



Round-Up



The Newsletter of Sons of The American Legion Central Region

Volume 2 – Issue 88 – July 4, 2021

Happy Birthday America!

Today is Independence Day, the day we say Happy Birthday to America.

The fourth of July – also known as Independence or July 4th – has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the [American Revolution](#). On July 2, 1776, the [Continental Congress](#) voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the [13 colonies](#) adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by [Thomas Jefferson](#).

From 1776 to the present day, July 4 has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades, and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

The Fourth of July 2021 is on Sunday, July 4, 2021; the federal holiday will be observed on Monday, July 5, 2021.

Independence Day Facts and History

- ... dates back to the American Revolution 1775 -1783.
- ... is the anniversary of the publication of the Declaration of Independence.
- ... the Declaration of Independence was formally declared July 2, 1776, Congress approved the final text of the Declaration July 4, 1776, and it was signed August 2, 1776.
- ... John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both signed the Declaration of Independence; each later became President; and they died within hours of each other July 4, 1826.
- ... Congress passed a law making it a federal holiday June 28, 1870.

— Boston Library of Congress and Department of Defense

For additional information about Independence Day from The History Channel, please click [here](#).

Personally, I don't say happy fourth of July, just like I don't say merry twenty-fifth of December, or happy first of January. So, HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

The 2022 membership year is now underway. Members are beginning to pay their dues. We are on our way to our 2022 goals. As you know, membership is vital to the existence of our organization, and the entire American Legion Family.

Now is the time to change our membership culture, and our way of thinking, as we move into the new membership year. We must encourage our members to pay their dues now. There is no reason to wait to pay dues, so let's get it taken care of now!

As our new membership program begins, I am issuing a challenge. Let's see who steps to the plate and accepts it.

- All Squadrons with 25 members or less to be quota by August 1.
- All Squadrons with 50 members or less to be quota by August 8.
- All Squadrons with 100 members or less to be quota by August 15.
- All Squadrons to be at least 20% of quota by August 29.

This challenge is set up to make Squadrons succeed. It will take cooperation, hard work, and an understanding of how we want to operate going forward. If we all work hard and hit the mark, the Central Region will be in first place, and if we continue that hard work, we will stay there! The challenge is out there for everyone. We will see who accepts it. **Who's next?**

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Membership Card 2022
Sons of The American Legion

2022 IS NOW! Renew Today

If your membership card doesn't look like this then you need to RENEW TODAY!!!

As we transition to new officers at the Squadron, District/County, and Detachment levels, please make sure to pass this publication along to them. I would also like to add as many new subscribers as possible, so if you know someone who should be included on our weekly email, please send me name, address, phone, and email address, and they will be added to the database right away. Thanks for your help with this.

Have a great week and keep **“Serving those who served...full steam ahead.”**

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

JOIN

DONATE



Who's next?



Gentlemen,



As we close out our 2021 year and start on the next year, we need to make sure to send a list of your new Officers and Committee & Commission Chairmen to Jeff in a timely manner. This information is very important to him as he compiles his email and conference call lists. Please do your best to help Jeff start the year off with all the information he needs.

Keep on your Squadrons to get all of their end of year reports turned in. Last year we only had about 20% of the Squadrons reporting, which is unacceptable.

I would like to thank everyone that stepped up and served the extra year in office, as these last two years have been difficult to say the least. I feel that everyone gave 100% and no one gave up. We all did the best that we could with what we had to work with.

National is working hard on getting MyLegion up and running, so please continue to be patient. It will be worth the wait when they get everything up and running.

In closing I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Independence Day.

