

The Oregon Legionnaire

THE AMERICAN LEGION **FAMILY**

The Voice of Oregon's Veterans Since 1919

March 2022



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

Also in this Issue:
National News
Pages 19-22
3 Star General
Pages 23, 25-26

Cover Story
National Vietnam War
Veterans Day
March 29th
Page 17





LARRY WITTMAYER
DEPT 1ST-VICE COMMANDER

could be happening in March.

We participated in our National Vice Commander Higuera's visit on the 5th through the 7th of January, and we've participated in the membership visits in District 7 and District 8.

Our DEC was held on the 8th and 9th of January at the Villebois Community Center in Wilsonville and also it was the first virtual DEC that this Department is held. Generally, it was

I'll be reporting on some of the activities that happened during the month of January, although we all look forward to some of the things that

a great success.

I attended District 9 district meeting and oratorical on January 15th in Myrtle Creek. It was an honor, and we appreciated the hospitality provided by Post 123.

Our Department Membership team had a virtual meeting on January 22nd, which was. It was attended by a few district commanders; hopefully, we'll have better participation next time. around

I had the opportunity to participate in a Department training for Post commanders and Adjutants in Roseburg on January 29th, and we had an excellent turn out it was approximately 20 people there. It was well hosted by Post 16.

Our Washington National Conference will be held virtually this year and will be held on March 5th, and

also the National Commanders address will be on the 8th.

Please remember that March 15th will be the Legion's birthday, and also national is recommending that we conduct buddy checks on the 15th through the 22nd of March.

Congressional Medal of Honor day will be on March 25th.

Our membership is presently at 82%, which puts us at #31 in the nation and #3 in the Western Region. Our next goal will be the 90% goal, and that'll be on March 9th. Every one of the Posts in this Department rallied together to make the 80% goal which is extremely commendable. Our next step will be the 90% goal; we know you can do it. All you needed to go do is get out there and hustle and hit those non-renewals, give them a call, write a letter, send a postcard, whatever it takes, let's get that done.

Community Service Month



CORY BROCKMANN
DEPT 2ND-VICE COMMANDER

legislation. Rather on an even simpler level. Opportunity; that set of circumstances that makes it possible to do something, to accomplish something.

There really isn't much of anything

Greetings Legionnaires,

I will share a few thoughts about 'opportunity' with you this month. And, no, I am not speaking to

Equal Opportunity

guaranteed to us in life. Even opportunity isn't guaranteed, right? Most often, an opportunity is found *where we make it*. And, most definitely, aides those who take advantage of it.

Opportunity applies, similarly, within The American Legion. It often is found where we make it.

Membership and Post Activities – the Mission Blue Program offers real opportunity, in the form of financial grants, to help posts following the Covid-19 pandemic. The Mission Blue Post Assistance Program (PAP) grant is intended to assist posts whose revenue has been negatively impacted by the effects of the Covid-19 health

crisis within the community, as well as any government-mandated restrictions.

The initial grant offered \$1,000 to posts to acquire the funds with very basic qualifying requirements. Then, a second-round offering, yet another \$1,000, was approved. That's \$2,000 per post. Did Covid-19 and the ensuing pandemic not impact almost every post in Oregon? Opportunity.

As of this past Feb 1st, Oregon had only 12 out of 113 posts that received the grant, receiving a total of \$12,000. Four of those twelve posts jumped on the opportunity for the second grant,

Continued on page 3

Continued from Page 2

CORY BROCKMANN a d d i n g
DEPT 2ND-VICE COMMANDER \$4,000 to
 the total. And two additional posts
 applied late in 2021 and received the
 entire \$2,000 upfront. That's \$20,000
 out of a possible \$226,000. *Opportu-
 nity!*

It's not too late! Access the Mission
 Blue grant application at the following
 link: [https://www.legion.org/docu-
 ments/pdf/Mission Blue PAP Ap-
 plication 1.pdf](https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/Mission%20Blue%20PAP%20Application%201.pdf)

Oratorical Program – In traveling
 to district meetings as well as hearing
 from posts, I am extremely excited to
 learn posts are bouncing back from
 the hindrances of the pandemic and
 working our oratorical program! It
 takes leadership at the post and dis-
 trict levels to get programs re-started.
 We are increasing opportunities for
 our youth to develop leadership skills
 and earn scholarships to further their
 education for those efforts! I congrat-
 ulate Maria Tye, oratorical committee
 chair, members of the department or-
 atorical committee, and the outstand-
 ing leadership and support from posts
 and districts – thank you!

Training Program – There are times
 when opportunity equates to contin-
 gency! This past year has definitely
 called for that with regards to train-
 ing. I extend a big thank you to Betty
 Fish-Ferguson, training and develop-
 ment committee chair, and members
 of our department training and devel-
 opment committee, for their ability
 to adapt to change and embrace the
 opportunity – contingency – in deliv-
 ering training to our fellow members
 and posts at three locations across the
 state. While many agree that the stan-
 dard, resident Oregon Legion College,
 has been sorely missed, Chairperson
 Betty and the committee stepped up
 and ensured a training program was
 delivered. Schedule conflicts prevent-

ed my attendance, but the responses
 I have received were very positive on
 the training. Leadership takes advan-
 tage of an opportunity - job well done!

Legion Baseball Program – Reg-
 istration remains open and underway
 for this coming 2022 Oregon Le-
 gion Baseball season. A shout-out to
 Chairman Mike Sowles and the base-
 ball committee for the work they are
 continuing to get done in the back-
 ground. Covid-variants have been
 impactful to committee members, but
 they're staying the course. Thank you,
 and best wishes for speedy recoveries!

Lastly, you can help provide an op-
 portunity to other veterans in serving
 your American Legion post, district,
 department, or community. Have
 you given thought to what position
 you'd like to help support within our
 American Legion next year? Please
 consider it.

Thank you for all you do in support
 of our veterans. Veterans do strength-
 en America!

Need to Know Dates

March

Community Service
 Legion Birthday
 St Patricks Day
 Boys State Selection

April

Children & Youth
 Scouting Activities
 Boys State
 Elect New Officers
 American Legion Child
 Welfare Week

May

St Louis Caucus Anniversary
 National Poppy Week
 Memorial Day
 Armed Forces Day
 Mother's Day
 Present School Awards
 Legion Baseball Kick Off
 Oratorical Contest, Boys State,
 School Awards and American
 Education Week



What Country had the first
 succesful insulin treatment?

- A. Europe
- B. USA
- C. Canada
- D. United Kingdom

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

First, it is Tax Time; yes, if your Post has a Tax Filing Period of January 1 through December 31, it is time to put your financial records together to file taxes which are due for a 990, 990EZ, or 990N by May 16, 2022. There are no exceptions. We, Department, and Posts are under the National Umbrella and under Group Exemption Number 0925, our 501c19. Remember, every Post is a separate corporation; it is a business; you operate under the Corporate Laws of Oregon, you pay a filing fee each year to the Secretary of State, Corporation Division.

Remember, you will be holding your Post and District Elections. When holding your elections at your Post, remember to vote for your Post Delegates and Alternates to attend your District Caucus and Department Convention. Department will send out Post Delegate Forms and new Officer Forms. Post Delegate Forms must be completed and sent to Department with \$15. For each Post Delegate authorized.

When you receive your delegate forms, they will include a table indicating your authorized delegate strength for your Post membership.

At your District Caucus, you will vote on your District Officers and Delegates for our National Convention. Those forms with your new District Officers need to be sent to Department once your election is completed. Along with the District Forms, any new officers and delegates that do not have their DD214 on file at Department; a copy must be sent to Department with the District Forms. All delegates attending the Department Convention must have their Post Delegate Forms with their Adjutant certification sent to Department 45 days before the Department Convention.

