

The Oregon Legionnaire

THE AMERICAN LEGION **FAMILY**

The Voice of Oregon's Veterans Since 1919 November 2021



Notes from Commanders,
Commission Reports,
Auxiliary, SAL,
Trivia and so much more...

VETERANS DAY 2021



 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

The American Legion and the Oregon American Legion Family
salute our military veterans of all eras this November 11 - and every day.
Thank you for serving America with honor, courage and commitment.



LARRY WITTMAYER
DEPT 1ST-VICE COMMANDER

month.

I also plan to start my District visits with a visit to District 6 in La Grande.

Membership has reached 56%, meeting the 50% and 55% National Goals. This is thanks to the hard work of the Posts. The 65% goal may be hard to reach but not unreachable.

GO, TEAM.

I have represented the Department of Oregon at the Portland International Race Way Grand Prix and the 9/11 Memorial Service in Albany in the past



CORY BROCKMANN
DEPT 2ND-VICE COMMANDER

Thanksgiving, a day to reap the harvest and celebrate the family's or community's collective bounty. A time of year, though, when we not only celebrate the gift of harvest but also in which, we give to benefit others.

During the month, we also recognize Veterans Day. That day in which we celebrate and honor our nation's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the good of life and liberty.

Upon our Legion calendar of activities, November also marks Member Retention Month, an essential demarcation for our focus on membership renewal of our members.

Member Retention Month should be no small significance to each of us, as our membership data continues to reflect that we are losing more members to non-renewal of their membership than other categories, such as transfers out to other departments or, humbly, to Post Everlasting.

As we approach our membership work, our efforts should not just be in harvesting membership renewals, that low-hanging fruit. More so, it should be in continuing to cultivate and nurture our members the year long. Ensuring the care and wellness of our fellow veterans is the right thing to do. It's meaningful. And, it produces

November represents the transition from the autumn harvest season to that of winter. And, here in the United States, it is also the month that hosts

results much greater than just a membership renewal. If we are approaching the care of our members throughout the year, intentionally caring for each other, then membership renewals may just not be the challenge they are at present.

How to proceed? It's called the Buddy Check program. With a little organization and pre-coordination at the post, it quickly becomes a shared and manageable means of caring for your veterans and their families. To get started with , helpful tools can be accessed at [Tools For Buddy Check Teams | The American Legion](#)



The new American Legion marketing logo is increasing in visibility and popularity! From availability on Legion apparel now to prominent placement on The American Legion national website, and yes, including the very successful NTT Indy Car Series partnership with Chip Ganassi Racing, which brought forth significant marketing and advertising. You will continue to see its use within and among The American Legion and its outreach endeavors.

Lastly, a few words on giving – thank you to all who continue to support our Department of Oregon. We cannot do it without you, whether it is your time, in volunteering at any level, or in financial or in-kind contributions made to our Department or The Oregon American Legion Foundation. Your efforts and contributions of kindness impact many lives. It is that simple.

Thank you

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Interesting things to make you say



Hmmm.....

Turkeys can blush

When turkeys are scared or excited—like when the males see a female they're interested in—the pale skin on their head and neck turns **bright red, blue, or white**. The flap of skin over their beaks, called a “snood,” also reddens.

How is that for a patriotic bird!!!!

GIVING TUESDAY

Continued from page 2

CORY BROCKMANN

DEPT 2ND-VICE COMMANDER

**G i v i n g
T u e s d a y**

is also recognized in November, and this year it falls on Tuesday, November 30th. Giving Tuesday refers to the Tuesday after Thanksgiving in the United States, and it is a movement that supports an international day of charitable giving at the beginning of the Christmas and holiday season. Should you desire to make a Giving Tuesday donation to The Oregon American Legion Foundation, it is easily done at the following link [FOUNDATION – The American Legion \(orlegion.org\)](https://www.oregonlegion.org), just scroll down and select the gold-colored donate button located in the center of the page.

Veterans do strengthen America! Thank you for your continued service to our country!

Did you know?

Abraham Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address on November 19th, 1863.



The United States and Panama signed the treaty that provided for the Panama Canal on November 18th, 1903.

The US and Canada celebrate the end of WWI every year on November 11th.

On November 18th, 1963, Bell Telephone Company introduced to the public the push-button phone.

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

December

Pearl Harbor

OVH Gift Shop Cancelled

Portland Gift Shop Cancelled

January

Initiation Ceremonies

Prepare for Oratorical

February

Looking forward to Oratorical

MLK Day

We are closing out our 2020-2021 Department Budget Year and gathering all our financials and required information to start our Department Taxes. It has been busy with coming back from National Convention in early September, participating on the National Convention Finance Committee.

A busy September and leaving on October 2 for Indianapolis for committee and the NEC meetings and returning to Oregon late Thursday night and to Hillsboro Friday morning for a Friday evening meeting at Post 104 in Aloha and our Saturday meetings and Sunday DEC in Hillsboro. It was very positive seeing our Legion Family in person. We were able to accomplish so much; in-person meetings are good.

We are in a new Budget Year starting October 1, 2021. Our Budget and Tax year is October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022. With all the issues caused by COVID 19, delays or canceling our programs, meeting virtual, workaround plans, we fared OK, and our financials are solid. We had a positive year.

As I asked all the District Commanders during our Fall DEC, when making their Post visitations and Post as-

essment, to verify that **PDC, BOB HUFF** their Posts **DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER** have filed their 990 Taxes. If the Post has not filed in three years, the IRS will revoke their EIN number and lose their 501 c19 status.

As I have reported, we took a lower membership quota for income for our 2021-2022 Budget year. We can not continue to reduce our membership; we have had some successes and so have our Posts. Lower membership will mean reducing expenses in our other operations, our programs.

Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. We have found that making Buddy Checks which is doing the right thing for our members, is

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PDC, BOB HUFF providing positive outcomes in renewing our members. We have other income, but membership supports our programs, supports our ability to support legislature on Veterans issues, supporting Veterans and their families and caregivers.

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 when safe. We have plenty of opportunities for a great year.

Veterans Day
November 11th



TRIVIA

On November 2, the American electorate, joined for the first time by female voters, chose Republican Warren G. Harding for President over Democrat James M. Cox. A third-party candidate, however, received 3.4% of the vote, even though he was in a federal prison at the time. Who was this candidate?

- A. Herbert Hoover
- B. Eugene V Debs
- C. William G McAdoo
- D. Harry Daugherty



STEVE SHOLLENBURG gave us the different seasons, the beauty of Autumn is beyond belief sometimes?

We have had numerous Legionnaires pass on to Post Everlasting this year. It seems like every time we turn around; another one is leaving us. They served their mission here on earth as God had it scheduled, and now He has called them home to receive their rewards. They all will be missed very much. Let's continue to keep them in our prayers and thoughts.

If you have anyone that has passed or is passing, sick or injured, please let me know, so I can get them on the prayer list. It is very important. I hope everyone knows and understands the power of prayer, especially when we are praying together, and not only for our fallen, passed, sick, injured, but also for our country and its leadership.

