

The Oregon Legionnaire

The Voice of Oregon's Veterans Since 1919 *October 2019*



The Department of Oregon
gets a Makeover



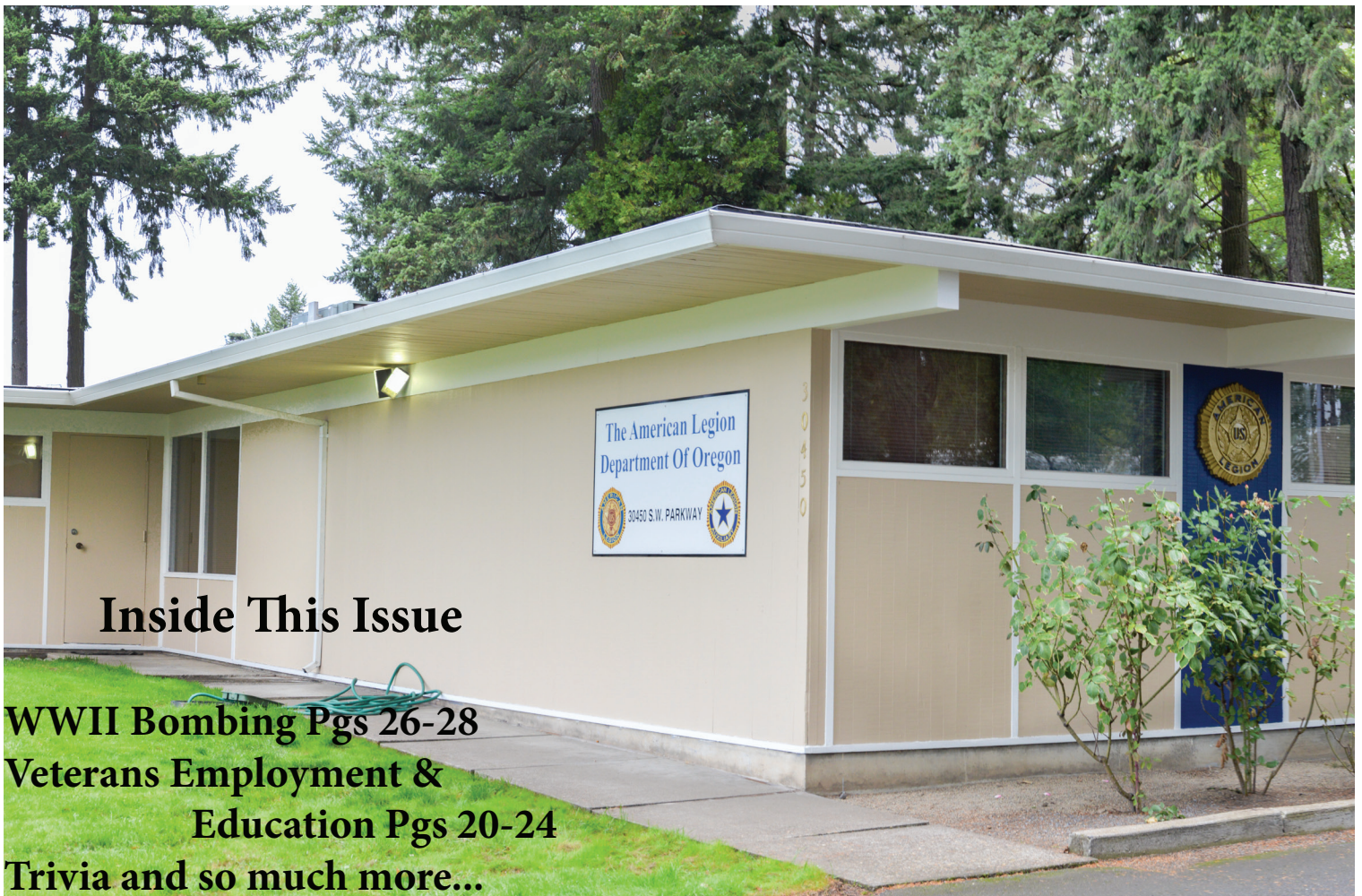
S. Flynn Phillips' nephew
Bjorn Carlson Hillsboro high
graduate painting the building



S. Flynn Phillips' Daughter Erin and
Granddaughter Lily
posing before painting the flag



Erin's finished flag that faces I-5 and
yes, you can see it from the freeway.
It is outstandingly gorgeous



Inside This Issue

WWII Bombing Pgs 26-28

**Veterans Employment &
Education Pgs 20-24**

Trivia and so much more...



LARRY WITTMAYER
DEPT 2ND-VICE COMMANDER
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Engagement Coordinator from the Internal Affairs & Membership Division led the event.

At the writing the Department is at 54.29% towards a 55% goal with 6 days to go. With the revitalization we should make the 55% goal. We have 947 DMS members and 291 HQ 114 members that were on the contact lists.

The Membership Chair addressed the DEC with the need for the Department to engage this campaign and increase our position nationally. This will be up to the Membership Commission and the District Commanders and District Membership Chairs to accomplish.



**Legionnaire Insurance
Trust**

By the time this article goes to press we will have finished a Membership Training and Revitalization of four districts.

Michele Steinmetz a National Member

Membership

The morning of the revitalization, there was a three-hour training (MyLegion, Membership Responsibilities & Retention, Revitalization Process and Buddy Check) at the post which was well attended by Legion, ALA and SAL, and went extremely well.

That afternoon we all got together and started making phone calls. We transferred 86 members over the phone (30 of those 2020 DMS members) and obtained a dues renewal from one member. The department asked that we do not do a post card, e-mail blast or press release, as they wanted this to basically be a training on "how to do a revitalization" then put that training to use. The Department Service Officer did help a few veterans over the phone.

There were lots of volunteers and they were very excited and inspired about reaching out to these members and doing their Buddy Check, but also engaging with them.

Thanks to those volunteers that assisted, and specifically to Post 51 for hosting the event. The attendees for this training/revitalization will continue to work those lists. It was inspiring to see the transition going from "not sure what to do" to aggressively making phone calls to the Legion members for a day and-a-half revitalization. The department and district leadership are looking forward to doing more events like this in the future.

I appreciate the warm hospitality by all that was shown to me during this event.

Respectfully submitted:

Michele Steinmetz,
Member Engagement Coordinator
Internal Affairs &
Membership Division
Phone: 317-630-1321
Fax: 317-630-1413



S. FLYNN PHILLIPS
DEPT ADJUTANT

that are NOT using MyLegion to process membership. This is the one areas that we can improve our numbers on.

I realize some folks don't have a computer, but let's help them get started. They could come to department and see how it's done, or you can show them when you visit.

Any Post that needs help, I will help them get started. Please call me at The American Legion Department or Oregon at 503-685-5006.

Thank you

Department Officers

Commander	Steve Adams
Imed. Past Cmdr	Tom Harris
1st Vice Cmdr	Don Weber
2nd Vice Cmdr	Larry Wittmayer
Adjutant	S. Flynn Phillips
NECman	Andy Millar
Alt NECman	Jim Willis
Finance Officer	Bob Huff
Chaplain	Floyd Bacon
Historian	Judith Johnston
Judge Advocate	Gerald Shorey
Service Officer	Ed Van Dyke
Veterans Service Officer	Jody Marsh
Sgt-At-Arms	Phyllis York
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Mike Morris
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Ward Allen
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Steven Mays
Aide to Cmdr	Larry Williams
Aide to Cmdr	William "Bud" Stutheit

NEC amends Preamble to honor veterans of all wars



PDC, JIM WILLIS
ALTERANTE NECMEN

When President Trump signed the Legion Act on July 30, 2019, it acknowledged that the military has been involved in at least 12 additional military conflicts not previously recognized.

As a result, the American Legion National Executive Committee (NEC) adopted Resolution 1 that amend the Preamble to our Constitution and changes the language from “the Great Wars” to “all wars.”

This is only the second time the Preamble has been changed since it was adopted nearly 100 years ago. NEC man Andy Millar and I were honored to be on the floor of the NEC when this historic vote was taken.



On November 9, 1919 What Black Cartoon Character was created for silent movies Making it the most viewed character at the movie theater?

- A) Mickey Mouse
- B) Pete the Cat
- C) Steamboat Willie
- D) Felix the Cat



CORY BROCKMANN
DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

post has been engaged with post and community activities. I want to thank those members and posts that attended the membership training and revitalization event during the Fall DEC at Lebanon #51. It made a positive difference during the event as I understand 87 members were transferred from #114 into a home post. Well done!

Tom Harris, district membership chair, and John Staub, district vice commander, have been busy supporting a few of the smaller posts with their membership efforts. You can anticipate a contact from either of them to check on how your efforts are proceeding. The 65% target date is 14-Nov followed quickly by the 75% target date on 11-Dec. With your continued efforts we can achieve these milestones and provide for our veterans! Please monitor the membership weekly report for progress at <https://www.orlegion.org/weekly-reports.html>

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

I received my November issue of The American Legion Magazine and was proud to see our very own Robert Liebenow, Hillsboro #6, pictured among the 2019-2020 National Officers as National Vice Commander.

NVC Liebenow already has boots on the ground and is traveling to departments and posts within the West Region. You will recall a key emphasis he has for this year is the timely com-

pletion and submission of Consolidated Post Reports (CPR). This report is a reflection of your post's activities and accomplishments in supporting our veterans and communities. Please ensure you have a plan to update the information throughout the year so that you can submit the CPR on time next spring.

Greetings District 1 Comrades, It has been a busy autumn and your efforts are showing! Membership continues to trend upwards and most every

post has been engaged with post and community activities. I want to thank those members and posts that attended the membership training and revitalization event during the Fall DEC at Lebanon #51. It made a positive difference during the event as I understand 87 members were transferred from #114 into a home post. Well done!

HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST

The District 1 Oratorical Contest has been scheduled for 2:00 pm, Sunday, Jan 19, 2021 at Washington #2 in Forest Grove, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Big changes have been made with the Department of Oregon's scholarship awards and you don't want to wait in making contact with your local high schools and scheduling your post-level competitions. Thank you to Randall Butler, district oratorical chair, and Jim Craig, Washington #2 adjutant, for their efforts in coordinating the oratorical program.

Our Department has taken a significant step in not only reconfirming our commitment toward the National High School Oratorical Contest but elevating it as well! I had shared previously with you that discussions were taking place on raising the scholarship awards for the department-level winner. Discussion has now been followed up with action by the department executive committee. For the 2020 H.S. Oratorical Contest the Department of Oregon will award 1st place \$5,000; 2nd place \$3,500; 3rd place \$2,500; and, 4th place \$2,000.

The Department of Oregon action also coincides with increases slated for the national-level Oratorical Contest in 2020 with 1st place receiving \$20,000; 2nd place \$17,000; and, 3rd place \$15,000. Additionally, department-level winners competing at the national contest will receive \$2,000 and winners advancing to the second-round semi-final contest, who are

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subsequently eliminated, will receive \$2,000.

It doesn't stop there! In 2021, the National H.S. Oratorical Contest awards will increase to 1st place \$25,000; 2nd place \$22,500; and, 3rd place \$20,000. All monetary values listed are awarded as scholarships and distributed in accordance with program rules.

POST ACTIVITIES

Thank you to our posts that continue to submit timely monthly reports, they are both appreciated and helpful! There are so many outstanding activities being accomplished by our posts! Please, know that you are making a difference in the lives of others. A sampling of activities - Post #2 conducted a Flag Disposal Ceremony retiring 158 flags; Post #56 received a Community Service Award from the Sherwood Chamber of Commerce for their efforts within the community; Veteran Stand Down and mobilization and deployment ceremonies were supported by members from Post #42 and #104; Color guard and honor guard events, and flag presentations, were conducted by #104 and #124; Veterans Day dinners and programs were held and/or supported by many of our posts, including Post #6, #42, #56, #99, #104, #124.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Under separate email I have sent the applications and instructions for submitting your candidates for Firefighter of the year and Law Enforcement officer of the year. District 1 has done well in acknowledging and recognizing the valuable services these public servants provide to our communities. The applications are due 31-Dec, so don't wait to get started.

Thank you for all you do to support our veterans and the communities in which they live. You truly are #StillServingAmerica

For God and Country



JOHN MOLENSWORTH
DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER

Patty Hopkins of Post 150, District 8 heard of a veteran in need.

Veteran of two tours in Iraq, this father of two was struggling with trying to hold down a job in one county while his wife held a part time job in another county, all while being homeless. He, living in the family car while his wife and children accepted the hospitality of friends and family. Finding an apartment became more of a challenge as funds needed for first and last deposits were required to meet daily shelter needs as the weather turned to Oregon wet.

One county had funds to help, however the apartment they could find laid in another county. Each step, another roadblock until Patty Hopkins heard about this. Patty is with Post 150 and as she says, "Were one family here."

Moving quickly, she let others know including our Department Service Officers and before the day was out, she had helped this family secure their apartment with first and last months' rent as well as a good start toward the following month's rent. Patty alerted everyone in District 8 and received pledges of support from every post as well as the Riders.

Two-time veteran of Iraq, Father of two, Husband and Legionnaire now has ended his three-month ordeal of homelessness because,

"We're one family here."

One pleasure of serving as District 8 Commander is that I get to see the Legion Family in action serving our veterans.

That was just the case last week when

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The Oregon Legionnaire assumes no responsibility for material submitted and reserves the right to edit submissions

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CORY BROCKMANN
DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

Consolidated Post Reports

What is the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) and why is it so important that every Post should submit one?

Quite simply, when the National Commander testifies before Congress each year, the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) data is used to provide numerical data of what our American Legion is doing.

And why is it important to report to Congress?

Because our organization's Federal Charter requires that we – the National Organization – report to Congress on the activities of the corporation during the prior calendar year. The CPR form, with the aggregate data collected from all posts and all departments, is the instrument by which the data is collected consistently, and, once compiled across all departments, the data expresses clearly to Congress all that we have accomplished.

Thus, it is imperative that leadership at all levels of the organization impress upon our posts the importance of reporting what is being accomplished in their local post and community.

National Vice Commander Robert Liebenow shared with us at our Department convention (prior to his current appointment), that “achieving a 100% CPR rate for the Department isn't a goal, it's the objective - every post needs to make it a priority.” And, he added he was going to emphasize that point throughout his year as national vice commander. Yes, it's that important.

So, what can you do?

Don't wait until the end of the year to record your activities and accom-

plishments! Every Post is doing something within the community. It is important that the post leadership record what they are doing throughout the year to ensure a thorough report for year-long activities. The post or department may fill out a CPR just to submit a report, but the level of participation is what is essential and keeping a monthly log is a good place to start.

Reporting your activities and accomplishments has been made even easier with the online CPR form located at Mylegion.org. Using the online CPR form provides the capability of keeping a running total of your activities, which can be saved until the next event is added to it. Then, at year end, post leadership can submit the CPR online which is quickly credited as completed.

Last year our Department did not attain 100% of CPRs by the established due date. The magnitude of our efforts within the Department of Oregon has a major impact on Congress when compiled with all the other departments. If we are committed and thorough in our reporting it tells a wonderful story of great accomplishment - that we are getting the job done in supporting our veterans, youth and communities. Reporting our accomplishments isn't a goal. It's the objective.