We will be meeting in mid-February at Department to put together the Proposed 2022-2023 Department Budget. As membership is a key contributor to income in our organization supporting our programs and Department, with declining membership, we will have to make some tough decisions to support our budget.

Our Officers and Chairs have been submitting their Budget requirements for this next Membership Year. These will be evaluated as we look for reductions. Thank you to those that have not submitted any requirements for

the budget in 2022-2023 or are looking at other income streams; this helps. We will then present the Proposed Budget to the Spring Department Executive



PDC, BOB HUFF

Committee (DEC) meeting, and we will publish it in the Legionnaire before our Department Convention. The Proposed Budget will be presented to the Finance Convention Committee at our Department Convention and presented to the Convention Delegates for discussion and acceptance per our Department Constitution and By-Laws.

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 where safe; we have plenty of opportunity for a great year.



PDC, KEVIN OWENS
NECMAN

Like most of you, I get a lot of e-mails regarding the American Legion, but the most important question are you reading them.

One of the most important ones comes from our Legislative Division and the hard work they put in on behalf of all Veterans. What a selling point when you

try and recruit new members. I would like to provide in this article some of the good things they are doing.

House passed the EVEST Act, which automatically enrolls eligible service members into the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system as they leave the military.

The EVEST Act would automatically enroll service members in the VA as they leave the military, with the ability to opt out. The hope is that simplifying enrollment in the VA will allow more new veterans to get the help

they need faster. The first year after leaving the military is a period of especially high risk for suicide. The majority of veterans who died from suicide were not in VA care. Studies have shown that receiving VA care helps protect a veteran from suicide. In his statement on the floor, Takano stressed that this bill would smooth the transition between Department of Defense (DoD) and VA care. "We shouldn't be trying to hide VA care from those who've earned it," he proclaimed.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

PDC, KEVIN OWENS House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) chair Rep. Takano (D-CA) and ranking member Rep. Bost (R-IL) introduced HR 6411, the Supporting the Resiliency of Our Nation's Great Veterans Act, also known as the STRONG Act. The legislation, based on 22 other bills, addresses a wide range of issues within the VA, including:

- o Expand eligibility for student veterans at Vet Centers;

- o Improve culturally competent suicide prevention at VA medical centers for Native veterans;

- o Increase mental health staffing and training at Vet Centers and VA medical facilities, including expanded use of peer support programs; and

Improve the Veterans Crisis Line.

As you can see, things we sometimes do not hear or talk about at our meetings are items that should be important to all of us. Please take time to read the VA&R, VE&E, and the Legislative reports sent out each week; good information for all of us to spread to our members.



LOU NEUBECKER
DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

District 1 officers wishing you health and happiness through these trying times.

We have a district meeting at the T. Les Galloway Post 68 in Clatskanie on March 12th lunch starts at 11:30 am meeting start at 1pm.

**HAVE
YOU**



**RENEWED
YET?**

AUXILIARY NEWS

Hermiston's American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 37



**HEARTS FOR VETERANS Dinner February 12, 2022,
Honoring our "TREE-mendous Veterans"**

Veterans gathered for a free Lasagna Dinner given by Hermiston's American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 37. The purpose was to honor all Veterans with a personal Valentine bearing each member's name, military branch, and years in which they served. Our goal was that each member of Post 37 would be represented with a Red Heart. Guest Veterans' hearts were blue. Imagine 40 more red hearts on the Post 37 Tree of Liberty for a true picture of our total Membership. Regretfully, 40 current members' Hearts remained in the file and were not displayed.

We will Remember the Tree of Liberty

"If through gradualism of compromise, our freedoms are pruned from the Tree of Liberty, that tree will surely die, and our comrades will have died in vain. If through neglect and lack of concern, we fail to inculcate (instill) this precious heritage into the minds of our descendants, that tree will wither, and with it, the laurel wreath of victory, which our comrades have extended to us will perish. **To ensure** that our comrades' deaths are not a mockery and that the goods they have accomplished are not interred (buried) with their bones, **we will remember.**"

Calendar of Events

- March** **Community Service Month**
 2-4 Dept Officer School
 12 District 1 & 3 Meeting
 15-17 TAL Birthday
 17 St Parick's Day
- April** **Children & Youth**
 1-3 DEC Burns
 15 Good Friday (Nat'l Close)
 15 Purple Up for Military Kids
 23 District 4 Caucus
- May** **National Poppy Week**
 2-5 NEC Spring Meetings
 7 District 5 Caucus
 8 Mother's Day
 14 District 1 Caucus
 14 Districts 3, 6 & 10 Caucus
 15 District 2 Caucus
 17 District 7 & 8 Caucus
 21 Armed Forces Day
 30 Memorial Day (closed)

Deadline

for the **April** issue
 of the
 Oregon Legionnaire
 is **March 5th, 2021**

AUXILIARY NEWS



**The Jerry Gibson Memorial
 Golf "Fore" a Vet Tournament**

Buffalo Peak Golf Course
 Union, OR

June 4, 2022

Sponsored by
 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 43
 Legion Family Post 43
 La Grande, OR





4 Person Scramble
 \$85 per player/
 \$340 per team

Registration at 9am
Shotgun Start at 10am

*Entry fee includes greens, cart, lunch, refreshments, range balls and tee prize.
 Mulligans to be sold the day of tournament
 ** Silent Auction Items ***

Contact

Kathi Karnowski
 541-963-0787

kathikk56.kk@gmail.com

A Benefit for Veteran's Programs

- Cross the Divide, Joseph
- VA Clinic Snacks, La Grande
- VA Transplant Unit, Portland
- Veterans' Home Gift Shop, The Dalles
- Eastern Oregon Military Support Fund

Fill out registration on page 7

We look forward to seeing you!

AUXILIARY NEWS



The
Jerry Gibson
Memorial
Tournament



GOLF "FORE" A VET TEAM REGISTRATION

hosted by American Legion Auxiliary Unit #43 & Legion Family La Grande, Oregon

June 4, 2022, at Buffalo Peak Golf Course in Union, Oregon

Benefit 4 Person Golf Scramble

(Amateurs only) for:
Divide Camp in Joseph, Oregon,
VA Transplant Unit,
The Dalles Veterans Home Gift Shop
Eastern Oregon Military Support Funds

Cost: **\$85 per player**
\$340 per team

Early Bird full Team entry
by April 30th is eligible for a cash
drawing of **\$100**

Registration starts at 9 am, Shotgun start at 10 am

Entry fee includes greens, cart, lunch,
refreshments, range balls and tee prize.

Mulligans to be sold the day of tournament

**** Silent Auction Items ****

Raffle prizes to be determined later

Submit payment and entry to:

ALA-GFAV Unit #43

P.O. Box 1652

La Grande, OR 97850 or drop off at

Post #43, 301 Fir Street, La Grande **June 1st cut off**

Team Players **Team Captain** _____

Name _____ Address _____ Phone # _____ GHIN# _____ Hndcp _____	Name _____ Address _____ Phone # _____ GHIN# _____ Hndcp _____
Name _____ Address _____ Phone # _____ GHIN# _____ Hndcp _____	Name _____ Address _____ Phone # _____ GHIN# _____ Hndcp _____

Questions and info call, Kathi at 541-963-0787 or email kathikk56.kk@gmail.com



Happy Birthday American Legion
March 17-22

Editors Notes

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The Voices of Oregon Veterans
The Oregon Legionnaire

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IAN GERSTEL through June 18th
BOYS STATE CHAIR Saturday 202. Boys State is a program about the State County and City government.

The Boys State Citizens will run the program and they will elect all the positions in the program. They will have opportunities for Boys Nation held in Washington DC after the program. This is our first year back to our normal in person week program. After two years wearing a mask, we are asking Districts, Posts, and all American Legion members to help with the program by finding Boys State candidates. These young men are our future leaders of America; let's help them. Thank you.



