SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

THE MILLENNIUM

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www.legion.org/sons/newsletters

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Top Ten Detachments Membership Percentage

1.	New Mexico	123.14%
2.	South Dakota	121.29%
3.	Latin America	118.18%
4.	Puerto Rico	113.46%
5.	Arizona	110.32%
6.	Hawaii	110.00%
7.	DC	109.86%
8.	Florida	109.74%
9.	Oregon	107.69%
10.	Idaho	107.59%

American Legion Nation Headquarters
as of 15 July 2024

BE THE ONE

Inside This Month's Newsletter

Remembering PNVC
Jeff Vrabel, founding editor

Squadron Spotlight: Squadron 375 of Mukwonago, Wisconsin

"Newshound": Highlighting our younger SAL's

Detachment of Arizona: All time high of $118,411 to Child Welfare Foundation (CWF)

National Convention Preview

Sons on Social Media

Don "JR" Hall, National Commander, Sons of the American Legion:

"Let's finish strong as we head to convention"

Legion Family, are you ready to celebrate?

As we roll into July and wrap up our Legion Family year, there are numbers out there that are worthy to celebrate. So I hope that everyone is preparing to do just that at National Convention in New Orleans.

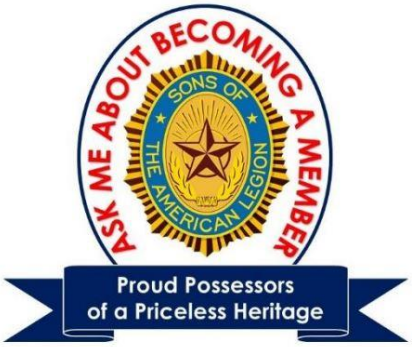
Here is a number for you: 390,168 members of the Sons of The American Legion as of July 2! That all-time high is still growing and all of our squadrons across the country are the ones making it happen. I know that the number will be even higher when we get to New Orleans. But can we get to 400,000? I will say this; it would not surprise me. Many times this year I have said a bigger Legion Family is a stronger Legion Family. Comrades, we are getting stronger each day.

We will be celebrating this year all of the work of so many, so I encourage you to plan on being in New Orleans, and let's have some Mardi Gras style fun. Bring some decorations into the Sons convention hall and decorate your detachment signs. We are trying to plan some fun that everyone can enjoy and we ask you to be a part of it all. We will of course celebrate hitting the $10 million mark for Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) and want every member there to be a part of it.

As I represent the Sons of The American Legion and my grandfather's service, I can tell you that I was excited to take the office last year and I am still excited to be able to serve this great organization this year. My travels have taken me to see many wonderful works and there is more left to see, so I encourage everyone — don't slow down. Let's continue the roll into New Orleans and celebrate all the work that is happening to spread the word of "Be The One," along with working all the great programs of the American Legion Family.

As Commander Seehafer says, together we "Save Lives and Change Lives." Remember that and you will continue on. It is as easy as remembering your why — just think of who is your why for belonging. That keeps us grounded and working.

Keep on getting it done, keep being proud of being a Son!



Resources To Help You Recruit

Click the links below for printable materials available from National Headquarters at https://www.legion.org/sons/publications

Fillable Membership application (.pdf)

Recruitment Poster (.pdf)

Sons of the American Legion Brochure (.pdf)

Scott J. Thornton,
Detachment Adjutant (Ohio):

"Tomorrow is promised to no one.": Remembering PNVC Jeff Vrabel, Sr 1969-2024

Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH) – Central Region National Vice Commander 2021-22

"Tomorrow is promised to no one" … We've all heard that expression when speaking about the passing of those close to us, particularly when the person is gone too soon. It came back to me most recently in the evening of Tuesday, June 11th.

I was sitting at my kitchen table, midway through a late dinner after my weekly golf league, when I received a call from my department adjutant, JD Robinson.

"Did [Detachment First Vice Commander Jeff Vrabel] Junior get a hold of you yet?" he asked.

"No," I answered. "What's going on?"

"His dad passed away earlier this evening."

I sat there in stunned silence for a few seconds before I could bring myself to continue the conversation, part of which included the all-too-familiar sentence at the top of this article. Many disjointed thoughts flashed through my brain. I had just seen him three weeks before at our 60th Detachment Convention. He was so young …only three weeks older than me. He was always full of life.