In John 14: 6, Jesus tells us, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father but by Me." So with our understanding of scripture, we know we must pray through Jesus Christ to the Father. That is why Christ taught His disciples how to pray when they were in the garden. He wanted us all to know just how important it is to understand that point.

Fall has officially started, and yet we see particular stores have already put out a Christmas section. Entire aisles-

Hello everyone, I hope this finds you all doing great as the Autumn settles and winter is coming upon us. Isn't it wonderful how God

filled with decorations, wrapping paper, wreaths, and much more. Halloweens not even here yet and, Thanksgiving is only around the corner! I will never understand why stores race to be the first one to put out their Christmas merchandise. After all, Christmas is going to arrive on the same date as previous years, and the same majority of people are going to wait until the last minute to find gifts for their friends and families, and of course that special someone.

Something I do understand, however, is just how stressful the end of the year holiday season is for most families. There is the negotiating of when/where/how/to which side of the family to travel. For some, there is the stress of spending important holidays separated from their deployed spouse. For others, there is the stress of grieving family members or friends who have passed and whose chairs will be empty this holiday season. Lastly, the stress of dealing with all the busyness and distractions tends to ramp up toward Thanksgiving and not decrescendo until after New Year's Day.

Even so, I believe that the upcoming holidays are an opportunity and a gift. In his letter to the Philippians, the Apostle Paul reminded his readers to keep their focus on the important things in life:

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things"

Philippians 4:8, (KJV)

In essence, Paul was calling on his audience to focus on the good things in this world -- the relationships, blessings, and actions worthy of receiving

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PDC, KEVIN OWENS
NECMAN

I just returned from the National Executive Committee Meetings held in Indianapolis October 6-7th, 2021. I want to highlight a few things that occurred during the two-day meetings. Twenty-two resolutions were brought to the NEC. The most important one is resolution number 4, titled Support Department of Defense Directive 1344.10, and the Hatch Act of 1939.

This was brought to the National Convention and was rejected by the National Security Commission. With the efforts of past National Commander Schmidt, it was reworked by the National Security Commission and brought to this NEC for a vote, which the NEC passed.

Another area is the Mission Blue Post Assistance Program. To date, only 464 posts from 45 Departments have received grants. I encourage all Posts in the Department of Oregon to apply. If you need information, please go to legion.org or call the Department Adjutant. If you have already received a \$1000 grant, you can be eligible for another \$1000. First-time Posts can get up to \$2000.

There will not be a dues increase for the foreseeable future due to efforts of the Finance Commission increasing its fund-raising efforts. The solicitation will increase from 10 million to 40 million pieces going out to improve the donor base. This year fund-raising increased even as membership decreased, and a forecast year-end net operating surplus of \$4,272,085.

This year the Departments are being asked to support the Veterans and Children's Fund (VCF) over the next seven years. Each department was assigned a goal which has been given to our Department Commander. Oregon's goal is \$26,276.25 over the seven years. That breaks down to \$3,753.75 each year, or 40.25/per member. I know we can reach that goal by giving that spare change we have in our pockets.

Let's have some fundraisers at our Posts and Districts, challenge each other and let's see who can raise the greatest amount. Department Officers and District Commanders, I am asking all of you to make this a priority to Veterans and Families in need. Our National Organization has named a new Judge Advocate, Mark Seavey, to assume the role as its legal counsel.

The new National Commander Paul Dillard has made one of his goals is to get our retention rate up to 90%. The Buddy Check is something he believes is the key to getting it done. I am encouraging each District Commander to work with your Posts to do Buddy Checks.

Another is Post Consolidations Reports. We need to be 100%, and the process is easy. Again, during your visitations, District Commanders help the Posts that need help and, if needed, sit with them and do them. No one knows the Posts in your District better than you. National Commander Dillard announced a new program rewarding Departments. Any department that attains 103 percent of its 2022 membership goal and achieves at least a 90 percent retention rate will later receive \$18.50 for each member dues transmitted over that 103 percent. Departments must meet both criteria – 103 percent membership and 90 percent retention – to qualify for this incentive.

Meeting just one of these qualifiers does not count. For purposes of this incentive, the membership counted will end on Oct. 1, 2022. As usual, you will still transmit dues, but a check will be issued after everything is tallied up.

In closing, I am honored to serve as your NEC. My job is to bring back information to our department and be the liaison. If you have concerns or comments about anything discussed, don't hesitate to get in touch with me anytime.



*Happy Thanksgiving
November 25th*

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STEVE SHOLLENBURG of our attention **DEPT CHAPLAIN** -- in contrast to placing all of our attention on aspects of life out of our control or inconsequential in the long run.

As we enter the upcoming holiday season, I believe that it is beneficial to follow this bit of wisdom offered by Paul. May we keep our hearts and minds focused on our meaningful relationships, the blessings we have in our lives, and our ability to be a blessing to another in need, especially the reason for the season, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Lastly, may the peace of the Almighty One be upon you and your family in the days ahead.

Editors Notes

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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

November *Lead Community in Veterans Day awareness*
American Education Week
11 Veterans Day
25-26 Thanksgiving Holiday
29 Roseburg Gift Shop

December *Christmas Cheer*
07 Pearl Harbor Day
11 District 1 Meeting
25th Christmas

January *Initiation Ceremonies*
01 Happy New Year
17 MLK Day (Nat'l Closed)

February *Oratorical Coming your way*
21 Presidents' Day (Nat'l Closed)
27-2 Washington Conference



LOU NEUBECKER
DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

We in District 1 will be fortunate to host the Leading Candidate for National Commander Vincent James "Jim" Troiola from New York, November 19th.

We are going to show the case Vermonia Post 119 and Aloha Post 104.

First, we will bring the Jim to Vernonia Post 119 for a visit of the Post and a tour of **VETERAN** owned businesses in the town. We will serve a soup and sandwich lunch, let the candidate talk with some members.

Then, we will move to Aloha Post to hold a town hall meeting from 3 PM to 5 PM for the entire District. All members are invited to attend. You do not need to have a reserved seat for the town hall meeting.

I encourage all members to come and listen and talk to the Leading Candidate for National Commander of **OUR** legion.

Aloha Post will have a social hour will from 5 PM until 6 PM with dinner starting at 6pm.

Dinner will be Chicken Cordon Bleu, Potato, Veggie and Dessert for \$15.00. Please call Post 104 to reserve your seat for dinner no later than November 2nd.

We hope to see the Post filled with members. This is your chance to ask the Leading Candidate for National Commander about your concerns for our **LEGION**.

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Deadline

for the **December** issue
of the
Oregon Legionnaire
is **November 5th, 2021**

AUXILIARY NEWS



DEBRA GODWIN
DEPT PRESIDENT

Hello Team Oregon,

I thought I might take this opportunity to talk a little about my President Project for the year. My project is the Central Oregon Veterans Village in Bend Oregon.

When completed it will provide transitional shelters designed to provide shelter and services for our homeless veterans.