The Commission and the Host Convention Committee (Aloha 104) have met several times in the past few months. We are all excited to bring our convention back into a Legion Post. For those of you that have hosted Department Executive Committee Meetings and/or Department Convention, you understand the amount of work and the reward of this endeavor. We know that Aloha would appreciate your support and attendance in June.

Are you a golfer? The Legion family is working to bring a fun-filled five hours on the green! What better way to start the week than a round of golf?

The Boy State program will be held at Western Oregon University on June 12th Sunday,

What Is The American Legion Oregon Boys State?

It is a week of individual participation and **ROLE PLAYING** in the operation of our Democratic form of government, the organization of a political party and the practical application of the knowledge gained from both. During your week at The American Legion Oregon Boys State, you will learn many facets of the political system; from electing a Mayor to drawing up a platform, adopting caucus rules, and selecting nominees for Governor of The American Legion Oregon Boys State.

You will learn how government operates on a city level, county level, and state level of government as well as the duties of the offices associated with each level. Opportunities will be available to broaden your skills by attending special training sessions of law, leadership, speech writing and presentation, legislature, and law enforcement; conducted by selected members of The American Legion Oregon Boys State Staff and outside experts.



The Oregon American Legion Foundation will once again sponsor a fun-filled social event on Thursday, June 23. There will be light snacks, a silent auction, and a corn-hole tournament, which will be awarded the gold medal this year!!

If you are running for office in the Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion, you are highly encouraged to place an ad in the convention booklet. Advertising can also be used to highlight your Legion Family home, an event that you host annually, honor a valued member, or memorialize a member that has departed this earth.

**Aloha Post
104 - June
22-25, 2022 -
Department
of Oregon
American
Legion Con-
vention**



The Aloha Legion Family is finalizing the details; please look to the April edition of the *Legionnaire* for all the specifics!

[PDC, JON MARSH](#)
[CONVENTION CHAIR](#)



MARIA TYE
ORATORICAL CHAIR

Oregon Oratorical Scholarship Contest has been very successful despite the different on-going phases of the covid pandemic.

The Oratorical Post Chairs have successfully reached out to their local schools, media, and groups like Toastmasters, FFA, and homeschoolers. We received many calls from the Post Chairs, and it has been not only incredible but has been an asset to our Oratorical Scholarship Committee members.

how even through this pandemic, our Oregon posts have been extremely enthusiastic. No matter the demographics, parents, teachers, schools, and students still see the all-American dream of meeting the challenge to achieve success in our still great nation. There are many excellent programs in our great Oregon American Legion.

The Posts, District Commanders and our Department Commander, Don Weber, 1st Vice Commander, Larry Wittmayer, 2nd Vice Commander, Corey Brochmann, and our Department Adjutant, Flynn Phillips, have been very instrumental in helping to ensure that once again that the Oregon Oratorical Scholarship Contest is again successful.

It is through good management and the member's ability to be confident to reach out that success is achieved. By the time you read this, we will be onto announcing our five Oratorical students that have achieved the hard-earned and very-deserved prestigious Oregon Oratorical Scholarships. Thanks again to Santiam Post 51, located at 480 S. Main Street, Lebanon OR 97355. Their website is <http://www.santiampost51.org>.

Our number one winner will go onto the National Oratorical Scholarship Contest. We, Oregonians, can say with much heartfelt pride that the Oregon Oratorical Scholarship will always be an asset to our well-deserved children.

We have learned much regarding



JOHN STAUB
DISTRICT 1
ORATORICAL CHAIR

(District 1 Commander, Lou Neubecker conceits his article space to District 1 Oratorical Chair, John Staub)

"The 2022 District 1 Oratorical contest" was conducted at Aloha Post 104 on Saturday, 26 February 2022.

The 1st place contestant was Mirnmayee Kulkarni, who had won the Aloha Post 104 Oratorical Contest in January 2022, with Ken Feldhaus be-



District 1 Oratorical Contest, Aloha Post 104, held on 26 February 2022 (L-R) Cory Brockmann, Lou Neubecker, Mirnmayee Kulkarni, Susan Hughes, Viti Eachambadi, John Staub, Susanne Evers

ing the Oratorical Chair.

2nd Place went to Viti Eachambadi, a 2021 Department level contestant from John Kalmbach Post 90, and represented that Post again this year. Susanne Evers is the Oratorical Chair or Post 90.

Both of these high school students are from Westview High School in the Beaverton School. They were coached by Language Arts Teacher, Mr. Patrick Johnson. District 1 Oratorical Chair is



Mirnmayee Kulkarni, Viti Eachambadi, Susanne Evers, and Cory Brockmann following District 1 Oratorical Contest at Aloha Post 104 on 26 February 2022. Photos by John Staub

John Staub from Aloha Post 104. He was assisted by Cory Brockmann, Department of Oregon 2nd Vice Commander, who gave John guidance and support. Maria Tye, the Department Oratorical Committee Chair, and Gea Clauser, Department Americanism Commission Chair, are looking forward to including these two young lady orators with others from district competitions around the state at the Department of Oregon Oratorical Contest to be held at Santiam (Lebanon) Post 51 on Saturday 12 March 2022."



PNC, CHARLES SCHMIDT
PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

Oregon on Saturday, February 12. A high school senior, Aliza will advance to the March 12th Department Oratorical Contest in Lebanon with her prepared oration "Remembering the Constitution".

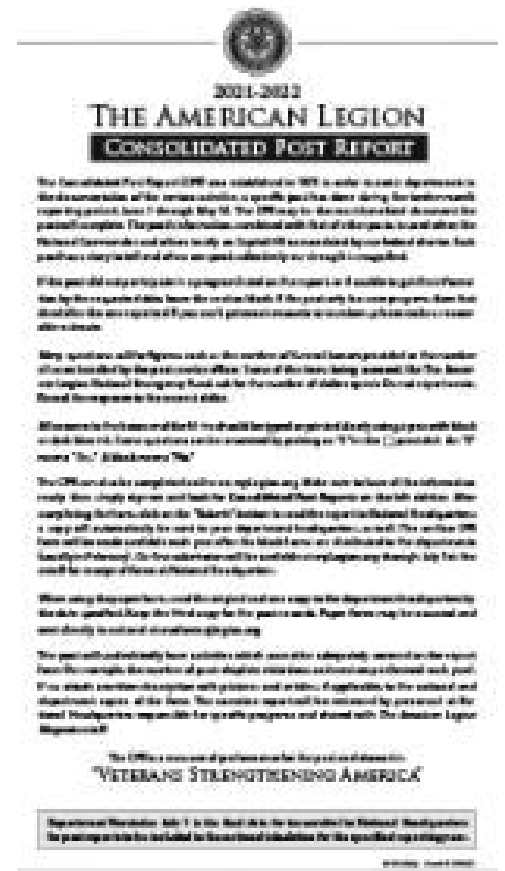


PNC, PDC, CHARLIE SCHMIDT
PR CHAIRMAN

PR CHAIRMAN Post Report (CPR) that are due to National prior to July 1, 2022. The CPR was established in 1975 to assist departments in the documentation of the various activities Posts have done during the twelve-month reporting period, June 1 through May 31. One of those reportable activities is the Buddy Check program. Buddy Check became a formal Legion-wide program concurrent with the weeks of The American Legion birthday and of Veterans Day by National Executive Committee Resolution 18, May 8-9, 2019, even though Legionnaires reach out to veterans daily. Lines 116 and

117 of the CPR form gives Posts the occasion to document their participation in the Buddy Check program, in addition to their participation in the other American Legion programs listed on the form. The CPR may be the most beneficial document a post will complete. The post's information, combined with that of other Posts, is used when the National Commander and others testify on Capitol Hill on behalf of all veterans. Each post has a story to tell and when we speak collectively, our strength is magnified. Our National Commander has a goal of 100% Consolidated Post Report reporting. For the last five years our national commanders had set this as a goal as well. The best The American Legion has accomplished during this timeframe is around 71%. It will take leadership from Department, Districts, and Posts to make this a priority and an expectation for Posts to turn in a 2021-2022 Consolidated Post Report. Department of Oregon has been recognized at National Convention in the past for having 100% of our Posts submitting a CPR. There

should be no reason our 112 Posts cannot do it again. Posts may submit their 2021-2022 CPR on-line using the fillable form available at www.mylegion.org or use the paper form.





