

Massachusetts e-Legionnaire



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 11 Issue 14

September 2020

Commander's Corner



Greetings, as I write this article to you, I hope this finds you all healthy and feeling good and you have kept busy as we have self-isolated ourselves during the pandemic that is sweeping our nation. I realize this hasn't been an easy time for any of us, for your Department Commander, it has well restricted my travels, in the process I have had to reshape my way of thinking and planning. I often curse and bless modern technology and in these times technolo-

gy has most certainly been a blessing. Teleconferencing for committee meetings has most definitely helped keep things moving and so far feedback has been very positive. With that being said we are back to only being allowed 25 or less to congregate for meetings, so it's back to Zoom for our DEC meeting in September.

As we strive to survive this chokehold on our posts don't forget to work on your membership both existing and potential members. Work your delinquent list, they need to be contacted to renew their membership and while doing so we need to ask why they haven't and what their reasoning is.

We are currently sitting at 48.93% and we need to reach 50% by September

10th of which I have complete faith we will be above by then and well on our way to 60%. I ask that the District commanders to queue up the posts who are sitting on membership and remind them to carry on as best as they can with processing them. Remember possessing membership online is contact free and fast. Remember, your membership is a voice, a vote, a game changer in your state's capital and in Washington DC. on issues concerning the benefits every deserving Veteran needs and should have. Your membership makes the American Legion voice strong and loud as we lobby and testify

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THE AMERICAN LEGION
“Veterans Strengthening America”

Commander's Corner (Continued)

before the State House of Representatives, Senators and both houses in your Nation's Capital. The voice of your membership helps ensure we maintain and keep our Veterans Affairs Health Care Strong, yes, every membership is a number that counts. Also, each membership helps ensure The American Legion Service Officers in Massachusetts are there when you need help in securing a medical claim or disability that comes from your time in the service doing what was asked of you.

With that being said I want to applaud our VSO's who have gone above and beyond in providing continuity in their services with all of the new hurdles that this virus has created. Face to face visits become concerning for both parties involved, the claims have not taken a break just because we are on hold with our normal life, so be kind and patient with your VSO they are doing everything they can to obtain your benefits you have earned.

I am sorry to report that we had two long time Legionnaires who have reported to Post Everlasting, Richard "Dick" McMahon past District 10 Commander who also was a long standing participant with our Scholarship program, Boy Scouts and Finance committee and past District 6 Commander Charles L. Wade.

On August 19th I had the honor of making a presentation on behalf of our National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford to The Holyoke Soldiers Home, who received a donation of 10,000 masks through the efforts of our National American Legion in coalition with a good will gesture from Taiwan, who donated 250,000 masks nationwide as a symbol of friendship and to help our veterans and communities stay safe. In attendance for the presentation where past Dept. Commander Louie Brault and his wife Rosie, Dept. Sergeant at Arms Cindy Lacoste, Dist. 3 Commander Bob Mackay, Dist. 3 Vice Commander Ryan Howe, Soldiers Home board of trustees members Chris Dupont and Brigadier General Sean Collins , Soldiers Home board of trustees Administrator Valinda Liptak and Norm Gousy Soldiers Home CFO.

Unfortunately the Holyoke Soldiers Home is under a media blackout until further notice and we were unable to include any media coverage for this event. The proclamation letter in it's entirety will be posted in this addition for your viewing.

Last year I had EXCELLENT cooperation from all District Commanders, the members of the Department Executive Committee, Commission and Committee Chairs I asked to serve in those appointed capacities have been outstanding. As a Commander I am extremely fortunate to have been able to surround myself with people of leadership capability and the knowledge to make their committees work to the advantage of our Department. We have experienced challenges of varying degrees as a result of this outbreak and we find ourselves striving to return to some sense of normalcy. I look forward to round two of repeated success into 2021.

Yours in Comradeship,
Jodie Pajak
Department Commander

The American Legion



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

* WASHINGTON OFFICE * 1608 "K" STREET, N.W. * WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 *
(202) 861-2700 *

July 31, 2020

Soldiers Home of Holyoke
Attn: Norman Gousy, Director of Finance
110 Cherry Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Dear Mr. Gousy:

On behalf of the nearly 2 million members of The American Legion, I am pleased to make a donation of 10,000 medical masks to assist the residents and staff of the Soldiers Home of Holyoke in a time of need. The coronavirus pandemic has caused great sadness and has had a severe impact on long-term care facilities nationwide, including the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke.

Legion posts in Massachusetts have already risen to the occasion by providing care packages to the Home. This mask donation is yet another example of our dedication to Holyoke and to keeping America's veterans and their communities safe during this unprecedented pandemic; a charge The American Legion eagerly takes as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that this mask donation is made possible because of a gesture of good will by the country of Taiwan, who recently donated 250,000 masks to The American Legion as a symbol of friendship and to help keep our veterans and communities safe.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to those who have served in defense of this nation and I trust that the leadership and staff of the Soldiers Home of Holyoke will put these masks to good use. The American Legion stands ready to provide additional assistance and support as needed.

For God & Country,

James W. "Bill" Oxford
National Commander
The American Legion

Membership



Presentation of donated masks to the Holyoke Soldiers Home.

In attendance starting from the Left: Brigadier General Sean Collins, Soldiers' Home in Holyoke Board of Trustees, Valenda Liptak, Soldiers' Home in Holyoke Administrator, Norm Gousy, Soldiers' Home in Holyoke CFO, Massachusetts Department Commander Jodie Pajak, Past Massachusetts Department Commander Louis Brault, Rosemary Brault, Chris Dupont, Soldiers' Home Board of Trustees, Massachusetts Sergeant at Arms Cindy Lacoste, District 3 Vice Commander Shawn Ryan Howe, District 3 Commander Robert Mackay

James W. Oxford, National Commander of The American Legion



After my election as national commander at the 101st national convention in Indianapolis last August, I was optimistic about the 2019-2020 membership year. I set a goal of a 90 percent retention rate and a recruiting goal of 100,000 new members. With the passage of The LEGION Act in July 2019 and the dedication, commitment and participation of so many posts, departments and individual Legionnaires, I believed these were achievable goals. Nationally, we have surpassed the retention goal but fell short in the new member gains. This year, we will be just over 60,000 new members. But earlier this year the world changed. The American Legion changed when COVID-19 took center stage.