***Wishing you and your family a
Happy Thanksgiving
Nov. 28th, 2019***

Oratorical Contest

Greetings Comrades, we just finished with the Fall DEC and the new Code of Procedures for the Oratorical Committee has been approved. There



VANDEE MAUSER
DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER
ORATORICAL CHAIR

have been some major changes that you need to know about in order to have a successful year recruiting your students for the contest. I am in the process of updating all of the Articles that pertain to the Oratorical Contest and will hopefully have completed this task by the time this is a read in our Legionnaire.

The instructions for the Post and District contests remain the same, however the monetary award for the Department contest is much higher this year. This has been done to hopefully encourage more participation in this wonderful school project.

Let's start with the changes, the Area Contest has been eliminated as there has not been much interest generated in this contest in the past several years, plus it is during a very bad time of the year in regards to the weather, thus traveling is usually difficult. We will have the Post, District and then the Department Contests. Whereas the winner of Department Contest will go to National. We are looking for a Contestant from each District. Remember, we need a contestant from each District if we are to justify the higher scholarship amounts. You Can Do It!

The Scholarship awarded from Department are as follows:

1st Place \$5,000, 2nd Place \$3,500, 3rd Place, \$2,500, and last but not least 4th Place \$2,000.

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Amazing, thank you.

We are awaiting confirmation from the ODVA on the date, and hopefully it will be February 29, 2020 at 10am sharp, at the ODVA as it has been in the past so it is still possible that the date could change.

The Oratorical Committee Members that you can go to for help and their Area of Responsibility are as follows:

(a) District 1, 7 & 8 will be Randy Butler.

(b) District 2 & 3 will be Richard Ramey. (c) District 4 & 9 will be Steve Bergadine. (d) District 5, 6 & 10 will be Charles Schmidt.

Thank you all for your interest and support for this outstanding program.

Editors Notes

Reprinting with Permission Only!

Articles submitted to The Oregon Legionnaire that are copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original author or publication before they can be included here. No exceptions. Violation of copy right law is a serious matter that we cannot afford to engage ourselves in. Verbal permission is not acceptable.

Rewards

People who attended the Fall Department Executive Committee week-end October 5 and 6, 2019 activities and meetings were rewarded with a wide variety of training presentations, hands-on-training, and general information sharing.

Saturday, Michelle Steinmetz, the National American Legion Membership Coordinator for the Western Region, gave instructional training on MyLegion.org and its use for a variety of capabilities including processing membership, producing post newsletters, and finding and contacting prospects for new membership. This was followed by a hands-on-training exercise in conducting a revitalization for Districts 1, 2, 7, and 8. This was helpful in transferring members who had been signed up through the Direct Mailing Solicitation efforts of the National organization, and it was helpful as an exercise on how each of our Posts, Districts, and Department organization can use the MyLegion.org capabilities to conduct revitalization efforts to contact potential members in every part of the Department of Oregon.

Sunday, the Department Executive Committee (DEC) had report presentations which involved the general business of the Department, and also helpful in presenting information sharing on many topics. We learned about the plans and activities of the American Legion Riders in our Dep-

artment. Information was shared about future military mobilization events and how we can get involved in helping and supporting veterans



RICHARD RAMEY
IA COMMISSION CHAIR

and their families. We learned about efforts for future conventions. We learned of efforts to improve our Department website.

We learned that only about half of our posts have submitted the required Post Confidential, Installation, and Post Committee forms (which by the Department Constitution By-Laws are required by **September 20th of each year**). Post were encouraged to include the email addresses of officers and committee chairman so that the information could be shared more expeditiously from National and our Department concerning programs. Attendees were told how completing Post, District, Commission, and Committee minutes not only acts to provide an avenue for sharing good ideas being performed but also provides the required documentation to fulfill fiduciary and corporate governance requirements of each of Post and Department organizational corporations.

AND, with all this it was an opportunity to visit with members of all the Department organizations — The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Riders.

The whole weekend was a very rewarding experience. All members should take every opportunity to attend these activities whenever possible. You can find out more about future activities from your District and Department.



Post 10 distributed 58 boxes to vets going on the Honor Flight



(lt-rt)

David Solomon, Commander and
Rick Dominguez, Adjutant

Deadline

for the January issue
of the
Oregon Legionnaire
is December 5th, 2019



Answer:

D. Felix the Cat

Only to get shadowed by Mickey
Mouse in the late 20's, he still is
well known today.

Public Relations...

Presenting Post activities to the public really is as easy as 1-2-3.

ONE – Decide on what activity or ceremony you are going to present to the public. Put a team together and plan for the big day. Assign members to the event such as media, venue, foodservice, parking, seating, etc. Make sure you give plenty of advance warning to the media, including print, radio and television. Be sure to include a story about your event in your Post newsletter. If you have a special person you are honoring, make sure to make them available for interviews.

TWO – On the day of the event, make sure someone is available to help with parking. Some people may be coming to the location for the first time. Make sure the rest rooms are well marked. Be sure to allow for disabled persons including special seating as necessary. Check your sound system two or three times prior to the start of the event. Once the event has started, at some point make announcement concerning the length of the event and any food that may be available later. Make sure the media

has access for photos and/or interviews. At the conclusion, make sure you thank everyone involved.

THREE – After the event, make sure you thank the media who attended. They will remember you and will be more willing to attend your events in the future. Also thank members and everyone who made your event a success. Meet with your team for an after-action session to determine what went well, and what needs improvement. Use the results of this meeting to plan for successful events in the future. Post pictures and news stories about the event in your Post home and feature them in your Post newsletter. Remember, nothing succeeds like success. The next time you plan an event you will have more members willing to help. Good Public Relations is how we get our name and activities out into the community. *It really is as easy as 1-2-3.*



PDC JIM LEWIS
PR COMMITTEE

Are you moving?

We hate to have you miss the next Legionnaire Newsletter!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please Update My Address in mylegion.org

Name: _____

New Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Effective Date: _____

PhoneNumber: _____

Email Address: _____

Please Email to: Office@orlegion.org
Or Mail to: The Department of Oregon
Attn: Adjutant
P.O. Box 1730

Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730

All,

Thanks to Vice-Commander Witmayer for sharing the attached information, and thanks to all who were able to participate in the revitalization efforts of Districts 2, 3, 5, and 7 during our Fall DEC meetings in Lebanon October 4-6. Those efforts undoubtedly contributed to our Department reaching/exceeding the October 9th target of 55% of our 2020 membership goal of 16,474. Good team work!

The attached Excel spreadsheet of those who got it, offers a lot of statistics to digest and think about. Starting with the TRANSFER tab, eighty-nine (89) members were transferred from the Headquarters Post to posts in communities during the revitalization of Districts. It is noted that 47 of the transferees' dues Last Year Paid (LYP) is 2019. The DATA FULL tab has 3,386 entries of members whose LYP range from 2017-2020. Nine hundred fifty-two (952) members last paid in 2017. One thousand two hundred thirty (1,230) last paid dues in 2018. For 804 members, 2019 was their LYP dues. Of the 3,386 entries on the spreadsheet, the LYP dues for 2020 was 400 members which leaves 2,986 members on the spreadsheet that didn't renewed their dues for one reason or another and is categorized delinquent or expired. Keep in mind these statistics are just for 4 of our 10 Districts.

Membership growth is vital to the sustainment of The American Legion, its programs, services to veterans and their families, and our voice on Capitol Hill. Membership also creates revenue for our Posts and Department to operate. In recent years membership in our Department has declined, and so has revenue. For the 2,986 non-renewals on the spreadsheet our Department lost \$55, 241 in per capita, not to mention the impact at Posts. Again, this is just from 4 Districts. What would be the per capita loss for our Department if the other 6 Distr-

icts were factored in? What would be the impact on American Legion programs in Department of Oregon? Maybe we should ask ourselves

"what will be" the impact on our Department if the spreadsheet continues to grow with non-renewals. I would rather add a NEW MEMBERS tab on the spreadsheet beside the TRANSFER tab and a shrunken FULL DATA tab?

The October 21, 2019 National membership statistics indicate Department of Oregon membership is currently at 57.412% (9,458 members). For the 65% target on November 14, 2019, Oregon needs 1,250 members to reach target. Lets not only reach 65%, lets exceed it! We can do it!!

For God and Country



NOVEMBER

11TH

2019



PNC, PDC CHARLIE SCHMIDT
PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR



VANDEE MAUSER
DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER
ORATORICAL CHAIR

It is that time of year once again, and I'm not talking about Halloween. I am wanting to talk about the Oregon Oratorical Contests.

Hopefully by now all the Districts and

Posts are in full swing and have or are in the process of contacting the schools to arrange the Post contests and are getting ready to finalize the dates for the District contests. We don't as of yet have a date or place for the Department contest. Got any good ideas for a venue with the needed rooms for holding, staging, judges and tabulators, raised platform let the Oratorical Commission know. See Oratorical Code of Procedures.

The Department Web site has been updated to show current information. Want to thank Flynn and Mary for their valuable help, "Thank you", <https://www.orlegion.org/oratorical-resources.html>. Further information for National at <https://www.legion.org/oratorical>.

Great opportunity for high school students to get a little additional character building, poise, knowledge of the Constitution of America and additional scholarship funds, and so much more. It is up to each Post and District if their coffers can afford scholarship funds but there is a set amount for the Department contest and National contest. The 1st Place winner for Department can receive up to \$5000 and compete in the National contest with the 1st place scholarship amount up to \$20,000.

We have received an email address listing of most of the schools and educational facilities in the state, not all,

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but a lot and have done a mass emailing to them along with a flyer to spark interest. We accomplished that with the help of Eva Summers, "Thank you, Eva". That should help when following up with your schools for the contest.

Please let the Oratorical committee know when your District Contests are set for. On the Code of Procedures for Oratorical there is a breakout that shows what areas the chairperson is responsible for, contact that person if needed or any of us for that matter and we will help in any way possible. Some of us are old hands at the Oratorical and at least one brand new and learning.



Are you interested in learning about the Constitution of the United States, building character and a possible source of college scholarship monies?

If interested, need to get on this right away; time is ticking away.

There are three stages to the Oratorical Contest; the Post level in December; the District level in January; and the Department level in February. The winner of the Department Contest will be able to attend the National Contest in Indianapolis, Indiana in April.

Scholarships awarded: Department Contest up to \$5,000 and up to \$20,000 at the National Contest. It is up to the Post and Districts if there is a scholarship awarded.



For additional information check out the American Legion Department of Oregon website and find the closest Post to sponsor you!

<https://www.orlegion.org/oratorical-resources.html>

Also check out the American Legion National website:

<https://legion.org/oratorical>

National Oratorical

Greetings,

In preparation for the 2020 American Legion National Oratorical Contest, the Oratorical Contest volunteer registration is now open. Youth programs of The American Legion rely heavily upon the support of volunteer time. Please be assured that volunteer time is a commodity greatly appreciated and highly valued. This program needs a minimum of 150 volunteers to kick off the activities on Saturday, 18 April 2020.

Please forward this link to those who would like to participate in this year's contest:
<https://www.legion.org/oratorical/volunteer/form>

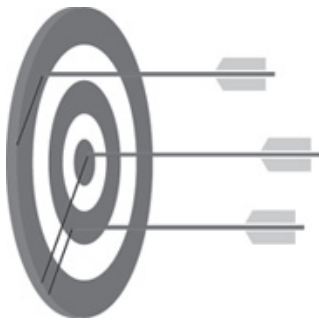
Respectfully,

Bill Megnin

Youth Program Manager, Oratorical and Junior Shooting Sports

The American Legion National Headquarters, 700 North Pennsylvania Street Indianapolis, IN 46204

wmegnin@legion.org



**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
October 16-17, 2019
Indianapolis, Indiana**



Resolution No. 4: American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Air Rifle National Championship Award

Origin: Americanism Commission

Submitted by: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 9 of the National Executive Committee May 2001, titled “American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Trophy” was designated to establish traveling trophies awarded to the top performing individual and team in the Sporter and Precision categories competing in the annual (Civilian Marksmanship Program’s) National Junior Olympic Air Rifle Championship who were members of clubs and teams affiliated with The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program; and

WHEREAS, Recognition of the National Junior Olympic Air Rifle Championship sponsored by the Civilian Marksmanship Program was discontinued in 2015 in favor of placing greater emphasis upon The American Legion’s own national air rifle championship tournament; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has been reviewed by the Americanism Commission, and with the concurrence from the Internal Affairs Commission and the Finance Commission, is recommended to the National Executive Committee for favorable action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That the current American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Trophy be retired; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the award currently titled “American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Trophy” be renamed to “American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Air Rifle National Championship Award”; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That plaques be presented annually to the national tournament champions of the individual and team categories in Sporter and Precision disciplines of The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That inscriptions for each plaque shall read appropriate for the category and discipline being presented; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the description of the award, how and when to present the award, and any additional conditions will be determined and approved by the Americanism Commission of The American Legion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That funds expended for annual purchase of plaques for the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Air Rifle National Championship Award shall not exceed the amount approved by the Finance Commission within the Junior Shooting Sports Program operational budget each year; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 9 of the National Executive Committee, May 2001, titled "American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Trophy" is hereby superseded and rescinded.

Iwo Jima Parade Float by Hermiston's Post 37

Here are some photos of our award-winning float entered in the Umatilla County Fair Parade on Sat. Aug. 4, 2019. We saw the idea on FB where a story showed a float in a South Carolina parade. In a mere two weeks our post switched out their usual flatbed float into this float. We won First Place in the Float Division and Sweepstakes Winner, best of all Parade entries.

The Legion members who usually rode on the flatbed float were disappointed, so we had five 4X4 quads behind... one holding a flag for each branch of military service. The driver and a passenger represented that branch. We decorated each 4x4 with patriotic posters.

Blessings,

Cathy Stolz
541-571-5816



**This is an update for the 2020
and future seasons of the Oregon
American Legion Baseball program**



MIKE SOWLES
BASEBALL CHAIR

**Oregon Rule
Additions**

Background

Checks: Oregon American Legion Baseball Background Checks for coaches and staff need to be completed by June 1st.

If not completed by June 1st coaches and staff would not be allowed to continue their contact with the teams.

Team Population: Oregon American Legion Baseball teams will use enrollment figures for the top three grades, 10th, 11th and 12th grades from the resource area of the American Legion website or team registration site. If school records differ make sure that every student is counted, including Special Ed, Physically Challenged, Bilingual and students older than 19 are in the sum total. A school registrar's official document from the schools involved or the district involved would need to be submitted to the State Baseball Committee Chair.

Air Quality: Readings of air quality above 125, play and practice will be suspended.

Moratorium Week: This is for high school coaches and staff for the summer of 2020. This year the week is designated from July 26 through Aug. 1st. This week is set by the OSAA, the staff involved are those participating in the Oregon State Baseball Tournament. During this week coaches will need to seek in advance an appeal for their involvement during playoffs and State tournaments with their school administration.

