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Top Ten Detachments
2026 Membership Percentage

- | | |
|------------------|---------|
| 1. Philippines | 108.33% |
| 2. Dist. Of Col. | 67.42% |
| 3. Hawaii | 64.49% |
| 4. France | 63.47% |
| 5. Louisiana | 57.72% |
| 6. Nevada | 55.22% |
| 7. Ohio | 54.26% |
| 8. Iowa | 53.51% |
| 9. Wisconsin | 52.82% |
| 10. Alabama | 52.17% |

Statistics as of 06 November 2025

BE THE ONE



Special to *The Millennium*
National Commander William "Bill" Clancy III (NY)

Patriotism and Good Citizenship on America's 250th birthday

Many of us are old enough to remember the year 1976, and all of the tremendous excitement around America's Bicentennial birthday. My own mother sewed homemade Continental Army uniforms for my brother

Mike and I, and we marched as a fife player and drummer in several parades. Every town in America had some exciting event to celebrate the country's 200-year anniversary.

The nation was a lot different then; our WWII veterans were still in their prime, and Vietnam vets had just come home. No internet, no cell phones, or personal computers. The best technology of the day was the NASA moon landings, and in 1976 the SAL had just 29,484 members.

50 years and 370,000-plus members later, the SAL is a growing force in American society and it's up to us to keep patriotism, American pride, and principles of good citizenship strong in every state and every town.

So let's get going. Let's get fired up for a big birthday party this coming July 4th. Let's recruit more veterans and more Sons to join the American Legion Family, and make sure that every one of our 6,000 squadrons is doing something unique and something LOUD for America's 250th birthday.

My plans for the year include spreading the word on taking part in the America Legion USA 250 Challenge.

It's an easy challenge to take part in, and you can get your friends and family to take the challenge as well. You make some kind of a commitment to take part in one of three things: fitness, OR community Service, OR contribute to the mental wellness of other people in your community.

Everything you do should be focused around USA 250. Beyond that, you get to be creative.

You could walk 250 miles over the course of the year, or you could walk 250 laps around your American Legion Post. You could do it yourself, or you could do with 25 friends.

I'm committing to 250 workouts in all of my travels around the country. I will plant 250 trees in the names of veterans, and visit 2,500 veterans in nursing homes or hospitals over the course of the year. I think each of these activities will be fun, but fun with purpose!

So get out there, take the USA 250 Challenge, and have fun for America's 250th birthday!



**For more about USA 250, go to legion.org:
www.legion.org/usa250**

**Register for the USA 250 Challenge here:
www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/usa250/challenge**





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

Get Out Of Your Post!

That sounds mean, but I hope the title gets your attention.

I don't mean leave ... I mean 'get out' as in go outside your home post to other squadrons, counties, and detachments. You may just learn a few things, and make some good friends doing it.

I can't take credit for the saying ... dual member PDVC Mike Smith from New Jersey said that at a Moving Forward workshop held in the state. Mike's point was that you can only do and learn so much within the four walls of your post.

NJ holds two of these Moving Forward sessions each year, as I'm sure many other departments across the country do. These workshops are open to the entire Legion Family, and have a focus on training which will prepare the organization for the next 100 years.

For many participants, this is the first time they've attended a department-level training workshop, and the hope is they leave with a few nuggets of new information to take back home and implement at the post, unit, squadron, or chapter level. Or at the very least meet new people.

It's the whole concept of "get out of your post" ... just because your squadron operates a certain way doesn't necessarily mean **that's the right way**. By leaving your home post or squadron, you get to see how other places function ... and you may return and use some of that to benefit what you can do at home. You get to watch how other squadrons function, you get to talk to some of the folks who have been around the organization for a while, and you get to see the dynamic of how other post families interact to better serve our vets, or kids, and our communities.

It's about my favorite topic to write on ... the

brotherhood. It's about meeting fellow Sons, nurturing those bonds that unite us, and networking. It's about the friendships we create ... which is what this is about. Commander Clancy hits the nail on the head .. this is about **"Fun with Purpose."**

As we have read over and over and over again in these editorials, I had the distinct honor to be accepted to SAL-U in 2024 ... as one of "The Dirty Dozen." This class produced a who's-who of current leadership, including one Leading Candidate for National Commander, one National Vice Commander, NEC's and ANEC's, and as it sits now at least three current Detachment Commanders.

NY's Detachment Commander Joe Guidice was someone who I have gotten to know well over the past two years since the SAL-U experience. I had worked with Joe on the Media Communications Commission, but have also spent time with him and Massachusetts Detachment Commander Jesse Limanek at the National Conventions and NEC's. Plus, Commander Joe is a fellow cigar guy as well!



Editor's Photo: left to right—PNC Chris Cerullo (NY), Detachment Commander Joe Guidice (NY), and the editor.

Anyway, Joe had invited New Jersey's Detachment Commander and Vice Commanders to the Detachment of New York's Post-Fall DEC Oktoberfest. It was unbelievably kind for him to do so, especially after a long day of DEC meetings with

Sons from around NY's 60-plus counties.

NJ DVC James Elsmore and I made the trip into the Empire State, to Joe's home post in Thiells, NY. Leo Laders Post 130 sits on a beautiful piece of property, in a very well manicured and maintained post building.

We walked into the post not knowing anyone right away. Joe was busy setting up outside for the dinner. The people we met from across New York's Legion Family couldn't have been more welcoming—and immediately made us feel like we were home and were part of their family. For the next three or four hours, we made new friends and really truly enjoyed ourselves and the people we got a chance to meet.

The Oktoberfest wasn't a fundraiser or a part of an official meeting or anything else Legion

-business oriented ... it was just a chance for members from across the Family to get together, have fun, and enjoy being around each other. I can't thank Commander Joe enough for including us ... it was one of those events where it was hard to leave.

I write up all of this about the New York event because it drives home my point of **"Get out of your Post!"** ... these amazing experiences both through *The Millennium* and through the people I have met have only been possible because I took the leap and left the four walls of my home post.

These are the things we need to share with the new members, or the members who want to start being more involved ... stories about the brotherhood and the camaraderie. Read the next few pages—this month, we focus on membership recruitment and retention. Tell the stories of how you got where you are with other SAL's, and show them—not just explain to them—the value of this bond we have together as Sons.

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

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SAL NATIONAL ADJUTANT

[Anthony W. Wright](#) (PA)

SAL NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDERS

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Southeast: [Bryan Hine](#) (TN)

Central: [Chris Casey](#) (NE)

Midwest: [Steve Honigfort](#) (OH)

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Mike Monserud (IA), Trailing Candidate for National Commander

Holiday Buddy Checks

During the holidays, be sure to check on your veterans who you have not seen around the Post in a while.