*Richard “Doc” Pfeiffer,
National Vice-Commander Central*

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

Central Region Conference Call

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

2021
National Target Date
July 28, 2021

105%

Delegate Strength Target Date



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

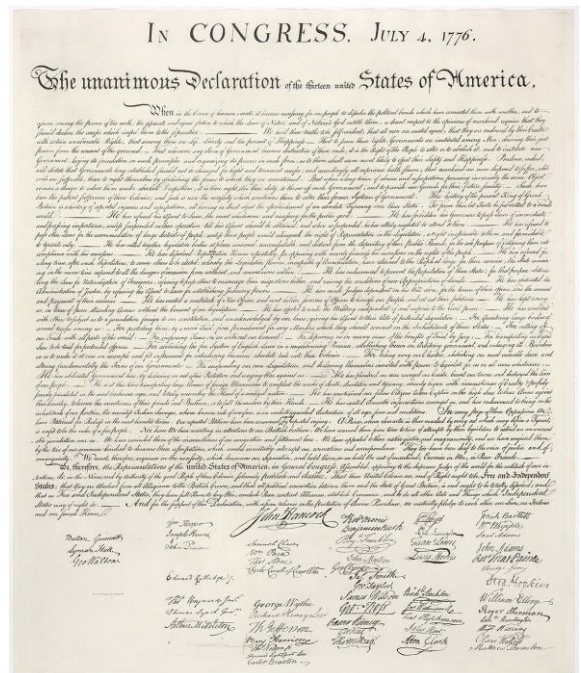
Third Tuesday of each month
 6:00 p.m. Mountain time
 Call in # (515) 604-9644
 Access Code: 889133
<http://join.freeconferencecall.com/jrnnavarr>

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





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

National Convention in Phoenix now open to the public

The American Legion
JUN 23, 2021

The American Legion will hold its 102nd National Convention in Phoenix Aug. 27-Sept. 2. As convention draws near, updates continue to occur regarding COVID-19 restrictions at the local and state level. The American Legion will follow the official guidance, precautions, and rules from our convention host city.

The following are updated announcements to guidelines, as well as reminders, that The American

Legion asks for you to please adhere to during convention in Phoenix. These guidelines are subject to change.



Convention is now open to the public. Like previous national conventions, everyone can now attend.

No capacity limits in meeting/larger general session rooms or exhibit hall. The current assigned space and size of these rooms will remain for all to be comfortable and at ease to allow one to physical distance if they so desire. For the National Commander's Banquet, a determination will be made by the end of July whether to increase the size of the banquet due to various factors.

Face coverings/masks not required for those fully vaccinated. While face coverings are not required for American Legion convention attendees who are fully vaccinated, airlines (see below) still require face coverings/masks as well as other transportation sources.

No onsite temperature checks or health screenings. Temperature checks will not be taken at the Phoenix Convention Center; however, it is still the responsibility of the attendee to adhere to the waiver agreement and protocols. For example, if you have experienced any COVID-19 symptoms within 14 days of the convention – or tested positive within 14 days of departure – stay home.

All National Convention attendees must still:



Pre-register. Convention walk-ins will not be permitted this year. Those interested in attending must register in advance with their respective American Legion department.

Sign liability waiver. All attendees of the American Legion National Convention must sign a liability waiver to attend; the City of Phoenix accepts no liability and declines to indemnify anyone electing to attend the event. Convention dignitaries also will be required to sign this waiver before attending. Attendees will return waiver to respective department adjutant. If the attendee is a guest, department adjutants will put N/A on the waiver where it asks for membership number.

Social distance. Please be cognizant and observe physical distancing in all common areas of the Phoenix Convention Center such as hallways, foyers, food court, etc., that is not leased space to The American Legion.

Flying to the convention? Face coverings are mandated on all domestic flights and airports.

For international travel, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention requires all travelers flying to or transiting through the United States from international destinations, including U.S. citizens, to provide one of two pieces of information. One is a COVID-19 test (NAAT or Antigen) with a “negative” or “COVID-19 not detected” result. Tests marked “invalid” will not be accepted. It must be taken no more than three days before departure from the first embarkation point. Show written proof of the traveler’s negative test result and include the traveler’s name and other identifying identification to match their passport. The other is documentation of recovery from COVID-19.

The requirement does not apply to children under 2; U.S. military personnel and civilian employees, dependents or contractors traveling on orders; or those traveling entirely within the United States, including the 50 U.S. states, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Some states or territories may have individual entry restrictions in addition to the federal regulations for international travel to the United States. Check the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov) before your trip to learn more. Passengers must complete a disclosure and attestation form before departure, which can be obtained at www.cdc.gov/quarantine.

All items surrounding the 102nd American Legion National Convention are subject to change.

Helmets for Heroes

JAN 04, 2019

In 2017 the Department of California generalized the eventual demise of their decades-long staple Ways & Means programs. A continuous steady decline in revenues for their VA&R Division forced the department to explore new avenues of fundraising, certainly no easy task given today's competition in the veterans-fundraising world.

