SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

THE MILLENNIUM

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Special to The Millennium—Rusty Myers (NJ), Editor, with excerpts from legion.org

Sons Across the Nation Honor the Missing on POW/MIA Recognition Day

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is held each year on the third Friday of September. This commemoration is set aside to honor the commitment and sacrifices made by this nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action, as well as their families. As part of the day of recognition, Americans are asked to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by the military men and women who are imprisoned or unaccounted for as a result of their military service. The numbers of unaccounted-for personnel are staggering, currently at 83,000 nationally since the First World War. Here are a few ways Sons and The American Legion Family from across the 55 detachments honored the service and sacrifice of those missing serviceman:

Elk Grove, California

Members of the Elk Grove American Legion Post 233 Family, Legion Post 55 family, VFW Post 2073, and Marine Corps Detachment 1238 along with the Elk Grove Community all got together to conduct their annual ceremony.

California: Palm Beach Commemorates POW/MIA Day

Members of the honor guard from the American Legion Palm Springs Owen Coffman Post 519 Family stand at attention as Taps is played after they raised the POW/MIA flag outside City Hall Friday morning.

New Jersey: POW/MIA Watchfire

The Detachment of New Jersey held the 35th Annual POW/MIA Watchfire on 20-21 September. It started at 7pm with ceremonies and speeches, followed by dinner and the reading of New Jersey's missing. The Watchfire continued for twelve hours, until its conclusion at 7am the next day. Throughout the overnight, a huge bonfire on the bay-side of Seaside Heights is continuously fed – representing a light being shined to help those POW's and MIA's find their way home. National Commander Bill Clancy attended the event as part of his official visit to The Garden State.

Wisconsin: POW/MIA Silent March

In Franksville, WI, Harvey Fun American Legion Post 494 hosted a District 1 American Legion Family POW/MIA Silent March.

Following the march, a ceremony took place at the post.

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

USA250: American Exceptionalism

As I reflect on the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence next year, I think about what a wonderful time this is for us as Americans to be alive. How cool is it that we are alive to witness such an amazing milestone in our collective history.

Very few – probably only a handful – of governments have been around for that long in world history. Yes, the Romans, the Ottoman Empire, the Byzantine Empire, and others had existed for well over 250 years, but in modern history - there aren't many.

A quick Google search actually revealed that the only continuously functioning government which still exists and has functioned longer then the US is the European microstate of San Marino. Evidently, their constitution has been in use since 1600 .. Leading to the claim they oldest constitutional republic around.

The point I'm making is that America's 250 years is a big deal … and we are very fortunate to be here for this semiquincintenenial.

I wasn't around for the bicentennial in 1976 … I was born four years later … but I can only imagine how euphoric America was to turn 200. 2026 will no doubt be the same.

We, as Sons, all know the answer, otherwise we wouldn't be here… but why has the United States of America lasted this long? It could be that the founders wrote a set of founding documents which were flexible enough to adapt and stand up to the momentum of changing history, but it's much deeper then that …

It is because of the ethereal concepts of freedom, justice, and democracy. A dedication to independence. It is because we are a government founded on an idea; on a belief in self-determination, and a commitment to liberty. Because our country serves as a beacon of independence throughout the world. In two words … ***American Exceptionalism***.

This idea that the United States is unique, distinctive, and exemplary is what USA250 commemorates. And though we are celebrating that on a larger scale as Americans, it is equally important – as is everything else – to be part of that celebration locally.

Growing up in New Jersey, the American Revolution happened right in my backyard … quite literally. As a kid, I played in the woods behind my parents house in Liberty Corney, NJ, around what was left of the William Annin homestead which served as a military hospital and a camp for the Continental Army. Fifteen minutes north, the entire colonial army over-wintered at Jockey Hollow during "The Hard Winter" of 1779-1780. Washinton's Fort Nonsense was not very far from there either, as well as his headquarters at Ford's Mansion. The Battles of Monmouth, Springfield, Trenton, and Princeton happened in my New Jersey as well … so we are a state rich with the history of the birth of this nation.

Editor's Photos: Voices of Freedom event (Milburn, NJ)

Recently, as a Detachment Vice Commander, I attended my first USA 250 event … or in this case, Milburn 250 as they had branded it. Guy M. Bosworth Squadron 140 co-sponsored an event on Constitution Day, which celebrates the day the US Constitution was ratified on 17 September 1787.

This event – which not only is the beginning of Milburn's 250-year celebration – was a great visibility event for Squadron 140. Hosted at the town's civic center, the squadron coordinated a reading of the entire Constitution. It took about 45 minutes – in an event titled Voices of Freedom – where the town's Scouts took turns reading the document aloud to the attendees cover-to-cover. They even live-streamed the event for those who couldn't make it. It was a fantastic way to honor Constitution Day while engaging the town's young citizens, and a great way to work with Milburn's leadership to jumpstart a year of celebrating being American. This was a win-win for the squadron, their home Post, and the town. Way to go, Squadron 140.

As Squadron Commander Dan Cannon wrote, "Thank you for listening to the youthful voices echo freedom with their reading of the US Constitution."

So … what is your squadron doing for USA 250? You don't have to spend money, you don't have to go big with an event, you just have to put your time and talent to use. Almost every town or state has some sort of America 250 Committee, as probably does your detachment – so connect with them. You can do it by promoting **The American Legion's USA 250 Challenge** in your Legion Family or in your community.

Make the effort – because we only turn 250 once … and don't forget to share with us your story!

Sons from Around the Country Meet in Indy for the Fall Meetings

The Fall National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting was held in Indianapolis on 04 and 05 October 2025. These meetings, which include representatives from the 55 detachments, are focused on the operations and administration of the Sons of The American Legion.

All of the national commissions and committees meet the day before at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, and make their reports to the NEC membership over the weekend. It's an opportunity to help steer this great organization of ours, but it's also a chance to meet up with or make new friends from across the country.

To quote Alternate NEC from Illinois Mike Vozar, *"[The] Best part of the SAL? The heart and passion of our members! Just a few of the many great folks I was fortunate to spend time with at Fall NEC!"*

Here are a few photos from the weekend, either taken by the editor or snagged from various members' profiles on Facebook.

Resolutions Passed at Fall NEC:

That the Sons of The American Legion donate $250,000 from the SAL Liability Account to the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF)

—

That the Public and Media Communications Commission be renamed the Media and Communications Commission

—

That a 100% Membership Award be established, to be awarded annually to qualifying detachments

Frank Meraz Jr. (CA)
National Vice Commander West

Fall Reflections

Being elected as National Vice Commander on Sunday, August 24, 2025 in Tampa, Florida was definitely a great day. I'm proud to be honoring my grandfather's service ... Joseph Guzman in the United States Coast Guard during World War II.