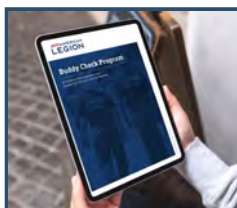
I remember when I was in the Navy and deployed during the holidays, it was tough to be away from family, but you were with brothers- and sisters-in-arms so you were in it all together ... and we all strived to make the best of what we had at the time. When the veteran returns home, they may seclude themselves and become depressed during the holidays. It happens when they think that they do not have anyone. I encourage you to host a holiday meal at your post for the veterans that do not have anyone to share it with. Let them know that you are thinking of them and they are not alone, as there is no veteran that should feel alone, especially in the American Legion Family. If your post does not host a meal and you know of a veteran that is alone, invite them over to break bread with you and your family - and trust me from experience that this will mean more to them than you may think. It happened to me many times while in the Navy, and for many years even after I was no longer serving.

This also applies to checking on the veterans that are in the nursing homes who may not have anyone to visit them. We need to always remember that we are not just Sons during meetings or events at the post, but 365 days a year. If there is a veteran with an unmet need, it is up to us to step up and assist that veteran by any means possible. When you see their faces light up and how much they appreciate the gesture, I can here to tell you it will be the most satisfying thing you witnessed that day.



BUDDY CHECK

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!



Download the Buddy Check Toolkit



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

"Mentoring Moments"

New members are the lifeline of the organization. It is the new members that will help grow the organization. It is up to the existing members to make the new members feel welcome. Personally invite them to other Post functions where you plan to be at. Sit with them and get to know them.

Whenever possible, introduce them to members of the Legion Family so other personal connections can start up. Once a new member feels a real connection with other members, you'll see them coming back more often and become a valued member. There is always a need for assistance in volunteerism and leadership, who knows, they just be the next to you!



Eugene Gort (IL), Assistant Detachment Adjutant

Working Together

As I sit watching my daughter during her ballet lesson, I am caught up with thoughts of the American Legion Family and what it means to me. As a 32 year member of the Sons of The American Legion, I reflect on growing up in an American Legion Post. During my pre-teen years, many weekends were spent at the Franklin Park Post #974, in Franklin Park, IL. My younger brother and I were typically in the back room playing games or coloring. Even as a kid you could feel the sense of community the American Legion provided. At the time, our Squadron was only a paper Squadron - but there are some things that my Mom had us participate in that still stick with me to this day. Typically around the holiday season, we would deliver food baskets to family's in need. To see

the joy we could bring to someone's face with just a couple weeks worth of groceries. We also helped out when blind veterans from Hines VA would come to the post and play bingo. These are just a few events from my youth that show the importance of the American Legion Family. Tomorrow my squadron will be hosting a pancake breakfast, and although my daughter will mostly be playing with any kid that shows up, she will also be helping. Maybe 30 years from now she can reflect on how she helped her Dad mix eggs and pancakes at the local American Legion.

By emphasizing the American Legion Family, we are setting our organization up for future success... not to mention when we work together as a team, there is nothing that we can't accomplish. If you look towards Illinois, you can see our Department/ Detachment leadership doing this. Department Commander Roy Smith, Department President Jill Layton, and Detachment Commander Wayne Madson are constantly using Facebook videos to promote what they are doing, and how they are working together. Check out this video of the promoting the Legion 250 challenge.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/19p1iaW6SR/>

Over the course of the coming year, I would like to write and showcase instances of how our American Legion Family works together. If you Post Family is doing something please let me know, so we can showcase how strong we are as a team.

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SONS OF THE
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LEGION

NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 18TH

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

NOVEMBER 2025

NEXT TARGET DATE-NOVEMBER 13TH-35%

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

ABC

EASY AS

1 2 3

MEMBERSHIP

1. Recruit one new member to The American Legion (Get a "I got One" shirt)
2. Recruit one new member and renew one member to the SAL. (two total) (Get our eternal gratitude!)
3. Sign up 3 for the Legion, 3 for the AL Auxiliary, 3 for the SAL (9 total) (Get a Family Three Pin)

Sons of The American Legion
2024-2025 Accomplishments



Consolidated Reports Summary
Published: July 22, 2025

National Overall Totals	
Dollars Donated	\$12,550,235
Hours Volunteered	7,740,001
Value of Our Vol. Hours*	\$34,779
Volunteer Hours Value	\$269,274,628
Total Volunteer Value	\$281,424,863

Pillar	Donations	Hours	Hours Value*
Americans	\$5,379,166	6,579,287	\$228,588,267
Children & Youth	\$2,673,301	345,955	\$12,015,861
Vets Affairs & Rehab	\$2,274,125	289,817	\$8,691,838
Vets Employ & Edu	\$134,989	12,307	\$1,231,961
Internal Affairs	\$2,685,652	541,613	\$18,842,791

Americans	
Boys Scout / Girl Scout	\$404,576 in Donations to Boys Scout / Girl Scout with 86,430 Hours of Participation
Expatriate Ed. Programs	\$19,701 in Donations to U.S. Dept. of Education with 3,104 Hours of Participation
Flag Program	\$20,137 in Donations to Flag Program (US) with 10,609 Hours of Participation
Flag Education	\$17,794 Flag Program (All Stars / 1st Year) with 3,176 Hours of Participation
Other Ed. Programs	\$17,086 in Donations to Flag Education Program with 3,548 Hours of Participation
Other Ed. Programs	\$68,191 in Donations to Scholarships Awarded with 9,563 Hours of Participation
Overseas / Overseas	\$18,083 in Donations to Overseas Centers with 4,888 Hours of Participation
Other Fund	\$187,386 in Donations to Other Fund with 10,287 Hours of Participation
Community Service	\$14,134 in Donations to Other Organizations with 4,104 Hours of Participation
Scouting	\$128,704 in Donations to Scouting with 12,726 Hours of Participation
Shooting Sports	\$12,736 in Donations to Shooting Sports with 14,091 Hours of Participation
Int. Legion Baseball	\$20,658 in Donations to Int. Legion Baseball with 34,968 Hours of Participation
Other Events	\$48,958 in Donations to Other Events with 26,288 Hours of Participation
Blind Drive	\$24,134 in Donations to Blind Drive with 30,131 Hours of Participation
Not From Fund	\$19,832 in Donations to Not From Fund with 8,509 Hours of Participation
Legion Adult Fund	\$18,424 in Donations to Legion Adult Fund with 7,887 Hours of Participation
Other Adult Program	\$79,752 in Donations to Other Adult Program with 18,728 Hours of Participation

