The Oregon Legionnaire

The Voice of Oregon's Veterans Since 1919 January 2022



Notes from Commanders

Commission Reports, Auxiliary, SAL,

Trivia and so much more...

Cover Story

Wreaths Across America
Page 7
and Pages 24-25





DON WEBER **DEPT COMMANDER**

It is exciting to see activities picking as we move through the virus blues. Reconnecting Veterans is much easier as we can

move around and make personal

contact with fellow Veterans. The Post activities show how much every one of you is embracing connecting with fellow Veterans through Buddy Checks and checking in on each other.

We are receiving preliminary information on the National's ideas on reducing Veteran Suicide. When our Leading Candidate for National Commander, Jim Troiola, came to visit, he told us about upcoming training for all of us. In the meantime, continue to pay attention to your fellow Veterans, and if they are feeling down, talk with them and don't be afraid to make a referral. Jim's theme next year is "no Veteran left behind," which fits in with

our theme this year.

Continue to keep up the excellent work supporting programs. Working the programs will increase the visibility in the community and make every Veteran want to be a part of this great organization.

I would like to visit with every Post this year, so please send a note to Department if you have events coming up. I really enjoy the diverse ways every Post comes up to support the Programs and stay in touch with our members.

Greetings

Thank you

Happy

Prepare for Oratorical Contests and Initiation Ceremonies



LARRY WITTMAYER DEPT1ST-VICE COMMANDER

At the end November, I had the opportunity to attend our National American Legion College to learn from our organization's brightest and work

with a very great team. What an excellent opportunity.

I have attended Internal Affairs meetings on the District Seven and Eight proposed merger and will be attending leadership team meetings in the future. I am also planning on visiting District 3 and District 9 at their district meetings.

In the words of our great National Commander Paul Dillard, we need to solicit smiles and do our buddy checks.

We will be fortunate to have National Vice Commander Higuera visit on the 5th through the 8th and attend our winter DEC which will be held in Wilsonville on the 8th of January through 9.

We all know that recruiting is a promise, and retention delivers that promise.

Our current membership status shows excellent progress. Our ranking is number 22 in the nation, with 70.75% of the goal met. This year's membership campaign is making great strides, congratulations everyone, for all the hard work.



CORY BROCKMANN

family dur-DEPT 2ND-VICE COMMANDER ing the holiday season! Whether it was by cards, texts, phone calls, or in-person, each was appreciated more than you know or that I can express in words here, so I simply say, thank you!

It is now time to get rolling again!

The Department Oratorical Committee members have been busily preparing and supporting efforts for oratorical contests. Please continue to help support your post and district oratorical committees and, in turn, our youth. This is an outstanding program that leads high school students to a better understanding of our U.S. Constitution, responsibilities of citizenship, and in development of their

Continued from page 2

CORY BROCKMANN leadership DEPT 2ND-VICE COMMANDER abilities. The youth that I have been fortunate to witness and participate in our oratorical program are exciting examples of our leaders of tomorrow.

Please, help however you can, be it recruiting students or helping conduct contests, you will not be disappointed! If you don't know where to start, begin with contacting your post or district commander and adjutant and let them know you're ready to help.

"No veteran left behind." Membership is always a present and ready task that needs our attention. Has your post developed a strategy to buddy check - engage - all of its members? The strategy doesn't have to be complex, nor is it too late to get started. Keep it simple. Develop a list of individuals to contact, be it by week or month, then share lists among members that can make calls, send emails, or make home visits. With just a little organization and coordination, you can be making a positive difference in the life of a veteran and their family. Buddy checks make a difference. You can help be that difference.

The Membership and Post-Activities Commission has been very active in regular communications to post and district leadership on membership status and, more importantly, their willingness to help support you. Contact your post commander and adjutant and let them know you want to help make a difference.

Lastly, my prayer for each of you, that you have a healthy and happy 2022! Thank you for your continued selfless service and sacrifice to our nation.

Department Officers

Commander Don Weber Imed. Past Cmdr Steve Adams 1st Vice Cmdr Larry Wittmayer 2nd Vice Cmdr Cory Brockmann Adjutant S. Flynn Phillips Kevin Owens **NECman** 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 Mike Morris Asst Sgt-At-Arms Asst Sgt-At-Arms Ward Allen

Need to Know Dates

January

Initiation Ceremonies Prepare for Oratorical MLK Day

Februry

Looking forward to Oratorical

March

Community Service Legion Birthday St Patricks Day Boys State Selection



S. FLYNN PHILLIPS
DEPT ADJUTANT

Since the beginning of April when the new MyLegion change over began, the membership reports and getting people access was incred-

ibly challenging. Most adjutants

are online now with some out there still not getting online. This is the future so if you are one of those Post's that say they don't use computers, then you need to get some younger folks that will do the hard work of the adjutant.

We had a large Post send in a huge stack of memberships cards to process and they held on to them way to long, and that cost the department to miss its target goal, and this affects the Post as well, as they could have had a goal ribbon etc.

Hanging on to membership hurts everyone. The Legionnaire is expecting their membership card mailed to them as soon as possible so that person can balance their checkbook. If you are a Post Adjutant that needs help getting online and help learning how to process membership the new way, please call and I will help you.

Our visit from the leading candidate for National Commander James Vincent Troiola was a tremendous success. He thoroughly enjoyed visiting all the posts we took him too.

The Wreaths across America event at Willamette National Cemetery was inspiring. The Department Commanders was asked by the event coordinator to join the event sponsors and help with next year's event. 2nd Vice Commander Cory Brockmann was instrumental in getting a group together to attend the event.

As part of next years' event, we can have the Cemetery rake the leaves in the section of where the wreaths are laid so the wreaths will not be overshadowed by the fallen leaves covering the grave markers. The scene would make a better picture of the event for sure, and possibly we get a battery operated loud speaker for the event speakers as no one could hear them speak. *Continued on page 4*

I am repeating this paragraph as it is important. We started our new Budget Year on October 1, 2021. Our Budget and Tax year is October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022. The Budget for 2021-2022, which was approved at our Department Convention, provides a Budget for our programs, our officers, our district commanders, all of which have responsibilities to perform in their office or function. We revisit the Budget monthly as the Budget is put together with all information that we have available; CO-VID did not help in our assumptions.

We have processes for when items that are budgeted or that are our duties are not performed that we must reduce the budget line for that function. As our new Budget started on October 1, 2021, I have reviewed the Oregon Legionnaire for October and November and now December 2021 and am alarmed at the number of district commanders and chairs that have not submitted articles for the Legionnaire.

I would like to congratulate and thank District 1 Commander Lou Neubecker, who always provides a Legionnaire Article of the activity in his



On January 6, 1920, the Boston Red Sox sold this player to the New York Yankees, changing baseball history forever.

- A. Joe DiMaggio
- B. Babe Ruth
- C. Lou Gehrig
- D. Tony Lazzeri

District and messages to his mem bers. That is the purpose of placing articles in the Legionnaire.

For the Months of October, November, and December 2021, we will be reducing the budget line on those required to write articles in the Oregon Legionnaire that have not submitted articles. District Commanders, Chairs, this is your means of communicating to your Districts and Chairs information of your programs and what is going on in your programs. Also, all Officers, District Commanders, Chairs will be holding our Department Budget Meeting in February. You are required to submit your budget requests for your function; if not submitting Legionnaire Articles and Book of Reports, do you need Budget if nothing is going on? There is a lot going on in this Department.

As I asked all the District Commanders during our Fall DEC, when making their Post visitations and Post assessment, to verify that their Posts have filed their 990 Taxes. If the Post has not filed in three years, the IRS will revoke their EIN numbers, and they will lose their 501 c19 status. This is part of the District Commanders assessment of each Post in their District.

We took a lower membership quota for income for our 2021-2022 Budget year. As I reviewed our membership numbers in December, we are behind our membership at the same time last year. We cannot continue to reduce



our membership; we are holding our 2022-2023 Budget meeting in February; we will have to make some serious decisions on which direc-



go, which DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER will be presented to the DEC in our spring meeting. 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 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, and 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, and we have plenty of opportunities for a great year.

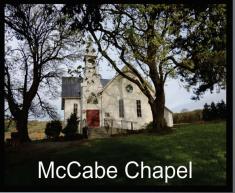
Continued from page 3

S. FLYNN PHILLIPS We are pres-DEPT ADJUTANT ently preparing for Jim Higuera

the National Vice Commander to visit the Department right before the DEC, and he will make a presentation on Saturday January 8th. His focus will be visiting Posts in the District 7 area.

The Fall DEC was well attended in spite of being all masked up for covid.





The American Legion Department of Oregon Four Chaplains Memorial Service at McCabe Chapel

Let us remember and honor these four brave WWII Chaplains, and never let their memories die.