Long-standing programs such as Address Labels, Calendars, Christmas Cards and Sweepstakes have played themselves out, and California has seen

steady declines that clearly project their eventual closures.

California had counted on the huge revenue streams for their programs for decades from these staple programs and being creative for a program that could replace these seemed a very daunting task.



In 2017 an idea was brought forth through a project team for a coin bank made out of a WWII GI helmet. The project team outlined a program by where members and veter-

an-friendly businesses could both participate. The project was unanimously adopted by the Department of California Fall DEC with an initial investment of \$100,000 as seed money for development and production of a first order of 10,000 helmets.

In the pursuit of development, California's CALVAR Foundation patented three patents for the WWI, WWII, and Kevlar-style helmets, along with trademarking "Helmets for Heroes" and "You Bet Your Change Will Help a Vet."

With a production run in early 2018 of 10,000 helmets, California was able to distribute approx. 2,000 helmets three months before the June department convention. California's VA&R Division received a total of donations of approx. \$45,000, and clearly the Helmets for Heroes project was off the ground and running.

California has a lot of work to do to build the program, but with declining revenues from other programs California sees that a NEW beginning must start somewhere, and hopefully before the other fundraising programs collapse.

California recognizes that without their VA&R Division, a major pillar of Veterans Helping Veterans will catastrophically cripple the main mission of The American Legion and its relevancy for future generations of veterans.

Submitted by:
Charles Camarato



'Flag Guy' to help hand out 3,600 flags on July 4

The American Legion
JUL 01, 2021

James McKeon, a 54-year member of The American Legion in Beaver Cove, Maine, has been passing out U.S. flags at the local Fourth of July parade for the last 10 years. He said that thanks to generous donors, he and other members of Cecil R. Cole Post 94 will help pass out 3,600 small flags for the parade on July 4.

"May she proudly fly for many more years!" McKeon said about Old Glory.

Do you have a flag moment that you would like to share? The American Legion would like to hear from you about your flag moment for its Rally Around the Flag initiative. Share your story with a photo at Legiontown.org under the heading "Rally Around the Flag." Or share on your social media channels and use the hashtag #rallyaroundtheflag.

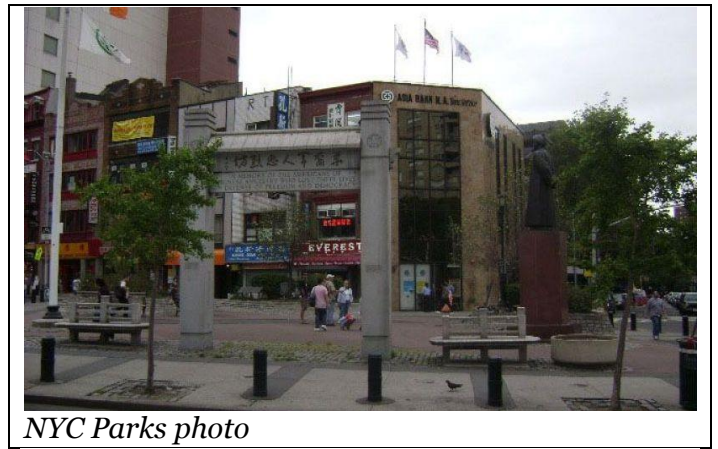


The American Legion Family

Memorial honoring Chinese American veterans gains landmark status in NYC

The American Legion
JUL 01, 2021

New York City now has an official landmark honoring the sacrifice and service of Chinese Americans who served in the U.S. military – a memorial first made possible by American Legion Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291.



NYC Parks photo

On June 22, the city's Landmarks Preservation Committee (LPC) voted to designate the Kimlau War Memorial in Chinatown as an official landmark. It's New York City's first landmark related to Chinese American history and sits just a few blocks from the organization responsible for its existence.

In the early 1960s, Post 1291 wanted New York City to honor the Chinese Americans who'd served in the U.S. military. The post put up the money to hire architect Poy G. Lee to design such a memorial and cover the cost of construction. In 1962, the Kimlau War Memorial was dedicated in Chinatown's Kimlau Square. The memorial, square and post all are named for Lt. Benjamin Ralph Kimlau, a New York City Chinese American who served as a U.S. Army Air Force bomber pilot in World War II. On March 5, 1944, Kimlau's bomber was attacked by Japanese forces and crashed near Los Negros Island, killing the entire crew.