Being a 45 year member has been busy, and being involved in volunteering at all levels has been a huge pleasure. If it wasn't for my mentors—Gene Sacco, Ned Fox—it would have been a challenge. The Detachment of California senior leadership team has been very inspirational, as well as the senior leaders from the Western Region.

I would like to congratulate National Commander William "Bill" Clancy lll, Vice Commander's Jeremy Revel, Bryan Hine, Steve Honigfort, and Chris Casey. Together we will represent the Sons of The American Legion with great pride and honor.

> ***"Together we will represent the Sons of The American Legion with great pride and honor."***
>
> ***-NVC Meraz***

With upcoming travel plans, | look forward to seeing the great detachment's throughout the United States. Meeting the heart and soul of our organization, The Blue Cap's keep the preamble's significance alive with the strength of our veterans to keep us free. We honor them on this Veterans Day on November 11th—make sure you thank them for there service and sacrifice, and continue to represent proudly being a member of The Sons of The American Legion.

MyLEGION.ORG TRAINING VIDEO SERIES

Learn the ins-and-outs of the myLegion platform, and how it can help you and your Sons manage membership in these videos produced by National Headquarters.

https://vimeo.com/showcase/8339635

Sons of The American Legion
2024-2025 Accomplishments

Consolidated Reports Summary
Published: July 22, 2025

National Overall Totals	
Dollars Donated	$12,150,235
Hours Volunteered	7,740,001
Value of One Vol. Hour*	$34.79
Volunteer Hours Value	$269,274,628
Total Volunteer Value	$281,424,863

Pillar	Donations	Hours	Hours Value*
Americanism	$5,379,768	6,570,287	$228,580,267
Children & Youth	$1,675,501	345,958	$12,035,861
Vets Affairs & Rehab.	$2,274,325	249,837	$8,691,838
Vets Employ & Edu.	$134,989	32,307	$1,123,961
Internal Affairs	$2,685,652	541,613	$18,842,701

Americanism

Boys State / Girls State	$404,976	in Donations to Boys State / Girls State with 46,549 Hours of Participation
Legion Ed. Programs	$19,711	in Donations to 3-Star / 10-Ideals Progs with 15,564 Hours of Participation
Flag Programs	$245,337	in Donations to Flags Presented (All) with 855,050 Hours of Participation
	437,794	Flags Presented (All Sizes / Events)
Flag Education	$37,268	in Donations to Flag Education Progs with 35,548 Hours of Participation
Other Ed. Programs	$688,251	in Donations to Scholarships Awarded with 19,561 Hours of Participation
Oratorical Contest	$18,815	in Donations to Oratorical Contest with 4,006 Hours of Participation
Color Guard	$287,500	in Donations to Color Guard with 107,967 Hours of Participation
Community Service	$1,613,511	in Donations to Other Organizations with 4,816,041 Hours of Participation
Scouting	$260,704	in Donations to Scouting with 122,726 Hours of Participation
Jr. Shooting Sports	$92,758	in Donations to Jr. Shooting Sports with 14,249 Hours of Participation
Am. Legion Baseball	$426,654	in Donations to Am Legion Baseball with 34,908 Hours of Participation
Other Teams	$240,958	in Donations to Other Teams with 20,288 Hours of Participation
Blood Drives	$25,134	in Donations to Blood Drives with 10,351 Hours of Participation
Nat'l Emer. Fund	$136,022	in Donations to Nat'l Emergency Fund with 9,749 Hours of Participation
Legacy Schol. Fund	$85,424	in Donations to Legacy Scholarship Fund with 7,007 Hours of Participation
Other Amer. Projects	$796,742	in Donations to Other Amer. Projects with 450,725 Hours of Participation

Children and Youth

CWF	$297,511	in Donations to Child Well-Being Found with 84,969 Hours of Participation
Special Olympics	$247,187	in Donations to Special Olympics with 75,237 Hours of Participation
Children's Miracle Net.	$44,749	in Donations to Children's Miracle Net with 62,087 Hours of Participation
Ronald McDonald House	$20,881	in Donations to R. McDonald House with 2,175 Hours of Participation
Children's Organ Transplant Assn.	$67,688	in Donations to Child. Org. Trans. Assn with 3,465 Hours of Participation
TAL Vets. & Child. Found.	$82,223	in Donations to T.A.L. Vets. & Child. F with 14,696 Hours of Participation
Other C&Y Projects	$918,263	in Donations to Other C&Y Projects with 103,329 Hours of Participation

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

VAMCs & Facilities	$281,271	in Donations to VAMCs & Facilities with 34,469 Hours of Participation
State Vets Facilities	$184,280	in Donations to State Vets Facilities with 18,059 Hours of Participation
Nat'l Vets Assist. Day	$15,018	in Donations to Nat'l Vets Assist. Day with 5,516 Hours of Participation
Op. Comfort Warriors	$82,117	in Donations to Op. Comfort Warriors with 15,680 Hours of Participation
Fisher House	$93,053	in Donations to Fisher House with 8,208 Hours of Participation
Other VA&R Projects	$907,183	in Donations to Other VA&R Projects with 167,906 Hours of Participation
Homeless Veterans	$423,618	in Donations to Homeless Veterans with 26,826 Hours of Participation
Troop & Family Support	$287,784	in Donations to Troop & Family Support with 60,293 Hours of Participation

Veterans Employment and Education

VE&E Projects	$134,989	in Donations to VE&E Projects with 32,307 Hours of Participation

Internal Affairs

Other Totals	$2,685,652	in Donations, Not Covered Above with 541,613 Hours, Not Covered Above

*As reported by Independent Sector in April 2025

2,297 / 5,781 (39.73%) Squadrons Reporting | 399,009 Total Members | 16 / 614 (2.61%) Districts Reporting

Check out the video *"Sons of The American Legion National Commander focused on USA 250 Challenge"* on YouTube

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

Social Media Content Tips

Historians not only gather pictures and content for the yearly history book, they often are submitting content on social media platforms and web sites.

To write effectively for social media, you must know your audience and brand voice, keeping messages short, engaging, and mobile-friendly with clear calls to action. Use visuals, video, hashtags, and a conversational tone to grab attention and spark conversation, making sure your content is accessible and authentic to build a strong online presence.

Example of a Facebook Post: Mike Pook, 22 Sept 2025

Social Media Content Writing Tips

Know your audience. Understand their needs, interests, and preferences to tailor your content for maximum impact.

Craft Your Content. Get to the point quickly. Employ positive, productive verbs. Keep your language simple and casual, as if you're having a conversation with a friend.

Focus on Value. Content should provide value to the reader. Present your genuine self to attract the audience that will benefit most from your content and build trust.

Be Positive. You want your audience to be excited and inspired by your posts. Avoid criticizing others and taking a stand on social media. Avoid bullying, and don't engage with it. You can hurt any trust or credibility you've built with your followers.