Service will be at the McCabe Chapel 13150 McCabe Chapel Rd McMinnville, Oregon 97128 FEBRUARY 6, 2022

12:00 noon: Documentary Movie

<u>The Four Chaplains: Sacrifice at Sea</u>

1:15 Four Chaplains Memorial Service

Contact Information: Chaplain Steven D. Shollenburg, 971-241-8925 Adjutant S. Flynn Phillips, 503-685-5009





PDC, Kevin Owens NECMAN

The Holidays have passed, and I hope everyone took the time to cherish the most imporpeople tant in your life. As we move on to a new

NECMAN year, we need to start thinking of the programs that are ahead of us. You might ask why so soon? It takes time to contact the schools, look for funding, and prep the youth and the program; this is what makes a program a success or failure.

Our programs are what make someone want to join our organization. The more visibility we have, the greater the chance is to increase each Post membership. Our National Commander has asked all of us to do Buddy Checks and look at the 2020 expired lists to get our members we don't hear from or hear from us engaged in the American Legions. Second, get those members who did not renew for one reason or another. If someone joined our ranks for a reason, they must have stopped for one also.

We all come from different walks of life and diverse backgrounds, but we all have one common bond, and that is our service to our Nation. We all bear the responsibility to ensure we just don't fade away as an organization. I encourage all of you to be signed up for the action alerts that come from National, which comes our voice with our Congressman and Senators on bills that affect Veterans. Also, I highly encourage you to read the news clips, weekly reports on VE&E, VA&R, and the Legislative reports that come out.

Editors Notes

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



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

The Oregon Legionnaire Committee

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Chairman

Members Daniel Burks

David Applegate Iaun Palacios

orlegionnaire@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

January *Initiation Ceremonies* 01 Happy New Year

18 MLK Day (Nat'l Closed)

February Oratorical Coming your way

15 Preidents' Day (Nat'l

Closed)

27-2 Washington Conference

March Community Service Month

2-4 Dept Officer School

12 District 1 Meeting

15-17 TAL Birthday

17 St Parick's Day

Legionnaire HospitalHELP Insurance Plan

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



Endorsed By Your American Legion Department

LEARN MORE

Deadline

for the **December** issue

of the

Oregon Legionnaire

is November 5th, 2021

Continued from page 5

PDC, KEVIN OWENS The informa-NECMAN tion is essential, and it shows the hard work the American Legion does each day, not just us but on behalf of all Veterans, members or not. I want to thank all of you for working so hard each day to make the lives better for someone who may be in need during their time of despair. Remember that each day, many Veterans choose to end their life, because they feel no hope. The American Legion can be their hope.



PNVC, PDC, ROB LIEBENOW

A & A COMMISSION CHAIR

Spending time at department headquarters, working membership, I see the office's day-to-day operations.

The most significant is-

sues that they face are from post officers, commission, and committee chairs. Required paperwork not submitted in a timely manner or not at all. If the department commander is not communicating with the district commanders, in turn, they are not communicating with the post commanders, then we have a problem, and members ask, why is the department staff not getting the required work done. Simple, too many people are not turning in their reports. As you go through the Book of Reports, please notice how many reports are missing and from whom. Look at the membership report and see which posts are not submitting membership on a timely basis. It is not the department staff; it is you, the members, not doing your part in the operations of this department.

74 ORB

S. FLYNN PHILLIPS
DEPT. ADJUTANT

Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Willamette National Cemetery

At 2nd Vice Commander Cory Brockmann's invitation, and Event Coordinator John Pierson, and 15 of us vol-

unteered to lay wreaths on the grave markers at the Cemetery on December 18th. Volunteers included Dept Commanders Don Weber, 1st Vice Larry Wittmayer, 2nd Vice Cory Brockmann along with District 1 President Kathryn Brockmann, Department Chaplain Steve Shollenburg along with Department President Debra Godwin, District 2 President Gregoria Hernandez, Department Administrative Assistant Mary Laudon and Lynn Newton, David Ostoja and son, Betty Fish-Ferguson, PNVC Rob Liebenow and Linda Liebenow along with their grandsons, and the man behind the camera Historian Dick Winders.

John Pierson invited the Department to join in with next year's planning of the event as He comes all they from Roseburg.

The Wreaths were assigned by the Cemetery for sections E and F. We will ask next year to have the sections freshly mowed and leaved removed to make a better photographic presentation, Volunteers need to remove the leaves at each marker to be able to rea the person's name and then say their name aloud.





Cover Story



















MIKE Sowles BSFBALL CHAIR

The Ameri-Legion can brings costeffective programs to the youth of Oregon. Many of our youth would not be able to afford

programs such as those provided

them without the help of the American Legion. Your American Legion Posts and donors/sponsors of legion programs bridge the gap of costs to the players and families involved.

The Oregon Baseball Committee consists of 13 members. The Committee is made up of four legion members and nine nonlegion members. All providing leadership and to this American Legion Program. Many of these members are managers, coaches, and staff of our teams and other high school and college teams. These members wish continued growth of Oregon Legion Baseball. These managers and coaches are the brain trusts and workers of the program. Without them, Oregon American Legion Baseball would not provide the leadership and opportunity to our 40 teams and 700 players in Oregon.

The Oregon Baseball Committee has had two planning meetings since the season ended in early August 2021.

The Committee has dealt with many issues, such as recruiting new teams, replacement of vital committee members, solving issues of Change to our program, due to National American Legion changes of our rules, Covid issues, public relations, scheduling events around and in between high school sports programs and other calendar conflicts, playing field usage for our teams. Including backup locations for our tournaments due to smoke, heat and other issues that may

Online registration for American Legion Baseball teams begins January 1, 2022. Rule books will be online in February 2022.

The Committee has set up the Oregon Legion Baseball dates and locations for the 2022 summer Tournament.

The Single-A tournament will be played from July 20 through July 24 at Bob Brack Field in Aurora, Oregon (North Marion High School), followed up by the winning team being sent to Play their regional tournament in Price, Utah, from August 4 through August 9, 2022.

The Triple AAA tournament will be at Legion Field in Roseburg, Oregon. July 24 through July 28, 2022, with the Champion moving on to Gillette, Wyoming, with tournament dates of August 3 through August 7, 2022.

Ameri-Legion World Series Shelby North Carolina, August through August 16, 2022.





PDC, Kevin Owens **OALF PRESIDENT**

The Ameri-Legion Foundation. What can it do for your Post? The Foundation has funds that could help support one of your youth programs well as helping

veterans in your area. The process is simple, fill out the grant request that provides the amount needed and reason and send it to Department. Once

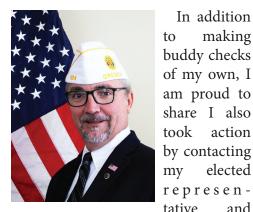
the grant is received, it is reviewed to ensure it falls under an American Legion program. If it meets the requirements, it is voted on by the Board. We hope to have approved grants done within 72 hours, but if the need arises, they could be processed within hours on emergencies. We see very few requests which make me wonder if the word is not getting out. I encourage all Posts not to let a chance to send that boy to Boys State, the opportunity to help a Veteran, or provide support to the Scouting Troop. The Oregon American Legion Foundation is a 501(c3) and is a way to get donations from your community to help your

Post. We are here to help in any way, but you need to ask. We can't help if we don't know. Please take time to educate yourself on this great op-portunity you can't lose.

Thank you



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



tative and CORY BROCKMANN sought their DEPT 2ND-VICE COMMANDER support of S. 544 / H.R. 3405.

In addition

making

action

elected

tary of Veterans Affairs to designate one week each year as "Buddy Check Week" for the purpose of outreach

Both bills seek to direct the Secre-

Help support S. 544 / H.R. 3405 – "Buddy Check" bills

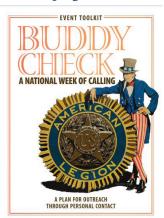
and education concerning peer wellness checks for veterans. Additionally, the VA would also be tasked with developing a plan for handling the potential increase in calls that may occur during such week.

It's not too late for you to take action and give your support!

The American Legion's Legislative Action Center provides an outstanding resource for members, which provides ease of use to identify their elected officials, find legislation needing support, and even draft and transmit

responses to their elected officials.

Access the Legislative Action Center at https://www.votervoice.net/Ameri- canLegion/Campaigns



Project Outreach: Helps engage Veterans and Public



Every day veterans struggle mental with health issues that significantly impact their lives, their memfamily bers, and the

communities in which they live. In the worst cases, veterans that have already sacrificed so much in serving our country end up taking their own lives. Mental health treatment and veteran suicide prevention remain top priorities within The American Legion.