The post gave the memorial to New York City, which eventually turned it over to the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. American Legion Past National Commander Fang Wong, a member of Post 1291, believes a rash of hate crimes against Asian Americans in both New York City and the nation led to both the idea of making the memorial a landmark and then designating it so.

"I think someone ... probably thought that we should do something to point out that Asians are just as American as anybody else, and maybe we shouldn't be looking at Asians differently," Wong said. "That's where I think this all started."

Wong and other members of Post 1291's American Legion Family were given the opportunity to provide testimony via Zoom in favor of designating the memorial a landmark to the LPC.

“When I testified, I mentioned that I was in (New York) less than two years when the memorial was dedicated back in ’62,” Wong said. “I vaguely remember something, but I was a little kid. They talked about it in the Chinese newspapers. And as I grew up and went through my junior high school and high school days, and I lived much closer to Chinatown, then you begin to see that (memorial) pretty much every week. You always kind of wonder who is it, how’d it happen, what’s it all about?”

“Not until I joined the Legion ... did I begin to read up the history. From there I had a better appreciation of (Benjamin Ralph Kimlau) and what he stands for. He inspired a lot of people like me to do what we need to do to be part of this country. To be American. The Kimlau War Memorial is more than Kimlau himself. It’s basically transcends to the Chinese Americans that are here. It’s a landmark in a sense that when people come to Chinatown, regardless of nationality, they need to realize Chinese Americans are just Americans. We’re doing what we’re supposed to do to protect and help rebuild this country.”

The nearly 19-foot-tall Kimlau War Memorial honors Chinese Americans who died in U.S. military service during World War II. A granite arch, it features both traditional Chinese and modernist elements. It is inscribed in both Chinese and English with the words “In memory of Americans of Chinese Ancestry who lost their lives in the defense of freedom and democracy.” Benches sit on each side of the arch.

“It is with great pride that we celebrate the designation of the Kimlau War Memorial Arch as a landmark by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission in this, the 76th Anniversary of the founding of the Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291 of The American Legion, which was instrumental in the creation of the monument in 1962,” Post 1291 Commander Randall T. Eng said via press release. “For nearly 60 years it has stood as a memorial to those in the Chinese American community who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their country, the United States of America. In light of the recent wave of anti-Asian violence and bigotry, the Arch serves as a reminder of the contributions of Asian-Americans to the defense of freedom and democracy in times of great national peril. We thank the commission for this fitting tribute.”

Also, via press release, New York City Council member Margaret Chin thanked both Post 1291 and

the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation “for maintaining this important symbol of Chinese-American history. The Kimlau War Memorial Honors Chinese American soldiers who, despite racism and discrimination, demonstrated unwavering commitment to defending their country. This arch is such a special part of Chinatown, and I’m so happy that the Landmarks Preservation Commission has voted to designate this monument as a city landmark.”



**PROUD POSSESSORS
OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**

We the People



**2021 AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
COVID-19 STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING and AGREEMENT**

The American Legion focuses on creating a safe national convention experience for all who travel to Phoenix, Arizona for the 102nd American Legion National Convention (“Convention”). As part of that effort, the following is agreed and understood:

1. I have not knowingly been exposed, nor tested positive, to COVID-19 within the past 14 days. To my knowledge I have not experienced the onset of any primary COVID-19 symptoms within the past 14 days, including: a fever of 100.4 degrees F or higher, a new persistent cough, a shortness of breath or any new breathing difficulties.
2. For everyone’s safety, I will wear a face covering/mask at all times inside any Convention venue unless actively eating or drinking. My face covering/mask will be clean, free from stains, dampness, or being soiled.
3. For everyone’s safety, I understand that physical distancing of six feet will be observed at all times in all Convention venues and that no handshaking, touching or hugging is permitted; however, alternatives I can do, but are not limited to, include saluting, hat tipping, elbow bumping and/ waving.
4. If I contract COVID-19, and/or experience any COVID-19 symptoms and/or becomes ill while attending the Convention in Phoenix, Arizona during the Convention dates, I release from liability and indemnify the City of Phoenix, the Phoenix Convention Center, The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion National Convention Corporation of Arizona.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Membership Number:

Signature:

Date Signed:

Please print this page and display

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