

The Oregon Legionnaire

The Voice of Oregon's Veterans Since 1919

September 2021



THE AMERICAN LEGION

A Day to Remember

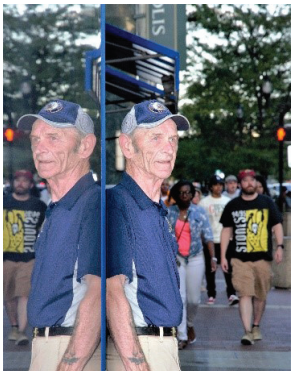
A Community Commemoration
in Remembrance of September 11, 2001



**The American Legion
Public Relations Division**

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Event Planning and Promotion Guide



PDC, STEVE ADAMS
IMMEDIATE PAST COMMANDER

leadership in meeting our goals for the coming year.

Membership and Post Activities Commission is off to an early and solid start. Thanks to chairman Daniel

As we start our 2022 membership year, we face a challenge after being shut down for the last eighteen months.

We need to support our newly elected

Burks. District Commanders get with your Posts to jump-start our programs, particularly Boys State, Oratorical, to increase participation as it has been falling off the past few years. Our Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp needs to keep going at a strong level.

Our community involvement is more critical than ever as we come out of the Pandemic and restrictions. We need to be seen and involved and inform people what we do, what we stand for, and why.

As we chose the branch of service to enlist in and took the oath of that service, we committed to honor that

service's traditions and uphold the Constitution of the United States. When we joined the American Legion, we committed to honoring the traditions of the largest veterans organization in the world and to our fellow veterans and those who came before us who helped build the American Legion. We are committed to honoring Our Community, State, and Nation.

I am looking forward to the coming year with our leadership in promoting the American Legion and helping to build on the goals the leadership has put forward.

NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MONTH



LARRY WITTMAYER
DEPT 1ST-VICE COMMANDER

ship Workshop on 7/26-29 and participated in the virtual call with National Membership Chair Bowen to receive our next year's Membership goals.

The months of July and August have been hectic personally and with the Department.

I had the opportunity to audit the National Member-

Those goals were received on 7/29 and went out to the District Commanders on 7/31. As soon as the District Commanders split up the membership goals to the Posts and get that information back to Chairman Dan Burks, they will go to National, and we will see them on the Weekly Membership Report. Family Leadership Team monthly meetings are being held on the third Wednesday of each month.

By the time this article is published, the National Convention will be "a wrap." I will have participated in the Oregon Delegation Meeting, the National Veteran Education and Em

ployment Committee meeting, the National Convention Membership Subcommittee meeting, two MyLegion Workshops, the Oregon Caucus, and the Western Region Caucus. The Portland Grand Prix with the Legion Car driven by Jimmy Johnson will happen on 9/13. The Department will have a booth and making The American Legion presence known.,

The Department will be hosting prospective National Commander Dillard on 9/13-19/2021.

I will be attending the 9/11 memorial in Albany. Fall DEC will be in McMinville 9/24- 6/2021.

“I serve as one of you.” But, *why* do I serve? Why do *you* serve?

There are several responses to that first question that I could give, just as there may be with many of you.

There are some that serve to be somebody. It is ascending to a title or a position. That is transactional.

I serve to accomplish something. For me, it is about contributing effort toward a common good, a betterment, an improvement. And that is transformational. It has been that way with me for a long time, long before I was a member of this great organization. And it may be that way with you, as well.

While we are all different, there is a foundation of similarities we share rooted in serving our Maker, serving humanity – our fellow brothers and sisters – taking care of each other, and taking care of our communities and our country. I am thankful you *serve*!

Department Commander Don Weber shared that his theme for the year is “reconnecting veterans”. Given the onslaught of the pandemic’s impact on our members and our posts, it is an appropriately titled theme. Our nation’s economy remains challenged, and our communities continue to strive to reopen small businesses and upstart routine activities amid uncertain times.

Our posts and programs are no different. If only it were as simple as rebooting a computer or resetting the timer on the coffeemaker. It is not. However, this reconnecting, this reopening, too, is our shared goal and the end toward which our efforts, collectively, will positively impact. Indeed, it is a challenge; however, work-

ing as a team, we can make positive changes for the good. It takes teamwork, and we are the *team*!

NTT IndyCar No. 48

“A good idea doesn’t care who has it” and “when opportunity knocks – open the door!” Those are two of my favorite adages. And, I want to believe it was just that simple when The American Legion approached Chip Ganassi Racing to discuss an opportunity to partner together for our veterans. Mr. Chip Ganassi opened the door and took time to listen. And he liked what he heard.

A simple online search will provide you many articles about our relationship with Chip Ganassi Racing so that I won’t belabor you with more details here. However, I will share that our Department of Oregon outreach table at Portland International Raceway (PIR) on Sep 10-12 has everything to do with opportunity and impacting lives. Changing lives.

Once the race is over, and the race cars, drivers, and their crews are headed on to the next racetrack’s destination, we will be able to quantify, to some extent, the result of our efforts on membership recruitment over the weekend. What we won’t be able to do, however, is fully gauge the impacts of our outreach efforts to all those veterans we engaged over the weekend who may be at risk. The impacts to their children. To their families and to their parents.

Veteran-engagement opportunities and ‘Buddy Checks’ matter, and they make a difference. The results may not be immediately visible, and, perhaps, you may never see a ‘result’. But in reaching out to our veterans, it may be as simple as making their day a little brighter, giving them hope, or helping connect them to resources they were

not aware of. Perhaps, even membership into The American Legion.

Funny thing about an opportunity, while you may think it doesn’t often come knocking, it is present almost every day if you’re looking for it.