The 'Buddy Check' program plays a critical role in engagement as we contact our veterans to ensure they are doing well or to provide input on resources available to aid them.

Inspired to make a difference right here in Oregon, a project was undertaken to create marketing - engagement - packs that will further aid outreach opportunities on a number of different levels. The packs contain simple slipknot bracelets, typically two, in varying colors with an insert branded to help target key topics and conduct outreach.

Why slipknot bracelets?

That idea stems from conceptualizing a relatively low-cost product, easy to make, leverage help from volunteers, and be readily adapted to meet different objectives.

The initial idea arose in wanting to increase suicide prevention awareness with the public in conjunction with the Grand Prix of Portland IndyCar event in September, which the Department of Oregon ported a booth. September also happens to be proclaimed Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. In advance of that event,



a small grant was secured from The Oregon American Legion Foundation (TOALF), in the amount of \$550 to assist in materials acquisition, to create 6,000 bracelets, approximately 3,000 engagement packs.

The suicide prevention awareness packs utilized primary colors of blue and gold (yellow) for the bracelets blue and gold are colors associated with The American Legion's emblem. In contrast, yellow is associated with suicide prevention campaigns. In ev-

Continued from page 9

CORY BROCKMANN

DEPT 2ND-VICE COMMANDER



ery 7-10
packs, a red or purple bracelet was also included; red to symbolize the sacrifices of veterans and current service members, and purple for the support of family

and loved ones.

The project then expanded to encompass 'Buddy Check' packs, which were branded and created enough in time for outreach activities associated with Veterans Day. With the buddy check packs also came the introduction of additional color bracelets, with red and purple still being popular add-ins to packs.

The project thus far has been hugely successful and popular on many levels!

Volunteers have included Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion members from posts, department officers and staff, and even Legion baseball players. Each has contributed significantly in different ways, from helping supply materials to making bracelets to adding inserts, bagging, and packing, to those that have conducted outreach and engagement.

Outreach opportunities are everywhere, and packs have been shared at district meetings, during post visits, at the national convention, bazaars, veteran outreach events, and even across state lines.

At this time, the packs aren't being sold; however, donations are gladly accepted and greatly appreciated. All funds received are directed to The Oregon American Legion Foundation, a non-profit organization with 501c3 status, which is then used in further supporting veteran and youth programs.

The author gratefully acknowledges and thanks, The Oregon American Legion Foundation for the grant to support this endeavor and volunteers Cindy Hillyard, Mary Loudan, Catherine Brockmann, and Flynn Phillips for their gracious time and support.

Project Outreach - How can you help?

We want you! Key outreach events are being targeted in 2022 to increase our visibility and expand our efforts to help make a difference in the lives of our veterans. Potential targeted events include Vietnam War Memorial Day, Memorial Day, Rose Festival, Department Convention, IndyCar at PIR, and Veterans Day. Your help is essential to our success, and we welcome you to join in!

Events - If you are planning or attending an outreach event and would









like engagement packs, please contact Department Headquarters or Cory Brockmann for the availability of engagement packs and support.

Volunteers - If you, or a group of friends, would like to volunteer to make bracelets and engagement packs, don't hesitate to contact Cory Brockmann to coordinate activities needed and a date and location for instruction and materials.

Donations - Please join the effort by donating directly to TOALF, a non-profit 501c3 organization, to support veterans and youth programs. Donations are also needed to help defray the costs of making additional engagement packs. Contact Department Headquarters or a TOALF member for assistance on donations.











...and as a symbol of the bond that unites us together, as one together together



Dan Burks
Department Membership

Membership continues to be challenging on several fronts. Obviously, our numbers are quite important; however, reportsystem ing leaves a lot desired. It is

understood we as a team will continue to push membership and activities from each of the District Commanders; however, from a more strategic standpoint, it is hard to understand the numbers when it is impossible to decipher the reports. This will only chalk up to be an excuse end of the year, so we will continue to march forward as expected.

The other front would be communication. While I have sent numerous emails and made several phone calls, it has triggered very little to no response. Based on the responses I have

Hembership

received it would be my belief that with only a handful of exceptions, we have not been conducting Buddy Checks across the Department of Oregon. Also, based on the number of responses I have received, none of our Posts in the Department of Oregon are conducting any activities, reaching out to any veterans, helping out any veterans, or doing much of anything this entire year. I don't believe this to be an accurate assessment of the Department but solely basing this observation on the level of response received.

This level of communication has also contributed to the confusion in our reports, as without proper levels of communication, it is challenging to gauge where a District is at. While our percentages are up, our overall numbers are down, which we need to focus on to grow the Department.

In order to facilitate growth and assist our Districts,

I have sent numerous emails attempting to set up events that the membership team can assist with and again have received no response. I will continue to work with members of our membership team to comprise a plan to engage the Districts to meet and exceed our goals.





THE OREGON AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION FUNRAISING RAFFLE

Help support our American Legion Veteran and Youth programs by purchasing raffle tickets!

Raffle Prize: "Legacy & Vision" The American Legion

100th Anniversary lithograph print, wood-framed and matted with the American Legion Centennial Silver Dollar

Ticket Price: \$10 each (Limited ticket availability.)

Contact: Department Headquarters or members of

the TOALF committee





Maria Tye Oratorical Chair

The Department of Oregon, Oratorical Scholarship Contest Committee members

m e m b e r s have all worked diligently and

are looking forward to the upcoming Department Oratorical contest scheduled on March 12, 2021 at the Santiam Post 51 located at 480 S. Main Street in Lebanon, Oregon 97355. We thank them for hosting this great endeavor.

https://www.legion.org/oratorical/resources

https://www.speechanddebate.org/ nsda-local-contact-request/

Greetings, Comrades - As we move into the new calendar year, we should quickly note two key items. First, our business year is already half over, and second, the Mid-winter Department Executive Committee meeting is upon us. Both items are significant as we look to ensure that our programs and program delivery are in good alignment with our approved budgets. As such, now is a very good time for all budget-holders to be reviewing budgets with your commission and committee members. And, yes, this includes department officers and district commanders, as well.

If you find you are going to be met with challenges holding to your budget, do not exceed the approved budget, and do not delay in taking action to address the issue before it occurs.

Take action by requesting an increase or change in the amount budgeted, which was approved by the general membership at the annual

department convention. The request must be submitted to the Permanent Finance Commission a minimum of thirty (30) days prior





CORY BROCKMANN
PERMANENT FINANCE MEMBER

Executive Committee meeting at which the final approval is addressed. A failure to comply will mean there is no consideration or recommendation to be made by the Permanent Finance Commission until its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Timely action is part of the due diligence of fiscal responsibility and ensuring our programs and their delivery remain strong components of our department.



PNC, CHARLES SCHMIDT PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

Happy 2022!! As we begin a new year, there are several A merican Legion programs on the horizon that many Posts will be participating in and that you will

want to share, through your Public Relations program, information with your members and your community. February is Americanism Month; February 6 is Four Chaplains Sunday; March 15 is The American Legion's 103 Birthday and Buddy Check Week; March 29 is Vietnam War Vet

erans Day; April is Children & Youth Month; and the National Oratorical Contest is April 22-24, 2022. Informational publications for these programs and others are found at

www.legion.org/media/publications



Military installations are excellent venues to reach military members to share The American Legion story. As a coastal state, Oregon hosts Coast

Guard Stations in addition to the Ore-

gon National and Air Guards. Sometimes it is difficult to gain access to these installations and service members. American Legion encourages Departments, Districts, and Posts to use the "Access Granted" booklet as a resource for working with military installations to help troops ease the transition from military to civilian life. The booklet is available at

www.legion.org/media/americanism





LARRY WITTMAYER SCOUTING CHAIR

TION TION

A11 Post Command-Adjuers, and tants Scoutmasters.

Do you know an

Eagle Scout who could use a \$2500

educational scholarship upon gradu-

ation from high school? That person could be eligible for the Department

of Oregon Eagle Scout of the Year

scholarship. Please check the depart-

ment website for the requirements

Scouting is well and active, waiting for further developments on the new COVID strain.

If your post is interested in chartering a scout unit, please get in touch with Larry Wittmayer at 503 970 4944

ATTEN-ATTEN-

and applications. If your Eagle Scout does not have the religious award, that person is still eligible for the Department of Oregon scholarship. If that Eagle Scout does have the religious award and is selected, Their application can be forwarded to national for competition. See this link for the Eagle Scout of the year nomination form; https://orlegion.org/programs/ boy-scouts/

Council events

Cascade Pacific council

Super weekend at camp Meriwether for scouts and Butte Creek for cub scouts

Annual horse trek lottery now open closes January 22nd

Oregon trail council

1/28 to 30 annual Klondike Derby at Lemolo lake sand sheds

Blue Mountain council

1/16 ham radio testing 1/29 merit badge extravagan-

za

Mountain West council

1/8 commissioner basic training

==AMERICAN LEGION

Training and

hits'

Road.

event

January



another day-Training Chair long event to prepare Legionnaires in the next steps to holding office in this organization. I want to give Post 16 Commander Terry Macrae a great

deal of thanks for all his assistance in this effort.

