



National Legion staff named ESPA's Meeting Professional of the Year

The American Legion | February 14, 2023



American Legion Director of Convention & Meetings Bridget Robinson, CMP, CMM, was named ESPA's Meeting Professional of the Year for 2023.

The American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis is proud to announce that Director of Convention & Meetings Bridget Robinson, CMP, CMM, was recently named ESPA's (Event Service Professionals Association) Meeting Professional of the Year for 2023. The annual award recognizes "the hard-working meeting professional who exhibits personal and professional characteristics that create an environment that focuses on teamwork, as well as shows support for the event services profession."

Robinson received the award Jan. 20 during ESPA's meeting in Indianapolis at the Hyatt Regency. Her family was in attendance along with Michael Walton, chairman of the National Convention Commission.

"This is really a great honor for Bridget as this is a national award where meeting professionals from across our great USA are entered, and she was chosen," Walton said. "Bridget's selection was no surprise to me as I have had the pleasure of working with her and her team for several years now and she/they are outstanding at what they do for our sister and brother veterans and our American Legion.

"This national recognition underscores her outstanding leadership in event management and collaboration with event service partners," he added. "It reflects her dedication to create a teamwork-oriented environment while supporting the event services profession. What is most impressive is that she is not a member of ESPA, so this award highlights Bridget's commendable achievements and abilities outside the association.

"Congratulations, Bridget! Well-deserved acknowledgement after 27 years in the hospitality/event service industry."

Congratulations!

Round-Up

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

Christopher Carlton (IN)
Immediate Past National Commander

Joseph Navarrete (NM)
Leading Candidate for National Commander

William Clancy III (NY)
Trailing Candidate for National Commander

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

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

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

All information must be submitted by noon each Friday.

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

FOLLOW US:



Donald "JR" Hall, Jr.

National Commander

REPRESENTING

More

THAN ME

Representing More Than Me,

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

From the Editor

Congratulations to the 49 detachments that made the February 14, 2024 goal of 75%! Keep up the awesome work.

As of the February 14, 2024 national membership report, we have one detachment, Hawai'i, that has made quota. **Who's next?**

Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible.

RENEW TODAY!

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

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

click a button below for more information

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VRABEL

CRE 24
Central Region Extravaganza
Columbus, Ohio
April 12-17, 2024



Remembering the Greatest Generation

Robert Barnard Murdock



Judge Robert Barnard Murdock, died at age 95. He was born February 24, 1928 in Washington, D.C. He was a resident of Satellite Beach, Florida. He was predeceased by his father, Rev. James Murdock; mother, Elizabeth Higgins Murdock; son, Bruce; daughter, Mary; and brothers, Henry and John Murdock.

Robert was a graduate of George Washington University, Washington, DC and of Washington and Lee University Law School in '52 where he earned his Juris Doctorate's Degree. He retired as a Federal Administrative Law Judge.

Robert was a retired U.S. Army Colonel. He was a disabled WWII combat veteran who served in the South Pacific and in the Occupation of Japan. He was awarded numerous medals during his military service. Robert was a lifetime member of the MOAA, JAG Corp., the Veterans of Foreign War, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion, American Clan Gregor Society, Sons of the American Revolution, The D.C. Bar Association, and U.S. Federal Courts including the U.S. Supreme Court BAR.

Robert is survived by his former wife, Elizabeth Murdock of Virginia Beach, VA; son, Douglas Murdock of Satellite Beach, FL; granddaughter, Chantal of Fairfax, VA; and nephew, James Murdock, Bethesda, MD.

Services are pending with burial at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. Condolences may be made at www.smithandwilliamskempsville.com.

Smith & Williams Funeral Home
Virginia Beach, VA

Published by Roanoke Times on Feb. 11, 2024.

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



William Post



William (Bill) Post was raised on the south side of Grand Rapids, one of seven children of Dutch immigrants, and graduated from Grand Rapids Christian High School. While in high school, at the age of 16, Bill held a part-time job washing trucks at Hekman Biscuit Company. After serving in the Army Air Corps in occupied Japan, he returned to the part-time job at Hekman and also attended Calvin College for 2 years. During that time, he married his high school sweetheart, Florence (Schut), and they began their incredible 72-year journey of love and devotion.

At the age of 21, Bill worked at Hekman full-time as the personnel manager, but assisted with sales, production, and anything else that he could learn. Fast forward 20 years, and Bill as the plant manager of Hekman (later known as the Keebler Company) welcomed some executives from Kellogg's who asked if he thought it would be possible for Keebler to create a new product they had in mind. One of those executives was William LaMothe who soon became Bill's close friend. It is at this juncture that Bill is often credited for having "invented" the Pop Tart. To be accurate, however, Bill would say, "I assembled an amazing team that developed Kellogg's concept of a shelf-stable toaster pastry into a fine product that we could bring to market in the span of just four months." The collaboration and growth of Kellogg's and Keebler continued until Kellogg's finally purchased the Keebler company.

In 1967, Bill moved his family to Elmhurst Illinois, to begin working at the corporate offices of the Keebler Company. As a senior vice president, at the age of 56, he left the company and retired to Glen Arbor Michigan and his beloved Glen Lake. However, he could not turn down Kellogg's request to be their consultant and enjoyed that position for the next 20 years. Those years included worldwide travel and the forging of international friendships. In 2003, Bill and Florence came full circle, moving back to Grand Rapids to be near their family.

Over the years, Bill has been interviewed by newspaper reporters (including the New York Times), TV reporters (History Channel, CBS, etc.), and by radio hosts in this country and abroad. He was asked to tell the Pop Tart story to young people in countless classrooms and always enjoyed accommodating those requests, giving his testimony of God's goodness to "the

son of an immigrant,” and bringing some of his unending supply of Pop Tarts with him.

In spite of an extraordinary life and legendary accomplishments, Bill remained a humble man of God with a servant’s heart that seemed to overflow with generosity. He served the communities in which he lived as a board member for schools, churches, the YMCA, and was a member of Gideons International for 60 years. He was the first to bring comfort, read scripture and offer a prayer with any friend or family member in need. He continued to fill that role to the very end of his life and leaves a big void in a very large circle of treasured friends. Always crediting his wonderful life to “Christ who gives me strength,” he was such a positive force that after a conversation with Bill, you would leave with a lighter heart and a brighter smile.



Preceding him in death (in 2020) was Bill’s wife and best friend, Florence. Bill’s six siblings (and spouses) also preceded him in death: Henry, Richard, Margaret (Engbers), John, Gerrit, and Adrianna (Ophoff). Bill was loved and will be missed immensely by his children: Dan and Jackie Post and Rachel and John DeYoung. The lights of his life were his adoring grandchildren and great-grandchildren who visited him so often: Angie Terry (Erica and Alex), Adam and Amanda Post (Asher, Lilah, and Rowan), John and Rhonda DeYoung (Kate and Jenna) and David and Jenny DeYoung (Will, Wyatt and Whitney). Bill’s immediate family also wishes to express their gratitude and thanks to his nieces and nephews who paid so much attention to him. He delighted in your company as you did in his!

A service to praise God for Bill’s life will be held at 2 pm on Thursday, March 7 at LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church, 107 LaGrave Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. Relatives and friends may meet the family on Wednesday, March 6, from 2-4 and 6-8 pm at Matthyse Kuiper DeGraaf Funeral Home, 4646 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Kentwood. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Bill’s memory would be very much

appreciated to [Gideons International](#). Please send donations to The Gideons International, P.O. Box 140422, Grand Rapids, MI 49514.

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

Did you know that Past SAL National Commander Bill Matoska and current SAL National Commander JR Hall have a couple of things in common? 1.) They are both from Maryland, and 2.) they will both have hosted their National Conventions in the City of New Orleans!

But my, how things have changed since 1998!

In 1998 the SAL ended the year with just over 211,000 members. That year they collected \$167,473 for CWF and get this, we were **just then** creeping up on total donations to CWF of \$1 Million dollars overall. It also was the first year of the then new Member Training & Development Commission, and the very first year for the National Management Institute (NMI)! **WOW! Have we come a long way or what?**

“F O C U S - Follow One Course Until Successful!”

This, my friends, is what we **MUST** do as we continue to collect these last few membership cards towards our goal! If we Focus on the process the results will come. Continue to do your Buddy Checks, continue to knock on those doors and make your phone calls to pull those last few outstanding members back into the SAL. **It's not wanting to win that would make us winners. It's refusing to fail at the task at hand.**

Michael Jordan once said... ***“Practice like you've never won. Perform like you've never lost!”***

That’s us, my brothers. We have put in the time and practice to serve our veterans and our communities. Over 92 years of service to a cause greater than us. **We will cross the finish line victorious!**

Here are this week's numbers...

