



Round-Up



The Newsletter of Sons of The American Legion Central Region

Volume 3 – Issue 98 – September 12, 2021

2022 in full swing



NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Jeff Vrabel, Sr.
National Vice-Commander
Sons of The American Legion
Central Region
2021 – 2022

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Yesterday, we remembered the Attack on American and honored those who died on September 11, 2001. One of the most tragic days for almost everyone alive today, the attacks on America caught our nation off guard, and made us wonder what was next. Personally, I remember being off from work and watching ESPN when the news broke. I changed the channel and saw the chaos in the streets of New York City. As was the rest of the world, I was stunned and shocked.

I immediately called my dad to see if he was watching. He was not and asked me what had happened. I told him and he put his television on. He said he could not believe what he was seeing.

It wasn't too long after that conversation that I went to pick him up as he wanted to go to the store. There were cars everywhere. Lines for many blocks at gas stations. Parking lots packed with shoppers stocking up on everything they could, as no one knew if our supply chain would be knocked out, or if our gas tanks would go empty.

We were all watching with heavy hearts, anger, and a sense of helplessness. What had happened to our beautiful country?

As we all know, thousands of lives were lost on September 11, 2001, due to cowardly acts by terrorists from far off lands. Who would step up and help the United States? Would we see more attacks? Would there be war? At the time we did not know the answers, but the country was on edge as we waited to see what would happen next.

Although our country was in mourning, September 12, 2001, was one of the best days in American history. Our country came together as ONE NATION UNDER GOD. American flags flew everywhere. Patriotism was the glue that was holding the country together. There was national unity and an enormous sense of American pride. We were truly one country. We were indivisible. We were true to the red, white, and blue. We prayed together, sang patriotic songs together, held memorial ceremonies for those who died, and we were America again. Our military saw new enlistments as her sons and daughters stepped up to defend not only America, but her citizens and our way of life.

Our country needs to return to September 12, 2001, in that we all need to be there for each other. We must stop fighting about everything. We must become the UNITED States again! America needs us to band together and show the world that we have not forgotten what happened twenty years ago, that we will always remember those who died, and that we will do whatever it takes to keep it from happening again. **We will remember!**

I was sent the following information by Sandy Lipman and the Detachment of Michigan, and stresses the importance of participation in *MILegionnaire*, the publication of the American Legion Family of Michigan.

I have made a few editorial changes, so it fits *Round-Up*, but the message is the same. We must have participation to be successful.

Importance to contributing to our SAL newsletter. It's that time of year again to talk about why we need you to contribute to *Round-Up*. For those of you who are new to this topic, here are the basics.

Each week we get the opportunity to tell the world a little more about ourselves through *Round-Up*. The deadlines are simple, the newsletter comes out each Sunday, so information should be submitted by noon the Saturday before.

You may be asking yourself, "What's the big deal?" or "Why would I need to submit an article to a future newsletter?" Here are a few answers to consider:

- **To increase awareness.** Our articles tell people who we are and what we do. People should be compelled to find out more about Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Family.
- **To educate.** Our articles can give fellow members important information on upcoming events, important issues, our goals, and our mission.
- **To inspire.** SAL members do an incredible amount of work for our community, state, and nation. Let's get those stories of hard-working members and Squadrons into our newsletter. Let's inspire our fellow Sons.

We need your articles and your pictures. We love photos of SAL members in action, especially when they are wearing their SAL cap.

Spread the word to your fellow Blue Cappers! All submissions are to be made electronically to Jeff Vrabel, Sr. at jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com. If you need assistance,

please send an email to the same and describe your problem or how you need help.

There is a possibility that some of your photos, articles, and information and submit to the National organization.

It's our turn to shine! We need your help! Let's get it done! **Who's next?**

Central Region Conference Call. Please make sure to share the call information with others in your Detachment as the number and access codes have changed. It is very important that everyone gets the message, as I do not have all the new contact information for all of the Central Region Detachments yet.

