

Massachusetts e-Legionnaire



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

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Commander's Corner



Greetings Legion Family, it seems amazing that things are moving this quickly, but here we are again one month away from convention and for those who are starting to see the signs of spring in your area, I hope you take some time to get outside and feel the sun.

With Memorial Day just around the corner, we still have to keep doing what we can to maintain "normalcy" and that includes taking care of our "Post Everlasting". Sadly less than



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30% of Americans understand the true meaning of Memorial Day and it is paramount that we do not forget the sacrifices of our military service members. We need to continue to put forward our efforts to educate and reinform Americans regarding the importance of Memorial Day and to help guide and provide meaningful ways to honor our fallen.

The fifth line of our Preamble recites, "To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars". We the American Legion Family must never forget the sacrifices of those

who have gone before us and we must continue to pause to honor, reflect and remember the precious lives lost while fighting in war and I know you will be working hard to get the grounds spiffed up in anticipation of your Memorial Day ceremonies in remembering those who gave all for their country.

I found these words of wisdom spoken so long ago, to still hold true even to this day,

"This Memorial Day, on which we decorate their graves with the tokens of love and

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Commander's Corner (Continued)

affection, is no idle ceremony with us, to pass away an hour; but it brings back to our minds in all their vividness the fearful conflicts of that terrible war in which they fell as victims.... Let us, then, all unite in the solemn feelings of the hour, and tender with our flowers the warmest sympathies of our souls! Let us revive our patriotism and love of country by this act, and strengthen our loyalty by the example of the noble dead around us...." -- General Logan, May 30, 1870

It has always rubbed me the wrong way when someone would wish me a "Happy Memorial Day" I wish we could pull that phrase from our vocabulary; its disrespectful and speaks of ignorance of this days true meaning. Personally I cant wait for summers to begin and outdoor barbeques to go into full swing, but for this one day we ask that you show in some form of reverence to those who afforded us the privilege of freedom with their ultimate sacrifice.

As we continue to come out of lock down hopefully sooner than later, and people start to returning to whatever the new normal is, keep in mind that this country was built out of hard work, perseverance and pure determination. If you can help someone else, either financially or physically, please do so and don't forget to continue your "Buddy Checks". Support your local posts as well, rent is still due and most posts have been closed for far too long.

Attention District Commanders, please ensure that all your posts have information for the upcoming Department Convention, which can be found at masslegion.org and get your housing form filled out asap!.

Thank you for all the support that you have shown to each other during these tough times, there are too many to list right now, but you know who you are behind the scenes.

So, my Legion family, thanks for what you are doing and continue to do for the right reasons. Look forward to seeing everyone out there soon.

Yours in Comradeship,
Jodie Pajak
Department Commander



The American Legion Family

James W. Oxford, National Commander of The American Legion



Bookazine illustrates Legion Family's pandemic response

From the moment COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic in March 2020, the American Legion Family leaned into the crisis to serve communities, states and a nation in need. That story is told and illustrated in a photo-filled, 84-page bookazine now available from Emblem Sales at www.legion.org/emblemsales. Or order a copy by calling (888) 453-4466. The limited edition bookazines are \$9.95 each plus shipping and handling.

The American Legion Family mobilized to feed the hungry and isolated throughout the pandemic. Hundreds of thousands of protective face masks were obtained and distributed by American Legion posts, American Legion Auxiliary units, Sons of The American Legion squadrons and American Legion Riders chapters. When blood was sorely needed, the American Legion Family gave in record amounts. The 100 Miles for Hope challenge provided members and their families a healthy outlet during the difficult time, one that nearly 5,000 enjoyed as the pandemic wore on.

Meals were prepared and distributed throughout the country – from statewide support services in Michigan and Maine to free hamburgers for truck drivers alongside highways in upstate New York and snacks for quarantined troops in Alaska.

Virtual or socially distanced meetings, veteran career fairs, memorial ceremonies and drive-by birthdays – even a virtual Texas American Legion Boys State – became standard practice throughout the organization, conducted safely to reduce spread of infection. Some posts offered COVID-19 testing. Others later became vaccination sites.

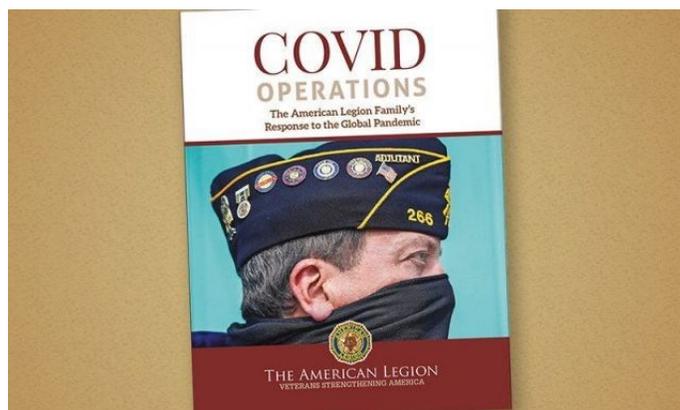
The COVID Operations publication not only says what the American Legion Family did during this time, it illustrates who we are, and why it matters.

This bookazine can be used whenever someone asks what the American Legion Family is and does. It is a strong example of the recently adopted American Legion motto, "Veterans Strengthening America."

Building a Foundation for the Future

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James W. 'Bill' Oxford".

James "Bill" Oxford
National Commander





100 Miles for Hope



The American Legion has expanded the ways in which participants in the second annual [100 Miles for Hope](#) can support disabled veterans and military families in need.

American Legion National Commander James “Bill” Oxford has noted that the benefits of the challenge are two-fold. First, it helps individuals improve or maintain their fitness and wellness. Additionally, proceeds from registrations, purchases of special 100 Miles for Hope gear at Emblem Sales and donations support [The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation](#) (V&CF).

For those who register with the Kilter app ([click here to learn about the two options for signing up](#)), the process to ask family members and friends to donate is easy. [Details are explained here.](#)

But starting immediately, The American Legion has expanded the ways in which you can connect with more donors and support more disabled veterans and military families via the Veterans & Children Foundation.

The options are:

1. [Visit this special web page](#) so that your donation to The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation counts toward the 100 Miles challenge.
2. Use your Facebook page. Follow these instructions or [download this PDF](#) that walks you through the steps:
 - a. After logging in to your personal Facebook page, go to www.facebook.com/fundraisers and select “nonprofit.”
 - b. You should see a box that says “Choose a nonprofit.” In the search bar, type in American Legion Charities. Click on **American Legion Charities Inc.** Please be sure to pick American Legion Charities Inc, NOT American Legion Charities.
 - c. You will be directed to your donation page. The left-hand column is where you can edit the details of your fundraiser. It is recommended that you update this to be specific for 100 Miles for Hope. **Scroll to the end of this story for an example of text you can use.** Please note that Facebook only allows fundraisers to last for 90 days, even though the 100 Miles campaign lasts until Sept. 6. It is recommended that you change the end date as far back as you can.
 - d. If you’d like to update your cover photo, click the + icon in the upper right-hand corner of the current image in the left-hand column. One you click that icon, a box will appear where you can upload a new photo.
 - e. Once you are finished making your changes, click **Create**. You will see a new window that offers suggestions on next steps. Click **Get Started** to start promoting your campaign on Facebook!

Regardless of which way you choose to donate, those funds are tax deductible because American Legion Charities is a tax-exempt organization.

Auxiliary President Coral Mae Grout



Dear Members of The American Legion Family,

Two years ago, I had the honor of being the first Past Department President to serve a second term in 99 years. One of the first ALA Department Presidents served two years consecutively when our Organization was in its infancy. Little did I imagine that my one-year term would turn into 2 consecutive years. But, COVID-19 created many obstacles for everyone, and the decision was made at the National level for everyone to stay in place for a second year. So, as I write my final item for the newsletter, it is with mixed emotions. I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to serve our members for two years. Sadly, most events and activities were cancelled, so we communicated via Zoom, Microsoft Teams, email and snail mail. I've missed seeing the members at Christmas Gift Shop and other events. But, hunkering down for the last year has impacted our veterans, particularly those in facilities where we were not allowed admission. Their families weren't allowed either. How sad and scary for the patients! And, we can't forget the nearly 100 veterans who passed away at Holyoke.

But, amid all the pandemic issues, our Units continued their efforts to serve. Members created gorgeous masks to distribute. We attended funerals, even if it was only outdoors and socially-distanced. Scholarship funds were raised and students benefitted. Americans raised their flags outside their homes. Funds were raised for members who had lost their homes and jobs. Donations to the ALA Foundation increased. My own continued Spaghetti Suppers which brought the community together monthly (at a social distance or via take-out). Many, many units held take-out dinners to raised funds and help the community by providing something positive. Each and every member of The American Legion Family should be proud of what has been accomplished amid this crisis.