Someone put the Central Region Detachments in a bag and shook it up pretty good! The region improved from my last message by 1.73% and we dropped back to the old familiar 3rd place position. We are only behind the Southeast Region by 1.99% and the Northeast Region by a mere .01%. The Midwest Region is only 1.44% behind us, so we have to get **MOVING!**

You can tell it is getting harder to pull in those members from this report as Kentucky and Illinois only gained .13% and .02% respectively. The biggest jump this time went to the Detachment of Minnesota with an increase of 3.26%. **Way to go Minnesota!** They were followed by West Virginia and Ohio who added 2.66% and 2.28% to their totals. The rest of the region followed with Michigan (1.82%), Indiana (1.43%) and Wisconsin (1.22%).

Keep up the good work and don't forget to continue to send me your IRA forms, look for Blue Brigade Recruiters and spread the news about the work we do! **If we do not sacrifice for what we want, what we want becomes the sacrifice!**

"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?

Don't wait; the time will never be just right. Start where you stand, and work with whatever tools you may have at your command, and better tools will be found as you go along. This is our time to start making our push to first place. If you have any questions or need help with anything regarding membership, please let me know. You are all amazing!

If people are doubting how far you can go, go so far that you can't hear them anymore. What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals. Great job Hawaii, Oregon, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, California, Utah, Idaho, and Latin America for hitting the 2/14/24 75% goal!

The Westside report. We improved by 1.00%, currently at 79.31% total from last report. We are now 5th in the nation and right behind Midwest Region by 3.12%. Our next goal is to be at 75% today 02/14/24). Amazing job Hawaii at 100.00%, Oregon at 85.79%, Arizona at 82.45%, Wyoming at 81.01%, Colorado at 79.10%, Montana at 78.74%, New Mexico at 78.45%, California at 78.31%, Utah at 77.17%, Idaho at 76.78%, and Latin America at 75.76% for already achieving this goal. Coming on in a big way is Washington at 74.87%, Alaska at 74.83%, Nevada at 70.80% and Philippines at 55.70%. Be stubborn about your goals and flexible about your methods.

Thanks again for everything you do for this great organization.

For God and Country,

Dan Ashley, Western Region Membership Chairman

Terry A. Harris

Midwest National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

Fourth Wednesday Quarterly

September 27, 2023 | December 27, 2023

March 27, 2024 | June 26, 2024

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

Meeting ID: 924 0402 2733 | Passcode: 371 685

Linwood A. Moore

Southeast National Vice-Commander

REGIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

First Wednesday Quarterly

September 6, 2023 | December 6, 2023

March 6, 2024 | June 5, 2024

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

Meeting ID: 945 1723 1230 | Passcode: 58543

BE THE ONE

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

Be the One training to take place during Washington Conference

The American Legion | February 14, 2024

All American Legion Family members attending the annual Washington Conference in the nation's capital are invited to attend the first in-person training related to the Legion's [Be the One](#) mission.

The training, "Saving Lives of Veterans, their Families, and Communities with the Columbia Protocol," will take place on Sunday, Feb. 25, in the Monroe Room, Concourse Level, at the Washington Hilton. There will be two sessions: 1-3 p.m. and 3-5 p.m.

The training was developed and will be led by Columbia University. After the training, participants will be able to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at-risk individuals.
- Identify risk factors and warning signs.
- Outline the types of suicidal ideation and four behaviors that indicate imminent risk.
- Communicate effectively with an individual who may be at risk of hurting themselves.

Those unable to attend the Feb. 25 rollout of the training will have other opportunities. Throughout this year, in-person training will be conducted during The American Legion National Convention, Fall and Spring Meetings, and at department meetings. Additionally, there will be monthly virtual training sessions. More details will be forthcoming.

National Commissions and Committees

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

Americanism Commission

Chris Casey, Chairman

Third Monday Bi-Monthly

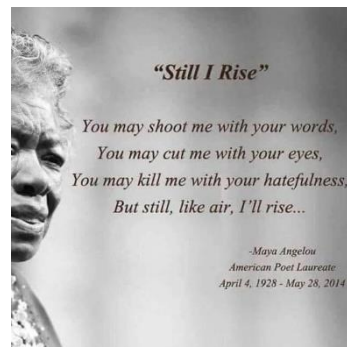
October 16, 2023 | December 18, 2023

February 19, 2024 | April 15, 2024

June 17, 2024 | August 19, 2024

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

Meeting ID: 935 4066 0918 | Passcode: 571 659



Century Committee

Joe Gladden, Chairman

Second Tuesday Bi-Monthly

October 10, 2023 | December 12, 2023

March 13, 2024 | April 9, 2024

June 11, 2024 | August 13, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 919 4714 3789 | Passcode: 241 429

Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Mark Nave, Chairman

Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly

September 21, 2023 | November 16, 2023

January 18, 2024 | March 21, 2024

May 16, 2024 | July 18, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 984 7031 4786 | Passcode: 780 858

Children & Youth Committee

Joseph Lohman, Chairman

Second Monday Bi-Monthly

September 11, 2023 | November 13, 2023

January 8, 2024 | March 11, 2024

May 13, 2024 | July 8, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 951 1622 6587 | Passcode: 799 095



Finance Commission

William G. Hill, Chairman

Third Thursday as scheduled

September 21, 2023 | February 15, 2024

April 18, 2024 | July 18, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 966 1733 0121 | Passcode: 463 702

Internal Affairs Commission

Christopher Michel, Chairman

Fourth Thursday Bi-Monthly

October 26, 2023 | December 28, 2023

February 22, 2024 | April 25, 2024

June 27, 2024 | August 22, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 932 2650 4089 | Passcode: 725 519

Legislative Commission

Blair Miles, Chairman

Second Thursday Bi-Monthly

October 12, 2023 | December 14, 2023

February 8, 2024 | April 11, 2024

June 13, 2024 | August 8, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 937 1376 7924 | Passcode: 172 912



Member Training & Development Committee

Michael Cotton, Chairman

First Monday Bi-Monthly

September 4, 2023 | November 6, 2023

January 1, 2024 | March 4, 2024

May 6, 2024 | July 1, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 957 9605 2218 | Passcode: 528 704

Membership & Squadron Activities Committee

Daryl VerStreate Jr., Chairman

Third Tuesday Bi-Monthly

September 19 2023 | November 21, 2023

January 16, 2024 | March 19, 2024

May 21, 2024 | July 16, 2024

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

(877) 853-5257

Meeting ID: 989 3388 3350 | Passcode: 546 900

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

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

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



**RENEW
ONLINE
TODAY**



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION TARGET DATE MEMO

February 15, 2024

TO: National Officers, Detachment Commanders & Adjutants
FROM: Anthony W. Wright (PA), National Adjutant
SUBJECT: 75% - Membership Target Date

"CONGRATULATIONS"

Thank you for all your efforts so far this membership year. Our standings as of our 75% membership target date (2-14-2024) are posted below:

2024 Membership Goal: **382,111**
Total Membership: **319,535**
Percentage of Goal: **83.62%**
Renewal Percentage: **75.30%**
Detachments making Goal: **49**

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

AMAZING JOB!!

The remaining detachments should achieve this membership goal soon!

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

NEXT MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE: March 13, 2024 (80%)

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

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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Overcoming combat and mental wounds

The American Legion | February 13, 2024



Army veteran and Pat Tillman Foundation scholar Bryan Adams recalls his recovery from being wounded in combat and subsequent PTSD on this week's episode of The American Legion [Tango Alpha Lima podcast](#), co-hosted by Ashley Gutermuth and Stacy Pearsall.

Adams, who served from September 2002 to 2005 in the 1st Infantry Division, was deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2 in February 2004. He spent a year deployed to Tikrit, Iraq, where he conducted hundreds of sniper operations in and around the city.

Everything changed in October 2004.

While leaving an observation post, his team of three was ambushed. He was shot twice, one bullet went through his leg passing between the tibia and fibula, and another grazed his hand. After recovery, he returned to conducting sniper operations before enduring a tough transition back to the civilian world.

"I felt behind, I felt no one could understand what I just experienced, even my own family," he says, recalling that his friends were all graduating college

when he transitioned out of the military. "I tried to not even tell them details, like things that happened, or what I was experiencing."

Adams, who received a Purple Heart, learned his physical injury had led to the PTSD he was experiencing. He received help at a VA facility.

"It gave me a set of tools and education, which was the most important part," he said. "It was the missing piece. I was not dealing with it well. I was drinking. I was going out. I didn't have any clue of how something like that could affect you in such a negative way."

