



Round-Up



The Newsletter of Sons of The American Legion Central Region

Volume 2 – Issue 84 – June 6, 2021

Memorial Day should include everyone

Over the past few editions, I've talked about Memorial Day and its importance. We all did our part and honored the men and women of our great country who made the supreme sacrifice defend us and our way of life. They fought and died for freedom, justice, and democracy. They did it for people they didn't even know, and we thanked and remembered them.

I want to tell you about Memorial Day in Poland, Ohio last weekend. On Saturday, Sons of The American Legion Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 organized the events that included decorating nearly 1,500 graves at historic Riverside Cemetery, Old North Cemetery, and Poland Center Cemetery. Legionnaires, Scouts, Girl Scouts & Brownies, and a group from Holy Family Church and School.

On Monday, the 92nd Annual Memorial Day Ceremonies were held at the American Legion War Memorial Building Post 15 Home. There is usually a processional parade, but due to COVID-19 it was postponed until next year.

There was also something incredibly special during Memorial Day weekend, and it is something that is urged to be copied throughout the organization.

In 2018, Squadron 15 member and Past Ninth District Commander Jeff Vrabel, Jr. came up with a plan to provide Memorial Day ceremonies to residents at area assisted living facilities. As an employee of Briarfield and working at The Inn at Poland Way, Jeff wanted to do something special for the residents while honoring those who made the supreme sacrifice.

This year, seven different facilities were visited on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. "I Am the Flag" by Howard Schnauber was read, and the names of each veteran resident who has passed away was read, and a bell rang for each one. When the entire roster was read, a moment of silence was held in their memory.

Veteran residents were also recognized and presented with a certificate. Veteran residents of The Inn at Poland Way were also presented with a baseball cap with their wartime service displayed. Three World War II veterans were in attendance.

On Memorial Day, many of these veterans from The Inn at Poland Way also attended ceremonies at the War Memorial Building. During his remarks, Jeff recognized each of them and told those in attendance that this was the first event they have attended in over a year due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The program is just the right length, I swell-received by the residents and staff, and the owners of the company have been supportive and encouraging.

These ceremonies would not have been possible without Jeff's vision and desire to serve people who may not be includ-



Veteran residents of The Inn at Poland Way during Memorial Day ceremonies held Sunday, May 30, 2021.

ed in Memorial Day due to their circumstances. Memorial Day should include everyone, and Jeff has made sure to include this adult population to honor and remember.

I do not tell this story just because I am incredibly proud of my son. I tell this story because as a soon-to-be 22-year-old, he gets it. He understands how important veterans are, no matter their age, and he knows how to make them feel special. He knows what it means to support them. On a daily basis, he keeps **“Serving those who served...full steam ahead.”** *Who's next?*

Included in this edition will be our first membership report in almost a month. Brian Compton at National Headquarters has said that we should be back to our normal schedule of receiving membership and renewal reports on Tuesday and Thursday each week, unless there is a national target date. Let's make sure we move those numbers!

Please don't forget the next National Target Date on June 9, 2021, where we should all be at 100%.

Keep up the hard work and remember why you are a member of our great organization and family.

Proud Possessor of a Priceless Heritage,



#SALSTRONG

Jeff Vrabel, Sr.
Central Region Chairman
Sons of The American Legion
National Membership Committee
jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com
<https://sites.google.com/vies/teamvrabel/home>

*Serving Those Who Served...
Full Steam Ahead*
THE AMERICAN LEGION
MEDIA ALLIANCE

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Who's next?

Gentlemen,



Included is the latest membership report. Brian has assured us that starting next week we will be receiving 2 reports a week again. He also thanked us for our patience during the transition to MyLegion.

Next Wednesday is the 100% Target Date, please make sure to get all the cards you have turned in.

We also need to push our squadrons to get all of their Officer Certification, CSR and SDR reports turned in.

*Richard "Doc" Pfeiffer,
National Vice-Commander Central*

***Serving Those Who Served...
Full Steam Ahead***



**PROUD POSSESSORS
OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**



**Central Region
Conference Call**
Third Thursday of each month
7:30 p.m. Eastern Time
Call In # (774) 220-4000
Access Code 04423



Americanism Commission

First Thursday bi-monthly
January, March, May, July
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Call In # (515) 606-5134
Access Code: 451074

Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Third Wednesday of each month
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Call in # (605) 472-5332
Access Code: 808417

Children & Youth Committee

Third Wednesday of each month
8:00 p.m.
Call in # (605) 472-5332
Access Code: 808417

Legislative Commission

First Thursday bi-monthly
February, April, June, 7 August
7:00 p.m.
Call in # (712) 775-7031
Access Code: 988284103