**State Super Regional Triple AAA
Travel money:**

The host team is responsible for payment of the travel money to the visiting team. Teams traveling over 75 miles will receive \$125, teams traveling over 125 miles will receive \$300.

Dates for the 2020 State Triple AAA

Tournament and Super Regionals:

The Triple AAA Super Regionals are July 20-23rd, The State Triple AAA Tournament is July 25-29th. The Northwest Triple AAA Regional site is Gillette, Wyoming from Aug. 5-9th, the American Legion Triple AAA Tournament is Aug. 13-18th.

**Recruiting new teams, tournament
locations and state sponsor:**

Roseburg is the tentative site of the 2020 Triple AAA tournament. The Single A tournament has yet to be decided.

The committee had a discussion about recruiting new teams, Albany, Central Oregon, and Portland Metro were mentioned as areas to target.

Statewide sponsors for our American Legion Baseball program are being sought to fund our Tournaments and the overall program. If you have a connection with Business and Industry, please connect with the Committee Chair, Mike Sowles at 503-509-9948, leave a message if not available.

Special Award:

Our State Runner-up Single A team, Alpenrose Dairy of Portland, received the Sportsmanship award for their participation in the Regional Single A Tournament in Cody, Wyoming.

National Rule Changes for 2020:

Rule 1.R.3. Pitching Rule: If a pitcher throws 45 or fewer pitches in game 1 of multiple games on the same day, he may return to pitch in game two, up to 105 pitches total for the day. If a pitcher were to throw more than 45

pitches in game one, he would be ineligible to pitch in game two.

Rule 2.B.4. Graduated Students:

Players who graduate in 2019 shall play for the last American Legion team they played for or the team nearest their parents' domicile.

Rule 3&4 Player Recruiting:

Combined total enrollment of high schools cannot exceed 6,000 for 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

Rule 6.E. Players Per Team:

add paragraph 4. In cases of season ending injury, a player may be replaced on National Form #1 prior to the end of regular season play with department baseball chairman approval and with proper supporting medical doctors note and documents.

**Risk Management will have some
changes:**

Senate Bill 534, which amends two federal statutes: (1) the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 and (2) the Amateur Sports Act of 1978. This new bill in part requires abuse awareness education and training for adult volunteers who are in contact with amateur athletes, reporting procedures, and how it affects our baseball program. Our current background check provider, may initiate this training to our baseball coaches, and other staff.





Post 180 Legionnaire, Clackamas County Commissioner Ken Huberston delivering opening remarks



(Lt-Rt) Fran Swanson Unit 180 President, Legionnaire, County Commissioner, Ken Huberston and Michael Wilson Post 180 Commander



Milwaukie Post and Unit #180 Attends Stand Down at CCC

On Saturday, 12 October Post 180 and Unit 180 attended and supported a veteran stand down at the Clackamas Community College. Both the Post and Unit had tables to pass out literature on what The American Legion Family had to offer veterans and active duty personnel. Unit 180 was also passing out toiletries and socks to veterans that were in need of these articles.

Post 180 Legionnaire, Clackamas County Commissioner Ken Huberston provided opening remarks for the event. Post Chaplain and Director of Public Relations, Jerry Craig, was instrumental in setting up this event. This was an excellent opportunity to show our support and outreach to veterans in our area of operation.

Michael Wilson,
Post 180 Commander



District 1 and Dept Service Officers Attend Stand Down in Tillamook



(lt-rt) Jody Marsh, DSO, Ed Van Dyke, DSO and Don Weber, Dept 1st Vice Commander
Photo by John Staub



John Staub Post 104 and Don Weber
Photo taken by Carla Staub

District 1 and our Dept Service Office supported Veteran Stand Down events in Warrenton on Oct 25, and Tillamook on Nov 1. Stand Downs support homeless Veterans by providing a day of respite with a hot meal, winter clothing and hygiene items, VA supportive services, and haircuts.

Don Weber
Department 1st Vice Commander

Legionnaire HospitalHELP Insurance Plan



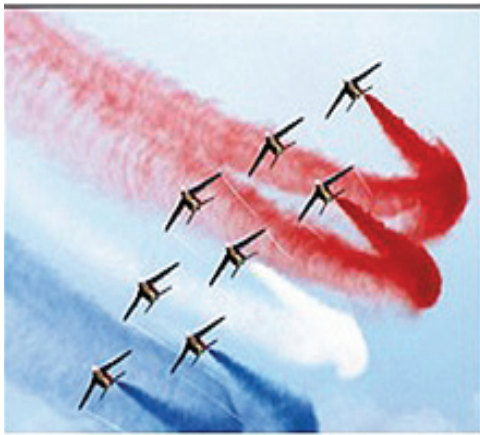
Endorsed By
Your American Legion
Department

[LEARN MORE](#)

Money to help pay YOUR
portion of hospital bills or
you can use your cash
benefits however you see fit!

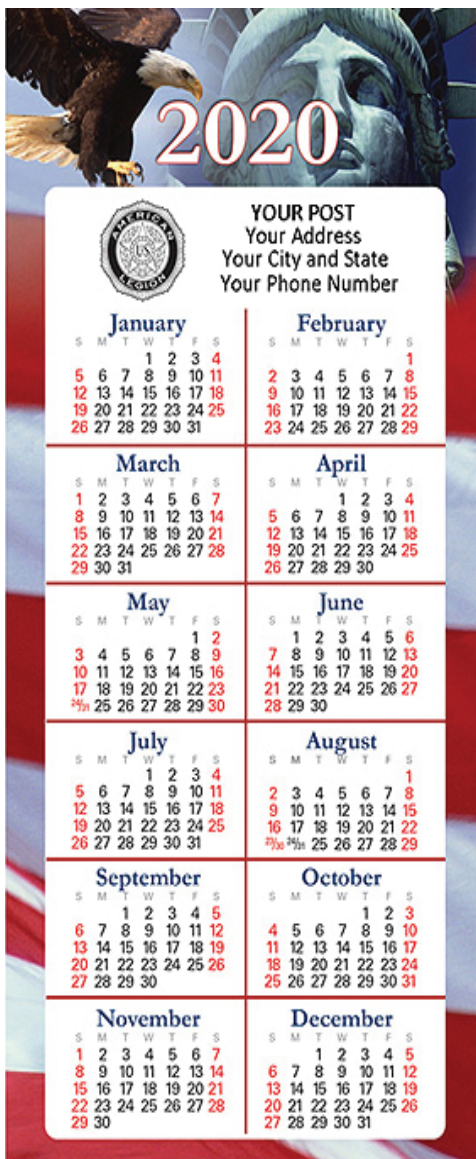
Support & Promote Your Post All Year!

2020 Post Fundraising Calendars



Magnet

Wall



FLAG REWARDS

Car Dealers Love Flags

Many car dealers fly multiple American flags on their lots. Consider approaching these dealers and asking them to support your Post with their flag purchases. You will likely save them money on their flag replacement budget.



Success Stories

Congratulations! The following Posts have earned big credit in 2019 to spend at Emblem Sales in 2020:

Over \$400 earned:

1. Bay City, MI Post 18
2. Ankeny, IA Post 42
3. Lake Linden, MI Post 90
4. Bismarck, ND Post 1
5. Lily Dale, NY Post 1280

Over \$300 earned:

6. Douds, IA Post 494
7. Lawrenceburg, IN Post 239
8. Newburgh, IN Post 44
9. Caruthersville, MO Post 88
10. Des Plaines, IL Post 36

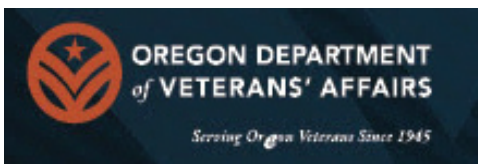
Over \$200 earned:

25 Posts have earned

Over \$150 earned:

25 Posts have earned

Remember: Your Post earns 10¢ for each \$1 spent on American flags by your Post or sponsors!



Dear valued partner: We ask that you please forward or post the following notice to your networks so that it might reach veterans or other stakeholders who would be interested in attending this meeting. Thank you!

The final 2019 meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs will be held Wednesday, Dec. 4, at the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, 4190 Aumsville Hwy S.E. in Salem.

The committee is made up of veterans appointed by the governor to provide counsel on veteran issues and represent veteran concerns across Oregon. Its nine members serve in a vital advisory role to the director and staff of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Their meetings are held at different locations across the state on the first Wednesday in March, June and December, as well as the second Wednesday in September. The public is invited to attend and participate.

For those planning to attend the December meeting, please be advised that the dress code at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training prohibits blue jeans and all other denim attire.

More information can be found online at www.oregon.gov/odva/Pages/advisory.aspx or to contact the Advisory Committee, please email vaac@odva.state.or.us



SGT SETH NAPEL

Nine days after 9/11, I enlisted in the California Army National Guard. That's when my own battle started.

When I saw the planes hit the towers on TV, my priorities just changed. At the time, I was 32 years old, living in Nipoma, California, and working as a landscape contractor. As I mowed lawns during the next couple of days, those planes stayed in the back of my mind. I knew there was a bigger purpose for me.

In 2009, I voluntarily deployed to Afghanistan with the 2nd Battalion of the 121st Infantry Regiment of the Georgia Army National Guard. Two weeks into the 13-month deployment, eight soldiers from my unit were killed. We felt like sitting ducks.

By the time I left the Army in 2011, I was drinking heavily and addicted to pills. I have heard others say that the hardest part of being in the military is leaving. That was definitely true for me. It was a such a fast-paced tempo, it was hard to slow down once I got off deployment.

I got sober after an arrest led to a stint in a post-traumatic stress (PTS) facility. I focused on my health and entered endurance competitions, such as day-long obstacle course races. I thought I was fine. But, in a motorcycle accident in 2017, I broke multiple bones and a sustained a traumatic brain injury. Issues related to PTS – panic attacks, severe depression – returned.

I remembered a fellow veteran who'd talked glowingly about the SHARE Military Initiative at Shepherd Center in At-

lanta, and I knew it was finally time for me to reach out.

I joined the program in the summer of 2018 and was instantly struck by its support and structure. While at *SHARE*, I focused on changing my habits of over-generalizing and thinking about everything in black and white. *SHARE* presented me with strategies to improve my vision and memory skills. As the weeks went by, I could see improvements in my memory, pain level, mobility and thinking skills. The dynamic approach of the program kept me moving purposefully and quickly boosted my self-worth. My goals of going back to college and being more helpful at home finally seemed within reach.

Once I got out of my comfort zone, I found hidden talents, new passions and made lifelong friends. I tried things I never would have tried on my own, such as indoor rock climbing, drumming in an all-vet band and swimming with sharks at the Georgia Aquarium. Having other veterans by my side as I confronted my fears provided comfort, while also building my confidence. I enjoyed the opportunity to learn yoga, improve my cooking skills, work on scheduling and time management, play drums and improve my communication skills.

My time at *SHARE* was truly an epic voyage in self-discovery.

Since I graduated from *SHARE* in December 2018, I have enrolled in college with plans to get a psychology degree and help veterans as a peer counselor or therapist. My PTS symptoms have lessened, and I feel so much better than I did. I still keep in touch the other vets I met at *SHARE* and follow up with *SHARE*

staff. I can't imagine that ever changing. They saw me through all the way, and for that, I will be forever grateful.

To learn more about the *SHARE*

program, visit here: <https://rly.pt/SHARE>



The American Legion Scouts

Scouter Legionnaires,

I want to thank those again who attended the Scouting Conference here in Indianapolis and thank those who attempted to join us via zoom teleconference. I have enclosed the Scouting Chairmans Conference Report that will be read into the record this week during Fall Meetings. Key take aways include:

- Changes to the Eagle Scout of the Year application, which should be available online on/after 1 Nov.

- Those who have earned the Square Knot thru the legion are authorized to wear a 3/8" Legion Pin in the center of that award, starting 1 Jan. (See the attachment 3)

- Always look for recruiting efforts in expanding your program as any organization will attrite members naturally. Even the most robust program will starve if you don't continue to recruit. Recruiting efforts include:

- Continue to work with LDS churches to subsume the role of chartering organization as those youths will be left out in the cold after 31 Dec.

- Continue to establish female Scouts BSA troops, this is an easy recruiting effort.

- Provide to National Headquarters any innovative ways to outside of these efforts that will drive youths to join. I will forward best practices to the group.

- All of these efforts should also increase the membership of the Legion family. Many parents of Scouts are now Legion, SAL, or ALA eligible due to the expanded eligibility in all of these groups.

- I have included a copy of the Frank N. Belgrano Award from the TAC Manual. Your department's written narrative should illuminate 'how'

your department maintains a strong Scouting Program. This may include recent recruiting improvement efforts, additional department level events or local awards programs, and indicate quantifiable results of these efforts. (For example: Conducted a marketing blitz surrounding Legion Scouting efforts in the department of ___ at the state fair; resulting in an increase in membership of ___ Scouts & ___ Scouters – or increase of ___% this year – all of whom attributed their signing-up to this directed advertisement.)

- We would like to develop a continued quarterly conversation about National Jamboree 2021; by establish an ad-hoc steering committee:

- If you want to be a part of this discussion, please contact me for details.

- Develop concepts that the Americanism Staff and National Headquarters can pitch to leadership to justify any expenses:

American Legion Scouting Patch (quantity, quality, etc.) exhibit booth displays (hands-on item that will interest the scouts)

additional persons in attendance (e.g. Girls State/Nation Program Director, ALA)

Materials needed (e.g. application forms) etc.

- Keep in mind that National will NOT provide a call-in to attend this event and budgets will be extremely tight so we need to keep cost to a minimum.

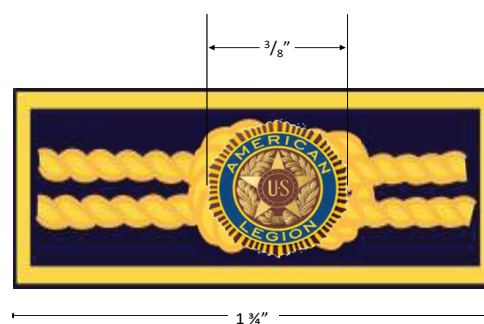
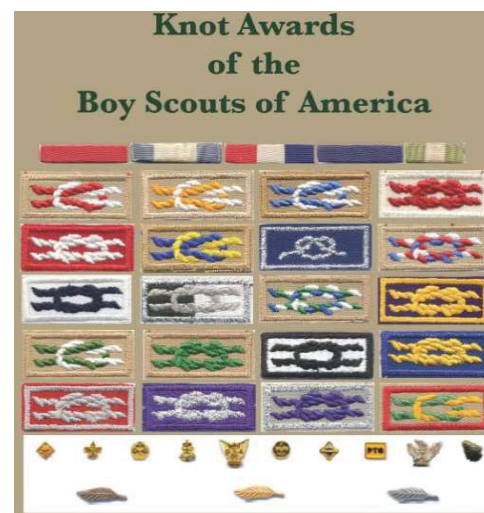
- Send to me your Scouting highlights and we will do our best to get them highlighted at the national level: e.g. social media, print, or even the National Commander's weekly report.