But, the crisis is not over. Even if you have received your vaccinations, you still need to be aware of the fact that many have not (either by choice or availability). Wear your masks; keep the sanitizer handy; practice social distancing.

Our Department Convention will be held this year. We have a large hall which can hold a good showing of delegates and the room allows for plenty of social distancing. This will be like no other Convention. First, it will be for only one day. So, Department chairmen are being asked to shorten their remarks and include more information in the Book of Reports. The raffles will not be held. Awards will be announced but District Directors will receive all awards to distribute. I have selected some really cute awards for you this year and hope everyone enjoys them. But, remember, even if you came in second in judging (or third or whatever), you are ALL winners!!!

Your leading candidate for Department President is our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman Cynthia Kelley. Cindy is a true ALA member, having served her Unit, District, Department and Community for many years. I know she will take the opportunity as Department President to build upon the wonderful things you are all doing.

I look forward to seeing all of you when I am in Massachusetts. Many changes are taking place in my life, now that I am a single person. I appreciate all the support during my grieving period with the loss of my Mom. But, now it's time for me to travel, participate in activities that I have not been able to involve myself in because of the ALA and my Mom's illness, and to enjoy living a significant portion of the year in my condo on the Gulf of Mexico.

Best wishes to Cindy and her officers. Best wishes to the American Legion and SAL Commanders and their officers. Thank you to my Unit #193 officers and members for 55 years of friendship and support. And, my very best wishes to each of the members of the AL Family. Thanks to you, the Department of Massachusetts, for the 35 years of support you have given me as a Department officer!

Sincerely,

Coral May Grout

Department President





“Membership is everybody's Business”

We are now down to the wire with the finish line in sight! Looks like we could have one, possibly two districts that will reach 100%. District 9 has just 10 members to go for 100% and are at 99.62%. District 4, who has been running a close second has 97.14%. Both have been neck and neck in this year's horse race. If I were a betting man I would put my money on District 9, congrats to both.

With the year for membership about to be over, its the right time to start planning for next year's membership drive. I would like to bring out where the two districts did well; Take a look at the transfers from DMS and Post 462 in those districts and you will see the story behind their success. The question I have is, if two districts can do it, why can't ten (10) districts do it. What it boils down to, is leadership in the ranks and getting the job done.

During this years' Department Convention, we have set some time set aside for a round table discussion on membership. This will bring all Districts Commanders, Department Vice Commanders, membership teams and other interested parties to discuss where we are going for next year. We will have a work shop based on best practices, recruiting, retention and the use of data provided by the Department Membership Co-Ordinator.

I would like to illustrate who did well and who did poorly with membership this year. Plan on bringing your ideas to this meeting, so we can share some good membership stories.

It was reported by one of our post in D-9, that veterans are helping veterans pay their dues, where some are said to fall on bad times. Somewhat like a different form of our buddy program. Keep that in mind for next year.

We also need to keep in mind what is told to us during the finance reports; Our membership line is our principal item for income and is the “life line” for sustainability for our organization. Every year we see a decrease in revenue which pays for our staff, our programs, our donations and ultimately our operations and existence. It would be bad news if we needed to cut back on expenditures in the future?

We need to work together as a team and if anyone needs some guidance or assistance with membership, we are ready, willing and able to assist. Does not matter what your position is, if you need help, just ask? People are standing ready.

Now for the good and bad news! As of the 4/23/21 membership report; The following are the results. Districts 9, 4, 10, 5, 2, 1, 8, 3, 6 and 7. Some of these districts had 100% last year, what happened?

I do want to thank all those who have been working hard on memebership as it all works out in the end, with finding those new members who will be getting ready to fill new leadership positions. Thank You!



Membership– MyLegion Questions & Answers



MyLEGION.ORG



Sandra Kee Department Training Committee is inviting you to a Zoom meeting. Topic: MyLegion.org Q&A Session

Time: May 11, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85461494553>

Meeting ID: 854 6149 4553

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,85461494553# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 854 6149 4553

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kZICNPIPP>

Department Membership Standings (4/30/2021)

District 9: Bristol 99.74%

District 4: Worcester 97.45%

**District 10: Plymouth/Barnstable/Dukes and
Nantucket 94.47%**





MyLegion.org training resources for member **USE**

Now that the new MyLegion.org is live, training resources are available to help registered users understand and access the membership tools available.

Five videos cover how to:

1. Get started on MyLegion.org
2. Manage your myLegion.org account
3. Manage your groups
4. Process membership
5. Create group administrative tasks

MY GROUPS help for American Legion and Sons officers show how to:

- Assign group permission
- Email members
- Conduct a global member search
- Manage member information
- Process membership
- Create reports and labels
- View members
- Print member rosters
- Access brochures, officer manuals and speeches
- Access the Consolidated Post Report and Consolidated Squadron Report

Registered member account help with:

- Address
- Email
- Membership card
- Discounts
- Membership renewal
- Login password and username
- Subscription management

MyLegion.org is a free, secure website for American Legion members, Sons of The American Legion members, and post, district and department officers.



From the Service Officer—Special Monthly Compensation

The VA will pay additional compensation to disabled veterans who have lost, or lost the use of specific organs or body parts due to military service. Amputation, or no effective remaining function of an extremity or organ should qualify the veteran for a type of SMC, if it is service connected.

Also, additional SMC payments will be considered if the veteran is housebound, bedridden, or requires the aid and attendance of another person. Veterans should be aware that exposure to toxic chemicals in places like Korea, Vietnam, and Southwest Asia, have been linked to the development of Erectile Dysfunction. This is considered a loss of a reproductive organ, and when this claim is granted, the veteran's monthly compensation rate will increase. This is just one example of the many conditions that veterans suffer from not realizing they can qualify for higher compensation benefits. As such, veterans should not accept that their current medical issues are just a result of the aging process, and they should contact a service officer for more information.

Semper Fi

Mike Whalen

Lesson 16 Handout for March 2021 Special Monthly Compensation (SMC): VA Law, Regulation, Monthly Payment, and Summary

VA SMC Category	<u>38 USC § 1114</u>	<u>38 CFR § 3.350</u>	Monthly Rate*	Summary of Criteria
Loss of Use	(k)	(a)	\$111.74 <i>In addition to schedule</i>	<i>Loss or loss of use of: hand, foot, buttocks, creative organ, sight, hearing, speech, or breasts</i>
Aid and Attendance (A&A)	(l)	(b)	\$3,915.14	<i>-Permanently bedridden or so helpless to need regular A&A (See § 3.352) -OR Loss of both feet; one hand and one foot; or vision in both eyes</i>
Disability Combination	(m)	(c)	\$4,320.76	<i>Loss of both hands; loss of both legs; loss of one arm and one leg; or blindness in both eyes</i>
Disability Combination	(n)	(d)	\$4,915.17	<i>Anatomical loss of: both arms; both legs; one arm and one leg; or both eyes</i>
Disability Combination	(o)	(e)	\$5,493.95	<i>Conditions entitling two or more of the SMC(l)-(n) (no condition being considered twice)</i>
Whole & Half Steps	(p)	(f)	\$5,493.95	<i>Available for certain combinations of loss of extremities and special senses</i>
Noncompensable TB	(q)	(g)	\$67.00	<i>Receiving compensation for TB on August 19, 1968</i>
Special A&A	(r)(1)	(h)	\$7,850.43	<i>In need of A&A and requiring an extra level of care (See § 3.352)</i>
Special A&A	(r)(2)	(h)	\$9,004.64	<i>In need of A&A and requiring an extra level of care (See § 3.352)</i>
Housebound	(s)	(i)	\$3,521.85	<i>-Single disability rated 100% + additional disabilities rated at 60% combined -OR permanently housebound</i>
TBI	(t)	(j)	\$8,889.08	<i>In need of regular A&A due to TBI residuals</i>

*Effective 12/1/2020 for a single Veteran with no dependents https://www.benefits.va.gov/COaMPENSATION/resources_comp02.asp
 Schedules 100% is \$3,106.04 for single Veteran w/o dependents https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/resources_comp01.asp



Community Service—DVC Sally Nay

The community service committee met on Saturday April 10 at the Vernon Hill American Legion. The remainder of the AI White Awards from May 2020 to February 2021 were selected and are as follows:

May 2020: Post 340 Sheffield – Memorial Day service under Covid restrictions

June 2020: The Roger P. Warfield Post 373 Baldwinsville for Food box distribution

July 2020: The Roger P. Warfield Post 373 Baldwinsville for Clothing and Bicycle Drive for Children

August 2020: Charles C. Kennedy Post 275 Chicopee – Support for the Soldiers Home in Holyoke

September 2020: Merrill L. Simonds Post 130 Palmer for their 9/11 service

October 2020: Wilbur M. Comeau Post 4 Haverhill – Community Blood Drive

November 2020: Capt. Lester S. Wass Post 3 Gloucester – Thanksgiving Holiday Meal

December 2020: Post 303 Swansea for Children’s Drive Thru Party

January 2021: Hiram O. Taylor Post 189 Sterling – Gifts for the Homeless

February 2021: Dalton- Lavallee Post 224 for Susan Miller Memorial Chili Cook-Off to support the Four Chaplain’s Service at Leeds

We are still accepting submissions for March and April – remember this is an ongoing year round award and to keep continuing to submit. We did have two submissions for both the Conway Community Service Award and the Mulkern Educator of the year award. I won’t spoil the surprise on who was selected for each award but just say District 4 did a great job with their submissions. The Pendill and Schriever awards were selected. The plaques and banners will be presented at convention 1 post is from district 3 and 1



The American Legion to Shelby N.C.—Play Ball

INDIANAPOLIS (April 26, 2021) – The head of the nation’s largest veterans organization announced that The American Legion World Series will be played in Shelby, N.C., August 12-17. The eight-team championship tournament is returning after the premier baseball event was cancelled in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“As a former American Legion Baseball coach, I am extremely excited about the return of this fantastic event,” American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford said. “With the availability of vaccines and additional data showing that young people participating in outdoor activities represent a low risk for spread of the virus, we feel that we can conduct a safe world series. This is a very different environment than what we faced last year. Many of us eagerly await the umpire’s welcoming words of ‘play ball!’”