The shelters will include, a bed, storage, sitting area, cadet heater, toilet, sink, and a front porch. There will be 15 total units with a community building in the center that will contain, showers, laundry room, kitchen, dining room, living area with computer access. There will be case managers, and site managers there to help the veterans with all their needs. My question was how long a veteran could stay before transitioning out, and the answer was 12 to 24 months. I have found when working directly with homeless veterans helping them learn to live in a home can take some time. When I was contacted by my community action program about a veteran they needed help with, I didn't hesitate. The veterans outreach team explained to me that he had been homeless for 22 years and they had just placed him in an apartment. They were struggling with him, he didn't want to stay, and had really lost his ability to live in a home. I was on it!! I picked Steve up and we headed to Mr. Roy's new home. When I walked in this tall Marine stood there with

a look of total confusion. When I asked him what branch he served in, his shoulders went back, he stood straight, proud and tall. With a proud voice he said I am a Marine. And boy was he proud to be a Marine. I looked around his home and thought to myself, where do I start, so I headed to the kitchen, I cleaned organized, and put things away. When I suggested that we put his food in the refrigerator, he said oh no. I warm my food in the sun. My heart dropped. I explained that he didn't need to do that anymore, he had a stove. Well he wasn't so sure about the stove, and nervous to use it. He didn't want a trash can because he kept his trash bag on the ground. I started thinking to myself, Debra what have you gotten yourself into. I couldn't give up, I had to help him. I mean, here is this man who served our country, struggling to live in a home that he deserved!! With determination, and dedication I continued on. I spent a lot of time with him, teaching, listening, supporting, and caring for him. I grew to love him like my grandpa. A closeness and bond I will never forget. Roy learned to love his home. Then COVID hit, and I hadn't gotten to see Roy for a couple of weeks. The phone rang, and when I answer, I hear Debra your Mr. Roy has passed away. He passed in his sleep, in his bed, in his home. My first thought was oh my god, what am I going to do without Mr. Roy? My heart shattered, but I knew he passed in his home, in his bed, a home I had helped him learn to love. I seen his mental and physical illnesses. I became his family, and he became mine. I went home that night, and the memories of my Mr. Roy flooded my mind and heart. I made a promise that I would fight for our homeless veterans as long as God allows me. Mr. Roy changed my life. Here is a poem I wrote for Roy.

A Park Bench

*I saw an old man,
on a park bench one day,
A blanket over his shoulder,
at his feet his dog lay*

*I walked a little closer,
to sit at the end.
I felt his discomfort,
that I couldn't mend.*

*He lifted his head,
and asked if I'd stay.
I slid a little closer,
and said yes, I have all day.*

*He started to tell me,
the story of his life.
The soldier with in him,
the death of his wife.*

*I sat and I listened,
with tears in my eyes.
As he kept talking,
his words were so wise.*

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Let's keep working on our membership. If you need help, please call our District Vice-Commander Susan or me. If we can't answer the question, we know who to contact to get the correct answer.

Our next District meeting has been moved to Aloha Post 104 on December 11th. Lunch will start at 11:30 AM and end at 12:15 PM, allowing the Post time to get clean and set up for the meeting.

Your district Officers wish all of you a very **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**.

Please be safe during the upcoming holiday season.



PDC, KEVIN OWENS
PERMANENT FINANCE

Each year we hear

Fall is upon us, and we're getting ready for most of us to file our annual taxes. It's never too early to get all your paperwork in order. For some an easy task, and for others, it can be overwhelming.

at the Department Executive committee Meetings that we have Posts that have not been filed.

Each Post in our Department is a separate corporation and is required by the IRS Tax Code to file annually to keep its exempt status. If a Post fails to file for three consecutive years, the exempt status will be revoked. To regain that status, the Post will need to file the necessary paperwork to update information with the IRS, which is not pleasant for anyone. I highly

encourage each Post to make sure you stay on top of your tax filings.

I encourage you to visit your bank and make sure your check signers are correct. Banks do not remove names from the list of signers, and you have to do this physically. You will need to have minutes showing who the signers are, and all signers must be present to be added—just a few items before we get into the holiday spirit.



LARRY WITTMAYER
SCOUTING CHAIR

The scholarship was increased from

I attended the Fall DEC this past weekend. At that meeting, the change to the Scout Code of Procedure was approved.

\$500 to \$2500, and Department Eagle Scout of the Year was established. I also attended the virtual American Legion Scouting Chair Workshop.

The next National Scout Jamboree will be July 19-28, 2023.

Council Events:

Columbia Pacific Council

- 11/6 University of Scouting

Oregon Trail Council

- 11/5 10th Annual BSA Auction
- 11/6 Scouting for Food

Blue Mountain Council

- 1/21 Ham Radio Testing

Mountain West Council

- 11/6 Scouting for Food
- 11/13 Holiday Auction



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.**

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PDC, BOB HUFF
VA&R CHAIRPERSON

Our Commission and Department Service Officers (DSO) have met virtually, offices are still closed with COVID restrictions and telephone contact, and virtual meetings have been successful. As virtual hearings have started up again, our DSO's are supporting veterans in their hearings.

Virtual meetings have proven to allow more access and quicker response to some of our veterans' claims and appeals and have filled in a void with our rural Veterans population. Our Department Veterans Service Office is doing a great job supporting our Veterans during a very difficult time and has adjusted to new means in supporting our veterans.

With the Oregon National Guard

Our Commission and Department Service Officers (DSO) have met virtually, offices are still closed with COVID restrictions and telephone contact, and virtual meetings have been successful. As virtual hearings have started up again, our DSO's are supporting veterans in their hearings.

VA & R

starting to plan for Yellow Ribbon events soon in person, we will be supporting those events. The Commission also 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, some more depending on the area.

With VAVS Volunteer opportunities opening, the VA will not allow anyone to volunteer without being complete on their COVID shots by Federal direction. The Commission and our VAVS Arm also participate in the System Worth Sayings Activity at our Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Facilities with our National VA&R Commission.

The VAVS arm also supports the National Cemetery Administration (NCS) with activity at our National

Cemeteries. The Commission also represents our department along with the Veterans Employment, Education and Homelessness (VE&E) Commission at Veterans Stand-Downs, Benefit and Employment and Education Events, Woman Veterans Events, Mobilization, and Yellow Ribbon Events in The Department of Oregon, which all events have been canceled with social distancing and gatherings during COVID. We have participated in virtual meetings to support some of this effort. Making plans a year out has changed to sometimes, day by day as the rules change. 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 their meeting and would like more information or support with our Pillar I Veterans activities, don't hesitate to contact me, and we will be happy to support you.

Thank you

*We thank you all for your service and sacrifice
November 11th, 2021*

Are you moving?

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



VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION and HOMELESSNESS



PDC, BOB HUFF
VEE & H CHAIRPERSON

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.