Membership Committee

Third Tuesday of each month
6:00 p.m. Mountain time
Call in # (515) 604-9644
Access Code: 889133

<http://join.freeconferencecall.com/jrnavarr>

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Fourth Monday of each month
7:00 p.m. Central Time

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6354565336?pwd=_STBkdULJQlRoQTRndnJPN1hsVktHQTo9

Meeting ID: 635 456 5336
Passcode: 405160
Call In # (646) 876-9923

Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Third Wednesday of each month
8:00 p.m. Eastern time
Call In # (605) 313-4111
Access Code: 893821



VETERANS

STRENGTHENING AMERICA

2021 Legacy Run route announced

The American Legion
MAY 28, 2021

After a one-year hiatus due to a worldwide pandemic, The American Legion Legacy Run is back in its live, on-the-road form that has made it so popular and such a success for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. Register for the Legacy Run [here](#).

On Aug. 22, a contingent of American Legion Riders and their passengers that has surpassed 250 motorcycles on past rides will depart Pig Trail Harley-Davidson in Rogers, Ark. Over five days the group will traverse 1,356 miles through four states before ending up in Phoenix, the site of the 2021 American Legion National Convention, on Aug. 26.

This year's Legacy Run comes after the 2020 version had to go virtual because of COVID-19. Still, American Legion Riders and other members of the Legion Family did their part to continue to raise money for the Legacy Fund, collecting and donating [more than \\$580,000](#). The Legacy Fund provides college scholarships to children of U.S. mili-

tary personnel killed on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, as well as children of post-9/11 veterans with a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher.

But the Legacy Run is back out on the road this year. The route will take Legion Riders through Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico before entering Arizona. The ride will include passage through tribal lands throughout the West, including the Choctaw Nation and the Tonto Apache Tribe.

The following are some of the daily highlights.

- Day 1: A wreath laying at Fort Smith National Cemetery and a stop at the Choctaw Nation Capitol Grounds to honor its veterans memorial and cemetery.
- Day 2: A wreath laying ceremony at the Gainesville War Memorial in Gainesville, Texas.
- Day 3: Route through the desert into the Rocky Mountains, along with a stop at American Legion Post 28 in Roswell, N.M., and a parade escort through downtown Ruidoso, N.M.
- Day 4: The opportunity to tour "A Warrior's Oasis," a 480-acre refuge located in Quemado, N.M., and founded by retired Navy Master Chief David Dickey and Rene Marcoux to help servicemembers and veterans cope with post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury.
- Day 5: Route travels through the mountains before finishing up at the USS Arizona Memorial Gardens in Scottsdale, AZ.

Additional details about the Legacy Run will be shared once they become available.

Ceremonies, parades and 22 cemeteries in one day: How the American Legion Family honored Memorial Day

The American Legion
JUN 03, 2021

 [View Photo Gallery](#)

Since the early 1920s at Chauncey Eagle Horn/Philip Iyotte American Legion Post 125 on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, Memorial Day has been more than a ceremony.

It started with six cemeteries at a time when members of the post had to travel by horse-drawn wagon. The current version for members of Post 125 is

a day-long event, spanning 158 miles, more than nine hours and nearly two dozen area cemeteries. Members of the post – and in the past few years escorted by American Legion Riders Chapter 125 – have provided Memorial Day honors to the veterans buried at 22 cemeteries located throughout the Rosebud Indian Reservation. Many of the cemeteries can only be accessed via dirt paths, but that doesn't stop the Legionnaires.

Post 125 Commander Carole Gregg believes the tradition spans 101 years and continues to happen each year because of the value those on the reservation place on those who have performed military service.



Members of Chauncey Eagle Horn/Philip Iyotte American Legion Post 125 in Rosebud, S.D., spent their Memorial Day driving nearly 160 miles over a span of more than 10 hours to pay honors at 22 cemeteries on the Rosebud Reservation. (Photo by Courtney VanZanten/The American Legion)

"A lot of people are so proud of their veterans around here," Gregg said. "When it comes to Memorial Day and remembering these people that passed on, I think it becomes a big deal around here."

Gregg also is an American Legion Riders and said the post's American Legion Riders chapter began providing an escort to the cemeteries shortly after it was chartered in 2018. "There's times it's raining and there are only three bikes that show up. But we still do it," Gregg said.

Often times there are family members waiting for the Legion entourage to arrive at the cemetery. "It makes us feel good to bring a little comfort that somebody remembers. A lot of people after years have gone by, people forget. Families move away and don't come around. We're there to remember them."