Use images and videos. Use pictures, graphics, and videos to tell the story where possible. Visual content is more engaging, and can often tell the story quicker than words alone. An image can often stand alone in social media posts while conveying the message in words to the audience.

Add a call to action. Consider prompting your audience with an action you would like them to take. Ask them questions to comment on. Share the content on other social media pages. Spread the word!

Keep your content on social media positive and use pictures to increase your content's effectiveness and to help drive results. And don't forget to send your pictures and content to your Detachment Historians!

"Spotted by a Son"

In September's "Spotted by a Son", we asked if you could find the POW/MIA Flag.

The newsletter email went out on 10 September, and by 1:25pm we had a winner…

Clay Jackson
Squadron 331
Brownsburg, Indiana

Jackson has been a member since 2010; since Spring 2022 he has been the finance officer for his squadron. He is eligible for membership through is his father, Howard Clay Jackson, Jr., who served during the Korean War in the U.S. Army and was discharged honorably as an SP-3 (T) rank.

Immediate Past Detachment Commander of Illinois Rick Allen presents SAL Squadron 620 (Bement, IL) their new squadron charter.

Detachment of South Dakota leadership traveled to Parkston Post 194 and presented them with their new Sons charter; this was one of the detachment's five new charters from the 2024-2025 year.

Detachment of Nebraska leadership attending the dedication of the Gordon Medal of Honor Highway Memorial.

Squadron 403 (Glen Rock, PA) celebrating their 30th Anniversary on 20 September 2025. National Adjutant Anthony Wright (PA) installing the squadron's officers.

National ALA President Pam Ray (IL) in Colorado with some of the state's Sons.

Commander Irvin Johnson, left, and Adjutant Clearance Figgs, Jr. of Squadron 19 (Baltimore, MD) serving veterans at the Baltimore Station Veterans Home.

@ Email your story to *The Millennium*
rusty.myers@ymail.com

Detachment of Maryland's Young Sons having their meeting at the September Detachment Campout

Illinois Department Leadership installed officers at McHenry Post 491 this morning. Following the installation, Department Commander Chad Miller gifted the members with an insulated cup with the three state pins. The leadership also signed each of the cups.

Awards presented to Squadron 258 (Little Chute, WI) for achieving membership milestones during the 2025 year.

Squadron 416 (Lowe's Grove, NC) Commander Philip Goldsby, representing his squadron at North Carolina's District 6 meeting with Department Commander Devell ''Bo'' Durham Jr.

Below, NEC Chris Basley with members of the Arizona American Legion Family at an Arizona Cardinals game, promoting the Be The One mission. They even made it onto the big screen in the stadium!

Maryland Detachment Commander Jason Miller presenting Squadron Commander John White with his 2025 National SAL Squadron Commander of the Year cover and plaque. Commander White also received a proclamation from the Commissioners of Queen Anne's County for his service to The American Legion and the community..

Installation of Officers for Squadron 364 (Woodbridge,VA) by Detachment of Virginia Vice Commander Jay Rarick.

Jeremy Revell (VT), National Vice Commander Northeast Region

Spotlight: New York's annual Walk-a-thon

In the Spring of 2026, the Detachment of New York, in conjunction with the Department of New York American Legion Auxiliary, will be kicking off their 20th Annual Walk-A-Thon to benefit veterans across New York State. Co-chaired by Past National Commander Christopher Cerullo and ALA member Marie Santacroce, the wife of Past Detachment Commander Joseph Santacroce, the joint project has raised an estimated sum of over $500,000.00 through the previous 19 -year campaign.

Submitted Photo

The funds are raised by squadrons, units, counties, and districts throughout the state holding Walk-A-Thons in their local areas, and also by selling "Walk-A-Thon Boots" to friends and family and in the Post Lounges where permitted. The "Boots" resemble the hearts or shamrocks that you sometimes see in your local supermarket that are sold at the register and displayed at the front of the store with the donor's name written on the front. The collected funds are totaled at the end of the campaign, which usually runs from April until the end of June, and then split evenly between the Detachment and the Auxiliary.

Prior to the kickoff, the detachment and the Auxiliary decide what NYS veterans programs will benefit for the year. Updated forms and information are available each year on the detachment and Auxiliary website. For the last few years, the Detachment of New York has presented each of the 13 VA Medical Centers in New York and the five veterans nursing homes in New York with a check for an equal amount of the detachments share of the Walk-A-Thon campaign. The Auxiliary also chooses what program or programs they will give their share of the proceeds to, and checks are presented. Past recipients have been Homeward Bound Adirondack – a camp for veterans in crisis; programs that acquire and train service dogs for veterans in need, and the Fischer Houses in New York. For the detachment checks, Detachment Vice Commanders and District Commanders are given the donation checks and encouraged to present them in-person and asked to take photos for the detachment website, newsletter and social media pages.

Submitted Photo

Mike Monserud (IA), Trailing Candidate for National Commander

Mentorship

Now what? Now what do you do with all these old hat pins and covers from officer positions you've held? If you are like me and have a cork board full of old pins and a bag full of old caps and name tags, you often wonder, what do I do with them now? They may span a series of years, with a lot of stories from under those old caps. Do you make a shadow box to display your years of service at different levels? Do you give them away, or just throw them away? The pins are easy for me as they are usually a good conversation piece and always spark a good conversation with someone new. They are a good tool to use to talk to new members to discuss past leadership, past conventions, or just old friends that you may not have talked to in many years. Maybe you should do a Buddy Check on that old friend you have not talked to … remember to Be The One.

When I move onto another cover, I take the previous cover and have it dry cleaned and put it back into the bag. These covers can be used to give to someone who you are mentoring in their move to a higher office at your squadron and now you have some incentive as you can give them the cover to save them some expense and also it shows them that you believe in them enough to give them your cover from when you held that office. Simple gestures like this might be all it takes for the next one to step and begin leading this organization. Tell them all the lessons you learned while wearing that cap, the good times and the hard times also. There was a lot of miles under that old cap, and all the knowledge will now be passed onto the next guy to carry the baton and lead us into the future. We all must find our replacement and what better way to give them some motivation than to give them your old cover and say many accomplishments and decisions were made under this cover, I am now giving it to you to forge your own path and carry on the Sal into the future. Mentor our leaders of tomorrow, because if you don't do it, then who will.

Steve Christenberry (KS), Topeka North Squadron 400—*12 Sept 2025*

Kansas squadron places flags to honor September 11th

Squadron 400 (Topeka, KS) alongside their Legion Riders Chapter, puts flags up at the Kansas Highway Patrol and at a fire station in Topeka each year. Below and at right are submitted photos from that effort; the Riders annually puts out 343 flags up at a fire station, this time Station #1 in Topeka, honoring the 343 New York City Fire Department (FDNY) firefighters who died on September 11, 2001. The SAL puts up 60 flags, plus police blue-stripe flags at the Highway Patrol as well.