Jeff, Jr. called a little while after I hung up with JD, and we spoke briefly about his dad and how he was fully committed to and passionate about several things: his family, youth sports, the Sons of The American Legion, and newsletters. His wife of 25 years, Mary, and their boys certainly came in first place, but the others were solidly tied for second.

Jeff Vrabel, Sr. was born April 12, 1969, in Youngstown, Ohio to Joseph and Nadene (Marshall) Vrabel. He earned his eligibility for the SAL through his dad's service in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

He attended Byzantine Catholic Central School and would go on to graduate from Poland Seminary High School and Mahoning County Joint Vocational School. It was in high school when he started coaching the Poland Bulldog Softball team. Jeff proudly coached all three of his sons' baseball teams, including Phillip's 9-year-old Little League all-star team.

His love for sports extended beyond coaching. Umpiring for 41 years, he umped his first game at 14. This passion brought him to teach his son Kenneth how to umpire, also starting at 14. They enjoyed umpiring games together this season. Jeff was a member of the Poland Community Baseball Association for over 25 years, as well as a member of the Tri-T Baseball/Softball League. He was currently serving as a Field Director and West Region, East Zone Baseball Umpire-in-Chief for PONY Baseball/Softball. He umpired the PONY League World Series 11 times, and the Colt Baseball World Series, including six assignments as Home Plate Umpire in Pony Baseball International Championship games. When Jeff moved from Poland to Grove City some years ago, he quickly became involved in youth sports there. He sat on the Grove City, Ohio Little League Advisory Board, and was an Ohio District 6 Little League Assistant District Administrator, serving as District Safety Officer. In 2021, he was an umpire at the Little League Baseball Central Region Tournament in Whitestown, Indiana.

In addition to umpiring baseball, Jeff had a love for everything football. He refereed NCAA football with the North Coast Athletic Conference and is a former official in the Presidents Athletic Conference and the Mountain East Conference with the Tri-State Intercollegiate Football Officials Association, and the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Jeff was fortunate enough to referee the Ohio State Football Spring Game for several consecutive years. He was also a basketball and football official for the Ohio High School Athletic Association and has volunteered as a referee with Mahoning County Special Olympics. At the local level, he was the secretary for the Bulldog Turf Club that raised nearly one million dollars to install turf at Poland Seminary High School's Dave Pavlansky Field and was also involved with the Poland Touchdown Club Golf Outing Committee.

Jeff was a charter and life member of Sons of The American Legion Mahoning Valley Squadron 15 in Poland, Ohio. He has been the Commander of Squadron 15 since its creation 30 years ago. He has held every position in the Dynamic Ninth District, including three terms as Commander. Jeff moved on and held several positions at the Detachment level, and during the 2005-2006 membership year served as Detachment Commander. In 2002, Jeff received the Ohio Sons of The American Legion Earl Cox "Outstanding Member of the Year" Award. He served as editor of the Ohio SALute newsletter for many years, earning recognition for it on multiple occasions. He served on the joint American Legion Post 15 Family Honor Guard, as well as its Color Guard, and since 2010 has been Chairman of the Poland Memorial Day Procession and Ceremonies. Jeff also served at the National Level on various committees and was the editor of the National Round-Up and Millennium newsletters. During the 2021-2022 membership year, he served as National Vice Commander, Central Region.

In addition to the Sons of The American Legion, Jeff was also involved with many other veteran service organizations. He was a charter and former member of Sons of Amvets Post 44 in Struthers, Ohio, and was currently a member of Lewis R. Hall Post 1928 where he served as the Adjutant. He was a member of the Catholic

War Veterans Auxiliary Saint Stanislaus Post 1222 in Youngstown, Ohio. For all of his work serving veterans, Jeff was named the 2011 Citizen of the Year by the United Veterans Council of Youngstown for outstanding service to Veterans and Americanism. Jeff was additionally a former associate member of Korean War Veterans Association 137 and Vietnam Veterans Association 135.

At the age of 18, Jeff was elected to Poland Village Council. At that time, he was the youngest elected councilman in the State of Ohio. This thrust him into a lifetime interest of politics, having also served as a precinct committeeman. Two separate times he sat on the Board of Trustees for the Western Reserve Joint Fire District. He would go on to serve as the Clerk of Council prior to moving to Grove City.