LARRY WITTMAYER
SCOUTING CHAIR

The application form may be found on the Department website under programs - Boy Scouts. The deadline for submission to the Department is March 1st.

As I write this article, we in the program will be celebrating the 112th birthday of the Boy Scouts of America on February 8th.

Calendar of council events:

Cascade Pacific Council

Summer camp countdown is 138 days

NYLT training will be held on 7/10-15, 7/31- 8/5, and 8/14- 19

Wood badge 9/16-18 and 9/24-25

2/24 Cub Scout corner with Deb
2/26 Engineering merit badge
3/4 Super Weekend at Camp Meriwether

311 OA spring rendezvous

324 Cub Scout corner with Deb

326 Aviation merit badge

Oregon Trail Council

3/2 Friends of Scouting Kickoff
3425 ILST training
312 Scout Leader training in Corvallis

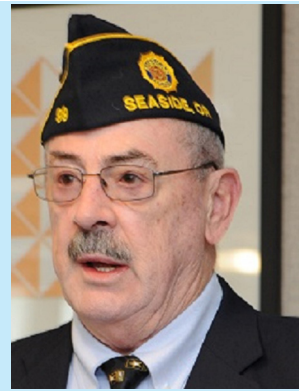
Mountain West Council

319 Council Recognition Event
Continued on page 12

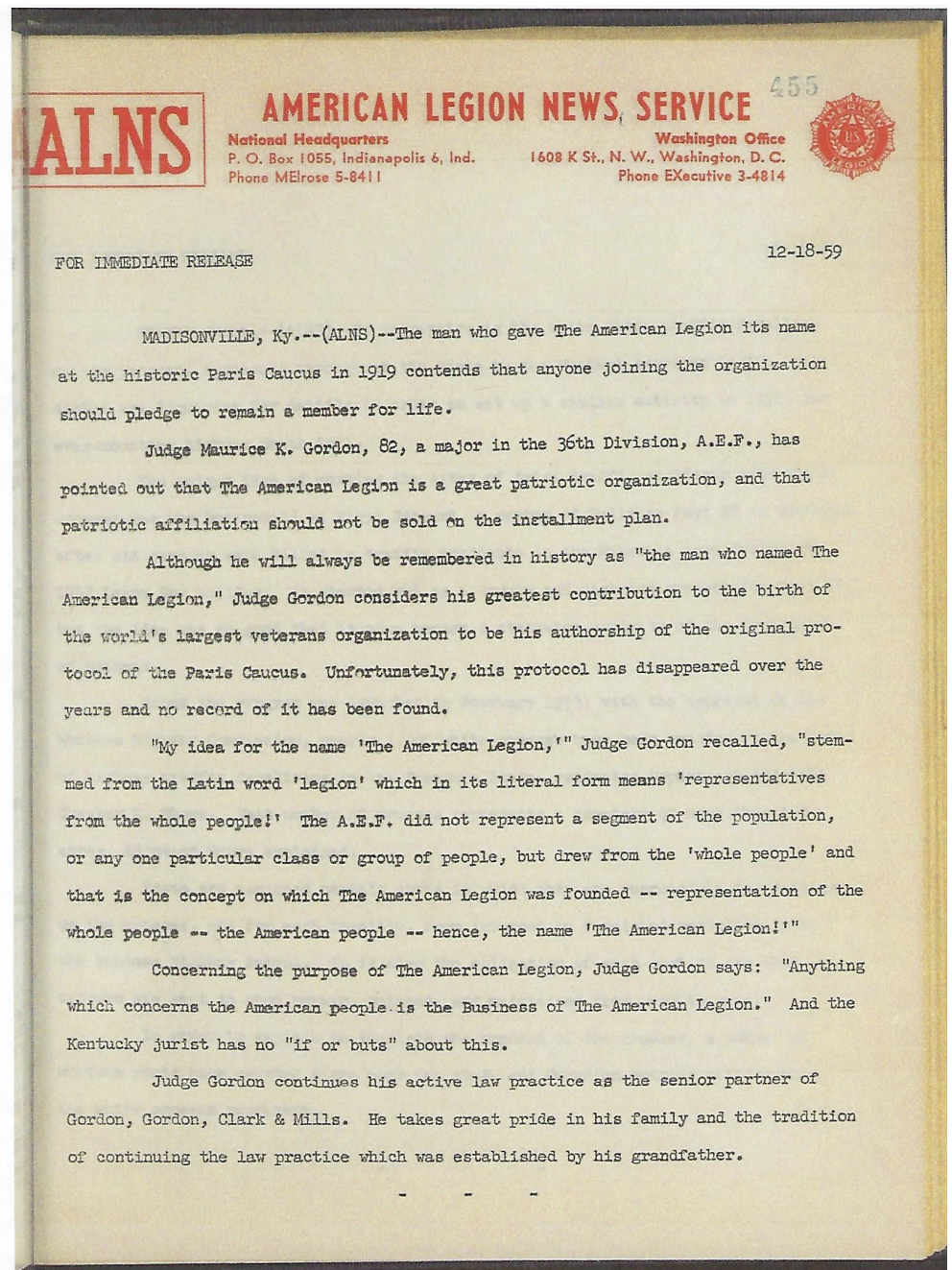
The Permanent Finance Committee met on Sunday, February 20, at Department. We reviewed our current financial position and worked on the budget to be presented at our Convention at Aloha Post 104, June 22-25, 2022. There was much discussion and thoughtful consideration given to how and where to allocate our monies to best strengthen our Department for continued growth as opposed to mere survival.

We are asking each member to review the budget and understand that

difficult decisions were made to present a balanced budget. Membership dues represent the biggest chunk of income; as membership decreases, so must expenses.



PDC, JON MARSH
PERMANENT FINANCE
COMMITTEE



Continued from page 11

LARRY WITTMAYER
SCOUTING CHAIR

Blue Mountain Council

March is Centennial
Geocaching month
2/18 -21 Klondike Derby
2/26 OA Lodge banquet
3/19-20 Fishing clinic for scouts



CORY BROCKMANN
TOALF COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Oregon American Legion Foundation – Working with you, for you!

The Oregon American Legion Foundation (TOALF) recently announced it would be offering a no-cost Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership in support of the Department of Oregon and its Legionnaires. The PUFL membership will be offered as a no-cost raffle to member Oregon Legionnaires present at the 2022 Oregon Department Convention, which will be hosted by Aloha Post #104, Aloha, Ore., June 22-25, 2022.

“I am really excited to make this announcement on behalf of the Foundation,” states Kevin Owens, TOALF president and a past department commander. “And, I am very proud of our Foundation committee members for thinking “outside the box” in a manner that supports and honors our membership and the Department (of Oregon).”

The raffle drawing seeks to award an existing Department member with a PUFL membership while also creating excitement and interest in the annual department convention.

