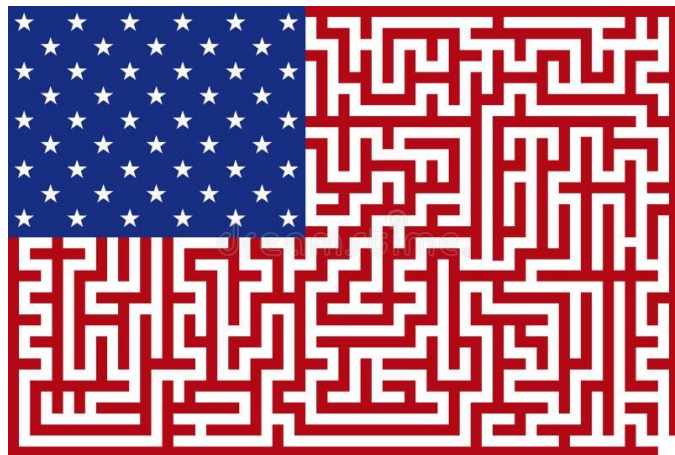
PRESIDENTS' DAY!



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"Americanism means the virtues of courage, honor, justice, truth, sincerity, and hardihood—the virtues that made America. The things that will destroy America are prosperity-at-any-price, peace-at-any-price, safety-first instead of duty-first, the love of soft living and the get-rich-quick theory of life."

—Teddy Roosevelt




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Americanism

...is an unfailing love of Country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies, undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity

Men and women returning from all quarters of the globe stand before our altars of comradeship, pledging loyalty to the Nation and to one another. Through the generations we give life to our impressive ritual, for it solemnly binds young and old who have fought for America on land, on sea and in the air

2024 SAL Membership Report: February 8, 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	-346	1,554	96.46%	82.43
3	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-204	1,010	93.95%	84.72
4	FRANCE	168	-31	157	93.45%	81.93
5	WISCONSIN	4,398	-755	4,053	92.16%	82.30
6	FLORIDA	23,066	-3,217	20,516	88.94%	74.72
7	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	-218	1,395	88.85%	75.02
8	RHODE ISLAND	348	-41	302	86.78%	74.07
9	IOWA	4,914	-569	4,254	86.57%	79.20
10	OREGON	1,534	-155	1,305	85.07%	70.12
11	MARYLAND	16,803	-1,591	14,193	84.47%	77.11
12	CONNECTICUT	1,865	-176	1,575	84.45%	74.05
13	LOUISIANA	1,821	-169	1,535	84.29%	77.81
14	ILLINOIS	13,716	-1,270	11,557	84.26%	78.12
15	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	-5,367	52,426	83.55%	77.78
16	MICHIGAN	26,236	-2,115	21,792	83.06%	74.63
17	OHIO	31,690	-2,462	26,229	82.77%	76.28
18	ALABAMA	2,100	-142	1,717	81.76%	70.58
19	NEBRASKA	6,992	-464	5,708	81.64%	78.00
20	GEORGIA	4,887	-324	3,989	81.62%	71.39
21	NEW YORK	30,663	-2,028	25,025	81.61%	74.79
22	VERMONT	3,920	-251	3,191	81.40%	76.02
23	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-177	2,254	81.37%	67.64
24	MINNESOTA	11,435	-727	9,303	81.36%	75.41
25	VIRGINIA	4,367	-264	3,539	81.04%	70.54
26	INDIANA	37,244	-2,139	30,072	80.74%	74.76
27	ARIZONA	8,595	-492	6,938	80.72%	67.21
28	MISSISSIPPI	736	-40	592	80.43%	69.73
29	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	-293	4,813	79.86%	70.98
30	DELAWARE	2,596	-118	2,065	79.55%	71.14
31	WYOMING	1,248	-46	982	78.69%	70.00
32	TENNESSEE	1,792	-65	1,409	78.63%	66.04
33	MONTANA	1,091	-38	856	78.46%	73.77
34	PUERTO RICO	156	-5	122	78.21%	73.20
35	NEW JERSEY	9,662	-220	7,466	77.27%	69.08
36	TEXAS	5,783	-131	4,468	77.26%	66.60
37	CALIFORNIA	11,292	-216	8,685	76.91%	66.23
38	KANSAS	6,055	-97	4,638	76.60%	70.68
39	NEW MEXICO	1,582	-25	1,211	76.55%	60.24
40	COLORADO	2,952	-44	2,258	76.49%	65.96
41	ARKANSAS	406	-4	308	75.86%	60.84
42	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	-30	4,104	75.55%	68.39
43	IDAHO	659	0	494	74.96%	57.58
44	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	2	1,943	74.93%	65.72
45	MAINE	2,757	15	2,053	74.46%	65.90
46	MISSOURI	3,337	24	2,479	74.29%	66.38
47	DIST OF COL	91	1	67	73.63%	68.18
48	ALASKA	1,740	25	1,280	73.56%	61.22
49	UTAH	460	8	337	73.26%	65.55
50	LATIN AMERICA	33	1	24	72.73%	34.38
51	WASHINGTON	2,682	99	1,913	71.33%	57.14
52	NEVADA	387	16	274	70.80%	60.61
53	KENTUCKY	2,399	201	1,598	66.61%	56.99
54	OKLAHOMA	1,430	130	943	65.94%	53.12
55	PHILIPPINES	79	15	44	55.70%	53.16
Grand Totals:		382,111	-26,561	313,144	81.95%	73.93

