SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

THE MILLENNIUM

Sons of The American Legion | PO 1055 | Indianapolis, IN 46206 | www.legion.org/sons

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Top Ten Detachments Membership Percentage

1.	Hawaii	74.63%
2.	Wisconsin	56.71%
3.	Louisiana	53.40%
4.	Georgia	52.73%
5.	South Dakota	48.66%
6.	France	48.04%
7.	Montana	46.89%
8.	Alabama	46.45%
9.	Illinois	45.59%
10.	Iowa	44.24%

Statistics as of 01 November 2024

BE THE ONE

Inside this Month's Newsletter

Editor: Mutual Helpfulness

Preserving Our Past: Restoring Cemetery Monuments and Grave Markers (Part 2)

Squadron Spotlight: "What's in a Name?"

Wisconsin: Building Membership

Sons on Social Media

National Reports: VA&R, Membership Committee, and CWF

Maryland: A Son turns 100!

Scenes from the devastation post-Helene; members from the Legion Family using a cable system they developed to ferry supplies across an impassable river. *Photos: Brian White (NC)*

The American Legion Family rallies in the wake of Hurricane Helene

Brian White, Commander
Detachment of North Carolina

Special to The Millennium

September 28th, 2024 will forever be etched in the minds of the people of North Carolina. On this date we all awoke to wind and water devastation never before seen in our state. Roads were completely destroyed, trees which tore power lines down, crushed homes, vehicles, and damaged property. Stores along with homes were flooded, and in places the flooding washed away entire townships. Residents were unable to purchase food, water, or gas due to flood waters or the lack of power and internet access.

> ***"I'm proud to be part of an organization that reaches out when disasters hit and offers support. SAL STRONG."***
> ***-Eugene Bellando , Past Detachment Commander, North Carolina***

Saturday the 28th and Sunday the 29th were spent clearing debris from driveways and roads for members of Hubert M. Smith American Legion Post 77 in Hendersonville N.C. Our Post luckily did not sustain any major damage. Everyone went to work to open the Post for non-potable Water and to charge phones etc. SAL Detachment Commander Brian White and Adjutant Larry Barnwell started coordinating deliveries of supplies to our Post for distribution to the surrounding communities. Posts from all over the state were calling asking what we needed, and asked where to bring it to. The American Legion was at the forefront of getting help, food, and drinking water to people who desperately needed it. We made deliveries to areas that could not get out, because of bridges being washed away. One such place we had to run a cable system with a basket attached to send supplies across the river.

None of this would have been possible without the help from all the other American Legion Posts across the State and from several out of state Posts, from Massachusetts, Michigan, Wisconsin, Virginia, and Louisiana. Our Post Commander Terry Banks, plus all of the Legionnaires, the ladies of the Auxiliary, all the SAL Members; thanks as well to Auxiliary Unit President Willa White, the ALR Director Larry Barnwell, and all the Riders. We want to thank everyone for your donations and prayers - they will never be forgotten.

Russell "Rusty Myers III (NJ), Editor, "The Millennium"

Mutual Helpfulness

I usually struggle with what to write as my editorial every month, but as some last minutes stories came in, everything just fell into place this time.

One year ago, PNVC Jeff Vrabel (OH) as the founding editor published the first edition of "The Millennium". The goal was initially to disseminate information from national officers, commissions, and committees, but the newsletter evolved over time into also showcasing what happens on the squadron level.

In my "day job" (which as it is, is actually a night job) as a director at FOX News Channel, I saw the video being fed in of the devastation in the Southeast after Hurricane Helene hit in the end of September. After a week or so, the same type of video kept being fed in … it looked really bad down there, and nothing really seemed to be getting better.

I emailed the only Son I know down in NC, Gene Bellando, who served as Detachment Commander in North Carolina a few years ago. I met Gene while we were both students in the SALU Pilot Program in May 2023. I asked if there is anything we up North could do for them.

He said that his current Detachment Commander actually lives in the affected areas, and he would follow up with him to see what the area of greatest need is. Gene noted that supplies and help were streaming in, and the state government seemed to be getting a handle on sending it where it was needed.

An offer of help—and I have no idea what my squadron could have done—seemed like the right thing to do. I know of a few people - such as Anna, the daughter of NJ's Past Detachment Commander Mark Natale and his wife ALA-NJ Department Vice President Lisa - who organized a truckload of supplies and drove it down south, so perhaps something like that we would have done. Many others throughout the Legion Family have done the same.

In the weeks since, the volunteer spirit of Americans and their compassion for their neighbors has saved that affected area of North Carolina. It is truly amazing how when events like this happen, it brings out the very best in everyone. No red or blue, no divisiveness ... just a singular focus on helping and caring for one another in their time of need.

As we recite in each meeting, we say in our preamble that we are "devoted to mutual helpfulness", and seeing what we all could do for our Legion Family down in the Tar Heel State seemed turned word into action. Even if it was just words, letting them know we were thinking of them—doing a "buddy check"—mattered.

In a text back, Gene summed up that spirit of mutual helpfulness within the SAL in the best way I've ever heard… **"I'm proud to be part of an organization that reaches out when disasters hit and offers support. SAL STRONG."**

It's said over and over again … this organization is a force for good in the world. For all of us, it's a second family—and it's a big one—as Sons, we have almost 400,000 brothers around the world. And the sheer momentum of an organization like that is staggering—look at CWF (the Child Well-being Foundation, formerly the Child Welfare Foundation) as an example … when we apply ourselves, we can do amazing things—like raising $10 million to help children.

So my point is get involved in events outside of your squadron: meet people from throughout the organization ...not just in your state, but from across the country. By doing that, you network—you'll build relationships with people you know you can lean on for help, and in turn be that person they can lean on when they need it.

In just taking that class at National last spring, I've met so many new people and built so many new friendships from around the country, which in a small way has lent it's way to getting content for this newsletter. Meeting those fellow Sons has been a life-changer.