- We are currently working with the BSA on a location for next year's Department Scouting Chairmen's Conference. We are leaning toward the Summit Bechtel Reserve or the Scouting U Westlake Campus. Once we have more, we will let you know.

respectfully,

Jeff L. Hendricks

Deputy Director,
Americanism Division
National Liaison to the Boy Scouts of America
The American Legion,
National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana



FRANK N. BELGRANO, JR. TROPHY

Description:

In honor of Past National Commander Frank N. Belgrano, Jr.

General: Gold plated pedestal type trophy; figure of a Boy Scout mounted on center pedestal; main pedestal in center surrounded by four smaller pedestals topped with spread eagles; square Bakelite base and height is 32 inches.

Inscription: "Frank N. Belgrano, Jr., Boy Scout Trophy."

Sponsored By:

National Headquarters, The American Legion, Americanism Commission.

Authority:

NEC Resolution No. 6, Nov. 1936

How Awarded:

Announcement of the award is made at each National Convention. A customized plaque is shipped to the winning department.

Conditions:

- Awarded annually to the department which has rendered the most outstanding support during the period July 31 – August 1 to the program of the Boy Scouts of America. The award is based on the number of troops organized, strength of existing troops and general welfare of the Scout movement under Legion sponsorship within the department based on written reports with substantiating evidence submitted to National Headquarters 15 days prior to the National Convention.
- By action of the National Executive Committee, April 29-May 1, 1953, the original trophy is to remain at National Headquarters, and a suitable laminated plaque containing a photograph of the trophy will be awarded to and retained by the winning department.

Recipients:

1936	California	1990	Maryland
1937	California	1991	Minnesota
1938	California	1992	Iowa
1939	California	1993	Washington
1940	California	1994	Maryland
1941	California	1995	Maryland
1942	California	1996	Florida
1943	California	1997	Maryland
1944	California	1998	Florida
1945	California	1999	Illinois
1946	California	2000	Illinois
1947	California	2001	New Jersey
1948	California	2002	California
1949	Iowa	2003	Maryland
1950	Delaware	2004	Florida
1951	Oregon	2005	Illinois
1952	Oregon	2006	Illinois
1953	Washington	2007	Maryland
1954	Oregon	2008	California
1955	Iowa	2009	North Carolina
1956	Utah	2010	Iowa
1957	Washington	2011	California
1958	Panama, Canal Zone	2012	North Carolina
1959	District of Columbia	2013	North Carolina
1960	Panama, Canal Zone	2014	North Carolina
1961	Wisconsin	2015	California
1962	Washington	2016	New York
1963	Wisconsin	2017	Missouri
1964	Wisconsin	2018	Missouri
1965	New Jersey		
1966	North Carolina		
1967	Minnesota		
1968	Iowa		
1969	Michigan		
1970	North Dakota		
1971	Iowa		
1972	South Dakota		
1973	Iowa		
1974	Nebraska		
1975	Minnesota		
1976	Wisconsin		
1977	New Jersey		
1978	Iowa		
1979	Missouri		
1980	Nebraska		
1981	Iowa		
1982	Illinois		
1983	California		
1984	Minnesota		
1985	South Carolina		
1986	Illinois		
1987	Minnesota		
1988	Colorado		
1989	Missouri		

A Force of Nearly 600 Honors the Northwest's Service Members of the Year and Raises Over \$600,000 at 2019 USO Five-Star Gala

Renton, WA - USO supporters gathered at the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington on October 19 to honor six military service members, three distinguished USO champions and raise more than \$600,000, making the 2019 USO Northwest Gala the most successful fundraiser in the organization's 53-year history! Proceeds from the annual Five-Star Gala fund vital programs and services developed to meet the needs of America's military service members and their families. This year's USO Northwest Gala was presented by The Boeing Company, Delta Air Lines and La-Z-Boy of Seattle and featured special guest Medal of Honor Recipient Florent A. Groberg - the 10th living service member to be recognized with America's highest valor award for his actions on August 8, 2012 in Afghanistan.

"The mission of the USO is to strengthen America's military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country, throughout their service to the nation" said Pam Valdez, USO Gala Chair 2019, USO Board Member and VP of Air Force Services for The Boeing Company. "At the USO, what we do is simple. Whether it's a safe place to sleep, something to eat, a telephone call home, or something as simple as a shower, the USO Northwest continues to deliver on our promise to always be by their side."

Highlighting the evening's program was the salute to the 2019 Military Service Members of the Year for the Pacific Northwest region: SSG Alexander A. Miller, Soldier of the Year; CPL Brecken Hackler, Marine of the Year; MU1 Garrett Stephan, Sailor of the Year; SrA Carolene Herrel, Airman of the Year; OSI Carson Russell, Coast Guard Person of the Year; and SSG Jonathan Tinsley, National Guard

Airman of the Year. Additionally, USO Northwest presented the Order of Distinguished Service to Starbucks, La-Z-Boy of Seattle and Admiral Thomas B. Hayward, USN (Retired) former Chief of Naval Operations for the United States Navy from 1978 to 1982. This award is the highest level of recognition by the USO and is reserved for individuals and organizations having demonstrated exceptional service to military members and their families through sustained support of the USO Northwest.



"We are very fortunate in the Pacific Northwest, as our local corporate and community partners care deeply about America's military members and their families," said Donald M. Leingang, Executive Director of USO Northwest and retired Commander, U.S. Navy. "We greatly appreciate the continued support of our Presenting Sponsors, The Boeing Company, Delta Air Lines and La-Z-Boy of Seattle, as well as sustaining partners Accenture, Alaska Airlines, AT&T, Chateau Ste. Michelle, Costco, Dollar, GEICO, Holland America, Microsoft, NECA Puget Sound Chapter, Perkins Coie, Seattle Mariners, Sound Kitchen and Bath, Starbucks, Tito's Handmade Vodka and many more."

As the men and women in uniform continue to answer America's call to service, the USO Northwest remains steadfast, working with its partners and volunteers, to support our military community. USO Northwest is

grateful to our corporate and community partners, as they are truly the "Force Behind the Forces."

About USO Northwest

For over 78 years, the USO has strengthened America's military service members by keeping them connected to family and loved ones, throughout their service to the nation. USO Northwest (USO-NW) continues that mission today by serving more than 800,000 service members and their families annually throughout Washington and Oregon. USO-NW operates two travel-based centers at Sea-Tac International Airport and Portland International Airport along with two installation-based centers on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the Shali USO Center and Camp Lewis USO Center. Three Mobile USO Canteens expand our service delivery by offering the military and their families the same best-in-class support we provide at stationary centers, but in the field during training's, pier side for deployments and homecomings, and throughout military and civilian locations in the Pacific Northwest.

USO-NW provides support to those who need it most, including morale-boosting and family-strengthening programs, deployment and redeployment support to help servicemen and women adjusting to the duty ahead, resiliency training for families facing multiple deployments, as well as support for families coping with the loss of a family member, families of the fallen.

The USO is not part of the federal government and does not receive government support. A congressionally chartered, nonprofit organization, the USO relies solely on private support from individuals, organizations, foundations, corporations and fund-

Continued on page 19

Christmas Gifts Shop Openings



Portland VMAC 80th
Opening Nov 30th,
then open Dec 2nd -5th

Oregon Veterans Home
The Dalles
Dec 7th at 10 am and
Dec 9th at 10 am

Lebanon Veterans Home
Dec 11th, 1-4

Rosburg VMAC
Dec 6th-10th

Join Us,
The More the Merrier

Continued from page 18
raisers to support its activities and is
powered by a family of volunteers to
accomplish its mission of connection.

Media Contact

Tim Bogle
Director of Development
USO Northwest
(206) 719-5662
development@USONW.org

To make a tax-deductible donation
to the USO-NW, visit us online at:

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Northwest



YOU ARE INVITED
TO THE

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

Oregon Veterans Home
700 Veterans Dr
The Dalles, OR 97058

Opening Saturday December 7th
At 10 am

&

Monday December 9th
At 10 am



You are invited

To the
Portland VA Medical Center
For the

80th Annual Christmas Gift Shop Grand Opening

Presented by
The American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Oregon

Saturday, November 30, 2019
10:00 am

3710 SW US Veterans Hospital Road
2nd floor auditorium

Refreshments will follow ceremony

Please RSVP to Linda Liebenow at 503-826-5877
or email lindaliebenow@comcast.net



NATIONAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION

TOPIC 1: ECONOMY

Business investment in new equipment is likely in for a prolonged slump because of the global economic slowdown and because of uncertainty about the

outcome of the U.S.-China trade war.

The two leading economies are engaged in a tit-for-tat battle that has each slapping successive rounds of penalties against each other's exports.

Global growth is slowing as trade tensions have ramped up.

Europe's outlook is deteriorating as its exports to China soften, while China itself is experiencing a decline in its exports that is putting its economy under strain.

Britain continues to grapple with its long-delayed departure from the European Union. A disorderly exit would disrupt supply lines between Britain and the EU, potentially wreaking economic damage on both sides if shortages and anticipated logistic snarl-ups materialize.

Another drag on spending is that U.S. aircraft maker Boeing has not yet been able to get its grounded 737Max aircraft certified as safe to return to service. A return will likely not happen until sometime next year at the earliest.

A scant 2% rise in capital spending is in store this year, before shrinking to 1% growth in 2020. New orders may have already peaked this year, and will be completely flat, if not down, in 2020. September orders and shipments of nonmilitary goods excluding aircraft dropped for the second time in three months. This category



receives attention because it serves as a proxy for business investment. Weak shipments indicate that factories are less busy and likely will be operating at lower capacity in the future because order backlogs are being worked through faster.

Considering the slump in business spending, the unemployment rate declined to 3.5 percent in September, and total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 136,000, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Employment in health care and in professional and business services continued to trend up.

September job gains were lower than expected, but still consistent with the new normal for the economy. Monthly job growth in 2019 is likely to average 150,000 jobs per month, down from 223,000 in 2018. Partly, that is because there are fewer available workers to hire, given the low unemployment rate. But mostly, the smaller gains signal that the economy is slowing down to a more moderate growth rate. The tax cuts' stimulus to growth couldn't last, and the trade war with China is keeping exporters and commodities-oriented industries from expanding.

The positive takeaways from the report: Wage growth for nonsupervisory workers stayed fairly high at 3.5%. The share of prime-age workers (25 to 54) who are employed is the highest since 2010. There were a few weak spots, as well: Retail shed workers for the eighth straight month as stores continue to close. Eleven of 19 manufacturing industries lost jobs, showing the impact of slowing exports. The telecom sector continued

its long decline. Trucking experienced a surprise cutback for the second month.

The unemployment rate dropped to 3.5%, its lowest level since 1969. Job openings continue to exceed new hires. The short-term unemployment rate (which tracks folks who have been unemployed for less than six months) is at its lowest level since the Korean War in 1953. Slower job growth is likely to allow the Federal Reserve to cut rates again on October 30, following cuts on July 31 and September 18. A softer jobs market gives the Fed some maneuvering room to cut rates without stoking inflationary pressures, since rapid job gains tend to lead to faster wage increases, which push up other prices.

(Unable to Insert Table)

The national unemployment rate is 3.4 percent (September 2019). Gulf War II veterans unemployment rate is 4.5 percent. Currently, the unemployment rate for Gulf War II women veterans is 7.0 percent (up from 3.4 percent in September).

TOPIC 2: MEETINGS

On Tuesday, October 29th, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division joined a conference call with Lumina and ScoutComms to discuss communications support for the Credentialing Roundtable grant. Lumina Foundation is funding communications support directly, but requests American Legion advice on its choice for preferred vendor.

On Tuesday, October 29th, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division met with the Endeavor Group that has refined the Stellate Ganglion Block (SGB) for PTSD treatment through a public-private partnership. SGB is not a cure,

Continued on page 21

However, it is a highly effective, well tolerated, fast acting, inexpensive biologic technique that

provides prolonged relief from the debilitating symptoms of PTSD.

On Wednesday, October 30th, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division met with Syracuse University's IVMF and National Coalition for Veteran Owned Business to discuss the upcoming VetSource event in NYC that they are hosting with the NYC Department of Veterans Services.

On Wednesday, October 30th, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division attended a College Promise and Financial Sustainability Symposium on how to manage and maintain funding in order to build financially sustainable Promises. Invitation-only participants from the College Promise movement and student voices came together, shared ideas, and informed the College Promise Campaign's collective impact work.

On Friday, November 1st, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division attended a discussion on improvements to the Military Lending Act that have been drafted by Maxine Waters office. It proposes solutions that will expand the Military Lending Act to include military spouses and veterans, but limits its protections to payday, vehicle title and finance company loans that are the most egregious lenders.

TOPIC 3: EMPLOYMENT

This week, Congressman Andy Kim (NJ-03), Congressman Paul Cook (CA-08), and Congressman Gil Cisneros (CA-39) introduced H.R. 4941, the bipartisan Veteran Employment Transition (VET) Act, that would help veterans identify employment opportunities to help service members dur-



good paying job," said Congressman Kim. "That opportunity starts with information. By empowering great organizations like the American Legion and VFW to reach out directly to returning veterans, we can fulfill our promise to those who served. I want to thank Congressman Cook and Congressman Cisneros for their partnership in this effort and look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get this done."

"Veterans who serve our country honorably shouldn't struggle to find employment upon returning home," said Congressman Cook. "This legislation would provide crucial improvements to veterans' employment outreach programs across the country. It's important that we do all we can to support organizations that strive every day to support our veterans. I thank Congressman Kim for his leadership on this issue and look forward to working with him to get this bill passed." Our newsletter delivers the local news that you can trust.

"As a Navy veteran I understand the difficulties our veterans face as they attempt to transition back to civilian life and find work," said Congressman Cisneros. "Our veterans develop critical technical and leadership skills during the course of their service, and we must do more to help them find opportunities to put those skills to work in our modern economy. I'm proud to join Congressmen Kim and Cook in this bipartisan legislation to empower VSOs to step up outreach on employment opportunities and ensure our veterans have the support they need to successfully transition back into our communities."

The VET Act allows data collected

"There's no better way we can thank our returning veterans than by giving them every opportunity for a

through the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program to be shared with qualified veteran service organizations such as the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Sharing this data will empower these organizations to engage in outreach to returning veterans, sharing information employment opportunities and local veteran employment events.

The bill, formally endorsed by the Student Veterans of America and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, would also provide privacy protections for veteran's information and an option for veterans to opt-out of communication from veteran service organizations.

"The transition from military to civilian life can be one of the most difficult challenges veterans face," said Ryan Luurtsema, Veteran Coordinator at Ocean County College. "Congressman Kim's bill will help service members returning to Ocean County with better transition guidance and proper advocacy in getting the information they need to find a secondary career path and increase quality of life for themselves and their family."

Congressman Kim is a member of the House Committee on Small Business and the House Armed Services Committee. In addition to introducing the VET Act, Congressman Kim has been a vocal proponent for a new veterans' health care facility in Ocean County, and has introduced bipartisan legislation to protect veterans from VA errors. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, he's led efforts to strengthen resiliency programs at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, strengthen economic opportunities for military spouses, and require the Department of Defense to the end use of harmful PFAS chemicals.