THE OREGON AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION RAFFLE

AMERICAN LEGION
PAID UP FOR LIFE (PUFL)
MEMBERSHIP

Drawing at 2022 Oregon Department Convention

Must be present at drawing to win.*

No cost raffle. * See official rules for details on eligibility and prize award. 0001 No cost raffle. 0001

Please print legibly.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Owens goes on to say that “Oregon has *approximately 1,905* PUFL memberships and each one is an invaluable measure of commitment and dedication made by the member within our Department of Oregon,” as The American Legion does not discount pricing on lifetime memberships as some organizations do. “Our existing PUFL members have “paid it forward” with their lifetime membership and need to have an opportunity to win the drawing, as well.”

Because existing PUFL members have already demonstrated their commitment, how could the raffle drawing benefit those members?

“Our Foundation committee members felt our (Oregon) membership has been extremely dedicated to the values and principles of The American Legion through the years, as well as, in their contributions to TOALF, that this raffle is a way of acknowledging that commitment in return,” said TOALF committee member and Past National Vice Commander, Robert Liebenow, “so we wanted to be able to award any member, whether he/she is a PUFL or non-PUFL.” The outcome, unanimously, was agreeing to offer a comparable raffle prize if the winner is already a PUFL member. That prize is an in-lieu cash-value award of 50% of the membership cost, based upon the member’s age and post membership.

TOALF President Owens shared that the PUFL membership raffle tickets will be made available to each registered member at the department convention and strongly urges Oregon’s Legionnaires to block their calendars and register for the annual convention. He further added that “official rules that detail eligibility and participation are available” and should be reviewed by everyone.

The Oregon American Legion Foundation (TOALF) is a nonprofit, 501c3, that exists, in part, as a means of increasing philanthropy to further support veterans and youth programs within the Department of Oregon. TOALF works year-round to leverage contributions from members as well as the public to strengthen its support of veterans and youth programs. Contributions are tax-deductible, as permitted by law, and may be made online at <https://orlegion.org/foundation>, or you can donate by check, made payable to TOALF, and mail to The American Legion, Attn TOALF, PO Box 1730, Wilsonville, OR 97070.





February 1, 2022

2022 DEPARTMENT OF OREGON – DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

American Legion Paid Up For Life (PUFL) Membership No Cost Raffle

OFFICIAL RULES

Prize Description: One American Legion Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership for a current non-PUFL member that meets the eligibility criteria and is in further accordance with the details contained within this Official Rules document. The Oregon American Legion Foundation (TOALF) will pay the American Legion PUFL membership dues based upon the member's age and membership dues rate of the winning raffle member's current assigned post at the time of the raffle drawing. The Oregon American Legion department adjutant will submit the membership application and payment on behalf of the winner and TOALF.

If the raffle number drawn belongs to a current American Legion PUFL member, the winner will be awarded an in-lieu cash-value prize in the amount of 50% of the American Legion PUFL membership dues based upon the member's age and membership dues-rate of the winning raffle member's current assigned post as of the time of the raffle drawing. TOALF will make payment of the in-lieu cash-value prize.

Neither the PUFL membership nor the in-lieu cash-value prize is transferrable. The PUFL membership cannot be substituted/exchanged for an in-lieu cash-value prize.

Date of Drawing: June 24, 2022

Location of Drawing: 2022 Oregon Department Convention Banquet – Aloha, Oregon

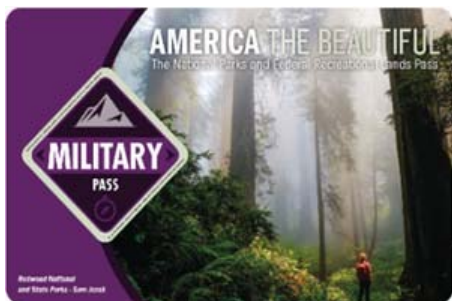
Ticket Cost: No cost.

Odds of Winning: Dependent upon the number of participating registered attendees at the department convention.

Eligibility Criteria: Must be a current member in good standing of The American Legion Department of Oregon. Must be a registered member and participant of the 2022 Oregon Department Convention, in possession of 2022 convention credentials, and in possession of their 2022 American Legion membership identification card. Members of The Oregon American Legion Foundation (TOALF) committee are not eligible to participate.

Rules: Must be present to win. One American Legion Paid Up For Life (PUFL) Membership numbered raffle ticket will be provided to each eligible member, at no cost, as described in this Official Rules document. A PUFL Membership numbered raffle ticket, herein referred to as 'numbered raffle ticket', will be provided to the member during his/her convention registration during convention registration hours; registration hours will be as published in the convention program and/or as posted at the registration table; if registration hours change, updated hours posted at the registration table take precedent. Member must legibly complete the numbered raffle ticket stub, remove the raffle ticket stub from the raffle ticket, deposit the completed stub in the receptacle provided, and maintain possession of the numbered raffle ticket for the drawing. Participating convention-registered members should only be in possession of one numbered raffle ticket; one member, one numbered raffle ticket. The Raffle Judges must be able to legibly read the name and phone number of the numbered raffle ticket stub; otherwise, the stub is disqualified, and another stub will be drawn. At the time of the drawing, upon announcement of the winning raffle number, the convention-registered member must provide proof of his/her 2022 American Legion membership identification card and the numbered raffle ticket with the corresponding matching number for verification by the Raffle Judges. The winner will complete the winner certification/verification form for the Raffle Judges at the conclusion of the drawing. Verification of member 2022 American Legion membership identification card, winning numbered raffle ticket, and online membership verification shall be completed by the Raffle Judges within 72 hours, and the raffle officially closed. The Oregon American Legion department adjutant will submit the PUFL membership application and payment on behalf of the winner if a non-PUFL member. TOALF will remit an in-lieu cash-value prize if the winner is already a PUFL member. Members of The TOALF committee are not eligible to participate. All decisions rendered by the Raffle Judges are final.

Raffle Judges: The Oregon American Legion Foundation (TOALF) committee



Free Access to Federally Owned Recreational Lands

Legionnaires, did you know you can gain *free access* to federally owned recreational lands, including National Parks, National Forests, National Grasslands, and more? It's true!

Beginning back on November 11, 2020, the **America the Beautiful - National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands**

Military Pass (pictured here) was expanded from current US military (U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force and National Guard), to also include veterans, dependents, and Gold Star families.

The Military Pass covers entrance to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service sites that charge Entrance Fees, and covers Standard Amenity Fees at Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation sites, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites.

The Military Pass may be obtained in person at no cost at Federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees. And, for those wanting their name printed on the card, it may be acquired online for a minor fee. Documentation is required to acquire the free pass.

Details on eligibility and acquiring the no cost Military Pass may be found at:

<https://store.usgs.gov/MilitaryPass>

A nationwide listing of recreational sites that will issue the card on site may be found at:

<https://store.usgs.gov/s3fs-public/PassIssuanceList.pdf>

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

Military help line
for Legionnaires

<http://militaryhelpline.org/about-us/>



THE OREGON AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION

American Legion Paid Up For Life (PUFL)

Membership Raffle

In support of our Department of Oregon membership, The Oregon American Legion Foundation is proudly offering a no cost Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership raffle, which will be conducted at the 2022 Oregon Department Convention!

Raffle Prize: One American Legion Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership*
(* An in-lieu cash-value prize will be awarded if already a PUFL member.)

Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a current member in good standing of The American Legion Department of Oregon.
- Be a registered member and participant of the 2022 Oregon Department Convention.
- Be in possession of 2022 convention credentials.
- Be in possession of his/her 2022 American Legion membership identification card.

Official Rules: Must be present to win. See official rules for details.



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





BETTY FISH-FERGUSON
TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

The Training and Development Committee completed another successful Post level training event at Post 16 in Roseburg on.