Though final details are still being considered, officials at national headquarters plan to conduct American Legion Boys Nation at Marymount University and the American Legion 3-Position Air Rifle Junior Shooting Sports National Championships in Colorado Springs as originally scheduled. The American Legion will observe Center for Disease Control guidelines and local and state public health mandates for all of its national programs.



Marketing Committee

Our Spring Sweepstakes tickets have been distributed and you should all have received your tickets by now. Tickets must be mailed back to the department headquarters by May 25th in order to be included for the drawing which will be held in June at the department executive committee meeting following the close of convention. Please consider mailing your tickets along with a generous donation as this is our final fundraiser of this American Legion year. Your donation helps support your department and its many programs and you have a chance to win some good cash prizes. As always, thanks to all those who contribute.

As many of you already know, each department receives a royalty check in March based upon our purchases each year from national Emblem Sales. Due to issues caused by the pandemic as well as high level personnel changes at Emblem Sales, we have yet to receive our royalty check; However, we should be receiving it soon. Last March we received a check for \$3,323.45 for purchases made in 2019.

Mike Davis ANEC
Marketing Committee Chairman



'A stirring and impressive tribute'

American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford received a private tour of the new National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C., on April 15, calling it "a stirring and impressive tribute to an extraordinary generation of heroes."



The organization donated \$370,000 toward construction, not including funds raised at the local level by American Legion posts, American Legion Riders chapters, American Legion Auxiliary units and Sons of The American Legion squadrons.

Children & Youth—Did you know about veteran's group the American Legion?

By: Nettie Casey

For my civic class's civic action project, I wanted to get the word out about how much the American Legion and their sub organizations do for veterans and their community. Some general information about the American Legion is they've been around for over one hundred years, they have two million veteran members worldwide, and three million members with the Auxiliary and Sons members added in. The three main groups are the American Legion for veterans, female veterans, spouses of veterans, daughters, and granddaughters are American Legion Auxiliary, and male veterans, grandsons, and sons are Sons of the American Legion. The American Legion is in all 50 states and 26 countries worldwide. They're the largest veterans organization.

Did you know the American Legion is responsible for the G.I. Bill? The idea for the G.I. Bill was written on a napkin in a Washington D.C. hotel room by Harry Colmery, past national commander of Kansas, Missouri in 1942. Mr. Colmery received help from Massachusetts representative Edith Nourse Rogers with getting the G.I. Bill in front of Congress and helped getting the bill passed. This helped with getting veterans health care when they came home from war. From 1919 until 1942, veterans had no aid when they came home. Bedford's VA hospital is named after Edith Nourse Rogers as it was one of the twenty four hospitals she helped set up.

The American Legion does not do protests. They do public informatives with supporting members of government. They have state members who work on Capitol Hill for localized issues. National members who work in Washington D.C. there are twenty five. They tend to take action and try to get legislation started rather than an actual protest. Fun fact, women veterans actually had the right to vote for National Commander of the American legion one year before they could vote for the President. In 1991, former President Bush Senior signed a bill to help veterans suffering from agent orange. They are currently trying to get a bill through Congress for a constitutional amendment that flag burning is not a first amendment freedom of speech. They are also why you say the Pledge of Allegiance.

A lot of veterans come home and just want to help the community or fellow veterans who came home with injuries. For example they have local posts that are a community social club but so much more. They'd use to go to the post, have a drink and discuss business for how they can help their community but right now they have a buddy check in due to COVID-19 and the historically high veteran suicide rate. In 1924, veterans would have two suicides a day, the rate in 2021 is up to twenty two suicides per day. They're looking to hopefully lower or even possibly eliminate veteran suicide.

In 2006, the American Legion riders motorcycle group started. They do a fundraising for the Legacy scholarship which is for children who have lost a parent in a war. They do a ride across the country to the national convention every year collecting donations along the way. Year to date they have raised over four point one million dollars.

Continued on Page 12

Children & Youth (Continued)

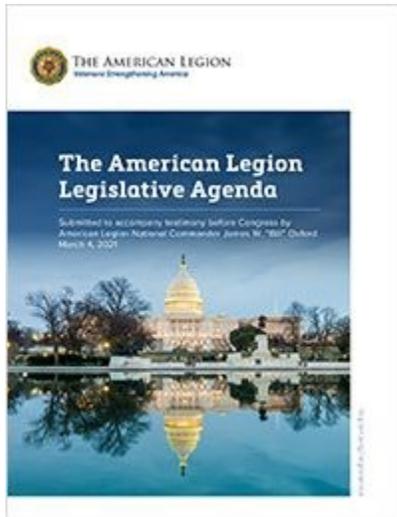
Other programs that the American Legion hosts are oratorical contest on the constitution. This is normally done at the state level in the contestant's home state and the national level in Indianapolis. In 2021, the contests were held in 46 states. Others cancelled due to covid-19. The national program was cancelled due to covid-19 therefore they presented \$5000 to each state winner who normally would have received \$1000 from the state. Juniors going into their senior year have the option to do boy state or girl state to learn about the US government for a week. They spend it at Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts. Some famous people who have attended boy state are former President, William "Bill" Clinton and former Governor of Massachusetts, Michael Dukakis.

The Marine Corps junior ROTC at Beverly high school in Massachusetts also benefit by receiving five hundred dollars a year donations from the American Legion. There is also a local Beverly baseball team for the American Legion baseball league. There are a total of one hundred thirty five teams in the league. They hold a state, regional, and World Series. The World Series is always held in Shelby, North Carolina. Another fun fact is that about sixty two percent of professional baseball players get their start in the American Legion baseball league.

Just a couple of other cool fundraising events the American Legion has done. Paul A. Morin, Past National Commander from Chicopee, Massachusetts was one of the members of the American Legion from Massachusetts to visit veterans in Landstuhl, Germany. Mr. Morin found out they weren't given government funds for simple comfort such as proper clothing and televisions which caused him to start the process of raising funds in the states to start the American Legion Comfort Warriors Programs. The program raised \$50,000 in months of the program's starting and now raises much more annually. When the Coast Guard veterans were not being paid in 2019, the American Legion raised one million dollars to help them out.

This article was made possible by an interview with John "Jake" Comer who was the American Legion past National Commander. I definitely appreciate his help with this article. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the American Legion. Have a lovely day

Nettie Casey
Beverly Middle School
5th Grade
13 Year Old



The American Legion ended 2020 with several key accomplishments. Below is a list of legislative victories from last year's Legislative Agenda for the second session of the 116th Congress, some of which have been decades in the making:

Preventing Veteran Suicide: S. 785, the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019, was signed into law by President Trump late in 2020. This bill was the most comprehensive piece of legislation ever to address veteran suicide and will provide veterans with increased access to mental health-care services and programs.

Women Veterans: Key provisions of the Deborah Sampson Act were passed during the 116th Congress through a variety of legislative vehicles, including H.R.7105, the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, and S. 785, the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019. These provisions will significantly reduce Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) barriers to care for women veterans and expand services to address reintegration, homelessness and newborn care.

Expand Agent Orange Benefits: H.R. 6395, The Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), added Parkinsonism, bladder cancer and hypothyroidism to the list of presumptive conditions for Agent Orange exposure.

Protect the G.I. Bill: The Protect the GI Bill Act was successfully passed into law through H.R. 7105, the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020. This legislation provides common-sense oversight of schools and provides additional protections for students for a variety of situations, to include school closures.