The Veterans Employment, Education and Homelessness Commission is an arm of The American Legion Pillar

I: Veterans, that is charged with Veterans

This is a repeat, and our Commission remains ready and willing; it continues to be slowed down on our normal activity of holding events as we had to support COVID rules in holding gatherings. We honor each County Health rule for the safety of our Legion Family and Veterans community.

With just returning from meetings at National Convention in Phoenix, AZ, Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, IND, and our Fall DEC in Hillsboro/Aloha, listening to our Legion Family if not able to hold events, virtual Employment Fairs have had some success and meeting on that now. We are working with VA Homeless Centers, have not stopped but still need some face-to-face Veteran Stand Downs.

We are gathering equipment, clothing, and I have met with one of the VA Directors for a venue. Everything is in the planning stages; the venue is still not open. Once we have the green light, we will plan them and plan dates. Once approved and the number we can have safely in a gathering and the rules, we will then communicate those dates and locations to our Districts and Posts through the Department Email list.

Our VE&E Events are 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, veterans' and participants' safety remain our focus.



Plains community.

Bob was born June 5, 1942, in Hillsboro, Oregon to Arnold and Mary (Boge) Gnos. He was the youngest of five children. He was raised in Hillsboro and graduated from Hill High School with the Class of 1960.

After high school, Bob attended



OSU, where he earned his bachelor's degree in General Science. He met his future wife, Sylvia Jean Basney, when she picked up her brothers from strawberry picking at the Gnos farm.

After a year-long courtship, they were married on June 14, 1963. They made their home in Corvallis while Bob finished college.

After college, he attended USA INF School and was drafted into the Army as a Second Lieutenant. He moved his family to Germany while he served. In 1965, Bob and Sylvia moved to Hillsboro, and in 1969, they bought a farm and made their home in North Plains on Pumpkin Ridge Rd. Bob worked at Irvington-Moore Log Boss Systems until retiring.

Bob always had several projects in process on the farm and was truly, a jack of all trades. He enjoyed working on and restoring old planes at the Hillsboro Airport and loved teaching his grandson Tyler any useful skill he

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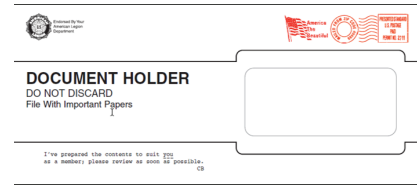


We are mailing Cancer Care on November 10th.

Quick reminder about Cancer Care Insurance:

- Helps pay for the treatment of Cancer
- The money is sent directly to the member. They can decide how they want to use it.
- Pays a dollar amount for various items like hospital stays, radiation and chemotherapy, prescription drugs.

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/Cancer-Care-Insurance.



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

- The next mailing is Travel Accident in December.

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



IN MEMORIAM

Continued from page 10

could, from building birdhouses, riding a quad, to running a chainsaw, all skills he felt were necessary for a young boy to learn. He was very active with the Post 6 American Legion and served as Post Commander. He was also an integral part of the formation of the North Plains Garlic Festival as a way of marketing local goods and bringing notice to the small community of North Plains.

He is preceded in death by his wife Sylvia, his parents, and two siblings, Vernon and Ailene.

He is survived by his children; Dayna Radford of North Plains, Rex Gnos of Hillsboro, three grandchildren; Stephanie, Jonathan, Gregory and eleven great children; Alycia, Triston, Addisyn, Tyler, Julian, Skyler, Arianna, Colton, Kane, Liberty, and Rory.

The family suggests donations in Bob's name to Evergreen Christian Center's Missionary Fund

In Memoriam



Katharine Bland, a 20 year employee of The American Legion Department of Oregon passed peacefully Sept 29, 21 in her home with her family at her side.

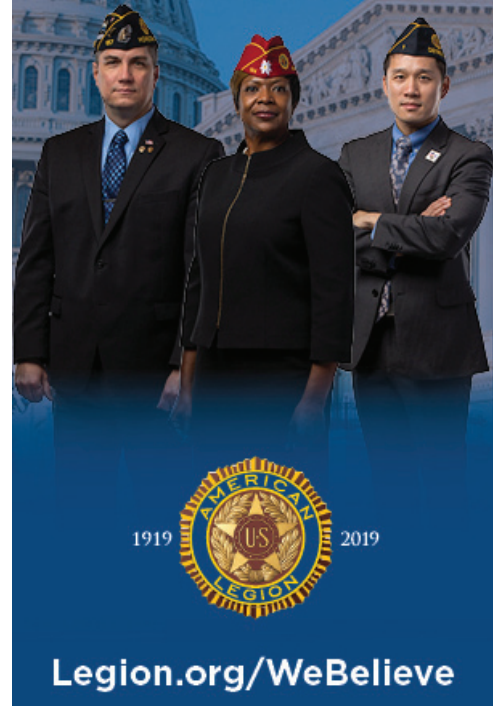
Kathy was a 63 year member of the ALA Starting at Navy Auxiliary 101 and ending at ALA Portland 1. She was also a 61 year member of the 8/40. She was a very involved and devoted person to all veteran organizations.

At this time there will be no services. In January of 2022, there will be a celebration of her life. More information will be sent at a later time.

Cards may be sent to her son Michael, daughters Cheryl (Keith) and Norma Jean (Jim) to:

Norma Jean Siverson
1949 SE Palmquist #45
Gresham, OR 97080

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VETERANS**



**Military help line
for Legionnaires**

<http://militaryhelpline.org>

[/about-us/](http://militaryhelpline.org/about-us/)

Continued from page 7

*I reached out to touch him,
I took hold of his hand.
I asked where he lived,
he said here on this land.*

*The land that I fought for,
the land that I love.
I have no walls around me,
just my wife up above.*

*I wrapped my arm around him,
and asked him to pray.
He lowered his head,
and these words he did say.*

*Dear God if your listening
please take me today.
Take to heaven,
where I know I can stay.*

*My body wont hurt,
my feet will stay warm.
I wont feel so hungry,
or feel so alone.*

*The Visions of war
will erase from my mind.
The sounds of the guns,
will fall far behind.*

*Dear God if your listening
please take me today.
Take me to heaven,
where I know I can stay.*



CJ "Mike" McMichael

CJ "Mike" McMichael



During our monthly meeting, October 4, 2021, I experienced something in which so few Post Commanders will ever get to participate, the presenting of a 75-year patch to a member. When it came time to present the distinguished award, several of his comrades quickly assisted him to his feet. Every member rose in unison, and upon the completion of the presentation of the patch, they all rendered him a proper salute. He later described the emotional event to his family through misty eyes.

Since this was a special event, I knew that I had to pursue this human interest story further, so I called and made an appointment to do a proper interview and learn more about someone that I have known for years.

The first question I asked was, "Do you remember when you joined the American Legion?" The words came slowly as the memories of life rolled by as he returned to Curtis, Nebraska, 1946. His brother-in-law encouraged him to join. His brother-in-law was not a member of the Legion, but upon further questions, we think he might've been a member of the "Forty and Eight."

