

# Massachusetts e-Legionnaire



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 11 Issue 5

November 2019

## Commander's Corner



Greetings, and happy leaf peeping to all. Summer has past by and a flurry of activities have taken us to having a very busy September and on into October.

First I want to touch on the Fall Conferences we had in Indianapolis, for the Department of Massachusetts I pledged that we would make 91.28% membership percentage completion by May of next year for a shot at the Big 12. I feel this is a realistic and achievable goal for our Department, with the passing of the Legion Act, the district revitalizations

happening throughout our state and the continued hard work we all are doing to reach our veterans, we can make it.

Traditionally October starts the drop-off of the flow of membership renewals so to help bolster our renewal rate our National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford has asked us to host two "Buddy Checks" one in November and a second in May. However they can be done at any time and with Veterans Day and the holidays right around the corner this is the perfect time to check in with your post members, see how they are doing and if they need anything that the American Legion can help them with. After all isn't that our primary mission?.

National has streamlined the "Buddy Check" with step by step how to and ready made scripts for

your ease of use. Go to [www.legion.org/membership/buddycheck](http://www.legion.org/membership/buddycheck) and reach out to your members.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Department Commander  
Jodie Pajak

### 5 Facts to Know About Veterans Day

Veterans Day is a well-known American holiday, but there are also a few misconceptions about it-like how it's spelled or whom exactly it celebrates. To clear some of that up, here are the important facts you should share.

### **Veterans Day does NOT have an apostrophe.**

A lot of people think it's "Veteran's Day" or "Veterans' Day" but they're wrong. The holiday is not a day that "belongs" to one veteran

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# James W. Oxford, National Commander of The American Legion



Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends,

When we were in the military, we would never let our battle buddies down.

The same is true now. Only we have millions of buddies today — brothers and sisters who proudly defended our nation. We may have worn the uniform at the same time, before them or afterward. We may have served in the same branch, or a different one.

While our stories of military service differ, we all took the same oath and served our nation proudly. For each of us, a veteran is a veteran. Now what is important is that we have the backs of our battle buddies.

That's where The American Legion's Buddy Checks come into play.

Twice a year, around Veterans Day and the American Legion Birthday, we engage in a concerted effort to check on our fellow veterans. It's a great way to reach out to former members and those who don't regularly visit the post.

As Veterans Day approaches, American Legion posts are encouraged to take some time to reconnect with these veterans in their communities. A toolkit has been prepared with scripts, an FAQ and other information to help guide post members through the Buddy Check process.

In the inaugural Buddy Checks last March, Legionnaires found many veterans who needed assistance, some of whom were too proud to reach out to ask for help. But thanks to the Buddy Check program and follow-through by Legionnaires, many of our buddies were able to get the assistance they needed.

That's how we fulfill our promise to our battle buddies of today, by checking on them.

Building a foundation for the future,

For God and Country

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

James W. "Bill" Oxford  
National Commander

## NEC AMENDS PREAMBLE TO HONOR VETERANS OF ALL WARS



With the signing of the LEGION Act – Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act – into law July 30 by President Trump, the U.S. government now acknowledges that the military has been involved in at least 12 additional military conflicts not previously recognized. As a result of this, The American Legion National Executive Committee (NEC) adopted to amend the organization's Preamble to recognize the millions of U.S. military veterans from

all of these wars and conflicts that have occurred since World War I and II.

Resolution 1 was adopted by the NEC Oct. 16 during Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, which amends "the Great Wars" to "all wars."

### **The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion now reads:**

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

## Auxiliary President Coral Mae Grout



Have you thanked a veteran today? November is a great time to begin doing this. Veterans Day will soon be here. Please consider doing something for your local veterans on this day. Most communities hold a Veterans Day event, such as a parade or similar event. Plan to attend and support your local veterans at these events. Be sure to include children and grandchildren so that they will grow up understanding what veterans mean to all of us. And, while you are attending the events, please be sure to thank veterans for their service.

Recently, I was in a restaurant in the Boston area. Seated next to me was an elderly man with his daughter. He wore a Korean War Veteran cap. As I was leaving, I stopped at his table and thanked him for his service. He began to smile. And then, a tear came down his cheek. His daughter, also smiling, shared with me that no one had ever said such kind words to her father.

Hopefully, Unit members have begun to purchase gifts, wrapping paper, and bows/ribbons for our signature program in the American Legion Auxiliary. Christmas Gift shops are just around the corner! If you have never participated, now's the time. The happy faces of the hundreds of veterans we service through this program make you want to come back again and again. It's fun! It brings joy to others. And, you'll walk away with a heart full of joy. We have five VA Hospitals and two Soldiers' Homes here in Massachusetts. Find one and volunteer!