Topics include:

Legion History The Role of the Post Commander The Role of the Vice Commanders The Role of the Adjutant Veteran Suicide Reduction speaker from the Roseburg VA Leadership Panel for Q&A

Lunch provided. No mileage will be paid for this event.

For questions give me a call. Thanks for the encouragement.



Interesting things to make



you say Hmmm....

Kleenex tissues were

originally intended for gas masks

When there was a cotton shortage during World War I, Kimberly-Clark developed a thin, flat cotton substitute that the army tried to use as a filter in gas masks. The war ended before scientists perfected the material for gas masks, so the company redeveloped it to be smoother and softer, then marketed Kleenex as facial tissue instead.



PDC, BOB HUFF VA&R CHAIRPERSON

Our Commission and Department Service Officers (DSO) have met virtually, and we are again, offices are still closed with COVID restrictions and telephone con-

tact, and virtual meetings have been successful. As virtual hearings have started up again, our DSOs 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 discussing possibly starting to plan

VA & R

for Yellow Ribbon events soon inperson, 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 fill volunteer positions without being completely on their COVID shoots 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.

We have additional responsibility at the VA SORCC and Eagle Point

National Cemetery as we have more face-to-face contact, Employment and Education, and VSO activity at these facilities. 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.

We have held our first in-person event and continue to participate in virtual meetings and some face-toface meetings to support some of this effort. Making plans a year out has changed to sometimes, day by day as the rules change. If you hear of events that VA&R and VE&E Commission can support, please email huffe4@aol. com or (541) 826-4916 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, please contact me, and we will be happy to support you. Thank you

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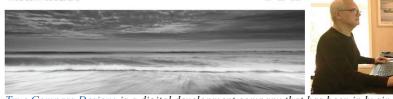
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<u>True Compass Designs</u> is a digital development company that has been in business for more than 17 years. Certified in 11 different Adobe programs, Mick Bird of Camas, Wash., builds websites for clients while working from the comfort of his home. Mick is The American Legion Department's Web Designer.

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VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION and HOMELESSNESS



PDC, Bob Huff VEE & H Chairperson

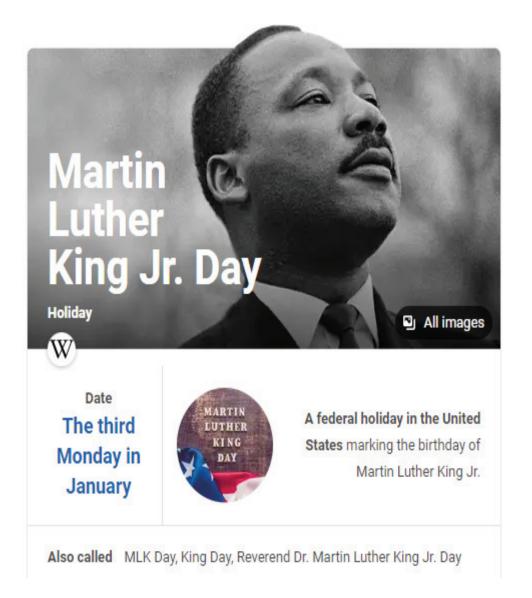
The Veterans Employment, Education, and Homeless commission held our first inperson event on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at the VA SORCC in

White City. The Employment and Education event was held complying with all Mask, Social Distancing, and Oregon and VA rules for a number of participants, all rules were followed for everyone's safety. The employment portion was for VA SORCC Jobs with critical shortages, each position advertised was held in a different area, two check-in points outside before entry into a separate building with HR reviewing each applicant prior to an escort accompanying the applicant to each interview area, yes it was fogging and cold outside, and we transported applicants to some of the areas.

We had our partners DVOP's and Easter Seals working with Veterans that needed help with their Resumes or USA Jobs along with County Service Officers assisting Veterans with questions or requiring claims help and representatives from Southern Oregon University (SOU) and Rogue Community College (RCC) providing help with information on education programs. We also had our Veterans Homeless Program present for any assistance or questions. All our partners participated.

With everyone hiring right now and a shortage of candidates, we were expecting fifteen to twenty candidates for employment. We had ninety-four candidates for employment, and it was a very successful event. In addition to the ninety-four employment candidates, we had questions answered by our VSO's and claims filed, interested Veterans and Employees for education, and assisted homeless and at-risk veterans, a very successful event. We had to extend the time of the event as there were still interviews taking place and employment app-

licants when we were going to break down. I will admit that it was nice after we broke down all our equipment, tables, chairs, pop-ups that it was nice getting in my car and turning on the heater, it was cold, but very productive and great to have an in-person event, following the new rules. Most of our partners participated, and all are asking when we can do it again. A new way of doing business, but it is a start. We still need some face-toface 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. As always, veterans' and participants' safety remain our focus. I hope all of you have a wonderful Christmas, and here is hoping we all have a positive, wonderful New Year and please stay safe.



King's last public speech foretold his death

King had come to Memphis in April 1968 to support the strike of the city's black garbage workers, and in a speech on the night before his assassination, he told an audience at Mason Temple Church: "Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now ... I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land. And I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

Members of King's family did not believe James Earl Ray acted alone

Ray, a career criminal, pled guilty to King's assassination but later recanted. King's son Dexter met publicly with Ray in 1997 and argued for the case to be reopened. King's widow, Coretta, believed the Mafia and local, state and federal government agencies were deeply involved in the murder. She praised the result of a 1999 civil trial in which a Memphis jury decided the assassination was the result of a conspiracy and that Ray was set up to take the blame. A U.S. Department of Justice investigation released in 2000 reported no evidence of a conspiracy.

MLK Day Martin Luther King Jr. January 17th

Martin Luther King Jr. got a C in public speaking

Everyone remembers Dr. King as a leader of the Civil Rights Movement and often quotes his "I Have a Dream" speech that he delivered in 1963. However, over a decade before his legendary speech, while attending Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, he earned a C in public speaking during his first and second term.

King's mother was also slain by a bullet

On June 30, 1974, as 69-year-old Alberta Williams King played the organ at a Sunday service inside Ebenezer Baptist Church, Marcus Wayne Chenault Jr. rose from the front pew, drew two pistols and began to fire shots. One of the bullets struck and killed King, who died steps from where her son had preached nonviolence. The deranged gunman said that Christians were his enemy and that although he had received divine instructions to kill King's father, who was in the congregation, he killed King's mother instead because she was closer. The shooting also left a church deacon dead. Chenault received a death penalty sentence that was later changed to life imprisonment, in part due to the King family's opposition to capital punishment.





NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Raughter, Media Relations jraughter@legion.org or 317-630-1350

New American Legion brand mark ready for market

(INDIANAPOLIS—December 9, 2021) -A new era of American Legion identity has begun.

The American Legion brand mark is now available for a variety of promotional uses - from social media channels to membership drives – and can be downloaded at www.Legion.org/brand. The logo does not replace the 1919-patented official emblem of the organization, which remains in use for official documents, memorial observances, uniforms and post signage

"The American Legion brand mark was created to modernize our image to appeal to a new generation of veterans," American Legion Chief Marketing Officer Dean Kessel said. "We launched this vivid new design on the American Legion-sponsored 48 car during the 2021 NTT INDYCAR Racing Series, and millions of fans got to see it every race. It's clear, sharp and effective, even at 225 mph. The design has gotten rave reviews, and now we are ready to advance it to all levels of The American

The American Legion Marketing Division has established guidance to help departments and posts choose when to use the brand mark and when the official emblem is more appropriate.

The brand mark is to be displayed in all marketing communications, such as

- Lifestyle apparel (such as polo shirts and ball caps)
- Community service activities
- Fundraising
- Sponsorships
- Membership recruitment materials
- Digital media
- Social media
- Updated post signage
- Event announcements

The American Legion emblem is reserved for official organization communications, such as:

- Policy statements
- Official reports
- Press releases
- Business cards Traditional post signage
- Financial documents
- Official letterhead

Kessel explained that brand marks are often successfully used to promote organizations and institutions that similarly have, and keep, time-honored seals, including all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. The American Legion Marketing Division studied the effectiveness of those brand marks during a three-month design-development process that involved focus group input earlier in 2021.

"When it comes to communications for events, recruitment and other marketing functions, the brand marks of the military branches are most familiar and positively recognized by the public, the official seals less so," Kessel said. "This is fast proving true for The American Legion brand mark, which now appears on the national American Legion website, social media, e-newsletters and a growing number of promotional materials.