Increasing our Visibility

My efforts in helping support our programs will include a concentrated effort to increase our visibility positively.

Just what does that mean?

Many within our work and living communities have a misconception of our veteran community or don’t understand what we do or have to offer youth and communities in the way of programs. One goal of mine is to help further posts increase the visibility of what they do and, in doing so, increase viability positively.

An example of a simple step you can take is contacting your local school, be it elementary, high school, or even college and university level, and coordinating a flag-raising of our U.S. Flag in conjunction with

Continued on page 4



On September 16, a terrorist bomb exploded and killed dozens of people at what location in New York City?

- A. Main Street
- B. Broadway
- C. Wall Street
- D. World Trade Center

Continued from page 3

CORY BROCKMANN

DEPT 2ND-VICE COMMANDER

school kids reciting our Pledge of Allegiance. A small, positive event like that doesn't take very long. However, it can bring dividends. Dividends that may include building relationships with a teacher or principal for future events, conducting an activity that is new and engaging to many school children nowadays, to creating lasting memories within the children as they reflect years later.

Americanism isn't necessarily, taught in schools today...let's teach them by demonstrating an example of what that is.

Membership

As your post takes the necessary steps to restart its business and programs, give some thought to two initial avenues for progress. One, what is needed to support our membership better. Secondly, what is needed to support our community where we live. Both are quite basic, yet, sometimes we can make simple tasks difficult by over-thinking or over-developing the solutions.

Interesting things to make you say



Hmmm.....

Adult cats are lactose intolerant

Feeding your cat milk could be making them sick. Like some humans, adult cats don't have enough of the lactase enzyme to digest lactose from milk, causing them to vomit, have diarrhea, or get gassy. Cats only have enough of that enzyme when they're born and during the early years of their life.

1. Membership matters. As I shared in last month's article – members will always be our greatest treasure and asset. If we take care of them, they will remain with us as members. If you haven't coordinated a membership event to spur renewals and new memberships with your district, please do so as soon as possible!

Since the department convention, our membership committee has been proactively communicating with districts to help support your membership activities. Please, schedule an event with the membership committee, then share stories of your activities here in our Oregon Legionnaire – success breeds success!

2. Veterans – *Legionnaires* – are far more active within their local communities than what we often know. Whether supporting high school athletics, conducting food drives, visiting nursing/care facilities, helping a friend with automotive issues and more, our efforts are valuable to those we help and where we live.

We don't do those things in our community, necessarily, just to recruit members. It's not that we haven't

signed up a new member to help others. It just isn't, typically, in the forefront of our mind as we support or care for each other where we live. In supporting your local community – thank you. As you support your community, I ask that be proud of your veteran status and be proud of your membership within The American Legion. Wear a Legion cap or shirt and let them know there's a huge organization of veterans that help make a difference in lives every day.

Youth Programs

With the conclusion of Legion baseball, we close out the remaining youth program from last year. I congratulate Mike Sowles, chairman, and the entire Oregon Legion baseball committee for their efforts and the positive results that return with conducting this invaluable youth program.

Youth commission/committee members, please look for ways to further market – communicate and increase visibility – your program activities throughout our department and state.

In closing, thank you for your continued service to this great country of ours – For God and country.

Department Officers

Commander	Don Weber
Imed. Past Cmdr	Steve Adams
1st Vice Cmdr	Larry Wittmayer
2nd Vice Cmdr	Cory Brockmann
Adjutant	S. Flynn Phillips
NECman	Kevin Owens
Alt NECman	Gene Hellickson
Finance Officer	Bob Huff
Chaplain	Steve Shollenberg
Historian	Dick Winders
Judge Advocate	Gene Hellickson
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

Need to Know Dates

October

Membership Campaign
Halloween Safety

November

Veterans Day
American Education Week

December

Pearl Harbor
OVH Gift Shop Cancelled
Portland Gift Shop Cancelled

As I sort through many new challenges, I will admit that this position does not allow you to get bored. With this being almost the end of the budget year for the membership year 2020-2021, spending is not slowing down. Income, of course, has for the membership year 2021.

A lot of work went into the Proposed 2021-2022 Department Budget, which was approved at our Department Convention. Our newly adopted Department of Oregon 2021-2022 Budget goes into effect on October 1, 2021. Of note, we took a prudent approach for our new Budget based on a membership of 13,500 members. This was based on the reductions in membership that we have experienced in the past few years.

I reviewed our new membership goals for the 2022 Membership Year and was surprised that they do not support 13,500 members. Team, Legionnaires, membership is the lifeblood of our organization. We have Posts that are doing well and growing their Posts and working programs and with their communities; we have Posts that have been impacted by COVID and restrictions and are meeting again and working programs, and we have Posts that are inactive or struggling. There are easy solutions, and we need to contact our members, work with our communities, how can we take a lower membership number? It supports our programs, our voice, all the good work we do. We cannot afford to reduce our membership.

I will repeat some questions that have been asked, recurring questions: SAL Squadrons and ALR Chapters are programs of the Post. SAL Squadrons and ALR Chapters do not have their own EIN Numbers and are not Corporations. The American Legion Post is a corporation with its own EIN

Number, CEO/Post Commander, Officers, and Executive Board. The Post is responsible for filing 990, 990ez, or a 990n ePostcard PDC, Bob Huff each Tax DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER Year, including all SAL and ALR financial information for the Tax Year. The Post Constitution and By-Laws, which have a SAL Squadron and/or an ALR Chapter, should include instructions for the SAL and ALR in reporting their activity, financials, and any special rules required to the Post Executive Board. All Bank Accounts are under the Post EIN Number, and the Post is responsible for the activity and oversight of all Programs of the Post. A question that has been asked. What "if" several Posts within a District or a second District have ALR members (members are The American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Auxiliary) participating at an ALR Chapter at one Post. The ALR Program is a program of The American Legion Post. The Post with the ALR Charter will have the responsibility to report all Tax Information, and their Post Constitution and By-Laws should include the reporting financial and activity information to the Post Executive Board and any special rules for their operation.