Looking ahead to 2021, top issues for The American Legion in the first session of the 117th Congress include:

Mental Health: A critical aspect of mental health is a sense of community and peer support. The American Legion supports several bills that would increase access and resources for peer-support programs. The American Legion is working to reintroduce legislation based on our "Buddy Check" program, which would require VA to designate one week a year as Buddy Check Week, provide training for veterans on how to conduct personal wellness checks and require VA to allocate additional resources for the Veterans Crisis Line. Additionally, The American Legion supports the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act, which would launch a pilot program that would create local peer-to-peer mental health programs. We call for both bills to be reintroduced and passed during the 117th Congress.



Toxic Exposures: The American Legion is assisting lawmakers and fellow veterans' organizations in crafting and refining several proposed bills that aim to address service connection for presumptive conditions. We look forward to Congress reintroducing and passing the Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act of 2020, which would improve how veterans exposed to toxic substances receive health care and benefits in a variety of ways. This includes requiring VA to respond to new scientific evidence regarding diseases associated with toxic exposure within an established timeframe; ensures VA enters into agreements with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine to conduct scientific studies on toxic exposures; and provides testing through VA for eligible veterans exposed to toxic substances.

Close the 90/10 Loophole: The American Legion encourages legislation that ensures veterans receive better quality education and improves student outcomes for institutions approved for use of VA education benefits, by closing the 90/10 loophole.

Addressing the Forever Wars: The Global War on Terrorism has become the longest war in American history and has now spanned generations of U.S. servicemembers. Parents who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan have now seen their own children deployed there as well. Yet numerous administrations continue to use the 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) to justify military action, including airstrikes or operations, in more than a dozen countries in which Congress never specifically authorized any military action. The American Legion urges a renewal of a proper constitutional balance to American foreign policy decision-making by encouraging Congress to renew its proper war-making oversight role beginning with repealing or replacing the outdated post-9/11 AUMFs and by properly funding and staffing the nation's civilian tools of diplomacy.

Citizenship for Honorable Service: Immigrants to the United States often join the U.S. Armed Forces as a path to citizenship. Many veteran immigrants say they have been deported after discharge because they failed to acquire U.S. citizenship while in service. The American Legion supports measures to ensure the process of naturalization through military service is completed prior to discharge. This should include the reinstatement of the USCIS Naturalization at Basic Training Initiative, training for military recruiters and military chain of command about the naturalization process, and the reopening of all USCIS field offices abroad to serve servicemembers stationed overseas.

The American Legion looks forward to working with congressional leadership in the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services Committees in order to achieve more victories during another productive legislative calendar year



Calling the White House plan to fully withdraw troops from Afghanistan by Sept. 11 “a good start,” American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford is calling for an end to the “Forever war” nearly 20 years after troops were deployed there.

Acknowledging that the United States “had little choice but to strike back hard” after the 9/11 attacks, Oxford called for the repeal of the “outdated authorizations for use of military force” that are currently being used to keep U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

“Today, there are men and women defending our nation in uniform who were born after 9/11,” Oxford wrote in the May 2021 issue of *The American Legion Magazine*. “Thousands of American lives have been lost or broken fighting the global war on terrorism. An entire generation grew into adulthood without knowing a time when the United States was at peace.”

Oxford’s position mirrors a national resolution titled “Addressing the ‘Forever War,’” passed by The American Legion National Executive Committee (NEC) during its annual Fall Meetings in October 2020. The NEC resolution also states, “Our servicemembers accomplished their original objectives in Afghanistan long ago at great cost ...”

Oxford penned the magazine piece weeks before the White House had announced its plan. The editorial also calls for the construction of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial in a prominent location in the nation’s capital.

“We understand the value of alliances and certainly favor the elimination of imminent threats,” Oxford said. “But imminent is not the same as permanent. It’s past time to memorialize and honor those who made tremendous sacrifices on our behalf. It’s also time to put diplomacy first.”



Senate praises American Legion, other VSOs for pandemic



Sen. Maggie Hassan, D-N.H., introduced a resolution in the U.S. Senate honoring veteran service organizations (VSOs) that provided relief to the country during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. S.Res.143 — “A resolution to honor and recognize the patriotism and service to the United States provided by Veterans Service Organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic” passed the Senate by unanimous consent on April 21.

“The response of American Legion de-

partments and posts to the COVID-19 pandemic has been truly inspirational. From donating scarce PPE early on to conducting virtual buddy checks, hosting vaccine and COVID testing clinics, and many other services to their communities, American Legion Family members have played a vital role in our nation’s efforts to defeat this horrific virus,” said American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford. “We are humbled yet not surprised that Congress wishes to recognize these efforts and those of other VSOs. I would like to thank Sen. Hassan for honoring these actions through this resolution.”

Legionnaires across the world have worked tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The efforts are documented in a book, “[COVID Operations: The American Legion Family’s Response to the Global Pandemic.](#)” The American Legion sent each member of Congress a copy.

“Veterans have faced immense challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, and The American Legion and additional VSOs have been quick to adapt to continue providing the essential support that veterans count on them for,” Hassan said. “I am deeply grateful for your efforts, and am proud to recognize your service to our country with a Senate resolution in your honor.”

Hassan was appointed at the beginning of the 117th Congress to the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and has already proven to be a passionate ally for the veterans. She is an original sponsor of the Buddy Check bill and has been extremely proactive working to get the legislation passed.

Additionally, Hassan — along with Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, and Reps. Chris Pappas, D-N.H., and Ashley Hinson, R-Iowa — introduced The Improving VA Accountability to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Act of 2021. The bipartisan, bicameral legislation would make numerous policy changes within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to address and prevent sexual harassment at VA. Hassan is also an original co-sponsor of the GWOT Memorial Location Act, which is another of The American Legion’s legislative priorities.



THE AMERICAN LEGION INDYCAR

Racing legends take the track in the No. 48 car, supporting The American Legion for the entire 2021 NTT INDYCAR SERIES season.

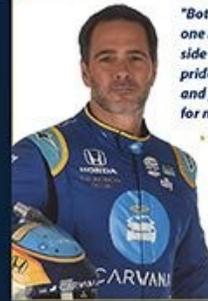
Two of auto racing's biggest names will be behind the wheel of the American Legion-branded No. 48 car in 17 NTT INDYCAR SERIES events across the country in 2021. NASCAR legend Jimmie Johnson moves to open-wheel competition this year and will race on street and road courses, while INDYCAR veteran Tony Kanaan is driving ovals, including this year's Indianapolis 500 on May 30.



JIMMIE JOHNSON

"Both my grandfathers served - one in the Army, one in the Navy. My grandmother on my father's side actually did some test flying for pilots. Their pride and influence in defending our homeland and protecting our freedoms were ever-present for me as a child."

- Seven-time NASCAR Cup Series champion
- Began NASCAR Cup Series career in the No. 48 car in 2001
- 63 wins, 232 top-five finishes, 374 top-10 finishes and 36 pole positions
- Two-Time Daytona 500 winner (2006, 2018) and Four-Time Brickyard 400 winner (2006, 2008, 2009, 2013)
- Competing for NTT INDYCAR SERIES Rookie of the Year honors, driving the street and road courses in 2021
- Only race car driver to be named Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year



TONY KANAAN

- 20th Indianapolis 500 start in 2021
- Entering his 24th season in major open-wheel racing in the United States
- Began in the CART series in 1998
- 2013 Indianapolis 500 winner and 2004 NTT INDYCAR SERIES champion
- 11 career open-wheel victories, including one CART win in 1999 and 16 INDYCAR wins
- Racing all the oval tracks on the 2021 schedule, including the Texas Motor Speedway on May 12 and the Indianapolis 500 on May 30



2021 NTT INDYCAR SERIES SCHEDULE

- APRIL**
 18 Barber Motorsports Park (Birmingham, Ala.), 3 p.m.
 25 Streets of St. Petersburg (Fla.), noon
- MAY**
 1 Texas Motor Speedway (Fort Worth) Race 1, 7 p.m.
 2 Texas Motor Speedway (Fort Worth) Race 2, 5 p.m.

- 15 Indianapolis Motor Speedway (road course), 2:30 p.m.
 30 105th Indianapolis 500, 12:45 p.m.
- JUNE**
 12 Raceway at Belle Isle Park (Detroit) Race 1, 2 p.m.
 13 Raceway at Belle Isle Park (Detroit) Race 2, noon
 20 Road America (Sheboygan, Wis.), noon

- JULY**
 4 Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course (Lexington), noon
 11 Streets of Sonoma, noon
- AUGUST**
 8 Streets of Nashville, 5:30 p.m.
 14 Indianapolis Motor Speedway (road course), 12:30 p.m.
 21 World Wide Technology Raceway (Madison, Ill.), 8 p.m.

- SEPTEMBER**
 12 Portland International Raceway, 3 p.m.
 19 WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca (Monterey, Calif.), 3 p.m.
 26 Streets of Long Beach (Calif.), 3 p.m.
- All races air on NBC or NBC Sports.
 Eastern time. Schedule subject to change.