As Veterans Day approaches, I encourage members to participate in activities in your communities, at the veterans' cemeteries, and wherever there's an event supporting veterans.

November marks an important month for the American Legion Auxiliary. Happy Birthday, ALA! We'll be 100 years old. So, how are you marking this important anniversary? Please let us know. I will make every attempt to attend recognition activities to celebrate our birthday and have a pretty good feeling that all our wonderful Department officers will be happy to do the same. We have a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Department Chairman. She's listed on our website. Contact her and tell her what you are doing.

And, I cannot let a month go without saying something about membership. Our numbers are up from last year and we have 5 100% units. I am sending a note to each 100% Unit in appreciation for your efforts. Our Department membership chairman is ready, along with her team, to help you increase your membership. Let's invite spouses to join. There are already several spouses who have joined our ranks.

May you have a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!

Coral May Grout, Department President





## ***FREE On-Line Access to Post Membership***

myLEGION.org is a secure website designed to assist post adjutants with everyday membership duties and to connect members of The American Legion to their Post and Department leadership and American Legion members. myLegion.org can be accessed from any device with an internet browser.

- ✦ View members who have renewed on-line.
- ✦ View and Edit Legion and SAE membership.
- ✦ Generate membership labels, rosters and reports.
- ✦ Increase membership using list of expired and DMS members in a selected area.
- ✦ Complete and submit Consolidated Post Report. Copy will be sent to your Department HQs.
- ✦ Global member look-up. Find basic information to assist with post transfers.
- ✦ Communicate with members by posting your Newsletter.
- ✦ Download Membership Materials and Brochures.
- ✦ Communicate with other officers through myLegion Officer's Forum.



### **On-line Membership Processing**

Allows posts to electronically Renew, Add, and Transfer-In paying members from other posts.

Eliminates the need for posts to send the National and Department portion of the (3-part) membership cards and paper checks to the Department HQ office by utilizing electronic payment methods.

Each dues payment charged for a member is the sum of the National per capita plus Department per capita (plus district/county if applicable) in effect at the time of the transaction. National will handle payment of Department per capita back to their HQ office.

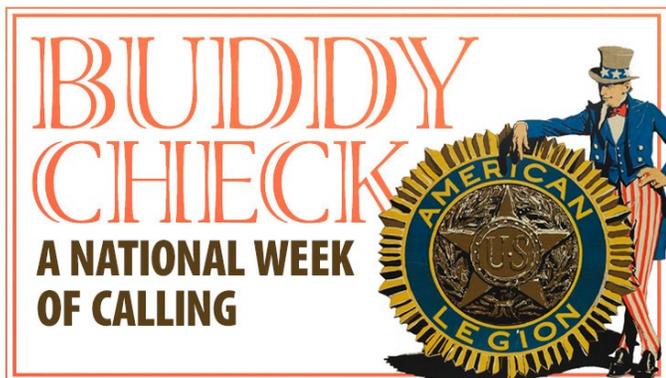
Processing time for Echeck is 7 business days. During that time the transmittal's status is "Pending." After a successful transfer of funds to the bank at National Headquarters, the transmittal status will change to "Processed" and the member information will be applied to National's database.

**\*\*An authorization form must be submitted to National Headquarters prior to registering a post site. This form is available at [www.mylcg.org](http://www.mylcg.org). There is only one sign-on per post and is registered with post adjutant's information.**

If your post already has a myLegion account, you DO NOT have to submit another authorization form.  
For assistance with log-in information call 1-800-433-3313 and ask for myLegion support.

NOTE: Only the post adjutant will be provided log-in information as administrator of the site.

## Veterans Day Buddy Check



As American Legion members, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. As a way to reach out to members and former members who may need help, the National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18 during Spring Meetings in May 2019. The resolution calls for Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on Veterans Day. The idea is to reconnect with veterans who may need assistance but don't know where to go or who to ask. For expired members, they may have just been waiting for a personal call or visit to

renew. These contacts may be made by a personal visit, phone or email, or a combination. The important part is to reach out to veterans in your community to let them know you care and can provide whatever assistance they may need. It's what we do for our battle buddies.

How do I organize a Buddy Check?