After starting school out of state, Adams moved back to New Jersey where he enrolled at Rutgers University. He is the first Tillman scholar at Rutgers and in New Jersey. The highly prestigious scholarship honors the life, achievements and death of the late Army Ranger and former professional football player. At Rutgers, Adams was among those who created the first student group for post 9/11 veterans, and he successfully advocated for the establishment of the college's veterans support services programs. The program was ranked second in the nation overall for student veterans by Military Times.

"We do a lot of stuff with the Legion in the state and are open to anything that will help veterans," he said. Additionally, Gutermuth and Pearsall also:

- Discuss an American Legion Family power couple ahead of Valentine's Day this week.
- Tackle a question in "Troll Patrol." Pearsall has a suggestion for an active 78-year-old Vietnam veteran who isn't interested in swapping old war stories.
- Reveal a fun fact about what animal is 30 times more likely to be struck by lightning than humans.
- Chat about a veteran's path to voiceovers in Hollywood.

Check out this week's episode, which is among more than 220 Tango Alpha Lima podcasts available [in both audio and video formats here](#). You can also download episodes on Apple Podcasts, Google Play, or other major podcast-hosting sites. The video version is available at [the Legion's YouTube channel](#).



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 proposes rule to extend presumed areas of exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides

The American Legion | February 9, 2024

Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs issued a proposed rule outlining plans to expand the locations and time frames for which VA presumes exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. If this proposed rule becomes final, VA will implement a new presumption of exposure to locations where herbicides were tested, used, or stored outside of Vietnam. Specifically, this proposed rule would add locations in the United States ([full list of US locations where Agent Orange was tested or stored](#)), [Canada](#), and [India](#) to the existing presumptives for Agent Orange in Vietnam, Cambodia, Johnson Atoll, Guam, American Samoa, Korea, Laos, and Thailand.

A presumption of exposure means that VA automatically assumes that veterans who served in certain locations were exposed to certain toxins. Presumptives lower the burden of proof required to receive disability benefits, helping veterans get the benefits they

deserve as quickly as possible. This expansion of presumptives will help veterans who served in the specified locations receive health care and benefits for [certain cancers and chronic conditions](#). To be eligible, a veteran must have served in the identified location(s) during a specific time period and currently have a condition(s) presumptively associated with herbicide exposure.

Over the past few years, VA has expanded presumptive service connection for more than [hundreds of health conditions](#) related to toxic exposures under the [PACT Act](#) – the [largest expansion of veteran care and benefits in generations](#). Thanks to this historic action, VA is delivering [more care and more benefits to more Veterans](#) than ever before in U.S. history.

“This proposed change would make it easier for Veterans exposed to herbicides who served outside Vietnam to access the benefits they so rightly deserve,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “Our goal is to provide every veteran – of every era – with the VA health care and benefits they deserve, and this is another step in the right direction.”

Veterans who want to file an initial claim for a herbicide-related disability can visit [VA’s website](#), use [VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits](#), or work with a VA-recognized [veterans service organization](#) such as [The American Legion](#) to assist with the application process. Veterans may also contact their [state Veterans Affairs office](#). [Survivors](#) can file claims for benefits based on the veteran’s service if the veteran died from at least one of the recognized presumptive herbicide diseases.

This proposed rule also codifies provisions in the [PACT Act](#), the [Blue Water Navy Act of 2019](#), and the [National Defense Authorization Act for 2021](#).

For more information about the changes, visit [The Federal Register](#).



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

DONATE TODAY

**AMERICAN
LEGION**

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**SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**

The Sons of the American Legion reduce the local population of pork chops

[Mike Harmon](#) | February 14, 2024

The building at 1914 Main Street in Tell City bears the sign that says American Legion Post 213. The building obviously houses American Legion Post 213, but it also houses the American Legion Auxiliary Post 213, the American Legion Post 213 Riders, and the Sons of the American Legion. On Feb. 11, the Sons of the American Legion offered a pork chop dinner as a fund raiser for the many causes which the organization supports. This includes providing flags for the various patriotic holidays and supporting Post 213 activities. Very early in the morning people were stopping by to place an order only to find that the dinners were sold out. John Waninger, Commander of the Sons of the American Legion, was appreciative of the volunteers

who made the fund raiser a success, and thanks all the good people who supported the cause.



On February 11, the Sons of The American Legion offered a pork chop dinner as a fund raiser for the many causes which the organization supports.

Mike Harmon

The fact that it sold out as soon as it opened tells the story about the great job the cooks did. The local pork chop shortage should be remedied soon.



The crew works their magic

Mike Harmon



**AMERICAN
LEGION
RIDERS**



AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY



Lisa Williamson,
National President
The American Legion Auxiliary



Attention ALA Juniors
who are
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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!



Maryland Legion Family continues support for Special Olympians

The American Legion | February 14, 2024

For 29 years, the Maryland State Police's Polar Bear Plunge has served as a fundraiser for Maryland Special Olympics, raising millions of dollars. And this year, the Department of Maryland American Legion Family again was a big part of the effort.



Ruth Higgins Facebook photo

Members of the Legion Family, including Maryland Department Commander Ruth Higgins, Sons of The American Legion National Commander Donald Hall Jr. and Maryland SAL Detachment Commander Joe Lohman were the thousands who took the icy plunge into the Chesapeake Bay on Feb. 2. Those three helped present nearly \$24,000 from the state's Legion Family. That comes after more than \$21,000 was raised in 2023.

Among that total was the \$16,000 raised by Maryland American Legion Special Olympics Chairman Bill Ganz, a member of Dewey Lohman Post 109 and SAL Squadron 109 in Halethorpe. Ganz was the top individual fundraiser in the military and first responder division, while the Maryland Legion Family finished second in the division's team competition.

Ganz became interested in the Special Olympics when he realized the scope of what the organization did beyond the Polar Bear Plunge, both nationally and internationally. That led to him taking over as the department's Special Olympics chairman around five years ago.

"I love every minute of it," Ganz said, noting others have seen how passionate he is about Special Olympics, which leads to his success at fundraising. "I'm talking about not only Legion people, but former classmates, people I work with, neighborhood people. They see how enthusiastic I am about this."

Ganz said his involvement with Special Olympics athletes has provided some emotional memories. "I can go to a Special Olympic event ... and the kids will come out to me and say, 'Here comes Wild Bill. Wild Bill's in the house,'" he said. "They'll grab my hand and take me over to their parents and say, 'Mom and dad, take a picture of me and Wild Bill.' It's hard to contain myself. I've felt tears many, many times.

"These children are so respectful. They're there to have a good time. They're always smiling. I get so pumped up over the Special Olympics."

Being around the Special Olympics participants has brought some perspective into his life.

"I'm so appreciative that my kids are OK. My grandkids are OK," he said. "But when you're with these (Special Olympics athletes), and when you see them participating in sports, it brings the whole world into perspective.

"I've always thought that God has a calling for everybody. No matter what it is, somewhere along the line you'll know. And I think that's my calling: To help these kids and be with them and cheer them on, give them a pat on the back. Tell them they're doing great. I truly believe that's what I'm supposed to be doing."

The Brown Bomber

Kali Martin Schick | February 2, 2024

More than 16 million men and women raised their right hands and swore an oath of enlistment into the U.S. military during World War II. Only one was the world heavyweight boxing champion: Joe Louis. Like many Americans, he was drafted into the Army, enlisting under his legal name, Joe Louis Barrow, on Jan. 14, 1942. A champion fighter in the boxing ring, he was ready to fight for the United States.

Born in Alabama in 1914, Louis was one of eight children born to Munroe and Lillie Barrow. His mother later married a widower, who added his six children to the household. When he was about 12, his family moved to Detroit, where work opportunities were better for African Americans. Louis had been slow to develop, walking and talking later than many children. He did not excel in school and by 15 quit, working instead to support his family.

In his late teenage years, Louis began boxing with a friend and found he had a particular talent for the sport. By 1934, he had won 50 of 54 amateur fights and had his sights set on going pro. Louis fought his first professional match on July 4, 1934, and won with

a knockout in the first round. Louis' success quickly made him a hero to Black Americans. Unlike his predecessor, heavyweight champion Jack Johnson, Louis was naturally reserved, a trait his managers urged him not to lose. His quiet demeanor served him well. When he spoke, people listened.



Sgt. Joseph Louis Barrow speaks to assembled troops during an appearance at Camp Hill in Newport News, Va., on Sept. 10, 1943. National Archives

Louis spoke loudest with his fists. In 1937, he defeated heavyweight champion James J. Braddock, earning the title for himself. The next year, Louis faced German boxer Max Schmeling in a rematch that carried the weight of two ideologies: a Black American boxer squaring off with Nazi Germany's prized fighter. Their first match, in 1936, was a loss for Louis. This time, he knocked Schmeling out in the first round. With this victory, Louis' popularity grew with Black and white Americans. When he donned an Army uniform in 1942, he still held the heavyweight title.