Editorial—John Lenotte, PDC

Hard to believe it is May already, Spring has arrived finally. Which means for The American Legion that we are getting ready for our Department Convention and then National Convention in August. There will be social distancing and wearing masks but at least we will be going towards a more normal routine.

In addition to Mothers Day, there are 2 important days for veterans. Armed Forces Day, May 15 is the first one. A number of cities and towns honor veterans with parades and other activities. And then of course, there is Memorial Day where we honor those veterans who have passed and also remember our own family members who are no longer physically present.

This time of year I specifically remember first my grandfathers. One served in World War 1 along with his brother and cousin. They had come over from France just a dozen years prior but volunteered to serve in the Army and all saw action “over there”. My other grandfather was too young to serve in the war but later was in the Army National Guard.

I remember my Uncle who volunteered for the Navy in World War II. He was stationed on a minesweeper in the Pacific and saw action there. When the Korean War erupted, he was called back and served on a landing ship carrying Marines to Inchon.

Then came Vietnam. Many of my high school classmates answered the call to duty. It was our turn to serve our country. Growing up in Lawrence MA, we ended up losing 18 brave men, several of whom I knew personally. One in particular, Marine LCPL Gregory P. Kent, is of note. Greg was a high school track star, winning local, state and regional contests. He received orders to train for the Olympics. But his unit was shipping out to Vietnam. Greg went to his Commanding Officer and got his orders changed so he could stay with his unit. March 28, 1968, Greg made the ultimate sacrifice. One but of 58,000 + stories from that conflict.

What is sad that over the years I have seen the meaning of Memorial Day go from parades and placing flowers on graves to a focus on partying. I recognize that is it the unofficial beginning of Summer and especially this year we all want to be outside and enjoying family and friends. But let us not lose the real meaning of this special day.

Each year at this time I am remembered of a poem, The Dash, by Linda Ellis. Look it up and I am sure you will be as struck by it as I am. The basic point of the poem is that when we go to a cemetery, we focus on the name and years of birth and death. What is most important is “the dash” in between the dates. How one lived, the contributions that were made to society.

Let us remember that all gave some but some gave all.

May God Bless the United States of America and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms that we hold so dear. Also remember those currently serving and their families who support them.

John Lenotte, Past Commander, Post 4 Haverhill MA; Past Commander District 8 Essex County and Past Commander, Department of MA. I may be reached at jplenotte@gmail.com



**JOHN LUTINSKI SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION
2021
THE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL PROGRAM
Department of Massachusetts**

1. The Department of Massachusetts Athletic committee will award annually a \$1000.00 scholarship to be used toward the expenses of the education of a participant of the American Legion Baseball Program.
2. Applications shall be filed on or before July 15, 2021
Send application to:
The American Legion
Department of Massachusetts
RM 546-2 State House
Boston, MA 02133
3. The scholarship shall be for boys who have graduated from high school in the year 2021 and will be entering their freshman year of college. The scholarship will be presented at the Department Baseball Tournament in Quincy MA at the Adams Field on July 24, 2021

APPLICATION

Students Name _____

Address _____

City or Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Telephone # _____

Fathers Name and Occupation _____

Mothers Name and Occupation _____

List brother and/ or sisters and their ages

Family's Adjusted Gross Income: _____

HIGH SCHOOL RECORD

Note: Please attach a copy of your official High School transcript. If information is omitted you will be disqualified.

A letter of recommendation from a school official, counselor, or teacher shall accompany this application.

A letter of recommendation from the manager or coach of your American Legion Baseball team is also required.

Name of High School _____

Address _____

Name of School/College you will be attending _____

Please list activities you participated in during high school. Please list awards, honors and recognition received.

What do you plan on pursuing when you enter college? Why?

I certify to the accuracy of the foregoing facts.

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT _____

DATE: _____



Questions for Congress

The joint National Executive Committee of the American Legion has instructed its legislative committee to proceed with the utmost vigor in pressing upon Congress legislation supporting the resolutions adopted by the St. Louis Caucus through which the organization first expressed itself on certain matters of national concern. What is Congress going to do about ridding the country of alien slackers, many of whom hold lucrative positions? What about lands for those formerly in service who want to become farmers? What about the investigation of alleged cruelties to enlisted men abroad? What about an equal basis among all classes of soldiers for retirement pay for disability incurred during the war? What about a revision of War Risk Insurance providing a method of payment in keeping with the wishes of those affected by war risk insurance? These and other demands of the Legion's members were made with the best interests of the country first in mind. They are reasonable. It is appropriate that something be done about them. It is expected that they shall have been passed upon prior to the Legion's Minneapolis Convention in November so that the course may be clear for any additional suggestions the united men-who-were-in-service may have to present.

"Canned Willie" for Sale

The country-wide sale of Army food at Army prices may cause something of a flutter among the frugal housewives of the country. To get anything in the way of wholesome food at anything near a reasonable price is a new and novel experience these days. And, while it is being urged that service men take the widest advantage of this opportunity, it is difficult to picture the average returned soldier in a mad scramble for "canned willie" and the several varieties of chow he partook of during the past year or two. Of course, high living cost and attendant necessity tend to drive one's appetite to most any extreme. But the sale of Army supplies at "reduced" price is not much of a panacea for extortionate food prices. The outcome of the impending onslaught against food profiteers will be awaited with far more interest. Perhaps it will bring us back to more pies like mother used to make, which have a more appetizing aspect, some way or other, than the beans our uncle used to bake.





The American Legion

Mortimer G. Robbins Post 215, P.O. Box 82, Nahant, Massachusetts 01908-0082

In Memory Honor Roll coming to Nahant with The Wall That Heals How to have your loved one memorialized

NAHANT – When the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial replica The Wall that Heals (TWTH) rolls into Nahant for display on July 15-18, it will be accompanied by a mobile video compilation of photos of those who went to Vietnam and survived their tours there, only to come home and die due to a service-related illness.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has a program called In Memory that features more than 4,700 Vietnam veterans who died under these circumstances. Currently, there are more than 200 such veterans from Massachusetts memorialized for all time on the website: <https://www.vvmf.org/Honor-Roll/>. A portable scrolling video monitor version of the Massachusetts Honor Roll will accompany TWTH on its two Massachusetts stops this summer. In addition to Nahant, TWTH will be in Townsend July 1-4. These two stops are the only New England appearances for TWTH this year.

TWTH is a three-quarters size replica of the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial in Washington, D.C. It is part of the programming offered by the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial Fund. TWTH and In Memory were scheduled to be in Nahant and Townsend last year but had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Anyone who wants to submit a profile of a loved one for the In Memory Honor Roll should do so by June 30.

“This is a great opportunity for Massachusetts families to add a loved one’s name to the Honor Roll,” said Bob Fields, Commander of American Legion Post 215, the Nahant sponsor for TWTH. “As we honor those who died in Vietnam with The Wall That Heals, it’s important for the public to know that the war took a lot more of our brothers and sisters after they came home.”

In order to submit a loved one’s profile, applicants should visit the website <https://www.vvmf.org/IM-Application2021/>, or download a written application from: <https://www.vvmf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/In-MemoryApplication-2021.pdf>

Other helpful links:

About In Memory: <https://www.vvmf.org/In-Memory-Program/>

The Wall That Heals schedule: <https://www.vvmf.org/The-Wall-That-Heals/2021-Tour-Schedule/>



2021 Department Convention

The American Legion Department of Massachusetts 2021 Convention will be held on June 4, 5 & 6, 2021 at the Hotel 1620 in Plymouth MA.

This year's convention will be slightly modified to accommodate COVID restrictions.

Pre-Convention Department Executive Committee Meeting will be held on June 3, 2021 at 2:00 PM at the Hotel 1620.

There will not be a Thursday Evening Get-Together, or a Sunday Morning Old Friends Breakfast.

There will not be District Caucuses – District Commander will have to make arrangements to have the Caucus prior to convention.

If you are planning on attending the convention housing request are needed in the Department Office (617) 727-2966 A.S.A.P



The American Legion Family



Around the Department



National Vice Commander Frank MacDonald with the teaching staff at Department of Vermont Leadership Training on April 10, 2021. Tom Scanlon—No Area Commander, Catherine Tester, Department Vice Commander, NVC MacDonald, and Ron Larose Commander Department of Vermont.



On Saturday April 10th, members of Post 124 took part in the Bataan Death March, virtually. Four marched 26.2 miles, Cathey Martin, Kieth Buckhout, Joe Delaney and Eric Volk. Cindy Lacost, Gary Fontaine and Post 124 Commander Shari Ambrose did 15 miles. They did this in honor of WWII Veterans forces who marched 66 miles across the Philippines, Apr 1942, many did not survive. The march is sponsored under White Sands Missile range, New Mexico.



Around the Department



Members of Post 338, American Legion Riders, the Patriot Guard riders, Scout Troop 338, and members of our Legion Family gathered today, Patriots day, to thank and honor our healthcare workers on the front lines during the pandemic.