I thank PDC Gene and his detachment commander, Brian, for taking the time in what must be a taxing few weeks to write something up and get the word out about what they've been dealing with in North Carolina.

I also urge you as the reader to keep tabs on what's going on across this great organization, and see where you and your squadron can devote their efforts. You know the resources—legion.org, legiontown.org, your detachment newsletter or Facebook page, and this newsletter—are all places you can find out what's going on. But above and beyond, get involved and meet your fellow Sons—you never know when your help or just a kind word can make a difference.

THE MILLENNIUM

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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

SAL NATIONAL COMMANDER
Joseph Navarrete (NM)
SAL NATIONAL ADJUTANT
Anthony W. Wright (PA)
SAL NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDERS

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Southeast:	John Lawrence (LA)
Central:	Harl "Butch" Ray (IL)
Midwest:	Mike Monserud (IA)
Western:	Dan Ashley (AZ)

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Opinions expressed by authors are their own, and do not necessarily represent those of the Publisher or of the Editor.

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.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

2025 Washington Conference

Sunday, February 23 – Wednesday, February 26

Washington Hilton,
1919 Connecticut Ave.,
Washington, DC

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 19TH

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

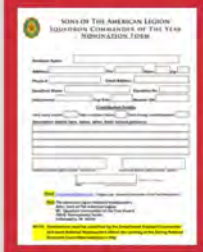
NOVEMBER 2024

NEXT TARGET DATE-NOVEMBER 14TH-35%

DOWNLOAD THE NEW LEGION MEMBERSHIP MOBILE APP!

LEGION+ PROVIDES A DIRECT ROUTE FOR MEMBERS TO ACCESS THEIR DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP CARD, MANAGE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER, HELP A SUICIDAL VETERAN AND GET THE LATEST NEWS ON LEGION.ORG. DOWNLOAD FROM GOOGLE PLAY OR THE APPLE STORE.

SQUADRON COMMANDER OF THE YEAR



NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE DETACHMENT ADJUTANT AND RECEIVED AT NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BY THE OPENING OF SPRING NEC MEETINGS MAY 2025

THE NOMINEE SHALL BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING IN THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.

HOLD ONLY THE OFFICE OF SQUADRON COMMANDER AT THE TIME OF NOMINATION AT ANY LEVEL WITHIN THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.

DEMONSTRATE LEADERSHIP THROUGH ACTION AND INVOLVEMENT IN SQUADRON ACTIVITIES THAT BENEFIT HIS COMMUNITY.

MUST OBTAIN 100% SQUADRON MEMBERSHIP OR BETTER BY MARCH 15TH (AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY).

LEGION.ORG/SONS *(PUBLICATIONS & FORMS)*

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A VIDEO SERIES TO HELP USERS NAVIGATE AND GET THE MOST OUT OF THE FEATURES AND TOOLS AVAILABLE AT MYLEGION.ORG

SCAN ME

MEMBER BENEFITS

NEF NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

ESTABLISHED AFTER HURRICANE HUGO IN 1989, THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND HAS DELIVERED OVER $10 MILLION IN AID TO LEGIONNAIRES, SONS, AND THEIR FAMILIES, HELPING PREVENT POST CLOSURES AND SUPPORT RECOVERY. WITH GRANTS OF UP TO $3,000 FOR INDIVIDUALS AND $10,000 FOR POSTS, THE NEF ENSURES RAPID RELIEF WHEN IT'S NEEDED MOST.

AN NEF GRANT MAY BE CONSIDERED WHEN THE APPLICANT:

MEMBERSHIP IN THE LEGION OR SONS MUST BE ACTIVE WHEN THE DISASTER STRIKES AND WHEN THE APPLICATION IS FILED.

HAS BEEN DISPLACED FROM HIS OR HER PRIMARY RESIDENCE DUE TO DAMAGE SUSTAINED DURING A DECLARED NATURAL DISASTER.

PROVIDES COPIES OF RECEIPTS OF ITEMS REQUIRED TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS (TEMPORARY HOUSING, FOOD, WATER, CLOTHING, DIAPERS, ETC.) DURING THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THR DISASTER.

SCAN HERE

DONATE TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND FOR HURRICANE RELIEF.

RENEW TODAY!

2024 MEMBERSHIP CARDS EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2024

CONTINUE TO HONOR THE LEGACY & SERVICE OF THE LOVED ONE WHO MADE YOU ELIGIBLE.

SCAN ME

LEGION.ORG/SAL-RENEW

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

2024 2025
INDIVIDUAL RECRUITMENT AWARD FORM (IRA)

Date _____
Date Format: mm/dd/yyyy (select date by clicking inside the box)

Recruiter Name _____ Member ID# _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____ Detachment _____ Squadron # _____

☐ MAIL TO RECRUITER ☐ MAIL TO SQUADRON

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

TO QUALIFY: RECRUIT FIVE (5) NEW MEMBERS INTO THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

**** INCLUDE FIRST & LAST NAME AND MEMBER ID# FOR ALL NEW MEMBERS BELOW (LEGIBLY)**

**** A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE SONS MEMBER JOINING FOR THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP YEAR TRANSFERS DO NOT COUNT AS NEW MEMBERS**

INFO: PLEASE FORWARD THE NAMES OF NEW AMERICAN LEGION AND/OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS TO YOUR POST OR UNIT FOR USE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE NEW MEMBER INCENTIVE PROGRAMS.