Mike was drafted into the Army and signed on the dotted line on August 17, 1944, and entered the European Theater of Operations in January 1945 as a combat engineer and served with C Company, 12th Combat Engineers. He spent five months overseas working with a crew doing general repair and construction on roads and bridges.

75 Year Member of Hermiston Post 37

As we chatted, Mike reminisced about when their company ran out of food in the Ruhr Valley in the summer of 1945. Mike and a couple of buddies rowed out into a beautiful lake and commenced fishing with explosives! Upon "luring" the fish to the surface, they gathered up their catch and delivered them to the company cook. The men continued their fishing expeditions for nearly a week keeping the mess tent supplied with the local aquatic cuisine.

When World War II ended, Mike was returned to the States and began additional training for the Pacific Theater. His training came to a halt when Japan surrendered, and Mike was discharged in Atterbury, Indiana, in June of 1946.

Mike paused and shared with me a short story of his older brother, Herbert, who survived the "Bataan Death March."

After returning home, Mike found work on the road crew operating a motor grader for fifty cents an hour. Someone encouraged him to move to eastern Oregon, where he found work at the Umatilla Army Depot, west of Hermiston, and made a whopping \$1.06/hr. as a munitions handler, "I thought I was rolling in money." That was 1947.

Mike couldn't quite remember the date, but he transferred to Sidney, Nebraska, and worked there as a Munitions Inspector. He went into detail about how they inspected the artillery shells for reasons of safety.

continued on page 14

75 Year Member of Hermiston Post 37

CJ “Mike” McMichael

Continued from page 13

After a short time there, he resigned and returned to rural life on his father’s farm. In his own words, “After losing my butt in farming, I returned to Hermiston and was rehired at the Army Depot, and that was during a hiring freeze!”

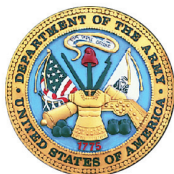
In 1969 Mike and a Surveillance crew went to Viet Nam and worked at several bases in I Corps during a six-month period. Mike retired in 1973, and his wife, Betty, retired from the Army Corps of Engineers in 1974.

When I asked about hobbies and interests, he quickly smiled and listed woodworking, fishing, and hunting. All of his grandkids have received rocking horses and rocking chairs. He even made a cradle that has been passed down thru the generations.

Mike and Betty have nine grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren

Although he can’t remember the dates, he did serve a year as our Post Commander. Mike has suffered several strokes but still manages to attend our monthly meetings. During a Sweet Heart Potluck, Mike was honored with a “Quilt of Valor” made by several local women who created beautiful quilts for military veterans.

To borrow a term from Bob Hope, “Mike, Thanks for the Memories.” Now I have misty eyes.



Old Veterans Organizations Are Fading Away

Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines don’t join the VFW and American Legion like they used to.

By Faith Bottum

Sept. 23, 2021 1:28 pm ET



An honor guard member plays taps on a bugle during a Memorial Day Service in Grove, Ohio, May 31.

PHOTO: STEPHEN ZENNER/ZUMA PRESS

Peggy Randle is 85 and lives alone with her cat, Max, in Boulder City, Nev. She also fires rifles at veterans’ funerals. A nurse in the Navy during the Vietnam War, Ms. Randle belongs to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and other organizations that help provide military honors when soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines are laid to rest.

“The cat isn’t much of a conversationalist,” she says, “and I still have something to give. I can still stand up there and fire that M1. I can still help with the 13 flag-fold. I can still do all of those things, and I’m going to do them as long as I can.”

Veterans across the country report the same experience: declining membership in the VFW and American

Legion, and the difficulty putting together honor guards for funerals. The VFW had its origin in 1899 gatherings of veterans of the Spanish-American War. The American Legion began after World War I, at a 1919 meeting in Paris. Both started as essentially interest groups but quickly grew into vast national networks of local social clubs.

Those clubs would host civic programs such as essay contests, Friday fish fries and scholarships for veterans’ children. The American Legion’s summer baseball program was once so extensive that few high schools bothered to organize their own teams, and more than 3,400 local teams are still active today.

The American Legion Isn't Going Anywhere

National Commander Paul E. Dillard's response to a Sept. 24th Wall Street Journal piece was published in today's edition. Below is that response. For reference, I have included the piece by editorialist Faith Bottum, as well. John Raughter



Predictions of the veterans organization's demise have been off before.

The Sept. 24 op-ed by Faith Bottum (“Old

PAUL DILLARD
NATIONAL COMMANDER
Veterans Organizations Are Fading Away”) is eerily similar to another Journal article: “American Legion, Once Civic and Social Power is Slowly Fading Away” by reporter P.F. Kluge. “The old members are dying off and the young ones aren’t interested,” says a veteran quoted in Mr. Kluge’s piece. “Younger veterans simply don’t join clubs the way older generations did,” writes Ms. Bottum.

I must have been one of the veterans that Mr. Kluge believed wasn’t interested. You see, his piece was [published on May 19, 1971](#). More than 50 years later, the American Legion is still here and it is still the largest veterans organization in the country. In recent years, the American Legion has been the lead organization responsible for the passage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the VA Mission Act and the Veteran Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act. In fiscal year 2020, our corps of more than 3,000 service officers and representatives across the nation was responsible for obtaining more than \$14.25 billion in compen-

sation benefits earned by veterans and their families.

The 2016 Democratic and Republican nominees for president must not have believed we were fading away when they both chose to attend our national convention and address our delegates in the middle of a busy campaign season.

There are more than twice as many American Legion Posts in the U.S. today as there are Walmarts. The Journal was wrong 50 years ago and is off base today.

PAUL E. DILLARD

Indianapolis

(Mr. Dillard is National Commander of The American Legion)

Departments: get money back for member dues after meeting criteria



Photo by Ben Mikesell/The American Legion

The American Legion
OCT 07, 2021

FacebookTwitterMore20

In his closing remarks to the National Executive Committee Oct. 7 during the annual Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard announced a new membership incentive for departments.

Any department that attains 103 percent of its 2022 membership goal and achieves at least a 90 percent retention rate will later receive \$18.50 for each member dues transmitted over that 103 percent. Departments must meet both criteria – 103 percent membership and 90 percent retention – to qualify for this incentive. Meeting just one of these qualifiers does not count.

For purposes of this incentive, the membership counted will end on Oct. 1, 2022. You will still transmit dues as normal, but a check will be issued after everything is tallied up.





Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 12, 2021

The Honorable Kate Brown
Governor
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Oregon Military Department
Attn: Major General Michael E. Stencel
1776 Military Way SE
PO Box 14350
Salem, OR 97309-5047

Governor Brown and Major General Stencel:

We write to inform you of disturbing reports we've received from multiple Oregon National Guard (ORNG) members during their recent deployment to Oregon hospitals and other health care sites to assist with our state's COVID-19 response. The reports allege mismanagement, lack of organization, delay of benefits and pay, and failure to pay what ORNG members are owed. Such treatment of our service members should be unacceptable.