My database is in the process of being updated. As I receive new information, contact information is added and additional people will receive *Round-Up*. If you know someone who would like to be added, please email me right away at jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com, and I will do the rest.

As always, if there is anything you need, please send me an email and I will do whatever I can to help.

We are Sons of The American Legion.

We are #SALSTRONG!!!

Proud Possessor of a Priceless Heritage,

Jeff Vrabel, Sr.

National Vice-Commander Central Region

Sons of The American Legion

jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com

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



National Target Date

October 14, 2021

25%

NEW CALL INFORMATION
SAME DAY AND TIME, NEW NUMBER

Central Region Conference Call

Third Thursday of each month
 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Call In # (425) 436-6280

Access Code 464549*

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/jeffvrabelsr>



**PROUD POSSESSORS
 OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**

#SALSTRONG



The American Legion Family

2021 Membership Report

2020 - 2021 MEMBERSHIP						08/30/21
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	
1 Southern	42,775	41,528	1,247	97.08%	4	
2 Central	132,706	122,672	10,034	92.44%	16	
3 Midwest	30,377	27,905	2,472	91.86%	36	
4 Eastern	146,287	133,278	13,009	91.11%	52	
5 Western	26,405	23,905	2,500	90.53%	5	
TOTALS	378,550	349,288	29,262	92.27%	113	

Membership ahead/behind prior year date **N/A**

Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase
1 Iowa * ^ ~ ? ! # % \$ Q	4,376	4,450	(74)	101.69%	-
2 Wisconsin * ^ ~ ? ! # % \$ Q	3,745	3,803	(58)	101.55%	-
3 Ohio ~ ? ! # %	31,134	29,240	1,894	93.92%	4
4 Illinois * ^ ~ ? !	14,547	13,427	1,120	92.30%	10
5 Minnesota ^ ~ ? !	11,749	10,839	910	92.25%	-
6 Michigan	24,084	22,102	1,982	91.77%	1
7 Indiana * ^ ~ ?	39,365	35,631	3,734	90.51%	-
8 Missouri	3,706	3,180	526	85.81%	1
TOTALS	132,706	122,672	10,034	92.44%	16

Q = Quota

* Met 09/10/20 goal of 10%

^ Met 10/15/20 goal of 25%

~ Met 11/12/20 goal of 35%

? Met 12/09/20 goal of 45%

! Met 01/21/21 goal of 60%

Met 02/10/21 goal of 75%

% Met 03/10/21 goal of 80%

\$ Met 05/12/21 goal of 90%

Q Met 06/09/21 goal of 100%

) Met 07/28/21 goal of 105%

Red Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Iowa	4,376	4,450	(74)	101.69%	3.63%
Wisconsin	3,745	3,803	(58)	101.55%	3.10%
Missouri	3,706	3,180	526	85.81%	2.59%
TOTALS	11,827	11,433	394		9.32%

White Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Illinois	14,547	13,427	1,120	92.30%	10.95%
Minnesota	11,749	10,839	910	92.25%	8.84%
TOTALS	26,296	24,266	2,030		19.78%

Blue Division					
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Percent of Region
Ohio	31,134	29,240	1,894	93.92%	23.84%
Michigan	24,084	22,102	1,982	91.77%	18.02%
Indiana	39,365	35,631	3,734	90.51%	29.05%
TOTALS	94,583	86,973	7,610		70.90%

SAL membership reports are available [here](#)



www.flyingflagsforheroes.com



REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS

Central Region

Jeff Vrabel, Sr.,
National Vice-Commander
Third Thursday of each month
7:30 p.m. Eastern Time
Call In # (425) 436-6280
Access Code 464549*

<https://join.freeconferencecall.com/jeffvrabelsr>

Eastern Region

Richard "Dickey+ Huntley,
National Vice-Commander

Southern Region

Jason Roberts,
National Vice-Commander
Second Tuesday of each Month
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time
Call In # (515) 604-9837
Access Code 461579

Midwest Region

Juan Torres,
National Vice-Commander

West Region

Jim Stewart,
National Vice-Commander
Third Wednesday of Each Month
6:00 p.m. Pacific Time
Call In # (681) 999-0176
Access Code 798037#



MEETINGS AND REPORTS OF NATIONAL COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

The National Call Schedule will be updated as information becomes available.