Prior to Louis' enlistment, the Army's Bureau of Public Relations was discussing what to do with the famous boxer. Although numerous celebrities joined the military during World War II and were given (or allowed to have) combat assignments, Louis' opportunities in a segregated Army were few. It was determined he would serve Uncle Sam doing what he did best: boxing. Louis attended boot camp; he had to learn how to be a soldier even if he would not fight. In March 1942, he was allowed to defend his title; he beat Abe Simon and raised money for the Army Emergency Relief Fund.

A poster of Louis, dressed in combat gear and wielding a rifle with a fixed bayonet, became a wildly popular war-bond advertisement. Quoting a speech Louis gave at a fundraiser, the poster exclaimed, "We're going to do our part ... and we'll win because we're on God's side." Louis did his part, assigned to a traveling group of Black boxers and entertainers. The troupe was an enormous success, drawing huge crowds of GIs

across the United States and eventually throughout Europe.

Louis did a lot to lift the morale of GIs. Getting to see your hero box in person was something thousands of young men must have written home about. One story recounted a young GI willing to risk his already damaged eyesight just for a glimpse of America's "Brown Bomber." If Louis had any problems with his ambassador role, he never told anyone. There was just one known rule: he refused to box in front of segregated audiences. The military was willing to bend its rules for few, but it did for Louis.

In addition to supporting millions of GIs through his appearances and shows, Louis stepped in to help friends when needed. When officer candidate (and future baseball star) Jackie Robinson knocked out a white officer's teeth over racist remarks, Louis made some phone calls. He not only managed to keep Robinson from being court-martialed or worse, but he carried enough clout out of the ring to help keep him in officer candidate school. Traveling across the country, Louis could gather information and use his status to make changes, and he is credited with helping to desegregate Army buses.

Like the millions with whom he served, Louis had to adjust to life outside the Army after the war. He joined The American Legion as a member of Peter Salem Post 45 in Louisville, KY. He continued to box, though years of exhibitions had taken a toll on him. He defended his heavyweight title until his retirement in 1949, when it had become apparent, he was no longer in peak form. In 1950, Louis came out of retirement, necessitated by debts and trouble with the IRS. His last match was Oct. 26, 1951, against fellow Army veteran and then-heavyweight contender Rocky Marciano. Marciano won and apologized to Louis; even his opponent hated to see the heavyweight great fall short.

Upon Louis' death, President Ronald Reagan waived the stringent requirements for internment at Arlington National Cemetery, and America's hero was buried there with full military honors April 21, 1981.

Despite winning millions over his career, it is estimated Louis personally earned less than \$1 million. He never shook his troubles with the IRS, though he was able to live comfortably. Louis pursued other passions, especially golf. Among the many strides he made for civil rights, directly or indirectly, it was his desire to play in the 1952 San Diego Open that resulted in the removal of the bylaw excluding Black golfers from the Professional Golfers' Association of

America (today's PGA Tour). Whether it was in the boxing ring, on the fairways or in an Army uniform, Louis set himself apart as a fighter, advocate, friend, and veteran.

Kali Martin Schick is senior historian at the National Medal of Honor Museum.

Enhance your post meetings with this training

The American Legion | February 16, 2024

The February virtual Training Tuesday, hosted by The American Legion Internal Affairs & Membership Division, will be on how to conduct a successful post meeting. The training will be presented by retired Army Sgt. Maj. Gina Owens, commander of American Legion Post 230 in Trafalgar, Ind.


Join the training on Tuesday, Feb. 27, from 7-8 p.m. Eastern. [Register here.](#)

Owens will share best practices to running an effective post meeting, and provide tips to enhance your post meeting procedures.

The January Training Tuesday on service animals is [ready for you to listen to](#). Missed a Training Tuesday? All recorded training sessions can be found online at legion.org/training/training-tuesdays.



Sons of The American Legion Membership Application			
Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____		Birth 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 jeffvabals@gmail.com

Harold P. Fickes Jr.



Harold P. Fickes Jr., 71, Hollidaysburg, passed away Monday afternoon at his residence. He was born in Altoona, son of the late Harold P. Sr. and Alice W. (Saylor) Fickes.

On Aug. 27, 1977, he married Cindy J. Lynn in Williamsburg.

He is survived by his wife; two children, Cody Fickes (Allison) of Orbisonia and Brittany Fickes-Miller (Dustin) of Altoona; five grandchildren: Bryson Miller, Dylan Miller, Alyson Miller, Harper Fickes and Oakley Fickes; and two sisters, Cathy Meyer of Alexandria, Va., and Roberta Klepser (Fred) of Hollidaysburg.

He was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Amy Lynn.

Harold was a 1971 graduate of Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School. He retired from Berwind Railway in 2018 as a railroad car inspector after 40 years of service.

He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Sons of the American Legion, Allegheny Club and Heidelberg Country Club.

Harold enjoyed yard work, detailing cars, Western movies, and TV shows, and especially enjoyed his grandchildren.

Friends will be received from 2 until the 4 p.m. funeral service Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, at Plank, Stitt & Stevens Funeral Home, 421 Montgomery St., Hollidaysburg, with the Rev. Drew McCaffery officiating.

Interment will be at New Canoe Creek Cemetery.

The family requests that donations in memory of Harold be made to Mending Hearts Animal Rescue, P.O. Box 97, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; or Central Pennsylvania Humane Society, 1837 E. Pleasant Valley Blvd., Altoona, PA 16602.

Condolences may be made at www.stevensfamilyfuneralhomes.com or Stevens Family Funeral Homes Facebook page.

Joe Boyd Woody, Jr.



Tupelo native Joe Boyd Woody, Jr., 72, passed away on December 24, 2023, after a short illness in [Ormond Beach, Florida](#), his home for over three decades. He attended Tupelo High School and Ole Miss and worked in the tool and die business until his retirement. He was active in his community. In addition to serving as a volunteer firefighter and EMT, he belonged to the Fraternal Order of Eagles since 1991, serving as chapter president for several years. He was also a member of the Sons of the American Legion, led a successful campaign to allow dogs on Ormond Beach, and was active in the local Republican Party. He was an avid animal lover, loved the beach and spending time with family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father Joe, Sr., his mother Betty Jean Cooley Woody, a sister Barbara Jean "Babs" Davenport, and a brother Phillip Woody. He is survived by two sisters, Ruth Elizabeth "Beth" Varner of [Wallingford, Pennsylvania](#), and Judith Ann "Judy" Silas of [Tupelo, Mississippi](#), and a brother Bill Woody of [Ooltewah, Tennessee](#). He also leaves behind a son Joe III of [Collierville, Tennessee](#), two daughters Melanie Sykes of [Southaven, Mississippi](#), and Stephanie Woody of [Charlotte, North Carolina](#), eight grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 in the morning on June 15 at Wesley United Methodist Church in Tupelo.

Kelly Ray Nevin



Kelly Ray Nevin, 56, died Monday, February 5, 2024, at his home in Garden City, Kansas. He was

born September 1, 1967, in Garden City, Kansas, the son of Sidney & Joyce (Meier) Nevin.

Kelly has been a lifetime resident of Garden City. He attended Garden City schools and graduated from Garden City High School in 1986. Kelly worked most of his life as a parts salesman for Machine Supply and Peterbilt of Garden City. He was member of ABATE District #10 and a member of the Sons of the American Legion. Kelly enjoyed spending his time riding motorcycles, watching NASCAR, and having time with his family, especially his grandsons.

Survivors include a daughter Britanni Powers of Garden City; his mother Joyce Nevin of Garden City; a sister Anita Johnson of Garden City; a brother Johnnie Nevin of Colorado Springs, CO; two grandsons Damon Powers and Nolan Powers both of Garden City; and several nieces and nephews Airika Frey, Rebecca Townsley, McKenzie Quintana, Shane Holsted, & Nick Bayer. Kelly is preceded in death by his father.

A Memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at Garnand Funeral Home in Garden City with James Brungardt officiating. A private family burial will take place at a later date. The family suggests memorials given to ABATE in care of the funeral home. Condolences may be given at www.garnandfuneralhomes.com.

James Arthur Myers Jr.



James Arthur "Jimmy" Myers Jr., 55, of Osgood passed away Monday, February 12, 2024, at Manderley Health Care Center. Jimmy was born on Sunday, May 12, 1968, in Lawrenceburg; son of James Myers Sr. and Katherine (Schillson) Myers.

Jimmy was a member of the Sons of the Osgood American Legion. He enjoyed hunting, scrapping, and bowling. Jimmy was an avid fan of the Indianapolis Colts and enjoyed watching NASCAR, especially Jeff Gordon. Jimmy most of all cherished spending time with his loving friends and family.