For 27 years Jeff worked in the pupil transportation industry in both the public and private sectors. He is two-time Past President of the Ohio Association of Pupil Transportation, Past Chair of the State and National Associations Council of the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services where he served on the Board of Directors. He is also a past member of the Board of Directors of the Ohio Association for School Business Officials. In 2012, he was named the Outstanding Transportation Director of the Year by the Ohio Association for School Business Officials Foundation for School Business Management. In 2013, the Ohio Association for Pupil Transportation named him the William Rice Award of Excellence for Pupil Transportation Supervisor of the Year.

I must give credit to Jeff, Jr. for providing so much information about his dad's commitment to community service throughout Jeff, Sr.'s life. I knew a little about some of the things Jeff did, but it was eye-opening to hear about the extent to which those efforts covered. To achieve so much in such a relatively short time is truly impressive, and I hope we can all take some inspiration from him to expand our efforts individually in our own lives.

Russell "Rusty" Myers III (New Jersey), Interim Editor of "The Millenium"

Carrying on Jeff's Vision

I write this while trying to fill some very, very big shoes.

"The Millennium" started only nine months ago, but followed in the style of PNVC Vrabel's beloved "Round Up", a newsletter that he started in Ohio which became almost the unofficial newsletter of the organization.

From the initial meetings about "The Millennium", Jeff's editorial vision was clear … to create a newsletter full of content geared to the local squadrons, because that after all is where the Sons make the most dramatic impact. The newsletter would also inform its readers about National news and initiatives, as well as the projects and programs happening in our national commissions, committees, and in our regions.

I originally interacted with Jeff in just that way – by submitting articles I had written about my home squadron in Belleville, NJ. I found much of what was written in "Round Up" helpful over the years, because I saw what our Sons were doing across the country – and that provided us with a weekly link to how the SAL serves as such a force for good in the world. Our squadron used many of the ideas found in the pages of the "Round Up".

At one point PNVC Vrabel had asked me to serve as his assistant editor … I jumped at the opportunity because I truly believe in the mission of this newsletter.

I didn't know Jeff terribly well, but I was always in absolute awe of his passion and dedication for everything that had to do with the organization, our children, and our vets. He had an inexhaustible amount of energy, and we nationally as Sons were the beneficiaries.

We carry on with his vision – and that of the SAL – to commit ourselves to telling the story of our dedication to "The Four Pillars" of the American Legion … Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth.

But this newsletter is nothing without you – we rely on content from our national committees and commissions, but also from our individual members - so please, **share your stories** and tell us what's going on in your squadrons, counties, districts, and detachments. Be proud of what you are doing – sometimes we don't tell the world about the great things the American Legion Family does. We urge you to submit your news to us to make this newsletter be as useful as it can be to our almost 400,000 Sons – contact information is on the following page.

DEVOTION TO
MUTUAL
HELPFULNESS

Legion.org:

Saving The Lives of Veterans Using the Columbia Protocol

BE THE ONE

As part of The American Legion "Be the One" mission to end veteran suicide, the Legion have joined forces with Columbia University to develop training for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding with veterans who may be in crisis.

Members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to take part in this training and share the training with their communities.

To register for the 90-minute course online, or to see in-person sessions, go to:
www.legion.org/betheone/training

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All information must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon the twentieth of each month and must be made electronically by emailing the editor at rusty.myers@ymail.com

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS. Our goal is to promptly correct errors. Please email the Editor to report a mistake, error, to request a clarification. Please reference the edition, page number, and title of the article in question.

FOLLOW THE SAL:

Mike Pook, Commander, Squadron 375 (WI)

Squadron Spotlight: "Service to our Community, State, and Nation"

The Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 375 in Mukwonago, Wisconsin, has a rich history of service. Chartered 42 years ago with 16 members, three of those original charter members went on to serving as Squadron Commander. Our second Squadron Commander, Robert Orcholski, was also Post 375's Bugler for a number of years. Our First Squadron Commander, Don Powers, went on to become a Detachment Commander in 1983. The third Squadron 375 Commander was Louis S Anich Jr., who became a Detachment Vice Commander under Detachment Commander Powers. Louis S Anich Jr remains an active member of Squadron 375, and now has a son and grandson as members. Anich emcee's the annual Memorial Day Service on behalf of American Legion Post 375 at the Mukwonago Public Library, and coordinates the annual Membership Drive and Chicken Dinner held on the last Sunday of June each year. This membership drive helps to jump start the Squadron renewal process to the rate of 66 percent. In the last ten years alone, Squadron 375 has had 100% membership by the American Legion's Birthday.