Remember, the Oregon American Legion Foundation is a 501©3; contributions are tax-deductible, funds are used for our programs. There is a lot of information and grant requests on our Web Site. Let's have a great year face-to-face; we have plenty of opportunities for a great year.



PDC, Bob Huff
DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER

Due to a loss in my family I was unable to submit a full article.

Reminder that District 1 has a meeting that will be at Sherwood Post 56 on Sept 11th.



LOU NEUBECKER
DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

Lunch at 11:30 and meeting starting promptly at 1pm

Thank you everyone who supported Vernonia Post 119 on the Jamboree.

Semper Fi

The American Legion Grieves Loss of American Heroes

JOHN RAUGHTER, MEDIA RELATIONS
JRAUGHTER@LEGION.ORG
OR 317-630-1350

PHOENIX (August 26, 2021) – James W. "Bill" Oxford, national commander of The American Legion, issued the following statement about today's terrorist attacks in Afghanistan:

"As an organization of wartime veterans, The American Legion profoundly feels sorrow for the needless loss of life that occurred today. The United States has been blessed by the caliber of the men and women who served there. While we fully support their service, we recognize that nation-building is not the role for the U.S. military. It is time for us to leave and to evacuate all Americans, allies and their families as safely and efficiently as we can. We also support any efforts to strike back hard against those who committed these ruthless acts."

Editors Notes

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Since 1919

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The Oregon Legionnaire*

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

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Calendar of Events

September *National Disaster Preparedness Month*

6 Labor Day (Closed)

11 Patriot Day

11 District 1 Meeting

16 Congress Charter Anniv.

17 Constitution Day

18-19 C & Y Conference

20 National POW/MIA Day

24-26 Americanism Conf.

(Conferences are at Nattional)

October *Membership Campaign Halloween Safety*

4-7 Fall Meetings (National)

November *Lead Community in Veterans Day awareness American Education Week*

11 Veterans Day

25-26 Thanksgiving Holiday



JAMES MORIARTY

DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER

On August 7, 2021, members of the American Legion Estacada Post 74 celebrated Al Foust's 99th birthday on Saturday night at Clackamas Valley Baptist Church in Estacada. AL was surrounded by family members and veterans at every table. The decorations, party favors, and family trivia included memorabilia and facts about Al's time in the U.S. Army starting in 1941, his jobs when he was younger, his family, and many more memories. He recounted that he has traveled to every continent in the world during his lifetime.

The family honored their father by playing the piano with many patriotic songs and singing the U.S. Armed Forces songs.

We ended the evening by honoring his 73 consecutive years of American Legion membership with a Certificate of Appreciation and 100th Anniversary (Estacada Post 74) bulletin. From Junior's Bulletin Pens, the Estacada Post 74 supports the Special Forces community such as Task Force Dagger Foundation, the Green Beret Foundation, and the Special Operations Warrior Foundation.

Deadline

for the **October** issue
of the
Oregon Legionnaire
is **September 5th, 2021**



LARRY WITTMAYER
SCOUTING CHAIR

I will present a change to the Scout Committee Code of Procedures to the Fall DEC to codify Department Eagle Scout of the Year eligibility requirements as recommended by the 102nd Department Convention Scouting Committee.

On July 22, I will provide input on questions in preparation for the Scouting Conference of the Combined Americanism Virtual Conference on 9/29/2021. I had the opportunity to ask about plans to gender integrate Scouting fully. It also spoke to the need for The American Legion to increase participation in Scouting. Additionally, I provided information on this Department's ESOY program change.

Council Events for September

Cascade Pacific Council

- 9/9 Chat & Chew
- 9/10 Week 1 of Wood Badge
- 9/10 OA Section Conclave
- 9/11 OA Monthly Service Project

- 9/17 OA Vigil Induction
 - 9/18 Hiking Challenge
 - 9/24 OA Fall Induction Camp
- #### *Baldwin Oregon Trail Council*
- 9/10-12 OA Section Conclave
 - 9/17 2nd Annual BSA Auction

Blue Mountain Council

- 9/15 Council Executive Comm. Mtg.
- 9/18 Merit Badge Extravaganza

Good Scouting to you all.

I will present a change to the Scout Committee Code of Procedures to the Fall DEC

Mountain West Council

- 9/10 Fall Wood Badge
- 9/24 OA Section Conclave
- 9/25 Leader Specific Training

On Tuesday August 17th, it was our honor for Wilsonville Post #65 to attend an Eagle Scout Award for Ansen Lackner.



This is a very Prestigious award as only 4% of our scouts make it to Eagle Scout.

Ansen Lackner refurbished the bell for the Vietnam War Memorial in Canby, OR for his Eagle Scout Project.



Ansen Lackner with his 37 badges





LARRY WITTMAYER
SCOUTING CHAIR



Ansen Lackner Eagle Scout



Ansen with proud parents, Martin
and Sammy Lackner



Ansen's family

(Lt-Rt) (Back Row) Grandfather Randy McNeil and Eagle Scout, Mother, Sammy, Eagle Scout Ansen, Father, Martin, Grandmother, Rochelle Begin (who made the cake) Grandfather, Al Begin, (Front Row) grandmother, Patty McNeil, Sister, Roslyn, (Scout also), Sister, Emily Lackner



Cake made by Grandmother,
Rochelle Begin

Did you know?



Sept. 18 is the birthday of the U.S. Air Force and was officially founded as an independent service in 1947.