January 29th. It

was well attended and informative. The guest speaker was Veteran Suicide Reduction Coordinator Kurt Ross-back from the Roseburg VA Medical



Center. He presented the VA's SAVE program to assist Veterans. The next location for a trading event will be in the La Grande area at a date to be determined due to weather.

For the motivated person, there are many at-home training opportunities. The Basic Training online program has a well-rounded history of The American Legion. There are training videos monthly from the national

training website. There is the ALEI, American Legion Education institute, which is a self-paced booklet also that explores the history of this organization. Please let me know if you need information on any of these options.

At the next DEC, we will have open walk-in sessions with Department officers to address individual Post problems. Bring your laptop computer. This training will be held while the Department Commander meets with District Commanders. There will be a guest speaker in the afternoon from the Boise **VAMC. COME ONE, COME ALL!**



PDC, BOB HUFF
VA&R CHAIRPERSON

As virtual hearings have started up again, our Department Veteran Service Officers 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 Officers continue doing a great job supporting our Veterans during a very difficult time and have adjusted to new ways in supporting our veterans.

Our Veteran Service Officer Jody Marsh taught a class to our members at our Saturday Training before our Department Executive Meeting in Wilsonville, providing handouts with information for our Post Service Officers with contact information for services they can provide our members and veterans and families at our Post

VA & R

Level.

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, and continues to support with new requirements for support, weekly, some more depending on the area.

Both our Department Service Office and VAVS Program have been impacted with positive COVID cases and have continued to support with reduced in-person support and continued to support with virtual support. In-Person support was also at the VA SORCC Employment Event. The VA will not allow anyone to fill volunteer positions without being complete on their COVID shots by Federal direction.

We are currently participating in meetings with recommendations to

start the VA&R Meetings at our Department Convention to include speakers from our National Organization and our Local VA's, Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, and National Cemetery Administration and recognize our VSO and Volunteers that do so much in our Department of Oregon Legion Family. 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.

If your District is holding its meeting and would like more information

Continued on page 17

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION and HOMELESSNESS



PDC, BOB HUFF
VEE & H CHAIRPERSON

The Veterans Employment, Education, and Homelessness Commission worked with the VA SORCC and held our second in-person Employment Event on Saturday, February 5, 2022. This is our second Employment Event in the past 60 days. On Saturday, December 4, 2021, the first event we held at the VA SORCC in White City was a total success. With the requirement

for critical clinical needs to support the Veteran population and the first event's success, the second in-person event was held.

With COVID protocols, we held part inside and part outside; yes, it was cold in the morning, and yes, it was successful, more successful than we planned. As a critical need exists at all our VA's, more events are in the works. As events are planned, and flyers are put together for the events, we will place them in this Legionnaire and circulate them through our Department email chain. Each event is held complying with all Mask, Social Distancing, and Oregon and VA rules for a number of participants. All rules

are followed for everyone's safety.

All employment opportunities for these scheduled events are for critical jobs at VA facilities. All our partners participated. With a shortage of candidates, we are having to work out of the box finding new ways to support. Our goal is Veterans and Spouse employment and supporting where the needs of the VA to support our Veterans needs are met. Yes, it is a new way of doing business. We are looking for new ways to support Pillar One. We still need some face-to-face Veteran Stand Downs. We are gathering equipment clothing and have met with the VA Directors for a venue. We are getting closer with in-person events starting.

WHAT IF ...

THIS WERE YOU?

Learn How the Legionnaire Emergency Assistance Plus® (EA+®) Helps You Handle Travel Emergencies.

Legionnaire EA+ steps in to help you with more than 20 emergency and medical services ... to help you focus on your recovery and NOT on the costs (or even details like lining up second opinions or flying loved ones home).*

Plus, acting right away also helps lock in your Legionnaire members-only price.

Secure your EA+ protection right away, you're guaranteed the same low price for a FULL year.

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

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

From Your American Legion Department

TRUE COMPASS DESIGNS

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

TRUE COMPASS DESIGNS

360.210.4157
19215 SE 34th St. #106
PMB 142
Camas, WA 98607

Work About Contact

<https://www.godaddy.com/garage/true-compass-designs-navigating-web-design-by-honoring-his-true-north/>

VA & R

Continued from page 16

PDC, BOB HUFF or support
VA&R CHAIRPERSON with our Pillar I Veterans activities, please get in touch with me, and we will be happy to support you.

Thank you

March 29 is Vietnam War Veterans Day.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day is observed every year on March 29. It is a way to thank and honor our nation's Vietnam War Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. March 29 was chosen as National Vietnam War Veterans Day because it was on March 29, 1973 that the last U.S. combat troops departed the Republic of Vietnam...

Don Curtis

NATIONAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION and HOMELESSNESS



PDC, BOB HUFF
NATIONAL VEE & H
COMMISSION

committee on Economic Opportunity Committee on Veterans Affairs, United States House of Representatives on Securing High-Demand Jobs for Veterans.

On Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 10 am EST (7 am here), our National Veterans Employment and Education (VE&E) Commission members were invited to attend the Sub-

Our National VE&E Director Joe Sharp was giving testimony for The American Legion. The hearings were live-streamed, all testimony was virtual. Chair Mike Levin and ranking member Moore held each member and witness to five minutes, we heard from the Deputy Under Secretary of the VA, the Under Secretary of the Department of Labor (DOL-VETs), the Director of the Pentagon on Jobs, several witnesses, industry leaders, excellent hearing and the only Veterans Organization with a voice and bringing the issues to the table was The American Legion. After this hearing, a hearing took place on Woman Veterans transition issues and the Transi-

tion Assistance Program (TAP) with issues facing Woman Veterans when preparing of moving from military to civilian life.

There is a lot of good information and the job our organization is doing in our Washington DC Office advocating for Veterans and Veterans Issues before our Legislative Branch. Remember, our organization is listened to by both houses; strength is in our numbers. When we work membership, remember, we are advocating for Veterans and their families, from all wars and conflicts, young and old, and that is what our team in Washington DC is doing.



NATIONAL NEWS FROM NATIONAL COMMANDER DILLARD ON PAGES 19-22

Virtual conference, real results

FEB 23, 2022

PAUL E. DILLARD

NATIONAL COMMANDER

Though the 2022 [American Legion Washington Conference](#) will not be the massive gathering that we have enjoyed prior to the pandemic, members of the nation's largest veterans organization can expect meaningful results to arise from our virtual advocacy.

[The legislative agenda that The American Legion presents to the second session of the 117th Congress](#) is ambitious and timely. And in many ways, it is overdue.

Veterans exposed to toxic burn pits have waited far too long for the presumption of service connection to be established. The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that requires VA to presume exposure for veterans deployed to areas with known environmental hazards, establishes a framework for the presumptive process and creates a list of presumptive illnesses associated with

burn pits. Urgent action is needed to ensure that veterans have access to the care they need and have earned.

I am disappointed that access is still very limited at the U.S. Capitol. As I wrote in [a letter to senior congressional leaders](#) in October, "The People's House should not be closed to groups such as ours a day longer than necessary."

Yet, through the use of email, phone calls, and personal visits to congressional district offices, there are still many ways for Legionnaires to advance our priorities. First, I recommend that you [watch the Know Before You Go video](#).

Then, return to [legion.org](#) on Tuesday, March 8, at 10 a.m. to watch a live stream of my testimony before a joint session of senators and representatives hosted by the [House Committee on Veterans Affairs](#).

As you communicate with your rep-

resentative and senators, I ask that you remember an important principle that has served our organization well for 103 years. The American Legion is nonpartisan. We are there to advance policies, not personalities. It is not the time to espouse political viewpoints, unrelated agendas, or personal attacks.

Remember, not every member of Congress is going to agree with us on every issue. Be polite and respectful in these instances, and there is a good chance that the member will be willing to reconsider or work with us on other issues of importance to the Legion.