2024 SAL Regional Breakdown

Western Region - James R. Fischer, Sr. (CA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	120	129	107.50%
OREGON	1,534	1,305	85.07%
ARIZONA	8,595	6,938	80.72%
WYOMING	1,248	982	78.69%
MONTANA	1,091	856	78.46%
CALIFORNIA	11,292	8,685	76.91%
NEW MEXICO	1,582	1,211	76.55%
COLORADO	2,952	2,258	76.49%
IDAHO	659	494	74.96%
ALASKA	1,740	1,280	73.56%
UTAH	460	337	73.26%
LATIN AMERICA	33	24	72.73%
WASHINGTON	2,682	1,913	71.33%
NEVADA	387	274	70.80%
PHILIPPINES	79	44	55.70%
Totals:	34,454	26,730	77.58%

Southeast Region - Linwood A. Moore (VA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FLORIDA	23,066	20,516	88.94%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	1,395	88.85%
LOUISIANA	1,821	1,535	84.29%
ALABAMA	2,100	1,717	81.76%
GEORGIA	4,887	3,989	81.62%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	2,254	81.37%
VIRGINIA	4,367	3,539	81.04%
MISSISSIPPI	736	592	80.43%
TENNESSEE	1,792	1,409	78.63%
PUERTO RICO	156	122	78.21%
TEXAS	5,783	4,468	77.26%
ARKANSAS	406	308	75.86%
Totals:	49,454	41,844	84.61%

Midwest Region - Terry A. Harris (KS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	1,554	96.46%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	1,010	93.95%
IOWA	4,914	4,254	86.57%
NEBRASKA	6,992	5,708	81.64%
KANSAS	6,055	4,638	76.60%
MISSOURI	3,337	2,479	74.29%
OKLAHOMA	1,430	943	65.94%
Totals:	25,414	20,586	81.00%

Northeast Region - John R. Cook (NH)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	168	157	93.45%
RHODE ISLAND	348	302	86.78%
MARYLAND	16,803	14,193	84.47%
CONNECTICUT	1,865	1,575	84.45%
PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	52,426	83.55%
NEW YORK	30,663	25,025	81.61%
VERMONT	3,920	3,191	81.40%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	4,813	79.86%
DELAWARE	2,596	2,065	79.55%
NEW JERSEY	9,662	7,466	77.27%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	4,104	75.55%
MAINE	2,757	2,053	74.46%
DIST OF COL	91	67	73.63%
Totals:	143,078	117,437	82.08%

Central Region - Robert L. Bristo (MN)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,398	4,053	92.16%
ILLINOIS	13,716	11,557	84.26%
MICHIGAN	26,236	21,792	83.06%
OHIO	31,690	26,229	82.77%
MINNESOTA	11,435	9,303	81.36%
INDIANA	37,244	30,072	80.74%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	1,943	74.93%
KENTUCKY	2,399	1,598	66.61%
Totals:	129,711	106,547	82.14%

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02/08/24		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, 7	49,454	41,844	(7,610)	84.61%	493		
2	Central 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	129,711	106,547	(23,164)	82.14%	1,086		
3	Northeast 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	143,078	117,437	(25,641)	82.08%	1,991		
4	Midwest 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	25,414	20,586	(4,828)	81.00%	433		
5	Western 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	34,454	26,730	(7,724)	77.58%	449		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		382,111	313,144	(68,967)	81.95%	4,452		

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION



02/08/24	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, 8	4,398	4,053	(345)	92.16%	51				
Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	13,716	11,557	(2,159)	84.26%	125				
Michigan 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	26,236	21,792	(4,444)	83.06%	168				
Ohio 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	31,690	26,229	(5,461)	82.77%	315				
Minnesota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	11,435	9,303	(2,132)	81.36%	(25)				
Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	37,244	30,072	(7,172)	80.74%	361				
West Virginia 1, 5	2,593	1,943	(650)	74.93%	71				
Kentucky 1, 4	2,399	1,598	(801)	66.61%	20				
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	129,711	106,547	(23,164)	82.14%	1,086				