NOTE: ONLY ONE (1) AWARD PIN WILL BE PROVIDED TO RECRUITER PER YEARLY INCENTIVE

**** SUBMIT AWARD FORMS BY JUNE 30 TO QUALIFY FOR THIS INCENTIVE ****

	FIRST & LAST NAME	MEMBER ID#
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

INSTRUCTIONS: SAVE THE COMPLETED FORM, THEN EMAIL TO THE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN APPLICABLE

REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMEN:

NORTHEAST REGION:	**Jeremy Revell** (VT)	**(EMAIL)** jrevell@lagvt.com
SOUTHEAST REGION:	**Bryan Hine** (TN)	**(EMAIL)** bfhine@gmail.com
CENTRAL REGION:	**Steven Honigfort** (OH)	**(EMAIL)** shonigfort@yahoo.com
MIDWEST REGION:	**Chris Casey** (NE)	**(EMAIL)** aproudpatriot1776@gmail.com
WESTERN REGION:	**Frank Meraz** (CA)	**(EMAIL)** frankmeraz69@yahoo.com

VISIT WWW.LEGION.ORG/SONS/PUBLICATIONS FOR OTHER AWARDS AVAILABLE

Randy Timms (WI), Staff Contributor "The Millennium"

Building Membership

Membership – At one point or another, every Post, every Department, every Detachment, and every Squadron talks about growing membership. It's like eating - If we don't eat for a prolonged period, we'll die. If membership doesn't grow, in time, the organization will also die. So how do we manage our membership and encourage the needed growth? And what are we doing to retain current members? While most squadrons are doing a great job with recruitment and retention, some are not.

Membership could be described in a few ways. It's the total number of people that have paid their dues and are listed in the membership roles. This is the "official" stance. But could we argue it's the number of members who regularly come to meetings and contribute in some fashion. Or might we suggest it's the members that have helped create/run an event and extended themselves for the common good of the squadron. I would argue it's all of these things.

Building membership can take many forms. But I've always been interested in why people sign up in the first place. For me, I didn't know the Sons existed until I was at a Legion Post speaking with their executive committee about using their facilities. When I finished, the Commander asked why I wasn't in the SAL? I had no clue what he meant! After investigating, I completed the application form, paid my dues and gladly joined under my grandfather's Army service in WWI. I think of that service at every meeting I attend. I've asked the question – "Why did you join the SAL" of others and have heard varied responses. Many, like mine, are recognizing the service of a father, grandfather or great-grandfather. Some have said they are a member because their military family member joined for them at a very young age. Some because they were told to join.

As I look over 17 squadron's in Wisconsin's First District, I find a wide variety of events being held by squadrons. All are helpful to engaging and retaining members. Many encourage the public's participation, and recruitment becomes a by-product. The list of activities seems endless. But here are just some of the events I see going on around me.

New Member evenings, Car Shows, Car Washes, Cook-Outs, Dances, Parades, Honor Guard, Color Guard and Cemetery Headstone Cleaning and just a few. And don't forget to engage local newspapers and/or media outlets. Let them know what you are doing. Does your community have service clubs? Consider going to them and explain what the Sons are about and who is qualified. Consider the Rotary, Knights of Columbus, Masons, Lions, Oddfellows, Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, and more. Something I heard at our Legion College – "If your squadron disappeared, would the community even notice?" I see this as an excellent barometer of how well you're performing with public relations.

Another avenue you may wish to explore is your Post Everlasting list. While this could be a delicate conversation, just think of the members who have passed where their male descendants may have never know they could serve in the Sons of The American Legion. What an honor it might be for that son/grandson to join an organization his father/grandfather was a member of!

While some school districts may not be willing, there are many who would gladly coordinate a presentation to the student body. In Wisconsin we've been able to partner with the Army National Guard and offer a 90 minute presentation on patriotism to over 150 children of active duty military.

Jason Miller (MD), Detachment First Vice Commander

Dual Member Turns 100!

Dan Tabler, Legionnaire and SAL member, celebrates his 100th birthday and is recognized for 90 years continuous membership In the Sons of The American Legion in Centreville, MD.

On Sunday, October 13, 2024 members of the Jeff Davis Post 18 American Legion Family of Centreville participated in a 100th birthday "drive by" celebration for Dan Tabler.

Facebook Photo: Tabler in uniform during WWII

Dan's passion was writing and wrote his first article at the age of 15. Graduating from Centreville High School in 1941, he went on to attend The Citadel Military College. The United States entered into World War II and Dan entered the US Army and was stationed at Camp Lee. Dan was able to continue his passion for journalism and was assigned to the Public Relations Office and for over two years wrote articles about camp life, USO tours and more.

Upon discharge in 1945, Dan returned to Centreville and continued a career in the newspaper industry serving until 2020.

In 1946, Dan joined the Goodwill Fire Company and in 2023 was recognized for 76 years of dedicated service.

In 1948, Dan married the love of his life, Ruth Butler. Ruth served in the Army Nurse Corp as a cadet and later became a Registered Nurse. Ruth also serves as a longtime Auxiliary member of Jeff Davis Unit 18.

Dan's life is an example of service over self, as he also participated in the Lions Club, Local 4-H, and local library.

It was an honor for the Jeff Davis American Legion Family to present Dan with his 90 Year Continuous Member Certificate, Engraved Honorary Life Membership Card, and a 100th Birthday Celebration Resolution on behalf of American Legion National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr.

Facebook Photo: Tabler presented with his 90-year certificate of membership in the Sons

Sandy Lipman (MI), Vice Chair, Child Well-being Foundation (CWF)

CWF Report

Many of you have asked me the process of how we give out our grants for the Child Welfare Foundation? So here we go:

The first step is to get the grant application and instructions to the non-profit organizations that benefit our Children and youth who are seeking help. Next they usually have a person (grant writer) who is there to fill out the grant application; they next submit it to the Foundation board.

This year 210 grant applications were submitted to the CWF board for consideration. At the board's request the grant proposals have been reviewed to ensure the proposals meet the guidelines of the foundation. With this being done it was brought down to 26 that fit the criteria.