Like the Marines say, adapt and overcome.

We responded to the national emergency like the patriotic servants that we are. We dedicated ourselves to helping others.

I am proud of the Buddy Checks, food and supply distributions, blood drives and fundraising efforts that our American Legion Family members have undertaken in communities across the United States and overseas. When the history of the COVID-19 pandemic is written, the American Legion Family will be able to look back with pride.

But right now, let's look ahead.

We can use our response to the COVID-19 emergency as part of our story. The story of why veterans should belong to The American Legion. The story of what The American Legion does for veterans, their communities, their departments and their nation.

The American Legion is about service. And we are about patriotism.

The most important message that we have to remember is that we need every Legionnaire to be a recruiter. Remember, I'm extremely proud of your efforts and with everyone's help and participation I believe The American Legion is, and can continue to be, a growing, dynamic, effective organization with our best days still ahead.

Building a foundation for the future

James W. "Bill" Oxford
National Commander

Auxiliary President Coral Mae Grout



Hello Everyone!

At this point, the annual American Legion Family Conventions should be nearly completed, and attendees are heading back to their homes with a renewed sense of purpose as we continue to volunteer for veterans and their families. But, it is 2020 and COVID19 is still very present everywhere we look. That being said, September is usually the month when we begin the new membership year. So, let's get started!

Units should have received their 2021 membership packets. If you have not, please contact Ann Fournier at the Department Headquarters.

Membership drives our programs. When you solicit dues this year, please remind members of all the good that the American Legion Auxiliary does within communities and at VA facilities. We do not know how Christmas Gift Shops will operate this year, but, rest assured that they will happen. So, when you get a renewal, think about asking for a new gift for the Shop. You can also ask for canned goods and other items to help food pantries across the Commonwealth. You can ask members to fly their flags proudly. You can ask members to support Give 10 to Education by donating educational supplies (and lots of hand sanitizer!). You can make poppies for distribution next year. Even though we are still separate from life as it used to be, you can still use the phone or Internet to contact new and returning members. Please don't let your membership slide, because of the pandemic. Volunteers are still needed and will be, once the pandemic is in check.

There will be no Fall Conference this year. But, I will be meeting with the Department Officers to plan something that Units and members can access. Please stay tuned for more information on this. Fall Conference has always been a time to learn about ALA programs from chairmen. Please do not hesitate to contact any chairman or officer, if you have a question or want specific information. While we probably will not be attending many district meetings this year, the sharing of information will continue in some format. I understand that many members may not have Internet access. Whenever we do a "Zoom" meeting, you can still attend by phone.

Please keep a list of what you do for veterans, community, and families of veterans and enlisted. When reporting time comes around next spring, you'll be able to transfer what you've done to the forms, rather than trying to remember what you did. It's important to report. Did you know that even if you write "No Activity" on the report, it still counts. Convention and National awards are given for reporting. Let's make Massachusetts shine at next year's Conventions with lots of reports and lots of activities/events.

Be willing to share what you do, members! We have a web page and facebook pages. If you do something, let us know. Perhaps the information you share will be helpful to other units.

Lastly, September has always been the month of the POW/MIA Ceremony in Fall River. It's cancelled this year. Please remember these people from Massachusetts who never came home to their loved ones.

Coral May Grout, Department President





Membership—"Foundation for the Future" Membership Award



American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford will award his national commander "A Foundation for the Future" membership excellence pin to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members into The American Legion.

A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2021 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2020 membership year.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it.

Download the form:

"A Foundation for the Future" incentive pin form <https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/OXFORD THREE NEW MEMBER PIN CERTIFICATION FORM.pdf>



Membership—100% American Legion Family Ribbon

American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford will award his 100 percent American Legion Family Ribbon to any American Legion Family that achieves 100 percent membership by May 30, 2021. For this award, the Legion Family is defined as a post and any combination of an Auxiliary unit, Sons squadron or Legion Riders chapter. Each branch must achieve 100 percent membership to qualify for the award.

National Commander's 100 percent American Legion Family Ribbon form: <https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/Oxford Honor Ribbon Form.pdf>

The department adjutant will transmit information as posts qualify to: The American Legion National Headquarters, Attn: Internal Affairs & Membership, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055

Department Membership Standings (8/28/2020)

District 1: Berkshire 60.04%

District 2: Franklin/Hampshire 57.41%

District 4: Worcester 57.17%





Virtual training on Buddy Checks, membership processing scheduled



In-person gatherings for American Legion meetings and workshops is on hold due to the nationwide pandemic. But the ongoing need for training is still there.

The positive feedback and desire for additional online training covering various American Legion topics was addressed following the 57th National Membership Workshop held virtually through Microsoft Teams earlier this month. As a result, American Legion National Headquarters staff will conduct a virtual training session Tuesday,

Oct. 27, on Buddy Checks and membership processing.

The training will be held through Microsoft Teams. Additional details will be provided when the date gets closer.

American Legion Family members can access the audio presentation files and PowerPoint slides for all eight sessions of the Membership Workshop at legion.org/training/membership. These can be used for training at the post, district and department level.



National Emergency Fund



NEF donations are used to provide immediate financial grants to Legion Family members who have been victimized by a natural disaster such as a hurricane, tornado, flooding or wildfire.

The American Legion's National Emergency Fund (NEF) is available to help American Legion members and posts, and Sons of The American Legion members, who have been impacted by natural disasters.

The NEF provides up to \$3,000 for Legion and SAL members with an active membership who have been displaced due to damages to their primary residence, and up to \$10,000 for posts that have been damaged by a natural disaster and whose programs and activities within the

community are impacted. To apply for an NEF grant, please visit www.legion.org/emergency.

Since its creation in 1989 in response to the devastation of Hurricane Hugo, the NEF has provided more than \$8 million in direct financial assistance to American Legion and SAL members and American Legion posts.

Donations are also accepted to fund the NEF. One hundred percent of donations to the NEF directly help veterans and their families recover from natural disasters.



100 Miles for Hope

TAKE THE CHALLENGE MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Join The American Legion Family in
American Legion National Commander Bill Oxford's
100 Miles for Hope challenge to benefit veterans and children.

Walk, ride, swim, hike, run or cover 100 miles
any way you choose between now and Veterans Day.