Children and Youth	
CFP	\$197,431 in Donations to Child Welfare Fund with 8,769 Hours of Participation
Special Olympics	\$197,037 in Donations to Special Olympics with 78,237 Hours of Participation
Children's Miracle Net	\$41,749 in Donations to Children's Miracle Net with 42,887 Hours of Participation
Ronald McDonald House	\$8,881 in Donations to Ronald McDonald House with 2,375 Hours of Participation
Children's Open Program	\$7,688 in Donations to Child Welfare Fund with 3,468 Hours of Participation
FAC Vets & Child Friend	\$12,223 in Donations to FAC Vets & Child Friend with 14,808 Hours of Participation
Other CFP Projects	\$191,833 in Donations to Other CFP Projects with 88,528 Hours of Participation

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation	
FAC's & Facilities	\$28,271 in Donations to FAC's & Facilities with 34,883 Hours of Participation
State Vets Facilities	\$184,286 in Donations to State Vets Facilities with 18,094 Hours of Participation
Not Vets Adult Day	\$15,858 in Donations to Not Vets Adult Day with 3,386 Hours of Participation
Up. Center	\$18,127 in Donations to Up. Center with 15,086 Hours of Participation
Other Vets	\$15,833 in Donations to Other Vets with 8,408 Hours of Participation
Other Vets Projects	\$197,431 in Donations to Other Vets Projects with 87,786 Hours of Participation
Heritage Veterans	\$12,148 in Donations to Heritage Veterans with 24,828 Hours of Participation
House & Family Support	\$197,784 in Donations to House & Family Support with 48,293 Hours of Participation

Veterans Employment and Education	
VETE Projects	\$10,000 in Donations to VETE Projects with 12,307 Hours of Participation

Internal Affairs

Other Funds

\$18,083 in Donations to Other Funds (US) with 4,888 Hours of Participation

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*As reported by Independent Units

39,000 Total Members

36 / 114 (24.5%) District Reporting

INDIVIDUAL RECRUITMENT AWARD (IRA)



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DECEMBER 31ST!

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

Butch's Bullet Points

Membership = **A B C** easy as **1 2 3!** **Always Buddy Check.**

I wish to congratulate everyone for all of the hard work, and the hard work that will follow. Today (Oct 23) we stand at 25.48% with 36 detachments reaching the 25% target which places three regions over the 25% mark as well!

Now we need to keep the ball rolling!

Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Each new member brings fresh energy, ideas, and hands willing help where needed. As we work toward our ambitious 409,244 goal, remind your friends and fellow community members that by joining, they're not just helping veterans—they're helping each other to build more community service.

The Sons of The American Legion is more than just a group—it's a growing and influential force dedicated to serving veterans, supporting communities, and promoting the principles our nation was built upon. The SAL is a vibrant part of this historic tradition, with every new recruit helping extend our reach and impact in neighborhoods across the country.

Recruitment isn't an isolated act—it creates ripples that spread outward, benefiting youth, schools, and even civic institutions. Whenever you attend an

event or see a flag flying high, remember that each member empowers programs supporting American ideals and patriotic education. Encourage your squadron to focus on inviting just one more member this week. If the founders of our nation could start with 56 signatures, how much more can we accomplish together?

Let's make it a point to celebrate every new member, every handshake, and every story shared. Our organization becomes stronger and more representative of the country we cherish each time someone steps forward to join our ranks. This week, strengthen your voice in the chorus—recruit with pride and purpose. As SAL Commander Bill Clancy has said... "Community, State and Nation; let's live our Obligation!"

The heart of the Sons of The American Legion beats with service. Our guiding spirit is giving back to those who gave so much. Since our inception, SAL members have helped raise millions for the American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation and have volunteered over a million hours in veterans hospitals. These acts of service aren't just part of our history—they define who we are today.

Muhammad Ali reminded us, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." Every SAL member understands that their commitment goes beyond the annual dues—it's a promise to lift up those who have protected and served our country. Each time we roll up our sleeves to

volunteer, fundraise, or simply listen to a veteran's story, we create new purpose and meaning for our organization and ourselves.

Being a member means being part of a living tradition, where caring for our veterans and local communities continues through the years. Membership fees support programs that provide comfort items to hospitalized veterans, scholarships for youth, and aid in times of distress. By asking others to join, you aren't simply increasing our numbers—you are inviting them into a heritage of compassion and community.

This week, share your "why" with someone new. Let your enthusiasm about service open doors for conversations about membership. When we let our actions speak, people listen—and together, we grow stronger, step by step.

Release to the Ink Free News (with edits)
—16 Sept 2025—www.inkfreenews.com

Indiana: Sons donate \$500 to the Shriners



The Warsaw, Indiana Sons of The American Legion Squadron 49 recently donated \$500 to Shriners Hospitals.

The donation was made with proceeds from the 25th annual Kosciusko County Shrine Club Turkey Shoot.

The turkey shoot took place Saturday, September 13, at Beeson's Gun Range in Etna Green.

The annual turkey shoot helps the Mizpah Shrine Temple support Shriners Hospitals and their care of children with orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries and craniofacial conditions, such as cleft lip and palate.

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SAVE POSTAGE.
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SONS OF THE
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**Mike Pook (WI), Staff
Contributor for The Millennium**

Membership Retention

When a person chooses to join the Sons of The American Legion, they're not just expressing an interest, they are making a commitment. That commitment gets stronger over time, especially if they are engaged, valued and connected to our mission. Long time members are more likely to donate, volunteer, advocate, and bring others into fundraisers. Satisfied members are more likely than not to renew their membership dues in a timely manner.

To retain membership, we as an organization need to encourage a feeling of community and purpose. A common problem is a lack of value, where members leave because they no longer see the benefit of their involvement. To change this attitude, we need to start right off the bat by creating a welcoming environment where members feel valued from their first meeting or interaction. This is a key challenge for our organization is to keep members interested and active once they join.

This can be as simple as a personal welcome after a meeting. As long-time members know, we need to keep members involved and engaged. Give them meaningful roles and responsibilities. Be sure to offer opportunities for leadership. Encourage them to help plan out events. This will give them a stake in the Squadron's success. Regular and open communication is also very important. Help avoid the downfall of poor communication and poor understanding. Create a group chat, send out e-mails to help members feel connected and knowledgeable. Finally, be sure to listen to the members feedback and avoid the problem of ignoring it. By building a strong membership community and providing clear, purposeful roles, we can definitely improve our membership retention. Engage members proactively by reaching out to them personally and keep them involved. It's up to all of us to keep our existing and newer members coming back year after year!

Membership Retention by-the numbers:

For 2024-25, we've only renewed approximately **88%** of our 2023-24 close-of-books membership of 397,000 members...