Then we on the SAL CWF committee review each and make our choices of the ones we feel should be recommended, this year we selected 6 and 4 of our selections received grants, All together 13 grants were awards totaling $852,593.00, The awards are as follows:

- American Legion NHQ $525,000
- American Kidney Fund $25,000 (SAL selection)
- ASXL Rare Research Endowment Foundation $10,550
- Briggs & Barrett Project $15,000
- Camp Corral $25,000 (SAL selection)
- Children's Hospital & Medical Center Foundation $20,000
- Cleveland County ALWS Baseball, Inc. $125,000
- Gift of Adoption $20,919 (SAL selection)
- Life Camp USA Inc. $25,358
- Southeast Missouri Network Against Sexual Abuse $5,000
- Spectrum Sailing $3, 5000
- The National Children's Cancer Society $27,266 (SAL selection)
- Father Flanagan's Boys Home $25,000

This is your money working for our children and youth, so please continue to spread the word within your communities of how your donations are being used, and promote the grant applications to any organization dedicated to the betterment of our children and youth throughout our nation!

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission (VA&R)

Missing in America

Veterans served their country through war and peacetime. Veterans expect to receive a military burial, a recognition by our government of their commitment to our great country. They expect to have honor and respect paid to them as a result of their service, but too many now reside unclaimed on a shelf in a mortuary or storage facility at a crematorium.

These forgotten veterans have served our country and as such deserve to be buried with honor and respect.

Starting in 2006, the purpose of the Missing in America Project (MIAP) is a massive nation-wide effort to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state, and federal organizations. To provide honor and respect to those that have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes is their mission.

The Missing In American Veterans Recovery Program is a federal non-profit veterans organization for the identification, location, verification, and movement of veterans and their dependents.

This task will be executed through the combined cooperative efforts of The American Legion Family, other volunteer and veteran organizations, local funeral homes, state funeral commissions, state and national Veterans Administration agencies, and state and national Veterans Cemetery Administrations.

According to the MIA Project web-site they have now visited 2,326 funeral homes, have found cremains of 19,320 individuals, have identified veteran cremains of 4,210 and have interred 3,912 servicemen and women.

Recently, a state hospital announced that 3,500 cremains were on shelves to be identified. These cremains spanned a time from the 1890's to 1971. It is estimated that as many as 1,000 of these cremains are veterans. This is happening in every state.

We need to blanket every mortuary and cemetery in the United States and let them know there are people who desire to claim our veterans. We need to let them know it is our desire to see they are interred with the honor and respect they deserve and have earned.

These veterans languishing on shelves need us. They need American to step forward and ensure they are buried with honor. They need American to show their thanks for their service. Without them, we would not have the freedoms we enjoy today.

If you wish to help with the Missing In American Project; contact the Natl. SAL VA & R Commission and we will connect you with the MIAP coordinator in your Detachment.

GRASSROOTS INFORMATION

Interested in what The American Legion is advocating for in Congress on ***The Veteran's Role in Supporting the Military?*** Check out our information paper in the Legislative Toolkit. This is a great starting point for a conversation with your elected officials! As part of our ongoing Grassroots efforts, LegDiv staff is available to provide ***Grassroots Training*** tailored to the hosting Department's needs. If you are interested in hosting a Grassroots training event, please contact grassroots@legion.org or ejohnson@legion.org.

Register for Action Alerts today at https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Register

Matthew Griffis (AZ)
National Sgt-At-Arms

ALLECA

ALLECA is a program of The American Legion Department of Arizona. The acronym stands for American Legion Law Enforcement Cadet-AZ—the website is www.alleca-az.org.

The program has always been under the direction of a Veteran. The past director, Dan Palmer, is a veteran and a retired Arizona DPS Sergeant. Dan served as Director for 15 years. I am the only non-veteran, a Sons actually...the first time a SAL has been in charge of a veteran run program in the state. This is my 8th year as director, because of my background; I was selected to this position because I have a 35 year career in law enforcement and during my career, I was assigned to the Training Academy for the last 17 years. I was also in charge of several other police programs, including the Police Explorer Program at Tucson Police Academy. Prior to the academy, I was involved with numerous assignments to include Patrol Duties, Detective Unit, SWAT Team and Air Support.

ALLECA is a successful youth program because of a partnership between the Arizona Department of Highway Patrol (AZDPS) and Department of Arizona-American Legion. AZDPS Command Staff. Logistically, they provide us with certified commissioned police officers, patrol cars, helicopter, dog units, SWAT demonstrations....tools of the trade! All of our staff are currently working officers, who interact with the cadets as mentors, counselors and instructors. We also have on staff two certified medical technicians and a RN nurse.

The program has been in operation since 1984, now with over 40 years of history since it began.

PURPOSE: The American Legion believes that our young people have a strong sense of patriotism and a high regard for law and order. The objective of the American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy (ALLECA) is to provide a first hand look at the role of a police officer in promoting and safeguarding America's freedom and rights. As only one of 21 such programs in the country, it is the belief of the Department of Arizona that the young men and women who take part in the ALLECA program will develop favorable attitudes toward law enforcement and will spread those attitudes throughout their communities and among their peers. The ALLECA program is not a "boot camp" or a camp for problem or incorrigible unmanageable teens.

THE PROGRAM: This could be described as a one-week mini police academy. Sessions are planned annually during summer vacation. Discipline is strict with vigorous physical training, with running and calisthenics included. Training begins at 5:00am, and concludes at 9:00pm each day after which clothes will be washed and dormitories cleaned. Obstacle courses and defensive tactics are also part. Various government and criminal justice officials will be guest speakers, and basic instruction will be by certified police officers from various Arizona police agencies.

QUALIFICATIONS: All applicants must either be enrolled in a recognized school or have just graduated. They must have reached their 14th birthday in the month preceding the academy or have not reached their 19th birthday by the start date of the academy. They must be proficient in English, must be of good moral character, present a neat appearance, come well recommended by a school, and pass a physical fitness test. The applicant does not need to be a relative of a member of the American Legion or any other organization to be admitted.