SUPPORTING
THE AMERICAN LEGION
VETERANS & CHILDREN FOUNDATION

LEARN MORE
LEGION.ORG/100MILES

REGISTER NOW
EMBLEM.LEGION.ORG



From the Service Officer—History

History allows us to remember the past as we endeavor to form a more perfect Union. We can benefit by learning about the sacrifices, struggles, and lessons of those who came before us. History , of course, cannot be changed, and in spite of efforts to distort or suppress it , we must own it. Our founding fathers were born into a world that accepted rule by those with royal blood. Their rejection of this system had a profound effect not only in our country, but throughout the planet. As recognition, those with artistic talent were empowered to create statues and other monuments as a testament to the leadership skills and bravery of these men who dared to change the world. The entire biographies of these early Americans surely would include all the imperfections which we must take the time to acknowledge, learn, and incorporate into our teachings. For sure, none among us is righteous enough to “cast that first stone”. The monuments and statues need to be preserved, not as a moral reminder, but as a historical object to remember the past that we can learn from, and make tomorrow even better than those early rebellion leaders could have ever imagined.

Mike Whalen

Semper Fi



2020 Annual Report: pandemic relief, youth support and family fun



The newly posted [2020 American Legion Annual Report](#) offers an illustrated snapshot of the organization's service, advocacy and active relief efforts in a year disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Legion, in communities large and small, have stepped forward with Buddy Checks to make sure veterans and their families are not forgotten in a time of social distancing and stay-at-home rules. American Legion Family members have raised money to feed schoolchildren. They have conducted virtual meetings. They have saluted World War II veterans on their birthdays, from the backs of motorcycles. They have delivered groceries and stocked food pantries and more.

Meanwhile, The American Legion pressed on with national priorities, including legislative efforts to improve access to VA health care, extend benefits to veterans exposed to Agent Orange and support government efforts to prevent veteran suicide. The organization welcomed personnel from the newest branch of service – U.S. Space Force – and fought to protect the paychecks of U.S. Coast Guard members in the event of any future government shutdown.

And while such youth programs as the National Oratorical Contest, Junior Shooting Sports Championships and American Legion Baseball were suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic, hundreds of thousands of dollars in American Legion scholarships were awarded during the year to qualified young people pursuing their dreams.

Hundreds of local posts participated and received credit through The American Legion Emblem Sales Flag Rewards program, and a new national podcast – Tango Alpha Lima – debuted in April in the national Media & Communications Division.

To see the annual report, covering the 2019-20 membership year and including audited financial reports, visit [legion.org/annualreport](#) or download a copy at [legion.org/publications](#)



The Legion Weekly Volume 1 Number 5, August 1, 1919

Policies—Not Politics MINGLING in local politics is a temptation and pitfall which posts throughout the country must avoid. Everything bearing on partisan politics was put aside at the Paris caucus and again at the St. Louis caucus when the American Legion was founded. Partisan politics has been barred successfully from every consideration and step in the development of the Legion thus far. This must continue to be. No doubt wily politicians of every denomination will be courting the local posts. There will be crafty campaigns to procure an indorsement of this or that local issue or candidate for public office. It would be more than a blunder for a local post to engage in any such activity. It would be an act of bad faith. Policies—not politics, is the watchword; and the policies are confined to the pronouncements of the St. Louis caucus and the temporary constitution, pending the great November caucus, where all the men who were in sendee are to express themselves.

Editor Note; to this day we keep partisan polices out of Legion business it is policy not politics!



The American Legion: ‘Vets Need Reliable Postal Service’

(INDIANAPOLIS—August 18, 2020) – The American Legion issued the following statement today highlighting its commitment to veterans who rely on timely mail delivery to receive prescriptions:

“Millions of our nations’ veterans depend on a strong U.S. Postal Service for critical needs such as prescription refills. The Department of Veterans Affairs fills over half a million prescriptions each day through the Consolidated Mail Output Pharmacy system. The vast majority of these prescriptions are mailed to veterans through the USPS.

“Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, reduced availability of in-person services at VA facilities, including access to the pharmacy, places veterans in larger reliance on mail-ordered prescriptions and a strong USPS. If our leaders in Washington, D.C. choose not to fund the post office by the end of September, The American Legion is concerned it could have dire consequences for the millions of veterans who rely on the mail every day to deliver life-saving medication. The postal service often plays a pivotal role in the delivery of paperwork needed to process claims for veterans who have been disabled in the service of their country.

“The American Legion has spoken out in favor of a strong USPS before with the passage of a [resolution at our national convention in 2016](#). The American Legion implores Congress to address this issue impacting our nation’s veterans in an expedited manner so they can continue to receive the critical services they need during these difficult times.”

The American Legion, www.legion.org, is the nation’s largest veterans service organization and was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national defense, the care and wellbeing of U.S. military veterans, patriotic youth programs and Americanism.

Media contacts: Indianapolis: John Raughter (317) 630-1350, jraughter@legion.org; Washington: Paul Harris (202) 263-2991, pharris@legion.org



Connected electronic health records

The Electronic Health Record (EHR) Modernization initiative leverages existing commercial solutions to gain interoperability within the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense and community providers. This solution will facilitate the secure transfer of active-duty servicemembers' health data during the transition to veteran status and will provide clinicians with efficient access to a veteran's health information.

In May 2018, VA awarded Cerner a contract to replace its EHR systems with Cerner Millennium, currently deployed by the DoD. VA kicked off its initial operating capability of the new EHR at three sites, two in Washington state and one in Nevada, with the expectation to go live in March 2020. VA completed the migration of more than 23 million veteran health records and created training for key clinical front-line staff in preparation for smooth implementation.

After IOC implementation, VA will deploy the new EHR solution over a 10-year period across the entire VA enterprise. Maintenance and support of legacy EHR systems will continue until every VA medical facility has the new EHR solution. This ensures that all current patient records are accessible and no interruption of any veteran's care occurs.

WHAT CAN CONGRESS DO?

Ensure VA's EHR initiative remains fully funded.

Require VA to regularly report EHR progress to Congress.

KEY POINTS

Over the next 10 years, VA will move to a new electronic health records system that links VA, DoD and community health-care providers to patient records and unifies all VA facilities on one system.

VA recently kicked off its initial operating capability for the new EHR at medical facilities in Nevada and Washington state.

It's the fact that, for the very first time, we are going to have an opportunity to exist as a single shared entity, where we all truly collaborate in the same space, in order to make sure that our EHR is working as hard as it possibly can for the veteran.