The Memorial Day trek across the Rosebud Reservation wasn't the only weekend activity for Post 125, which topped the Department of South Dakota in membership increase in 2021. On Sunday, members of the post traveled to Wamblee, S.D., to assist Post 269 in providing honors at four cemeteries on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. "I thought that was humbling and honoring they wanted us to help with that," Gregg said.

The following are a few examples of how American Legion Family members helped observe Memorial Day in their communities. If your post, district, or department conducted an observance, please share your story and photos with us at www.legiontown.org.

California

At Woodland Cemetery, American Legion Yolo Post 77 placed around 2,000 U.S. flags on veterans' gravesites, as well as created a hall of flags at the cemetery. Around 100 people attended the post's ceremony at the cemetery, where guest speaker Will Anderson said it's a responsibility of those living to remember the fallen.

"Our lives on this earth are fleeting in the grand scheme of things, but our memories can live far beyond our own time on this earth," [Anderson said](#). "But only if those who come after us take the time to reflect and remember."

Colorado

In Glenwood Springs, American Legion Post 83 continued its tradition of placing flags on the hundreds of graves of veterans buried at Rosebud Cemetery and then hosted a ceremony on site. State dignitaries attended the ceremony, as did more than 200 members of the community.

In Montrose, American Legion Post 73 conducted a ceremony at Valley Lawn Cemetery that was followed by Chapter 73 and Chapter 24 American Legion Riders staging a ride to raise awareness about veteran suicide.

Florida

In Panama City Beach, American Legion Post 402 teamed with Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10555 to conduct a service at the veterans memorial at Aaron Bessant Park.

"It is an honor for me to pay tribute to those who have truly sacrificed their lives," Post 402 Commander Bob Hoffman [told MyPanhandle.com](#). "I had the opportunity in Vietnam to see some of the

bodies being recovered, and I was here on the other end for the funeral. So that stuff means a lot."

Georgia

In North Augusta, American Legion Jesse C. Lynch Memorial Post 71 organized a ceremony that included Vietnam veteran Dennis DuPuis as the keynote speaker. DuPuis is a retired chief warrant officer who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross three times, a Bronze Star, and a Vietnam Cross of Gallantry during his service.

"A lot of times, now, you see people going to a lake, barbecuing, going to the beach ... and that's alright," [DuPuis said](#). "I don't think it should be a mournful day. I think if these guys and gals ... could see us and know that we remember them on Memorial Day, they will be happy to see us go to a lake and enjoy our families do what they would have, to do what they could have if they had not made this great sacrifice."

The ceremony also included a reading of the names of Post 71 members who'd passed away in the past two years. "We're a tight-knit family and it hits hard," Post 71 Commander Kevin Joy said.

Indiana

American Legion Post 261 in Cedar Lake used Memorial Day to unveil a 100-foot-long presentation of a mural featuring military logos, an American flag and eagle, and an image of the nation's wars in the Middle East. The mural was the work of artist Mark Paul John, who also painted logos of the American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Riders on the building.

"It's wonderful," Post 261 Commander Gary Seng [told NWTimes.com](#). "I can't express what he has done to enhance the post the way he has."

Iowa

Indianola American Legion Post 165 conducted a service at the IOOF Cemetery that included raising the U.S. flag and the playing of taps.

"These people obviously have a feeling of loyalty for their country, and hopefully this enhanced that," Post 165's Joe Moody [told KNIA News](#). "Today, especially the way things are and the way the country is divided, something like this hopefully will bring out citizenry together with a common sense of community and patriotism. I think that is important."

Louisiana

For the 19th straight year, American Legion Riders Chapter 328 in Pierre Part conducted five wreath-laying ceremonies at St. Mary Parish veterans memorials.

“My dad went to Vietnam, and he never made it back (alive),” [Chapter 328 Director Edward Perot said](#). “So, I really pay a lot of homage to what we do here.”

Mississippi

In Bay St. Louis, American Legion Post 139’s Memorial Day event included flag raisings and the reading of names of members of the post who have passed away.

“This kind of thing helps us not to forget what Memorial Day is really about and that people need to come together,” event attendee Annie Leiby [told WLOX](#).

Missouri

Members of American Legion Post 13 started what they plan on making a Memorial Day tradition: conducting an internment ceremony for the remains of three unclaimed veterans. The veterans – Jimmy Bryant, Thomas Brunson, and Jimmy Smart – were laid to rest at Mount Hope Cemetery in Webb City.

“What is important to us is a post that gives last respect to our fallen brothers and make sure that they’re interned correctly,” Post 13 Vice Commander Patrick Tuttle [told KSN](#).