ACCOMMODATIONS: All cadets will be quartered along with the counselors in a dormitory-like barracks setting. They will be responsible for the maintenance and cleanliness of their quarters, which will be subject to inspection at any time by any of the counselors. Beds are to be made each morning according to the instructions of their advisors. Latrines are to be maintained daily. Cadets will also be responsible for the policing of outside areas, and of the facilities used for instruction and for dining.

TUITION FEES: The cost to sponsor a cadet which includes uniforms, three meals daily, and bedding and facilities for eight days is approximately $800.00 per cadet. Sponsorship can be paid by anyone including, but not limited to, relatives, businesses, local law enforcement agencies, fraternal organizations, friends, VFW and DAV Posts or your local American Legion Post. If the tuition fee of $800.00 does not accompany the application, the applicant will be advised if other funds are available and whether they can be accepted or not. Tuition is non-refundable.

EQUIPMENT: Each cadet will be furnished a uniform which consists of trousers, belt, cap, polo shirt, t-shirts and shorts. Prior to the camp, each cadet will be mailed a "CALL TO REPORT" letter. This will advise the cadet what personal items will be needed for the week-long camp session. These items are things such as gym/PE clothes, sleeping bags, personal toiletries, towels & washcloths, black shoe polish, laundry soap, and most important, black plain toe military style boots.

Our next class is scheduled for June 7 thru 14, 2025. Again, our website has photos and videos of our program.

www.alleca-az.org Photo: The class of 2025, with director SAL Matt Griffis kneeling in front

Christopher Herndon, NEC (Dept/DC)

Post 46 Family Donates Dental Hygiene Packs

Submitted Photo: "Dr. Anne" and her team at Broadway Dental Associates in Falls Church, VA

National Defense Post 46 and SAL Squadron 46 of the Department of the District of Columbia recently organized in-kind donations to homeless and at-risk Veterans at Access Housing, Inc. DC/Southeast Veterans Services Center (SEVCS). Dr. Qurrat-ul-Anne Yousaf, or "Dr. Anne", suggested that her team at Broadway Dental Associates in Falls Church, VA could donate dental hygiene packs containing toothbrushes, toothpaste, and dental floss to meet the dental care needs of those at-risk Veterans. The dental hygiene packs were delivered to Ms. Juanita Carey, the Lead Case Manager at Access Housing, Inc. (SEVSC). During the delivery, Ms. Carey ask that Post 46 "…extend a BIG thank you to all who contributed to the generous oral hygiene donation! [The] donation will go a long way in helping Veterans achieve good dental care. We hope that you will continue to support our program, as we appreciate all partnerships in the fight to end homelessness and remove barriers to healthcare for Veterans."

Submitted Photo: Post and Squadron 46 delivering 100 dental hygiene packs to Virginia's veterans

Mike Pook ANEC (WI), Staff Contributor "The Millennium"

Huey at the Wall

The largest traveling replica of the Vietnam Wall memorial rolled into Oshkosh, Wisconsin on Wednesday October 9th. This tribute to Vietnam Veterans is sponsored by the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 70 (WI). "It has the same 58,300 names on it and you can come out and do your rubbings and everything just like the wall in D.C.," said Rick Helms, Commander of SAL Squadron 70. The Wall Memorial was on display October 10th though 13th at the Oshkosh Sunnyveiw Expo Center.

Submitted Photo: Jerry Hook

The Escort of truck and trailer with the memorial aboard took place on Wednesday October 9th 2024 at 6 pm sharp, in Oshkosh, WI. Many years ago the tradition started where motorcyclist would put flags on their motorcycles and escort the truck and trailer hauling the Vietnam Wall replica through the community to the location it would be on display. The display itself will be assembled and put on display with a 24 hour volunteer guards looking over the memorial. Over the years, the escorts have grown to include non flagged motorcycles, various Veteran related motorcycle groups and police involvement.

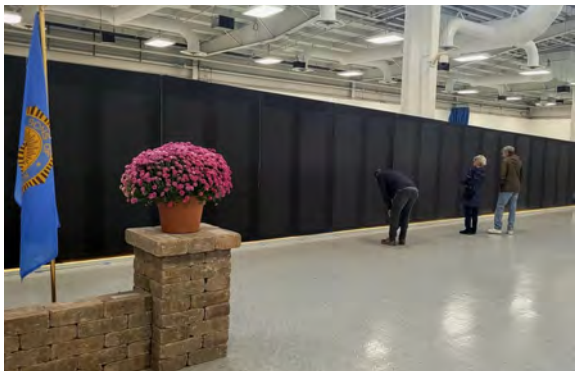
What made this escort special was the distinctive sound of the Huey helicopter from the Vietnam era, flying overhead throughout the escort. The unique sound of the Huey engine flying above was awesome. When looking at the helicopter itself, the Vietnam era Huey was painted like an Army copter with doors open to display that it was a maned gun ship. A sight to behold in today's age.

The motorcyclist arrived about 5 pm at the Experimental Aircraft Association Museum,

EAA, on the south side of Oshkosh. The escort itself was about 10 miles to the Sunnyview Expo Center on the northern side of Oshkosh. The Wall Memorial will stand for three days /24hrs of viewing. The American Legion Riders from 5 different district within Wisconsin lead the escort. The lead Road Captain of the escort Roy Helms, who's son Rick Helm coordinated the traveling Vietnam Wall to come to Oshkosh. Roy is a trio member of the American Legion Family. (A member of the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Riders.) Other Riders part of the escort represented the AMVETS, Patriot Guard Riders, Ace mc, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association aka CVMA, Patriot Riders, also several Lone Wolfs amounting to roughly 50 bikes in all. Police Escorts included several local municipalities with a special thank you to the Village of Winneconne Police Department. A Vietnam-era Huey helicopter provided an aerial escort.