**12% of 397,000 =
47,000 members nationwide that did not renew in 2024-25**

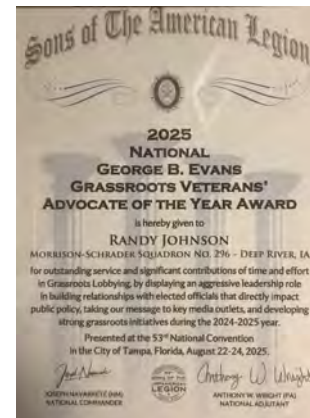


Facebook—Randy Johnson (IA) - 19 Oct 2025

Iowa: 2024-25 George B. Evans Grassroots Veterans Award

"Every year, The Sons of The American Legion (SAL) presents the George B. Evans Grassroots Veterans Advocate of the Year Award at National Convention."

"This award recognizes an SAL member in good standing who has performed outstanding service and made significant contributions in time and effort to grassroots veterans' advocacy work. An award may be presented each year to a member who takes on a bold leadership role by building relationships with elected officials who directly impact public policy by actively taking the message of the national Sons of The American Legion to key media outlets and by developing strong grassroots initiatives."



This years award was given to Randy Johnson of Iowa.

"Humbly accepted - but under my terms. Advocacy for veterans is a team effort. We're very lucky

here in the Department of Iowa with very strong interest in veteran support from legion posts, units and squadrons from all corners of the state."

"We've built a team around our Department Legislative Commission that combines legislative experience with grassroots common sense. You can't go wrong with that combination, and it shows as we produce results with our advocacy from Post, District and Department levels - all the way to the state house."





**Casey Hanson (SD), Midwest
Regional Membership Chairman**

Revitalizing a Squadron

The first step in revitalizing a squadron is to acknowledge where the problems are, so that they can be addressed and resolved to make the squadron not only active, but prosperous. It needs to be determined if the squadron has a membership/support issue or just lack of involvement problem.

For a membership issue we need to look at the last three to five years membership numbers. It needs to be determined if it has been a slow or rapid decline. A rapid decline could indicate a leadership problem, and that can easily be solved because if the squadron has been inactive, individuals that are invested or have an interest in revitalizing the squadron can be worked with to get the proper leadership in place moving forward. A slow decline in membership is a tougher issue to resolve and could indicate a variety of problems including a shrinking community, not hosting activities, no community/legion support, etc. These would all have to be addressed through a series of questions brought forth to the squadron/post.

Spinning off support; if membership is there, is the community supporting the squadron. The demographic/population of the community and location needs to be investigated to make sure there is adequate membership possibilities to advance upon. Has the squadron in the past been involved with the local High Schools and Elementary Schools? Not only do we support veterans, but we as Sons are actively involved in supporting our children and youth programs and the best way locally to do so is to be involved within the local education system. Not only is this a way to show support for children and youth, but this is a great opportunity to recruit new, young, ambitious members! Amongst all these things, it must be asked, did the squadron have Post support or involvement? The squadron needs to be active in the post with activities and help, just as the post must be the guiding light and support the squadron. Without either of these two things, the complete purpose of the Sons falls to the wayside.

On being active, the squadron must host regular monthly meetings. Most members join because they believe in the Sons and our

mission and they want to have an active roll within the organization. Whether it be at a local level or all the way up to a national position, they want to feel like they are needed and helping our veterans. Along with hosting regular meetings, the squadron needs to be involved within the community and help with or host fundraisers and events. Proceeds can go to where they desire, but being involved in the community helps bring everyone together for support and possible membership.

If the squadron is hosting meetings and has the support needed, they need to promote The Four Pillars of the Sons of The American Legion and work on buddy checks. When promoting The Four Pillars you educate your members and give them a purpose as to why the Sons exist. When doing buddy checks, please do not incorporate paying the dues during the first call. This call should

be solely to invest in our members alone and not being a bill collector. Down the road you can try and incorporate paying dues within the call, but be observant of the direction of the call before asking. If the member has stated in the call money is an issue or even that health reasons has them laid up, maybe instead of asking to pay their dues, ask if it's ok if you pay their dues for them. Take the burden of the dues off their shoulders, and it's very well possible it may come back and benefit the squadron from that member down the road. But please, first and foremost, be available for our veterans and members, and be a helping hand for their concerns, needs, and desires. Then when it comes times for asking for dues, be weary of how or where the call was headed before asking. You do not want to push a member away or lose a member just for the price of a membership.



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thankful
FOR YOUR
SERVICE**



**HARVEY / MARRERO
SQUAD. 222**

4101 PATRIOT ST. , MARRERO, LA. 70072



CORNHOLE

BENEFIT / EVENT

SUNDAY , NOVEMBER, 23RD 2025

REGISTRATION CUT OFF TIME IS 12:30 PM

START TIME IS 1:00 PM

**\$40 PER TWO PERSON TEAM OR \$20
PER PERSON FREE FOOD AND SOFT
DRINKS FOR PARTISIPANTS, BEER FOR
SALE TO ADULTS, MEN'S BRKT. / MIXED
DOUBLES BRKT.**




**AWARDS AND PRIZES FOR TOP TEAMS
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT ;
HERBERT CRETINI JR. 504-352-5658
VINCENT LEBLANC 504-400-7984
AMERICAN LEGION HALL .504-347-0845**





**PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT PROGRAMS OF THE SON'S OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUAD. 222
NO OUTSIDE EQUIPMENT ALLOWED, MUST USE EQUIPMENT ON HAND , NO EXCEPTIONS. POST 222**

C. BOURGEOIS - ADJUTANT





Create a Membership Engagement Team

Mission: To bring more younger, able-bodied members into our organization while providing them with the resources and knowledge they need to be successful.

Target Audience: Look into local organizations, clubs, schools, etc. For example, ROTC, Boy Scouts, Flag Etiquette Class, High School classes, Boys State attendees

Who is the team comprised of: Squadron Vice Commander, Squadron Membership Chairman, a squadron member who is actively and passionately involved within the organization.

Ideas on how to recruit: Have a recruiting table at local events. All you must do is start a conversation and "Just Ask". Create a publication of a breakdown of dues and where they go to. Have this readily available at recruiting events and sent to new members.

After members sign up: Introduce new members at meetings and assign them a mentor. Have a Membership Team Checklist for a guide. Be sure to explain the benefits and advantages of being a Son of The American Legion member. Find out what the passion and skills are of new members and incorporate that within the squadron, with that member. Offer education to members and tell the story of the SAL and our programs.

Structure: Hold initiation ceremonies and make them feel welcome and important. This is the perfect time to explore their interests in whatever the squadron activities are or to possibly start a new activity. For example, if you recruit a police officer, have them help or ask them to oversee a youth cadet program. Hold office installation of officers.

Structure breeds results. Make these members feel special that they were chosen by their peers to not only represent them but to make the decisions that will better the organization and everyone involved.

Renewals: Have the membership engagement team responsible for contacting inactive members (each month). A courtesy call to see how they are doing and inviting them to events/functions goes a long way. Have either the mentor or recruiter of the newly signed up member responsible for getting the renewal the next year.