On August 13, 2021, you announced that up to 1,500 Oregon National Guard Members would be deployed across Oregon to assist with the state's surge in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

We call your attention to the following reports we've received from ORNG members regarding this deployment:

- During this deployment, ORNG Members have reported that the State purposely allowed initial orders to lapse and then issued new orders, instead of extending current orders. This has resulted in ORNG members not qualifying for benefit increases and pay they would normally qualify for after 30 days of consecutive service, including the basic housing allowance (BHIA), TRICARE, and more.
- Once ORNG members were activated and had completed normal administrative tasks prior to deployment, the State was unprepared to quickly place them in areas of need. ORNG members received contradictory information about where they would serve, waiting and wasting days of their deployment. It appears the State preemptively activated ORNG members before determining the logistics of deployment and the needs of respective hospitals.
- While some ORNG members were able to wait out the State's delay at home, others were forced to reserve hotels or find other accommodation with their own money – which some could not afford – with the promise they would be reimbursed in the future.
- As late as mid-September, some ORNG members had not yet been deployed or received pay. They were in limbo, away from their families, forced to arrange for childcare and other needs in their absence, and unable to work their civilian jobs.
- ORNG Members have also shared that their travel vouchers have not been recognized, resulting in Members having to pay out of their own pocket for travel related to their orders.
- ORNG members have informed us about a lack of mental health resources to cope with the acute challenges they face while assisting COVID-19 patients who are gravely ill or dying.

These reports indicate a concerning pattern about the management of this recent ORNG deployment. ORNG members have also reported similar concerns about previous deployments.

ORNG Members are fellow Oregonians who give their time and sacrifice to serve our communities in times of need. Many ORNG Members have full-time jobs, families, and other responsibilities that they willingly pause in order to serve their fellow Oregonians. ORNG Members' heroic efforts are bolstering hospitals and helping our communities and loved ones during a deadly pandemic. ORNG members deserve effective and efficient leadership, support, and management, and they deserve to receive the full pay and benefits they have earned.

Given the multiple reports our offices have received, it is clear these issues are systemic and cannot be addressed case-by-case. We expect a detailed response from the State addressing all of these issues, and we call on you to immediately rectify any and all of these troubling accounts.

We look forward to your response. Thank you for your attention to these issues.

Sincerely,

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress

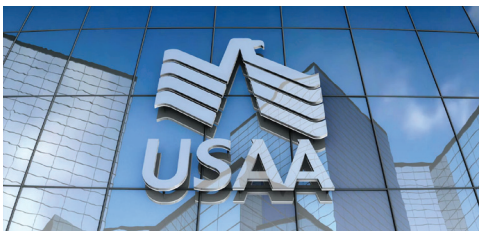
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

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Afghanistan - Navy Seal

"As a Senior NCO with over 52 months of combat and many years of therapy, this workshop has brought peace, understanding and shown me my life's purpose."

All Senior Leadership should take this!"

Iraq & Afghanistan - Army Veteran

"I am free of my anger."

Vietnam - Army Veteran

"A great sense of peace and understanding of the things I create for myself."

Iraq - Veteran

"I have been in therapy for seven years and nothing has made this kind of difference. This Workshop has changed my life and I can now have a great marriage and a better life."

Afghanistan - Army Nurse

Workshop Logistic information:

Online via Zoom (8 hours total)

(one 2 hour session per week for 4 weeks)

When: ***See www.NA2EVS.org/Events***

Why: To empower and enable you to bring peace and purpose to your life and produce the results that you want at a new level of effectiveness.

What: Workshop led by Vietnam era Combat Veteran, who has trained thousands of people around the world, and will give you powerful tools to experience a quantum leap in aliveness!

Pre-registration required:

Register at www.na2evs.org/events

For more information contact:

Rod Wittmier, rod.wittmier@na2evs.org

For workshop details, videos and amazing testimonies visit: **www.na2evs.org/ovf**



**PNC, CHARLES E. SCHMIDT
PR CHAIR**

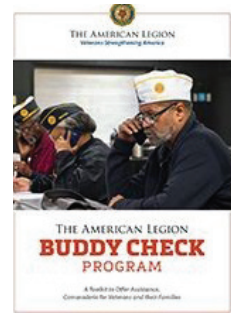
of The American Legion birthday and of Veterans Day..." and "...That the "Buddy Check" weeks be the primary operational focus of every member, post, department and the National Headquarters..."

National Resolution #18 (attached) states "...That the process of "Buddy Check" be made formal and executed Legion-wide concurrent with the weeks

As we in the Department of Oregon approach Veterans Day (November 11, 2021), let us be reminded of our responsibility mandated by Resolution #18 that each Post/District/Department conduct Buddy Checks during the week of November 7-13, 2021. Your Public Relations Committee encourages each of you in your travels, visitations, and communications to promote the Buddy Check program throughout our department. *The Buddy Check Program Toolkit* (pictured to the right) is found at www.legion.org/media/publications/membership and provides detailed information on how to conduct this incredible outreach program to connect with members and non-member

veterans, inquiring as to their health and welfare.

The American Legion was founded on concern, concern for the quality of life for the veteran battle buddies of WWI. What better time to show our concern than the week of 2021 Veterans Day by checking on our buddies. How many Buddy Checks can our Department record? Our Department membership is somewhere in the neighborhood of 14,000 members.



Veterans Strengthening America

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
May 8-9, 2019
Indianapolis, Indiana**

**Resolution No. 18: Buddy Check
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission**

WHEREAS, At its core, The American Legion is an organization by, for, and about veterans of our United States; and

WHEREAS, Serving those who serve is an honor and distinction not unique to The American Legion, but one Legionnaires should endeavor to serve as an example for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, Our most sacred responsibility is to care for our fellow men and women who served this nation with honor; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaires are naturally inclined, through demonstrated commitment to serve something greater than self, to extend hearts and hands to others; and

WHEREAS, Our duty is to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; and

WHEREAS, Only with servant leadership and direct contact can we uncover needs and priorities of our warriors and avert any crisis; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaires shall conduct veteran outreach as part of their daily routine; and

WHEREAS, Legionnaires at all levels join together at least twice per year to contact all members both active and expired with a health and welfare check to be known as "Buddy Check"; and

WHEREAS, "Buddy Check" is not a membership drive or attempt to solicit participation in, or donations for, American Legion programs, it is solely a health and welfare check or offer of assistance; and

WHEREAS, This resolution has the concurrence of the Media & Communications Commission and the Marketing Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in Regular Meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 8-9, 2019, That the process of "Buddy Check" be made formal and executed Legion-wide concurrent with the weeks of The American Legion birthday and of Veterans Day; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the "Buddy Check" be promoted through national and department marketing, media and social media campaigns; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the "Buddy Check" weeks be the primary operational focus of every member, post, department and the National Headquarters; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That results of each "Buddy Check" week be established as a reportable item on the annual Consolidated Post Report.



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		<p>From Your American Legion Department</p>



CORY BROCKMAN
2ND VICE COMMANDER

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) will honor all veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces during the 2021 Statewide

Veterans Day Celebration —

which will return to an outdoor and in-person format this year, within public health guidelines.