Submitted Photos

Robert Mccormick (NY), New Windsor Squadron 1796—*12 Sept 2025*

Past Squadron Commander Frank Donnery Honored

Squadron 1796 (New Windsor, NY) awarded an Achievement Award Plaque to Past Squadron Commander Frank Donnery. Frank was the first commander when the Squadron was reestablished in 1984. Frank held Commander position for two years. Officer's that served alongside Donnery when he was commander made a motion at a recent meeting to recognize Frank for his contributions.

The squadron made the presentation, and Assemblyman Christopher W. Eachus presented a New York State Assembly Certificate. Donnery was floored by the attention and gratitude given him; after the ceremony everyone enjoyed a bite to eat and good conversation with Frank.

Submitted Photo: Past Commander Frank Donnery (NY 1796) being presented with his achievement plaque

Randy Timms (WI), Assistant Editor, *The Millennium*

The Impact of Donations

We have previously written about the enormous success of Hartland Squadron 294 in Wisconsin. This year they added another $75,000 to the total donations primarily given to two veteran organizations in southeast Wisconsin. Since they began their "Operation Homeless Veterans" sleep out, they have donated $370,000 in cash and untold amounts of canned food, clothing and furniture. And may I remind you this sleep out is really outside, it's really in Wisconsin, and ***really*** in the winter. Yes, it gets COLD. But the passion with which these men and women bring to task is truly remarkable.

We've all been to fund raisers and have given something to the cause. Perhaps you bought some raffle tickets or entered a 50/50 drawing. It all went to the cause advertised for the event. When the event is over, we'll hear how much was raised and where it's going. But do we ever hear how this money actually helped a veteran and their family?

I took a trip to see Executive Director Debbie Buchanan and Business Operations Manager Kiana Sanchez at the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative. What I found was fascinating. Their list of programs is lengthy. Community Education and Outreach, Furnishings For Heros, Emergency Food Pantry, Bikes For Stripes, Veterans Resource Post, and WOVIN (Women Veterans Independent Network) ... each geared to help veterans and their families, while filling a void in the community services available to them.

So now we see the variety of programs MHVI offers, and we have a high degree of comfort that donations are being used to "help". But I wanted to dig deeper. Debbie and Kiana were very understanding, and gave me two real life examples of what the support from Hartland Squadron 294 and others have done.

David is a patient at the local VA Hospital right down the street. (Note: David is not his real name). He is a Vietnam veteran and has been hospitalized for two months. Since his medical condition has improved, he is scheduled to be discharged soon. However, David has no home, no spouse, and no children. With physical disabilities and no typical support system in place, where does David go? Far too often, men and women like David, go to the street. But Debbie learned of David, and MHVI stepped in to help.

Some time ago, David had an eviction, and finding traditional housing was pretty difficult. MHVI spoke with numerous apartment complexes in hopes of finding an understanding manager, with not much luck. Through persistence, Debbie and her staff found David a place to move into. But rules are rules, and the security deposit could not be waived. David has financial limitations so he couldn't afford it. MHVI dipped into their funds and satisfied the deposit.

David gets his pension, but "friends" figured out they could con David just enough to take his money. If David would have gone back to his former living arrangement, he would once again be victimized and this vicious cycle would simply repeat. Now he has help and understands his finances so he can no longer be conned. In the meantime, he needs food. Enter the MHVI Food Pantry where everything is no charge. MHVI also does case & crisis management, so they get to the issues facing the veteran and better understand what help is truly needed.

Because MHVI has been so successful in helping veterans, they have become the VA's primary referral source in Milwaukee. They recently stepped in to help a veteran and accomplished the goals in 30 days where channeling through the conventional system could have taken months if not years.

Bikes For Stripes offers a free bicycle to any veteran in need, recently giving away 237 bicycles to veterans. Even in our cold, snowy winters, these hardy vets are seen riding their bicycles to work. Through Furniture For Heros, numerous families have been able to set-up beds and tables with comfortable seating so a normal life becomes a reality.. Veterans Resource Post is where they can come to shop for the items they need … clothing, toothpaste, almost every essential is there waiting for them. No questions. No fees. Just help. Women Veterans Independent Network (WOVIN) is growing by leaps and bounds. Many of our female veterans have suffered greatly during their service with little recourse. Some have children and are homeless. Many female veterans have made this their mission – to help other female veterans and MHVI aids them in this task. Clothing, Food, counseling and a shoulder when needed.

Amy, a veteran of the Gulf War and single mother to a young girl, was homeless … living in her car, needing the basics of food, shelter, healthcare and housing. A victim of MST (Military Sexual Trama), Amy did a google search and found MHVI. She made contact and got help. She got involved in WOVIN, a program exclusively for female veterans. She tried the 211 System, but was put on a very long waiting list. Out of options, Amy received help in finding housing. She was set up with the VA voucher system that pays a portion of her rent. In order to make a better, safer home for herself and daughter, Amy knew she needed to break this cycle and find gainful employment. But her wardrobe was desperately lacking. So MHVI gave her clothing that made an impression and she got the job! Because of that and the help she was receiving, her daughter was gifted with a laptop computer so she would not fall behind in school. Gail is now a bright, successful student and doing very well.

With a helping hand, this veteran has started her own business. Although it's very new, she's donating her product to others in hopes it will help others in need. She hopes to someday grow the business to make it a full-time, life-time career.

Back to the $370,000.00. An active food pantry, clothing of all types and sizes. Furniture (gently used but in wonderful condition), emotional help, financial counseling, case management, transportation assistance, personal hygiene products, toys for young children, kitchen tools – hand tools, microwaves, pots/pans – everything needed to get started. And these are the tangible things we see. What's impossible to measure is the vast knowledge and networking from agencies like MHVI.

>>>>>Continued on Page 11

The Impact of Donations
>>>*Continued from Page 10*

Without people like Hartland Squadron 294 and Operation Homeless Veterans, these agencies would struggle even more. The dollars you give truly do make a difference. And let's not forget, since Hartland began this project, any number of other squadrons are doing the same. Freezin For A Reason is the most common name, but they are all raising awareness and funds for quality veteran programs.

If your community doesn't have something like MHVI, start one! David and Amy might still be living in their cars or on the street. As a Legion Rider, I might have received a call asking us to escort an unclaimed veteran to the cemetery. A young girl would not be getting an education, because they'd still be homeless. A small cottage business wouldn't have been created and the people benefiting from her giving back, would not be helped.

Proof that the cute little basket raffle you spent a few dollars on makes a difference.

Chris Casey (NE), National Vice Commander Midwest Region

Spotlight: Wearing Pride in South Dakota

The Polo Shirt Program was created by Casey Hanson and Shane Lamer during the National Convention in Milwaukee, where they brainstormed ways to support their American Legion Department. Recognizing that membership growth was the greatest need, they decided that incentives could inspire Sons of the American Legion (SAL) members to get involved. Their idea was a custom polo shirt that recruiters could wear with pride to showcase their success. With Shane's embroidery and decal printing business handling production, the program was quickly put into action.