Jimmy will be missed by his son Eric Myers of Versailles; daughter Leah Myers of Texas; and mother Katherine Myers of Versailles.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his father James Myers Sr. and brother Darrell Myers.

There are no services. Memorials may be given in honor of Jimmy to Laws-Carr-Moore Funeral Home to help defray funeral expenses.

Laws-Carr-Moore Funeral Home has been entrusted with arrangements: PO Box 243, Milan, IN 47031; (812) 654-2141. Please visit our website at www.laws-carrmoore.com to share your condolences and memories of Jimmy.

Paul Kazalski, Jr.



Pelham, NH — Paul Edward Kazalski, Jr. of Pelham, NH passed away unexpectedly at his home on February 8th, 2024. He was born on June 12, 1975, to Debbie (Marr) and Paul E. Kazalski, Sr. Paul was raised in Dracut, Massachusetts and attended local schools. He was a graduate of Dracut High School, where he had been an active member of both the football and wrestling teams.

Paul spent most of his career working as a Car Salesman for Commonwealth Motors in Lawrence, MA and the Ice Center in Salem, NH. In his spare time, Paul was a member of the Sons of the American Legion in Pelham and a past Commander of the Polish American Veterans of Lowell. He was an amazing pool player, playing for both the APA in NH and MA. Paul's favorite thing to do was to go fishing on the pond with his best friend, his son, Paulie. He also enjoyed barbecuing and cooking. He cooked for multiple places over the years.

He is survived by his children, Mary Kazalski and Paul Edward Kazalski III; his parents, Paul and Debbie Kazalski of Dracut, MA; his sister, Jennifer Brown of North Port, FL; his nephews, Riley Brown and Syllas LaMotte of Dracut, MA; his close friend and roommate, Jake Griffin; friends, Hebaa Aoun and Sherri O' Connor.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Paul in the springtime, at his family home, the Kazalski Farm in Dracut. The Kazalski Family would like to especially thank Charlie Daher of Commonwealth Motors, who was always so good to Paul.

Arrangements are in the care of the Carrier Family Funeral Home, 38 Range Road, Windham, NH 03087. To leave a message of condolence, please visit www.carrierfuneralhome.com.

To send flowers to the family of Paul Kazalski, Jr., please visit the [Tribute Store](#).

Lucian L. "Luke" Lemery



Windsor, VT - Lucian L. "Luke" Lemery, III, 42, died Monday, February 12, 2024, at Cheshire Medical Center in Keene, NH.

Luke was born April 3, 1981, in Claremont, NH a son of Lucian and Kay (Plaster)Lemery. He grew up in Windsor and graduated from Windsor High School in 2000, a member of the Vermont State Football Champion Team. He was married to Katie Sebasky at Echo Lake, VT in 2014. They made their home in Windsor, where he worked as a cook at the Pizza Chef downtown. In 2022, Luke moved to St. Johnsbury and worked as a meat cutter at White's Market. He loved to interact with the clientele.

Luke was member of the Sons of the American Legion and a member of Windsor Elks Lodge BPOE #1665 both in Windsor. He was a talented billiards player and a pool shark. He enjoyed fishing and socializing with friends. Luke was a kind soul with a big heart, full of love and well-liked by all who met him.

Luke is predeceased by his father Lucian L. Lemery, Jr. and his mother Kay Lee Lepisko. He is survived by his wife Katie Lemery of North Clarendon, VT; a sister Danielle M. Lemery-Kenney and her partner Chad Traverse of Grafton, NH; stepmother Nancy Lemery of Windsor; a stepbrother Erik Marrow of Bradford, VT; a stepsister, Erin Marrow of Maryland. His father and mother-in-law, J. Robert, and Susan F. Sebasky; two uncles Jeff and his wife Lyn Ladue and William Plaster of Bellows Falls, VT; four aunts Mary and her husband Guy Roberts of Windsor, Tammie Scaling of Hillsboro, NH aunt Robin Scully and aunt Linda and husband Roger Witcomb both of Windsor; brother in law, Chris Sebasky of Tenn; and many cousins.

A celebration of Luke's life will be held Saturday, April 6, 2024, from 1-4pm at the American Legion Hall in Windsor, VT. Knight Funeral Home in Windsor assisted with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to Luke's family in an online guestbook at www.knightfuneralhomes.com.

Published by Valley News on Feb. 16, 2024.

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

William L. Williams



Remsen - William L. Williams, 76, passed away at Wynn Hospital, Utica on February 13, 2024.

He was born in Utica, N.Y. on April 17, 1947, a son of Robert and Gladys Haney Williams. He grew up in Remsen and attended Remsen High School. William was united in marriage with Sharon Burns on July 1, 1967 at the Floyd Methodist Church. She died October 24, 2016. After his marriage, the couple settled on Llewellyn Road. He was employed at Eastern Rock and finished off his working career for the Town of Steuben for many years. He operated Williams Custom Cutting processing deer and beef.

William was a member of Remsen Volunteer Fire Department, Boonville Elks Lodge, Sons of the American Legion and Millbrook Fish & Game Club. He was an avid outdoorsman enjoying hunting, fishing, golfing, and NASCAR.

William was a man of few words with an outstanding big heart. He lived a wonderful life filled with unquestionable love and pride for his five girls. They spent many joyful nights at camp with the Millbrook Gang. You could count on a good laugh and a stubborn eye roll and cold Miller Light. He had a wealth of friends the best of which were partners.

Surviving are his five daughters, Christine (Matt) Hodge, Tammy (David) Owens, Kelly (Russell) Broadbent, BillieJO (Blake) Richardson and Robin (Bill) Waite; twelve grandchildren; six great grandchildren and two brothers, Jim and Ray Williams. He was predeceased by his wife, parents and a sister, Laura Taylor.

Calling hours will be from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, February 17, 2024 followed by a 4 p.m. service at Ackley-Mills Funeral Home, 9597 Main Street, Remsen. After the service, a celebration of his life will continue at the Remsen V.F.W. Spring burial will be in Townsend Cemetery, Stittville. Memorial contributions may be made to the Remsen Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 299, Remsen, N.Y. 13438. For an online message of sympathy please go to www.millsfuneralhomes.com. Published by Daily Sentinel from Feb. 16 to Feb. 17, 2024.

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



Mark Gerard Weingartz



Mark Weingartz, age 72, of Burnsville, died in his stateroom cruising off the coast of Cabo San Lucas on February 8, 2024.

Mark was born on September 25, 1951, in Mankato, Minnesota to Louis and Katherine (Marka) Weingartz. He graduated from Loyola High School in 1969. On March 17, 1973, Mark was united in marriage to Mary Morrow. He worked for the United States Postal Service for over 30 years.

Mark was a member of the Sons of the American Legion. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed a lifetime of hunting and fishing, but his greatest joy was time spent with his granddaughter, Sophie.

Mark is survived by his wife, Mary; daughter, Kristen (Chris French); son, Lance; granddaughter, Sophie Moline; his brother and four sisters; and many nieces, nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and various beloved canine companions.

Memorial Mass will be held on March 16, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church. Visitation will be from 9:30-10:30 a.m. prior to the service at the church. Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery, Mankato. Mankato Mortuary is assisting the family with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred.

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

RENEW!

Bryce Jacobo Valdez



Bryce Jacobo Valdez, 21, of West Harrison, IN, passed away Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

He was born January 29, 2003, in Cincinnati, OH, son of Ramon Valdez and Eugenia (Lucas) Horn.

Bryce worked as a Lineman for Union Local #71 out of Columbus. He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion.

Bryce is survived by his parents, Eugenia and Clint Horn and Ramon Valdez; sister, Lacey (Nick); his dog, Joey; his best friend #91, Austin Ashcraft; many cousins; and the South Dearborn Community.

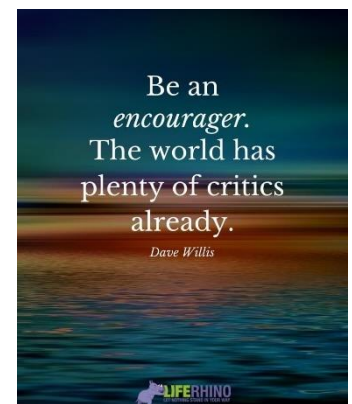
A lantern release will be held at the South Dearborn Football Field on Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

A memorial visitation will be held on Monday, February 19, 2024, 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the Rullman Hunger Funeral Home, 219 Mechanic Street, Aurora, IN.

A memorial service will be at 8:00 pm with Rev. Tim Halloran officiating.

Contributions may be made in loving memory of Bryce Valdez at Civista Bank.

Visit: www.rullmans.com.