Engage Seasoned Members: Reach out to those who have been members for years but may have not had the desire to hold an officer position. Those members have unlimited and untapped knowledge that could propel the squadron to the next level. They can see what worked and what hasn't worked when it comes to events, membership, etc., but they don't want to upset anyone or step on their toes. Let them know they are respected and encouraged to not only be a guiding light, but a mentor within the squadron and that their ideas are valuable.





**Bruno Williamson (IL), Chairman
National VA&R Commission**

"Together Making a Difference"

Hello, my brother Sons, your National VA&R Commission is at work promoting projects that support our veterans besides what is on the CSR (Consolidated Squadron Report) form. I will talk about the different projects throughout the year, but let me first introduce your commission for this year and the regions they will be supporting. The North-east Region is Peter DeAngelis (NY); South-east Region is Eddy Seegar (TX); Central Region is Bill Sutterlin (OH); Midwest Region is Todd Kabella (NE); & West Region is David Arend (MN). In addition, our NEC Liaisons are Nick Areceo (CO); Steve Pintarich (CT); John Meecham (MT); Jamey Holloway (GA); Charles Keith (WY), and our CONA rep is PNC Tommie Cisna.

I want to thank all of you for what you do for our veterans, active duty, and guardsman and reservists. We had a NEW high in reporting on last year's CSR form. Last year for all VA&R projects the SAL donated \$2.7 million, and we had over 250,000 volunteer hours ... equal to \$8.7 million for a total of \$11 million in donated money and hours. Amazing—simply amazing work my brothers. When you want to get it done, who do you call?



The first project that I want to talk about is Wreaths Across America. The Wreaths Across America program is a heartfelt initiative dedicated to honoring, remembering and teaching about the sacrifices of our nations veterans. On December 13th, volunteers across the United States will come together to lay wreaths on the graves of fallen soldiers in national cemeteries in the U.S. and abroad. This act of remembrance not only pays tribute to those who have served, but also educates the younger generations. This is a great project to drive home to our young Sons and ALA Juniors the value of freedom and the cost at which it comes. The program began in 1992 when Morrill

Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company, donated surplus wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. Since then, it has grown into a nationwide movement, with ceremonies held at over 5,200 locations. For \$17 you can sponsor a veteran's wreath, or you can sponsor a wreath for a loved one or friend & if you are participating you can lay the wreath yourself or a volunteer will do it the day of the event. I sponsored 2 wreaths, one for my father at the Florida National Cemetery & one for my father-in-law at the Illiana VA National Cemetery. The deadline to order Wreaths is November 28th. Wreath-sacrossamerica.org

September was Suicide Awareness Month, and Director for the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Terry Prince, a 31-year Navy veteran, put out a 60 second video at the beginning of September where he spoke about veterans suicide awareness. Since the start of the Global War on Terror we have lost over 7000 of our finest killed in action. In that same time frame over 30,000 active duty & veterans have died by suicide. So, my brothers the time is now to Be The One & take the Columbia university training & to also know the Signs, Ask, Validate & Expedite/Encourage & take the VA's S.A.V.E. webinars or video training.

As we look forward to the months ahead, I am proud to share that SAL representation has grown to 52 VA facilities, a testament to our commitment and collective effort. SAL representation means our members are actively present and engaged at these VA locations, providing direct support, camaraderie, and advocacy for our veterans. This year, our goal is to expand our reach to 60 VA facilities, strengthening our ability to serve and make a lasting difference in the lives of those who have sacrificed for our nation. Every new location represents more veterans receiving the care, respect, and assistance they deserve. I encourage each of you to join this mission—let's work together to achieve this milestone and amplify our impact for veterans everywhere.

"Spotted by a Son"

In October's "Spotted by a Son", we asked if you could find the pumpkin.

The newsletter email went out on 15 October, and by 3:05pm we had a winner...



**Greg Shaffer
Squadron 174
Wayne, New Jersey**

Shaffer is a 20 year member of the SAL. He has served six terms as a Detachment Vice Commander, as well as in various offices at the squadron level.

His eligibility is through his father, Gerald E. Shaffer, who served in The United States Marine Corps during WWII (1944-1947). Gerald was a member of the 4th Marine Division who fought on Iwo Jima. He is also very proud of his brother, Terry Shaffer, who was a Navy Seabees veteran from the Vietnam War.

SAVE THE DATE
FOR
NATIONAL WREATHS
ACROSS AMERICA DAY

DECEMBER 13, 2025



Marty Widmer (NJ), Detachment Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms

How Do We Help Say Goodbye?

The American Legion Family and the Be The One campaign have assisted many veterans with obtaining service dogs to assist with activities of daily living. For our veterans with disabilities, service dogs provide not only assistance, but also companionship and security.

In my young life, I have been blessed to witness three veterans receive and live with service dogs. Each veteran with their own story; each service dog with their own purpose. As with many in the Legion Family, these service dogs are Legion Family too: attending events, graduating The American Legion College and most of all, allowing their veteran to participate in life fully.



Facebook Photo: NJ's John Brouse with Sarge the Service Dog

We, the Legion Family, are there applauding when the service dog graduates from their training. We are there applauding when the service dog leans into their veteran during an event, giving that nod of security. We the Legion Family are there applauding when the service dog allows our veterans to sleep after night terrors.

And then something terrible happens ... the service dog passes. The companion, friend, and guide to our veteran is gone.

Are we the Legion Family there to help our veterans as they say goodbye to their life support?

How do we help them say goodbye?

For our veterans, their service dogs are a

family member. Just as with human family members, the stages of grief and sadness affirm themselves within life.

In the past year, my detachment has witnessed the loss of one service dog after a tragic fire, as well as recently losing a second service dog to lymphoma. While we as the Legion Family partake in the positive aspects of service dogs, are we also there to step in during a time of loss?

Does your district or detachment have an action plan to help our veterans obtain a new service dog? Does your squadron have a support system in place to Be The One for that inevitable loss?

The slippery slope of mental illness is a ladder. While our veterans may have climbed some rungs with the help of their service dog, who is there to stop the downward slide after the service dog is unable to assist?

Our squadrons, districts and detachments need to be more proactive with acknowledging these losses will happen. We as the Legion Family need to contribute more to the service dog plan past just providing financial support for the veteran to obtain a service dog.

Personally, I cannot fathom the loss that these veterans have suffered, and are suffering through. I know my cards and texts are not enough to fill the void that these service dogs so faithfully satisfied.

Yet, I urge you to still send those cards, still send those check-in texts. Do not get upset with delayed responses or unanswered phone calls. Allow the veteran their time to grieve, but also let them know we acknowledge the tremendous loss they have suffered.