Whether we are advocating for better health care or protecting the U.S. flag from desecration, it's important to always remember our core constituents – the men and women who went into harm's way and defended America.

For God and Country,

American Legion Calls Urgent Meetings on Ukraine

INDIANAPOLIS (Feb. 24, 2022) – [JOHN RAUGHTER](#) and [Dave Lapan](#), the head of the nation's largest veterans organization, have called an emergency meeting of its top leaders to discuss the Russian invasion of Ukraine and a recommended U.S. response.

"The American Legion is deeply concerned about today's invasion of Ukraine by Russia and how this military action affects U.S. security, Europe and the rest of the world," American Legion National Commander

Paul E. Dillard said. "The American Legion National Security Commission is meeting urgently to address the situation with plans to recommend to the organization's National Executive Committee (board of directors) a statement of policy and recommended course of action that restores peace immediately."

[The American Legion](#) is dedicated to the motto of "Veterans Strengthening America." Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and

sponsoring wholesome community programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security and continued devotion to servicemembers and veterans. Nearly 1.8 million members in more than 12,000 posts across the nation and regions overseas serve their communities with a devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Media contacts: John Raughter, jraughter@legion.org, (317) 630-1350, Dave Lapan, (703) 403-3835, dlapan@legion.org, (703) 403-3835.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
2022

Resolution No. 1: Statement on Ukraine

Origin: Register Resolution No. 2816 (NC) Department Executive Committee

Submitted By: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes in a rules-based international order where the territorial boundaries of any sovereign nation should not be changed by force; and

WHEREAS, The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an essential element of U.S. national security in an increasingly multi-polar world where rising powers have become increasingly adversarial and have committed to work together to revise the rules-based international order; and

WHEREAS, After the end of the Cold War, the United States and NATO created a European security architecture that gave no role to Russia; and

WHEREAS, Article 5 is an essential element of the NATO alliance and should be upheld, but this mutual defense clause does not extend to non-member states; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. should thoroughly exhaust all diplomatic and economic tools at its disposal before utilizing military force; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Constitution grants Congress the sole power to declare war; and

WHEREAS, The National Security Commission met on February 25, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., and this resolution has the approval of the National Security Commission; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion by a vote pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of the National Executive Committee, That The American Legion support a peaceful conflict resolution in Ukraine, in conjunction with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Russian Federation; and supports a European security architecture that takes into account the national security interests of all parties; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion does not support the deployment of troops for combat operations in defense of non-NATO member countries in connection with the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict but urges the administration to continue the supply of lethal and non-lethal aid to Ukrainian forces; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the administration and U.S. Congress maintain a strong stance and resist any agreement that could undermine the strategic rationale for the normalization of agreements between NATO, Russia, and Ukraine; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That U.S. servicemembers should not be deployed in support of combat operations in any theater unless four conditions have been fulfilled:

1. That there will be a clear statement by the president of why it is in our vital national interests to be engaged in a particular operation
2. Guidelines will be established for the mission, including a clear exit strategy
3. That Congress is consulted and authorizes the use of military force
4. That it be made clear U.S. forces will be commanded only by U.S. officers; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion reaffirms its unwavering admiration of, and support for, our American men and women serving in uniform throughout the world, and we reaffirm our efforts to provide sufficient national assets to ensure their well-being.



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Veterans Strengthening America
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

PO BOX 1055, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, 46206-1055 • WWW.LEGION.ORG • P: (317) 630-1200 • F: (317) 630-1223

Dear American Legion Boys State Citizen,

Congratulations and welcome to American Legion Boys State! American Legion Boys State is among the most highly respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. I am confident that you will not be disappointed with your decision to participate in this outstanding citizenship education experience. It will influence life decisions in ways that you may not fully realize until years later.

As one of thousands of young men from throughout the nation selected to participate in American Legion Boys State each year, you will experience government in a practical sense. American Legion Boys State is a leadership action program; one that teaches government and its structure. It proves that government is just what you make it. You will find Boys State to be challenging and sometimes demanding, however, I'm certain you will undoubtedly also find it enjoyable and educational.

If this government "... of the people, by the people, and for the people" is to remain strong, it requires the involvement of its citizens. The onus of preparing for that responsibility now rests squarely upon your shoulders and those of future generations. Since 1935 American Legion Boys State has been prominent in producing young men who, just like you, stepped up to become ready for accepting that responsibility. It is possible that a future mayor, governor, congressman, or even president, may be among those in your class of American Legion Boys State citizens. I make this statement because this program has historically been the springboard for many careers in local, state and federal public service. Regardless of the future career path you follow – politics, education, business, medicine, information technology or so forth - you will develop lasting bonds of friendship with fellow Boys State citizens that will extend well after the formal program has ended.

I wish to again extend my best wishes for an interest-provoking, exciting and very fulfilling 2022 American Legion Boys State experience.

PAUL E. DILLARD
National Commander



American Legion Boys Nation, July 30, 2021

The American Legion

FEB 22, 2022

The American Legion recognizes February as Americanism Month – a time to reflect on the importance of upholding what the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution states, which is "To foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism."

"Americanism is the love of America,

loyalty to its ideals and institutions, allegiance to its flag, willingness to defend it against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and a desire to pass on the blessings of liberty to future generations," Americanism Commission Chairman Richard Anderson wrote. "To safeguard our nation's continuing prosperity, it is vital that we ensure that our youth understand and cherish our ideals and traditions."

Last year, American Legion members across the country upheld a 100 percent Americanism through their devotion, dedication, and commitment to the success of Americanism programs at the local, state, and national level, despite limitations surrounding ongoing safety measures with COVID-19. This 100 percent Americanism commitment is visible in the Americanism By-the-Numbers report for 2021.

A few highlights from the Americanism By-the-Numbers report were that in 2021:

- 50,575 youth from 2,975 teams played American Legion Baseball.
- 31 American Legion Boys State programs reported having conducted a program.

Continued on page 21

Continued from page 20

- 2,089 Scouting units were chartered by American Legion Family members across the country, involving 38,315 youth.
- 21 American Legion departments have established an American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement program.
- 48 American Legion department oratorical winners were certified of the 53 departments normally competing. (The 2021 National Oratorical Finals in Indianapolis was canceled due to safety concerns regarding the pandemic.)
- 686 individual athletes and 88 shooting clubs entered the 2020-2021 postal round competition of The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Tournament.

As reported by the 2021 Consolidated Post Report, 2,377 students from throughout the nation were presented an American Legion School Award Medal; 909 American Legion posts participated in American Education Week; 2,100 citizenship and naturalization activities were conducted in local communities, and 1,531 Get Out the Vote activities conducted in communities.



Americanism and Children & Youth “By the Numbers” 2021

American Legion Baseball

- For the 2021 season **50,575** youth from **2,975** teams played American Legion Baseball (**1,866** senior teams and **1,109** junior teams) representing 49 American Legion departments.
- **1,152** players participated at the eight national regional tournaments, of which **144** went on to play in the American Legion World Series.
- Coverage of the American Legion World Series from tv, radio, print, and online resulted in **120 million** media impressions worth **\$5.5 million** in ad value.
- **88,982** subscribers to the American Legion Baseball e-newsletter “The Dugout.”
- There are **82** American Legion Baseball program alumni enshrined in the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Junior Shooting Sports

- **686** individual athletes and 88 shooting clubs entered the 2020-2021 postal round competition of The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Tournament, despite lingering impact of the coronavirus global pandemic.

Boys State

- **31** Boys State programs reported having conducted a program in 2021 despite the challenge of continued effects of the coronavirus global pandemic; **6,826** Boys State citizens participated.