1. **Gather up a team** if possible to call or personally visit members and former members of The American Legion. If each member in a team of 10 contacts just 10 Legionnaires or former Legionnaires, 100 veterans can be reached in one sitting.
2. If you don't have a list of members and former members at your fingertips, **visit [myLegion.org](http://myLegion.org) and download the names of current members and those who have let their memberships expire.**
3. Save the file of members and those whose memberships have expired onto a spreadsheet or copy and paste into a Word file to distribute among your team members. **Print several copies of the lists.**
4. **Divide up the call list among your team members.** Some may have personal connections with the member or the former member and should make that particular buddy check.
5. **Start making connections** – either from a quiet place inside the post or from your home – to see how the members and former members are doing, ask if they need anything and invite them to any event or activity planned to help celebrate the Legion's birthday or Veterans Day.
6. Make sure you **thank the member or former member** in the beginning and at the end of your call.
7. If the member or former member wishes to renew, be sure to **have your post's payment procedure at your fingertips**, the address to send a check or offer to stop by in person to pick it up (another opportunity to connect).
8. **Leave contact information** in case the member or former member can't take the call or needs anything in the future.

or multiple veterans, which is what an apostrophe implies. It's a day for honoring all veterans – so no apostrophe needed.

### **Veterans Day is NOT the Same as Memorial Day.**

A lot of Americans get this confused, and we'll be honest – it can be a little annoying to all of the living veterans out there. Memorial Day is a time to remember those who gave their lives for our country, particularly in battle or from wounds they suffered in battle. Veterans Day honors all the those who have served the country in war or peace and thank them for their service.

### **It was originally called Armistice Day, commemorating the end of World War I.**

WWI officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. However, the fighting ended about even months before that when the Allies and Germany put into effect an armistice on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. "November 11, 1918".

In 1926, Congress officially recognized it as the end of the war, and in 1939, it became an official holiday, primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of WWI. But then WWII and the Korean War happened, so on June 1, 1954, at the urging of veterans service organizations, Congress amended the commemoration yet again by changing the work "Armistice" to "Veterans" so the day would honor American veterans of all wars.

For a while, Veterans Day's date was changed, too, and it confused everybody. Congress signed the Uniform Holiday Bill in 1968 to ensure that a few federal holidays – Veterans Day included – would be celebrated on a Monday. Officials hoped it would spur travel and other family activities over a long weekend, which could stimulate the economy.

### **For some inexplicable reason, the bill set Veterans Day commemorations for the fourth Monday of every October.**

On October 25, 1971, the first Veterans Day under this new bill was held. We're not sure why it took three years to implement, but surprisingly, there was a lot of confusion about the change, and many states were unhappy, choosing to continue to recognize the day as they previously had – in November. Within a few years, it became pretty apparent that most U.S. citizens wanted to celebrate Veterans Day on Nov. 11, since it was a matter of historic and patriotic significance. So on Sept. 20, 1975, President Gerald Ford signed another law (Public Law 94-97), which returned the annual observance to its original date starting in 1978.

### **Other countries celebrate it, too, in their own ways.**

WWI was a multinational effort, so it makes sense that our allies also wanted to celebrate their veterans on Nov. 11. The name of the day and the types of commemorations differ, however. Canada and Australia both call Nov. 11 "Remembrance Day." Canada's observance is pretty similar to our own, except many of its citizens wear red poppy flowers to honor their war dead. In Australia, the day is more akin to our Memorial Day. Great Britain calls it "Remembrance Day," too, but observes it on the Sunday closest to Nov. 11 with parades, services and two minutes of silence in London to honor those who lost their lives in war.

## Community Service - Sally Nay, DVC

The Community Service committee met on September 28, 2019 – It is not too soon to start thinking of who your post would like to submit for the Conway and Mulkern Awards as well as submissions for the Pendill Award. All the award submission dates have been updated and you can find the criteria for these awards on the state website.

The Committee would like to congratulate the following Al White award recipients:

April 2019 – Wilbur M. Comeau Post 4 Haverhill Legion Family for raising the funds for an ATV for the Police Department.

May 2019 – Merrill L. Simmonds Post 130 Legion Family for a 100<sup>th</sup> American Legion Anniversary celebration for the Town of Palmer

June 2019 – Post 138 Spencer for a 100<sup>th</sup> American Legion Parade and Celebration for the town of Spencer.