The Village of Winneconne Police Department, Chief of Police, Ben Sauriol said the "Vietnam War is a special thing for me. My late father was in Vietnam in '65 and '66. K9 212ths MP. My uncle is on the wall…." The Police went on to say, "It was my honor. Thank you for having us be apart of this. "

The opening ceremony and welcoming was done by Rick Helms of Squadron 70. Rick is also the Detachment of Wisconsin Sargent at Arms. In Rick's opening remarks he says The Wall is for you, your brothers and sisters and family members! The replica Memorial Wall honors members of the U.S. armed forces who fought and died in the Vietnam War and Southeast Asia and those honors U.S. service members who were unaccounted for during the war. (MIA aka Missing In Action) The Memorial Wall itself measures eight feet tall at the apex and is 360 feet long.



Submitted Photo: The Wall; Jerry Hook

Preserving Our Past: Restoring Cemetery Monuments and Grave Markers—Part II

Last month, "The Millennium" spoke with PDC Gene Theroux, a dual member from Massachusetts, about his endeavors over the years in repairing headstones and assembling and training a team to work on rehabilitating cemeteries. His work is extensive … "it's our responsibility to ensure that our veterans' history and legacy carries on for future generations", he writes.

Theroux, far right, at Southwick Old Cemetery

Working off of the emails and resources he provided—which were comprehensive to say the least—this newsletter wanted to not only tell his story, but provide a punch list of how-to's in order to begin the cleaning and rehabilitation process.

Facebook Photo

Part I of this article talked about the prep work—how to asses the areas most in need, how to obtain permission, and how to start the process. Part II now will deal with the nuts-and-bolts of actually doing the work. We'll first start with cleaning.

Inspect: Before one would start the rehabilitation of any headstone, identify the type of stone you will be working on. Most headstones placed nowadays are either marble or granite—which are easier to clean. Contemporary veterans grave markers provided by the government are generally upright white marble, as at right, or are flat granite or marble stones. Flat bronze markers are also made available by the government, which we'll discuss in a moment. Older headstones, though —say pre Civil War era—can be made of a litany of material. On the Eastern seaboard, this can be brownstone, soapstone, or sandstone—all which become brittle with age. The point here being only tackle stones which are within your ability to restore—some should just be left alone or to professional conservators.

Facebook Photos

Clean up the area. Headstones, especially flat ones, sometimes sink or get overgrown. Larger upright stones in older or neglected cemeteries can be plagued with vegetation problems too—plants, weeds, even trees can get in the way and obstruct access to the gravestone.

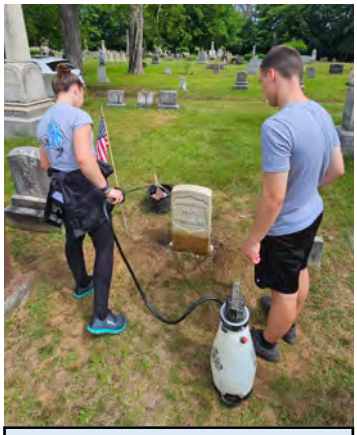
Remove all of the refuse and larger pieces of dirt or grass that have grown over parts of the marker. Find the outside edges and clean in from there, using plastic scrapers—never anything too aggressive that would damage the stone. Use those scrapers to remove any heavy growth residing on the surface of the stone.

Facebook Photo

Cleaning. Per PDC Gene, "I exclusively use D/2 Biological Solution. I use soft bristle brushes, plastic scrapers, and clean water." D/2 solution isn't just a cleaner, it is a biologic that actually kills the mold and mildew that reside on and under the surface of the stone. In spraying the stone with the cleaning solution, never scrub too hard—and rinse off what's scrubbed off frequently. The beauty of the D/2 solution is that it also penetrates the pores of the stone, so the cleanser continues to kill the biological growth for days and weeks.

"Never use bleach, salts, power washer; and do not scrub severely cracked, sugaring marble, delaminating sandstone gravestones or obelisks", notes Theroux. Nothing aggressive like wire brushes either.

Apply the solution, and let it sit and work for perhaps ten minutes. Pump or hand sprayers seem like the best way to apply the solution, and having another pump sprayer or method to pour water over the stone is something to have on hand. After that, scrub away.



Facebook Photo

Bronze Markers. One other type of marker that one may run into is a bronze marker; in the case of a veteran's marker provided by the government, it would be a flat bronze plaque affixed to a piece of granite, marble, or concrete. Prepping the stone is by the same process as with marble stones… peel back the grass or sod from the marker with a trowel, and find the edges of the base paying attention to dig them out so water or rain doesn't run onto the stone. A brush and water are all that's needed to clean the bronze marker, and the same D/2 biologic solution mentioned above can be used to treat and clean the stone the plaques rests on.

Facebook: Raphael Gonzalez working to edge and clean a bronze military marker

Repair. Headstones on occasion will require significant structural restoration, having over the years started to lean, crack, or in extreme situations, fully broken. Repairs can range from epoxying broken parts of the stone together, to actually lifting the stone, resetting a gravel base, and laying the stone back down. These will all no doubt be topics for additional articles.

PDC Theroux has placed many online resources on his detachment's "Flying Flags for Heroes" page at https://www.salmass.org/index.php?id=135; if you are embarking on a cemetery restoration project, we encourage you to visit the links listed on that page.

The Sons On Social Media: A snapshot of the SAL around the country

"Passing of the Bottle" Detachment of Ohio PDC Bottle Raffle at Tim Conway's Homecoming. A dedicated group of SAL members with a fun little tradition of raising funds for CWF. Over $120,000.00 to date!

Squadron 131 (Belvidere, NJ) collecting supplies to meet the current need requests of our deployed as part of Operation Jersey Cares.