Celebrities who served in the Air Force include Jimmy Stewart, Morgan Freeman, Hunter S. Thompson, Chuck Norris, and "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry.

CORY BROCKMANN
DEPT2ND-VICE COMMANDER

TRUE COMPASS DESIGNS



[True Compass Designs](https://www.godaddy.com/garage/true-compass-designs-navigating-web-design-by-honoring-his-true-north/) is a digital development company that has been in business for more than 17 years. Certified in 11 different Adobe programs, Mick Bird of Camas, Wash., builds websites for clients while working from the comfort of his home. **Mick is The American Legion Department's Web Designer.**

TRUE COMPASS DESIGNS

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Rifle Tournament Shooting Camp In Salem, October 23rd & 24th, 2021

Message from Army First Sergeant (retired) Jim Wagner (North Salem High School Army Junior ROTC Program) to Raoul B. Salem to selected rifle shooting enthusiasts

There will be a youth rifle tournament shooting clinic in Salem, Oregon on Saturday, October 23rd and Sunday, October 24th, 2021.

The cost will be \$50.00 per individual or \$200.00 per five-person shooting team.

The shooting clinic will be conducted by Taylor Gibson. Please see the E-mail message which is included below for details on Taylor Gibson.

This will be a rare and special opportunity for our area! Please consider participating.

Hello,

I hope all is well and everyone has enjoyed their summer up to now.

We will be holding a Shooting Camp in the North Salem Field House on October 23rd and 24th. Cost will be \$50.00 per person or \$200.00 for a five-person team. Both Sporter and Precision air rifle shooters are invited.

The clinic will start with a classroom session from 0900-1200 on Saturday morning. Lunch, provided by us, will be from 1200-1300. We will finish the afternoon focused on shooting in the kneeling position. Sunday will be a practice match in the morning, followed by lunch, a competition match, finals if we have enough participants, followed by awards.

National Champion, Multiple National Record Holder and 5-time NCAA All-American Taylor Gibson will be conducting the clinic. We

wanted to focus on something we haven't seen many camps/clinics do, and since Taylor set the National Record with a 200-18 in Kneeling, we are going to FOCUS the classroom and shooting session on Saturday solely on kneeling.

I will need lane safety help, and I am going to ask that each marksmanship coach operate as lane safeties for the shooting portions of the clinic.

What are your thoughts? Questions? The one answer I do not have is if we will be able to allow a sleep-over, and thus, offer dinner as well. If we do that, then we will have to raise the price a little. If we cannot, I am trying to ensure we don't start too early, so travel is possible for local schools. I would love to get the Central Oregon schools involved with this. Let me know what I need to do to be able to facilitate your participation: La Pine, Mountain View, Redmond, Madras, and Crook County.

Greg Bynum: Please pass this on to Reynolds. Washington schools, let me know if you want to participate, and if you do, and need a place to stay if we cannot house you, I can work on getting space at a National Guard Armory, or maybe a local church?

1SG (R) Jim Wagner
North Salem Army JROTC
Army Instructor

North Salem HS
765 14th St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Office 503-399-3241 Ext 312
Cell 503-989-3890



Sincerely,
Raoul B. Salem

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Or Mail to: The Department of Oregon
Attn: Adjutant
P.O. Box 1730
Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730

AUXILIARY NEWS



DEBRA GODWIN
DEPT PRESIDENT

My motto is:

A Year of Learning, With Positive Communication!!!

Department of Oregon ALA President
2021-2022



SEPTEMBER | Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

CORY BROCKMANN
VEE COMMITTEE

September is designated Suicide Prevention Month, and, being a veteran like you, my thoughts are with the crisis of veteran suicide. And, while September is a month to elevate awareness, the real battle continues every single day.

Veteran suicide is extremely complex, and the impacts are far-reaching.

The impact of veteran suicide reaches beyond just the immediate family. It impacts friends, co-workers, extended family and local communities, and farther-reaching social networks. It can also affect fellow service members they served with decades earlier. It becomes more apparent that this is a community issue, and it will take a community to help address it. Awareness is an excellent start. But what next?

Get involved. Take the next step in increasing your understanding of the complexity involved. Educate yourself on topical subject matter readings to better understand the signs of those at risk. consider taking a short class on

suicide prevention with friends or family members to learn more.

There are many different studies on suicide and veteran suicide conducted by public and private institutions, each providing varying statistics on rates of suicide and percentages, data analysis, and margins of error.

Simply put, one veteran suicide is one too many.

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) established The Veterans Crisis Line in 2007. It is a free, confidential, 24-hour hotline for Veterans as well as their families and friends. Since its launch, the VA reports that the Veterans Crisis Line has answered more than 1.25 million calls and made more than 39,000 lifesaving rescues.

In March of 2019, Executive Order (EO) 13861 established PREVENTS - President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End the National Tragedy of Suicide, to further and progressively address veteran suicide. EO

13861 seeks to create a national road-map and strategy to bring an end to suicide.

Our Department of Oregon has an essential role in helping to increase awareness and further educate our members and those within our local communities.

Suggested related readings and resources may be found at:

PREVENTS-Home

<https://www.va.gov/prevents/>

Resources for Mental Health Support

<https://www.va.gov/PREVENTS/resources.asp>

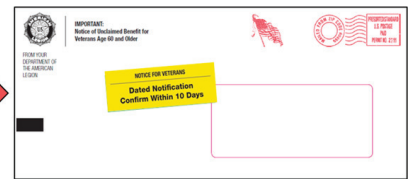
2020 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report

<https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2020/2020-National-Veteran-Suicide-Prevention-Annual-Report-11-2020-508.pdf>





Here's what it will look like to most people who receive it.