Thanks to the Cherry Valley Legion Riders for hosting the 2021 MA ALR Meet & Greet on April 10. It was great to see everyone.



Around the Department



On Saturday, April 3rd, Post 124 held a drive through Easter egg hunt for military members and their families. I'm not sure who had more fun.. the kids, Post 124 legion members or the bunny!





Around the Department



Somerset Post 228 Senior Vice Commander Glenn Doup looks on during Girl Scout Troop 1067 Spaghetti Dinner Drive-thru delivery on April 17, 2021. The Girl Scouts made their goal, for their Walt Disney World trip. They raised close to \$2000. Photo by Post 228 Adjutant Lisa Borges



Spaghetti and meatballs is what was on the menu at Post 228, April 17, 2021. Girl Scout Troop 1067 has been meeting at Somerset Post 228. The Post and Girl Scouts teamed up to help them raise money for an upcoming Walt Disney Trip. The Girl Scouts are helping the Post in upcoming beautification projects. In the photo, Post 228 Kitchen Manager Johnny Rodriguez hands off a spaghetti plate to prep for the Drive-thru dinner. Photo by Post 228 Adjutant Lisa Borges



Around the Department



Capt. Lester S. Wass American Legion Post 3

Another successful Easter Meals program.. Thank you to all the volunteers, donors, and members that make this possible!!!!





Around the Department

The American Legion Post 124 Family Supported the American Legion's Children & Youth month



.The American Legion Post 124 family of the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion made donations to the following organizations that help our youth in the greater city of Westfield community:

- The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Westfield
- the YMCA of Greater Westfield
- Baystate Children's Hospital
- Boys Scout Troop 821
- Boy Scout Troop 124
- The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation





Around the Department - Essay on a member passed—Herb Church

by: Lisa Borges, Adjutant District 9

The name seems so simple, doesn't it? Two -- one syllables.

Like everyone's life of course, and because of his humanness, I am sure things were anything but simple. The name though, is short, sweet, and crisp for the eye and the ear.

My relationship, like the two syllables was brief with him. He was a name to put in a square on a form. I even think I used it in a few places. There was a ring to it for me for some reason. I didn't think too much of it at the time. I believe I may have met him at a meeting, but I didn't know which man he was. You can be sure I paid attention to him when I had to step forward in line at his viewing.

Mr. Church's showing, or wake, would be my first American Legion one. I attended with my post and district commander. We went up to his casket together and paid our respects with a pause and a prayer.

I think as people we face death differently, but I also think we see our own selves in that casket, shrug that off, and then go about the day, unless the one who has passed on was a part of your everyday life.

Mr. Church was ninety-four. Some of my fifty-something year old friends would say he lived a long life and for him to be gone is kind of, to be expected. Think about it though. If this man was full of life and did many of the right things, we all intend to do; he left a hole in people's hearts.

Not long after using Herb's name to fill spaces in a report, I got a text telling me Herb Church had passed. My initial response was, I am sorry for his family, as I am sure he would be very missed, and I assume that would be the case for us all - at some point. It turned out, it mattered more to me. My secretarial duties as a district adjutant made it so I had to take action.

I was to send the alarm to the 22 post commanders and alert them of his passing via email. After doing so, it seemed my duties continued as there was some confusion of the procedure of where the showing would be, and what would happen as far as getting over to the cemetery. I had received a couple of different pieces of information, and it wasn't clear enough. And we are in COVID times everything is unpredictable.

I would receive an email asking for clarifications from one commander. Mr. Church required that I do a better job, so that his Legion brothers had no question of where and when they were to give their final salute.

I got frustrated on how this 101 Dalmatian like dog barking chain could be so confusing with many unknowns. I did what any writer, researcher, or PR person would do, and take matters into my own hands, especially after being questioned and apparently being required to step up and speak or write without a doubt.

I looked up his name via Google. He was now becoming more to me than a two-syllable name. There were a few small articles about an event or two he was a part of, and so I saw some of his life and got to see more of the man.

Then, there it was, the obituary, exactly what I was searching for. Now a full picture revealed itself. Ninety-four years condensed into about five paragraphs. The good news, I now had the proper information to resend to his comrades.

Continued on Page 26



Around the Department (Continued)

As I was new to all of this, I sent an email to the next level adjutant asking that he make this a part of the “barking chain”. He agreed to with another email. He did something I was not expecting. He included my personal letter to him with the information. I was surprised as I had hoped to keep my errors out of the public, but there it was my plea for assistance in getting the corrections out to the mass. I did NOT feel so professional.

You can imagine after ninety-four years of life with seventy serving the American Legion there was a large impact with losing him. Like many he was a son, husband, and father. He was married for 70 years and an avid churchgoer. I couldn’t help to notice that he had done so many things. I was a sailor, it touched me to learn he was too. Mr. Church served in World War II. He was assigned to the Landing Ship Tank (LST-240) as a quartermaster third class, serving in the Pacific Theater. His ship operated in the area of the Mariana Islands, delivering men and supplies which were instrumental in securing the islands of Tinian and Saipan. I heard he was also a Mason.

I was in awe of him because of all his service and then I saw him lying there an elderly man. His dedication for the Legion was so deep-rooted that he was going to be buried in his American Legion uniform. I’m still in awe as I cannot get the picture of him lying in his uniform out of my mind.

Mr. Church helped me to feel I was where I was supposed to be at that moment in time. Just after I was by his casket, I waited to give my condolences to his widow. I realized that he was embodiment of volunteerism, something I have stood for since I held a vice-president position at my CYO as a teen. I wished I got to be a part of a project with him. It would be nice to laugh over something funny and share in it with a few others. I don’t even know if he was even a laugh-er. Was he a serious gentleman with whom I would have to maintain a military bearing instead? I won’t ever know now for myself.

When I got to Mrs. Church, I gave the standard I am sorry for you and your family’s loss and continued that he is a true inspiration and I thought to myself I can only hope to be as dedicated as her husband to my community as if I could fill some of the space he left behind, in my own way.

The legionnaires and I then made our way to the back of the room. We were to stay to perform a short ritual which is code for paying respects with a special prayer and a solemn salute, or a salute with a slow drop in the end as a final respect. Two other legionnaires from his post, the commander and adjutant, lead four of us, the post and district commander and a past national commander toward the front again. I knew one very well as he and I had been working on district goals. As both men stood before the room of more than 50 people, we waited for them to speak. The first one had read tribute from a piece of paper. When he was in the middle of the piece he had to pause because he was emotional. When he finished his reading, I thought we were done being emotional, but then the next man read a prayer. His voice cracked too, and you could feel Herb Church meant so much to them.

Later, I found out he recruited both to the Legion. The commander whose voice cracked had spent many days running errands and taking him to appointments and just looking after him and his family. Clearly, Herb Church, with two syllables, was very loved, did amazing things, and was going to be missed by many.



Northeastern Division National Vice President



It is Time

Time to Relieve the stress of the global pandemic

AND

Time to **Celebrate**

After many delays, due to pandemic concerns, we are rescheduling the celebration of Carolyn Baranowski as our Auxiliary Northeast Division Vice President

So, without further delay . . .

Let's **Celebrate** our Eastern Division National Vice President

Carolyn Baranowski

Sunday, October 24, 2021 at Storrowtown Carriage House, 1305 Memorial Drive (Eastern State Exposition grounds) West Springfield, MA. 01089. Cocktails will be at 12:00 noon and sit-down dinner at 1:00 PM.

Please join us to help celebrate and honor Carolyn as she continues to serve the American Legion Auxiliary.

The dinner choices will be chicken francaise or prime rib or baked scrod. Also included will be fruit cup with sherbet, Caesar salad, twice baked potatoes, honey glazed carrots and ice cream puff for dessert! Coffee and tea and a cash bar. Keep an eye out for further details!