02/08/24		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%	02/05/24	02/05/24
2	Oregon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,534	1,305	(229)	85.07%	4				
3	Arizona 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	8,595	6,938	(1,657)	80.72%	107				
4	Wyoming 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,248	982	(266)	78.69%	23				
5	Montana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,091	856	(235)	78.46%	4				
6	California 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	11,292	8,685	(2,607)	76.91%	278				
7	New Mexico 5, 6	1,582	1,211	(371)	76.55%	-				
8	Colorado 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	2,952	2,258	(694)	76.49%	1				
9	Idaho 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	659	494	(165)	74.96%	-				
10	Alaska 3	1,740	1,280	(460)	73.56%	19				
11	Utah 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	460	337	(123)	73.26%	-				
12	Latin America 4	33	24	(9)	72.73%	-				
13	Washington 4, 5	2,682	1,913	(769)	71.33%	12				
14	Nevada 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	387	274	(113)	70.80%	1				
15	Philippines	79	44	(35)	55.70%	-				
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		34,454	26,730	(7,724)	77.58%	449				

02/08/24		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	Florida 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	23,066	20,516	(2,550)	88.94%	272				
2	South Carolina 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	1,570	1,395	(175)	88.85%	3				
3	Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,821	1,535	(286)	84.29%	5				
4	Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	2,100	1,717	(383)	81.76%	26				
5	Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,887	3,989	(898)	81.62%	59				
6	North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	2,770	2,254	(516)	81.37%	7				
7	Virginia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,367	3,539	(828)	81.04%	49				
8	Mississippi 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	736	592	(144)	80.43%	5				
9	Tennessee 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,792	1,409	(383)	78.63%	17				
10	Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	156	122	(34)	78.21%	-				
12	Texas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	5,783	4,468	(1,315)	77.26%	49				
13	Arkansas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	406	308	(98)	75.86%	1				
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		49,454	41,844	(7,610)	84.61%	218				

02/08/24		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	1,554	(57)	96.46%	10				
2 North Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,075	1,010	(65)	93.95%	20				
3 Iowa 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,914	4,254	(660)	86.57%	158				
4 Nebraska 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	6,992	5,708	(1,284)	81.64%	122				
5 Kansas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	6,055	4,638	(1,417)	76.60%	108				
6 Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	3,337	2,479	(858)	74.29%	14				
7 Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,430	943	(487)	65.94%	1				
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	25,414	20,586	(4,828)	81.00%	433				

02/08/24		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	157	(11)	93.45%	-				
2 Rhode Island 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	348	302	(46)	86.78%	2				
3 Maryland 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	16,803	14,193	(2,610)	84.47%	197				
4 Connecticut 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,865	1,575	(290)	84.45%	19				
5 Pennsylvania 4, 5, 6, 7	62,746	52,426	(10,320)	83.55%	1,398				
6 New York 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	30,663	25,025	(5,638)	81.61%	144				
7 Vermont 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	3,920	3,191	(729)	81.40%	27				
8 New Hampshire 1, 2, 4, 5, 6	6,027	4,813	(1,214)	79.86%	77				
9 Delaware 1, 4, 5, 6	2,596	2,065	(531)	79.55%	12				
10 New Jersey 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	9,662	7,466	(2,196)	77.27%	36				
11 Massachusetts 1, 3, 4, 5	5,432	4,104	(1,328)	75.55%	68				
12 Maine 5	2,757	2,053	(704)	74.46%	11				
13 Dist. of Columbia 4	91	67	(24)	73.63%	-				
TOTALS 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	143,078	117,437	(25,641)	82.08%	1,991				

02/08/24		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	20,515	(2,551)	88.94%	271	6	74.72%		
2 Pennsylvania 4, 5, 6, 7	62,746	52,426	(10,320)	83.55%	1,398	15	77.78%		
3 Michigan 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	26,236	21,792	(4,444)	83.06%	168	16	74.63%		
4 Ohio 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	31,690	26,299	(5,391)	82.99%	385	17	76.28%		
5 New York 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	30,663	25,025	(5,638)	81.61%	144	21	74.79%		
6 Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	37,244	30,072	(7,172)	80.74%	361	26	74.76%		
TOTALS	211,645	176,129	(35,516)	83.22%	2,727				

National Totals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	382,111	313,144	(68,967)	81.95%	4,452		73.93%		
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02/08/24		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	14,193	(2,610)	84.47%	11	77.11%		
2 Trailing Candidate Clancy	New York	30,663	25,025	(5,638)	81.61%	21	74.79%		
3 Vice-Commander Bristo	Minnesota	11,435	9,303	(2,132)	81.36%	24	75.41%		
4 Vice-Commander Moore	Virginia	4,367	3,539	(828)	81.04%	25	70.54%		
5 Vice-Commander Cook	New Hampshire	6,027	4,813	(1,214)	79.86%	29	70.98%		
6 Vice-Commander Fischer	California	11,292	8,685	(2,607)	76.91%	37	66.23%		
7 Vice-Commander Harris	Kansas	6,055	4,638	(1,417)	76.60%	38	70.68%		
8 Leading Candidate Navaratte	New Mexico	1,582	1,211	(371)	76.55%	39	60.24%		



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%

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