Americanism Commission Charles E. Treat, II (OK), Chairman

Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Mark Nave (PA), Chairman

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

For our committeemen, welcome back. For our National Vice-Commanders, congratulations and we look forward to working with you during the next year.

The Child Welfare Foundation Committee conference call for September will be on Wednesday, September 15th at 8:00 p.m. EST. An agenda will be forwarded prior to the conference call.

Hope to have you on the phone call as continue to raise funds for this great foundation. Take care.

Children & Youth Committee

James A. Noble (NJ), Chairman

Legislative Commission

Thomas G. Deal (MD), Chairman



Membership Committee

Thom Skelley, Chairman

Third Tuesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Call In # (605) 472-5756

Access Code 771724

Public and Media

Communications Commission

Matthew F. Parsons (CA), Chairman

Veterans Affairs

& Rehabilitation Commission

Seth A. Rippe (NE), Chairman

Veterans Employment

& Education Commission

Joseph R. Navarrete (NM), Chairman

Grand Haven American Legion Post #28 Presents:

ROCKIN' & BLUES!

Featuring wine and beer tasting
and live performances by

Jimmie Bones

(Kid Rock keyboardist)

Donald Kinsey

(formerly of Albert King, Bob Marley & The
Wailers, and Peter Tosh)

SEPTEMBER 25, 2021 • 6:00 PM

Tickets only \$20.00 each

Grand Haven American Legion Post #28

700 S. Harbor Drive

Grand Haven, MI 49417

Ticket includes single admission,
4 tastings, and live entertainment.

Must be 21+ to purchase and consume alcohol on Post 28 premises. American Legion Members only including SAL & Auxiliary (from any Post) may purchase alcohol on Post 28 premises during this event for their non-member guests.

The John Taylor Memorial

Saturday, September 25, 2021

26th
Annual

LOYAL OAK Golf Course

2909 Cleveland Massillon Road, Barberton, OH 44203 • (330) 825-2904



5th District S.A.L. Golf Scramble

(established 1996)



**SHOTGUN START
10:00 A.M.**

**\$55 per golfer
\$220 per team**

Includes Green Fees • Cart
Food at the Turn • Dinner • Prizes
**Open to all members of
The American Legion Family**

ENTRY DEADLINE - SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

For additional information, please contact ... Cary "Dewey" Kuhl at (440) 935-2487



Please make checks payable and mail entries to:
S.A.L. 5th District Golf Outing
c/o Dave Brown
2814 Twp. Rd. 2812, Loudonville, OH 44842
Ph: 419-651-4681 • Email: dwb257@gmail.com



detach here

Contact Person: _____

Contact Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____

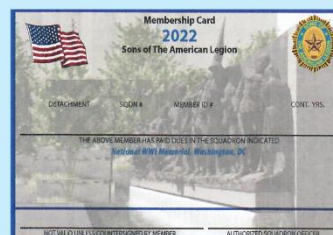
Post/Sqd./Unit #: _____



**LEADERSHIP THROUGH ACTION
NOT THROUGH POSITION**



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!!!

Tradition of Support and Promotion

With a tradition of support for the programs and principles of The Sons of The American Legion, Ohio Past Detachment Commander Bill Towns (Minerva Squadron 357) has updated his license plate with the now available Sons of The American Legion Logo. As the newly appointed National Sons of The American Legion Historian, Bill wants to encourage all to promote our heritage and traditions as we continue to expand in new directions.