July 2019 – Richard A Reuther Post 152 American Legion Family for the 100<sup>th</sup> American Legion anniversary celebration at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in Williamstown

August 2019 – Hiram O. Taylor Post 189 Sterling for their tribute presentation of Awards and Decorations to the family of Herbert L. French

## AMERICAN LEGION'S CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION AWARDS OVER \$811,000 IN GRANTS



The American Legion's Child Welfare Foundation has awarded \$811,282 in grants to 19 nonprofits. These grants, determined during the annual meeting of the CWF board of directors in Indianapolis on Oct. 13, have been awarded to support youth-serving projects that seek to enhance the lives of children by addressing their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs. Since the foundation made its first three grants in 1955, nearly \$16 million has been awarded to assist the

needs of children.

CWF grants are made possible thanks to donations from members of the American Legion Family and other donors.

Among the CWF grants awarded for 2020:

National Braille Press of Boston was awarded \$19,725 for its project, "ReadBooks!" This grant will fund resource books for parents with visually impaired children to introduce their children to Braille as an effective method of reading and writing and help encourage parents to learn Braille to help their children. It will also provide a Braille book for the visually impaired child.

## From Your Service Officer– Military Branch Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays and anniversaries has been a human tradition that shows respect and causes us to reflect on the past. Each of our armed services can point to a date that signifies their origin, and will acknowledge the event with some type of ceremony. As our country was seeking its independence in the eighteenth century, our forefathers knew that the pen wasn't always mightier than the sword, and began to establish a fighting force.

On June 14, 1775, the United States Army was founded by the Continental Congress, and sought recruits from the thirteen colonies. This was predated of course, by the Massachusetts Militia which began on December 13, 1636, and eventually transformed into the Army National Guard.

Our new government also realized that a war with Great Britain would take place on both land and sea, so the Continental Navy was established on October 13, 1775.

The Coast Guard's official history began on August 4, 1790, as our new President[ George Washington] needed an organization to enforce our tariff and trade laws.

After Wilbur and Orville Wright launched the world into air travel, it was only a matter of time before air combat became part of warfare. The Army Air Corps became part of the regular U. S. Army until September 18, 1947, when the United States Air Force was formed as a separate branch.

On November 10, 1775, the Marine Corps was founded to serve as an infantry unit aboard naval vessels. However, the early Marine recruiters apparently could not reach their assigned quotas, so plan B was initiated. A recruiting station was formed at a local watering hole in Philadelphia. As the legend of Tun Tavern tells the story of two officers luring potential Marines with mugs of beer and the promise of high adventure on the high seas resulted hundreds of new recruits. Maybe this same strategy will be needed to sign up personnel for our yet to be created " Space Force'

Semper Fi

Mike Whalen

## American Legion to VA: Open doors to WWII veterans

American Legion National Commander Bill Oxford called on the Department of Veterans Affairs to open its health care system to World War II veterans that are not already enrolled.

"Mr. Secretary, The American Legion has confidence that you will not fail or forsake the heroes who literally saved the world three quarters of a century ago. Please act now to open the VA's great system to all of our nation's World War II veterans," Oxford said in a letter to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie Jr. sent Oct. 31.

Oxford pointed out that the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Act of 1996 exempted all Spanish American War and World War I veterans from the means test required to enter the VA health care system. "It's time to do the same for our World War II veterans," he wrote.

Delegates at The American Legion's national convention in 2017 unanimously passed a resolution urging VA to extend the means test exemption to World War II veterans. Since the resolution passed, the population of living veterans has declined dramatically. VA estimates that of the original 16 million U.S. veterans who served in World War II, only 282,000 will be living on September 30, 2020. Moreover, 73.6 percent of male and 67.3 of female World War II veterans in 2016 were already utilizing VA benefits.

## \$247,500 AWARDED TO AMERICAN LEGION BOYS, GIRLS STATE PARTICIPANTS

More than 4,660 rising high school seniors who participated in a 2019 American Legion Boys State and Auxiliary Girls State program applied for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship to receive up to \$10,000 for higher education. The 98 scholarship recipients were selected by The American Legion's Committee on Youth Education Oct. 14 during the Legion's Fall Meetings in Indianapolis.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship awarded 10 national scholars with \$10,000, 10 runners-up with \$5,000, and 78 department finalists each will receive \$1,250 for undergraduate study.

The 10 national scholars are: Sadie DeShon and Mason Whitaker of Arizona; Cambri Driskell and Chandler Quaille of Georgia; Ethan Roos of Indiana; **Andrew Kirdahy of Massachusetts**; Caitlin Murphy of Nebraska; Vada Kirsch of New York; Henry Heiberger of South Dakota; and Nathan Wolf of Wisconsin.