Dr. Evan Paul, Hospitalist, VA Puget Sound Health Care System



Basic Training

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is available online.

Already taken the old course? The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam. Go to Legion.org/training for additional details.



Editorial—John Lenotte, PDC

Unfortunately, The American Legion has to continue to fight for veterans' benefits. Here is an example: American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Ralph Bozella joined U.S. Rep. Josh Harder and representatives from other veterans service organizations via conference call Aug. 20 in announcing the launch of an effort to expand coverage for veterans exposed to Agent Orange but unable to access support from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Earlier this year, Harder introduced The Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act. The legislation would ensure Vietnam veterans with bladder cancer, certain thyroid problems and Parkinson's-like symptoms are able to access care through VA. To become law, the amendment must now be included in the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act. We are fortunate to have great staff employed in our Washington, DC office working with Congress and the Administration to advocate for issues pertinent to The American Legion.

The American Legion made a donation of 10,000 medical masks to the Holyoke Soldiers' Home on Aug. 19 in Holyoke, Mass. More than 76 veterans residing in the 250-bed, state-run facility have died since March after being sickened by the coronavirus, making it the site of one of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks in the country.

"Legion posts in Massachusetts have already risen to the occasion by providing care packages to the Home," said American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford in a letter read by Cindy La-coste, sergeant at arms for the Department of Massachusetts and member of the Board of Trustees for the Holyoke Soldiers' Home. "This mask donation is yet another example of our dedication to Holyoke and to keeping America's veterans and their communities safe during this unprecedented pandemic." The donation of masks to the Holyoke Soldiers' Home was made possible due to the generous donation of 250,000 medical masks to The American Legion by Taiwan.

Of course, a key upcoming event is the election on November 3. Let us not forget that we are voting not only for who will be President, but also the entire US House of Representatives and some states will be voting for their US Senator. Regrettably we cannot rely on the traditional sources of information about the candidates. Gone are the days when we could depend on the newspaper and television news. And the ads are all hype. There is also disinformation out on the Internet, including Facebook and Twitter. As I have been mentioning, there are some decent sites on the Internet. Sources include: votesmart.org; politifact.com; factcheck.com; snopes.com; and checkyourfact.com. I am partial to votesmart.org, they have done great work on their site and have a phone application.

Like many of you, I have family and friends who may choose not to vote as they feel it will not matter. As we have seen in many recent elections, the number of votes DO matter. Less than 60% of eligible voters actually vote. This is a critical election. Educate yourself with the policies/actions that each major political party is proposing. And then VOTE!!!!

May God Bless America and the troops and their families who sacrifice to keep us free.

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 jlenotte@gmail.com



NATIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION AWARDS

The first American Legion National Economic Commission Award was established in 1947, and recognized individuals across the country who had established outstanding records in the employment and retention of workers with disabilities. Since that time, categories were added to the current nine award programs.

The National Economic Commission is striving to award all possible pending awards that are available to The American Legion. We implore all departments to continue to submit award nominations for the awards with the hope that we receive all 400 + possible nominations. We are striving to reach 100% participation in this program.

- 1. EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD - (*SMALL*)**
- 2. EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD - (*MEDIUM*)**
- 3. EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARD - (*LARGE*)**
- 4. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARD - (*DVOP*)**
- 5. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARD - (*LVER*)**
- 6. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARD - (*LOCAL OFFICE*)**
- 7. EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS AWARD**
- 8. ENHANCE THE LIVES OF DISABLED PERSONS AWARD**
- 9. HOMELESS VETERAN OUTREACH AWARD**

To be considered for the National Award, the deadline for submittals to the National Economic Commission in Washington, DC is **January 15, of the following year**. Example: To be nominated for the 2013 awards the nomination must be in by January 15, 2014.

It is important that the department winners are submitted by this time to ensure that they are considered for the national award to be delivered at the annual National Convention. **Each of the national winners receives a stipend to help defray the cost of their representative's travel to the convention city to accept the award.**

We ask that you submit written correspondence, or fax, or send an electronic scanned copy in the form of an e-mail to our national headquarters office. Please title your letter '[Title] Awards- [Department name]'.

All entries must be accompanied by an official nomination form and must not be longer than two pages of narrative. Supporting documents, which may also be submitted with the nomination, must not exceed ten pages.

NATIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION OR FAX TO 202.861.0404 1608 K STREET NW OR E-MAIL A SCANNED COPY WASHINGTON, DC 20006 ECON@LEGION.ORG

Aging Veterans at State Homes "Left Behind"

Aging, ill and disabled veterans living at state homes across the country were "left behind" during the coronavirus pandemic, according to a recent report, and now more than 1,000 have died. At least 1,011 residents of state veterans' homes across the country died from complications of the coronavirus as of 17 JUL, according to a report released last week by Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). But that number is likely much higher. Only 47 of the 162 total state veterans' homes have reported data to federal officials so far -- five months into the pandemic. As the numbers of veterans dying in state homes began to grow, VVA assembled a committee to investigate. VVA leaders called what they discovered "disturbing" -- a lack of oversight, transparency and most of all, accountability, investigators said. So far, the committee has been unable to obtain pandemic data for 115 of the state homes, leaving the extent of the virus' effects on older veterans unclear. But advocates and lawmakers said the number of known deaths is startling enough to question the Department of Veterans Affairs' role in managing the homes. VVA leaders said VA refused to own any responsibility for the failings at state homes that led to so many deaths. The rising death toll, VVA said, "called into question the entire spectrum of the state veterans' home/VA relationship." "There is a sense that VA does not embrace the care of these veterans as being part of its mission," VVA's report reads.

The report, "[America's Aging Veteran Population and the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)" is the result of five months of investigation into the state homes, and comes to one major conclusion: VA should have a greater role in overseeing the state homes. "We were disturbed that VA officials, including VA Secretary Wilke, have denied having any authority or responsibility for veterans in the homes," said VVA National President John Rowan. "In truth, VA's Geriatric and Extended Care Programs offer a continuum of services and programs -- which include the state veterans' homes. We were dismayed that VA leadership had chosen to view this group of veterans as part of VA's Fourth Mission -- to assist civilians in times of emergency."