But, the organization is only as strong as its members. Recruiting new members is a constant process. In 2022, SAL 375 member Shawn Wilkerson was recognized by The Detachment of Wisconsin as being the Top Recruiter. In 2021, Post and Squadron 375 recognized Dave Gillilan with a plaque for his efforts. Dave is a "dual capper" that has recruited members into the Legion Family for years. In the 2024 membership year, Squadron 375 became the top Squadron in membership in the Detachment of Wisconsin. Not only does the Squadron work hard on retaining its members, we continue to recruit new ones. Three new Sons, serving less than three years as a member, have stepped forward to become Squadron Officers. In Squadron 375, the Second Vice Commander position is also the Membership Chair. Dennis Richey stepped into that position this year. Mike Texly was also elected as Finance Officer, and high school student Connor (last name withheld) as our Sargent at Arms. Connor has been mentoring the past six months to learn the duties of the office. The Squadron also has several dual members in support of what the SAL does. The current American Legion Post 375 Commander, 1st Vice and Second Vice are all dual members. Other dual members have taken on roles of responsibilities, like Tim Flury as our SAL Advisor, Chris Flury as Adjutant and Dave West as Chaplain. We recognize these Legionnaires' hard work, dedication, and support of the SAL.

Submitted photo

Squadron 375 is a positive force in our Community, State and Nation, as we are dedicated to helping our Veterans and the mission of the American Legion. That just doesn't happen, it takes hard work and dedication. The dedication of the Squadron 375 Commander, Historian and, Detachment Historian Mike Pook has helped Squadron 375 succeed. Pook as the Historian has done research on the Squadrons past, and highlights it in the Squadron 375 annual "Yearbook." In 2023, the Squadron won the National Convention Yearbook competition.

However, a Historian just takes pictures of squadron events and activities, adding commentary… it is the actual hard work of the squadron that he documents. Without the Squadron's support of the American Legion's mission, there would be no award-winning yearbook. That just doesn't happen - it takes hard work and dedication, representing years of service to our community, state and nation as members of the Sons of the American Legion. To those members everywhere who have gone above and way beyond, we thank you!

The Newshound

A special section about the Young Sons of The American Legion

Pictures wanted!

We want to feature our young Sons!

Let us know what your younger members are doing in their squadrons an communities, and how they are showing us how bright the future of the Sons of the American Legion is!

Each month, we'll showcase the best and the brightest and what they do "Representing More Then Me."

By Henry Hasselhan III (ANEC), and Henry Hasselhan IV, Squadron 311 (NJ).

Henry Hasselhan V, Squadron 311 (NJ)

Henry Hasselhan V

8-year old Henry has been an inspiration to many. He was recently asked by his dad "Why is it important to support our veterans?" His response … "Because they fought in the war and some died for us. They may not feel like they did a lot, but they could have died for us to have a better life."

But what he is most passionate about is raising money for the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) … **"because it is kids in need."**

Young Henry started his Challenge coin adventure when his grandfather was NJ Detachment Commander, and he was the Commander's Aide.

Henry's III, V, and IV at the 2023 Charlotte (editor's photo)

At one of the New Jersey Governor's reviews of the National Guard, he received two coins … one from NJ National Guard Adjutant General Lisa Hou, and one from Congressman Norcross (NJ-01). From there the adventure began - he was given another by NJ Governor Murphy at the annual memorial service at General Doyle Military Cemetery. He was very proud of his coins, and carried them wherever he went. He was introduced to the challenge coin story at a post Memorial Ceremony, where he slapped his coin down on the Department of NJ Commander Dan Dunn and DVC Jack Dunne. From across the room came another Legionnaire to play the "Game".

Henry with National Commander Fox, 2022 convention

The next time he saw the Commander he slapped down his coin, but Dunn didn't have one so he gave Henry money, and then told him to go to every table at the event and collect money from those that had no coin … collecting money for CWF. That was the first 500 dollars he collected, which he turned in at the National Convention to Commander Fox. He then did the challenge to the members in attendance at the hospitality room, and continues to collect from there. At that convention he also attended the Youth Academy, and inspired two of the other children to collect on behalf of CWF.

Presenting a check in Charlotte to CWF Chairman Nave, 2023

At the following convention, he presented $2,479 for CWF from his using his challenge coins, plus from a lemonade stand, donations from ringing phones at meetings, and members eating while wearing their cover. He again collected at the Hospitality room.