WHAT'S MAILING THIS MONTH?



We are mailing Accidental Death (AD) on September 29th.

Quick reminder about AD:

Provides the member's beneficiary with a check if they were to pass away in a covered accident.

Benefits up to \$100,000 are available.

Guaranteed Acceptance – i.e. no medical exams or health history.

Product may not be available in all states and may not mail all your members. If you want a more detailed description of this product, visit www.TheLIT.com/Accident-Protection.

Questions? Contact Howard Bender
800-445-3269
hbender@agia.com

**AND AS ALWAYS,
DON'T FORGET:**



LEGION FAMILY:
IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION FOR LEGIONCARE
UP TO \$5,000.00
NO-COST-TO-YOU ACCIDENT INSURANCE PROTECTION
For Online Activation Visit: TheLIT.com/LegionCare2

- The next mailing is ID Resolve in October.
- We will be in attendance at the National Convention in August.
- LIT Fall Trust Directors meeting is scheduled for September 14th in Williamsburg, VA.



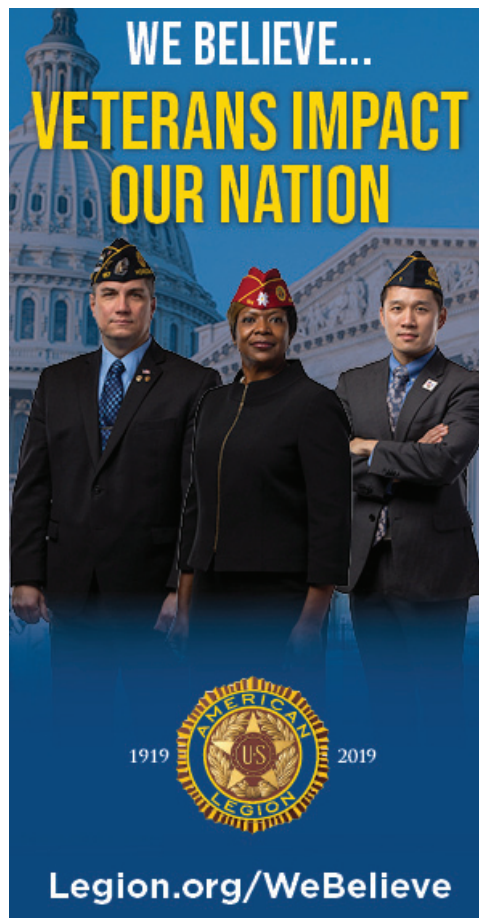
Department Legion College



BETTY FISH-FERGUSON
TRAINING & DEVELOPEMNT

The Training and Development Committee of the American Legion Department of Oregon put on a successful Legion College on August 6th, at Canby Post 122. This day long training was directed to District Commanders and District staff. Although lightly attended (only 4 out of 10 District Commanders were present and only 3 out of 30 possible District staff), the material and speakers were well received.

The committee will be moving on to Post level training. A day long training event will be coming to a location near you. We are hoping to hit all quadrants of the State. It has been a difficult time choosing locations and possible guest hosts. It would sure be a help if a Post would volunteer to host such an event. It would be fun, informative, and meet the objectives of the Training and Development committee. Think about it.....



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IF ...**



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For more information log on to www.TheLIT.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus or call toll-free 1-888-293-4008 today to speak with a representative.

*This is only an outline of the plans services. Please review your Member Guide carefully. EA+ is not insurance. © 2018 Worldwide Rescue & Security 43262 From Your American Legion Department

VA & R



PDC, BOB HUFF
VA&R CHAIRPERSON

Going from ZOOM, Go To Meeting, to limited face-to-face meetings and return to virtual meetings, depending on the audience, some relaxed meetings to partial opening of offices to support our Veterans population; all good and proceeding with caution.

Telephone contact and virtual meetings have proven to allow more access and quicker response to some of our Veterans' claims and appeals and have filled a void with our rural Veterans population. Our team and Veterans Service Officer will be at the PIR, Portland Race Car Event on September 10, 11, and 12th.

Our Department Veterans Service Office does a great job supporting our Veterans Community. The Commission has oversight of our Department VAVS Program, which has representatives at our VA Facilities in Oregon and many hours of volunteer service, contributions and has filled in a void at our VA's during COVID 19 in all areas. The VAVS arm also supports the National Cemetery Administration (NCS) with activity at our National Cemeteries.

The Commission also represents our department and the Veterans Employment, Education and Homelessness (VE&E) Commission at Veterans Stand-Downs, Benefit and Employment and Education Events, Woman

Continued on page 13



VA & R

Continued from page 12

Veterans Events, Mobilization and and Yellow Ribbon Events in The Department of Oregon.

The joint Commission is the First Pillar of The American Legion, Veterans. As more opportunity for gatherings is allowed in our Counties, if you hear of events that VA&R and VE&E Commission can support, please email huffe4@aol.com or (541) 601-9283 with your contact information, and I will contact you.

If your District is holding its meeting and would like more information or support with our Pillar I Veterans activities, please get in touch with me, and we will be happy to support you.

Thank you

military help line
for Legionnaires
<http://militaryhelpline.org/about-us/>

VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICES (VAVS) REPRESENTATIVE

Veterans Affairs Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics
(VA SORCC) White City, Oregon



PDC, BOB HUFF
VAVS REP VA SORCC

In Oregon, our VA Facilities have different missions supporting our Veteran communities. The VA SORCC in White City is not a hospital, and it is a stand-alone facility supporting Mental Health, Mental Health issues, RRTP Programs, Women Veterans Programs, Veterans Homelessness, Justice outreach, and Clinics supporting the Veterans in the VA SORCC Catchment Area.