Like the emblem, the brand mark is legally protected property of The American Legion National Headquarters. Any use outside of the organization – such as merchandising, marketing by groups unaffiliated with The American Legion or at political events - is legally restricted and requires authorization from the national adjutant.

The same rules of permission to use the official emblem apply to the brand mark. Those rules, along with an online application form, can be found at $\underline{www.legion.org/emblem/request} \text{ on the national}$ American Legion website

"Just like the emblem, the new brand mark should never be used in political rallies for candidates or to promote organizations and events unassociated with The American Legion, without prior written authorization," Kessel said.

In the months ahead, new apparel, flags, signs and other materials adorned with the new brand $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left$ mark will be available and promoted through Emblem Sales. The national portfolio of membershiprecruitment media is also now being refreshed to display the new mark.

https://www.legion.org/membership/254232/new-american-legion-brand-mark-ready-market

Mt. Angel Towers - Veterans Day Celebration







From Representative Lewis' newsletter to "Thank you, Veterans." November 12th.

November 11th each year we pause to honor our veterans for their service to our nation. It was my honor to speak at the Mt. Angel Towers Veterans Day Ceremony. A big thank you to Jim Kosel of the Mt. Angel American Legion Post #89 for the invitation and for coordinating the event.

The Mt. Angel Towers has 33 veteran men and women residents from nearly all branches of the military, including two WW II veterans. These fine men and women have one thing in common. Whether they enlisted in the military or were drafted into military service, each and everyone answered the call of duty when called upon to serve their country, joining the ranks of more than 360,000 Oregonians still living who have served in our nation's armed forces and National Guard. Whether in times of war or time of peace, they served our country, upholding the finest traditions in placing country and freedom above self and family. If you ask them, they do not consider themselves heroes. They will tell you the true heroes are those who never made it home. Many bear the scars of sacrifice, some physical and some not so easily seen. But they share a common bond. They know they are brothers and sisters in service to their country. They are heroes and that heroism has been demonstrated time and again, dating all the way back to the American Revolution and as recently as Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and the continued fight in the Global War on Terrorism. Quite often, that heroism, that

Jimmie Johnson gets new crew chief for INDYCAR

By Bruce Martin When Jim-DEC 22, 2021P mie Johnson of The American Legion reports for fulltime duty in the 2022 NTT INDY-CAR SERIES, the driver of the No. 48 Honda will have a new "Commander."

It's Mike Le Gallic, a Canadian with experience in both Formula One, the NASCAR Cup Series and most recently with Scott Dixon on the No. 9 PNC Bank Honda at Chip Ganassi Racing.

Le Gallic is Johnson's new crew chief on the No. 48 Carvana/The American Legion Honda.

"Mike grew up around motor racing as a young guy," Chip Ganassi Racing Managing Director Mike Hull told The American Legion. "He went to work in England for BAR Formula 1 and was there for quite a while. He came back to the United States and went to work for Ray Evernham's Dodge team in NASCAR. He was a car chief there for quite a while.

"When that ceased to be a team in terms of Ray's tenure there, we hired him to work in Indianapolis. He's been around the Scott Dixon program for quite a while and has held different jobs on that car. He has also sup-



ported the building and looking after the race cars in terms of hardware, development and durability. He had been on the back end of Scott Dixon's car for a long time as a rear end mechanic."

Shuffling the troops is a common practice at Chip Ganassi Racing as Hull oversees the entire four-car IN-DYCAR operation and the new IMSA Cadillac effort that begins in 2022.

"Traditionally, what we have done is move people around to create fresh thinking and a fresh approach and revitalize the communication among team members by moving them from area to area on the car," Hull explained. "Mike is a good choice for Jimmie's car and that is what we have done.

"Jimmie was part of the decision, so it wasn't a blind decision by any stretch of the imagination. We move people around and that is what we decided to do."

By strengthening the troops, Hull and Chip Ganassi Racing are confident that Johnson and his squad will be better prepared for the battles on the track in 2022."

Just as the military and The American Legion is all about teamwork, so is Chip Ganassi Racing in INDYCAR. The driver may be the fighter pilot in the high-speed INDYCAR, but it takes an entire crew of mechanics and engineers to help that pilot reach for the stars.

"Chip Ganassi Racing is all about team members," Hull said. "It's teammates. We work together on everything we do. Jimmie's program isn't out there on an island. It's well supported by the engineering group, by the management group, by the mechanical group, by each group in the building. It isn't just Jimmie's program and Scott's program and Marcus' program and Alex's program. They are one group that works together.

"From the outside it appears that it affects that. There is so much support in our system, that it probably strengthens what we are doing because the guys that are on Jimmie's program realize it's a team effort. The core group is still together. They will remain that way and continue to grow.

Continued on Page 19



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Continued from page 18

By Bruce Martin "The upside DEC 22, 2021P" for Jimmie is the fact he has one year under his belt, and he understands more fully what he needs to do and how he needs to rely on people like Mike, which he will, to continue to enhance his progress as a race driver."

Johnson is a *NASCAR* legend after winning seven Cup Series championships and 83 races in his career. After retiring as a full-time *NASCAR* Cup Series driver following the 2020 season, Johnson enlisted as an *NTT INDYCAR SERIES* rookie with Chip Ganassi Racing.

With funding from Carvana and The American Legion, Johnson passed his "Basic Training" as a street and road course rookie in 2021. Just last week, Johnson and the team announced that Johnson is ready for full-time status and will compete in every *INDYCAR* race in 2022.

"I'm excited Jimmie and Carvana and The American Legion have made the decision for this whole thing to weld itself together like we are going to see it this year," Hull said. "Jimmie had two terrific oval tests, one at Texas and one at Indianapolis, and that certainly helped him make the decision that he had made. We will race Iowa twice the same weekend, we will race at Texas, we will race at Gateway and the Indianapolis 500. That's four more races on his calendar.

"It's the growth of where he is as a race driver. It follows along with the way Chip runs a race team. You build your team one building block at a time. Jimmie has under his belt now, road and street races and now he is adding ovals and I think it's exciting we are doing that."

Continued from page 17
From Representative Lewis' newsletter to "Thank you, Veterans." November 12th.

desire to serve the cause of freedom, goes unnoticed by those who take freedom and our way of life for granted. Our debt to those who have served and those who have gone before us can never be repaid. But our respect and our gratitude must go on forever.

Some veterans in the audience served in Vietnam or during the Vietnam era. Sadly, they did not receive a warm welcome home during that time in our history. They were unfairly blamed and criticized for our nation's policies and public sentiment against the war. Those times have changed, thankfully. Today's veterans returning from overseas military deployments have a great deal more support from our citizens. To those veterans of military service during the Vietnam era, we wish you a very belated welcome home and thank you for your service.

Plans are currently underway to construct a Vietnam War memorial on the Capitol grounds in Salem adjacent to the World War 2 memorial. I proudly serve as a member of the Steering Committee overseeing that project.

The American Legion Praises Congress for NDAA Provisions

CONTACT: JOHN RAUGHTER (INDIA-MEDIA RELATIONS NAPO-JRAUGHTER@LEGION.ORG LIS—Deor 317-630-1350 cember 16, 2021) —

The head of the nation's largest veterans organization praised Congress for several provisions passed yesterday in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2022.

"There are a number of important initiatives in the NDAA that The American Legion supports," said American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard. "First, no military servicemember will receive a dishonorable discharge solely on the basis of COVID-19 vaccine refusal. While we are supportive of the vaccines, we do not believe a veteran's military service should be characterized as 'dishonorable' simply because he or she disagrees.

"The NDAA will also provide for a robust national defense and establish the long overdue Global War on Terrorism Memorial," Dillard added. "There is renewed funding for the Troops for Teachers program, which is not only a win for our transitioning veterans but for students in class-rooms across the country. The legis-



Continued from page 19

CONTACT: JOHN RAUGHTER MEDIA RELATIONS

JRAUGHTER@LEGION.ORG

OR 317-630-1350

lation also m a k e s strides in fighting military

sexual assault and establish a commission that will examine every aspect of the Afghanistan war. We are also pleased that this law makes it easier to preserve and update Arlington National Cemetery memorials to military chaplains. The NDAA is a bipartisan example of lawmakers coming together and putting our country first. The American Legion is looking forward to the president signing it into law."



Highway to be named after Vietnam-era Clackamas County soldier

Memorial highway sign for Medal of Honor recipient to be dedicated in Oregon City

Raymond Rendleman PMG November 26, 2021



COURTESY PHOTO: COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS & REMEMBRANCE -

Born June 10, 1949, in Oregon City, where he attended elementary school, Larry Dahl enlisted in the Army in 1969.