This year, he turned in $750 at the NJ Detachment Convention, and collected over $200 from the convention floor while the CWF chairman gave his report.

Henry has participated in many SAL functions … memorial services, serving Christmas Day dinner, and serving Easter Dinner on Easter Sunday at Veterans Haven South. He has also attended Detachment meetings and events. He likes to travel to posts for visits, even when out of state - getting his picture taken, and of course challenging the veterans with his coins.

He currently has collected 67 Challenge coins, but most importantly **his total since he started is $3,903 and counting.**

Important Web Links

The National Public & Media Communications Committee has created this Important Web Links document for our members, as well as for all members of the American Legion Family, to use to get to some of our most important websites. Please save this document and refer to it often. Thank you!

SAL National Web Site
https://www.legion.org/sons

Publications and Forms (SDR, Handbook, Awards and much more)
https://www.legion.org/sons/publications

Subscribe to Newsletters (requires signing into MyLegion.org)
https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/My-Account/Opt-In-Out

Newsletter Digital Archives
https://www.legion.org/library/258352/50-years-sons-american-legion-newsletters-now-available

Be The One
https://www.legion.org/betheone

Voter Voice
https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home

Membership Reports
https://www.legion.org/sons/membership-reports

SAL Resolutions
https://www.legion.org/sons/resolutions

Future Meetings
https://www.legion.org/sons/events

Emblem Sales Digital Catalog
https://emblem.legion.org/catalog-legion.asp

Chris Balsley, Past Detachment Commander (AZ)

Detachment of Arizona Raises $118,411.37 for CWF

The American Legion Detachment of Arizona recently achieved a historic milestone by raising an unprecedented $118,411.37, or $13.73 per capita, for the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF). This remarkable achievement highlights the dedication and generosity of the members and supporters of various Squadrons across the state. Among the key contributors, Pat Tillman American Legion Squadron 117 made a significant impact by raising $13,117.00 towards this effort. This squadron, named in honor of the former NFL player and soldier who sacrificed his life in Afghanistan, exemplifies the spirit of service and community involvement.

Another notable contributor was John J. Morris American Legion Squadron 62, which raised an impressive $21,662.62. This Squadron's commitment to the cause underscores its members' dedication to supporting children that are in need.

Submitted photo

Similarly, Wayne V. McMartin American Legion Squadron 91 contributed a substantial $15,439.75, reflecting the collective effort of its members to make a positive difference in their community.

One of the most significant contributions came from Apache Squadron 27, which raised an extraordinary $45,000.00. This squadron's outstanding fundraising effort demonstrates the profound impact that a united and motivated group can have on a charitable cause. Their contribution alone constitutes a large portion of the total amount raised, showcasing their leadership and commitment to the Children's Welfare Foundation.

In addition to these larger contributions, smaller yet equally meaningful efforts also played a crucial role in reaching the all-time high total. For instance, Paisley Pittman, through her innovative approach at the American Legion Detachment of Arizona Family Campout this spring at Dead Horse Ranch State Park in Cottonwood, Arizona, raised $500.00 by visiting different campers and garnering their support. Her initiative and dedication highlight the importance of every individual in achieving collective success. Paisley received a Detachment Commander's award at the Department of Arizona Auxiliary State Convention for her outstanding work.

Submitted photo

The American Legion Detachment of Arizona's record-breaking fundraising for the Children's Welfare Foundation is a testament to the power of community and collaboration. Each Squadron's contribution, whether large or small, has collectively made a significant impact, ensuring that children in need receive the support and resources they deserve. This achievement not only reflects the generosity of the American Legion members but also inspires others to join in the effort to make a difference in the lives of children. The funds raised will undoubtedly go a long way in supporting various programs and initiatives aimed at improving the welfare of children, thus fulfilling the mission of the American Legion 4-Pillars and the Children's Welfare Foundation Program.

Rich Lofgren, President and CEO of COTA

Detachment of Indiana raises money for kids needing transplants

For more than 30 years, The American Legion Family has raised nearly $2 million to help COTA kids across the nation. Exemplifying their commitment to their communities, The Sons of The American Legion has helped ensure that no child, teen or young adult is denied a life-saving transplant due to a financial barrier.