The Veteran Patient population comes from all over Oregon. It is referred to and sent from all areas of our Country. During the COVID and new variants, our American Legion team has had unique challenges and has had to double their hours to support the needs of the Veteran Resident Patients and the services the VA needs support to perform the services for the Veterans community.

Several of our volunteer services/po-


With COVID 19, new variants, life has changed at our VA facilities. We still have Veteran Patients, and Patients have needs.

In Oregon, our VA Facilities have different

sitions have had to be curtailed during this COVID outbreak to support Patients, volunteers, and staff safety. It continues to change with new variants for everyone's safety. With changing patient needs, we have shortages of Bath Towels, Pillows, blankets, men's belts, as winter will be approaching, coats, warm cloths. Some of our Patients come here with nothing except what is on their backs. Because of Infection Control rules, we can not take used clothing.

We are providing essentials now as we have and broadened what we support with patient needs. As Resident Patients are not allowed to leave the facility, we are taxed to support new needs.

We have been providing reading glasses which some strengths are not available along with other needs. All new Patients are put in quarantine when they arrive since COVID and remain in a closed facility while here and not permitted to shop outside. We are frequent shoppers at Walmart and the dollar stores, supplies are short for some items, and our supplier that we have used for several years is also running into the same shortages. If you Post, Unit or Squadron can help, it would be appreciated.



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PHILIPS
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VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION and HOMELESSNESS



PDC, BOB HUFF
VEE & H CHAIRPERSON

The Veterans Employment, Education and Homelessness Commission is an arm of The American Legion Pillar I: Veterans, that is charged with Veterans Employment, Veterans Education, Help for Homeless Veterans and at-risk Veterans.

We are working with our community partners, VA, NCA, ODVA, Oregon National Guard, Worksource Oregon, our DVOP Team, Easter Seals, Bar Associations, ESGR, County Organizations, HHS, VSO's. Our Commission has been ready and willing; we are now proceeding with caution with new rules again, face masking, and rules for holding gatherings.

We honor each County Health rule for the safety of our Legion Family and Veterans community. We are holding some face-to-face meetings

again with our partners; I have received the green light to start planning events and meeting on venues to hold them; the latest variant has placed us in the proceeding with caution scenario.

Our VE&E Events partnered with VA&R and our Membership and Post Activities Team. Remember, the most successful events are those when local Posts and the Legion Family participates. As always, veteran's and participants' safety remain our focus.

Legionnaire honored to kick off Music City GP weekend

BY BRUCE MARTIN
AUG 06, 2021

The most unique characteristic of the 11-turn, 2.17-mile Big Machine Music City Grand Prix street course is the Korean War Veterans Bridge. It's a 1,660-foot, clear arch span bridge that crosses over the Cumberland River in downtown Nashville, Tenn.

On any given day, 17,000 travelers cross this bridge to drive to and from the bustling business district of one of the most exciting cities in the country. The bridge was constructed in 2004 as a lasting memorial to the veterans who fought in the Korean War.

James Markham of Mount Juliet, Tenn., was one of those veterans.

On Friday morning, the 90-year-old American Legion member went across the bridge in a pace car driven

by three-time Indianapolis 500 winner and four-time NTT INDYCAR SERIES champion Dario Franchitti.

Prior to his lap, Markham spent 30 minutes talking to his favorite race driver, Jimmie Johnson, who drives the No. 48 American Legion Honda as an NTT INDYCAR SERIES rookie after winning a record-tying seven NASCAR Cup Series championships.

"I'm very honored to be part of the opening ceremonies for this race," Markham said. "Jimmie is my favorite driver, and that was really great. I've always loved it to see him on top.

"Getting in that Pace Car was great. I went over that bridge at 120 miles an hour. Just think of these guys in the race cars going over that bridge at 200 miles an hour. They are really going to be moving on. This track has some re-

ally sharp turns on the course. It's going to be quite a show."

Markham entered the Air Force in 1951 and was stationed at Tachikawa Air Base Japan from August 1951 to January 1953 before returning to Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida.

His duties were to support troop movement using a C-54 aircraft in and out of Korea.

Markham has been a member of the American Legion for 66 years and has served in multiple positions to include department commander from 1992 to 1993 and Tennessee's National Executive Committeeman from 2000 to 2002. He is a member of American Legion Post 88 in Donelson, Tenn.

"I go there a few times a week to

Continued on page 15

Legionnaire honored to kick off Music City GP weekend

Continued from page 14

have lunch and whatever, and I got up on Wednesday and made the announcement that I was going to be at the race and be honored as a Korean War veteran,” Markham said. “I feel honored. I appreciate anyone who appreciate the veterans. They are the ones we owe our freedom to.”

During active duty, Markham was fortunate to miss the disaster that struck Tachikawa in June 1953 when a U.S. Air Force C-124 Globemaster II transport experienced an engine failure on takeoff, crashing shortly after. The accident claimed the lives of 129 people and was the deadliest air disaster in history at the time.

Markham left active duty and joined the Air Force Reserve for five years.

“I joined The American Legion after that and I enjoy my fellowship with other Legion members,” Markham said. “That’s one of the main things of The American Legion is the camaraderie of other veterans because they understand you and you understand them. They are the ones that know what it was like to be in the service, and that is important later in life.

“It’s terrible that so many veterans are committing suicide and I think it’s important that The American Legion has this program to help prevent that. And having Jimmie Johnson as a spokesman, that’s advertisement for new members, and we need it.”

The American Legion member used to attend stock car races at the Nashville Fairgrounds and also has been to races at Bristol Motor Speedway. He believes the Nashville residents will

will take to the much different form of racing in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES, now that it is racing on the streets of Music City.