Sincerely,

The Committee to Celebrate Carolyn



State by VA Secretary McDonough on the Presidents FY 22 Discretionary Funding Request

WASHINGTON — The Biden-Harris administration today submitted to Congress the president's priorities for fiscal year 2022 discretionary spending. The funding request invests in the core foundations of our country's strength and advances key U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) priorities, including addressing Veteran homelessness, suicide prevention, caregiver support, and modernizing information technology systems to enhance customer service experience and ensure Veterans receive world-class health care. The discretionary request ensures that all our Veterans, including women Veterans, Veterans of color, and LGBTQ+ Veterans, receive the care they have earned and enable them to create civilian lives of meaning and opportunity. The president's 2022 discretionary request includes \$113.1 billion in discretionary funding for VA, a \$8.5 billion or 8.2% increase from the FY 2021 enacted level. This funding is in addition to the substantial resources provided in the [American Rescue Plan](#). The president's FY 2022 discretionary request::

- **Protects those who protected us.** The discretionary request includes \$97.5 billion for VA medical care, \$7.6 billion (an increase of 8.5%) above the 2021 enacted level. These funds, which are in addition to the more than \$15 billion designated for Veterans' medical care in the American Rescue Plan, will continue to improve access to VA healthcare, including increases in funding for women's health, mental health, suicide prevention and Veterans' homeless programs. The discretionary request includes \$2.1 billion for Veterans' homelessness programs, an increase of 4.4% over the 2021 enacted level, excluding supplemental funding, to further the administration's goal of achieving a systematic end to Veteran homelessness. The funding will also further support the department's efforts to address substance use disorders and expand services related to military sexual trauma.
- **Prioritizes Veteran suicide prevention outreach.** The discretionary request includes \$542 million, nearly \$230 million above the 2021 enacted level, for existing programs dedicated to Veteran suicide prevention outreach, including funding to increase the capacity of the Veterans Crisis Line.
- **Invests in research critical to Veterans' health needs.** The discretionary request includes \$882 million, the largest year-over-year increase in recent history, for medical and prosthetic research. This historic investment will advance the department's understanding of the impact of traumatic brain injury and toxic exposure on long-term health outcomes as part of its continuing prioritization of research focused on the needs of disabled Veterans.
- **Advances VA's electronic health record program.** The discretionary request includes \$2.7 billion to continue modernizing VA's Electronic Health Record (EHR) to ensure Veterans receive world-class health care well into the future.
- **Modernizes VA information technology.** The discretionary request includes \$4.8 billion in total resources for VA's Office of Information and Technology to support Veteran-focused technology development and cloud modernization, deliver efficient IT services, and enhance customer service experience.

These discretionary investments reflect only one element of the president's broader agenda. In the coming months, the administration will release a budget that will further detail this discretionary funding request and provide a comprehensive fiscal vision for the nation that reinvests in America, supports future growth and prosperity, meets U.S. commitments, and does so in a fiscally sustainable way.



Department Calendar of Events

6/3/2021	2:00 PM	Department Executive Committee	Hotel 1620, Plymouth , MA
6/4-6/6		Department Convention	Hotel 1620, Plymouth, MA
6/6	2:00 PM	Department Executive Committee	Hotel 1620, Plymouth, MA
6/6/2021	3:00 PM	Pre Convention Caucus (National)	Hotel 1620, Plymouth, MA

2021 Officers and Committee Appointments and District Rosters have been posted to our website
www.masslegion.org



2021 Membership Standing *as of April 30, 2021*

Target Date 5/12/2021 95%

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1339	1232	92.01%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	1336	1237	92.59%
3	HAMPDEN	2763	2491	90.16%
4	WORCESTER	4751	4630	97.45%
5	MIDDLESEX	4212	3927	93.23%
6	NORFOLK	2624	2372	90.40%
7	SUFFOLK	1301	1149	88.32%
8	ESSEX	2777	2526	90.96%
9	BRISTOL	2659	2652	99.74%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	4270	4034	94.47%
297	CAPITOL HILL	346	375	108.38%
462	HEADQUARTERS	2343	2054	87.67%
	TOTAL	30,721		
	National Quota	31,476	29,902	91.11%



POSTS

- Post 6 Lynn
- Post 11 Brookline
- Post 20 Attleboro
- Post 22 Whitman
- Post 25 Holyoke
- Post 31 Southbridge
- Post 33 Uxbridge
- Post 46 Beverly Farms
- Post 50 Clinton
- Post 52 Ludlow
- Post 58 Oxford
- Post 74 Framingham
- Post 88 Marshfield
- Post 90 Melrose
- Post 91 East Bridgewater
- Post 104 Walpole
- Post 107 Natick
- Post 117 Oliver Ames Jr.
- Post 119 Havard
- Post 121 Berkley
- Post 134 Merrimac
- Post 136 Willimington
- Post 140 Hull
- Post 142 Ashburnham
- Post 144 Scituate
- Post 145 Westport
- Post 147 Rockland
- Post 151 Leominster
- Post 159 Westford
- Post 162 Berlin
- Post 163 Westboro
- Post 166 Fairhaven
- Post 173 Upton
- Post 174 Westminster
- Post 198 Mansfield
- Post 199 Townsend
- Post 203 Bridgewater
- Post 222 Norton
- Post 228 Somerset
- Post 230 26th Yankee
Division (Bourne)
- Post 236 Haydenville
- Post 238 Shrewsbury
- Post 246 Gilbertville
- Post 249 Littleton
- Post 253 Chatham
- Post 254 West Stockbridge
- Post 265 Acushnet
- Post 288 Tatnuck
- Post 291 East Lynn
- Post 298 Housatonic
- Post 307 South Dartmouth
- Post 308 Orleans
- Post 312 South Attleboro
- Post 314 Fall River
- Post 315 Dracut
- Post 327 Mission Hill
- Post 323 Grafton Hill
- Post 340 Sheffield
- Post 350 New Marlboro
- Post 351 United Forces
- Post 366 East Chelmsford
- Post 369 William G. Walsh
- Post 379 Boxford
- Post 386 East Brookfield
- Post 391 Charlton
- Post 397 Victor J. Quaranta
- Post 399 LTJG W.M. Penny
- Post 411 Millville
- Post 415 Petersham
- Post 425 Freetown
- Post 442 Marsh
- Post 443 Cherry Valley
- Post 446 Lanesboro
- Post 464 Fall River
- Post 488 Dennis
- Post 500 SGT Duffy
(Taunton)



BlueStar SeniorTech provides healthcare services and technology tailored to help seniors live better lives – mobile, safe, and secure.

BlueStar is a veteran-owned, led and operated company so service to our customers is "mission-critical."

All ALA Members and their families are eligible for special 10% discounts on your choice of any and all products and services.

PHONE
(800) 300-1724

EMAIL
support@bluestarseniortech.com



Auxiliary Membership *as of 4/30/2021*

	No. of Units	Name	2021 Goal	Present Membership	District Percentage	No. Quota Units
1	4	BERKSHIRE	221	197	89.14%	1
2	9	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	295	272	92.20%	4
3	12	HAMPDEN	419	314	74.94%	
4	26	WORCESTER	1072	937	87.41%	5
5	27	MIDDLESEX	980	871	88.88%	6
6	11	NORFOLK	395	334	84.56%	2
7	7	SUFFOLK	214	159	74.30%	2
8	12	ESSEX	588	540	91.84%	5
9	13	BRISTOL	302	265	87.75%	3
10	13	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	808	842	104.21%	7
462	1	HEADQUARTERS	139	124	89.21%	
		TOTAL	5,433	4,855	89.36%	



S.A.L.— NEC approves 5 resolutions at Spring Meetings



The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion adopted five resolutions at the NEC Spring Meetings on April 24.

Those resolutions included the creation of an ad hoc committee of the NEC to help coordinate and implement plans for the 50th SAL National Convention, scheduled for Aug. 26-28, 2022, in Milwaukee.

SAL National Commander Clint Bolt announced eight of the nine appointees to the

committee, created by Resolution S-2:

- PNC Joseph Gladden, chairman;
- Chuck Treat, vice chair;
- PNC Robert McBride;
- PNC Christopher Cerullo;
- PNC J.R. Stillwell;
- Robert Avery;
- Bill Towns; and
- PNC David Faust.

Other resolutions adopted at the SAL NEC Spring Meeting include:

- An amendment to Rule 1 of the NEC to state that voting representation from 25 detachments at any SAL NEC meeting would constitute a quorum;
- A resolution empowering the SAL national adjutant to make changes in resolutions to eliminate factual misstatements or inconsistent language;
- A resolution establishing a national policy and procedure for a national SAL representative to attend the funeral or memorial service of a past national commander or significant leader of the SAL;
- And a resolution to donate \$5,000 to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) from the 2021 SAL budget CWF line.

Other donation amounts announced at the spring meeting included:

- CWF, \$22,277
- Fisher House, \$400
- NEF, \$2,375
- OCW, \$4,400
- Veterans & Children Foundation, \$1,500



S.A.L.—Squadron Data Report and Pay Online

The new Squadron Data Report (SDR) will help Sons of The American Legion squadrons keep their membership rolls up-to-date, and will eventually allow members of those squadrons to renew their membership online.

It's part of the new MySAL.org launching April 1; however, SDRs for 2021 will not be due until May 15. Online SAL membership renewal will go into effect in July for the 2022 membership year, provided that a member's squadron has submitted an SDR.

Squadrons that do not submit an SDR will not have member renewal capabilities until the form is submitted and recorded.

Note that the instructions with the download call for an April 15 deadline to submit, but for 2021 that deadline has been extended to May 15.

The Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) has also been revised to allow for online submission through MySAL.org.