22nd Annual

Sons of The American Legion, Sqd 8, Wellington Ohio
2021 "Super Gun Raffle"
Saturday October 2nd, 2021 9:00am-5:00pm
50 New Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, and Crossbows

9:00	Ruger Wrangler 22LR	1:10	Savage Condor O/C 410 ga
9:10	Savage 93R17 FXP 17 HMR w/scope	1:20	Ruger LCP II 22LR
9:20	Typhoon Defense Thromic 12ga	1:30	Savage Axis II XP 22-250 Rem w/scope
9:30	Laurus G3K 9mm	1:40	S&W M&P 9mm
9:40	Savage Axis II XP 308 Mossy Oak w/scope	1:50	Thompson Center Venture II 6.5 Creed
9:50	CVA Tinner 44 Mag	2:00	Winchester Super X4 Waterfowl Mossy Oak 20ga
10:00	Bersa Thunder 380 ACP Matte	2:10	Ruger LCP II 380 acp
10:10	Tippman m4-22 Elite Tactical 22LR	2:20	Sig Sauer P365 9mm w/ Tactical Package
10:20	Browning Maxaa II Mossy Oak Bottomland 12ga	2:25	Wicked Ridge M-120 Crossbow Package
10:30	Savage Axis II XP 223 Rem Heavy Barrel w/scope	2:30	Winchester Super X Waterfowl Bottomland 12ga
10:40	Ruger 10/22 22LR w/Flag Camo	2:40	S&W M&P Shield EZ 380 acp
10:50	Mossberg Maverick 88 Cruiser 12ga	2:50	Legacy Cindel Boss 12 ga w/Flag Camo
11:00	Kaliber Customs II 7.62x45 acp	3:00	S&W M&E 36 Special
11:10	Henry H001 Classic Lever 22LR	3:10	Ruger Security9 Pro 9mm
11:20	Stevens 301 Turkey Obsession 410 ga	3:15	S&W SD40VE 40 & S&W Standard Capacity
11:30	Springfield Hellcat FDE 9mm	3:20	Savage Axis II 300 Blackout Camo/Hvy Barrel/scope
11:40	Barnett TS380 Crossbow Package	3:30	Kimber Micro 9mm Stainless/Rosewood grip
11:50	Browning 670 Express Turkey Camo 12ga	3:40	Browning Great CX O/U 12ga
12:00	CVA Hunter 444 Marlin	3:50	S&W M&P 2.0 FDE 9mm w/ Red Dot
12:10	Mossberg Patriot 439 Bushmaster	4:00	S&W M&P Shield EZ 9mm
12:20	Heritage Rough Rider 22LR Flag grip	4:10	Traditions Outfitter G2 45-70
12:30	Savage Axis II XP 6.5 Creed Heavy Barrel w/scope	4:15	Laurus M66 357 Magnum 6" Barrel
12:40	Ruger EC9s 9mm	4:25	Gluck G48 9mm
12:50	Ruger American Ranch 150 Legend FDE	4:35	Beretta A300 Outlander Camo Max 5 12ga
1:00	Ruger AR556 5.56 Nato	4:45	Henry Steel Lever Action 45-70


Grand Prize:
\$5,000 (cash or check) (To be drawn at 5:00pm)

Guns/Merchandise provided by Fin Feather& Fur of Ashland, Ohio

Many other raffles!!! - Steaks, Hams, Bacon & Hunting Equipment

For ticket information call/visit American Legion Post 8, 518 S. Main St., Wellington OH 44090. Phone (440)647-6334. Or call Cary "Dewey" Kuhl, (440)935-2487 and leave message if necessary. I will get back to you. Or cary.kuhl@gmail.com Tickets \$20 or 6 for \$100
1 Ticket required for each person attending. Hot Dogs, Ham & Bean Soup, Chili & Beverages provided. All Door Prizes paid in cash. Every winning ticket is returned to the drum and can win multiple times. Winner need not be present.