Markham has been to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway on many occasions for Indianapolis 500-time trials but has never been to the track on race day. He vividly remembers watching Parnelli Jones drive the STP Turbine on pole day in 1967.

“He would be around the first turn before you heard the wind noise,” Markham recalled. “That’s all you heard. I went back a few years ago and saw that car in the museum at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. I enjoyed seeing that car again.”

Johnson has enjoyed his role in his first year representing The American Legion and getting to know many of the members. Friday morning, he met with Markham and enjoyed his time-sharing stories.

“I met with Jim, and he sure doesn’t look 90,” Johnson said. “To have his charisma, health, his perspective ... I had a great time, and we had a bunch of laughs. He’s a great man.”

Johnson has learned a lot about military veterans, even though he has never served. “I have a crazy line of work myself, and there is a respect that I instantly have for what they do, and I think it’s the same when they see me driving a race car,” he said. “That risk factor that comes from both occupations is a shared respect.

“It’s a huge honor representing The Legion. Everybody I have met from The American Legion has been first



Music City Grand Prix Grand Marshal Dario Franchitti, left and #48 driver Jimmie Johnson chat with Tennessee American Legion Post 88 member Jim Markham before the Korean War Memorial Bridge ceremony to kick off Grand Prix weekend in Nashville. (Photo by Bruce Martin)

class, on top of the fact they served our country. We are trying to raise the awareness of many important causes and part of a group that knows the importance to honor those that served. It has been a great affiliation to me. It has opened my eyes even more to the great work that The American Legion does.”

The American Legion Ceremonial First Lap at Nashville Music City Grand Prix

Good Morning from Nashville, TN and the inaugural Music City Grand Prix:

Following a two-week break in the schedule, the INDYCAR season rolls into the final half of the season with a very unique street course venue in the streets of Nashville, TN. Jimmie Johnson and the #48 team are on an even playing-field (so to speak) this weekend as he and the other 27 drivers in the field are experiencing the twist and turns of this new circuit all for the very first time.

I’m reaching out this morning to share with you a very special event that took place on Friday morning at the track that Mary Jo Dial brokered between the NTT Data INDYCAR Series and the race promoters in Nashville. *Continued on page 16*

The American Legion Ceremonial First Lap at Nashville Music City Grand Prix

One of the most iconic sections of this street circuit is Korean War Memorial Bridge in downtown Nashville. The American Legion worked with all parties in Nashville to create a ceremonial “First Lap” around the circuit and we were able to include Korean War Veteran and Tennessee Legionnaire Jim Markham in the ceremony. Jim had the opportunity to ride in the pace car driven by four-time INDY-CAR Champion and former Ganassi Racing driver Dario Franchitti. As you can see from the video link below, the ceremony garnered an incredible amount of media attention with a specific spotlight on Jim Markham and The American Legion.

Link to video from NBC affiliate -- https://www.wsmv.com/video/special-guest-got-to-ride-in-grand-prix-pace-car/video_e34f432e-97bd-5a76-aebb-7c0d8ba72d57.html

I have also included (below) a story written by Bruce Martin that is currently posted on Legion.org.

As for the race weekend schedule, practice begins at 1:00 p.m. EST with qualifying starting at 4:30 p.m. broadcasted on NBC's streaming platform – Peacock. The Music City Grand Prix was Sunday beginning at 5:30 p.m. on NBC.

Thanks, and enjoy your weekend.

Best

Dean

The American Legion Calls Taliban Return ‘sad event for humanity’

JOHN RAUGHTER, MEDIA RELATIONS

JRAUGHTER@LEGION.ORG

OR 317-630-1350

WASHINGTON (August 16, 2021)

– James W. “Bill” Oxford, national commander of The American Legion, calls “the collapse of the Afghanistan government a sad event for humanity. The fall of Afghanistan in no way denigrates the honorable service of the men and women who served, bled, and died there.”

A salute to our Afghanistan veterans

NATIONAL COMMANDER JAMES W. “BILL” OXFORD
AUG 16, 2021

acts of service will not be washed away by history.

The Taliban are retaking control of Afghanistan at an alarming rate. It's something generations of veterans have seen. A similar takeover occurred in Iraq. And we all know what happened in Vietnam. As a Vietnam veteran, I deeply empathize with today's veterans who are witnessing this tragic turn of events.

But let me be 100 percent clear — the sacrifice, commitment and work by all of our men and women in uniform these past 20 years was worth it.

They kept our nation safe when many feared another attack.

They brought evil-doers to justice.

They delivered hope to war-torn nations.

Their courage, victories and selfless

To all the men and women who served and made the world a better, safer and brighter place since the dark day of 9/11, I salute you.

As veterans, we have a unique perspective on what all of this means. The action we are seeing today is troubling on an international scale. But also troubling to veterans, especially those who served with honor since 9/11. They may be left questioning what all of this means. They may have trouble processing this turn of events as related to their service. They may experience feelings of depression.

But we need to let them know that their service matters today and it will matter tomorrow.

I strongly encourage American Legion Family members to take this time to perform Buddy Checks on

Continued on page 17

A Salute to our Afghanistan Veterans

Continued from Page 16

Afghanistan, Iraq and other veterans during this time. Reach out to your brothers and sisters in arms, and make sure they are doing OK and ask what they need.

As a refresher, Buddy Checks are wellness check-ins with veterans who may not seek the help they need on their own. To get started on a Buddy Check, please visit legion.org/membership/buddycheck.

Additionally, you can also recommend that veterans seeking assistance could tap into VA's Vet Centers. Those are counseling centers that provide combat veteran to combat veteran counseling. To learn more, visit vet-center.va.gov.

Whether you are a Vietnam veteran, or one from the war on terror or another era, I thank you for your service. No matter when you served, your service mattered. And it's what will allow freedom and democracy to continue.