Any SAL member—regular or dual—who recruits a new Legion member receives a bright, neon-colored polo shirt, paid for by the Detachment of South Dakota. One side of the shirt features the phrase "Got One For The Legion Family," while the other displays the Detachment SAL logo. The shirt color changes annually—neon yellow in 2023 and neon orange in 2024—but always stays bright to maintain visibility and spark conversations. To receive a shirt, an SAL member submits their recruit's name to a state officer; after verification, the member's shirt size is collected, the order is placed, and the shirt is personally delivered by an officer. Each additional recruit earns the member another shirt, though most find that one neon shirt is more than enough.

Now in its fourth year, the Polo Shirt Program has proven to be a valuable tool for membership growth. In its first three years, the Sons recruited over 150 new Legionnaires for the Department of South Dakota. Its success has caught the attention of other states, with Georgia, Minnesota, Kansas, and Oklahoma adopting the program within their own detachments. More than just a shirt, it has become a badge of pride, recognition, and commitment to strengthening the Legion Family.

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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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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Detachment Vice Commander Lance Bymers - Tucson, Arizona

Arizona: Swinging clubs for charity

On September 6, 2025, under partially clear desert skies and a spirit of unity, Squadron 36 of Tucson, Arizona teed off for more than just birdies and bragging rights. Our annual golf tournament was more than a day of friendly competition—it was a mission-driven event that brought together our community and leadership to raise critical funds for Detachment of Arizona charities, including the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA).

Submitted Photo: (L to R) AZ Past Department Commander Steve Sperl, AZ NEC Joe Roberts, Az Alt. NEC Chris Balsley, Dept. District 3 Commander Ja-Hari Brinkman

Submitted Photo: (L to R) AZ ALR Chairman Tracy Lindsey, Past Aide to the National Commander Steven Navarrete (NM), AZ SAL Detachment Commander Gary Manwell, and PNC Joesph Navarrete (NM)

We're proud to report that this year's tournament raised over $11,000—a record-breaking total that reflects not only the generosity of our supporters but also the growing strength of our Squadron and its impact statewide.

The event was made even more special by the presence of some of our most respected leaders. Joining us were Sons of The American Legion State Commander (2025–26) Gary Manwell and American Legion Riders Chairman Tracy Lindsey, both of whom continue to set an example of servant leadership for our members across Arizona.

We were especially honored to welcome Past National Commander (2024–25) Joseph Navarrete and his National Aide, Steven Navarrete, whose dedication to our national mission continues to inspire younger generations of SAL members. Their presence elevated the tone of the event and reminded us of the broader family we're all a part of.

The tournament also saw a powerhouse foursome made up of Detachment of Arizona NEC Joe Roberts, Alt. NEC Chris Balsley, Arizona's Past Department Commander Steve Sperl, and District 3 Commander Ja-Hari Brinkmann—a group that showed just as much precision on the fairway as they do in their leadership roles.

While we may have swung clubs for a day, the impact of this event will resonate for months—and lives—to come. Whether you played, sponsored, volunteered, or simply cheered us on, your support made this day a success.

As we look ahead to future events and opportunities to serve, this tournament reminds us of what we can accomplish when we come together with purpose, passion, and just a little bit of competitive spirit.

From the greens of Tucson to the heart of our mission—thank you for standing with Squadron 36 and the Detachment of Arizona.

See you at the next tee box.

Steve Honigfort (OH), National Vice Commander Central Region

Spotlight: A Legacy of service in the Detachment of Illinois

Since its inception in 1963, the Illinois SAL has supported the mission of The American Legion, primarily by honoring the service and sacrifice of veterans through community service, education, and advocacy. Over the years, the Illinois Sons have:

- Fundraised extensively for The American Legion Child Well Being Foundation.
- Volunteered countless hours in five VA hospitals and state-run veterans homes, providing companionship, entertainment, and support such as purchasing medical equipment and clothing for patients.
- Promoted patriotic education in schools and communities, teaching respect for the American flag, citizenship, and the fundamentals of democracy.
- Supported veterans and their families, especially through hardship, disaster, and memorial efforts, in partnership with local American Legion posts.
- Worked with our State Legislature's to create an Illinois SAL emblem license plate, set to go "live" in 2026.

From Dart Tournaments to CWF sock sales, the Detachment of Illinois actively works hard to support all efforts of The Illinois American Legion family. During the 2024-2025 membership year the Illinois Sons of The American Legion raised funds for or assisted in the following programs...

- Be the One walk
- Run for the Haven Veterans Day Camp
- Youth Cadet Police School
- Premiere Boys State
- Illini Girls State
- Department of Illinois Golf Outing Fundraiser
- Flag Etiquette Program
- Volunteered at VAMC's and State Veterans homes.

Illinois' membership is once again at an all-time high which enables the organization to expand its impact and continue its legacy of service into the next generation because every new member is a potential leader, volunteer, and advocate for America's veterans and their families. The Illinois Sons of The American Legion continues to grow in size and impact, driven by the belief that honoring the past strengthens the future for all Americans. Joining the Illinois Sons of The American Legion is a powerful way to carry forward the values of service, citizenship, and patriotism that defines what America stands for.

Casey Hanson (SD), Midwest Chairman, National M&SA Committee

Honor Flight

On June 5th, 2024 I had the distinct privilege to be a guardian on a Midwest Honor Flight. My veteran was a friend I already knew who had served in Vietnam and my next door neighbor who also served in Vietnam was also on the flight. I believe our flight had 85 American heroes on board, along with their guardians, medical staff, and honor flight directors. The day started off early as we had to be up and ready to go in the motel lobby at 4AM. We bussed to the airport together and upon arriving they made check in easy and fast. Once we got to our terminal they fed us all a sack breakfast and waited to board the flight. Once we boarded the flight seemed to go fast and was smooth sailing.

When we landed at the Ronald Reagan International Airport our veterans were welcomed with a water cannon salute by the airport emergency staff. As we walked off the plane and through the jet bridge, you could hear loud music playing and people cheering very loudly. When the veterans and their guardians appeared from the tunnel into the terminal, massive crowds of people cheered and greeted these heroes with open arms. We boarded busses and throughout the day had stops at the Air Force Memorial (which overlooks the Pentagon), Arlington National Cemetery for the changing of the guards, the Iwo Jima Memorial, the Capital Building, the World War II Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Wall, and Lincoln Memorial. The very cool thing was at the World War II Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery, there were numerous schools that were there on field trips - and when the busses full of these veterans unloaded and walked towards the sites, these school aged kids parted the sidewalks and made way for these men and women. The kids cheered and clapped, extending their hands and thanking them for their service. It was something to see.