Proceeds to benefit
American Legion Charities



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Ohio Commander's Homecoming

Celebration for:

Doug Hancock

Saturday, November 13, 2021 5:00 – 11:00 pm

Murbach-Siefert American Legion Post No. 479
 200 S. Hallett Ave., Swanton, OH 43558

5:00 pm – Snacks and Drinks 6:00 pm – Dinner

Choice of BBQ Chicken or Pork Loin, baked potato, salad, and desert;
 2 drink tickets with dinner and cash bar; \$35.00 per person

Entertainment: Music / Karaoke OPDCC Bottle Raffle

Dress: Legion Casual (polo shirt, slacks, uniform cover)

Accommodations (discounted: 7 minutes away)
 Baymont Inn & Suites by Wyndham Swanton/Toledo Airport
 10753 Airport Hwy. (OH-2), Swanton, OH 43558 – (419) 491-3369
 Block of 25 rooms – Rate code: "Doug Hancock Homecoming"

Additional Hotels (no discount: 17 minutes away)
 Courtyard by Marriott, 1435 E. Mall Dr., Holland, OH 43528 (419) 866-1001
 Quality Inn, 1401 E. Mall Dr., Holland, OH 43528 – (419) 867-1144

Deadline for Reservations: October 25, 2021

For questions call (419) 350-4054

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Post _____

Number Attending _____ Amount Enclosed _____

BBQ Chicken _____ Pork Loin _____ Phone # _____

Make checks payable to "Doug Hancock" 2001 McIntosh Dr., Holland, OH 43528

2022 Blue Brigade Award applications now available

National Membership Chairman Thom Skelley has announced that 2022 applications are now available for the Blue Brigade Award.

This award is presented to Sons of The American Legion members who recruit at least **thirty** new members.

To qualify, applicants must be members of Sons of The American Legion, recruit thirty new members, complete the form, including SAL ID# assigned by National Headquarters, and submit the form to National Headquarters.

A PDF fillable version of the form will be available to our members shortly and will be found on our national website under the PUBLICATIONS tab and ADJUTANTS COMMUNICATION section.



Sons Of The American Legion New Member "BLUE BRIGADE" Recruiter Award 2022 Certification Form

Mail: The American Legion
Attn: S.A.L.
P.O. Box 1055 Indianapolis, IN 46206

Email: sal@legion.org

Fax: (317) 630-1413

Questions or concerns regarding this form please call Phone #: (317) 630-1205

The following S.A.L. member in the Detachment of _____ has enrolled 30 or more **NEW MEMBERS** into the Sons of The American Legion by **July 31st**.

(A new member is defined as any eligible S.A.L. joining for the 2022 membership year who **was not** a member of the S.A.L. during the 2021 membership year. Transfers or reactivations do not count as new members.)

Please forward the names of new Legion or Auxiliary members to your Post or Unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

This S.A.L. "Blue Brigade" award will be by:

- A. First S.A.L. "Blue Brigade" Award
- B. Other (i.e. Consecutive years in a row) _____

*Consecutive year awardee receives a SAL "Blue Brigade" Certificate and Chevron

(PLEASE ENSURE PRINTED FORMS ARE LEGIBLE...)

(Please Select Jacket Size)

Size: (S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL)

Name _____ Squadron No. _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Member ID# _____

PHONE: (____) _____ Number of **NEW MEMBERS** enrolled (minimum 30) _____

Deliver to Recruiter Deliver to Squadron

USE ATTACHED NEW MEMBER LISTING FORM

***Please make sure that all new members listed have been processed and have been assigned a S.A.L. ID# in the national membership database before submission. Any new member not listed at the time of submission, will delay the approval process.**

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION CERTIFICATION FORM NEW MEMBER LISTING

#	9-Digit Member ID#	First & Last Name	Detachment	Squadron Number
1				
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30				

Department Adjutant (signature)

Detachment Adjutant (signature)

Date

Date

USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

2022 Individual Recruitment Award applications now available

National Membership Chairman Thom Skelley also announced that 2022 applications are now available for the Individual Recruitment Award.

For the past two years, the Central Region has led the nation in the number of members who have received this recruiting award, and plans to continue to lead the nation in this category.

To qualify, applicants must be a member of Sons of The American Legion, recruit **five** new members, complete the form, including SAL ID# assigned by National Headquarters, and submit the form to the Region Chairmen.