COTA is the nation's premier organization providing fundraising assistance to families facing a life-saving transplant. COTA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, so contributions are deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Since 1986, millions of dollars have been raised by COTA Miracle Makers for thousands of children and young adults needing an organ, islet cell, bone marrow or stem cell transplant.

SAL and other American Legion Family members across the country work diligently to raise funds for COTA to assist children who need or have had life-saving transplants. The future of these children depends on the quality of care, education and training we can help provide today. Within the states of New Jersey, Florida, Delaware and Indiana, each COTA Kid's fundraising effort receives a financial boost thanks to the work and dedication of the Legion Family.

Submitted Photo

At local, state and national meetings, members of The American Legion Family learn about COTA's assistance to families facing transplant journeys in their communities. This year Paul Rush, 2023-2024 Commander of the Detachment of Indiana selected COTA as his Commander's Project. Throughout the year, squadrons from all regions of Indiana raised funds to support COTA's mission of helping transplant families. At his Homecoming in June, the Resor family joined Paul Rush -- Noel Resor has been a COTA Kid for more than a decade. She received a life-saving kidney transplant in 2015. Noel has recently learned she will need another kidney transplant and is again on the waiting list which is why COTA supports transplant kids and families for a lifetime.

Submitted Photo

COTA has been such an important part of the Resor family's journey that when Noel's father, Mark, noticed a gold COTA ballcap being worn by someone in his community, he approached the individual to inquire about their connection. Mark quickly learned that the individual was an American Legion member who had supported Commander Rush's project to assist COTA.

Commander Rush's passion for spreading the COTA mission was the inspiration for creating the gold cap, so it was appropriate that Mark and Noel spoke at Commander Rush's Homecoming in June. Their story of how COTA assisted them exemplified the importance of support from The American Legion Family, including the Sons of the American Legion. From the podium Mark shared, "It is a constant feeling of family, like they care for Noel and our family deeply." The evening ended with a presentation of checks from Squadrons throughout the state. While totals are still being calculated, Commander Rush's project raised more than $55,000 for COTA to assist Indiana transplant families, like the Resors.

In 2021, The American Legion Family was named COTA's Miracle Maker of the Year and was honored at the annual Miracle Maker Celebration. For 2024, The American Legion Family has raised more than $200,000 organizing picnic and dinner events in New Jersey, hosting golf outings in Indiana, shaving a Commander's head in Florida, and holding a dinner and show in Delaware – amongst numerous other activities and events. Additionally, the Detachments of Georgia and Arizona have supported COTA with all dollars raised staying to help transplant-needy kids within the Detachment. This means SAL members will see how their dollars are helping COTA Kids right at home!

Children's Organ Transplant Association®

For more information on how to get your Detachment or Squadron involved with helping transplant families in your area, contact COTA at 800.366.2682 or email Ryan Gallagher at ryan@cota.org.

Raising money or running a project that helps veterans or kids? Doing something to support the Four Pillars?

TELL US!

Share your story with "The Millennium"

Email an article, or details and photos, to rusty.myers@ymail.com

52nd National Convention Preview

The National Convention in New Orleans is only a few weeks away …. And here is a preview of what's going on.

Convention information available online at www.legion.org/convention/resources

NEW ORLEANS ERNEST N. MORIAL CONVENTION CENTER

REGISTRATION
(HALL C, FIRST FLOOR)
Wednesday 21 August:
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Thursday 22 August
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday 23 August
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday 24 August
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

SAL NATIONAL CONVENTION GENERAL SESSIONS
(THE GREAT HALL, FIRST FLOOR)
Friday 23 August - 1:00 PM
Saturday 24 August - 9:00 AM
Sunday 25 August - 8:00 AM

The full agenda with time, dates, and locations is available **here** (.pdf)

American Legion Family Night at The National WWII Museum
945 Magazine Street, New Orleans

Saturday 25 August, 6-9p

SCAN THE CODE TO REGISTER
Advanced ticket purchase required
Please note that all ticket sales are final, and no refunds offered. All expired tickets are considered a donation to the Museum's Mission.

AMERICAN LEGION | BE THE ONE

JOIN US AT THE AMERICAN LEGION BLOOD DRIVE!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23RD AND MONDAY, AUGUST 26TH

9AM-3PM

NEW ORLEANS ERNEST N. MORIAL CONVENTION CENTER- EXHIBIT HALL E

SCAN HERE FOR AUGUST 23RD

PRE-REGISTER BY SCANNING A QR CODE FOR EITHER AUGUST 23RD OR AUGUST 26TH
WALK-INS ARE WELCOME!