Veterans eligible for VA-funded assisted living care are split up among several types of facilities. Some receive care at 157 state veterans' homes. Others, at VA-managed community living centers (CLCs). Still others receive care at private facilities paid for by VA. VA provides federal grants to the veterans' homes, but they are owned and managed by the states under federal law. VA officials told lawmakers during a hearing last month that the department "does not have authority over the management or control of a (state veterans' home)." But VVA leaders said VA "relies heavily on state homes to provide the bulk of long-term care for our elderly veterans." VA is responsible for ensuring the homes meet department standards through annual surveys, audits, inspections and other checks. In some cases, VA is the only agency inspecting the facilities, a 2019 Government Accountability report revealed. That report also showed VA allowed its inspectors to disregard failings at some state homes.

Holyoke Soldiers' Home Coalition

Coalition calls on state to detail its COVID-19 response plan for Veterans at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke



State should acquire UV disinfection system immediately to contain virus

Members of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home Coalition recommends the state take immediate actions to prevent another outbreak of the COVID-19 disease at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke.

The advocacy group, which consists of former executives of the Soldiers' Home, as well as family members of veteran residents at the Home and veterans who died of COVID-19 at the Home, are concerned about recent news that 11 people at the Home have again tested positive for COVID-19.

The Coalition also includes representation from veterans' service organizations, to include members of the American Legion.

The Coalition's analysis calls on the state to publicly report details of its infection control plans to confront the current outbreak and how the Soldiers' Home will prevent an expected second wave of the COVID-19.

Coalition research conducted this month revealed that there are federal funds to purchase state-of-the-art disinfection devices, such as [Xenex Disinfection Services](#), which is the first and only UV disinfection technology that has been proven to deactivate COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2).

"We have learned that the state has an opportunity to acquire the Xenex disinfection system, through the CARES Act, which could immediately help prevent COVID-19 from further spreading. Since the virus has re-emerged at the facility, each day of delay continues to put veterans and staff at the facility at further risk."

Continued on Page 17

Holyoke Soldiers' Home Coalition (Continued)

The Coalition researched several systems and found that one in particular, Xenex, is currently being used at the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Tilton, N.H., a 250-bed, state long-term care facility. The New Hampshire home reports zero COVID-19 cases, and among many practices, to include the use of Clorox 360 to disinfect toilets, has highlighted the success of the Xenex system. The system is used in hospitals, VA medical centers, VA treatment centers, and health care sites of care throughout the nation.

In addition to COVID-19, the system, the most widely deployed form of no-touch germicidal disinfection in the United States, kills other pathogens including C. diff, Ebola, and MRSA.

The Coalition has informed leadership at the Soldiers' Home of the system and the availability of federal funds to help offset the costs of the system and calls on the state to immediately pursue the system or a similar system.

Since its inception in June, the Coalition has grown to more than 70 members and has received the support of more than 20 municipalities, veteran groups and civic organizations in calling for immediate state action to increase funding at the Soldiers' Home to ensure sufficient staff, equipment and supplies to provide safe care for veterans.

American Legion members can check the Coalition's "Our Coalition" page on the Coalition web page at www.holyokesoldiershomecoalition.org for a complete list of members, names of citizens who support the Coalition, to include elected officials, organizations and cities and towns. American Legion posts are encouraged to pass resolutions and write letters of support – samples for a resolution and a letter of support – can be found on the Coalition's web site on the "Act Now" page. For assistance, write to the Coalition at holyokesoldiershomecoalition@gmail.com.

To date, Willimansett Post 353 and Hampden County District Three have passed resolutions.

The Holyoke Soldiers' Home Coalition is a grassroots organization of Veteran leaders, family members, Veteran services' representatives and concerned citizens, including former members of the executive leadership team of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke. The organization calls on the Baker-Polito Administration to address significant concerns they have with the state's plan to improve the operations and oversight of the Soldiers' Home.

A major focus for the coalition is to ensure that Veterans and family members of Veterans are included in any major reforms or changes to the governance of the Soldiers' Home.

The Coalition has emphasized that an outreach effort must include a process for the state to receive feedback and consensus from family members and from the Veteran community in western Massachusetts.



After an eight-month delay, the Veterans Affairs Department plans to restart its electronic health record and scheduling system overhaul in October. VA was ready to kick off two of three major, agency wide IT upgrades last spring but opted to delay those deployments first due to staff requests for additional capabilities and training, then due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. In February, VA officials told Congress the agency was halting the initial deployment of its EHR system at Mann-Grandstaff Medical Center in Spokane, Washington.

Melissa Glynn, VA assistant secretary for enterprise integration, told a House committee that staff at Mann-Grandstaff reported frustration over not being trained on the full Millennium system, as VA and the vendor—Cerner—started training on an unfinished product missing core functionality. “Earlier this month, our clinicians in the field identified and communicated critical requirements and capabilities that must be available prior to user training,” Glynn testified in February. “The secretary listened to this feedback and postponed training so that we will bring the system closer to 100% complete prior to commencing training.”

Initially, VA chose to postpone the rollout to July. Then COVID-19 hit, forcing mass telework for many VA employees and triggering the agency’s lesser-known mission: to act as the nation’s backup health care network in times of crisis. In April, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie announced another indefinite delay to the EHR rollout as the agency dealt with the pandemic. “The worldwide pandemic created by the coronavirus disease has shifted the overall priorities of the Department of Veterans Affairs,” Wilkie wrote in a letter to House appropriators. “Our priority is the care of veterans and providing surge capabilities for civilian health care systems.”

Wilkie announced the work would resume in October, and future rollouts would be moved up to ensure the project stayed on the original 10-year timeline. “After a period of delay during which [VA medical centers] focused on their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are pleased to have our Electronic Health Record Modernization team resume activities with our facilities to move forward with a program that will transform VA and enhance veteran care,” he said. “As we implement the new EHR solution at these facilities, we will continue to prioritize the safety of our veterans and our staff by following guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.”

Once the rollout at Mann-Grandstaff is complete, VA plans to begin rollouts at “select Midwest facilities that feature a balance of small, medium and large sites,” including medical centers in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Michigan. Simultaneously, VA’s Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization has been working with Cerner to roll out a new scheduling system, originally set to go live in April. The new system was set to be piloted at a network of medical centers in the Columbus, Ohio, area, including the Chalmers P. Wylie Ambulatory Care Center, which hosted the pilot for the last scheduling system upgrade. Wilkie said that system is now scheduled to launch this month.