A PDF fillable version of the form will be available to our members shortly and will be found on our national website under the PUBLICATIONS tab and ADJUTANTS COMMUNICATION section.



VETERANS

STRENGTHENING AMERICA



When The American Legion family comes together, amazing things can happen. Our second annual 100 Miles for Hope was an incredible success.

- More than 3,000 participants accepted the challenge, logging nearly 200,000 activities
- 100% of participants raised at least \$20, and our most successful participant raised more than \$5,000
- We reached our goal of \$300,000

Thanks to the dedication of supporters like you, we can provide hope to disabled veterans and military families in need. Thanks to you, American Legion service officers can aid disabled veterans and their families in finding life-changing help. Thanks to you, The American Legion can provide critical assistance to help military families struggling to make ends meet.


Your commitment to helping veterans is truly inspiring.

On behalf of everyone here at The American Legion and the veterans we serve, thank you for taking part in this special event. We couldn't have done it without you.

With so much gratitude,

The American Legion

P.S. 100 Miles for Hope may be over, but if you didn't get a chance to participate, **it's never too late to make a gift to support veterans.** Thank you!



2022 Individual Recruitment Award

The National Membership Committee offers an award for those S.A.L. members recruiting five (5) new members into the Sons of The American Legion within a membership year. This pin is suitable to wear upon your cover or lapel.

(A new member is defined as any eligible Son joining for the 2022 membership year who was not a member of the Sons of The American Legion during the 2021 membership year).
Transfers or renewals do not count as new members.

Please make sure that all new members listed have been processed and been assigned a S.A.L. ID# in the national membership database before submission to avoid delays in approval. Pins will not be mailed until they are verified in the national membership database.

This award form must be received by July 31st.

Please forward the names of new Legion or Auxiliary members to your Post or Unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

Recruiter Information

Name _____ Member ID# _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Full Squadron Name/Number _____ Detachment _____
 Email _____ Phone _____
Unless specified different, the pin will be sent to the above address

New Member Information

#1 Full Name _____ Membership ID # _____
 #2 Full Name _____ Membership ID # _____
 #3 Full Name _____ Membership ID # _____
 #4 Full Name _____ Membership ID # _____
 #5 Full Name _____ Membership ID # _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORMS TO: (Regional Membership Chairman)

East - Ernest Laberge (MA)	ELaberge@OctoberCompany.com	61 Glendale Rd. Florence, MA 01062-9710
South - Ronald Roberts (MS)	RonRob31@AOL.com	120 Circular Dr. Mendenhall, MS 39114-4854
Central - David Mennel (MI)	DavidMennel@Yahoo.com	6040 Dryden Rd. Dryden, MI 48428-9764
Midwest - Michael Kirschner (CO)	MLKirschner@Comcast.net	3725 Hollybrook Ln. Pueblo, CO 81005-3256
West - Jack Youngs (ID)	xnukewelder@aol.com	3223 Salem St. Caldwell, ID 83605

American Legion honors victims from 9/11 Pentagon attack

By [Mackenzie Wolf](#)
SEP 09, 2021

American Legion Past National Commander Richard Santos returned to the Washington, D.C., area on Sept. 8 to lay a wreath honoring the 184 lives lost at the Pentagon during the terrorist attack on Sept. 11, 2001. On that day, Santos was the newly elected American Legion national commander who was on Capitol Hill to testify before Congress that morning.

“Having the opportunity to return to the Pentagon 20 years after 9/11 and lay this wreath for these victims is an honor,” he said.

Around 9 a.m. on 9/11, Santos was at a breakfast with other Legionnaires when they saw on television that a plane had hit one of the World Trade Center Twin Towers in New York City. At the time, many still believed it was nothing more than a tragic accident. By 10 a.m. when the then-national commander was due to testify, both Twin Towers and the Pentagon had been struck when a group of terrorists turned passenger airplanes into missiles.

“Everything changed then,” he said.



