



# Round-Up



The Newsletter of Sons of The American Legion Central Region

Volume 2 – Issue 86 – June 21, 2021

## Happy Father's Day

The nation's first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in the state of Washington. However, it was not until 1972 – 58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day official – that the day honoring fathers became a nationwide holiday in the United States.

Today, the tradition continues as we honor all fathers on their day.

For many Americans, Father's Day is spent with their children, their families, and their friends. Bad ties and matching socks are the big gifts, as are barbecue tools and flashlights.

For others, Father's Day is spent in cemeteries remembering dear old dad, many laughing and crying as they feel the loss of their father.

Whatever you do on Father's Day, enjoy the day, remember those who are no longer with us, and make new memories.

For additional information from The History Channel on Father's Day, please click [HERE](#).

With summer upon us, what plans do you have for your membership program, your fundraising efforts, and how will you attract new members to our organization? For some Squadrons, it's the same thing year after year. For others, new ideas will be tried, and many will be successful.

No matter what you do, there must be a plan. Each member should know what is going on and what is expected of him. It is important to include everyone if your plans are to succeed. Accept input from your members and ask for their help.

Everyone has a talent, and too often that member's talent is not used. If you have a teacher, ask him to help with the Ten Ideals and Five Star programs. If

you have someone who knows social media for his job, maybe he can help with your Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and other media your Squadron uses.

Whatever talents your members have, ask them to use them for the betterment of your Squadron, your Detachment, and the entire organization. Remember, we are all in this for a reason, ask the reason, use the talents, and keep **"Serving those who served...full steam ahead."** *Who's next?*

Proud Possessor of a Priceless Heritage,



#SALSTRONG

**Jeff Vrabel, Sr.**

Central Region Chairman  
Sons of The American Legion  
National Membership Committee

[jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com)

<https://sites.google.com/vies/teamvrabel/home>

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

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
MEDIA ALLIANCE

[JOIN](#)

[DONATE](#)



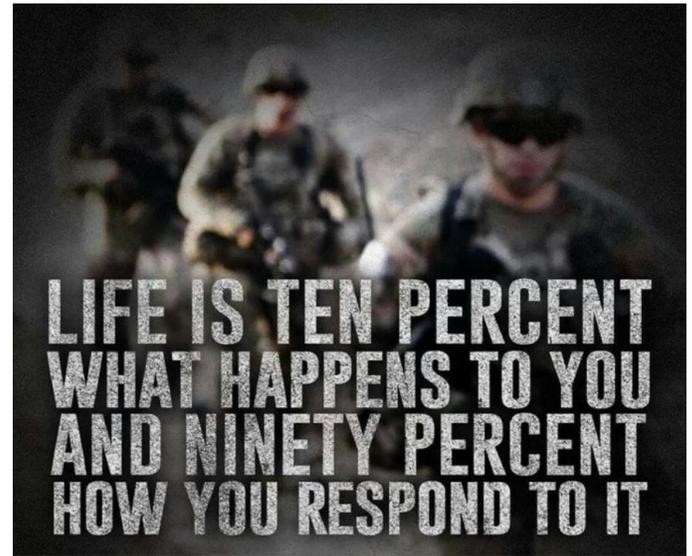
**Who's next?**



# 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



SAL membership reports are available [here](#)