The 10 runners-up are: Brandon Chapko of California; Jacob James of Iowa; Ethan Sage of Idaho; William Bradley of Maine; **Emma Hughes of Massachusetts**; Samuel Fullbright of Montana; Grant DeBruin of Ohio; Michael Brown of Tennessee; and Maximilian Safranek of Texas.

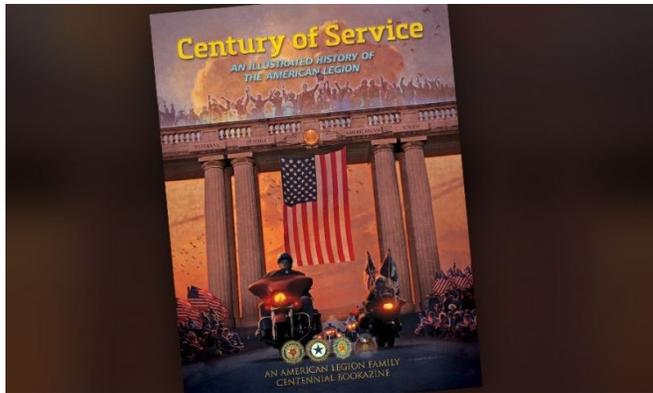
The recipients earned the award based on several criteria, including participation in American Legion Boys State or Auxiliary Girls State and being a direct descendant of a wartime veteran eligible for American Legion membership. To see membership eligibility following the signing of the LEGION Act into law, click [here](#). There were 156 applicants who earned an extra bonus point for being a member of or related to someone in the American Legion Family.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is available for high school juniors who participate in the current session of Boys State or Girls State and are direct descendants (or legally adopted children) of wartime veterans eligible for American Legion membership. The Samsung scholarship supports undergraduate studies (e.g., room and board, tuition and books), and each applicant is selected according to his or her involvement in school and community activities, academic record and financial need.

For more information about the scholarship, visit [www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung](http://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung).



## New illustrated history of The American Legion available



“Century of Service: An Illustrated History of The American Legion” is now available for \$9.95 per copy, plus shipping and handling, through Emblem Sales. Dozens of never-before-published photographs take readers on a colorful 124-page journey filled with voices, images and reflections about what would become the nation’s largest and most influential veterans service organization.

The anchor feature is the story of newly chartered Shawna Morrison Collegiate Post 2019 on the campus of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, named for a

soldier who was killed in a 2004 ambush in Iraq, whose spirit inspires a new generation of student-veteran Legionnaires. Running parallel to Morrison’s story is an exploration of The American Legion’s founding values and figures, specifically the principle that a veteran is a veteran, regardless of rank at discharge, gender, race, education level or economic status.

Bridging sections on the pillar interests of The American Legion – care for veterans, Americanism, national security, youth and disaster relief, for instance – are sections that go into the origins of the Legion cap, the organization’s place in popular culture, places named for The American Legion and more.

The bookazine – in high-quality, heavy stock paper – is the second in an American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee series. “Century of Service” and “Indivisible: The Story of Our Flag” may be purchased together at the discounted price of \$15.90, plus shipping.

Order online at [www.Emblem.Legion.org](http://www.Emblem.Legion.org).



## Editorial—John Lenotte, PDC

Here we are with 12 months to go before the next Presidential/Congressional election and the ads are getting started, as have been the debates on the Democratic side. Speaking for myself, it will be a long and interesting year. I am sure we will all be glad when the election is over and there are no more ads with all their biased statements.

There continues to be many challenges including: immigration reform; dealing with China, North Korea, Afghanistan, Russia, Iran, Syria and other hot spots; Social Security and Medicare funding; the economy and taxes; just to name a few.

I expect one of the big challenges will be to bring the country together again. We need leadership not only in the White House but in Congress as well, not politics and rhetoric that work to try to divide us. Hopefully there will be recognition that a large portion of the population is fed up with partisan politics in Washington, D.C.

You may be as tired as I am with the negative political ads. A way to get through the smoke and mirrors is to do some fact checking. There are several sites on the internet to do this, including: [www.ballotpedia.org](http://www.ballotpedia.org), [www.realclearpolitics.com](http://www.realclearpolitics.com), [www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org) and [www.politifact.com](http://www.politifact.com). It is important to vote but just as important to be an informed voter, not just following a particular party line.

As citizens, our job does not end with the election. We must continue to let Congress know our thoughts on issues. Keep up the flow of emails and calls to the district offices of our House and Senate representatives.