The agency is also in the midst of a third major IT overhaul: the Financial Management Business Transformation project, a \$2.5 billion effort to deploy the Momentum financial management system developed by CGI. Wilkie did not provide any updates on that project’s progress, though its timeline extends through 2030. [NextGov | Aaron Boyd | August 10, 2020]



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced 11 AUG plans to gradually and safely reintroduce volunteers to its health care facilities. While volunteers are important to the operation of VA services and programs, most volunteer activities have been paused to prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. “Just as our facilities are [gradually reinstating services](#), volunteers are slowly reintegrating into them,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Volunteers are an integral part of our health care teams, offering fundamental services. We look forward to their return.”

Some volunteer roles will be new, while others will stay the same, be modified, go virtual or remain paused as a precaution to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Individual VA facilities will tailor the reintegration of volunteers based on the facilities’ operational needs and the volunteers’ abilities. Volunteers can expect the following safety measures:

- **Phased reentry:** Volunteers are being asked to return to duty on an as-needed basis while maintaining physical distancing. VA asks that volunteers do not return to the facility unless they have been approved to do so.
- **Retraining:** Volunteers must complete an orientation and training on VA’s policies and procedures. This includes the proper use of personal protective equipment including face coverings.
- **Health screenings:** Volunteers, like staff and patients, must consent to being screened for COVID-19 exposure and symptoms prior to entering facilities.

These actions are being taken to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of Veterans, staff and volunteers. Visit [VA Voluntary Service](#) for more information. [VA News Release | August 11, 2020]





Membership is Necessary

Membership in the American Legion Family is an investment. Making our membership personal is connecting eligible members to Posts, Units, SAL, and Riders. Sharing our unique gift of belonging to the largest Veterans Organization is important to us and others. Telling others our story of Who We Are? And What We Do is the easiest way to encourage a new member to join us. For many of us our membership is special and personal, we joined through a veteran who has a family connection. That veteran's service is special to us and means something more than just joining up to another club. The comradeship of being connected to another veteran and sharing the same closeness is personal. When you think of the veteran who is your eligibility does it leave a warm fuzzy feeling in your heart or a closeness unmatched by any other. When you meet a veteran on the street or an event do you recognize that same connection, of course you do. Its time to make our Legion Family grow.

As a member since birth it was easy for me to learn how important serving our veterans and community. Then, we were the only thing going in town volunteering and connecting with the veterans, and town. We set the example for other organizations to follow. The community look to us for guidance and support. Membership is a challenge and every one of us is responsible to convince others to join. Many of our members are not renewing and have dropped out, many are discouraged and want to see where they fit in. Welcome them and take time to listen and teach them the ropes and history of the organization. Share your experience and make them comfortable. Maybe these ideas are not the best but the idea is do not stop trying.

If you are a Post and have no Auxiliary or SAL maybe it's time to have one. Help in starting a Unit or SAL is easy. Just let us know and we will walk you through how to get there. Be proud of your membership and take it to the next level. The next 100 years of service is up to all of us.

Mary Ann Ventulett email: mventulett30@comcast.net.

State Auxiliary Membership Chm.



The American Legion Family



A quick guide to understanding membership eligibility in the American Legion Auxiliary

Have you ever struggled to explain membership eligibility to a potential member?

Having a visual representation to accompany your explanation can make it easier for someone outside of The American Legion Family to understand and determine eligibility.

To help ALA members in their recruitment efforts, we have created a new infographic explaining membership eligibility in simple terms.

There are several ways you can use this infographic. Consider sharing it on social media, printing copies to give out at events, including it in your newsletters, or placing an advertisement in local newspapers and publications.

For a printable PDF version go to ALAforVeterans.org

We'd love to hear how you are using it. Send us an email at PR@ALAforVeterans.org.



The infographic is titled "American Legion Auxiliary: Membership Eligibility Explained". It features a circular logo for the American Legion Auxiliary on the left. The main title is in large serif font, and the subtitle is in smaller blue capital letters. Below the title, there's a section titled "RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN:" with a silhouette of a soldier holding a rifle. To the right is a bulleted list of relationships that qualify for membership. Further down, there's a section titled "TWO PATHS FOR ALA ELIGIBILITY" with two paths: "PATH ONE" and "PATH TWO". Each path has a small silhouette icon and a descriptive text box. At the bottom, there's a call to action and a website address.

American Legion Auxiliary

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY EXPLAINED

RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN:

- MOTHER
- DAUGHTER
- SISTER
- GRANDMOTHER
- GRANDDAUGHTER
- SELF — FEMALE VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED
- MALE or FEMALE SPOUSE

ELIGIBILITY PERIODS: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941

TWO PATHS FOR ALA ELIGIBILITY

PATH ONE

The potential member is related to a living veteran by one of the relationships stated above and the veteran is living AND a current member of The American Legion.



PATH TWO

If the potential member is a female veteran, she only needs to have served during the eligible time periods to be eligible for ALA membership.



The potential member is related to a deceased veteran who served during the eligible time periods and was honorably discharged.



The deceased veteran did not have to be a member of The American Legion in order for the potential member to join the ALA.



For more information, visit [www\(ALAforVeterans.org](http://www(ALAforVeterans.org)



Children & Youth: Updated Halloween coloring book now available!

Submitted by Lisa Williamson, ALA National Children & Youth Committee Chair

With all the change we've seen and been a part of recently, one thing remains constant — the ALA's promise to serve veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

One thing we have learned over the past few months during the COVID-19 pandemic is change is the one constant — change in how we have done things in the past and change is how we operate now. Throughout our 100 years, the various programs of American Legion Auxiliary have changed to adapt with what is happening in the world, keeping the heart of the programs the same.

A project of the ALA's Children & Youth program is just such one of those changes. The Halloween Coloring Book just got a facelift! It's been updated!

The new and improved version is now available in one of two ways:

Download it for free from the [ALA national website](#).

Purchase it through [American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales](#).

Key safety guidelines are incorporated into each of the eight pages, allowing children to gain valuable safety tips while trick-or-treating. A Halloween search-a-word puzzle was also included for older youth. Special thanks to ALA National Headquarters' Communications Division, with a special pat on the back to Communications Manager Aaron Meyer for his creativity and design work on this exciting project!