**2021**  
**National Target Date**  
**July 28, 2021**  
**105%**  
*Delegate Strength Target Date*

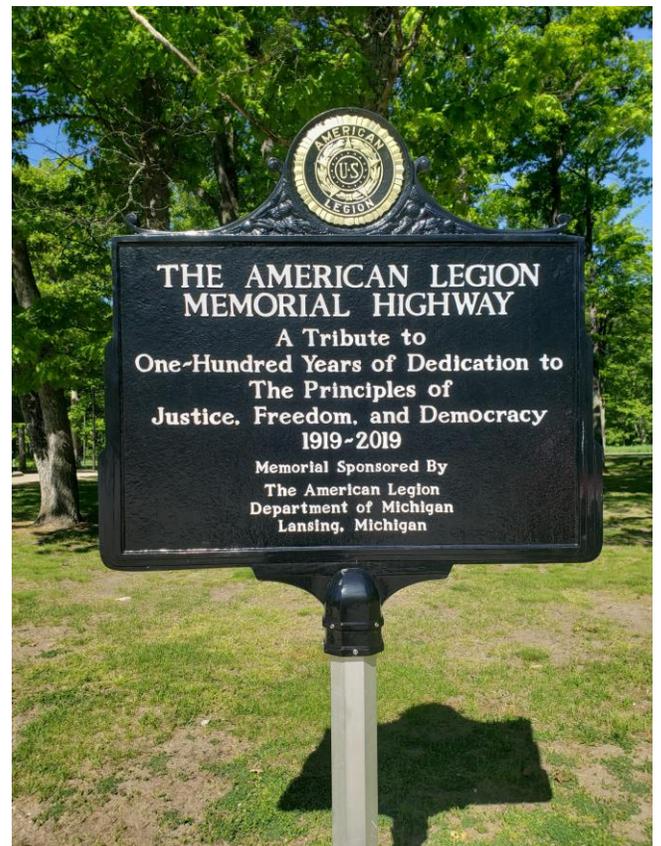


Photo submitted by Jimmy Sielschott, Mahoning Valley Squadron 15

Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
MAHONING VALLEY SQUADRON 15  
**PENNE PASTA DINNER**  
Sunday, July 25, 2021 | 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
American Legion War Memorial Building Post 15 Home  
35 Cortland Street | Poland, Ohio

**\$12.00 each | TAKE OUT ONLY**

Includes penne pasta, meatball, salad, roll, & butter

BASKET RAFFLE & 50/50 RAFFLE

Serving Those Who Served...Full Steam Ahead

For tickets or additional information, please call (330) 531-2986



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## Americanism Commission

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

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## Child Welfare Foundation Committee

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

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## Children & Youth Committee

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

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## Legislative Commission

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

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## 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>

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## Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Fourth Monday of each month  
7:00 p.m. Central Time  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6354565336?pwd=\\_STBkdUJQlRoQTRndnJPN1hsVktHQTo9](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6354565336?pwd=_STBkdUJQlRoQTRndnJPN1hsVktHQTo9)  
Meeting ID: 635 456 5336  
Passcode: 405160  
Call In # (646) 876-9923

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## Veterans Employment & Education Commission

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

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## *In Search of History*

During the spring virtual meeting of The Sons of The American Legion, a Resolution to establish a 50th National Convention Celebration Committee was passed. National Commander Clint Bolt announced his appointments to this committee and Ohio Past Detachment Commander Bill Towns, was honored to be a part of this committee. As part of this committee Bill is reaching out to the Ohio Membership asking for your help. You need to search your basements, backrooms, and files. Look around your Post Homes, check display cabinets, and pictures both stored and, on the wall, and become a part of this historic event.

Bill's part of this project is to collect, file, and preserve Sons of The American Legion historical information. Pins, Newsletters, Certificates, Convention Ribbons, Convention Books, Officer Rosters, Scrapbooks, SAL Drum Corps, and Color Guard items, and/or pictures of such activities and then help compile a Sons of The American Legion 50th National Convention Book, which will be given out to all Sons Delegates at the 50th National Convention to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin August of 2022. If you cannot donate the item, just take a couple of pictures of it, or scan the document then email them to [Docbill@neo.rr.com](mailto:Docbill@neo.rr.com) with all the information you can (Who, What, When, Where).

This can only be a success with your help.



# SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED FULL STEAM AHEAD

## National Commander Clint Bolt's 2020 – 2021 Goals

Please remember as you travel and promote the Sons of The American Legion and National Commander Clint Bolt's goals for Membership and all Legion Charities.

- **RECRUIT, RETAIN, AND REINSTATE** to reach **400,000** members
- Renewal rate above 95%
- Obtain 105% in membership by National Convention in Phoenix, AZ
- Recognize our achievements
- Child Welfare Foundation           \$500,000
- National Emergency Fund           \$100,000
- Soldiers Wish                           \$100,000
- Legacy Scholarship                   \$100,000
- Veterans & Children's Fund         \$100,000
- Operation Comfort Warriors         \$100,000



## VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

Members of our entire American Legion Family,

As Chairman of the Convention Commission and after receiving information, some correct, some not correct and some partially correct, I thought it was time to "clear the air," and as Paul Harvey used to say, I am going to give you "the rest of the story."