This month, as we celebrate Veterans Day, let us not forget those who have served in the past, but also remember the many who today wear the uniform of our nations Armed Forces. Many are overseas and will be unable to spend Thanksgiving with their families. Many will be in harm's way. Respect and prayers are needed for all of them and their families.

May GOD bless our troops and their families. Bring them home safe.

John Lenotte, Judge Advocate – Post 214 Taylors SC, Past Commander American Legion Post 4 Haverhill MA, Past Commander District 8/Essex County, Past Commander, Department of MA. I may be reached by email at [jplenotte@gmail.com](mailto:jplenotte@gmail.com)

## Around the Department



Robert I Nickerson Post 382



On October 5, 2019, the Robert I Nickerson Post 382, American Legion held a Welcome Home reception for local resident, Captain Brian Bloom, MC, USNR after 2 years of duty with Portsmouth Naval Operations Support Command.

Members of the Quincy Detachment , led by OIC Commander Douglas McQuade, along with the post color guard held a ceremony to award the Meritorious Service Medal to Captain Bloom for Outstanding Leadership and Service during his period of duty.

Captain Bloom will continue to serve in the Naval Reserve with the Detachment at the Naval Operations Center located on Sea St. in Quincy.

The Post would also like to congratulate Thomas Conlon, son of S.A.L. member John Conlon, on his commission as an Ensign. The Mustang ceremony was held aboard the USS Constitution October 6.



# Francis J. MacDonald Jr National Vice Commander The American Legion



Starting the month of October off with a visit to District 1 at there Steak Bake at the Sheffield Post. On Saturday Oct 5th. A good turnout by both the district and Department, I think all had a good time. Then it was off to North Adams for the Fall Foliage Parade on October 6th. Thank you to Dalton Post 155 for providing the Color Guard and District one Commander Kevin Hamel for hosting us. Department Commander Jodie Pajak, her Sergeant at Arms Cindy Lacoste and yours truly led the legion contingent.

Then it was off to Indianapolis for the Commander Home Coming, Commanders and Adjutants Training, Fall Committee Meetings and the NEC. NEC past resolution to change the Preamble from “our association in the Great Wars” to our “association in all Wars”



Edward L. Harris Jr., National Chaplain; Kevin Bartlett National Judge Advocate, NVC Frank MacDonald; National Adjutant Dan Wheeler and Executive Director James Baca during National Executive Committee Meeting. (Commander was accepting donations I was asked to take the chair)



Installing the Commander of Post 226



Installing the Commander of Squadron 226

On Sunday October 20th I was at T/S Elmer Hammond Post 226 in Hanson, MA were I had the honor of installing the Officers of Post and Squadron 226. This event was supposed to happen back in August but due to schedule conflicts it was postponed a number of times. A great day for Post and Squadron 226.

## Francis J. MacDonald Jr National Vice Commander (Continued)



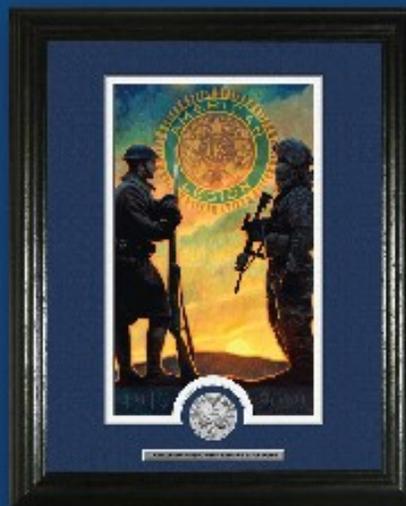
NVC Frank MacDonald with the Officers of the Department of New Hampshire

Finished up the month of October with a visit over the weekend of Oct 26th to the Department of New Hampshire Fall Conference. A good visit with a lot of good things happening in the New Hampshire! Thank you NEC Ken Maynard and Commander Ollie Brooks for a great visit!



2019 AMERICAN LEGION  
**100TH  
 ANNIVERSARY  
 COMMEMORATIVE COIN**  
 PROGRAM COLLECTIBLES

Great for a Post fundraiser or  
 your personal collection!