TOPIC 4: VETERAN HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Continued on page 22

TOPIC 4: VETERAN HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

On any given night, the federal government estimates there are around 40,000 homeless veterans sleeping on the street or in tents and stair-

wells. Each and every one of them is entitled to the VA benefits they fought and bled for. As part of the Home for the Holidays initiative, the Cleveland VA, HUD and the Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority have increased their outreach efforts to connect homeless and distressed veterans with housing vouchers and VA benefits.

HUD's VASH program, also known as VA Supportive Housing, combines HUD housing vouchers with supportive services from the VA. The goal of the program is get veterans off the street and into treatment and therapy. On Thursday, the Cleveland VA hosted dozens of local agencies and property owners to create a 'one stop shop' for veterans. CMHA and the VA provided veterans with transportation and other assistance so they could view apartments throughout the Cleveland area.

Veterans who have not joined the VASH program were also given the opportunity to do so.

"It's a beautiful thing. There is no way any veteran in America -- and definitely in Cuyahoga County -- should be homeless," said Larry Akins, a veteran of the US Army. "We have so many benefits, so many programs. There are so many people that are willing to help you."

The efforts appear to be making some progress. According to the VA's most recent point-in-time homeless veteran count, the number of homeless veterans in Ohio has dropped more than 38% since 2011, including a 13% decline from 2017 to 2018.

Akins, a veteran of the first Gulf War, is emblematic of the VASH program's success, he said. After returning home



and raising his family, Akins became an addict, he said, eventually landing him in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court on felony charges. He was sentenced to probation and was required to receive treatment at the VA for his addiction issues. Akins then began to flourish.

He enrolled in a VA program that provided him a job in the VA system while he was receiving treatment, allowing him to save money to buy his own car and rent his own apartment. Akins' treatment has gone so well that he's received two job offers.

"Sometimes we have to keep ourselves in position for a blessing. I was happy that I was in the position when they called me to accept the job," Akins said. "If I was out in the streets or out some where I shouldn't have been or locked up in jail, all that would be for naught."

Akins has now become a full-throated advocate for the program. "They have helped me to the point where I could help myself," Akins said. "With all these avenues you can take, you don't have to be homeless."

TOPIC 5: CAREER FAIRS & ROUNDTABLES

This week, work continued on The American Legion's upcoming hiring events to be staged in Fort Carson (CO), Aurora (CO), JBLM (WA), King George (VA), Fort Meade (MD), Lexington Park (MD)

TOPIC 6: SMALL BUSINESS

As we enter November, a month of gratitude, SBA begins the month by celebrating National Veterans Small Business Week (NVSBW), during Nov. 4-8, 2019. We take this opportunity to say "thank you" to our military men and women, and the veteran community for serving our country.

Now entering its sixth year, NVSBW raises awareness of veteran business ownership and encourages local communities to support their veteran- and military-owned businesses. At SBA, the Office of Veterans Business Development is devoted exclusively to promoting veteran entrepreneurship and supporting veteran small business owners and their families. Veterans and transitioning service members can access customized entrepreneur curriculums, in-person classes, and online courses to aid them in their small business journey. SBA knows that these resources are valued by our service members' community.

SBA encourages veterans and transitioning service members to utilize SBA services. Here are five SBA resources available today to our country's service members reach the American Dream of owning a business:

1. Transition Assistance: SBA and its resource partners support active duty and transitioning service members, veterans, and military spouses through Boots to Business, part of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program. Find a Boots to Business education and training program here: <https://sbavets.force.com/s/>

2. Entrepreneurial Training: On your entrepreneurship mission, you may need additional training to help you start, grow, or expand your business. Whether you're a female veteran, service-disabled veteran, or looking to learn business fundamentals, you can tap into SBA's entrepreneurial training programs for help. Resource partners include Women's Business Centers that assist women in starting and growing small businesses; Small Business Development Centers that offer free, one-on-one counseling and low-cost training services; and SCORE a network of thousands of volunteer business counselors around

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the country that provides free in-person and online counseling as well as educational workshops.

3. Access to Capital: It may be time to consider funding options for your business – whether it's capital to start the company or funding to help you expand. SBA and its network of resources understand that funding and capital may be a barrier for veterans on their mission to start or scale up your business. The network of local offices, resource partners, and organizations is available to help entrepreneurs identify lenders and understand different financing options. SBA's Lender Match is a free online referral tool that connects small businesses with participating SBA-approved lenders.

4. Government Contracting: Are you looking to pursue government contracting opportunities to help your business grow? At this stage of

your mission, SBA and its partners can help you through the Veteran Federal Procurement Entrepreneurship Training Program where you can learn how to navigate the complexities of government contracting. Learn more about government contracting here <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting>

5. SBA District Offices can connect you to local SBA resources, mentors and training. Visit www.SBA.gov for more information and to find a local office.

THE AMERICAN LEGION'S RURAL VETERAN INITIATIVE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Entrepreneurship is a proven pathway for Veterans from all walks of life to build an income, independence and financial security for themselves, their families, their employees, and their communities. Rural entrepreneurs start businesses at higher rates

than their urban counterparts and have higher five-year business survival rates, and these businesses play a particularly vital role in rural America, creating roughly two-thirds of new jobs and supporting economic and social wellbeing of their communities. While these entrepreneurs represent great potential, they often face different challenges than those in metropolitan areas, including geographic isolation, spotty broadband services, ailing infrastructure, a reluctance among major companies, banks and healthcare providers to serve the area, difficulties in hiring and retaining qualified workers and barriers in accessing capital to build their businesses. Still, The American Legion regards them as the backbone of community, invests heavily in their towns,

and is interested in shaping local and state policy.

In March 2018 the Federal Reserve Bank of

St. Louis published a report titled "Financial Innovations to Improve Economic Resiliency in Rural Communities" They "brought together impact investors and community development practitioners to explore the barriers and opportunities for how mission-based financial institutions can support rural communities. Some of their conversations focused around:

- Strategies to wrangle capital to rural communities and the mission-based financial institution that serve them
 - Roles that regional networks for funding and financing could play to serve rural regions
 - The importance of partnerships to both deploy capital and build local community development capacity
 - Needs for financing rural housing and rural broadband infrastructure.
- The Veterans Employment and Education Division held a Capital Assess Roundtable with a focus concerning:

- Identifying economically distressed communities where a large number of veterans reside;

- Exploring if veteran entrepreneurship (existing or new) could play a role in helping to revitalize those communities;

- Analyzing the resources and gaps in resources-available to assist veterans in this endeavor;

- Assist in providing veteran entrepreneurs in those communities with the education and resources needed to help revitalize their communities.

The Department of Veteran Affairs, Small Business Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, Department of Treasury, First Data, Syracuse University, all attended our first meeting with Mellon, Goldman Sachs, and other banks expressing interest in participating in follow-up meetings. VE&E is also currently concentrating on resources available in the State of Mississippi; has the largest rural amount of veterans followed by West Virginia and Arkansas the state has a veteran population of 174 thousand veterans. The current poverty rate is listed at 21.5% for the state, while ten communities within the state have a poverty rate from 30% to 50%, the highest in the nation.

TOPIC 7: EDUCATION

A dispute about embattled Thomas Jefferson School of Law helped spark the federal government's recent decision to strip California of its ability to determine which schools can accept students' GI Bill benefits.

California's Department of Veterans Affairs suspended Thomas Jefferson from enrolling new students with veterans benefits in late 2017 and removed the school from the GI Bill program all together last year. The state acted in response to the San Diego law school being placed on probation by its national accreditor.

But the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs believed the California's agen-

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 cy's actions were improper because the school still had accreditation while it was on probation. The California VA eventually reversed course and reinstated the law school, but not before Thomas Jefferson students with veterans benefits had to rely on the school to step in to provide financial support in the government's place for several months. Thomas Jefferson has actively welcomed students with GI Bill benefits, and it received roughly \$4.4 million in tuition and fee payments for beneficiaries from fiscal 2009 through fiscal 2017. But Thomas Jefferson's myriad issues on other fronts jeopardized its ability to keep receiving students' veterans benefits.

For example, just 31% of the school's first-time takers passed the July 2016 California bar exam. The law school tied for the second-worst performance among the state's 21 ABA-accredited institutions. Meanwhile, Thomas Jefferson had struggled financially since taking on \$130 million in debt to construct a state-of-the-art facility in San Diego's East Village that opened for classes in 2011.

The school's ABA probation caught the attention of the California Department of Veterans Affairs, also known as CalVet. The agency notified Thomas Jefferson in a letter dated Dec. 29, 2017, that it was suspended from receiving veterans benefits from any newly enrolled students effective immediately.

CalVet gave Thomas Jefferson until Feb. 27, 2018, to come back into compliance by meeting one of two conditions: The first option was demonstrating it was no longer on ABA probation, and the second was applying for approval in the GI Bill program as a non-accredited law school.

On March 15, 2018, CalVet notified Thomas Jefferson it was withdrawing its ability to accept GI Bill benefits from new or current students. The state wrote Thomas Jefferson was not



in compliance with the standards necessary to be approved either as an accredited or unaccredited school. However in summer 2018, the federal VA sent a letter to CalVet highlighting concerns about its work approving schools to receive GI Bill benefits. The first issue raised in the Aug. 24 letter was the "improper suspension and/or withdrawal" of schools' ability to accept veterans benefits. In regard to Thomas Jefferson, the state "inappropriately took action as if the programs were not accredited and advised the school to request a waiver from VA," the federal letter said. "Thomas Jefferson School of Law's programs were accredited at the time, although in a probationary status." The letter concluded by stating that the federal government looked forward to California's "timely resolution of these performance concerns." Less than a week later, the federal VA released a national advisory urging state agencies in charge of approving which schools can receive GI Bill benefits not to overrule other bodies' determinations about whether a school should be accredited or licensed.

The memo said "it is inefficient and a waste of VA resources for a [state approving agency] to repeat their work and expend further resources in an attempt to confirm or overrule their determinations." The advisory was issued as a result of CalVet's actions, the federal VA later said. CalVet's handling of Thomas Jefferson's GI Bill eligibility was one of many instances in which the federal VA felt the state had fallen short with such work. In a Sept.

6, 2019, letter to CalVet outlining those alleged shortcomings, the federal government said it was not going to sign an agreement for California to handle the GI Bill approval process for fiscal 2020.

"Over the last three years, CSAAVE's performance has significantly declined to an unacceptable level, impacting the trust of veterans in the GI Bill approval process," the VA wrote. The federal VA said it would be taking over the state's GI Bill duties on Oct. 1, 2019. CalVet initially claimed it would continue its GI Bill role despite not receiving a new contract, but on Sept. 30 it sent school administrators a message in which it acknowledged the federal government would be assuming the work. Sherr said the law school believes the federal VA taking over for California "may help to ensure other schools are not adversely impacted" as it was.

Regardless of what happens, Thomas Jefferson is in danger of again losing its ability to accept GI Bill benefits. In May, the American Bar Association's legal education council voted to strip the school of its ABA accreditation. The panel highlighted concerns about the school's finances, admissions practices and rigor of its educational offerings.

Joseph C. Sharpe, Jr., Director
 Veterans Employment & Education Division
 202.861.2700 ext. 2989
 Week Ending: 11/01/19

News Center

<https://www.legion.org/news>



Calendar of Events

November

09 John Day #77
27 National Closed
28 Thanksgiving (Closed)
29 Dept Closed
30 Portland VA Gift Shop
30 Dept Christmas Party

December

01 District 2 Mtg
07 Pearl Harbor Rember
07 OVH The Dalles
Gift Shop
07 District 1 Mtg
17 District 8 Mtg
23-25 National Closed
25 Christmas (Closed)
31 National Closed

January

01 National Closed
01 New Years (Closed)
04 District 9 Mtg
08 District 4 Mtg
08 District 6 Mtg
18 District 7 Mtg
20 National Closed
20 MLK Day (Closed)

During his speech to the National Executive Committee during Fall Meetings on Oct. 16, American Legion National Historian James Mariner announced the winners of the 2019 national history contests, judged by members of the National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion (NADHAL).

One-Year Department Narrative History Contest:

First award: Department of North Carolina
Second award: Department of Indiana

One-Year Department Yearbook History Contest:

First award: Department of Missouri
Second award: Department of Nebraska
Third award: Department of Georgia

2019 History Contest Winners Announced

National Historian James Mariner gives his report to the American Legion National Executive Committee at National Headquarters in Indianapolis on Oct. 16. Photo by Ryan Young/The American Legion



Certificate of Participation:
Department of North Carolina
Department of Colorado
Department of Wisconsin
Department of Ohio
Department of West Virginia
Department of New York

One-Year Post Narrative History Contest:

First award: Carroll Post 143, Carrollton, Ga.
Second award: CSM Gary W. Crisp Post 289, Clarksville, Tenn.
Third award: Pony Express Post 359, St. Joseph, Mo.

Certificate of Participation:
Missing Man Post 667, Universal City, Texas
Harold A. Todd Jr. Wisconsin Motor Post 537, Milwaukee, Wis.
Adams, Hanna, Moore Memorial Post 156, Ellicott City, Md.
Oregon Post 67, Ontario, Ore.

Frank B. Bartlett Post 7, Buckhannon, W.Va.
American Legion Post 250, Middleburg, Fla.

One-Year Post Yearbook History Contest:

First award: Julius L. Shryer American Legion Post 430, Durant, Iowa
Second award: Codington County-Post 17, Watertown, S.D., and Bruns-

wick Post 9, Brunswick, Ga.
Third award: Frierson-Nichols Post 8, Winter Haven, Fla.

Certificate of Participation:
Park Post 23, Livingston, Mont.
Bates-O'Brien-Howe-Wiegel-Roelli Post 214, Darlington, Wis.

Warren F. Hoyle Post 82, Shelby, N.C.
Martin Wallberg Post 3, Westfield, N.J.

Harry White Wilmer Post 82, La Plata, Md.

Harry Higgins Post 88, Ashland, Ohio
Blackwell-Frazier Post 142, Hominy, Ohio

Elmont Post 1033, Elmont, N.Y.

Canby Post 122, Canby, Ore.

Women Veterans of Southwest Missouri Post 1214, Springfield, Mo.

Milton Post 139, Milton, W.Va.

Horry County Post 111, Conway, S.C.

H. U. Wood Post 245, Seguin, Texas

Scotts Hill Post 243, Regan, Tenn.

Alley-White Post 52, Mountain Home, Ark.

Charles S. Hatch Post 79, Berwick, Maine

Mariner continued that NADHAL training earlier in the week included a number of new department historians, and the organization's meeting featured an Auxiliary historian observer; the American Legion Auxiliary is preparing for their 100th centennial celebration. Robin Shingleton was elected NADHAL president.

WWII BOMBING

Submitted by PNC, Charlie Schmidt

Carefully study this artwork. Then, read what they did.

Not only is the picture awesome, but so are the statistics!