As you are aware we (Convention & Meetings Team, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Baca, myself, and several others) have been working very diligently for our American Legion Family to have our much needed National Conventions this coming August in Phoenix. We communicate constantly with each other, the Department of Arizona, the Arizona Convention Corporation, the City of Phoenix, the Hotels, and the Phoenix Convention Cen-

ter. Everyone in the Phoenix community realize how important this convention is to them. We will be the first largest Citywide convention they have had since being shut down due to Covid. Due to our outstanding relationship with Phoenix, we were able to get a new, less binding waiver for our attendees to sign, as I know this was a major concern to many. We will continue to adhere to all the Phoenix requirements, which they may be starting to loosen up some. If so, we will communicate accordingly. The waiver change was a good start. As I mentioned before and continue to say, you will be advised as soon as we receive updates. I also wish to remind everyone as I have said for months now, we all have to have: FLEXIBILITY; ADAPTATION; COOPERATION and PATIENCE for this and coming National Conventions.



Many may not realize this, but our Team in Indy, Director Robinson and Deputy Director Watson are CERTIFIED MEETING PROFESSIONALS, and with Director Robinson she is also Certified in Meeting Management. Both are Compliance Pandemic Advisors as well. These titles don't come easy and these two ladies both worked very hard and were tested extensively to obtain these credentials. The reason I mention this is that all of us in our American Legion Family, no matter what position or title you hold needs to rely on their expertise, as I do as Chairman. The American Legion is also considered, nationwide, throughout the hospitality industry, as one of the most reliable groups to have in a city for a National Convention(s). We did not earn this easy. We are honest, we keep our word, we communicate honestly, and we work hard to keep this good relationship not only with the cities and the hotels, but also other VSO's and Associations. These cities, hotels, VSO's, and Associations all communicate with each other constantly, whether it be one of their combined Association meetings, emails, or whatever, rest assured they know what is going on with all organizations holding National Conventions. This brings me to my next point. PLEASE, PLEASE, if you have information or if you hear something or you would like our Indy Team to check out some other Associations, Groups, VSO or whatever in the name of The American Legion, then contact them and I guarantee you they will follow up. DO NOT, PLEASE DO NOT, contact them using our American Legion name. Anyone doing this outside of the Convention & Meetings Office or the Convention Commission, without my or Director Robinson's permission, could jeopardize the hard work we have

developed with the city. The reason I point this out is our credibility throughout the Hospitality Industry and the Associations which I previously mentioned. Plus, quite honestly it is not anyone else's place to do this, as this is why we have the professional team in Indy. We received information that the ADHA, a medical association was contacted by a person from The American Legion and that they were not being required to sign waivers. We were also advised that a member of our American Legion Family called the convention center and they advised that they were told you do not have to wear a mask. Additionally, we were advised a member of our American Legion Family stated some events were cancelled when they are not. If the Convention & Meetings Office had been contacted to check on these, the following is what they would have reported, which is FACT and which we received from Mr. Mattingly, former Director of Operations, at the Phoenix Convention Center and currently Interim Deputy Human Services Director for the City:

*"The mask requirement is still in effect. I don't know anyone at PCC who would say differently. If things change, we will let you know."*



*"The waiver requirement was imposed after ADHA was approved, so they do not have it in their approval. They went to committee quite a while before American Legion when the committee wasn't requiring a waiver. The process for approval for ADHA and AL were the same. All of your requirements of the committee remain in force."*

Another point on the ADHA Medical Group per Miguel Munguia, CMP, former Event Operations Manager, and Interim Director of Operations of the PCC: ADHA presented Phoenix with a 30-page Risk Mitigation Plan and inside of that plan they (ADHA) were already requiring their attendees to SIGN A WAIVER!!! Again, if the Convention & Meetings Office had been contacted to check this out, this is what would have been reported.

I know this is a quite long email, but I believe it is extremely important that I get my point across. Let us do our job. Contact us with questions, sugges-

tions, ideas, etc. We don't need any rumors flying around. If you want the facts on Phoenix, contact my outstanding Team in Indy or me.