We the Legion Family need to help the veteran say goodbye to their best friend, their companion and their family member. There's no one answer on how to help. There's no one way to grieve. There's no time limit on grief. We can only be a support.

Remembering Sarge the Service Dog and all others that have passed.



Bryan Hine (TN), National Vice Commander Southeast

Detachment Spotlight: Georgia

While all of our squadrons focus on the necessary support needed in their communities for veterans, children and youth, the detachment focuses on education and training for all of our future leaders. Highlighted below are two of our premier programs, the Junior Leadership Camp and the Five-Star Program for High School ROTC.

The Junior Leadership Camp has been ongoing for more than 10 years. It is a week-long camping adventure for our young leaders between ages 8 and 17. The Camps are held at different Posts across the state and teach subjects like flag etiquette, flag retirement, leadership skills and the 5 Star Program. The attendees have plenty of time to create their own games and "be kids". Elections of future Jr. Auxiliary and Sons officers are important functions of the camps. Those new officers are installed on the last day of camp by either current or past Department Presidents and Commanders.

The 5 Star Program is a well known program within the Legion family but we learned that it is not so well known outside the family. With that, we approached a high school ROTC leader a few years ago about the program, its benefits and the ability for the awards to be legally worn on their uniforms. With his concurrence, past Detachment Commanders went back to high school. The program was so well accepted that we were invited back. From that original presentation, the ROTC program has continued to grow into multiple schools across the state. With that growth, we have been able to introduce more young men and women to Boys State and Girls State.

To finalize, the Detachment of Georgia is working diligently to educate our youth on the values of our organization and nation. As such, we are attracting new members.





Jeremy Revell (VT), National Vice Commander Northeast

Spotlight: Helping Homeless Veterans in Vermont

The Detachment of VT's hallmark program is The Dodge House located at 95 Crescent Street in Rutland VT. Since program inception, VT SAL squadrons and members have come together to fundraise to help this program.

The Dodge House opened its doors in 1998, but the story starts before then when a group of Vietnam Veterans came together to support each other. The dream was to one day open a facility that could help homeless veterans with transitional housing. The Dodge House is unique in the sense that it doesn't receive much state funding and very limited support from the Veterans Affairs. They operate almost entirely on donations. They are the only transitional housing in the state that has both men's and women's living areas. Their goal is to get their veterans VA benefits, training and education so they may go on to find housing and successfully integrate into their communities.

Each year the VT SAL begins our campaign in the Fall as Detachment leadership spreads the word to Squadrons about who the Dodge House is, what their needs are and how best to help with their program. Many Squadrons make cash donations while others help to fill their pantry or freezers or donate to their boot program which will give boots to any veteran in need. Since the first



**Steve Honigfort (OH)
National Vice Commander Central**

Detachment Spotlight: Sons making improvements at Wilwin at Cygnet Cove in Michigan

Sons Squadron in Michigan has a special project for Detachment Commander - Clive R. A. Seydell this year. They are installing a dedicated fishing only dock at Wilwin at Cygnet Cove in Custer, Michigan. This American Legion-owned retreat provides a safe and peaceful environment for veterans as well as youth programs such as Scouts. It offers rest, rehabilitation, and outdoor recreation in a natural setting that promotes healing, fellowship, and camaraderie. The new dock will give guests safe, accessible space exclusively for fishing, enhancing the lodge's mission and creating lasting memories for all who visit.



Submitted Photo: Cygnet Cove in Custer, MI

This project is being funded through the sale of a limited-edition Detachment Commander / Wilkin Challenge coin for \$10.00 each, along with generous donations, with all proceeds going directly toward construction and installation. This is more than a fundraiser, it's a chance for SAL to leave a permanent mark of service and gratitude for those who have served our country.

donation in 1998 VT SAL has donated over \$200,000. Most recently we donated an all-time high of more than \$26,000. The SAL has been so well respected and such a large part of the Dodge House that an SAL member now serves on the board giving a voice to the group who donates the most to the program. For more information about the Dodge House please reach out to a VT SAL member or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/p/The-Dodge-House-VT-61552982460580/

Mark Davis, The Powell Tribune—27 Oct 2025—www.powelltribune.com

New York: Sons donate \$1,000 to local schools lunch program

SAL Squadron 68 of Norwood, NY donated \$1,000 to the Norwood-Norfolk Central School Snack Pack Program, which provides students with healthy snacks for the weekend.



Elaine Saarinen photo: left to right - SAL member Mike Tuper; Everlee Todd; Mary Ellen Todd, Snack Pack chairperson; and SAL Commander Tony Nocerino.



Submitted Photo: The Detachment of Vermont at the Dodge House

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



SAVE THE DATE

National Regional Information Conferences

JAN. 31, 2026 - INDIANAPOLIS or FEB. 7, 2026 - ATLANTA

WHAT? One-day, comprehensive curriculum that covers:

- Legal topics
- Be the One
- American Legion Programs
- Running an Effective Meeting
- Post Operations
- Membership Retention

WHY? To strengthen understanding and implementation of American Legion Programs and Services!

WHO? American Legion leaders in departments, districts and posts looking to increase operational effectiveness.

HOW? Contact The American Legion National Internal Affairs division at ia@legion.org or call 317-630-1287.

REGISTRATION OPENS AUG. 27, 2025, AND SPACE IS LIMITED, SO SIGN UP NOW!!

Registration: www.legion.org/information-center/training/national-regional-information-conference

Legion.org—17 October 2025

Attend Day-Long Legion Training in Indy or Atlanta



Legion.org Photo: Department of New Jersey American Legion Family attended the 2025 combined Legion, Sons and Auxiliary conference in Boston.

Registration is open for the upcoming American Legion National Regional Information Conference (NRIC) in Indianapolis and Atlanta. This daylong training is an opportunity for post, district and department members to receive educational training on the organization's mission, operations and programs.

Cost for each is \$70 (increases to \$80 after January 17 for Indianapolis and after January 24 for Atlanta). The fee includes a breakfast and lunch.

The conference is designed for new and longtime American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members to strengthen understanding and implementation of American Legion programs and services, and to make Legion Family connections. You do not have to hold an officer position to attend. All are welcome.

Read what attendees of the NRIC in [Denver](#) and [Boston](#) learned and why they attended.

John Ryan of Post 2 in Bristol, Conn., who attended the training in Boston said, "I found that by attending, interacting, listening and asking questions, I significantly increased my understanding of how to successfully contribute to the organization and community. I feel more confident, and I believe that will translate into a plus for the post. I strongly believe it is important for members of all experience levels to attend. Those with minimal knowledge will learn, and those with more knowledge will learn and contribute to those of us who hear your stories and advice."