The Honor Flight was so well organized and thought through. Everyone was fed throughout the day and cared for. There was even an accident with another touring bus in our proximity, and some of our bus captains ran to help out and with no major injuries we were back on our way. The day was long, but very worthwhile. It gave these veterans a chance to visit these national monuments, that they normally may never get to see. On the way home they had a thing called "Mail Call" where the veterans names were called out and they were handed a stack full of written letters. Some letters from family, some from unknown children, some from other veterans they served with. This is where a thing called the "Honor Flight Allergies" came into play. These letters were thank you's from these people, and not a dry eye was on the plane as the veterans quietly read each of their letters. When we landed back in South Dakota, bagpipe players welcomed our veterans home and the Rolling Thunder and American Legion Riders escorted the busses back to the convention center for the welcome home ceremony. As we rolled into the arena, family and friends of the veterans were waiting with signs, banners, noise makers...all cheering with a grateful heart.

One of the bus captains turned and asked my veteran what he thought the best part of the day was. His reply was that everything was great, but the kids that cheered and clapped as the veterans walked towards the memorials he would never forget because that wasn't the welcome home he received. Another thing that sticks with me is when my neighbor quietly said he hadn't been on a plane since his return flight from Vietnam. He served 18 months in the Army total, and 13 of those months were on the front lines in Vietnam. Other veterans on the flight stated that this trip was the closure they needed to move on from a place they never wanted to go back to.

It was an amazing experience to visit these memorials with these heroes. It brought more meaning to the trip. My veteran and neighbor both knew people listed on the wall, and it was both their first time visiting it. I encourage every veteran that is able to apply for an honor flight and make the trip to do so. It is a healing journey that only they can experience. I also encourage any person that can be a guardian to apply and go also. Being able to look after these veterans and see the emotions run through them is truly awe inspiring. It gives you a new found appreciation for what these veterans saw and went through. And if you're lucky enough to have school field trips attended at the same time, there is a good chance you will witness a revived sense of patriotism in our youth.

Gary Crawford (NJ), Publicity Chairman
Neptune Squadron 346

New Jersey: No Veteran Will Be Forgotten

A routine Memorial Day tradition led to a shocking discovery for American Legion Post 321, exposing a heart-wrenching practice that leaves U.S. military veterans buried in unmarked graves for years. Post 321 has since launched the Veterans Grave Marker Project, which has already restored honor and provided closure to the families of several forgotten heroes.

For years, members of Union Beach American Legion Post 321—including Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion, and the Auxiliary—have proudly walked the Shoreland Memorial Gardens cemetery in Hazlet, NJ each Memorial Day weekend morning, placing over 450 American flags on veterans' graves. But in 2023, a simple request from the cemetery manager changed everything.

Bob LaCour, Chaplain of Squadron 321, was asked to bring a few extra flags to the office to dress any graves that might have been missed. He was directed to a side closet, where he found a post-it note attached to one of several veteran's grave stones leaning against the wall that read, "Not Paid", meaning to not install the stone on the grave.

The discovery revealed a troubling reality: if a veteran's family could not afford the installation fee for a flat head or foot stone—a cost ranging from $1,000 to $1,600—the marker was left in a storage closet or maintenance basement, while the deceased veteran rested in an unmarked grave, difficult or impossible to be found by those who come to mourn and pay their respects. The grave markers are provided free of charge by the Department of Veteran Affairs, but installation charges are determined by the individual cemeteries.

Once this disturbing injustice was brought forward to the membership by LaCour, the response from Post Commander William Gilkison and Squadron Commander Phil Ganz, as well as the membership, was fast and firm. The Legion Family of Post 321 was going to fix this.

Joe Pitch, a former Marine and member of Post 321 and the local band The Vinyl Renegades, offered to conduct a fundraiser. Together with the band's followers and the Marcella Community Club in Rockaway NJ, the event raised over $5,600 to fund the proper placement of the veteran's granite or bronze grave markers at the cemetery.

The SAL 321 organized solemn ceremonies to finally honor these veterans that had long been neglected. Services were held to provide much deserved closure for the families of:

- SSGT. Marie Freitag, USMC:WR, WWII, who passed away in 1993.
- Sgt. Jose Antonio Albino, U.S. Army, Vietnam Era, who passed away in 1995.
- Sr. Petty Officer Herman Lee Credle, a 22-year career U.S. Navy veteran, who passed away in 2020.

Submitted Photo: USMC SSGT Marie Freitag's grave receives its headstone in Hazlet, NJ

The last 2 ceremonies, held on July 19, drew an outpouring of support from the military community. A sizable number of supporters turned out for the ceremonies, including many of the veteran's family members.

Auxiliary members supported the project through their President Kathy Pilon. ALA Beth Sweeney assisted LaCour in making the three ceremonies successful, donating dozens of roses and buntings as well as providing narration during each ceremony.

Squadron 321 Adjutant Dominick Donatelli filmed and created solemn videos of each ceremony, with copies presented to each family. Tim's Earth Angels Foundation, through the Kelly Family, provided a significant donation toward the project.

Military Service members in attendance included NWS Earle Base Commander Captain Kent D. Smith, accompanied by three Senior Petty Officers in dress whites.

Retired Navy Chief Richard Tate and 15 uniformed Navy JROTC Cadets from Neptune High School presented the colors, and folded the flag that was presented to the families. Post 321's Honor Guard presented the Colors led by Commander Gilikson and SAL Commander Ganz.

Also in attendance were highly decorated U.S. Army Green Beret Staff Sergeant Mark Antal, and two Army Captains, ROTC instructors from Fordham University.

The project gained significant support from Mark Otto, a USMC Veteran and Director of the United War Veterans Council. Retired Corporal Otto attended the ceremonies and created personalized framed presentation certificates for the families, and helped recruit other military members to participate. Otto is a member of American Legion Post #1 in Paris, France.

What began with a scribbled note in a cemetery closet has become a powerful mission for American Legion Post 321, ensuring that no veteran in their community is ever left buried without their grave properly marked.

According to Bob LaCour, who spearheaded this project, "There is a large number of these unmarked Veteran graves across New Jersey, and my research has revealed it's in many communities nationwide! Allowing us to expose this is greatly appreciated and necessary to bring just and honorable closure to these Veterans and their families. The American Legion Family vows that no Veteran will be forgotten."

LaCour, a thirty-five year retired Battalion Chief from the Edison Division of Fire and proud son of a former USMC; WR Mom (WWII: Camp Lejeune/Paris Island) is an active member and currently Chaplain of SAL 321. He said, "It's in my wheelhouse and DNA to be involved in the community and I strongly feel this must be exposed and corrected. We can't let this go!"

Tyler Vanice (VA), 100th Anniversary Committee Chairman

Send us your SAL History!