Thank you,

*Michael Walton, Chairman  
Convention Commission*



## The American Legion Family

### *The time for talk is over*

By Mackenzie Wolf  
JUN 17, 2021

As the withdrawal date for U.S. troops from Afghanistan looms, 18,000 Afghan interpreters awaiting Special Immigrant Visas (SIV) face a grim future. They — along with their families — are being hunted by the Taliban as the militant group attacks regions that have been under the control of the Afghan government.



*Photo by Tom Brenner/The American Legion*  
National Security Policy Advisor Nicholas Riffel delivers remarks during a press conference on evacuation of Afghan Interpreters at the House Triangle on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, June 16.

There are less than one hundred days until the Sept. 11 withdrawal deadline, however it's likely the last American servicemember will leave Afghanistan earlier.

U.S. Reps. Mike Waltz, R-Fla., and Jason Crow, D-Colo., joined The American Legion on Capitol Hill on June 16 to demand the U.S. government act immediately to evacuate the Afghans who assisted U.S. troops. These Afghan allies served alongside American forces at great risk to themselves and their families. In exchange for their service, they were promised a pathway to a future in the United States. By not honoring this promise, the U.S. government is signing their death warrants.

Nick Riffel, a policy adviser for The American Legion's National Security Division, served two tours during the deadliest years of war in Afghanistan. From 2009 to 2011, he served with 1st Battalion, 6th Marines as a designated marksman and infantry team leader.

"During my time in country, I saw many interpreters come and go," he said. "Some fled, others were abducted, and many were killed while serving with me and other American troops in combat.

"They left behind friends and family not knowing if they could ever return in search of a better life once they helped Americans and coalition forces."

Riffel recalled how many Afghan allies would wear face masks to conceal their identity because they feared retaliation from the Taliban that could lead to the deaths of their loved ones.

"Many Afghan interpreters served honorably for more than 24 months with their lives in imminent danger alongside frontline combat troops," he said. "One of which I served with from 2009 to 2010. He was killed in 2013, with pictures of his dead body posted to his Facebook."

He was awaiting his visa at the time of his death.

"We cannot hesitate to pull out all of our interpreters that meet the requirements for the Special Immigrant Visas," Riffel said. "We strongly encourage the U.S. government to fulfill their obligation to our heroic Afghan interpreters by keeping our Afghan allies safe."

Crow served in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper and an Army Ranger, serving three combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He said he owes a debt of gratitude to the Afghan men and women who served alongside him.

"It's not an exaggeration for me to say that I may not be here today, standing in front of you," Crow said, "had it not been for brave Afghan and Iraqi

interpreters who stood by me, fought with me shoulder to shoulder, warned me of risks, and helped us get our mission done."

He called the urgent evacuation of Afghan interpreters a "moral imperative."

"The American handshake has to mean something," Crow said. "We are strong as a country, not just because of the number of tanks and planes we have, or our carrier battle groups. We are strongest when we have friends. We are strongest when we join arms with our allies and partners, and we address threats together.

"For that to happen, people need to know that the American handshake matters, that we will stand by them through thick and thin. We will have future conflicts and adversaries. And those future partners are watching now how we treat our current ones."

For Crow and others who have served alongside these men and women, it's personal.

"The 18,000 Afghans that are waiting in line...for us, the numbers have names. They have faces. And they have families."

Waltz served multiple combat tours in Afghanistan as a Green Beret. He called out the president and his administration for not acting immediately.

"Like my friend and colleague, Jason Crow, I would likely not be here if it had not been for the actions of a brave interpreter that stood with me in combat, shoulder to shoulder against the Taliban."

They risked their lives and their families' lives to stand against extremism and serve alongside American forces, he added.

"How many future Afghan families, how many great American contributions will we not have if President Biden doesn't act, and doesn't act now," said Waltz. "If he does not act and does not get these people out, blood will be on his hands and his administration's hands."

"The time for talk and debate is over. The Defense Department is accelerating its withdrawal and plans to be out far sooner than September 11. We are closing our only air base in just a few weeks," Waltz added. "We have a moral and national security obligation to get these people out. Evacuate them now. We've done it before, and we can do it again."