AMERICAN LEGION



Daniel J. Seehafer,
National Commander
The American Legion

Daniel J. Seehafer, National Commander
The American Legion

Commander praises Lincoln's 'moral clarity'

[John Raughter](#) | February 14, 2024

American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer elaborated on the meaning of right making might during two keynote addresses at the 90th annual American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln Monday.



American Legion National Commander Daniel Seehafer visits the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln on Monday, Feb. 12.

[John Raughter/The American Legion](#)

"President Lincoln had moral clarity, which defined his entire career," Seehafer said during a wreath-laying held on the morning of the 16th president's birthday. "He knew it was right to preserve the Union and emancipate the slaves. His charitable nature would have undoubtedly benefited his most hardened opponents had an assassin's bullet not robbed this nation of his leadership during reconstruction."

During a luncheon that day, Seehafer pointed to Nazi Germany, the Japanese empire, and the Soviet Union as examples of military strength without righteous cause.

"They did not have the moral clarity needed to prevail. In fact, they had just the opposite," he said. "Oppression, aggression and genocide were their vices and downfalls."

American Legion Post 32 in Springfield, Ill., has led the longest running annual observance held on Lincoln's birthday since 1935. At least 13 departments were represented at this year's pilgrimage.

"This annual pilgrimage is now an American Legion Family tradition and one that would please President Lincoln were he to join us today. Our family is reunited once again," said Sons of The American Legion Squadron 32 Commander James Peters, Jr. "We are honored to host the national officers of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion and members of the American Legion Family from states across the nation to honor President Lincoln, our state's favorite son, America's greatest president and this tradition."

American Legion Auxiliary Past National President Sharon Conatser, an Illinois native, compared Lincoln's commitment to veterans to that of the American Legion Family. "In 1855, he said, 'Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other thing,'" Conatser said. "As an American Legion Family, our resolution to succeed in taking care of our country's veterans, military and their families is of the utmost importance. It's been our mission for more than a century, and we will continue to accomplish it. Lincoln believed it when he walked the Earth, and we still believe it and follow that mantra now."

Sons of The American Legion National Commander Don "J.R." Hall also spoke at the wreath laying. "President Lincoln once said, 'The most reliable way to predict the future is to create it,'" Hall said. "Today, the greatest way to honor him is to create a great future as the American Legion Family."

Seehafer suggested that Americans should think about Lincoln when they vote. "In November, our nation will once again return to the polls to elect a commander-in-chief. We should all be inspired by the man whose birthday we celebrate today. In this room, we have Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, yet we are here for a common cause,"

Seehafer said. “We are here to remember one of American’s greatest presidents. In his heart was not an R, D, or an I. It was a V, for veteran. It is ironic that the man who led the nation during its most divided period, and the man who famously said, ‘A house divided cannot stand,’ is today perhaps the most beloved and unifying figure in American history.”

the cemetery in Alexandria on Monday February 5th at 11am to be there in support of veteran with little to no family and friends left. Let's give this airman a proper send off.

“In the area, a lot of people follow us because we’re doing a lot of events at the post,” Bruns said. “The funeral home had found out he was a veteran but couldn’t find any family or friends and reached out to us to see if any of us knew him ... and to see if we could arrange (an honor guard). Cat put it out on social media, and it just kind of took off.”

Post 24 shares a facility with Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3113, so both posts put the word out about Minto’s upcoming funeral. Local media also picked up the story.

The result was dozens of men and women who had never met Minto – most of them veterans from various organizations – showing up on Feb. 5 at Alexandria Catholic Cemetery to give their respects to Minto. The joint color guard from Posts 24 and 3113 also provided the honor guard for the funeral, while members of the two posts also served as pallbearers; temperatures hovering in the 20s didn’t deter the veterans from honoring one of their own.

“It was a good day,” Bruns said. “Most everybody there was from one veterans organization or another. In the veteran community we take care of our own.”

A U.S. Navy veteran, Bruns said when you join the U.S. military, you’ve earned the right to be honored when delivered to your final resting place. “Once upon a time you wrote that blank check,” he said.

“You deserve a funeral.”

Lack of funding threatens discounted internet service for more than 1 million veterans

[Ken Olsen](#) | February 5, 2024



More than 1 million veterans could lose discounted internet service because a federal assistance program is running out of money. They are among nearly 23 million

U.S. households that receive a \$30 to \$75 reduction in their monthly bill through the Federal Communication Commission’s (FCC) Affordable Connectivity



1011 Now video still

Nebraska Legionnaires help provide final goodbye to Korean War veteran

The American Legion | February 12, 2024

When David Bruns became commander of American Legion Post 24 in Fairbury, Neb., one of the first things he did to regenerate the post’s energy was to ask Post Adjutant Catherine Lovgren to set up a social media presence to share what the post was doing and what was happening at the facility.

Lovgren did that, creating a Facebook page that shares post news and events, acknowledging military milestones and even using it to share photos and comments from Lovgren when she visits another American Legion post.

But recently, the page was used as a call to action, and the result was a Korean War veteran getting the proper final send-off by his fellow veterans.

When Post 24 learned that Korean War Air Force veteran Robert Minto had passed away and Gerdes-Meyer Funeral Home had been unable to locate any of his family, the post put out the following message on Facebook:

This page is to promote the American Legion and get help to veterans and service members as best we can. Sometimes our help isn't for this life but for the next one. We are asking anyone who can come to

Program. This financial help often determines whether these families can afford internet service.

“Cost is one of the single biggest barriers to having the internet,” says Amy Huffman, policy director for the National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA). But unless Congress steps up, funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program will run out by May. “There’s no sugarcoating how painful this will be,” Huffman says. “More than 22 million households will have to choose between internet and groceries, internet and medicine, internet, and gas. It’s heartbreaking to think about going back to that.”

Legislation introduced in both houses of Congress in January could provide an additional \$7 billion in funding and extend the internet financial aid program through the end of the year, Huffman says. But prospects for passage of this short-term extension are uncertain given Congress’ struggles to agree on other funding measures. And because funding is dwindling, the Affordable Connectivity Program will stop enrolling new households this week. “We are fighting for the continuation of the program while simultaneously preparing our community to support consumers in the case the program ends,” Huffman says of the libraries, schools, faith-based organizations, and other groups that belong to the National Digital Inclusion Alliance.

The American Legion’s National Executive Committee passed [Resolution No. 1](#) in May 2021, calling on federal agencies to prioritize broadband expansion in rural areas – home to more than 5.6 million former servicemembers. High-speed internet access is particularly important for veterans living in rural areas because they depend on the technology for health care, education, and other needs. More than half have at least one service-connected health issue. They also are more likely to be dealing with diabetes, high blood pressure and heart conditions, according to VA.

Lack of broadband access also hampers veterans access to online education, training, and their ability to work remotely. And it affects more than 1.1 million veteran-owned business in rural America by restricting their access to markets, financing, grants, and supplies, according to The American Legion.

The need to expand rural high-speed internet service became even more acute as the COVID-19 pandemic forced medical providers to replace in-person appointments with telehealth visits, universities to switch to online classes and millions of people to trade their office jobs for telework. VA telehealth

visits grew more than 600% between March 2020 and March 2021 alone and demand remains high even as the pandemic subsides. The agency logged nearly 3 million telehealth visits with rural veterans in fiscal 2023. Yet as many as 6% of rural veterans who are enrolled in VA health care lack access to internet capable of supporting support telehealth services, according to the agency.

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, signed into law in November 2021, allocated \$42.5 billion toward rural broadband deployment as part of the newly created Broadband Equity and Deployment program, Huffman says. The results of this effort to build the physical internet infrastructure should begin to appear in the next few years. Meanwhile, another \$2.7 billion was allocated to making sure people have the skills and equipment to use the internet once they have broadband access, Huffman says.

The Infrastructure Act also created the FCC’s Affordable Connectivity Program. In addition to helping reduce the cost of home internet service, the program provides up to \$100 toward the purchase of computer equipment. Households that include someone participating in a certain veterans pension and survivors benefit programs qualify for the financial assistance, according to the FCC.

In 2022, the FCC and Veterans Benefits Administration streamlined the eligibility verification process, making it easier for veterans to take advantage of the Affordable Connectivity Program, according to the FCC. It’s been wildly successful. By early December 2023, the program was providing more than 960,000 veterans and survivors help with their monthly internet bills. That number continues to increase. And rural residents have enrolled in the program at higher rates than the urban counterparts, which should help spur development of more rural internet access, according to the FCC.

Unfortunately, the Affordable Connectivity Program ran out of money sooner than anticipated and the legislation introduced in January is considered a short-term solution that provides Congress and the FCC time to come up with a permanent way of funding lower-cost internet service for those in need, Huffman says. The prospect of losing even this temporary financial assistance keeps her up at night. “I’ve lost a lot of sleep over the last year,” Huffman says. “Before the pandemic, you might get away without having internet access. But not now.”