The event will feature remarks by federal, state and local dignitaries and ceremonial elements such as a color guard, national anthem, wreath presentation and the playing of "Taps." Attendees should please be advised that this year's event will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 10 — **the day before Veterans Day**. The event will be hosted at the Oregon State Capitol Park located on Court Street Northeast in downtown Salem — directly in front of the Oregon State Capitol Building.

While the celebration will honor Oregon veterans of all eras, there will be a special focus on the contributions of Vietnam War-era veterans. The event will be followed by an optional walking tour of the site of the future Oregon Vietnam War Memorial, led by Vietnam War Memorial Fund President Steve Bates.

The event is open to the public and limited seating will be provided for attendees. Accessible pathways and seating areas for those needing ac-



commodations will also be provided. Attendees are reminded to wear a mask, maintain social distancing, and plan accordingly for Oregon weather.

"We are grateful to be able to host an in-person event this year, in a safe, socially distanced format designed to ensure the health and safety of participants and attendees," said Kelly Fitzpatrick, director of ODVA, which is organizing the event with the help of state and local partners. "We are especially honored to be able to host this important event in such a prominent location, in the heart of our state capital. This day reminds us of the great debt that we owe our nation's heroes; they deserve to be recognized and honored — not only on Veterans Day, but every day."

For those unable to attend, the event will also be livestreamed on ODVA's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/odvavet>.

###

Stay connected with the latest veteran information #oregonvet

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All 7 living former SECVA's seek 'National Warrior Call Day' to raise military suicide awareness

By James R. Webb | Oct 5, 06:00 AM

All seven living former Veterans Affairs secretaries are calling for Sun., Nov. 21, to be declared "National Warrior Call Day" to draw public awareness to veteran and military suicide. "As former secretaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs, we understand firsthand the challenges active-duty service members and veterans face and the need for their peers, friends, and family to lift them up," the former VA Secretaries sent to Congress reads.

The former secretaries circulated a letter on Capitol Hill, urging Congress to make the date official by passing a proposed amendment to the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act. It is signed by Anthony Principi (4th VA secretary), Jim Nicholson (5th VA secretary), James B. Peake (6th VA secretary), Eric Shinseki (7th VA secretary), Robert A. McDonald (8th VA secretary), David Shulkin (9th VA secretary) and Robert Wilkie (10th VA secretary). *Continued on page 20*



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PHILIPS
Lifeline

All 7 living former SECVAs seek 'National Warrior Call Day' to raise military suicide awareness

Continued from page 19

By James R. Webb

The "Warrior Call Day" amendment is based on a bipartisan resolution introduced in, but not passed out of, the House by Representatives Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) and Elaine Luria (D-Va.). As an amendment to the NDAA, it seeks to raise awareness about suicide among veterans and military members by urging Americans to reach out to them and "let them know they care" through a call.

"The goal is to have individuals make a call, take a call," the letter reads. In addition to a day of uplift and compassion with active-duty personnel, it also hopes to provide enhanced connectivity between veterans in need and the VA. According to the letter, "roughly two-thirds" of veterans who die by suicide "had no contact with the VA."

Warrior Call is designed to address the pressing challenge of military and veteran suicide. Lawmakers understand by now that military suicide outpaces the public in a significant way. The resolution presents some of the relevant statistics succinctly, including:

- The number of suicides of members of the armed forces serving on active duty increased to 377 in 2020, compared to 348 the previous year.
- Veteran suicide has steadily increased since 2014 with 6,435 veterans taking their own lives in 2018, though dipped modestly in 2019. (The most recent VA data on veteran suicides show that the 6,261 veteran deaths by suicide in 2019 are 399

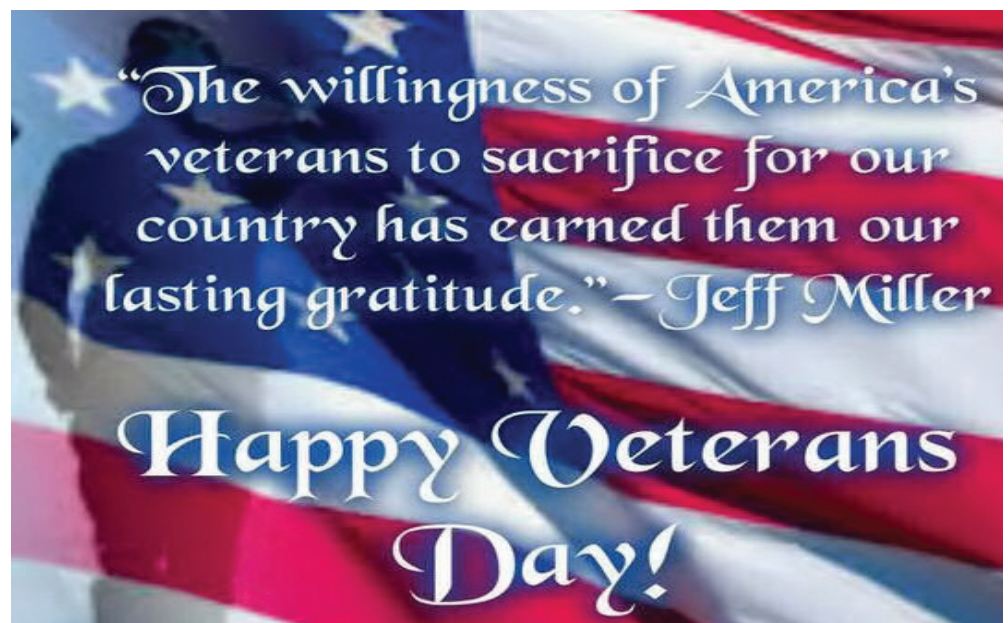
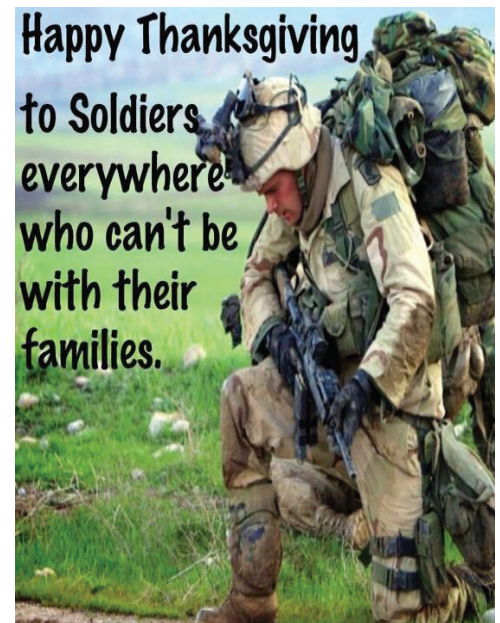
fewer than 2018 and equate to about 17 per day. That figure is well below the often-quoted "22 a day" statistic regarding veterans suicide, which was based on an estimate used by VA officials a decade ago. When factoring in active-duty military, reservists and other associated groups, the total is closer to 20 a day.)