Clackamas County's only Medal of Honor recipient, and just one of 13 from Oregon in U.S. history, is receiving another honor in the form of a memorial highway.

A dedication ceremony for Larry Gilbert Dahl's Fallen Hero Memorial Highway sign will take place at 2 p.m., Dec.8, in the auditorium of the Clackamas County Development Services Building, 150 Beavercreek Road, in Oregon City. The sign will be installed on Highway 99E (McLoughlin Boulevard) at milepost 14, near the "Welcome to Oregon City" sign at the southern entrance to town in Canemah.

Army Specialist Larry Dahl threw himself on a grenade that landed in a gun truck during combat in Vietnam in 1971. Dahl's action cost him his life but saved his three crewmates and earned him the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award.

Steve Bates, chair of the Committee on Memorials & Remembrance, in affiliation with the Vietnam Veterans of America, worked with the state legislature and the Oregon Department of Transportation and to dedicate a memorial highway for Dahl. Bates credited fellow Clackamas County resident Jim Riggle with approaching the committee about two years ago asking why there was not a Fallen Hero

Memorial Highway for Dahl. Riggle helped edit the document for the Oregon Legislature to approve, and he paid the standard fee is \$600 charged by ODOT to cover the cost of the Memorial Highway sign.



PMG PHOTO: PETER WONG

Larry
Dahl's memorial is
now in the
Circle of
Honor at
the Red

Soils Complex of Clackamas County.

To qualify Dahl to be honored with a Memorial Highway sign during the 2021 session of the Oregon Legislature, State Rep. Christine Drazan, R-Canby, and Rep. Mark Meek, D-Gladstone, co-sponsored the resolution recognizing Dahl for his service, bravery and selfless devotion to his







We mailed Travel Accident on December 29th

Quick reminder about Travel Accident:

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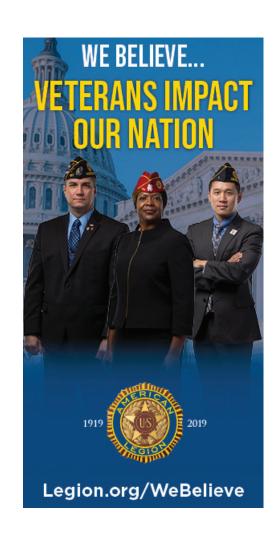
Stay tuned from new product launches - Eargo Hearing Aids and VSP Vision Plans!!!

- 1. Our next mailing is Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+) in February.
- 2. Action plan is under development from the forum discussion at the Williamsburg board meeting.
- Applications for the annual Wigle Membership Innovation Initiative will be sent out in early December.



AND AS ALWAYS, DON'T FORGET:

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



Highway to be named after Vietnam-era Clackamas County soldier

Memorial highway sign for Medal of Honor recipient to be dedicated in Oregon City

Continued from page 20

Raymond Rendleman PMG c o m -November 26, 2021 rades. After the bill unanimously passed the House of Representatives, State Sen. Bill Kennemer, R-Canby, carried it to the Senate floor, where it also passed unanimously.

Bates, the committee chair, said the highway said is an appropriate honor for Dahl.

PMG PHOTO: PETER WONG

Army Sgt. Michael Dahl, after speaking about his father, Specialist Larry Dahl, at a November 2016 ceremony in Oregon City, rededicating a memorial to the only Medal of Honor winner from Clackamas County (and only one of 13 from Oregon)



Dahl was born June 10, 1949, in Oregon City, where he attended elementary school. Enlisting in the Army in 1969, he trained at Fort Lewis, Washington, became a heavy-truck driver and mechanic — and after volunteering three times, finally ended up in Vietnam.

Assigned to the 359th Transportation Company, he and three others were the backup crew for a gun truck that escorted fuel and supply convoys across South Vietnam's Central Highlands to U.S bases.

The crew was called into action

on February 23, 1971, when Dahl manned one of the .50-caliber machine guns on the armor-plated truck nicknamed "Brutus."

The convoy was caught in an ambush at An Khe Pass, and after things seemingly settled down, the truck was proceeding when enemy soldiers attacked it. Footage of the attack shows the yellow flash of the grenade that Dahl smothered with his body to protect his fellow soldiers.

Then-Vice President Gerald Ford presented the Medal of Honor on August 8, 1974, only hours before Richard Nixon announced he would resign the presidency and Ford became president.

The United States had more than 58,000 military deaths in the Vietnam War, and thousands more served during what retired Maj. Gen. Tom Mattson described as "one of the most painful chapters in our history, most particularly how we treated our troops."

Mattson counts Vietnam War service in his 32 years in the Army.

Dahl is buried at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland. Among his other honors is a place in the Oregon Military Museum, which is at Camp Withycombe in Clackamas.

The December 8 sign dedication ceremony will include participation by Kennemer, Meek and Steve Carr, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America's local chapter. All of the Clackamas County VFW and American Legion posts will also be represented. The ceremony is open to the public.



VFW Post JAMES MORIATY #1324, Oregon DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER Representative Mark Meeks, Oregon Senator Bill Kennemer, Steve Bates, Chair of Committee on Memorials and Remembrance.

Guests in-

Board

County

Tootie

Shull,

Three Rivers

and



Photo by Dick Winders

The American Legion Department Commander Don Webber, Department Adjutant Flynn Phillips, Department 2nd Vice Commander Cory Brockman, Department Historian Dick Winders and District 7 Commander Jim Moriarty were in attendance.

VFW Three Rivers Post #1324, Post Commander Greg Arnold and Steven Prowart provided the Honor Guard. Bert Key, Past VFW State Chief of Staff and a member of VFW Post 4273, was in attendance alongside Allen Anderson, VFW State Vice Commander. Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 392 President Steve Carr gave some remarks.

His Fallen Hero Memorial sign will be placed on Highway 99E Northbound at Mile Post #14 near the

Continued from Page 22 Welcome to Oregon City sign.



Citation

SPC4 Dahl distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as a machine Gunner in a gun truck near An Khe, Binh Dinh Province. The gun truck in which he was riding was sent with two other gun trucks to assist in the defense of a convoy that had been ambushed by an enemy force. The gun trucks entered the battle zone and engaged the attacking enemy troops with a heavy volume of machine-gun fire, causing a large number of casualties. After a brief period of intense fighting the attack subsided. As the gun trucks were preparing to return to their normal escort duties, an enemy hand grenade was thrown into the truck in which SPC4 Dahl was riding. Instantly realizing the great danger, he called a warning to his companions and threw himself directly into the grenade. Through his indomitable courage, complete disregard for his safety, and profound concern for his fellow soldiers, SPC4 Dahl saved the lives of the other members of the truck crew while sacrificing his own. SPC4 Dahl's conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity at the cost of his life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



recipient of THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

Larry G. Dahl of Oregon City and Portland was a Spec. 4th Class in the 359th Transportation Company, 27th Transportation Battalion, 8th Transportation Group. He was assigned as a machine gunner on a gun truck and killed in action after throwing himself on a hand grenade in order to save two of his brothers in arms during an action near An Khe, Binh Dinh Province, Vietnam, on 23 February 1971. For his selfless act of heroism. Dahl was awarded the nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor. Dahl is dutifully honored in monuments at the Freedoms Foundation Medal of Honor Grove at Valley Forge and in the Clackamas County Historical Society Museum.













POST #89 MT ANGEL DONATIONS TO THE VA HOME/LEBANON

JIM KOSEL In November POST #89 ADJUTANT our Post 89 donated about \$447 to purchase male/ female body wash, seven cases of Gatorade, loads of soft sweets (Ding Dongs), microwave popcorn, etc., plus 13 stocking caps knitted by a local resident, plus \$200 in gift cards by the Auxiliary Unit 89 for the vets to buy medical prescriptions at Walmart, plus handmade Christmas and greeting cards.



My wife Martha. an Army veteran and I shopping for Lebanon VA Home





(Right) a staff member receiving donations at the VA Home/Lebanon

VOLUNTEERS!

(Right) Connie Miller, ALA President and TAL Adjutant, Iim Kosel of Post/Unit #89

Customs, Courtesies, and Protocol: Where does the Space Force Go?



By Joseph Reagan,
Director of Military and
Veteran Outreach,
Wreaths Across America

In October Wreaths Across America announced the addition of an 8th ceremowreath nial representing the U.S. Space Force. This caused great amount of excitement

and a whole lot of questions. In fact, not a day has gone by where someone hasn't asked, "Where does the Space Force go?" So, as Wreath Day ceremonies are being planned, I thought it would be a good opportunity to take a minute to talk about protocol.