2021 S.A.L. Membership Standings as of 4/30/2021

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	181	175	96.69%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	275	226	82.18%
3	HAMPDEN	372	287	77.15%
4	WORCESTER	998	828	82.97%
5	MIDDLESEX	1269	1009	79.51%
6	NORFOLK	794	715	90.05%
7	SUFFOLK	131	135	103.05%
8	ESSEX	446	295	66.14%
9	BRISTOL	248	191	77.02%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	641	548	85.49%
	Capital Hill	9	9	100.0%
	TOTAL	5364	4418	82.36%



A.P. GARDNER POST 194



Military Service Day

At Patton Homestead, Hamilton Massachusetts



Saturday July 17, 2021 10am-4pm RAIN OR SHINE

**1943 M4A1 Sherman & M10 Tank Destroyer
and Driving Demonstrations!**

**US ARMY UH-60 BLACKHAWK Helicopter &
State Police EC135 Helicopter Landings, Displays!**

Massachusetts National Guard Units Invited Include:

**The Mounted Horse Lancers Historic Cavalry, Bomb Disposal Unit,
WMD Command Com Unit, Combat K9, Guard Marching Band**

!!! SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS !!!

**Military Re-enactors, Equipment Displays,
Military Vehicles Including Half Tracks, Heavy Trucks,
Artillery, Memorabilia, The Boston Park Rangers Mounted Horse Patrol Unit,
State Police K9, State Police Mounted Horse Troopers**

Children Welcome! Food Truck Refreshments!



**At Patton Homestead, General Patton's home,
650 Asbury St, Hamilton, MA**

SUGGESTED \$10 PARKING DONATION for the NONPROFIT POST 194-THANK YOU!

Event pending Massachusetts and Town of Hamilton COVID-19 active protocols.

Thank you to Senator Tarr, Representative Brad Hill, Lt. General Keefe, TAG, Massachusetts National Guard and the Town of Hamilton.
Helicopter landings pending final mission changes or weather, check our Facebook page for times, confirmations.



A.P. GARDNER POST 194

Information: Email: petergwinnIMC@gmail.com or 978-317-1234

www.apgardnerposthamilton.org Find us on Facebook as: American Legion: Post 194 (Hamilton MA)



The American Legion
Tenth District Council
Department of Massachusetts

Annual Barbecue

Sunday, May 16, 2021
following the business meeting at
12:30 PM

50/50

Cost: \$15

Raffles

Location

T/S Elmer R. Hammond
American Legion Post 226,
92 Robinson Street, Hanson, MA

District 10 fundraising event please contact:

Junior Vice Paul Connell

Phone: 781-956-6116

Email: madist10jvc@gmail.com





LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 414 GUN RAFFLE

1ST PRIZE



Mossberg MC2 9mm or \$500.00 Cash

2ND PRIZE



Radikal 12 Ga tactical pump action
shotgun or \$250.00 Cash

1st and 2nd prizes
supplied by



per ticket
\$20
400 tickets sold

For Tickets ask a
Dudley Gendron Legion Rider (Sutton)

Reach us on Facebook:
Dudley Gendron ALR Chapter 414

Email:
Treasureralr414@gmail.com

Winning ticket will be drawn when all
tickets are sold. . FID or LTC required
for pick up of rifle. Drawing will be
shown online after tickets are sold..



SAVE THE DATE

Women Veterans' Appreciation Day

Friday, June 11, 2021, 10:00 am



Join us as we present the

2021 Deborah Sampson Award

The Memorial Beach Bandstand

Sharon, Massachusetts

Parking available on site

For more information please contact

Director-Susan McDonough

Susan.McDonough2@mass.gov



Tyngsboro American Legion Auxiliary Unit#247

MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

**Win a brand new book of \$5.00 Massachusetts State
Lottery
Scratch tickets (VALUE \$ 750.00)**

15 CHANCES FOR \$10

Drawing May 8, 2021



Purchase tickets at the Post or contact Diane Di Leo
978-204-9329



2nd Annual "To Hail and Back" Poker Chip Run



SUNDAY JUNE 27, 2021

**Dudley Gendron American Legion
156 Boston Road
Sutton Mass 01590**



**\$20.00 RIDER
\$10.00
PASSENGER**

**Registration: 9:30 am
Kick stands up: 10:30 am**

**Proceeds to
Benefit**



Made with PosterMyWall.com



May 15, 2021

Save The Date!

***Join the Legion Riders for their
annual spring ride***



This ride is dedicated to
the memory of one of our
own

Gayle Mahoney

May you live on in all of us

Blessing of the bikes!! 10am

***Raffle's Food
and more***

Registration starts at 8:30 am - KSU 10:30 AM
\$20.00 per bike (with or w/o passenger)

**Support
your local
veterans**

***Post 138 American Legion Riders
175 Main Street, Spencer MA***

For more info or questions
contact Dan Meloche
danpm1@live.com
774-200-6459 (text/call)



→ American Legion Riders, Post 138 – Spencer



Oxford American Legion Riders Post 58

Poker Run

June 5, 2021

Oxford American Legion

227 Main Street

Oxford MA 01540

Registration 9 am to 10:15 am

KSU 10:30

Start and End at POST 58

Rider \$20.00

Passenger \$10.00



**Raffles – Food – Fun after the ride
To benefit Veteran Causes**

Save the Date



3rd Annual ALR Spring Breakout
Hosted by Baldwinville ALR Chapter 373

May 15-16 2021

Royalston Fish and Game

Chicken BBQ

Live Music

50/50 Raffle

Tent Camping and Small Trailers

Allowed overnight..

\$20 per with Chicken Dinner (Pre Order)

\$10 per without meal admission

More Info and Posters to follow

Facebook: @ALRma.373



*******SAVE THE DATE*******

**Athol American Legion Riders Post 102
1st Annual Break Out Ride and Bike Blessing!
Saturday May 22, 2021!**

**All details will be posted by the end of March!! Please
save the date, and come meet the Athol Legion Riders,
enjoy a well prepared ride, have your motorcycle blessed!
There will be an after party with band, food, bar at Post
102!!!**

ALR CHAPTER 373



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS 373
5TH ANNUAL

POKER RUN

TO BENEFIT LOCAL VETERANS CHARITIES

SATURDAY, MAY 22nd

REGISTRATION: 9AM SELF GUIDED GROUP RIDE

SAVE THE DATE DETAILS COMING SOON



AMERICAN LEGION POST 373

3 CENTRAL ST BALDWINVILLE MA 01436

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Save the Date

Ashburnham American Riders 142
1st Annual Poker Run
August 7th 2021

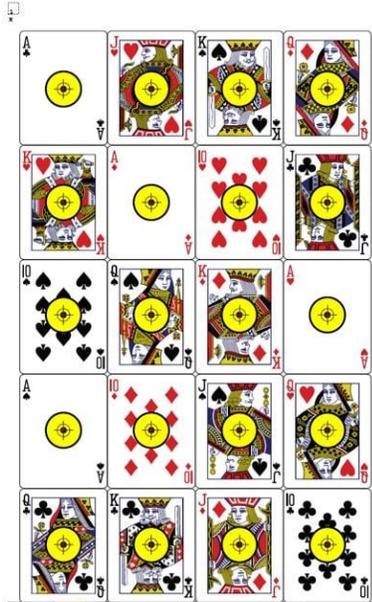


Ashburnham American Legion Post 142
32 Williams Rd
Ashburnham, Ma 01430

Proceeds Benefit Local Veterans and Charities

****** More details to come ******

SAVE THE DATE! NORTHBORO ALR ERIK'S RIDE – AUG 28, 2021



One Target, Five Shots, Best Hand Wins!

- Join us for the 4th annual Erik's Ride
- 5 different Gun Clubs
- 1 Target
- 1 Shot at your target at each club
- Best hand wins
- Cookout after the ride at the Northborough American Legion Post
- Raffles/Prizes/Music



Scan for
Info and
Registration

SAVE THE DATE - JULY 17, 2021

CHESTER P TUTTLE CELEBRATION RIDE



After more than 2 years
the Chester P Tuttle Post
is being rebuilt . Please save the date to
join us in our celebration ride. Further details
will follow.



Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

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ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Do you have an article or news announcement to share with the rest of the Department of Massachusetts? If so, please follow these basic guide-lines for submissions.

- Submit your text in Microsoft Word format (.doc) or as a text file (.txt or .rtf). Save your file as the same name as the article, so we can easily keep track of it. Be sure to make it clear who the author is, whether it's you or if you are just forwarding it to us. • **WE LOVE ARTICLES WITH PHOTOS**, or any other kind of images! Include photos and/or artwork for articles *separately* (NOT embed-ded in the article) as high resolution (300 dpi, or better) JPGs. Please name these files accordingly so we can track them along with your article. Let us know in your e-mail of any corresponding captions, and/or name of the photographer if necessary.

- Spell check everything! Especially people's names, web addresses, etc. You can help us greatly here by simply running your spell check function in your word processing program.

- **E-mail everything directly to us at fmacdonald53@comcast.net no later than the 25th of every month for it to appear in the very next issue.** This way we have plenty of time to work with in case we need to clarify anything with you.



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