As members of the Sons of The American Legion, we carry forward the proud traditions of our parent organization, The American Legion, by supporting veterans, their families, and our communities. Yet, when it comes to documenting our own history, there's a gap that needs filling. The American Legion Library and Emil A. Blackmore Museum, located at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, boast an impressive collection of artifacts, documents, and memorabilia chronicling The American Legion's story from its founding in 1919 to its role in landmark events like the GI Bill. The museum features uniforms, convention badges, award medals, dioramas depicting scenes from World War I through the War on Terrorism, original artworks by renowned artists like Howard Chandler Christy and Joe Rosenthal, and a vast array of historical books and records in the library.

However, while these collections are rich in American Legion materials and insights into America's wars since World War I, they contain relatively little on the Sons of The American Legion. Our organization's unique contributions through fundraising, youth programs, and community service deserve to be preserved and celebrated alongside those of our forebears. This is where you come in. By donating your SAL related items, you can help bridge this gap and ensure that future generations understand the full scope of our legacy.

What kinds of donations are welcome? Think SAL specific memorabilia such as squadron badges, event programs, uniforms, photographs from SAL conventions or charitable activities, newsletters, or even personal stories tied to your service. If you have physical artifacts, contact the museum first before sending anything. Provide a detailed description of the item, its condition, a brief history of its ownership (including its connection to SAL or The American Legion), and photographs. All accepted donations become the property of The American Legion and require a signed Gift Donation Form. Unsolicited shipments cannot be accepted, so start by reaching out to Library and Museum by visiting https://www.legion.org/information-center/library-museum or by mail at The American Legion National Headquarters, c/o Museum, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Don't have physical items? Consider sending high-resolution digital images or scans of your SAL treasures. Be sure to include provenance details such as the year the photo was taken, who's in it, where it was captured, and any relevant context. This information is crucial for accurate archiving and helps curators weave your story into the broader narrative. Digital submissions can preserve fragile items without risking damage during transport and allow the museum to create online exhibits accessible to all.

The American Legion Library and Museum are open to the public by appointment, offering research assistance on veterans' issues and U.S. military history. If your donation isn't a fit, the staff could suggest alternative repositories. Let's step up as SAL members and enrich this vital resource. Your story matters; preserve it today for tomorrow's heroes.

Mike Pook (WI), Staff Contributor to The Millennium

"Mentoring Moments"

The Sons of the American Legion is structured as follows.

Squadrons – The smallest division, the squadron represents a city where an American Legion Post is located.

Districts and Counties - All the squadrons within a county or several counties.

Detachment - All of the squadrons within one state.

National—the organization as a whole, which includes the 55 detachments around the world.

BE THE ONE
www.BeTheOne.org

Projected Distribution Schedule for *The Millennium*

Wednesday 12 November 2025
Wednesday 10 December 2025
Wednesday 14 January 2026
Wednesday 11 February 2026
Wednesday 11 March 2026
Wednesday 08 April 2026
Wednesday 13 May 2026
Wednesday 12 June 2026

Look for this newsletter monthly in the Digital Newsletter, or check out all of the SAL's archived newsletters at https://archive.legion.org/

AMERICAN LEGION Digital Archive

Nick Williams, The News Item (www.newsitem.com)—*02 Sept 2025*

Pennsylvania: District 17 honors 9/11 victims at All Home Days

Master of Ceremonies Donald Deppen took the Ralpho Township Community Park stage on Saturday afternoon to pay a powerful tribute to those who fell on Sept. 11, 2001.

The nation lost 2,996 people in the second attack on United States soil, Deppen said as he began his address.

News Item Photo: Master of Ceremonies Donald Deppen salutes as the National Anthem is played

His sentiment began with honoring the 343 firefighters who perished.

"In the olden days, when a firefighter died in the line of duty, fire stations would transmit five bell strikes four times in their honor," he said during the ceremony.

He asked the crowd for a moment of silence, then handed Dorene Meaders, of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) District 17 auxiliary, a small gavel. Meaders struck a miniature bell a total of 20 times.

After this, other members of District 17 fell in line, marching to present the nation's colors.

Chaplain Gary Roberts delivered a brief invocation.

With the tribute officially underway, Deppen recognized all active service members, Blue Star families and first line personnel.

Blue Star families describe those who have an active-duty service member in their household. Each family hangs a white banner with a blue star in their windows to let community members know of their relative's service.

Deppen said the tradition dates back to 1817.

A memorial prayer followed.

"We ask that you remember all those who lost their lives in 9/11," Roberts prayed. "May they be remembered with thanksgiving and love."

A memorial wreath was then laid by District 17 Auxiliary President Patti Zwalkoski, materializing the esteem for those who lost their lives.

After a gunfire salute, District 17 bugler Scott Atherton sounded taps with a trumpet.

Roberts delivered a benediction, closing the ceremony and asking God to sustain, protect and carry us forward.

"We want to thank everyone for coming out," Deppen said as the tribute drew to an end. "Your presence sends a message that 9/11 is not forgotten."

DJ Jerry Whitenight then played Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA," and attendees turned to salute Old Glory.

"Always remember, we have the greatest country in the world," Whitenight said after the song.

Deppen holds the adjutant position for District 17 and Squadron 504 of the SAL. He said his district has spearheaded this tribute for the last four years. Previously, District 13 ran the event.

"I'm a member of the SAL, an emergency medical services worker and firefighter, so this hits me all the way around," Deppen said, of the ceremony. "We do this to remember 9/11 and for everyone who lost their lives."

Legiontown.org -*16 Sept 2025*

New Mexico: Squadron 10, along with the community, raise new flags

Legiontown Photo: Squadron 10 Adjutant Theron Imlay and Post 10 Sergeant at Arms, Peggy Galarza raise the new Post 10 American Legion family flags with the assistance of the Loma Heights Elementary School Extreme Team.

The entire Joe P. Quesenberry American Legion Post 10 family in Las Cruces, N.M., was represented at the flag-raising ceremony last month led by Sons of The American Legion Squadron 10. The Las Cruces Fire Department from Station 1 lent their assistance with installing the new lanyards. Joining the Legionnaires was the Loma Heights Elementary School Extreme Team, who assisted with raising the new post flags. Squadron 10 Commander William Wight spoke at the post family event on the importance of the American flag, while Post 10 Commander/Squadron 10 Adjutant Theron Imlay, and Post 10 Sergeant-at-Arms Peggy Galarza, raised the flags with the students.

After the flags were raised, those present rang the Legion and Auxiliary bells five times as part of the Department of New Mexico 250 Celebration while the Unit 10 Auxiliary "Singing Poppies" led a patriotic song. The Chapter 4 Riders along with Post 10 Finance Officer Ray Allen III served up hamburgers and hot dogs for everyone in attendance.

Legiontown Photo, at left: Squadron 10 and Department District 7 leadership, thank the Las Cruces Station 1 Fire Department Engine Crew for their assistance in the post flag-raising ceremonies.