At its core, protocol, and associated etiquette, customs, and courtesies, are actions or procedures that define how we show respect. In the U.S. the basis for our protocol is written in Title 4, Chapter 1 of the U.S. Code, commonly referred to as "The Flag Code" which Congress adopted on June 22, 1942. The Flag Code was the result of a collaborative effort of about 70 different organizations who came together in 1923 to develop a community standard for rendering honors to our flag.

As we get closer to Wreaths Across America Day on December 18th you may find yourself becoming overwhelmed with questions surrounding protocol as it relates to your ceremony – it's challenging and often confusing. In addition to the Flag Code – the

Military, and subsequently each branch of service, has their own manuals on protocol, customs, and courtesies. Veterans Organizations such as the American Legion, have their own guides on protocol. So, who's right? Here's the truth, I've presided over countless parades and Military ceremonies at each one inevitably a protocol question arises and I'm not alone. From Boy Scout troops to the State Department, to the Supreme Court of the U.S. there's always questions about protocol. The answer falls under the first amendment to the Constitution and our freedom of expression. At the end of the day, as individuals, and as a community the constitution guarantees us the right to express our love for our country in whatever way we want. You're probably thinking "that is the

Customs, Courtesies, and Protocol: Where does the Space Force Go?

Continued from page 24
By Joseph Reagan, leas
Director of Military and ful
Veteran Outreach, even
Wreaths Across America poin

least helpful answer ever!" My point is this,

our mission is to Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve, and Teach our children the value of freedom, as long as your ceremony is an expression of that mission, you're doing it right!

That said, I also have some more practical advice for you on this topic as well. Earlier this week I sat down with a former colleague who is currently serving with the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, "The Old Guard," which is the Army's official Ceremonial Unit (read - this guy knows protocol). The first thing he said was that the commander of troops has considerable leeway in the protocol used during ceremonies. Fun Fact - the facing maneuver executed by Sentinels at the Tomb of the Unknown is not a standard facing maneuver. As a Location Coordinator, you too will have some leeway in determining the appropriate protocol to use, but you also have a responsibility of ensuring your choices are a clear expression of our mission.

When building a plan for your ceremony the best thing you can do is your homework. A simple web search will provide you with many resources to help answer any protocol questions. Just like the team that wrote the Flag Code, find a team to help you – I recommend engaging with representatives from local Veterans Organizations, or a recruiting station – these folks are well versed in standard protocol that most people will be familiar with and having consensus around your protocol decisions is always

helpful. Try and identify the senior ranking person who will be attending your ceremony in advance and let this person know your protocol plan. This can serve as a final check to ensure your protocol is consistent with best practices. You'll also want to be sure your master of Ceremonies is aware of the proper protocol and that your script communicates to attendees how they are expected to act – Julie and I worked together to put some of those audience prompts into the generic script we provide to all our locations.



Finally, to answer the original question, where does the Space Force go? It goes after Air Force and before Coast Guard. In fact, the consensus on how to order flags and or ceremonial wreaths (especially if you are choosing to add to the 8 ceremonial wreaths we provide), when looking at your display from left to right:

- U.S. flag
- Foreign flags (optional) note: display alphabetically using the English spelling
- State flags (optional) note: can be either alphabetical or by order of admission to the union
- Territorial flags (e.g., Guam, Puerto Rico) (optional) note: can be either alphabetical or by order of recognition as a territory
- Army

- Marine Corps
- Navy
- Air Force
- Space Force
- · Coast Guard
- Merchant Marines (optional)
- Reserve flags (optional) note: ordered by service in same order as parent service
- National Guard flags (optional) note: ordered by service in same order as parent service
- Military organization (unit) flags (optional) note: ordered by service and echelon
- POW / MIA (optional)
- Individual flags (Service Secretaries, Flag Officers, Senior Executive Service members) (used only when ranking person is present) note: displayed by seniority
- Other flags (e.g., City or town flags, Scouts, CAP)

Some useful resources that I have used in the past (remember I was Army, so my understanding of protocol comes from the Army each service has its own manuals):

- Wreaths Across America (https://learn.wreathsacrossamerica.org/location-group-resources)
- The American Legion (https://www.legion.org/flag)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (https://www.vfw.org/community/flag-etiquette)
- Army Field Manual 7-21-13
- Department of the Army Pamphlet 600-60
- Army Officers Guide (there's one for each service and an NCO handbook as well)
- Betsy Ross and the American Flag (https://www.ushistory.org/betsy/faq2.htm)

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By Joseph Reagan, Your com-DIRECTOR OF MILITARY AND mitment VETERAN OUTREACH, to our mis-Wreaths Across America sion is what makes your events, and Wreaths Across America, a meaningful experience for so many people. Your dedication and passion to our mission, along with your attention to detail while planning these ceremonies is a wonderful expression of your personal, and your communities, love for our country and respect for our Service Members, Veterans, and their families. In addition to your local volunteer resources, always remember that your regional liaisons, HQ staff, and I are all here to support you in creating a dignified, and meaningful ceremony that expresses our collective commitment to our mission to Remember. Honor and Teach.









Pete Wall / Tools4Troops PBC



S. FLYNN PHILLIPS
DEPT. ADJUTANT

Pete Wall, a retired sustainable construction specialist, is on a mission to deliver donated tools to both active duty and discharged veterans. Since 2014, Tool-

s4Troops has supplied tools to over 4,000 veterans.

There is a real need for tools and supplies for veterans leaving the military and entering the job force. According to Pete, there is a great demand for carpentry tools. The basic build-out of a tool kit is necessary to begin any construction or other trade jobs, and Tools4Troops can fill the gaps that a

veteran may otherwise not be able to afford.

Just a note of thanks for the intro to James Moriarty / Estacada Post 74 and confirmation that we met up and dropped off a load of tools for local Veterans Saturday, adding in effect to recent tool drop-offs at AL Albany, COVO, SOVO and, AL Vancouver WA.

Specifically related to AL Oregon Posts - alert folks to the availability

of T4T delivering similar tool loads for local distribution in their hands with masking and social distancing clearly in mind. Contact Pete Wall at 503-387-



5844, or pete@tools4troops.orgb



Veterans share first experiences in newly opened Central Oregon Veterans Village



'This is a new beginning for me,' former veteran Matthew Hockin said.

BEND, Ore.,

By Bola GBADEBO Published December 7, 2021

(KTVZ) From working in digital HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/E8Umarketing and s**H**ya**X**seo

having the financial security to finding himself displaced during Covid, veteran Matthew Hockin is glad to have found a place of refuge at the Central Oregon Veterans Village on the north end of Bend.

"I ended up living in a Chevy Suburban for five months and seven days," Hockin said Tuesday. "This is a new beginning for me. It just enables me to recuperate and start again."

Hockin served in the Navy as a machinist mate on the aircraft carrier USS America from 1987 to 1989. He is one of five veterans who have settled into Veterans Village so far.

The Central Oregon Veterans Village, a community of 15 transitional shelters, opened on Veterans Day.

The community provides shelter and important services for homeless veterans. The services include health services (behavioral and physical), social service programs (geared toward selfsufficiency), employment training and skill building, and housing placement.

Veteran Robert Jarner said he had been searching for places to live, to no avail. Similar to Hockin, he lived out of his car for a few months.

But with the bitter cold of winter coming, and his health concerns, he needed something more.

"The lease came up, and I tried to get another place to go, and I couldn't get anybody to even respond to an email," Jarner said. "I had enough money to rent a room, but trying to get an apartment around here is like pulling teeth."

Jarner served in the Air Force as a munition system specialist from 1985 to 1989. He still works five days a week, doing laundry service at a hotel, but no longer with the burden of wondering where to lay his head at night.

The Veterans Village project is a collaboration between the Bend Heroes Foundation and Central Oregon Veterans Outreach.

It's being managed as a publicprivate partnership with the City of Bend, Deschutes County and the State of Oregon.

David Nieradka, the Central Oregon Veterans Village coordinator, said COVO has a history of housing homeless veterans. They have 28 housing units across Central Oregon.

"The way I see it, if we have a veteran that spends one night on the street or one night in the car, that's one night too many," Nieradka said.

Jarner addded, "You can't forget, especially for the veterans. I mean, there are other people out there that still need help, too. But the veterans -they did a service for you. Why can't you do something for them?"

American Legion to Congress: 'Keep Government Open'

CONTACT: JOHN RAUGHTER INDIA-MEDIA RELATIONS **NAPOLIS** (Dec. JRAUGHTER@LEGION.ORG or 317-630-1350 2021) The head

of the nation's largest veterans organization has a blunt message for Congress. "Our troops are doing their job, now lawmakers need to do theirs," American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard said today about another potential government shutdown that could occur if Congress doesn't reach a budget agreement by a Dec. 3 deadline.