Now that we have a fun, new Halloween Coloring Book, another change that local ALA members will be challenged with is how to get these out to our kids! Will you still have access to schools like we've had in years past? Will Auxiliary units host a Halloween party, inviting youth from their communities? Are there plans for Halloween safety events nearby? Whatever change is needed, ALA members will negotiate this hurdle and change things to make it happen.

With all the change we've seen and been a part of recently, one thing remains constant — the ALA's promise to serve our veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

The coloring book, along with a wealth of Children & Youth program information, can be found on the national website and on the ALA Children & Youth Program Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAChildrenandYouth/>.



Christmas Gift Shop 2020

The below information is subject to change due to COVID 19

The Department of Massachusetts American Legion Auxiliary sponsors Christmas Gift Shops where Veterans in the VA Medical Centers or State Veterans' Homes (Chelsea Soldiers' Home and Holyoke Soldiers' Home) can shop for their family members. These gifts are provided at no charge to the Veteran. Each Unit is asked to donate these items based on their membership as of June 30th each year. We ask that each member donate 1 gift, although we hope you do more. Be generous, have fun with the Veterans and make this shopping experience for their families a special time to remember.

Remember it should be Christmas for our Veterans all year long.

Below is the list of date for the Christmas Gift Shops and the VAVS & MVS Representatives:

Bedford VAMC - Rosemary Tower

Drop off November 23rd to 27th (Not Thanksgiving) Building 62, Room 120

Gift Shop: November 30 to December 29 to 3

Jamaica Plain Campus - Ruby James-Saucer

District will be concentrating on Building 4 and the Transition home.

Brockton Campus - Judith Hall

Gift Shop: Thursday Dec 3, 10 to 3 and Friday Dec 4, 9:30 to 2:30

Volunteers will need to register

West Roxbury VAMC - Anne O'Connoll

November 27th & 28th, 9 - 6 3rd Floor auditorium.

VA Central/Western Healthcare System - Deborah Barber

December 1 from 9 –1 in Recreation Hall.

Chelsea Soldiers' Home - Donna Blattenberger

Set-up Day: Sunday Dec 6th 12-3 PM

Gift Shop: Monday—Wednesday Dec 6th—9th, 9-3

Holyoke Soldier's Home - Ann Johnson

Pending



National News

Virtual National Membership Training Workshop

The PowerPoint slides and the audio presentations for each session can be found at www.legion.org/training/membership. To go directly to the membership workshop videos and other training videos, visit <https://vimeo.com/showcase/4552712>.

Mark Your Calendars – another virtual training session is in the works. On October 27th, a virtual training session will be held covering Buddy Checks and Membership processing.

The National Emergency Fund (NEF) - January 1 – December 31, 2019 we granted \$88,845 to 37 members and seven posts in emergency assistance. To date the total disbursement for 2020 NEF grants is \$102,675 which was distributed to 28 members and nine posts. Hurricane Laura made landfall in Southwest Louisiana and Eastern Texas on early morning Thursday (8/27/2020). They predicted water surge levels of 20 feet. Louisiana had less than 12 feet while Texas experienced 3-5 feet. Most less than expected which is good news. However, there was significant wind damage. Major power outages in the impacted areas. Evacuation orders have been lifted as Laura now is tropical storm moving through Arkansas and turning into Kentucky.

Firestorms are continuing all over the Western half of the US, as well as South Dakota, Florida, Texas and Alaska, and the NEF Coordinator sent an e-mail with NEF info to all departments.

Consolidated Post Report (CPR) - We now have reports from 8,843 of our 12,637 American Legion posts that have submitted their data for an average completion rate of 70%. **Congratulations** to the Departments of Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Montana, Maryland, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Oregon that have achieved 100%.

American Legion Riders (ALR) – Virtual legacy run donations as August 26th is \$17,500. Chairman Clark is reaching out to departments to see how many groups plan on riding to HQ for the Fall NEC to present Legacy Run Checks to Commander Oxford. The Legacy Run History Book is almost complete and will be ready for release in the coming weeks.

Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA)

The American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program continues to provide for the basic needs of minor children of eligible veterans through cash grants. As of August 26th, TFA has assisted 78 minor children of 34 veterans throughout the United States maintain shelter, utilities, food, and clothing with over \$43,379 in cash grants during 2020. TFA grants are made possible by the support and financial generosity of Legion Family contributions, the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation and a grant provided by the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.



Around the Department



In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the surrender of Japan ending WWII, Granby Post 266 was honored to pay special tribute to two members of the "Greatest Generation". The day started in Granby honoring WWII Navy Veterans Joseph Lajoie, a witness to the signing of the surrender of Japan.



Commander Pajak, PNEC Brault present 10,000 masks to the Soldiers Home at Holyoke. See Commander Article for additional information



PDC Lou Brault present the Legion Riders Charter to Vernon Hill Post 435.



National Commanders Testimonial



The American Legion Family

SPECIAL NOTICE FROM THE DEPARTMENT

TO

**POST, DISTRICT & MEMBERS WHO MAY HAVE ALLREADY
PURCHASED TICKETS AND ADS TO THE
NATIONAL COMMANDERS , NATIONAL PRESIDENT &
SAL NATIONAL COMMANDER VISIT TO MASSACHUSETTS
ALL TICKET AND AD DONATIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE DEPARTMENT
FOR THE BANQUET ON**

APRIL 24, 2021 AT THE SAME LOCATION

**IF FOR ANY REASON A POST, DISTRICT OR MEMBER WHO CHOSES TO REQUEST
THEIR DONATION BACK AT THIS TIME**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT BY PHONE
617 727-2966 WITHIN THE NEXT THIRTY (30) DAYS
AND YOUR DONATION WILL BE REFUNDED**

Dear Legion Family,

There are many questions in all of our lives right now. When will it be safe to gather? When can we get together for meetings and planning? When can we have large events again?

The committee to honor Carolyn Baranowski as the Northeastern Division National Vice President for the American Legion Auxiliary has been listening and thinking. At this point in time we feel it is prudent to postpone Carolyn's Homecoming event to the spring. Hopefully in the Spring we will be able to celebrate fully together and without fear.