Bryan Hine (TN), National Vice Commander Southeast Region

Spotlight: Detachment of Tennessee

The Detachment of Tennessee is made up of roughly 1,850 members, with 48 supporting squadrons.

The Detachment Commander and Adjutant communicates regularly via email with the squadrons, advising them of important information coming from National, Department, Detachment, along with membership numbers. Donations this past year were to CWF, VCF, fire victims in California, and flood recovery efforts in East Tennessee.

The state is divided into three grand divisions: west, middle, and east. Last year, the eastern division held their first "Division Conference" which was a great success, with plans in the works for one in mid October.

The Detachment also supports the "Be The One" program. The Department of Tennessee actually held an in-person class at the Department/Detachment Convention in June, which was attended by severely SAL members.

Basic training education is readily available here in Tennessee, as the Department's Education and Training Chairman Steve Weismann provides an in-house class when requested by a Legion post or SAL squadron.

The Department of Tennessee has a website, www.tennesseelegion.org, where you can access SAL information under the SAL tab.

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

SAVE THE DATE

2026 Washington Conference
SAL Wreath Laying Ceremonies
Sunday, 01 March 2026

David Jolly (NY), National Chaplain

Chaplain's Corner

God, I lift before you the members of the American Legion Family and especially my brothers in the Sons of the American Legion. You have blessed us all to be a blessing, and always we have answered the call with a sense of duty resulting in due diligence and far more. Now God we come asking for a double portion of your blessing.

Soldiers have given their all for as long as our nation has existed- and even before that to win our nationhood. Now veterans and active duty are losing hope and taking their own lives. You God have called us to "Be the One" to help reduce and eliminate this epidemic of death. We acknowledge this battle to have us extremely out of our depth. So, God we reply as Moses did in Exodus 33:15, "Lord, if you not going with us, do not send us." Moses was honest with God; without you we will fail at this.

Then let us remember that with God leading, no battle is too large, no task to big. May our hearts and minds be clearly focused on the sacrifice and life of the soldier as our motivation. May our faith in God be our power to make this happen.

May we all be in prayer that all of us will "Be the One", God willing and God is." We pray in the name of God who is holy to each one.

National Chaplain Jolly has provided the first in a series of monthly reflections, and we challenge our chaplains from across the organization—from the squadron chaplain on up—to provide a prayer, reflection, or reading for *The Millennium* to publish each edition to lift up and inspire your fellow Sons. Email your submissions to rusty.myers@ymail.com.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH RESOURCES

Go to this address on Legion.org for a variety of tools, including one-pagers, videos and more, to help engage and support youth through The American Legion's youth programs.

Expand your knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization online!

Take The American Legion Basic Training Course
https://register.legion.org/alei

Harl "Butch" Ray (IL), Nat'l Membership & Squadron Activities

Our Path to Growth

Congratulations for being 6% above the 10% mark on our goal date!!

As we begin a new journey for the 2025-2026 Administrative year let us ready ourselves to climb even higher than where we finished!

Every great movement starts with a single step. The Sons of The American Legion (SAL) was founded in 1932, created to honor the service and sacrifice of American Legionnaires by welcoming male descendants of veterans into an organization rooted in patriotism, duty, and community spirit.

At the outset of our mission to reach 412,300 members by July 1, 2026, it's important to remember not only why we walk this road, but also that every journey begins with a goal—on July 1st that day began for all of us.

"Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together," said Vincent van Gogh.

Our path to growth and community impact will be defined by the steady progress of each person who believes in our mission. Right now, even inviting one friend or relative to join the SAL doubles our strength. As we start this campaign, think of yourself as a founding member of a new chapter in history—a single voice joining other patriots that will ring out for years to come.

Our mission is more than numbers: it's about supporting veterans, teaching citizenship and patriotism, and helping those in need. The "BE the ONE" initiative alone has saved many lives and will only continue to do so as we bring more Sons into this program!

Membership doesn't merely fund initiatives; it fuels our 93 year legacy of service stretching from local communities to Capitol Hill, and now, perhaps more than ever, America needs that spirit. Just look at last year's accomplishments sheet and you can see in black and white why we together make a difference! By participating, you help ensure that future generations have the resources and guidance they need to honor our country's traditions.

As we look to America's 250th anniversary in 2026, let's remind ourselves and others that every new member strengthens our ability to serve, educate, and preserve freedom for the next century. This month, ask someone to join you—and together, let's continue this extraordinary journey.

Be on the lookout for the November Millennium, where we will have a good deal of content dedicated to membership retention and recruiting—including the IRA Pin below.

Maryland Department Commander Nikki Carnes Randolph and Detachment Commander Jason Miller doing the USA 250 Challenge.

Celebrate the nation's semiquincentennial by taking part in The American Legion's USA 250 Challenge. Your participation, whether as an individual or part of a team, helps honor our veterans and uplift communities nationwide while promoting physical fitness, mental wellness, and community service.

Participants may engage in one, two or all three activities as an an individual or as part of a team like an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron and/or an American Legion Riders chapter.

For a $30 registration fee, participants will receive their choice of a USA 250 Challenge tech shirt. The proceeds will go to the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF).

Register Here
www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/usa250/challenge

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, On The Back Cover .....

From the American Legion Digital Archives

THE LEGION HEIR
Vol. 3 — Indianapolis, Indiana, October, 1940 — No. 10

Let us Cherish ARMISTICE DAY

Armistice Day is primarily a day of celebration for men who served their country in 1917-1918. However, members of The Sons of The American Legion can be a part of this observance, and are urged to offer their services in programs which might be scheduled for the day.

If a parade is a part of the program, the S. A. L. Bands and Drum and Bugle Corps might well take part. If the program calls for plays and pageants, the members of the S. A. L. can be a part of this phase of the observance.

Practically all schools throughout the land now have some kind of a program on November 11th. And here again members of The Sons of the American Legion can offer their services.

SQUADRON CAPS

This latest Squadron cap is beautifully tailored from special French blue uniform cloth of an improved quality. Attractively trimmed with red, white and blue piping. The official SAL insignia, which is appliqued on the left side of the cap, is beautifully embroidered in colors.

THERE IS NO SPECIAL INSCRIPTION OR LETTERING ON SQUADRON CAPS.

Squadron caps are made in regulation head-sizes—6½, 6¾, 6⅞, etc.—and it is necessary that each order be accompanied by a complete schedule of sizes.

PRICE 90c EACH
(any quantity)
Send Orders to
EMBLEM DIVISION
National Headquarters, American Legion
777 North Meridian St., Indianapolis, Indiana

Be on the look out for "Spotted by a Son"

Every month, The Millennium will hide a small picture or graphic inside the newsletter—first one to find it who email's rusty.myers@ymail.com will get their name published in the next newsletter and will receive a prize!

It's October—so this month, find the pumpkin!