During the 3-1/2 years of World War II that started with the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in December of 1941 and ended with the surrender of Germany and Japan in 1945, "We the People of the U.S.A." produced the following:

- 22 aircraft carriers
- 8 battleships
- 48 cruisers
- 349 destroyers
- 420 destroyer escorts
- 203 submarines
- 34 million tons of merchant ships
- 100,000 fighter aircraft
- 98,000 bombers
- 24,000 transport aircraft
- 58,000 training aircraft
- 93,000 tanks
- 257,000 artillery pieces
- 105,000 mortars
- 3,000,000 machine guns and
- 2,500,000 military trucks

We put 16.1 million men in uniform in the various armed services, invaded Africa, invaded Sicily and Italy, won the battle for the Atlantic, planned and executed D-Day, marched across the Pacific and Europe, developed the atomic bomb and, ultimately, conquered Japan and Germany.

It's amazing what America did in those days

Many of you already know the story, here is the update.

THE FINAL TOAST

The text below references the movie "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo."

There is a second film made in 1944 that details the "show" trials of the 11 airmen that were captured & tortured by the Japanese titled "The Purple Heart."

Three were executed as war criminals, a fourth died in captivity.

The *FINAL TOAST*! They bombed Tokyo 78 years ago.

They once were among the most universally admired and revered men in the United States .. There were 80 of the Raiders in April 1942, when they carried out one of the most courageous and heart-stirring military operations in this nation's history. The mere mention of their unit's name, in those years, would bring tears to the eyes of grateful Americans.

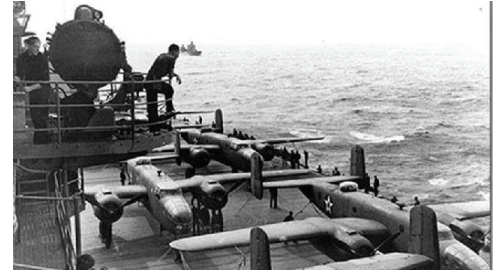


After Japan 's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, with the United States reeling and wounded, something dramatic was needed to turn the war effort around.

Even though there were no friendly airfields close enough to Japan for the United States to launch a retaliation, a daring plan was devised.

Sixteen B-25s were modified so that they could take off from the deck of an aircraft carrier.

This had never before been tried -- sending such big, heavy bombers from a carrier.



The 16 five-man crews, under the command of Lt. Col. James Doolittle, who himself flew the lead plane off the USS Hornet, knew that they would not be able to return to the carrier. They would have to hit Japan and then hope to make it to China for a safe landing.



But on the day of the raid, the Japanese military caught wind of the plan. The Raiders were told that they would have to take off from much farther out in the Pacific Ocean than they had counted on.

They were told that because of this they would not have enough fuel to make it to safety.

And those men went anyway.



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WWII BOMBING

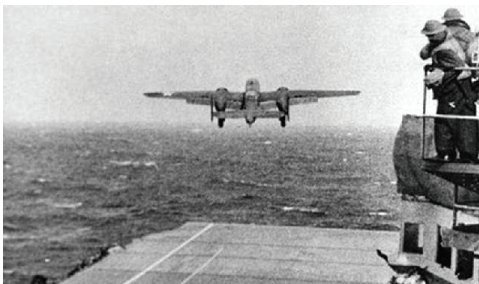
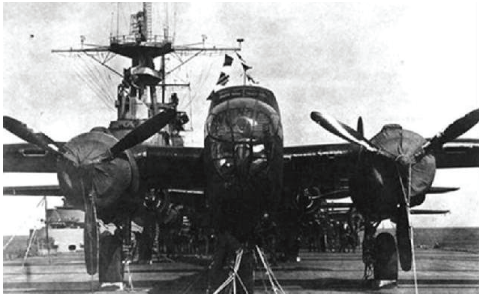
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They bombed Tokyo and then flew as far as they could.

Four planes crash-landed; 11 more crews bailed out, and three of the Raiders died.

Eight more were captured; three were executed.

Another died of starvation in a Japanese prison camp. One crew made it to Russia.



The Doolittle Raiders sent a message from the United States to its enemies, and to the rest of the world: We will fight. And, no matter what it takes, we will win.

Of the 80 Raiders, 62 survived the

Submitted by PNC, Charlie Schmidt

war. They were celebrated as national heroes, models of bravery.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer produced a motion picture based on the raid; "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," starring Spencer Tracy and Van Johnson, was a patriotic and emotional box-office hit, and the phrase became part of the national lexicon.

In the movie-theater previews for the film, MGM proclaimed that it was presenting the story... "with supreme pride."



Beginning in 1946, the surviving Raiders have held a reunion each April, to commemorate the mission. The reunion is in a different city each year.

In 1959, the city of Tucson, Arizona, as a gesture of respect and gratitude, presented the Doolittle Raiders with a set of 80 silver goblets. Each goblet was engraved with the name of a Raider.



Every year, a wooden display case bearing all 80 goblets is transported to the reunion city.

Each time a Raider passes away, his goblet is turned upside down in the case at the next reunion, as his old friends bear solemn witness.



Also in the wooden case is a bottle of 1896 Hennessy Very Special cognac.

The year is not happenstance: 1896 was when Jimmy Doolittle was born.



There has always been a plan: When there are only two surviving Raiders, they would open the bottle, at last drink from it, and toast their comrades who preceded them in death.

As 2013 began, there were five living Raiders; then, in February, Tom Griffin passed away at age 96.

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WWII BOMBING

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Submitted by PNC, Charlie Schmidt



What a man he was. After bailing out of his plane Over a mountainous Chinese forest after the Tokyo raid, he became ill with malaria, and almost died. When he recovered, he was sent to Europe to fly more combat missions.

He was shot down, captured, and spent 22 months in a German prisoner of war camp.



The selflessness of these men, the sheer guts ... There was a passage in the Cincinnati Enquirer obituary for Mr. Griffin that, on the surface, had nothing to do with the war, but that was emblematic of the depth of his sense of duty and devotion:

"When his wife became ill and needed to go into a nursing home, he visited her every day. He walked from his house to the nursing home, fed his wife, and at the end of the day brought home her clothes. At night, he washed and ironed her clothes. Then he walked them up to her room the next morning. He did that for three years until her death in 2005."



So now, out of the original 80, only four Raiders remain:

Dick Cole (Doolittle's co-pilot on the Tokyo raid),

Robert Hite, Edward Saylor and David Thatcher. All are in their 90s.

They have decided that there are too few of them for the public reunions to continue.

The events in Fort Walton Beach marked the end. It has come full circle; Florida's nearby Eglin Field was where the Raiders trained in secrecy for the Tokyo mission.

The town planned to do all it can to honor the men: a six-day celebration of their valor, including luncheons, a dinner and a parade.



Do the men ever wonder if those of us for whom they helped save the country have tended to it in a way that is worthy of their sacrifice?

They don't talk about that, at least not around other people.

But if you find yourself near Fort Walton Beach this week, and if you should encounter any of the Raiders, you might want to offer them a word of thanks.

I can tell you from first hand observation that they appreciate hearing that they are remembered.

The men have decided that after this final public reunion they will wait until a later date -- sometime this year -- to get together once more, informally and in absolute privacy.

That is when they will open the bottle of brandy. The years are flowing by too swiftly now; they are not going to wait until there are only two of them. They will fill the four remaining up-turned goblets. And raise them in a toast to those who are gone.



Their 70th Anniversary Photo

**VETERANS
DAY
NOVEMBER
11TH**

*'Tis the month to be Thankful for all of our Veterans
and their sacrifices because freedom is not FREE*



City of Philomath American Legion Proclamation

WHEREAS, the American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a wartime veterans' organization based on the four pillars of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion is celebrating its Centennial Anniversary in 2019 and has been serving both veterans and communities alike for the past 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion is an eminent community service organization with Legion posts worldwide working a variety of programs that support the four pillars; and

WHEREAS, Legion members are dedicated to upholding the ideals of freedom and democracy while working to make a difference in the lives of fellow Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Marys River American Legion, Post 100 routinely perform good works in the City of Philomath to include donating a big, beautiful, American Flag to the Philomath Frolic & Rodeo, raffling off a rifle to raise funds to donate money to other community non-profit service organizations like the Philomath Youth Activities Club, the Food Bank, June's Kids Klost, Gleaners and Oddfellows. Legionnaires also perform outreach to fellow Veterans by performing "buddy checks" throughout the area to monitor the health and welfare of area veterans; and

WHEREAS, President Trump signed a bill July 30 that declares the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941; and

WHEREAS, because of this bill, the American Legion's eligibility criteria immediately changes from seven war eras to two: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act) also opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Eric Niemann, Mayor of the City of Philomath, do hereby proclaim the month of November as "AMERICAN LEGION MONTH" in the City of Philomath.

Eric C. Niemann
Mayor
City of Philomath, Oregon

Americanism Comes to Fields Elementary School



PNC, CHARLIE SCHMIDT
AMERICANISM

Fields, Oregon - On October 29, 2019 Legion and Auxiliary members from Harney County Post 63 and Legionnaires from Prairie Post 106 in Prairie City met at Fields Elementary School to dedicate a new flagpole and flags. Located in the community of Fields in southern Harney County, the rural school is attended by 17 students in grades K-8 from the surrounding ranching community.

Some months ago, Post 63 member Jacob Downs, a resident of Fields, noted that the school did not have a flagpole on campus. Through efforts lead by Post 63 Vice Commander David Allen, a flagpole (38 feet in length and not in service) was located, removed, painted and transported 112 miles to the school's campus by Post members. With the help of the Fields community, the flagpole was installed on the school campus.

As the sun rose above the mountains to warm the campus at Fields Elementary School, students began their day with the posting of the colors on the newly installed flagpole. Over the sounds of a chilling wind the national anthem could be heard as students, teachers, Legion/Auxiliary members and parents lined up to rendered proper respects to the flag of our nation posted by Legionnaires.

Following the flagpole ceremony, a flag folding ceremony was conducted inside a much warmer gymnasium. Legionnaires demonstrated to stu-

dents the proper procedure to fold the US flag along with a narration of the meaning of each of the 13 folds. Following the demonstration, each student participated in the folding of the flag. Post members distributed an American Legion Our Country's Flag comic book and *Pledge of Allegiance* bookmarker to each student. Flag etiquette, The American Legion, and military service branches were just some of the several questions asked by the students.

The Americanism activities concluded with the Post presenting Fields Teacher Mrs. Moser with new US and Oregon flags.



Fields students anticipate the posting of the colors.



Harney County Post 63 & Prairie Post 106 Legionnaires at Fields Elementary School sharing Americanism



Post 63 Vice Commanders Robert Hornbeck (L) and David Allen (R) prepare the lanyards prior to posting of the flag ceremony.



Explaining the 13 flag folds is Post 63 Commander Fred Dory (L) assisted by Post 63 Vice Commander David Allen and D-10 Vice Commander Jim Jerome of Prairie Post 106.



Post 63 Vice Commanders David Allen (L) and Robert Hornbeck demonstrate how the US flag is folded.

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Post 63 Vice Commander Robert Hornbeck assists a Fields student in folding the US flag.



Post 63 Vice Commander David Allen presenting Fields Teacher Mrs. Moser with US and Oregon flags to Fields Elementary School.



Honor Guard



Several members and others have asked what does the Honor Guard do. We ask for help, because we have had an established Honor Guard since 2009 working with the community and expanded from Salem to parts of State of Washington. It is one of the last Honor Guards left in Northern Oregon, known, that try to help best we can. I put together a list of **event in brief** starting in August 2019.

1 August--Clackamas County Commissioners issues a Proclamation for National Purple Heart Day. Post and HG members attended.

2-4 August- Post and Honor Guard participated in Gladstone Festival Daze. The HG lead the parade on the 3rd, had a tent and display in Max Patterson Park 2-4.

5 August -HG Provided Full Military Honors for Gregory Lathrop, WWII veteran, US Navy at Willamette National Cemetery. He was a homeless veteran brought from Kenniwick, WA with a Patriot Guard Escort.

8 August- HG provided FMH for Robert Garson, Korea, USMC at WNC.

13 August- FMH for Charles Garver, US navy, WWII, at WNC

23 August- Color Guard Posted Canadian Flag and American Flag at International Kiwanis Convention at Red Lion, Jantzen Beach.

3 September- City of Milwaukie issues Proclamation for "American Legion Day" for 16 September 2019. Commander and Chaplain accepted this at Council with HG members present.

11 September -President declared "Patriots Day" all flags to be at half-staff for the Day and raised at Dusk. Members of Color Guard completed that

action.

16 September-Post open House for "American Legion Day"- thanks to Commander.

19 September-County Commissioners proclaimed American Legion Day as 16 September"- Post Commander accepted with HG members present.

20 September- Full Military Honors competed for Leslie Ing, US Army, Iraqi Freedom veteran, age 48 US Army.at WNC.

25 September- Full Military Honors completed for veterans that had passed with no families present: This was done by Sunnyside Chapel of the Chimes. HG supported it: Three total Brian Murphy, US Army Korea.

Shaun Branden, US Navy, Peacetime Michael Hoskins, US Navy, Vietnam.

30 September- FMH for Karen Jacob Harryman, Post member, her Memorial was held at the Post.

4 October- FMH for Glen Downs, US Navy, peacetime WNC.

4 October- FMH for Paul E. Voeller, US Coast Guard, Korea- at the Catholic Cemetery in Happy Valley.

Since May 2019 we have completed 25 Full Military Honors, several Color Guard missions and Assisted Living groups events for veterans (more to come), and many more individual missions. Our schedule continues to have many requests for help and support through December. remember these are a brief review, in between those dates other things have occurred.

I want to give sincere thanks to the members of the TEAM. For without them, all volunteers, we could not fulfill our mission or any request from Funeral Homes, Veterans' Groups, or the community. Since September members are and I sincerely thank them daily:

Mike Wilson-Commander of the Post Jim Hale, Julie Kollas, Patti Maloy, Barbara Jones, Jared Irwin, Patti Jay and me, Jerry Craig, Services Chap-

Cont.on pg 33

Northwest Battle Buddies

My name is Mike Plympton and I belong to American Legion Post 94, in Lacey, WA. I am a Navy veteran and I have lived in Lacey for 6 years and I wanted to make the legion aware of a wonderful organization that I am volunteering for; Northwest Battle Buddies. Their training facility is in Battle Ground, WA. and their office is in Vancouver. They provide Trained service dogs for Combat veterans that have been diagnosed with PTSD at no cost to the veteran. Believe me when I tell you, I am so impressed with their results that I wanted to share this amazing story with all members of Department of Oregon. I'm not sure if you are aware of them but if not I'd like to have a chance to sit down with you and as many of the Oregon Legion officers and members as possible to talk about the tragedy called PTSD and the hope that Northwest Battle Buddies are providing to veterans.

I'm sure you are aware that 22 veterans a day (over 8000 per year) commit suicide which is over twice the national average of non-veterans. This is just plain unacceptable to me. I know the VA is struggling with this and at some point they will have a solution; but who knows when and why should we wait when veterans are dying from PTSD. Northwest Battle Buddies is making a **positive** difference in the lives of veterans today. I believe it would be worth everyone's time to know more and ask themselves, can we help?