Nebraska

At Westlawn Cemetery, American Legion Post 36 conducted a ceremony attended by dozens of people. Included in the ceremony was the reading of letters written by Gering Public Schools students to servicemembers and veterans. “It goes to show that our youngsters, the younger generations, they are very well aware of what our service people have done,” Post 36 Commander Kent Holmes [told the Star-Herald](#), adding that, “This day cannot ever be forgotten. It’s those servicemembers – they earned this date for their respect and their memory. Do not forget them.”

In Norfolk, American Legion Post 16 hosted a ceremony and also created both a field a flags honoring every fallen servicemember in Nebraska since 9/11, and an avenue of flags representing all 50 states and all U.S. territories honoring veterans. The field of flags was the idea of Thomas Land-

kamer, the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Nebraska sergeant-at-arms who [told KTIV](#), “It makes me feel good because I love seeing the American flag fly proudly and it’s just a good reminder of the price that was paid for our freedom.”

New Jersey

In Ocean City, American Legion Post 524 teamed with VFW Post 6650 for a ceremony attended by hundreds that included the reading of names of fallen servicemembers and ringing of a bell to honor them.

“Remember, today is about veterans who are not here. This is a solemn day,” [Post Commander Bob Marzulli said during the ceremony](#). “When you see a veteran today, thank them for their service.”

New York

In Cassadaga, American Legion Post 1280’s honor guard conducted ceremonies at 10 area cemeteries to honor the veterans buried there. At each stop, Past Post Commander Bruce Kaus read to those attending the importance of the service; each ceremony also included a 21-gun salute.

Ohio

In Poland, Sons of The American Legion Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 conducted a ceremony at the post. Squadron members read the names of Post 15 members who’d passed away since Memorial Day 2020.

In Marietta, American Legion Post 64 conducted its annual Memorial Day parade that included fire trucks, police cars, floats and more. “I had three of my squad members that were killed in Vietnam, and every day I remember those three people and so many others we lost,” American Legion Post 64 Commander Regis Kern [told WTAP](#).

Pennsylvania

In addition to hosting a ceremony at its facility, Claysburg American Legion Post 522 members also visited seven area cemeteries for salutes by its honor guard and music by the post’s band.

Ashland American Legion Post 434 hosted the borough’s Memorial Day parade and service. The parade included the Ashland Police, Ashland Fire Department and North Schuylkill Marching Band.

Texas

In Bryan, Earl Graham Post 159 hosted an outdoor ceremony that included the presentation of the POW/MIA table, the reading of the names of Post

159 members who died in the past year, the playing of taps and “Amazing Grace” and a rifle volley. “It is not a celebration; it is a ceremony,” Post Commander Tom Marty [told The Eagle](#). “We are honoring the war dead, and those that gave up their lives in service of their country. A lot of times, people these days lose that concept and think of it as a mattress sale, a light sale or a car sale or something, and it really loses the true meaning of Memorial Day.”

In El Paso, Paso del Norte Post 58’s American Legion Family hosted a community ceremony that was shared live via Facebook. Watch the ceremony [here](#).

Utah

In Park City, American Legion Post 14 organized a walk down Main Street to commemorate the day. Those on the walk stopped by restaurants along the way to share their stories of family and friends who died in service to their country.

A group of about 20 people made their way down Main Street Monday afternoon, stopping by restaurants to share stories about friends and family, who died while serving in the military.

Post 14 Adjutant Glenn Wright [told KPCW](#) that by walking along Main Street they were able to give people an idea about what Memorial Day means for veterans. "For me personally, Memorial Day is not a happy holiday," he said. "It's probably the most difficult holiday of the year for me. Because I have friends on the (Vietnam Veterans Memorial) wall.

And I have friends who died as a result of other activities in the military."

West Virginia

In Bluefield, American Legion Riley-Vest Post 9 conducted a ceremony in downtown Bluefield’s Chicory Square, the post’s first ceremony since the coronavirus pandemic hit the nation. “It’s been a big event, and it means a lot,” Vietnam veteran Pete Sternloff [told the Bluefield Daily Telegraph](#).

In Follansbee, Emrys Watkins American Legion Post 45 hosted a ceremony that also included the unveiling of a new fountain at the center of the post’s memorial site. The fountain is a stone replica of the Fallen Soldier Battlefield Cross designed by Richard Rist.

In Parkersburg, American Legion Post 15 conducted multiple ceremonies, including two at its post

and one at the city’s park. The post remembered its members who have passed away in the past two years, as well as other servicemembers. “We lost quite a few. Some of them to COVID, some of them ... we’re losing a lot of World War II veterans. And then, we are still losing a lot of veterans every day to suicide – younger veterans. And so, we need to remember them. And we need to work for them,” Post 15 commander Marianne Bennett [told WTAP](#).



Sons of The American Legion Membership Application

Department 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 _____