SCAN HERE FOR AUGUST 26TH

All Donors receive a T-shirt!
Every 3 seconds, someone needs blood. It can only come from a life saving donor like you!

Speed up your donation by filling out your medical questionnaire using FastLane before you arrive!
THE BLOOD CENTER *Serving you for life!*
FASTLANE Complete FastLane questions the DAY OF your donation.
TheBloodCenter.org (800)86-BLOOD

National Children and Youth Academy

held by the SAL National Americanism Commission

Saturday 24 August - 8:30a-12:30p
Rom 206 – Convention Center 2nd Floor

Pre-registration required: Scan the QR code, and return the completed form to natsalamer@gmail.com

Training Includes:
- **Flag Education**
- **ALA Junior Patch Program**
- **LA State Police Vehicle Display and Education**

Snapshots from Facebook of the Sons from around the country

The Sons on Social Media

Don Hall Jr
11m ·

Was honored to be at the Boys Nation dinner at American Legion Post 136 in Greenbelt. Always great to be with the leadership.

(L to R) - SAL National Commander Hall, National Commander Seehafer, and Nation President Williamson

NVC-Northeast John Cook and wife Denise at the 50th New York Detachment Convention

Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Illinois Commander Mike Vozar and dual members Wayne Madson, Chris Schoo and Wade Hudson presenting a seminar on Flag Etiquette during the Youth Law Enforcement Academy

Gene Theroux of Massachusetts, after new cemetery flags were placed at the cenotaph of U.S. Navy Machinists Mate 2nd Class Philip W. Atwater and a Gold Star flag at the gravesite of Philip W. Atwater's parents. Each of these family gravestones were preserved - from leveling, plumbing, aligning the bases, and repairing the loose tablets with lime mortar, and cleaning with D/2 Biological Solution

Hunter Fraley, recently elected Detachment of Texas Sergeant-at-Arms

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 202 Columbia, MO assisted the city of Centralia with the lowering of the American flags at Glendale Memorial Gardens Cemetery. High winds made it difficult, but did not deter the members of SAL 202 and other volunteers who worked diligently and respectfully trying to beat the rain.

Honor Guard fundraiser at Post 1 with SAL Mike Wheaton, Detachment of Colorado Commander Rob Barry, and Auxiliary President Casey Rigerman.

National Chaplain Jeff Hicks and other Sons from Camden County, NJ at the dedication of a new grave marker for US Navy Civil War Coal Heaver Richard Hamilton, a Medal of Honor recipient.

Jeff Hanish, 2024 South Dakota SAL Son of The Year, with his family and Detachment Commander Shane Lamer in front of the Official SD SAL Race Car.

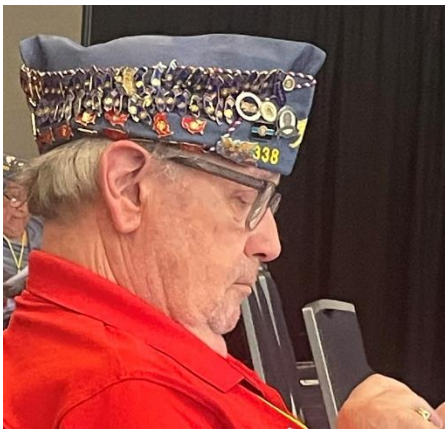
At their regular monthly meeting, Squadron 154 Montrose, SD presented to the city of Montrose a check for $16,108.23.

Installation of Officers for Sons of the American Legion Squadron 173 Holiday, FL.

Alden, 11, Squadron 415 Babcock Ranch, FL. He is currently serving as the 13th District Sons of The American Legion Assistant Sgt-at-Arms. During their officers installation, he was presented with Detachment Commander Rocky Cir's Challenge Coin.

Duncan Hicks, of Squadron 174 Ellsworth, KS after marching in his first parade, with his father Post Commander Jason Hicks

SAL Carl Nelson Squadron 324 Osseo, WI at the Lake Martha Days Parade



Detachment of California member Tim Aboudara: 50 pins for 50 years of service to California Boys and Girls state.

Egan, SD Post 97 held a dedication to their avenue of flags in July, and on the same day, received their new charter for Squadron 97.

The Detachment of Nebraska holds a flag education program at their Children and Youth Academy at their Detachment Convention on 8 July.

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