Imagine for a moment the everyday things you do. Going to the grocery store; walking outside; taking in a movie; socializing with friends; finding a quiet spot just to be alone. Each brings joy and a sense of freedom. But for thousands of military veterans silently suffering from combat-induced post-traumatic stress

disorder (PTSD), the everyday things we take for granted are difficult or even impossible. Too often they suffer in silence, bearing the burden of PTSD – a very real injury prevents them from enjoying the very freedoms they fought to protect.

This is the reality for an estimated 11-20% of the 2.7 million veterans from the recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. PTSD is not a new injury, affecting nearly 30% of Vietnam veterans even now, 30+ years post-combat. Half of those have been officially diagnosed with PTSD.

In short, PTSD prevents people from fully participating in life. Its hallmarks – anxiety, fear, severe depression, and other serious mental health conditions, including a high risk of suicide – make every day activities difficult or even impossible because of the pervasive, long lasting, and crippling effects of PTSD.

Although there isn't a cure, there is hope. And it comes with four legs and a tail.

Northwest Battle Buddies is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that empowers combat veterans with PTSD to regain their freedom and independence by partnering them with professionally trained and specifically matched service dogs. NWBB's services are not just life-changing, they are free and include a lifelong commitment to both the veteran and the dog. Based in Washington and founded in 2012, NWBB has paired over 100 successful veteran-canine teams and they are developing a national reputation as an expert in PTSD-trained dogs.

But the need is far greater, vastly exceeding NWBB's capacity to serve. NWBB's current resources, small staff, and borrowed facilities mean qualified veterans face a 2 to 3-year wait for a specially trained dog. For

someone with PTSD, every day is a struggle; 1,000 days is intolerable. And, with 22 veterans dying by suicide each day, the wait can be life threatening.

NWBB is uniquely prepared to address the need. It has a plan that, in the next 5 years, it will train and certify 500+ dogs, reduce the wait time to 6 months, and implement a broader life-long service and support program for all NWBB veteran-canine teams. Only one thing stands in the way – financial resources.

The Campaign for Northwest Battle Buddies is a bold and necessary effort to grow NWBB's capacity to serve those who served; to deliver both immediate impact and long-lasting results; and to transform the lives of hundreds of veterans, bringing hope and opportunity to those who have severely suffered because they so selflessly served.

I have a presentation that I would like to bring to your facility that tells the story of Northwest Battle Buddies. It comes with veteran testimonials as to how Northwest Battle Buddies has helped them. I truly believe that all Legion members should know about this organization. I would really like to come to Portland and discuss the good things that Northwest Battle Buddies are doing for veterans.

All of us support veterans and Northwest Battle Buddies is an organization that we as veterans should embrace.

Thank you for your time

Mike Plympton
Post 94 member
Volunteer Advocate
Northwest Battle Buddies
207-831-8339

www.northwestbattlebuddies.org

Honor Guard

lain.

(We actually have a new member raring to go-Shaun Wright from the Sons of the American Legion)

As Uncle Sam's Poster said and still does- WE NEED YOU!

God Bless
Jerry Craig
Services Chaplain

Facebook

I do not usually follow Facebook, yet it has been brought to my attention that a number of lies and misinformation have been published therein concerning the operations at National Headquarters. The following are the accusations and the responses from National.

SPANOGLE FAM APRIL-JOHN

For those of you that haven't heard, the American Legion Rider Chairman was removed from his position today. This man has poured his blood, sweat, tears, and his own money to support this organization. He has spent countless hours away from his wife and family due to his dedication to the riders and scholarship fund. Reason for removal: disloyalty as stated by PNC Jake Comer. Unbelievable!!! Godspeed Bob Sussan! You are a true gentleman and a scholar!!! #toomuchpower #enough-isenough

RESPONSE

Bob Sussan did a fairly good job as Legion Rider Chairman for about five years. His appointment was recommended by the Department of Virginia. A chairman's position is for one year only, so that chairman can be replaced in order to train others for positions of leadership. Several chairmen were replaced in October, all of whom did a pretty good job.

In Bob's case, he transferred his membership out of the Department

of Virginia and into the Department of Florida, where he became a member of the DEC by virtue of accepting the position of Assistant Department Judge Advocate, which places him in a leadership position in the department. Because he was no longer a Virginia Legionnaire, Virginia did not recommend him for reappointment, and neither did the Department of Florida.

Therefore, the NEC Committee on Committees recommended Mark Clark, another serious rider with experience. All recommended appointments must be approved by the National Executive Committee, where this appointment was approved.

Furthermore, with rare exception, the chairman is not a member of the commission or committee on which he serves, and when another chairman is appointed, the previous chairman does not automatically become a member.

Disloyalty to PNC Jake Comer is purely a supposition on the part of the writer and not based in fact, nor did Comer state any such thing to anyone.

GREG AKERS (Dept Adjutant – Alabama)

As we all reflected on this no one that was placed on the committee had any knowledge of their appointment or unappointment until the book is printed. If you still question why membership continues to decline it's these instances. No professionalism what so ever. While those appointed are dedicated Legionnaires it's how this whole business was conducted.

RESPONSE

This whole business was conducted just as it has been conducted for the past 100 years. There are no "appointed or disappointed" until the National Executive Committee votes on the recommendations of the NEC Com-

mittee on Committees. This action has absolutely no impact on membership whatsoever.

SPANOGLE FAM APRIL – JOHN

Greg Akers blue hatters are at the whim of one little old man!!! Why? We need to take control or this organization is gone...or is it already gone! No integrity, no leadership!!!!

RESPONSE

John Spanogle's accusations in this iteration are no more accurate than his previous accusations which were rebutted point by point and sent to every member of the NEC. This is obviously a continuation of the SPANOGLE FAM vendetta against a Past National Commander who has served this organization faithfully, and with integrity, for more than 50 years.

SPANOGLE FAM APRIL – JOHN

ALR members,,,do not be surprised if the legacy fund is raided by national. Bob would never let that happen!!!

RESPONSE

The Legacy Scholarship Fund is actually in a trust titled "911 Memorial Scholarship Fund Trust." It has \$14.4 million in it as of August 31. It cannot be raided by anyone. It is a legal entity protected by law. To speculate that the funds contained therein could be arbitrarily used for some other purpose is irresponsible and totally false. Furthermore, Bob Sussan, regardless of his position, could not supersede the authority of the NEC or the courts regarding the disposition of this trust.

SPANOGLE FAM APRIL – JOHN

But when I go on the website to specifically donate to the legacy fund and only the legacy fund, the website states it will go to American Legion Charities. I don't want that...gives HQs the autonomy to put that money where they want to where I want it. Also, did you know there are two

Cont.on pg 34

Facebook

Cont. from pg 33

American Legion Charities??? *American Legion Charities, Inc and The American Legion Charities. Both have different EIN numbers.*

RESPONSE

I don't know what website John Spanogle is trying to donate from, but it is not The American Legion's website. Just this morning, I went to the donation page and selected from the drop-down menu the Legacy Scholarship Fund, and proceeded to donate. Within seconds I received a receipt by email which clearly pointed out that I had made a donation to the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

There is no mention of American Legion Charities, nor should there be since the Legacy Scholarship Fund is a separate trust that has nothing to do with Legion Charities

Yes, there is American Legion Charities Trust, which is the vehicle used primarily to handle the investment of undesignated contributions. The Board of Directors try to keep about \$1 million in that trust for investments. The Trust was the first instrument set up because it was easier and less expensive to set up than a corporation.

When it was discovered that there would be many contributions to the Charities, the Board went through the process of setting up a corporation. Once that was set up, it decided to keep the Trust as well since it was already set up and paid for.

American Legion Charities, Inc. is used primarily to house designated contributions to OCW and undesignated contributions such as the money that was appropriated to fund \$250,000 of TFA for the USCG earlier this year. The primary use of American Legion Charities, Inc. has been to provide a 501(C)3 vehicle for Departments and Posts to use in order to ac-

cept donations from entities that will only donate to a 501(C)3 organization. It has proved to be very useful for that purpose.

Obviously, there is no sinister reason for having both Charities with separate EIN numbers, and all has been reported to the NEC.

Dan Wheeler
National Adjutant



George Bickford, WWII Veteran from Milwaukie Post 180 hits the News

A Toast to Our Veterans!!

Stop by the Beer Station

On Veteran's Day

Monday, November 11th 4 pm till close

5th & Holly Junction City
Live music. Rain or shine.
Tough it out like they did.

One dollar from any beverage purchase goes toward supporting the Historical Society in their efforts to research and recover the stories of our local veterans.

PDC, GENE HELLICKSON I recently attended a dinner put on by Astoria Post 12, for the 116th Air Combat Squadron based at Camp Rilea. This free dinner for all members of the unit was to show the Legion's appreciation for all they do for the community, state and nation. The members are in the process of prepping for their deployment overseas. So many young men and women Air National Guardsmen getting ready to leave and missed all the upcoming holidays to serve our country.

During my attendance I was able to speak with the Unit Commander, Ops Officer, Chief of Maintenance and many other of the unit's members. None of whom had anything but good things to say about their upcoming deployment in the first part of November.

For those that don't think the Army and Air National guard are "week-end" warriors, here's the unit's activities since its reactivation in June 1971.

- 1971 Portland ANG Base, Oregon In-garrison 17 members to Volk Field WI
- 1972 Portland ANG Base, Oregon In-garrison 15-29 July, Guard Strike IV (Westacs)
- 1973 Boise, Idaho Sentry Westacs II South of Gowen Field
- 1974 Portland ANG Base, Oregon In-garrison
- 1975 Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon
- 1976 Portland ANG Base, Oregon In-garrison 14-28 Aug
- 1977 Coyote Lake, Fort Irwin, CA Brave Shield XVI 5-23 July
- 1978 Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon Taurus Beach 78 5-19 Aug
- 1979 Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon Taurus Beach 79 7-21 July
- 1980 North Bend AFS, Oregon Felix Brave 23 Feb - 1 Mar
- 1980 Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon Taurus Beach III 12-26 July
- 1981 Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Or

Cont. on pg 35

Cont. from pg 34

egon Felix Keynote 81-4 Sept

- 1982 Yakima Firing Range, Yakima, Washington, Golden Blade 82 1-15 May
- 1983 Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon Sentry Eagle 83
- 1984 Portland ANG Base/North Bend ANG 14-28 July
- 1985 Kingsley Field/Swan Lake Peak Kingsley Field Deployment 85-17-22 Sep
- 1986 Portland, ANG Base, Oregon Inland Viking 11-27 July
- 1986 Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon Beaver Hunt 86 17-19 July
- 1987 Portland ANG Base, Oregon Road Warrior
- 1988 Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon Beaver Hunt 88
- 1988 Camp Rilea Unit Relocation October
- 1988 Bear River Ridge
- 1989 Panama Sentry Eagle 89-3 Aug
- 1989 Pedro Dome, AK Brim Frost 89 18 Jan-4 Feb
- 1989 Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon Beaver Hunt 89\ 12-17 June
- 1990 Camp Pendleton, California Sentry Eagle 90-3 4-19 Aug
- 1990 Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon Beaver Hunt 90 June
- 1990 Laredo, Texas Anchor Mark V Aug -1 Oct (?)
- 1991 Angie III\ Feb - May 91
- 1991 Puerta Plata, Dominican Republic
- 1992 Dominican Republic Angie III
- 1992 Tonopah, NV Green Flag 92-5
- 1993 Letica Columbia,
- 1993 Tonopah, NV Green Flag 93-3
- 1994 Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon In-garrison
- 1995 Tonopah, NV Green Flag 95-3
- 1996 Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon In-garrison
- 1997 Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon In-garrison/ORI
- 1998 Italy Operation Deliberate Guard / Determined Falcon May-July

(Personnel Only)

- 1998 Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon Weasel Hunt 98
- 1999 Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon Sentry West 99
- 2000 Pedro Dome, AK Cope Thunder, Northern Edge
- 2000 Jackson, WY Noble Eagle 2000
- 2001 NAS Whidbey Is. WA Noble Eagle Oct 2001-2002
- 2001 Nevada Red Flag
- 2002 Neah Bay, WA & Mt Hebo, OR May - June 2002
- 2002 Jackson Hole, WY Dec 02 - Jan 03, Operation Noble Eagle "Operation Grinch"
- 2002 Jackson Hole, WY 2 July 2002 - 9 Sep 2003
- 2003 Grand Teton National Park, WY Operation Noble Eagle
- 2006 Afghanistan 6 Sep 2006 - 7 Jan 2007
- 2007 US/Mexican border Operation JumpStart
- 2008 US/Mexican border Operation JumpStart, Afghanistan ONE
- 2009 Iraq OIF Sep 2008 - Feb 2009
- 2011 Operation Enduring Freedom
- 2015 Operation Inherent Resolve May-November 2015



"Team Texas"
Proudly Presents

Paul E. Dillard for National Commander
PO Box 140527, Austin, TX 78714



October 25, 2019

American Legion, Dept of Oregon
PO Box 1730
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Dear American Legion, Dept of Oregon,

I can't thank you enough for your recent contribution to my campaign to become National Commander of The American Legion. As I visit with patriotic Americans like you and see their dedication to the principals of the American Legion, I am inspired to continue my efforts to see that our Legion maintains its leadership position as the premier organization serving veterans and their families.

A campaign for National Commander takes a lot of teamwork and support and I am happy to add your name to the Paul E. Dillard support team. Your generous donation will enable our committee to conduct a campaign in the highest traditions of The American Legion. Your devotion to mutual helpfulness is sincerely appreciated.

For God and Country,

Paul E. Dillard

Paul E. Dillard
Candidate for National Commander

"No Veteran Left Behind"



• NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS • PO BOX 1055 • INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46206-1055 •
(317) 630-1200 • FAX (317) 630-1223 • WEBSITE www.legion.org •

For God and Country

Office of the
National Commander

October 31, 2019

The Honorable Robert Wilkie, Jr.
Secretary of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Office of the Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave. NW., Room 1000
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Wilkie,

Those who made the Greatest Generation truly great are nearly gone. According to VA's 2018 statistics, of the 16 million U.S. veterans who served during World War II, only half a million remain, and by 2020 only 282,000 of these heroes will still be alive. Most of these veterans are already using VA services - The National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics notes that in 2016 VA's benefits utilization rate for male World War II veterans was 73.6% and 67.3% for female veterans.

You can recognize these remaining heroes with actions far more meaningful than words. 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.

The American Legion has spoken loudly in support of this proposal. Delegates at our 2017 National Convention in Reno, Nev., unanimously passed a resolution calling for an amendment to the 1996 law which would open access for these elderly veterans.

Earlier this year, you spoke of Gen. Matthew Ridgeway's reading of the Book of Joshua on D-Day. "I will not fail thee and I will not forsake thee," was God's promise to his faithful warrior. 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.

Most Sincerely,

James W. "Bill" Oxford

James W. "Bill" Oxford
National Commander

VA shares electronic health records

Veterans will not have to fill out paperwork to share health information

It will soon be easier for you to get VA health care in your community without paperwork.

As of Jan. 2020, you won't have to provide a signed, written authorization for VA to release your electronic VA health information to a participating community care provider.

VA will automatically begin sharing your health information with participating community care providers using the Veterans Health Information Exchange. The electronic system is secure and safe.

This change will make it easier for your health care team to make better decisions about your health care. It can also help you be safer, especially during emergencies.