Past National Commander Richard Santos, who was evacuated from the U.S. Capitol on Sept. 11, 2001, as he was preparing to deliver testimony, lays a wreath at the Pentagon in remembrance of the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

Santos said at that time, they were still unaware the Pentagon had been struck, but they heard a boom and could see the smoke billowing into the sky. Unbeknownst to him at the time, his youngest son — a

volunteer firefighter in Maryland — had been called to the Pentagon.

“There was still a sense of calm,” Santos said. “It was very surreal.”

In the days following the attacks, Santos penned a statement that rings true today, especially with the conclusion of the war in Afghanistan being fresh and raw for so many.

“America continues to heal, and it is our responsibility as veterans to tend to the wounds,” he wrote. “Some will panic about the future; we must reassure them. Some will weep over a lost family member or friend; we must hold their hands. Some will be angry; we must temper their rage.”

Santos recently appeared on The American Legion’s Tango Alpha Lima special podcast series honoring the 20th anniversary of 9/11. The entire 20-episode series will be available to [download and listen to here](#). You can watch the full episode featuring Santos [here](#).

40-year Legion member appreciates a Buddy Check

The American Legion
SEP 08, 2021

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, members of American Legion Paradise Post 149 and Auxiliary Unit 149 in Las Vegas have been reaching out to its members with Buddy Checks.

Through the Buddy Check calls, Post 149 Adjutant Vic “Doc” Moss said they assisted a number of members with benefits claims and financial hardships. And they were able to clean up Post 149’s membership roster with correct mailing addresses and email addresses. If the veteran didn’t answer the phone, a voicemail was left, and many called back. Moss shared a message from one Post 149’s newly transferred members:

“Yesterday I received a wonderful phone call from a young lady representing your post. She asked me if I needed anything or if the post could be of any help personally. I was pleasantly shocked. I have been

associated with the VFW and The American Legion for well over 40 years now. I have never in those years ever received a reach-out for any assistance. I have been master-at-arms, chaplain, junior vice, senior vice and lastly post commander.



American Legion Post 149 in Las Vegas perform Buddy Checks. Photo provided.

“Again, please thank the young lady for her efforts and listening to the ramblings of a 73-year-old Vietnam vet.”

After reaching out to him, Moss said Post 149 now has member who is becoming more active in the post. “What could be better than that? The response from our members has been nothing but positive.”

Buddy Check toolkit

The American Legion Buddy Check toolkit is online at legion.org/buddycheck. The toolkit provides tips on how to organize a Buddy Check team; Buddy Check sample scrips to members and non-members; quick answers to what The American Legion does; and space to fill out what the department does.

As part of American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard’s “No Veteran Left Behind” theme, he encourages American Legion posts to continue making Buddy Checks on a regular basis – “not just for past and present members, but for every veteran that we know,” he said.

The American Legion National Headquarters would also like to hear about Buddy Check success stories like that of Paradise Post 149. Please share at legion-town.org under the category “Buddy Checks.”

Words of Wisdom

PNC John Dietz posted this recently on the Detachment of WI Facebook Page:

One of my favorite poems from Edgar Albert Guest that used to appear in the Sons Squadron Handbook way back in the 1950s and 1960's. I am always inspired by its message.

There Will Always Be Something to Do

There will always be something to do, my boy;
There will always be wrongs to right;
There will always be need for a manly breed
And men unafraid to fight.
There will always be honor to guard, my boy;
There will always be hills to climb,
And tasks to do, and battles new
From now to the end of time.
There will always be dangers to face, my boy;
There will always be goals to take;
Men shall be tried, when the roads divide,
And proved by the choice they make.
There will always be burdens to bear, my boy;
There will always be need to pray;
There will always be tears through the future years,
As loved ones are borne away.
There will always be God to serve, my boy,
And always the Flag above;
They shall call to you until life is through
For courage and strength and love.
So, these are things that I dream, my boy,
And have dreamed since your life began:
That whatever befalls, when the old-world calls,
It shall find you a sturdy man.

Thank you, PNC Joe Mayne, for sending this in.