Framed "100 Years of Service" Print  
 with U.S. Mint Proof Silver Dollar Coin



Framed "Paris Calcutt" Print with  
 U.S. Mint Proof \$1 Gold Coin



Framed "Page of Allegiance" Print  
 with U.S. Mint Proof Half Dollar Coin



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**MINTIE**

## Department Calendar of Events

11/9	10:00 AM	Combined Meetings	Sutton Post 414
11/11	1:00 PM	Veterans Day	Massachusetts National Cemetery
11/16	10:00 AM	Department Executive Committee	Holiday Inn, Marlboro, MA
11/16	5:00 PM	Department Commanders Testimonial	Holiday Inn, 265 Lakeside Ave Marlboro, MA
11/17	10:00 AM	District 10 Meeting	Duxbury Post 223
11/17	1:30 PM	District 3 Meeting	Agawam Post 185
11/17	2:00 PM	District 2 Meeting	Belchertown Post 239
11/17	2:00 PM	District 8 Meeting	Manchester by the Sea Post 113
11/20	7:00 PM	District 6 Meeting	Dedham Post 18
11/21	6:30 PM	District 1 Meeting	Pittsfield Post 68
11/21	7:00 PM	District 9 Meeting	Rehoboth Post 302
11/23	1:00 PM	District 7 Meeting	VAMC W. Roxbury 3rd Floor

## 2020 Membership Standing *as of October 31, 2019*

Target Date 11/14/19 65%

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	1323	989	74.75%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	1313	1018	77.53%
3	HAMPDEN	2798	1881	67.23%
4	WORCESTER	5016	3410	67.98%
5	MIDDLESEX	4388	3062	69.78%
6	NORFOLK	2705	1854	68.54%
7	SUFFOLK	1290	827	64.11%
8	ESSEX	2808	1977	70.41%
9	BRISTOL	2514	1679	66.79%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	4000	2977	74.43%
297	CAPITOL HILL	305	310	101.64%
462	HEADQUARTERS	4263	1681	39.43%
	National Quota	32,723	21665	66.21%

# Americanism



**From:** Detachment Americanism Chairman Ernest E. Laberge  
**To:** All Squadrons and Posts  
**Re:** Americanism Update

Hello Everyone

The American Legion's Flag Education Program increases awareness of proper flag display and disposal and instills patriotism and honor in all Americans. Flag education has been a major activity of The American Legion since its inception, with thousands of flag education programs presented each year in classrooms across the country. The American Legion Family encourages and supports efforts to display the American flag and daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in our nation's classrooms.

For additional information The American Legion publishes flag literature and makes it available through American Legion Emblem Sales. You can visit [www.emblem.legion.org](http://www.emblem.legion.org) and find the following materials. Flag education items include: "Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette" booklet contains flag code and American Legion interpretations of proper flag etiquette in situations not specifically covered by the law. Flag Code: The brochure illustrates and describes the correct way to display the American flag, as well as the history of the flag. "For Which It Stands" is a 20-minute interactive DVD that provides flag etiquette training for classrooms. A newer addition to these materials in the book "Indivisible – The Story of Our Flag" it's a tribute to our nation's colors, exploring the flag's meaning, the price paid for all it symbolizes, and the special place it occupies in our culture and conscience.

For more information please feel free to contact me. My information can be found on the Sons state website which is [www.salmass.org](http://www.salmass.org)

I look forward to working with many of you throughout the year. Working, together we can make a difference in the lives of our Veterans, Their Families and our Communities.

*Ernie Laberge* S.A.L. Americanism Chairman 2019-2020

Past Detachment of Massachusetts Commander 2017-2019

## S.A.L. Membership



Well we fell a little bit short of our second target date goal of 25% with acquiring 15.32% for the Detachment of Massachusetts. However, this is a significant improvement of where we were at this time last year. Our next target is 35% on November 14th. One item to note, shortly after Fall NEC the first Renewal Postcard mailing is scheduled to be sent out from National, on November 1st. As you may or may not know that postcard is generic and does not have your squadron's contact information on it. I would encourage you to reach out to those members and let them know what your dues are and whom they can send them in to.

### Serving Those Who Served... Full Steam Ahead

The national membership goals for the year:

- Recruit, Retain, and Reinstate to reach 400,000 members
- Bring Renewal Rate Above the 95% Range
- Obtain a 105% in membership by National Convention in Louisville
- Recognize our achievements

As we have seen, we do amazing in recruiting and we need to focus on renewals, they will be the key to our success. Let's make sure that we are not mailing thousands of renewal cards in 2020. Several squadrons have very aggressive goals set and we look to have another record year!

Congratulations on your continued efforts and Thank You for all you do for the Sons!

## S.A.L. Can Now Process Membership Online

This feature utilizes electronic payment methods via MySAL.org, and eliminates the need for Squadron Officers to send the National and Detachment portion of the (3-part) membership cards and paper-checks to the Department/Detachment Headquarters office.