No action needed

If you are OK with VA sharing your electronic patient information with your community care provider, you don't have to do a thing. Your information will be shared automatically.

Form needed to OPT OUT of electronic sharing

However, if you **do not** want to share your information electronically, you must submit VA Form 10-10164 (Opt Out of Sharing).

THERE IS NO SEPT. 30 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR FORM 10-10164.

You can submit your Form 10-10164 at any time. VA will share your information until you submit your form.

If you submitted Form 10-0484 before September 30, you do NOT need to submit Form 10-10164.

You can return VA Form 10-10164 at any VA Medical Center. Just visit the Release of Information (ROI) office. **You can also send it by mail.** After VA processes your form, your VA health information will not be shared

electronically with community providers you see for treatment.

Change your mind? No problem

You change your mind and share your health record with your participating community provider. Just complete and return VA Form 10-10163 (Opt In for Sharing) at any time.

You also can still ask VA to share your information with participating community care providers by fax or mail service.

Veterans living abroad

If you are a Veteran living and/or receiving care abroad, you don't have to do anything. VA only shares health information with participating community care providers who treat you in the United States. If you plan on receiving care in the U.S. from VA and/or a participating community care provider, then you need to opt out by submitting VA Form 10-10164 if you do not want to share your health information.

If you don't share your information, it will not affect your VA health care or your relationship with your VA health care provider.

To learn more about health information sharing, or to download and print form 10-10164 (Opt Out of Sharing) or 10-10163 (Opt In for Sharing), visit www.va.gov/vler or contact the ROI Office at your local VA medical center.

Daniel E. Herrigstad

Public Affairs Officer

VA Portland Health Care System

e: daniel.herrigstad@va.gov

Office: 503-402-2975

Mobile: 971-221-4920

Suicide Prevention is Everyone's Business - #BeThere.

The Veterans Crisis Line is 1-800-273-8255 - press 1

President Trump Proclaims November National Veterans and Military Families Month

Military.com: <https://www.military.com/military-family-appreciation-month/president-proclaims-november-as-military-family-month.html>

By Amy Bushatz <https://www.military.com/author/amy-bushatz>

President Donald Trump has signed a proclamation designating this month as National Veterans and Military Families Month.

Here is the text of the president's proclamation:

The United States is a beacon of hope, freedom, and opportunity to people around the world. The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who fight to defend our liberty embody courage, patriotism, and loyalty. These patriots safeguard the values that keep our great Nation strong. During National Veterans and Military Families Month, we honor and express our deep appreciation for these brave men and women and their families.

Throughout our Nation's history, our military men and women have boldly answered the call of duty to defend our Nation's independence and precious liberties, risking life and limb for their fellow Americans. At the inception of our Republic, General George Washington and his men struggled to keep the spark of faith and hope alive through the scourge of disease and the brutal winter months at Valley Forge. One hundred and forty years later during World War I, American service members shed blood in the trenches of Western Europe, leaving a legacy of heroism and courage under fire at places like Belleau Wood and the River Somme. Earlier this year, we commemorated the 75th anniversary of D-Day, when thousands of Ameri

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“Veteran Stories Are A Crucial Part Of Our Nation’s History”

I love to study our nation’s history through the lens of our military veterans.

Who could fail to be inspired by the brash courage of the United States Marines during the Battle of Belleau Wood in World War I? Or by the words of Marine Captain Lloyd W. Williams, who, after being repeatedly urged to turn back by retreating French forces, famously said, “Retreat? Hell, we just got here.”

Legend has it that it was at this battle that Marines earned the German nickname “Teufelshunde”: “Devil Dogs.”

What about the story of Pfc. Dirk J. Vlug, serving in the Philippines during World War II, who refused to back down despite being outnumbered 5-to-1. No, it wasn’t one against five enemy soldiers. It was one soldier against five, heavily armed Japanese tanks.

Reacting on instinct, Pfc. Vlug grabbed a bazooka and six rounds of ammunition, and managed to destroy all five tanks singlehandedly.

I still get goosebumps when I read the words of Lt. Gen. Lewis “Chesty” Puller, the most decorated Marine in American history, when he and his men were surrounded by enemy forces at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir: “They’re on our left, they’re on our right, they’re in front of us, they’re behind us...we got them right where we want them. They can’t get away this time.”

Or the story of Master Sgt. Roy Benavidez, who jumped from a helicopter armed only with a knife, determined to help a Special Forces patrol trapped in North Vietnam. Over the course of a six-hour ordeal, Benavidez was wo-

unded by bullets, bayonets and shrapnel a total of 37 times.

When he was awarded the Medal of Honor, President Reagan said that if his story were a movie script, audiences wouldn’t believe it. His heroic actions saved the lives of eight men.

In Iraq, Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester became the first woman awarded the Silver Star since World War II. A retail store manager from Kentucky, Hester led the counter-assault against 50 insurgents who attacked her convoy, braving heavy mortar and machine gun fire to engage the enemy on foot.

These stories of courage, selflessness and sacrifice are so much more than just stories to tell on Veterans Day. They are a crucial part of our nation’s history, and the foundation upon which its legacy has been built.

Countless millions of American lives — with more to come — have been lived in the freedoms secured by the blood and service of our veterans.

Despite this rich history of military service that continues to this day, our country has not drafted a single soldier in over 45 years.

Since the draft ended in 1973, no person has been compelled to serve their country. And yet, each year, an estimated 180,000 young Americans voluntarily enlist in the United States Armed Forces.

One of the many things that makes this country so great is that its people have the will to serve. They have the will to lay down their own freedoms, and even their own lives, to defend those of others.

Our veterans didn’t have to be told to serve or to sacrifice. It was already there, in our DNA.

This is why I believe it is so import-

ant to honor, remember and celebrate our veterans, not just on Veterans Day, but every day. And it’s not only because they have earned it — though they



KELLY FITZPATRICK
ODVA DIRECTOR

have. But it’s also because in honoring and remembering our veterans, we reveal the values that matter to us as a nation: Courage. Sacrifice. Selflessness. Dedication. The willingness to give up one’s own life so that others might live and be free, which we call “heroism.” We reveal ourselves and our values in what we remember, and in what we give our time to. This Veterans Day, I encourage you to spend your time in a meaningful way.

Say, “Thank you,” to a veteran, yes, but also take some time to hear their story. I guarantee you: It’s a story you won’t hear anywhere else.

Kelly Fitzpatrick is the director of the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs and Governor Kate Brown’s policy advisor on veterans’ issues. She is a retired Army officer. Her military awards and decorations include multiple awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal and the Army Parachutist Badge.

The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs maintains an online list of Veterans Day events across the state. To see what’s happening in your area, visit oregonodva.com/2019/11/01/2019-veterans-day-statewide-events.

For information about benefits and resources for Oregon veterans and their families, please visit www.oregon.gov/ODVA.

President Trump Proclaims November National Veterans and Military Families Month

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can heroes charged through a hail of machine gun fire and left their gallant mark on the pages of history. The courage of our men and women who served and fought during that war freed the world from the shroud of tyranny and ended the oppression of millions across the globe. In the decades since World War II, Americans have remained at the vanguard in defending freedom around the world, and our service members, veterans, and their families continue to spearhead this noble undertaking.

America's military men and women and their families are vital to the security and prosperity of our Nation. We have a responsibility to protect and serve those who have made countless sacrifices for love of country. As President Lincoln once said: "Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as best he can, the same cause." We also recognize the integral role our more than 2.6 million military family members play in supporting our Armed Forces and contributing to their mission. While our military men and women are serving at home or overseas, it is our duty to provide their families with the resources they need to thrive in our communities. Accordingly, under my Administration, the Department of Defense has created programs for military families that support access to quality childcare and spousal employment and promote occupational licensure reciprocity between States.

We also recognize that our obligation to our military men and women does not end after their time in uniform. We are a Nation that leaves no American behind, and that includes our vet-

erans and their family members. For this reason, I was pleased to sign into law the VA MISSION Act of 2018, which helps provide all veterans with access to trusted, high-quality health care. I have also made it a top priority of my Administration to address the tragedy of veteran suicide, establishing the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS). The PREVENTS initiative will encourage a better understanding of veteran suicide and work across all levels of government and the private sector to implement strategies that will strengthen support networks for veterans and their families.

My Administration remains committed to providing our veterans and their families with the financial resources they have rightfully earned. Last year, we secured \$201.1 billion in funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) -- the most in the history of the VA -- including \$8.6 billion to support mental health services for veterans. Additionally, I recently directed the Department of Education to discharge some types of Federal student loans owed by totally and permanently disabled veterans. This unprecedented action lessens the financial burden for our seriously wounded warriors who have sacrificed so much for our country, and it underscores the appreciation and undying loyalty of the American people.

Each warrior who fights for our Nation, along with their families, has earned our eternal gratitude, and I ask that all Americans thank and support them. Together, we remain committed to fostering a national community of support for these brave heroes and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J.

TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2019 as National Veterans and Military Families Month. I encourage all communities, all sectors of society, and all Americans to acknowledge and honor the service, sacrifices, and contributions of veterans and military families for what they have done and for what they do every day to support our great Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand nineteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.

DONALD J. TRUMP



Need to Know Dates

Boys State – TBD

Girls State – June 14-20, 2020

State Convention
June 24-28, 2020

I AM THE ALA

“The joy you get from the veterans, the appreciation they show you. You see that every year, and you want to go back and help again.”

LINDA LIEBENOW



Linda Liebenow doesn't consider herself the manager of the Portland, Ore., American Legion Auxiliary Christmas Gift Shop. She coordinates the ALA's work with the Veterans Affairs

Medical Center that hosts the shop, but she insists that's just her role as part of the program's committee.

“The whole committee works on it,” said Liebenow, a resident of Wilsonville, Ore. “We all have our own little job to do.”

No matter what title you give her, Liebenow has been bringing Christmas cheer to veterans and their families for more than two decades. She began volunteering at her local ALA Christmas Gift Shop in 1997.

Historically hosted at VAMCs and veterans homes, ALA Christmas Gift Shops allow veterans in these facilities to send gifts to their loved ones at no cost to the veterans. For the Portland shop, now in its 80th year, the numbers show the impact. In 2018 alone, that ALA Christmas Gift Shop:

- Served 423 patients, including 40 inpatients at the VAMC.
- Collected \$36,773 in gifts to provide to veterans and spent \$2,129 on additional gifts and on shipping to family members.
- Had 55 volunteers who served 606 hours. Fourteen of those helping were first-time volunteers.

Liebenow has held a variety of leadership positions in the ALA. No surprise — since, for the Liebenows, American Legion Family

involvement spans three generations.

Her husband, Robert — a Vietnam War veteran who served in the U.S. Navy — is a divisional vice commander in The American Legion, from Hillsboro Post 6. Also members of ALA Unit 6 in Hillsboro are her daughter, Kathy Jones; daughter-in-law, Leisa Liebenow; and granddaughter, Emily Jones. Her son, Jason Liebenow; and grandsons, Corbin Liebenow and Griffin Liebenow, are in Sons of The American Legion Hillsboro Squadron 6.

What does your work on the Portland, Ore., ALA Christmas Gift Shop committee involve?

I usually call a meeting in October, and we go over inventory of gifts. We go over who's going to do this, and who's going to do that. We have fliers we put up at the hospital, and we have what we call a tray card that goes out on lunch and dinner trays for inpatients, letting them know when the gift shop is open. And I just coordinate all that, making sure everybody is doing their jobs.

They book the auditorium [in the VAMC, where the shop is set up] five years in advance. So, we make sure we haven't gotten bumped out of there. And then they make sure we have all the tables and all the equipment we need when we go in there to set it up.

We set up the day after Thanksgiving. We have our grand opening on Saturday. Saturday afternoon is open to inpatients only. And then Monday through Thursday of the following week we're open for inpatients and outpatients.

What do veterans experience when they come into the shop?

We have a registration desk when they first come in. Then each veteran is escorted through the gift shop. Then we escort them back out, and the gifts are gift wrapped and either put in a place for the veteran to pick up later that day or we mail them outside the Portland metro area.

We have extra gifts stashed underneath the tables, so we periodically replenish the tables. We try to keep it so the first shopper isn't getting anything better than the last shopper. And we usually go out every night and buy more gifts that we've run out of.

Why is the ALA Christmas Gift Shop so important?

You have to be there to see it. The joy you get from the veterans, the appreciation they show you. Some of them have been kind of estranged from their families, so this is a way for them to get back in their families' lives. You see that every year, and you want to go back and help again.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT:
Unit 6
Hillsboro, Ore.

ELIGIBILITY THROUGH:
Vietnam War veteran Robert Liebenow, husband (U.S. Navy)

YEARS IN THE ALA: 34

ALA ACTIVITIES:
Christmas Gift Shop Volunteer: 1997-present
Dept. of Oregon president: 2014-2015
Dept. of Oregon secretary: 2018-present
District 1 Oregon president: 2010-2011
Unit 6 treasurer: 2012-present

SHARE YOUR MEMBERSHIP STORY! Tell us about yourself and how you support the American Legion Auxiliary as a unit member who also loves the ALA's mission of serving veterans, the military, and their families. Contact us at ALAMagazine@ALAforVeterans.org or (317) 569-4500.



THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____ (Date of Birth) _____

Mailing Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP) _____

(Phone) _____ (Email) _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female _____ (Post #) _____ (Dues) _____
(Gender)

☐ I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Please check appropriate eligibility era and branch of service below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korea | <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WWII | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts | |

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____ Name of Recruiter _____

Mail completed application to The American Legion National Headquarters, Attn: Internal Affairs. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current department/state address, go to www.legion.org.

ALA 08/2019

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date

Received From

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Signature

Recruiter's Phone #



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Date _____

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____

Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____ Recruited by _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____

Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP) _____ (Phone) _____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. _____ Department of _____

OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____

Has Applicant previously been a member of the SAL? _____ Where? _____

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and

Email Address _____ Transmit \$ _____ for 20 _____ annual membership dues

Signed By Applicant (or Parent) _____ Eligibility certified by _____

Mail completed application to Sons of The American Legion department/state headquarters. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current detachment address, go to The American Legion department/state headquarters, or visit www.legion.org.

ALA 12/2013

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date

Received From

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Squadron No.

Department of



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____ Unit # and Location (if known) _____

Date of Birth (Required) ☐ Birth - 17 ☐ 18 and over

Have you been a member previously? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, fill in below, if known.)

Previous Unit City/State: _____ ALA ID#: _____

Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Date _____

Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance.

Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due.

Membership pending approval of application.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Through—Name of Veteran (Female Veterans: List Your Own Name) _____

If Living: American Legion Member ID # _____ Post # _____ City _____ State _____

☐ Deceased (If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.)

Veteran Served:

☐ WWI (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)

☐ Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror | <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada | <input type="checkbox"/> WWII |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama | <input type="checkbox"/> Korea | |

Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Female Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Mother |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grandmother | <input type="checkbox"/> Sister | <input type="checkbox"/> Self |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Female Descendant (daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter, etc.) | | |

To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification _____ Date _____

ALA 08/2019

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date

Received From

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Signature

Recruiter's Phone #