Squadron 90 (Ashland, WI) at their 2024 Retreat.

Young Sons from the Detachment of Colorado alongside Auxiliary Juniors taking part in a flag etiquette seminar.

At the Post 36 (Des Plaines, IL) meeting on October 15, Unit 36 presented patches to Lincoln Kahney which he earned through the Junior Activities Patch Program. For those who don't know about the program, any Young Son or Junior Auxiliary member can participate.

Squadron 1 (Tulsa, OK) officers being installed by Legion District 1B Commander Karen Cruice.

American Legion Riders Chapter 29 in Zanesville, Ohio, spearheaded a $25,000 donation to Save a Warrior (SAW), a nonprofit that uses evidence-based interventions for active-duty military, returning veterans and first responders to deal with their own trauma.

The Squadron 155 (Colton, CA) Children Action Team holding their 14th Annual Halloween Arts and Crafts Party at the Ronald McDonald House in Loma Linda.

Central Region Membership and Squadron Activities Member Steve Honigfort address's the Ohio Detachment Executive Committee with information on public relations.

Post and Squadron 810 (Philadelphia, PA) members spend the 249th birthday of the US Navy at the Delaware Valley Veterans Home (with a cake, of course!)

Squadron 60 (Laurel, MD) providing 240 sandwiches to deploying service members.

Post and Squadron 104 (Aloha, OR) helped support the Post's Legion Baseball Team, showing off the new shirts with the team's coordinator Sue from their ALA.

ANEC Mike Pook (WI), Staff Contributor "The Millennium"

"Mentoring Moments"

The design of the SAL emblem was taken from the emblem of our parent organization, but is oval in shape so as to be easily distinguished.

•The star in the center represents our country and the five points of the star represent the Five Point Program of the Sons of the American Legion.

•The sun in the background represents the Sons of the American Legion, and the ray represent the loyalty of its membership.

•The blue of the emblem, like the value of our flag, stands for justice.

•The two stars in the blue border stand for freedom and democracy.

•The wreath below the star is in memory of our comrades and those of our fathers who willingly gave their lives for their country.

•The 10 points of the emblem represent the Ten Ideals of every Legion son.

Patriotism: Turn out for Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day parades and ceremonies. Learn the proper display of the flag. Learn the Pledge of Allegiance.

Health: Write an essay on how to maintain sanitary conditions to promote health in your home, the Post home and/or in camps, and outdoors in general. Explain what you do daily to keep fit.

Training: Become a squadron officer, or assist in a squadron officer(s) during meetings and activities.

Knowledge: Maintain good grades in school. Know the instructions for the 10 ideals and five points of service. Explain what each individual part means. Know what the S.A.L. emblem stands for. Explain orally what each part of the emblem represents.

Honor: Display honorable service in the squadron over a period of six months by being truthful and honest with your actions.

Faith: Demonstrate good conduct and willingness to obey instructions over a period of six months will earn you the squadron's recognition of your faith in its leadership and ideals.

Helpfulness: Develop reasonably consistent attendance at meetings and other functions. Volunteer for tasks for the good of the squadron and b reliable in carrying out your part. Help promote your squadron by signing up at least on new member, and help collect dues from existing members.

Courtesy: Apply yourself diligently to show you are polite and respectful to your comrades, officers, Legionnaires, and others.

Reverence: Show that you are a member of a religious organization. Aid in placing markers and flowers on veteran's graves.

Comradeship: Show the tie that binds you to the squadron and to the Legion by helping in the annual Poppy Sale, thus aiding disabled veterans. Help cheer up a veteran in a hospital or his home.

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.

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

Publications and Forms (SDR, Handbook, Awards and much more)
https://www.legion.org/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion/publications-and-forms

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/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion/membership-reports

Future Meetings
https://www.legion.org/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion/sons-of-the-american-legion-meetings

Scan the QR Code and Renew Your Membership Today!

NVC Harl "Butch" Ray (IL)
Contributor, "The Millennium"

Series: What's in a Name?

Fellow Sons, here is article # 3 of "What's in a Name?" We must always remember that we stand upon the sacrifice of those veterans from which our eligibility has come.

Maj. Samuel Woodfill American Legion Post # 9 (IN): "A new name for Post 9", *by Laura Edwards (reproduced with permission)*

A southeastern Indiana American Legion post is continuing the nationwide trend of posts highlighting the link between World War I and The American Legion's formation, by renaming itself after a Hoosier hero of that war.

Jefferson Post 9 received its initial charter on June 20, 1919, and its permanent charter on Nov. 29, 1920.

The "Jefferson" refers to Jefferson County, where Madison is located. In the rural part of the county, Maj. Samuel Woodfill was born in 1883. He enlisted in the Army in 1901, and served in the Philippine-American War and at the Mexican border before the start of World War I. On Oct. 12, 1918, in Cunel, France – during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive – Woodfill's actions against a German machine-gun nest, which culminated in hand-to-hand fighting, resulted in his receipt of the Medal of Honor, making him the only Hoosier to earn one during the war.

He was presented with his award by Gen. "Black Jack" Pershing himself in France in February 1919. Pershing admired Woodfill greatly – in fact, he called him "the outstanding soldier of World War I." He was chosen to participate in the 1921 ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. A recommissioned Woodfill spent World War II as an instructor training infantry troops. He died in 1951, and was eventually re-buried at Arlington National Cemetery – 50 feet from Pershing.

A delegation from the Polish army presented Woodfill with two medals at the 1929 American Legion national convention in Louisville, Ky. He promoted the building of posts in Kentucky and Massachusetts, and was referred to as a member in media of the time. With the autumn of 2018 approaching – and thus the 100th anniversary of Woodfill's medal-earning feats – it was decided that Post 9 would rename itself after him. Both were noted during an Oct. 12 (the actual anniversary) ceremony at the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery in north Madison; the cemetery unveiled a bronze bust of Woodfill, and Post 9 attended in force.