Training is a priority of the 21st Century Report, which focuses on three areas – Legacy and Vision; Membership and Member Engagement; and Training – for implementation at all levels of the organization to ensure The American Legion continues to serve community, state and nation. [Learn more about the 21st Century Report and training here.](#)





Kevin Chaplin (VA), Chair, National Media Communications Cmsn.

Capture the Spirit of Service

Attention Squadrons!

Do you have incredible photos or videos of your members making a difference in your community? Don't let those moments sit unnoticed on your phone—share them with the nation! The Sons of The American Legion are calling on YOU to enter the National Photo and Video Contests and showcase the pride, dedication, and service that define our organization.

Veterans Day has just passed, and what better way to keep that spirit alive than by sharing photos and videos from your squadron's events? Your Veterans Day activities—parades, ceremonies, community outreach, and tributes—make excellent submissions for both the Snapshots of Service and Videos of Service contests. Showcase the pride and dedication of your members as they honored our nation's heroes.

Snapshots of Service: Our Snapshots of Service photo contest celebrates the heart of what we do—service rooted in our Four Pillars: Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

Submit your best photos in digital JPG or TIF format, showing Sons members wearing their SAL covers or identifiable apparel while in action. Each entry should include a brief description of the event.

A few quick reminders:

- Submissions must come from a squadron and reflect recent activities.
- You can send up to three photos per entry—and you're welcome to submit multiple entries!
- Remember to include signed model release forms for everyone featured.

First and second place winners in each category will be recognized at the National Convention—so this is your chance to bring home a national award for your squadron!

Videos of Service: Want to inspire others and raise awareness of the SAL's mission? The Videos of Service contest is your opportunity to tell your story through social media.

Create and share videos that highlight your

squadron's work in one of these categories:

- Program Support
- Community Engagement
- Membership and Recruitment

Each video must include SAL members in branded apparel and must already be posted on a social platform. Just submit the link and contest form for consideration.

Plaques will be awarded to 1st and 2nd place winners in each category—six total awards will be presented at the National Convention!

All submission forms are available on the national website under Publications and Forms:

<https://www.legion.org/about/american-legend-family/sons-of-the-american-legend/publications-and-forms>

Let's show the nation what The Sons of The American Legion are made of—service, pride, and brotherhood in action!

Mark Davis, The Powell Tribune—27 Oct 2025—www.powelltribune.com

Wyoming: Sons of The American Legion are in the Halloween Business

Need to scare away evil spirits? Can't find a turnip? The American Legion now has a pumpkin patch with the goal of funding repairs and projects for the Hughes-Pittinger Post 26 in Powell.

Jack-o'-lanterns originated from Celtic traditions that were later adapted in America. The Irish folklore of "Stingy Jack," who was doomed to roam the earth with a burning coal inside a hollowed-out turnip, inspired the Irish to carve faces into turnips to scare away evil spirits and demons. When Irish immigrants came to America, they began using more readily available pumpkins, leading to the modern jack-o'-lantern, according to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Despite the whole turnip-turned-pumpkin history, the current orange-faced Halloween holiday icon provides families with the tons o'fun decorating their pumpkins and adding

accents of the colorful season's harvest to their facades. But unless you have a large garden full of squash and gourds, you might need to head to the pumpkin patch.

Color-coded for pricing, the self-serve patch will go a long way in helping the Sons of the American Legion serve their post, said Post 26 Commander of the Sons of the American Legion Jim Ross.

"We use the proceeds of our fundraisers to help the community and veterans. And we've done several upgrades to the building," he said.

One example of recent projects include upgrades to the Post to make it more handicap accessible. The group put in a new concrete pad in the back to make it more accessible and they changed the doors for the bathrooms to make them more accessible.

The Sons of the American Legion (SAL) was created in 1932 as an organization within the American Legion. The SAL is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in the American Legion. Together, members of the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion make up what is known as the Legion Family. All three organizations place high importance on preserving American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for the nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

There is a secure box and price sheet posted near the entrance to the facility for the pumpkin patch, as well as video surveillance to catch any demons looking to cheat the system. In

2021, the Post 26 Scouting troop was robbed of about \$1,000 worth of Christmas trees they were selling to help fund their projects.

However, members of the public started coming in to "buy" one of the stolen trees.

"You know, we were angry at first, but then the community really stepped up," Scoutmaster Donny Peterson said at the time. "People started coming and buying invisible trees."





Above and below: The Sons of Kings County, New York holding their Oktoberfest



Serving food at a monthly meeting of Ronald Reagan—Palisades Squadron 283 (Los Angeles, CA)



Ohio's Past Detachment Commanders at the homecoming for 2025-26 Detachment Commander Jeff Vrabel, Jr.



The winners of the Chicken Cookoff held by Squadron 3 (Harrington, DE).



Presenting the Charles B Rigsby award to Squadron 182 (Eldora, IA) member Richard Brockmeyer in recognition of his service to the veterans of Hardin County.

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

@ Email your
story to
The Millennium
rusty.myers@gmail.com



Post 110 (Wessington, SD) receives their new squadron charter. Commander Wyatt Reis, NEC Terry Hanson, Alternate NEC Shane Lamer, & Liaison Casey Hanson made the trip for the presentation.





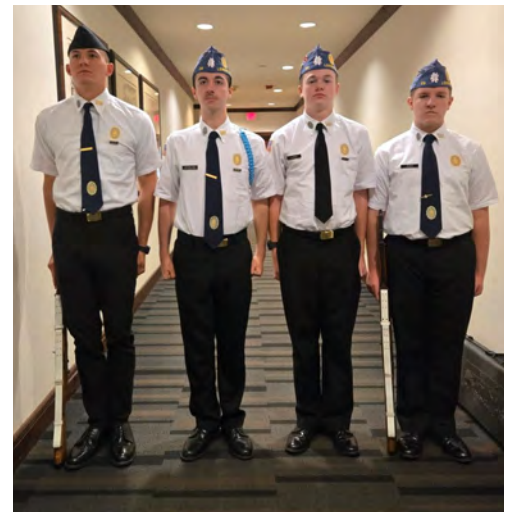
Baltimore, MD's Squadron 19 Commander Irvin Johnson supporting a local Girl Scout troop.



Illinois ANEC Michael Vozar attending the American Legion Family installation and dinner at Howard H Rohde Legion Post 888 in Northlake, IL.



The Post 57 (Fairbanks, AK) Legion Family donating \$1,000 to the victims of Typhoon Halong.



The 2025 National American Legion Color Guard Contest winners sponsored by Lenoir Post 29 at the North Carolina Fall Conference. Pictured are Ethen Cook (Sophomore), Aiden Kirby (Junior), Miles Sterling (Senior), and newly graduated Marine in-route to MCT Caleb Kirby.



Part of the Welcoming crew from the American Legion Family of Illinois for the homecoming of ALA National President Pam Ray.