MIA from Vietnam to be Laid to Rest



The photo on top in black and white is of Major Paul Avolesse's young four children.

The second color photo is the same four adult children from the old photo receiving their dad's Full Military Honors Burial Flags.

ANGEL MANDOZA
POST 21 HONOR GUARD



I attended the Full Military Honors for US Air Force Major Paul Avolesse in Springfield, Oregon

On July 24th 2021, U.S. Air Force Major Paul Avolesse landed at Portland Airport and was escorted to Springfield Memorial Gardens for burial with Full Military Honors.

On July 7th 1967, Major Avolesse worked as a Radar Navigator aboard one of two B52D bombers that departed Anderson Air Force Base in Guam on a bombing mission over the A Shau Valley, Vietnam. It is believed that during a maneuver while approaching the coast of South Vietnam, both aircraft collided and crashed into the mouth of the Mekong River, about 100 kilometers south of Saigon. Four of the crew members aboard his aircraft were rescued; however, Major Avolesse was never recovered. He was declared missing in action, and his remains were *NOT* recovered. On, July 24th, 1967 he was posthumously awarded the Air Medal and is memorialized on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

A local fisherman found the crash site in a hundred feet of water. The crash site was investigated by a joint U.S. and Vietnam team for over five years, with an extensive underwater search completed in 1995.

September 25th, 2000, the Defense Pow/Mia Accounting Agency, an agency within the United States Department of Defense whose mission is to recover United States military personnel who are listed as prisoners of

Continued on page 18

MIA Vietnam Veteran Laid to Rest

Continued from page 17

war (Pow) or missing in action (MIA) from designated past conflicts, from counties around the world, announced that his remains had been recovered and accounted for. Few details are available about his recovery.

Major Avolase was laid to rest on July 24th, 2021, in Springfield, Oregon.



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PLUS

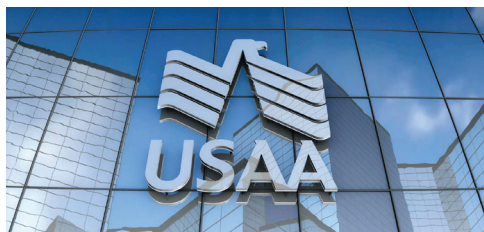
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18 August 2021

Marines,

As each of us tries to comprehend the speed and scope of events in Afghanistan this week, some may be struggling with a simple question: "Was it all worth it?" We see videos and photos, we read stories that bring back memories for some of us, and it becomes intensely personal. We value human life and we want to believe that what Marines have done in Afghanistan made a difference. While Sergeant Major Black and I don't presume to speak for you or your family, we would like to offer our thoughts so you know where your senior leaders stand.

We both believe – without question – that your service was meaningful, powerful, and important. You answered the call to serve, proudly carrying the torch of so many generations of Marines before you. You put the good of others before yourself. You fought to defend your country, your family, your friends, and your neighbors. You fought to prevent terror from returning to our shores. You fought for the liberty of young Afghan girls, women, boys, and men who want the same individual freedoms we enjoy as Americans. You fought for the Marine to your left and the Marine to your right. You never let them down. You never, ever gave up. You lived with purpose, with intention. Whether you realize it or not, you set an example for subsequent generations of Marines – and Americans – by living our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Was it worth it? Yes. Does it still hurt? Yes.

Since 2001, Marines have served honorably and courageously to bring peace to the people of Afghanistan. You should take pride in your service – it gives meaning to the sacrifice of all Marines who served, including those whose sacrifice was ultimate.

Over the coming days and weeks, we encourage you to connect with your fellow Marines and their families – particularly those you served with overseas. This is a time to come together and give further meaning to our motto, Semper Fidelis. Let us remain faithful to our fellow Marines, faithful to our Marine families, and faithful to the memories of all who have sacrificed.

We are intensely proud to serve alongside you as your Commandant and Sergeant Major.

Semper Fidelis,

David H. Berger
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

Troy E. Black
SgtMaj, U.S. Marine Corps
Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps

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- **Hospital HELP Plan** — Provides benefits for hospital stays including intensive care, cardiac care, care for cancer, rehabilitative facilities, and V.A. hospitals.*
- **Cancer Care** — Provides important protection and a daily benefit if you are hospitalized due to cancer.*
- **Accidental Death** — Helps provide financial protection for you and your family. Up to \$5,000.00 LegionCare AD coverage at no cost to Legionnaires is available: (activation required).* You can also purchase additional Accident coverage up to \$100,000.00.
- **On-The-Move Travel Accident** — Provides up to \$200,000.00 coverage when fatally injured in a covered accident while traveling, plus \$500.00 per day if a covered accident lands you in the hospital.*
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*The Accidental Death, Cancer Care, Hospital Help Plan, and On-The-Move Accident Insurance Plans are underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, St. Paul, MN. Plans may not be available in all states. These policies contain limitations and exclusions. Please visit www.TheLIT.com to review plan details.

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Answer:

C. Wall Street

- A horse-drawn cart loaded with dynamite and fragmented steel stopped in front of the J. P. Morgan Company offices on Wall Street and exploded amidst a lunch-hour crowd. Anarchists were blamed for the attack, but no individual was ever charged with the crime.

Oregon American Legion Foundation



P.O. Box 1730 Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730



THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

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

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

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

☐ 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

Date

Received From

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Signature

Recruiter's Phone #



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

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

Date

Received From

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Squadron No.

Department of



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

APPLICANT INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY 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.

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"/> Daughter | <input type="checkbox"/> Granddaughter | |

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 09/2019

Date

Received From

\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Signature

Recruiter's Phone #