Harold Marney American Legion Post # 420 (MA)

On a past Veterans Day, the memory of a World War II veteran from Springfield received some very special recognition in the neighborhood where he grew up.

Harold Marney was 19 when he was killed in 1943 aboard PT boat 109 commanded by John F. Kennedy, who would go on to become America's 35th president.

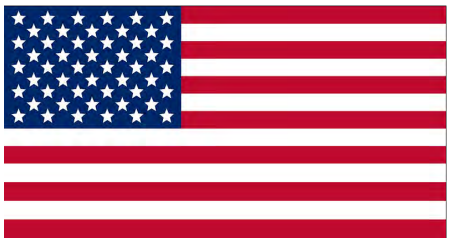
East Springfield American Legion Post 420 was named in honor of Harold Marney, and his nephew, Dennis Harkins of Springfield, is so proud.

Harkins said, "To have our American Legion organization named after a family member, the circumstances of which are unfortunate, it gives some recognition to a local boy and local veteran that lost his life serving his country."

American Legion Post 420 in Springfield, from this day forward, will be known as the Harold Marney American Legion Post on East Springfield.

Gabriel A. Rodriguez American Legion Post 1928 (NY) *(reproduced with permission)*

"We used to always look up to him a lot," said Benny Rodriguez, the Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post 1928 American Legion commander.



Gabriel was Benny's older brother and his protector. "When we need to go out and shine shoes, my brother would be the manager. We would take him the money and he will save it for us because he was the biggest brother of us," said Benny.

After serving in the Army during the Vietnam War, he came back different. "He seemed like he never got away from the war," said Benny. They were issues that were only named years later. "He at tempted a few times to take his life that that hurt us all," Benny said. "We weren't understanding what he was going through."

Post-traumatic stress disorder did end Gabriel's life in 1981, but he wasn't forgotten.

A few years later, the Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post 1928 of the American Legion was born. "It was a proud moment for everybody involved," said Benny.

It the first Hispanic American Legion in Western New York.

"We all had good ideas, especially to help our veterans, especially to help out the community in in any way we can," Benny said.

"A lot of people look at an American Legion Post and they think a bunch of military guys drinking beer and having these great parties and 'oorah' around telling war stories, but this post is not like that," explained Ricardo Estrada, the Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post 1928 American Legion adjutant. This post is driven pretty much by the values of the American Legion."

From fundraisers to suit drives, and even cleaning up the Hispanic American Veterans Memorial at Naval Park, where Gabriel's name is inscribed, they keep his memory alive and use it to fuel their actions.

To the Rodriguez family and the veteran community surrounding them, these are ways to make sure Gabriel's story is remembered. Even to this day, it's one that's all too familiar.

"I have a lot of friends and family members and just people that I know who have suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and who just go unrecognized," said Estrada. "That disease is very dangerous, that disorder is horrific, and if you don't understand it, you can't value it."

This group offers a community and connections to help anyone who needs it. It's a call to action the Post carries with it every day. "A tribute to those we carried, and to those we can no longer hold," said Benny, as he looked at the Battle Within Monument at Naval Park. It's dedicated to those who lost their battle with PTSD. Gabriel's picture is one of many put up there.

Now the Post is looking to the next generation to carry the torch forward.

This series will over time tell brief stories of some of these posts that honor our legacy. If your post home has a story to share about the Veteran for which it is named, please email NVC Butch at butch.ilsal@gmail.com.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion
THE MILLENNIUM
Sons of The American Legion | PO 1055 | Indianapolis, IN 46206 | www.legion.org/sons

Postage Here

To:

This Month In SAL History—*"The Legion Heir" November 1941*
Major Changes announced November 7, 1941, as the employment of the First Full Time National SAL Director is approved.
Submitted by 2024-25 SAL National Historian Bill Towns

Full-Time Sons Director, National Legionnaire Page Mark Changes in SAL Setup

New Era for Organization Predicted Because of Actions Taken by Committee to Strengthen Plan for Greater Membership

Important changes in the setup of The Sons of The American Legion were made by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its meeting in Indianapolis November 7. Moves which national leaders predict will strengthen SAL include the following:

1. Authorizing the employment of a full-time director for the SAL.
2. Abolishing The Legion Heir.
3. Directing that one page in each issue of The National Legionnaire be devoted to the SAL in lieu of The Legion Heir, that it be known as "The American Legion Sons' News," and that 10 cents from the national SAL dues be allocated as the cost of a subscription to The National Legionnaire, and a copy be sent to every SAL member.

Full-Time SAL Director

The resolution calling for the employment of a full-time SAL director follows:

"Be It Resolved, That a full-time director be employed for The Sons of The American Legion and that a sufficient sum be appropriated for the coming fiscal year to meet the expense of such an office."

This resolution has been referred to the National Finance Committee for appropriate action. Action on this resolution probably will be completed at the May, 1942, meeting of the National Executive Committee.

New SAL Chairman Named

National Commander Lynn U. Stambaugh appointed Past Department Commander J. Ernest Isherwood, of Waynesburg, Pa., as chairman of the National SAL Committee, to succeed P. N. Hiatt, of West Palm Beach, Fla., whose term as chairman expired. Hiatt remains as member of the SAL committee until the November meeting of the National Executive Committee in 1944. Isherwood served as vice-chairman of the SAL committee last year. His membership on the committee is effective until November, 1942.

Commander Stambaugh also appointed William T. Regan, of Elizabeth, N. J., as vice-chairman. Regan is a member of the SAL committee until November, 1944.

The National Commander re-appointed two members of the SAL committee for five-year terms, to expire in November, 1946. They were Dr. Elton V. Faass of Centerville, Mass., and A. L. Greenwalt, of Portland, Ore.