Grandson David Gibson, at right, who represents next of kin, receives an American flag during a military ceremony for Capt. Charles Graham Gibson Jr. at Fort Custer National Cemetery in Augusta, Mich. on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025. The United States Army captain went missing in action in 1950 during the Korean War and was identified 75 years later. A member of Guthrie, OK Squadron 58 makes the presentation.



The Sons of Michigan at a social gathering at Gladstone Post 71



Facebook.com—Chris Balsley (AZ) -
23 Oct 2025

California Visits Arizona



Facebook Photo: l to r—Curtis of California, Stephens and Maxwell of Arizona at Chandler Post 91 in Arizona

California Detachment Commander Charles A. Curtis with Arizona Detachment Commander Gary Maxwell were able to get together on Curtis' recent work trip, visiting a squadron in Chandler, AZ. Squadron Commander Jason Stephens did a fabulous job hosting the entourage, and they were able to sign Christmas cards for our service members serving overseas.



Facebook Photos: above, l to r—Commander Curtis of California and Commander Maxwell of Arizona filling out Christmas Cards for our serviceman abroad. Below, Arizona's Sons with both detachment commanders



Facebook.com—
SAL Squadron 18 (MD) -
20 Oct 2025

Maryland Donates to Taps For Veterans

Sons of The American Legion Jeff Davis Squadron 18 thanks Charlie Kallay the Community Engagement Coordinator for Taps for Veterans, an organization that provides an opportunity for buglers or trumpet players to sound Taps for military veteran's funerals and ceremonies. With the military unable to provide live buglers for every military funeral and ceremony, Taps For Veterans is assisting to help provide that much needed service. The squadron was honored to donate \$500 to the organization.



Facebook Photo



Facebook Photos: above and below—The night before, the group visited Commander Maxwell's home post Apache 27



Submission to The Daily News—18 Oct 2025—www.huntingdondailynews.com

Pennsylvania: Broad Top City Sons installed



The Sons of the American Legion (SAL) of the Watson & Black American Legion Post 126, Broad Top City, were recently installed during ceremonies held in the post home.

Taking part were, from the left, Trampas Hobble, chaplain; Scott Sheeder, second vice commander; Elmer Weimert, commander of the Watson & Black American Legion Post 126 and 18th Legion District deputy commander, who installed the SAL officers; Steve Figard, SAL commander; Scott Whitehorn, adjutant; Bryan Rummel, sergeant at arms; and George Drass III, first vice commander.

Missing from the photo is Roy Palmacci, historian.



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

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





CELEBRATE & EDUCATE

American Legion Family Youth Programs advance civics and responsible citizenship for our nation's 250th anniversary and beyond.



ORATORICAL CONTEST

The American Legion Oratorical Contest challenges high school students to explore and understand the U.S. Constitution while developing confidence, leadership and communication skills. National contestants compete for more than \$200,000 in scholarships each year.



BOYS STATE/BOYS NATION

American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation are government-education programs that have shaped thousands of careers in public service and leadership since 1935. Boys State offers students entering their senior year a glimpse into how government functions in a democracy. Two delegates from each Boys State program are selected to attend Boys Nation, where they form and operate a mock federal government, visit congressional delegations, military leaders and The White House to enrich their understanding of U.S. leadership.



GIRLS STATE/GIRLS NATION

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and Girls Nation closely mirror American Legion Boys State/Boys Nation, for students entering their senior years of high school seeking understanding about participation in government. Two delegates from each ALA Girls State program are chosen each year to participate in Girls Nation in Washington, D.C. Participants leave with "leadership lessons for life" and an understanding of the fundamentals of U.S. government, rights, privileges, and responsibilities of citizens.



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

More than 10 million young athletes have since 1925 learned the principles of sportsmanship, teamwork, discipline, fitness and responsible citizenship through the American Legion Baseball program.

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a gun-safety education and marksmanship program that encompasses the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment, competition and citizenship.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST:

The Americanism Essay Contest of the American Legion Auxiliary teaches students the value of patriotism and what it means to be Americans. Students (grades 3 to 12) explore the fundamental rights and freedoms, following a theme.

Current Theme: "Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and the Veterans who Fought for Our Freedom."

POPPY POSTER CONTEST:

American Legion Auxiliary units sponsor poppy poster contests in local schools across the country for schools and youth groups. Seven classes of contestants are available.



FUN WAYS TO LEARN ABOUT OUR FLAG

The American Legion publishes comic and activity books about the U.S. flag, veterans and the founding values of our nation. Many items can be ordered in bulk at discounted prices for classrooms or youth groups.

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE: Early readers will learn the meaning behind the Pledge and the freedoms it symbolizes.

LIGHT OF LIBERTY: Advanced elementary-age readers meet a Revolutionary War minuteman who tells how and why America achieved independence and the rights and responsibilities of all U.S. citizens.

OUR COUNTRY'S FLAG: Set on the 4th of July, preteens learn the story of our nation's colors and how to properly display the flag.

OUR COUNTRY'S VETERANS: As a veterans memorial is dedicated, young people learn from one who served the importance of protecting our freedoms.

RISE OF OUR FLAG: The epic story of our nation's flag is illustrated in a "graphic novel" format for teen and adult readers who discover the reason behind The American Legion's sacred ceremonies to retire U.S. flags when their useful days are over.

INDIVISIBLE: THE STORY OF OUR FLAG: A 116-page, photo-filled bookazine shows the complete story of our nation's flag. Also available are flag decals, pins, stick flags, copies of U.S. Flag Code and pocket-sized U.S. Constitutions and Declarations of Independence.

Order online at emblem.legion.org
Or call (888) 453-4466



For more information and how to participate visit legion.org/usa250 or scan the QR code



**SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**

A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

THE MILLENNIUM

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This Month, On The Back Cover

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Together We Serve

A Thanksgiving Message

By **STEPHEN F. CHADWICK**,
National Commander, The American Legion

Sons of The American Legion, as well as members of The American Legion, have much to be thankful for. As this holiday is observed in this year of 1938 may I suggest that you bear in mind and be thankful for the courage of the Fathers which accomplished our American liberties and established our God-given rights as men; for the wisdom of the Fathers which devised for us the plan of our constitutional, representative democracy; as a means of preserving those liberties and securing those rights.

We should be thankful to the Divine Providence which directed that this nation of free men should be established on this western hemisphere, which brought to an end our period of internal strife and directed that as a people we should be one and united.

We should be thankful to those comrades of the World War whose sacrifices permitted us, the living, to carry on through the past twenty years in peace, and we should be particularly thankful to those whose wisdom conceived The American Legion as an institution in which, together, we can continue to serve our Country and our God.

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!

**The Millennium Staff wishes
you and your
family a very
Happy
Thanksgiving ! Look for
the Turkey in
this month's newsletter!**