"The American Legion is no fan of continuing resolutions, but keeping the government open must be a

American Legion to Congress: 'Keep Government Open'

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CONTACT: JOHN RAUGHTER MEDIA RELATIONS

JRAUGHTER@LEGION.ORG

OR 317-630-1350

priority," Dillard said. "We recall the shutdown

of 2019, in which the Coast Guard continued to defend our shores while their pay was delayed. The American Legion stepped up and provided more than \$1 million in grants to Coast Guard families in need. Two years later, Congress still has not passed legislation to guarantee that this essential branch be funded. Moreover, the Department of Defense and our national security are also endangered by prolonged shutdowns. Millions of Americans rely on Social Security to survive. I could go on and on about essential government services and programs. The bottom line is that Congress needs to put the American people ahead of partisan politics."



Your why is what keeps you in The American Legion



Past National Commander David Rehbein and National Legion College chancellor speaks to the 2020 class at National Headquarters in Indianapolis on Monday, Nov.15. Photo by Ben Mikesell/The American Legion

The American Legion Upon his return NOV 17, 2021 home from deployment to Germany in 1971, David Rehbein walked into a café dressed in his Army uniform. His appearance garnered little respect or appreciation, as unfortunately common to military servicemembers during the Vietnam War. He then made the decision to put his military service behind him.

But then, "I was missing something. What I was missing was that spirit of camaraderie," the American Legion past national commander and National Legion College chancellor shared with the 2020 class during his remarks Nov. 15 at National Head-quarters in Indianapolis. "But the day I walked into that American Legion post (because of his wife, Ann, who grew up in the Legion Family) and joined, I found that spirit of camaraderie. You could feel the same feeling you had back there in that Army unit.

"And that's my why (for remaining a member in The American Legion). Because it doesn't matter what I do, it doesn't matter where I go, what hat I wear, it's that feeling that has kept me in The American Legion. Because of what the organization did for me to restore that feeling of family, besides my spouse and children, this other family. That's what's motivated me in The American Legion all these years."

Rehbein turned the opportunity over to the Legion College class to share their why. "Because it's that why that keeps you as a member," he said. "It's not what you do ... it's why you do it."

Joseph Schmidt passed his grandfather's American Legion cap every day growing up as it laid in his parents four season front porch. He never knew his grandfather, as he had passed before Schmidt was born. In 2012, Schmidt was injured while deployed to Afghanistan and left service two years later. "But my service wasn't done yet, I didn't know what else to do," he shared. "I figured if The American Legion was good enough for (my grandfather), it was probably good enough for me. I walked into a Legion post, signed up and found my place of service where I can continue to serve

Continued from page 28

THE AMERICAN LEGION my community NOV 17, 2021 ... serve veterans and soldiers."

"To this day I thank my father for just leaving my grandfather's (American Legion) cap out there to define my place here in The American Legion," he said.

Randy Olson's cousin was shot and injured during a deployment to Afghanistan. "I thought what can I do for him? He has little to none (VA) disability rating since he didn't lose a limb. I am going to fight for this veteran," said Olson, a member of American Legion Post 82 in Winnebago, Minn. "One of my whys is that I want to be the one that makes a difference. It gives me more of a drive every day to keep doing more for veterans."

For Brenda Hokenson of American Legion Post 6 in Moscow, Idaho, her why is "giving back. How can as a veteran I assist other veterans, and this (membership in The American Legion) has given me that chance to help. It's given me a home, a chance to help others and branch out into the community more."

After listening to several Legion College students share their why, Rehbein said what he heard, and expected to hear, is that "your why is connected very strongly to your emotional attachment to the organization." Then he laid out a challenge to them.

"Our challenge is to help the younger folks that we're recruiting into the organization to understand and develop that same kind of emotional attachment to The American Legion," he said. "And that's a challenge that we all have to handle individually because every person we approach is an individual. We won't know what their why is until they find out what it is."

Legionnaire Benefits

As a Member of the Legion Family, You Know How Important It Is to Help Protect Those in Need ...

Now We Can Help

The LIT Plans can help with

- Hospital HELP Plan
- Cancer Care
- Accidental Death Protection
- On-The-Move Travel Accident
- Emergency Assistance Plus
- Medicare Supplement Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Long-Term Care
- Lifeline Medical Alert Service





Endorsed By Your American Legion Department



- 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.*
- Emergency Assistance Plus Provides you with 24/7 emergency medical and travel assistance services should something happen to you or your family while traveling away from home.
- Medicare Supplement Insurance Supplements your Medicare Coverage at group rates.
- Health & Dental Insurance Request a quote on various Health & Dental Insurance Plans
 designed with you in mind.
- Long-Term Care Can help provide home health care, supervised adult care, and more.
- Lifeline Medical Alert Service Provides fast access to help in the event of a fall or medical
 emergency so you can live confidently and independently.

To Learn More and Enroll, Visit www.TheLIT.com

For Questions Call 1-800-235-6943

*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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HELPING A HERO
Changing Lives, One Veteran at a Time



CORY BROCKMANN can
DEPT 2ND-VICE COMMANDER Past

back, step briefly, just take a and moment say thank you to each of the districts and that posts helped make leading candidate National Vice

I want to

Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola's visit to the Department of Oregon both enjoyable and memorable.

First, however, just what did we learn about PNVC Jim Troiola?

His campaign platform, quite simply, has everything to do with caring for our veterans and ensuring a strong, healthy American Legion Family prevails. Key elements to his campaign and remarks to posts included:

* VETS – Veterans, Engagement, Training, and Service – was a keynote in his address to all post visits he made. Veterans, it's what we're all about; we support all current and former service members. Engagement, engaging our veterans and their families to ensure wellness and training to continually develop our current and future leadership, those who will be

Leading Candidate Trip Re-visited

taking our places. And Service, giving back by delivering our programs to veterans, youth, and our communities

- * Membership our membership wellness really is tied to buddy checks being accomplished in a timely manner. Buddy checks should be an organized effort to ensure every member is contacted.
- * MyLegion / Personify as it relates to membership reporting and status, it continues to have issues needing resolution. Additional training is forthcoming, and anticipate word on it soon from your department leadership.
- * Oratorical program is a favorite youth program of his he's a former oratorical committee member and feels the program has great opportunity and value for our youth as well as the future of America.

To District 1: John Kalmbach #90 (Banks), Aloha #104, Vernonia #119; District 2: McMinnville #21; District 7: Carl Douglas #74 (Estacada); and District 8: Wilsonville #65, Oregon Trail #150 (Portland), Milwaukie #180, and all who had a part in representing our Department – well done!

I commend you, and I thank you!

There is a significant amount of logistical planning and coordination that goes into these visits, and they just don't happen on their own. We couldn't have done it successfully without Public Relations Chairman PNC Charles Schmidt as well as the outstanding support from our Department Headquarters staff, the district commanders, post commanders, and you - our members - that came out and participated in the visit. Our appreciation and thanks to each of you.

Please, re-visit the December edition of Oregon Legionnaire for a wonderful pictorial tour of the leading candidate's visit, with special thanks to Department Historian Dick Winders and Department Adjutant Flynn Phillips.

The Department will have an opportunity later in the spring and summer to host the next leading candidate, Rev. Daniel J. Seehafer, Department of Wisconsin, and National Commander Paul E. Dillard, Department of Texas. Team Oregon will, again, have the opportunity to share how we support our veterans, youth, and communities. Stay tuned for more details as arrangements become known.

Legionnaire HospitalHELP Insurance Plan



Endorsed By Your American Legion Department

LEARN MORE

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





A Word About Legionnaire Insurance Trust

Over Five Decades of Partnership for a Healthy America

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) was formed in 1966 with two primary goals: to provide Legion families with low-cost insurance protection, and to provide a source of revenue to participating Legion Departments.

The Trust has been so successful in its over fifty years that today over 500,000 Legionnaires in 50 participating Departments are enrolled in this unique program.

Also, in the same period of time, almost \$1 billion dollars in claim benefits have been paid to Legionnaires and their families through the LIT; and over \$100 million in allocations have been paid to participating Legion Departments. The first Trust insurance plan to be offered was the Hospital Income Protection plan, a program designed to pay fixed dollar amounts for periods of hospital confinement. Over the years, other insurance coverage offered included: Cancer, Accidental Death, Critical Illness, Disability Income, Emergency Assistance, Long Term Care, Medicare Supplement, Discount Cards, Dental, Whole Life, Auto, Homeowners, Identity Theft, and Home Health Care.

Since its creation, AGIA has worked closely with the Trust to develop insurance programs especially designed for Department members and their families. We are proud to serve you through the Trust and invite your inquiries and suggestions on any aspect of our activities.

More Than

Years Of Service To The Legion Family



THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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