If you are currently a MySAL.org user, just select the "Process Membership" option in the left-menu. The attached instructions should help you navigate through this new feature.

If you are NOT a MySAL.org user, go to [www.MySAL.org](http://www.MySAL.org) and sign-up by completing the "Squadron Authorization Form"

All squadron has been sent via email the instructions and details. Contact the Department office if you have not received it.

**If you experience any problems or issues, Customer Support can be reached by calling 1-800-433-3318 or by email: [MyLegion@Legion.org](mailto:MyLegion@Legion.org).**

For God and Country,

Justin

**Justin McKay, The American Legion, MyLegion Department Services, IT**



## All Squadrons in the Detachment of MASSACHUSETTS can now process membership online.

This feature utilizes electronic payment methods via MySAL.org, and eliminates the need for Squadron Officers to send the National and Detachment portion of the (3-part) membership cards and paper-checks to the Department/Detachment Headquarters office.

If you are currently a MySAL.org user, just select the “Process Membership” option in the left-menu. The attached instructions should help you navigate through this new feature.

If you are NOT a MySAL.org user, go to [www.MySAL.org](http://www.MySAL.org) and sign-up by completing the “Squadron Authorization Form”

Further instructions are available on our website <http://www.salmass.org/>

If you experience any problems or issues, Customer Support can be reached by calling 1-800-433-3318 or by email: [MyLegion@Legion.org](mailto:MyLegion@Legion.org).

This can be a very useful way of ensuring your squadrons dues are paid in a timely manner.

Marvin Nay  
Massachusetts  
Detachment Commander

### 2020 Sons of the American Legion Membership Standings *as of October 31, 2019*

	District	Goal	Current	% of Goal
1	BERKSHIRE	191	92	48.17%
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE	296	72	24.32%
3	HAMPDEN	442	169	38.24%
4	WORCESTER	968	224	23.14%
5	MIDDLESEX	1250	130	10.40%
6	NORFOLK	845	225	26.63%
7	SUFFOLK	134	26	19.40%
8	ESSEX	442	71	16.06%
9	BRISTOL	250	107	42.80%
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE	675	180	26.67%
	TOTAL	5493	1296	23.59%

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019**

**9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM**

**FOOD**

**RAFFLES**

**HOLIDAY CRAFTS AND GIFTS**

**199 FEDERAL FURNACE RD, PLYMOUTH, MA**

**Joint Veterans Committee**

**MASSACHUSETTS NATIONAL CEMETERY  
BOURNE, MA**

**Annual Veterans Day Ceremony  
Sunday November 10, 2019 1:00 P.M.**

**Color Guards from Military, Veterans And Civic  
organizations are invited to participate  
Line up at the main gate at 12:45 step off 12:55 PM**



**American Legion Massachusetts**

**SPECIAL OFFER**

2019 - 20 PROVIDENCE BRUINS



**INCLUDES TICKET + \$3 DUNKIN' CARD, POPCORN & DRINK OR BEER FOR EVERYONE IN THE GROUP!**

**YOUR CHOICE OF P-BRUINS GAME**



**SUN. NOV 10**  
**3:05 VS. HARTFORD**



**MON. NOV 11**  
**3:05 VS. BRIDGEPORT**  
**AT THE DUNKIN' DONUTS CENTER**

**\$22 PER PERSON**

**LIMITED TIME SPECIAL OFFER**

**\$15 Military Discount Available**

**PURCHASE INSTRUCTIONS**

[www.providencebruins.com/americanlegion](http://www.providencebruins.com/americanlegion)

**Or Contact Matt Long**

**401-680-4753 or [Long@pseagency.com](mailto:Long@pseagency.com)**

**PROVIDENCE BRUINS HOCKEY AT THE DUNKIN' DONUTS CENTER**

# Veterans Benefits, Discharge Upgrades & Records Corrections

Thursday, November 7, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.



Did you serve in the military? Do you think you might be eligible for veterans benefits, but don't know how to get them? Do you want to upgrade your discharge status or correct your military records?

On November 7, visit the Uphams Corner Library for a free presentation by the Veterans Legal Clinic at the Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School about veterans benefits and discharge upgrades.

For further questions, please call or visit our library — ask for Elise.



**Uphams Corner Branch of the Boston Public Library**  
500 Columbia Road • 617.265.0139





## 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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Massachusetts e-Legionnaire is a member of National American Legion Press Association NALPA.



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