So, with that in mind here are the details:

Date: May 16, 2021

Time: 12:00 cocktails - 1:00 Dinner

Place: Storrowtown Carriage House

135 Memorial Highway (Eastern States Exposition Center)

West Springfield, MA

Menu: choice of three meals (Chicken Francaise, Prime Rib, Baked Scrod)

Price - \$50.00 per person

Please await further mailings regarding tickets and details. We did want to get this information out for planning purposes.

Jen Jillson Hamre





Department Calendar of Events

9/12/2020		Department Executive Committee	Zoom Meeting
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2021 Officers and Committee Appointments have been posted to or website"

www.masslegion.org



2021 Membership Standing *as of April 24, 2020*

Target Date 9/10/2020 50%

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1339	804	60.04%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	1336	767	57.41%
3	HAMPDEN	2763	1383	50.05%
4	WORCESTER	4751	2716	57.17%
5	MIDDLESEX	4212	2210	52.47%
6	NORFOLK	2624	1398	53.28%
7	SUFFOLK	1301	575	44.20%
8	ESSEX	2777	1393	50.16%
9	BRISTOL	2659	1498	56.34%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	4270	2321	54.36%
297	CAPITOL HILL	346	316	91.33%
462	HEADQUARTERS	2343	1209	51.60%
	TOTAL	30,721		
	National Quota	31,476	16,590	52.71%



S.A.L. Detachment Commander

The Sons of The American Legion support The American Legion in as many ways as possible. One such support effort is assisting with the Department POW/MIA Committee and ceremony. At this time, the Committee Chairmen Bill and Ray are looking for a new location in Western Mass. With the plan to rotate the ceremony from one side of the state to the other on an annual schedule. With that said if you know of a location that offers both an outside and inside backup in the event of rain please let the committee know.

A setting with a military or historic back round would be great but is not a must. The area should be able to support 100 to 200 guests and be handicap accessible. Due to this year's event being canceled because of Covid-19 the committee is working on next years event so there is time for Committee members to visit suggested locations. Please contact any of the POW/MIA Committee members with your suggestions or you can contact me directly and I will make sure to pass the information along to the chairmen.

Please continue to stay safe and healthy and I look forward to seeing many of you at a future event.

Working, together we can make a difference in the lives of our Veterans, Their Families, and our Communities. Regards

Ernie Laberge S.A.L. Americanism Chairman 2019-2021

Detachment of Massachusetts S.A.L. Commander 2017-2021

Candidate for Sons of The American Legion National Vice Commander (Eastern Region).



2021 S.A.L. Membership Standings as of 8/28/2020

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	181	6	3.31%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	272	0	0.00%
3	HAMPDEN	366	82	22.40%
4	WORCESTER	943	33	3.50%
5	MIDDLESEX	1234	10	0.81%
6	NORFOLK	776	127	16.37%
7	SUFFOLK	131	38	29.01%
8	ESSEX	433	10	2.31%
9	BRISTOL	245	44	17.96%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	606	106	17.49%
	Capital Hill	9	0	0.00%
	TOTAL	5196	456	8.78%

National Cemetery

Bourne, MA



OPERATION FLAGS FOR VETS



Saturday, November 7, 2020, 10:00 AM

Help us Honor Our Nation's Heroes by placing 77,000 Flags on their graves.

Hosted by **SFC. Jared C. Monti Charitable Foundation**

American Legion 1st Annual Jamboree

Sponsored By Dirty Water ALR and
Marsh Post 442

Dirty Jamboree

Music, Food, Fun,
Raffle And A Cash
Bar

All Proceeds Help
Support our
Veterans and Their
Families



**Saturday September
19th 12pm to 7pm**

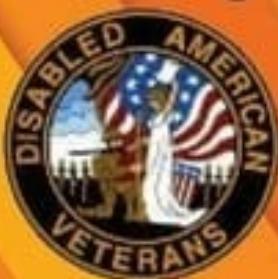
**@ Marsh Post 5 Greenough Blvd.
Cambridge, Ma.**

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

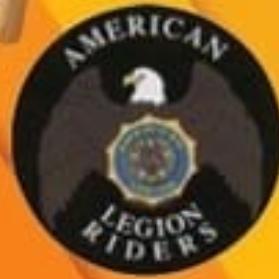
FUN RUN AND FALL COOKOUT

Saturday September 26, 2020

American Legion Riders Post 227
69 River Street, Middleton, MA 01949



LEGION RIDERS



Join ALR 101, Woburn and AIR 227, Middleton for a great ride and food.

Money raised will go toward Disabled American Vets (DAV) and local veteran's organizations.

Riders \$20, Passengers \$10

\$20 Entrance Fee for the cookout if you are not riding

Registration 10am KSU 11am

MUSIC, RAFFLE PRIZES AND MANY MEMORIES!!!!

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

3rd ANNUAL FALLEN RIDERS

FUND RIDE

October 4, 2020

\$20 rider / \$10 passenger



Starting Location:

Dudley Gendron Post 414

156 Boston Road

Sutton, MA 01590

Registration:

9:30 - 10:15 am

KSU @ 10:30 AM

Central Massachusetts

Oxford Chapter 58 Uxbridge Chapter 33

Northboro Chapter 234

Auburn Chapter 279 Sutton Chapter 414

Ride will end at Halligan's



Funds from this ride are used to assist Massachusetts Legion Riders who have been injured in accidents during the year



Post 138 Annual Charity Golf Tournament - Leicester Country Club

Saturday, September 12, 2020

7:45 am Service for Veterans

8 am Shotgun Start - Flor de Style

PLAYER REGISTRATION

\$100 Entry Fee for each player includes:

18 Hole Greens Fee, golf cart, lunch, dinner and raffles

Team Captain

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Email: _____

-

Team Players

Name: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Raffles Prizes Welcome - Hole Sponsorships

\$100

Contact: Carol Perron (774) 454-0366; cperron@lifcu.org

Make Checks Payable to: Gaudette-Kirk Post 138

Mail To: Gaudette Kirk Post 138

A.I.N. Golf

175 Main Street

Spencer MA 01562



"Still Serving America"



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts E-Legionnaire

The Massachusetts E-Legionnaire is the official publication of the Department of Massachusetts American Legion and is published at least 12 times per year

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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.



Want to Subscribe to Mass E-Legionnaire:

Send your email address to: deptsecretary@masslegion.org or to the Editor at fmacdonald53@comcast.net.

Still receiving correspondence through the U.S. Postal Service? Send the Department office your Name & Address and you will get a hard copy mailed to you.

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