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ADJUTANT

PO BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1055 * WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS * P: 317-630-1205

TO: 2023-2024 SAL NATIONAL DIRECTORY

MEMO: SAL NATIONAL RESOLUTION FLOW PROCESS

Resolutions should be submitted at least 30 days before NEC or Convention.

All resolutions will be timestamped by the National Sons of The American Legion (SAL) Liaison with the National Adjutant being informed through each step of the process. Once a resolution is numbered, the original number will stay attached with possible revision numbering added on if necessary. All resolutions will be reviewed by the TAL Resolution Screening Committee (RSC) before being reviewed by the SAL commission or committee.

- 1) Resolution sent to National Liaison for recording. National Liaison assigns a number and acknowledges receipt of the resolution to the sender.
- 2) National Liaison informs the National Adjutant of the status of resolutions. The National Adjutant will coordinate with the TAL RSC chairman to coordinate a meeting time.
- 3) Three weeks before the meeting (NEC or Convention), RSC meets, reviews the resolutions, and returns to the National Liaison for the next step. (If the resolution has financial intent, RSC will forward it to the National Liaison to record receipt and (24hrs) send the resolution to TAL Finance Commission for review.
- 4) The National Liaison sends the numbered resolution to the SAL commission or committee for them to champion and will cc the SAL Sub-committee on resolutions.
- 5) The commission or committee will meet at the NEC or convention for disposition status. Approved resolutions are sent to the Sub-committee on resolutions. When the commission or committee has reviewed, modified, or rejected the resolution it will return to the national liaison. Approved resolutions are officially sent to the Sub-committee on resolutions. Rejected resolutions will be returned to the sponsoring detachment as well as the commission or committee with an explanation.
- 6) Sub-committee on resolutions meets at the NEC or convention before going to the SAL NEC. Rejected or held for further study are notated in the report of the commission to the NEC, but not presented to the NEC.
- 7) All SAL NEC resolutions are given to the TAL IA commission in the IA report to the TAL NEC for review and approval. Once approved, all resolutions are placed on the website.

Respectfully,

Anthony W. Wright (PA)
National Adjutant
Sons of The American Legion

2024 SAL 75% Target Date Membership Report: February 14, 2024

#	DETACHMENT	2024 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 75% TARGET 2/14/2024	2024 ACTUAL MBRSHP	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2024 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	120	-30	120	100.00%	89.92
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	-379	1,587	98.51%	83.42
3	PUERTO RICO	156	-32	149	95.51%	89.54
4	FRANCE	168	-33	159	94.64%	82.53
5	NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	-205	1,011	94.05%	84.72
6	WISCONSIN	4,398	-809	4,107	93.38%	83.07
7	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	-249	1,426	90.83%	76.31
8	FLORIDA	23,066	-3,472	20,771	90.05%	75.39
9	RHODE ISLAND	348	-44	305	87.64%	74.64
10	IOWA	4,914	-606	4,291	87.32%	79.79
11	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	-652	5,172	85.81%	76.42
12	OREGON	1,534	-166	1,316	85.79%	70.71
13	MARYLAND	16,803	-1,780	14,382	85.59%	77.99
14	OHIO	31,690	-3,185	26,952	85.05%	78.26
15	MICHIGAN	26,236	-2,593	22,270	84.88%	75.98
16	PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	-6,195	53,254	84.87%	78.88
17	LOUISIANA	1,821	-177	1,543	84.73%	78.15
18	CONNECTICUT	1,865	-181	1,580	84.72%	74.32
19	MINNESOTA	11,435	-1,100	9,676	84.62%	78.22
20	NEW YORK	30,663	-2,935	25,932	84.57%	77.40
21	NEBRASKA	6,992	-649	5,893	84.28%	80.37
22	ILLINOIS	13,716	-1,273	11,560	84.28%	78.13
23	DIST OF COL	91	-8	76	83.52%	76.14
24	GEORGIA	4,887	-371	4,036	82.59%	72.09
25	ARIZONA	8,595	-641	7,087	82.45%	68.60
26	ALABAMA	2,100	-155	1,730	82.38%	71.06
27	INDIANA	37,244	-2,672	30,605	82.17%	75.98
28	VERMONT	3,920	-281	3,221	82.17%	76.56
29	VIRGINIA	4,367	-308	3,583	82.05%	71.30
30	NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	-192	2,269	81.91%	68.06
31	MISSISSIPPI	736	-49	601	81.66%	70.31
32	WYOMING	1,248	-75	1,011	81.01%	71.76
33	TENNESSEE	1,792	-103	1,447	80.75%	67.58
34	DELAWARE	2,596	-141	2,088	80.43%	71.75
35	TEXAS	5,783	-259	4,596	79.47%	68.24
36	COLORADO	2,952	-121	2,335	79.10%	68.05
37	MONTANA	1,091	-41	859	78.74%	74.05
38	NEW MEXICO	1,582	-55	1,241	78.45%	61.58
39	CALIFORNIA	11,292	-374	8,843	78.31%	67.28
40	NEW JERSEY	9,662	-283	7,529	77.92%	69.65
41	KANSAS	6,055	-168	4,709	77.77%	71.64
42	WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	-67	2,012	77.59%	67.85
43	UTAH	460	-10	355	77.17%	66.00
44	MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	-117	4,191	77.15%	69.82
45	MAINE	2,757	-57	2,125	77.08%	68.17
46	IDAHO	659	-12	506	76.78%	59.00
47	ARKANSAS	406	-7	311	76.60%	60.93
48	LATIN AMERICA	33	0	25	75.76%	37.50
49	MISSOURI	3,337	-2	2,505	75.07%	67.00
50	WASHINGTON	2,682	4	2,008	74.87%	59.99
51	ALASKA	1,740	3	1,302	74.83%	62.46
52	NEVADA	387	16	274	70.80%	60.61
53	KENTUCKY	2,399	198	1,601	66.74%	56.97
54	OKLAHOMA	1,430	119	954	66.71%	53.68
55	PHILIPPINES	79	15	44	55.70%	53.16
Grand Totals:		382,111	-32,952	319,535	83.62%	75.30



2024 SAL Regional Breakdown

Western Region - James R. Fischer, Sr. (CA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
HAWAII	120	120	100.00%
OREGON	1,534	1,316	85.79%
ARIZONA	8,595	7,087	82.45%
WYOMING	1,248	1,011	81.01%
COLORADO	2,952	2,335	79.10%
MONTANA	1,091	859	78.74%
NEW MEXICO	1,582	1,241	78.45%
CALIFORNIA	11,292	8,843	78.31%
UTAH	460	355	77.17%
IDAHO	659	506	76.78%
LATIN AMERICA	33	25	75.76%
WASHINGTON	2,682	2,008	74.87%
ALASKA	1,740	1,302	74.83%
NEVADA	387	274	70.80%
PHILIPPINES	79	44	55.70%
Totals:	34,454	27,326	79.31%

Southeast Region - Linwood A. Moore (VA)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
PUERTO RICO	156	149	95.51%
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,570	1,426	90.83%
FLORIDA	23,066	20,771	90.05%
LOUISIANA	1,821	1,543	84.73%
GEORGIA	4,887	4,036	82.59%
ALABAMA	2,100	1,730	82.38%
VIRGINIA	4,367	3,583	82.05%
NORTH CAROLINA	2,770	2,269	81.91%
MISSISSIPPI	736	601	81.66%
TENNESSEE	1,792	1,447	80.75%
TEXAS	5,783	4,596	79.47%
ARKANSAS	406	311	76.60%
Totals:	49,454	42,462	85.86%

Midwest Region - Terry A. Harris (KS)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,611	1,587	98.51%
NORTH DAKOTA	1,075	1,011	94.05%
IOWA	4,914	4,291	87.32%
NEBRASKA	6,992	5,893	84.28%
KANSAS	6,055	4,709	77.77%
MISSOURI	3,337	2,505	75.07%
OKLAHOMA	1,430	954	66.71%
Totals:	25,414	20,950	82.43%

Northeast Region - John R. Cook (NH)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
FRANCE	168	159	94.64%
RHODE ISLAND	348	305	87.64%
NEW HAMPSHIRE	6,027	5,172	85.81%
MARYLAND	16,803	14,382	85.59%
PENNSYLVANIA	62,746	53,254	84.87%
CONNECTICUT	1,865	1,580	84.72%
NEW YORK	30,663	25,932	84.57%
DIST OF COL	91	76	83.52%
VERMONT	3,920	3,221	82.17%
DELAWARE	2,596	2,088	80.43%
NEW JERSEY	9,662	7,529	77.92%
MASSACHUSETTS	5,432	4,191	77.15%
MAINE	2,757	2,125	77.08%
Totals:	143,078	120,014	83.88%