- After adjusting for sex and age, the rate of veteran suicide in 2018 was 27.5 per 100,000 individuals, higher than the rate among all United States adults at 18.3.

According to the secretaries, calls to veterans will "help connect veterans into the VA system," thereby reducing the number of veterans who take their own lives annually.

"It is not an overstatement to note that increasing connection within the military community and steering individuals to important resources will save lives," the letter reads.

Veterans experiencing a mental health emergency can contact the Veteran Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and select option 1 for a VA staffer. Veterans, troops or their family members can also text 838255 or visit VeteransCrisisLine.net for assistance.





Vincent James "Jim" Troiola

Aloha Post 104 invites you to come and dine with the Leading Candidate for The American Legion National Commander (2022-2023), Past National Vice Commander Jim Troiola on his tour in Oregon.

There will be a **Town Hall** type of meeting from **3:00-5:00 PM**. We at Post 104 are inviting all other posts in District 1 to attend the Town Hall and Dinner.

A dinner invitation is extended to the American Legion Family.

TIME: 5 - 6 :00 PM Social hour
6 - 8:00 PM Dinner



DATE: November 19th.

Dinner is \$15 a plate. RSVP to Susan Hughes no later than November 15th.
RSVP by e-mail if you are attending the Town Hall.

mountainlady4u@hotmail.com

Menu: Chicken cordon Bleu, Potato, Vegetable /Roll, Dessert

Address: 20325 SW Alexander Street Aloha, OR 97003

Directions: <https://goo.gl/maps/CjeAcR5ubHvp6SMp7>

New TALARC net on West Coast



Alex N7AWK, a member of N7ALA, helps work the 9/11 commemorative station.
(Photo via Denise Emery)

been asked to host a ham class at the post – and across the country; N7ALA is the only current net in the West.

The first net reached a number of states and went “great as [far as] getting interest, and this will grow,” she adds. N7ALA conducts other events that garner more contacts, such as a commemorative special event station over the September 11 weekend.

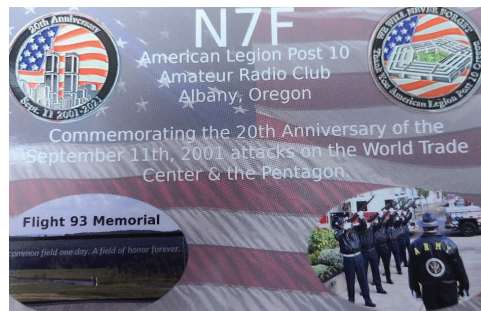
The N7ALA 20 meter net starts at 14.250 MHz., 10 a.m. Pacific time on Mondays. Learn more details about this and all TALARC nets here.

MARLAND RICE The American Legion POST 10 SEP 16, 2021

The local distribution of American Legion ham radio activities continues, with the establishment of a new TALARC (The American Legion Amateur Radio Club) weekly net out of Oregon.

Denise Emery N7OSU is an Auxiliary member connected to American Legion Post 10 in Albany and a ham radio operator. She and the post radio club (call sign N7ALA, for American Legion, Albany) recently stood up a Monday net on 20 meters. She says the decision to start a TALARC net came “because it would be a fun activity, and a way to get new hams interested with the more experienced hams we have as local volunteers.” N7ALA has been in operation for a few months, with five current members. Emery’s interest in ham radio comes from “being married to a vet who loved radio and being raised by a radio operator who was in World War II.” She gives credit to post commander David Solomon; “without his support, this would not have happened.”

The new net is a way to increase relationships and communication both in their area – Emery says the club has



The QSL card was sent out to the contacts we made. I think we did good and had a lot of fun doing this. We had a digital operator, and he is still working on his contacts. We were able to contact a group of vets at the New York site.

For September 11, we had five operators who made over 800 contacts and ran for three days. Our call sign is N7F for Never Forget. On the net at 14.250 Monday at 10:00 using call sign N7ALA – November 7 American Legion Albany, Denise N7OSU

<https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/n7f-september-11th-20th-anniversary-special-event.777543/>

<https://www.legion.org/hamradio/253696/new-talarc-net-west-coast>



We're giving thanks this year to our Military and Veterans who keep us safe every Thanksgiving.





THE AMERICAN LEGION

Veterans Strengthening America

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

WWW.LEGION.ORG • 1608 K ST. N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-2801 • P: (317) 861-2700

October 29, 2021

The Honorable Rep. Nancy Pelosi
The Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rep. Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sen. Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sen. Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Rep. McCarthy, Sen. Schumer and Sen. McConnell,

The American Legion fully understands the need to enact safety protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, our entire leadership team was in the U.S. Capitol as my predecessor testified before a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs on March 11, 2020. It was the same day that the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic and our nation was forever changed.

From that point on The American Legion has strongly encouraged our members to listen to the guidance provided by the Center for Disease Control, practice social distancing and wear masks when appropriate. We've encouraged our members to get vaccinated and partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs to use many of our American Legion posts as sites for coronavirus testing and vaccine distribution.

While we do understand the need to prioritize safety, we also feel a sense of disappointment that access inside the U.S. Capitol is still very limited. I am eager to present our important legislative priorities in person before a joint session of the Veterans Affairs' Committees in March of 2022 but have cancelled the visits on the hill by members of The American Legion during our annual Washington Conference. Instead, I am encouraging members to reach out to their congressional delegations in their home offices.

Personal interactions and relationships with our elected officials are essential to The American Legion and the proper functioning of our democracy. Our remarkable legislative achievements such as the passage of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 to the more recent VA MISSION Act of 2018 are due in large part to the face-to-face contact between Legionnaires and their senators and representatives in Washington.

As wartime veterans, no one understands better than our members that accomplishing the mission may mean accepting some risk. While we understand the need for responsible measures, we also recall the words of Benjamin Franklin: "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety." It is my sincere hope that through your leadership, Congress can increase the access between the people and their elected representatives. The People's House should not be closed to groups such as ours a day longer than necessary.



No Veteran Left Behind,

Paul E. Dillard

Paul E. Dillard
National Commander

CC: The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States



Not everyone goes home for Thanksgiving, Please pray for our Military who are far away from home during this Thanksgiving.



Answer: B. Eugene V Debs

- Labor activist Eugene V. Debs was arrested in 1918 under the Sedition Act of that year for his anti-war speeches. While still in prison, he was nominated as the presidential candidate of the Socialist Party. His sentence was commuted in 1921 by President Harding. Big Bill Haywood, who, like Debs, was an early leader of the International Workers of the World, was also indicted for sedition, but fled to Russia, where he lived the rest of his life. Samuel Gompers, the first president of the American Federation of Labor, was not a radical like Debs and Haywood, and did not run for office. Gangster Al Capone, who went to federal prison on tax evasion charges in 1932, was not involved in politics (at least not legitimately).



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 _____

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

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.

Date _____
Received From _____
\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues
Recruiter's Name _____
Recruiter's Signature _____
Recruiter's Phone # _____