Central Region - Robert L. Bristo (MN)			
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
WISCONSIN	4,398	4,107	93.38%
OHIO	31,690	26,952	85.05%
MICHIGAN	26,236	22,270	84.88%
MINNESOTA	11,435	9,676	84.62%
ILLINOIS	13,716	11,560	84.28%
INDIANA	37,244	30,605	82.17%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,593	2,012	77.59%
KENTUCKY	2,399	1,601	66.74%
Totals:	129,711	108,783	83.87%

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♥02/14/22♥		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	42,462	(6,992)	85.86%	258		
2	Northeast 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	143,078	120,014	(23,064)	83.88%	1,172		
3	Central 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	129,711	108,783	(20,928)	83.87%	1,429		
4	Midwest 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	25,414	20,950	(4,464)	82.43%	206		
5	Western 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	34,454	27,326	(7,128)	79.31%	346		
	TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	382,111	319,535	(62,576)	83.62%	3,411		



♥02/14/22♥		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	4,107	(291)	93.38%	41	6	83.07%		
Ohio 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		31,690	26,952	(4,738)	85.05%	612	14	78.26%		
Michigan 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		26,236	22,270	(3,966)	84.88%	375	15	75.98%		
Minnesota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		11,435	9,676	(1,759)	84.62%	184	19	78.22%		
Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7		13,716	11,560	(2,156)	84.28%	-	22	78.13%		
Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		37,244	30,605	(6,639)	82.17%	149	27	75.98%		
West Virginia 1, 5, 6		2,593	2,012	(581)	77.59%	65	42	67.85%		
Kentucky 1, 4		2,399	1,601	(798)	66.74%	3	53	56.97%		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		129,711	108,783	(20,928)	83.87%	1,429				

♥02/14/22♥		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	120	-	100.00%	(10)	1	89.92%	02/05/24	02/05/24
2	Oregon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,534	1,316	(218)	85.79%	2	12	70.71%		
3	Arizona 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	8,595	7,087	(1,508)	82.45%	92	25	68.60%		
4	Wyoming 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,248	1,011	(237)	81.01%	28	32	71.76%		
5	Colorado 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	2,952	2,335	(617)	79.10%	51	36	68.05%		
6	Montana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,091	859	(232)	78.74%	1	37	74.05%		
7	New Mexico 5, 6	1,582	1,241	(341)	78.45%	29	38	61.58%		
8	California 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	11,292	8,843	(2,449)	78.31%	53	39	67.28%		
9	Utah 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	460	355	(105)	77.17%	14	43	66.00%		
10	Idaho 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	659	506	(153)	76.78%	12	46	59.00%		
11	Latin America 4, 6	33	25	(8)	75.76%	1	48	37.50%		
12	Washington 4, 5	2,682	2,008	(674)	74.87%	63	50	59.99%		
13	Alaska 3	1,740	1,302	(438)	74.83%	11	51	62.46%		
14	Nevada 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	387	274	(113)	70.80%	(1)	52	60.61%		
15	Philippines	79	44	(35)	55.70%	-	55	53.16%		
	TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	34,454	27,326	(7,128)	79.31%	346				

♥02/14/22♥		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	Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	156	149	(7)	95.51%	24	3	89.54%		
2	South Carolina 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,570	1,426	(144)	90.83%	10	7	76.31%		
3	Florida 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	23,066	20,771	(2,295)	90.05%	96	8	75.39%		
4	Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,821	1,543	(278)	84.73%	8	17	78.15%		
5	Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,887	4,036	(851)	82.59%	5	24	72.09%		
6	Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	2,100	1,730	(370)	82.38%	6	26	71.06%		
7	Virginia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,367	3,583	(784)	82.05%	13	29	71.30%		
8	North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	2,770	2,269	(501)	81.91%	7	30	68.06%		
9	Mississippi 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	736	601	(135)	81.66%	1	31	70.31%		
10	Tennessee 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,792	1,447	(345)	80.75%	18	33	67.58%		
12	Texas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	5,783	4,596	(1,187)	79.47%	67	35	68.24%		
13	Arkansas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	406	311	(95)	76.60%	3	47	60.93%		
	TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	47,728	40,887	(6,841)	85.67%	128				

♥02/14/22♥		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	1,587	(24)	98.51%	-	2	83.42%		
2 North Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	1,075	1,011	(64)	94.05%	-	5	84.72%		
3 Iowa 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,914	4,291	(623)	87.32%	2	10	79.79%		
4 Nebraska 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	6,992	5,893	(1,099)	84.28%	179	21	80.37%		
5 Kansas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	6,055	4,709	(1,346)	77.77%	10	41	71.64%		
6 Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	3,337	2,505	(832)	75.07%	4	49	67.00%		
7 Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1,430	954	(476)	66.71%	11	54	53.68%		
TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	25,414	20,950	(4,464)	82.43%	206				

♥02/14/22♥		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	159	(9)	94.64%	-	4	82.53%		
2 Rhode Island 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	348	305	(43)	87.64%	3	9	74.64%		
3 New Hampshire 1, 2, 4, 5, 6	6,027	5,172	(855)	85.81%	214	11	76.42%		
4 Maryland 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	16,803	14,382	(2,421)	85.59%	123	13	77.99%		
5 Pennsylvania 4, 5, 6, 7	62,746	53,254	(9,492)	84.87%	571	16	78.88%		
6 Connecticut 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,865	1,580	(285)	84.72%	-	18	74.32%		
7 New York 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	30,663	25,932	(4,731)	84.57%	101	20	77.40%		
8 Dist. of Columbia 4, 7	91	76	(15)	83.52%	9	23	76.14%		
9 Vermont 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	3,920	3,221	(699)	82.17%	28	28	76.56%		
10 Delaware 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	2,596	2,088	(508)	80.43%	14	34	71.75%		
11 New Jersey 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	9,662	7,529	(2,133)	77.92%	34	40	69.65%		
12 Massachusetts 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	5,432	4,191	(1,241)	77.15%	74	44	69.82%		
13 Maine 5, 6	2,757	2,125	(632)	77.08%	1	45	68.17%		
TOTALS 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	143,078	120,014	(23,064)	83.88%	1,172				

♥02/14/22♥		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, 8	23,066	20,771	(2,295)	90.05%	96	8	75.39%		
2 Ohio 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	31,690	26,952	(4,738)	85.05%	612	14	78.26%		
3 Michigan 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	26,236	22,270	(3,966)	84.88%	375	15	75.98%		
4 Pennsylvania 4, 5, 6, 7	62,746	53,254	(9,492)	84.87%	571	16	78.88%		
5 New York 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	30,663	25,932	(4,731)	84.57%	101	20	77.40%		
6 Indiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	37,244	30,605	(6,639)	82.17%	149	27	75.98%		
TOTALS	211,645	179,784	(31,861)	84.95%	1,904				
National Totals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	382,111	319,535	(62,576)	83.62%	2,994		75.30%		

♥02/14/22♥		2024 LEADERSHIP STANDINGS							
Detachment	Det	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	National Rank	Renewal Rate	Quota Date	105% Date
1 Vice-Commander Cook	New Hampshire	6,027	5,172	(855)	85.81%	11	76.42%		
2 Commander Hall	Maryland	16,803	14,382	(2,421)	85.59%	13	77.99%		
3 Vice-Commander Bristo	Minnesota	11,435	9,676	(1,759)	84.62%	19	78.22%		
4 Trailing Candidate Clancy	New York	30,663	25,932	(4,731)	84.57%	20	77.40%		
5 Vice-Commander Moore	Virginia	4,367	3,583	(784)	82.05%	29	71.30%		
6 Leading Candidate Navaratte	New Mexico	1,582	1,241	(341)	78.45%	38	61.58%		
7 Vice-Commander Fischer	California	11,292	8,843	(2,449)	78.31%	39	67.28%		
8 Vice-Commander Harris	Kansas	6,055	4,709	(1,346)	77.77%	41	71.64%		



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%

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS AND HONOR THE GREATEST GENERATION

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the charities of Sons of The American Legion



If you would like to show your support for our troops each week with our RED shirt, or honor and remember the Greatest Generation with our Kilroy shirt, act now, these won't be available for long, and are selling quickly.

Adult Sizes	SM	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL & Up
	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$25.00
RED						
Kilroy						
Total						

Total \$ _____
 Shipping \$ 9.95
 Grand Total \$ _____

Ship to: _____

Return this form along with check to
 Jeff Vrabel Sr.
 2222 Birch Bark Trail
 Grove City, Ohio 43123-8512
 Please allow a minimum of two weeks for processing