Scouting and The American Legion

- A total of **2,089** Scouting units were chartered by Legion Family across the nation (American Legion posts chartered **2,048** Scout units; Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered **28** Scout units; and American Legion Auxiliary units chartered **13**

Scout units), involving **38,315** youth and **21,175** adult leaders.

- **2,132** youth were recognized by The American Legion with a certificate issued from the national level for achievements in Scouting programs (**1,994** Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout awards; 8 Boy Scouts of America Venturing Summit awards; 7 Boy Scouts of America Sea Scouts Quartermaster awards; and **123** Girl Scouts USA Gold Awards); total number of recognitions increased **260** from the previous year.
- **8** Legion Family members were recognized with a Scouting Square Knot Award of The American Legion for their active involvement in The American Legion’s Scouting programs; this is an increase of **4** awards from the previous year.

Youth Cadet Law Enforcement

- **21** American Legion departments have an established American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement program.

Oratorical

- Notwithstanding persistent effects of the coronavirus global pandemic, **48** American Legion department oratorical winners were certified of the **53** departments normally competing; this is an increase of **5** from the previous year.

Youth Education

- **\$792,521*** in fundraising was amassed during National Commander James “Bill” Oxford’s 2021 Legacy Run year (1 October, 2020 – 30 September, 2021).
- **63** students were awarded a total of **\$482,622** in academic scholarships from the national level.

Continued on page 22

Americanism and Children & Youth “By the Numbers” 2021

Continued from page 21

- The 2020-2021 Consolidated Post Report states that **2,377** students from throughout the nation were presented an American Legion School Award Medal.
- The 2020-2021 Consolidated Post Report states that a total of **909** American Legion posts participated in annual American Education Week; an **increase of 242** from the previous year.

Flag

- The 2020-2021 Consolidated Post Report indicates there were **3,931** Flag Day activities in local communities.
- There are **77,838** subscribers to the American Legion Flag Half-Staff Notification Alert service.

Get Out the Vote

- The 2020-2021 Consolidated Post Report reflects there were **1,531** Get Out the Vote activities conducted in communities throughout the nation; this is an **increase of 42** from the previous year.

Citizenship

- The 2020-2021 Consolidated Post Report reflects there were **2,100** citizenship and naturalization activities conducted in local communities

throughout the nation; this is an **increase of 1,691** from the previous year.

God and Country

- The 2020-2021 Consolidated Post Report reflects there were **1,106** Posts that participated in the 2021 annual National Day of Prayer; this is an **increase of 59** from the previous year.

Four Chaplains Sunday

- The 2020-2021 Consolidated Post Report reflects that **1,924** activities were conducted in observance of Four Chaplains Sunday; this is an **increase of 261** from the previous year.

Legion Conferences

- A total of **450** Legion family members attended the annual national Combined Americanism Conferences. Conference segments offered on a virtual platform included Oratorical, Junior Shooting Sports, Children & Youth, department chaplains and Scouting, while in-person conference segments were conducted for the Baseball and Boys State programs in Indianapolis during the same period.

Youth Welfare and Safety

- The 2020-2021 Consolidated Post Report reflects that a total of **808** Posts held child health and safety activities

throughout the nation (an **increase of 225** from the previous year), while **1,709** Posts conducted Halloween safety activities (an **increase of 315** from the previous year).

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF)

- In 2021 the Child Welfare Foundation Board of Directors awarded **\$639,328*** in 17 grants to 14 non-profit organizations that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of children and youth.

American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF)

- The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, doing business as the Veterans & Children Foundation, contributed **\$86,630*** as funding of the Temporary Financial Assistance program.

Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA)

- **16** minor children of **6** veterans throughout **5** states received **\$8,035*** in non-repayable cash grant assistance from the national Temporary Financial Assistance program to help support those children's basic needs of shelter, utilities, food, and clothing.

(* Subject to final audit)

Interesting things to make you say
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DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

I need to remind everyone to send in their membership renewals in a timely manner. We have a very realistic goal for membership this year, so please stay focused and take us to the finish line.

The Convention Corporation is work-

ing on a great state convention this year. Aloha Post 104 is working on a terrific location, and we have a lot of exciting business, and information pertaining to Veterans that you will want to learn about. Convention will be June 22 to 25 in Aloha OR.


Expect to hear more about preventing Veteran Suicide. The VA estimates between 17 and 22 Veteran Suicides per day, and we can all agree that one is one too many. There will be a national focus to address this issue. In the meantime, everyone should pay attention to your battle buddies, and stay with them and call (800) 273-TALK. We will continue to provide information on this critical topic.

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It was an honor to host the Leading Candidate and the National Vice Commander in Oregon. We are focusing on taking them out to visit Legionnaires around the State and focus on exciting our members about the great programs we work in the Department of Oregon. We have the Candidate for National Commander scheduled to visit in April, and the current National Commander will visit just prior to our State Convention.

Keep up the splendid work on our programs. Working the programs gets Legion visibility in the community and creates a desire to join this great organization.




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From Your American Legion Department



A retired Marine 3-star general explains 'critical military theory'

"There is only one overriding standard for military capability: lethality."

BY GREGORY NEWBOLD

PUBLISHED FEB 10, 2022 9:03 AM

Many Americans, particularly our most senior politicians and military leaders, seem to have developed a form of dementia when it comes to warfare. The result is confusion or denial about the essential ingredients of a competent military force, and the costs of major power conflict. The memory loss is largely irrespective of political bent because all too many are seduced by a Hollywoodinfused sense of antiseptic warfare and push-button solutions, while forgotten are the one million casualties of the Battle of the Somme in World War I, or the almost two million in the Battle of Stalingrad in World War II.

This "warfare dementia" is a dangerous and potentially catastrophic malady, because the price for it could alter the success of the American experiment and most assuredly will be paid in blood. The condition is exacerbated and enabled when the most senior military leaders — those who ought to know better — defer to the idealistic judgments of those whose credentials are either nonexistent or formed entirely by ideology.

The purpose of this essay is to explain the fundamental tenets of a military that will either deter potential

Continued on page 25



Answer: C. Canada

First successful insulin treatment of diabetes was in Canada.

The first use of insulin as a diabetes treatment takes place during January in Toronto. The treatment was given to 14 year old diabetic Leonard Thompson who had been near death but had rapidly recovered after receiving the insulin shots, proving the treatment to be successful. The use of insulin to treat diabetes had been discovered during 1921 by Frederick Banting and Charles Best and had been administered in its first human trial with the help of John Macleod and Bertram Collip. Banting and Macleod were awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine.

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We are mailing Hospital Help on March 23rd.

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Pays a dollar amount for every day in the member is in the hospital, ICU, Cancer or Cardiac Care unit, or at a Rehabilitative Facility after the hospital stay. Even pays if the treatment is at a VA Hospital. 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/Hospital-Help-Plan.

Stay tuned for an exciting new product update next month!

*** We are excited to report that the ID Resolve campaign we mailed to members at the end of October 2021 brought in over 1,600 new enrollments!

*** The next mailing is Accidental Death in April.

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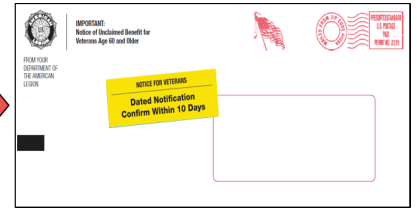
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A retired Marine 3-star general explains 'critical military theory'

enemies or decisively win the nation's wars, thereby preserving our way of life. What follows are the tenets of Critical Military Theory:

1. The U.S. military has two main purposes — to deter our enemies from engaging us in warfare, and if that fails, to defeat them in combat. Deterrence is only possible if the opposing force believes it will be defeated. Respect is not good enough; fear and certainty are required.

- Relevant Wisdom: "If we desire to avoid insult, we must be able to repel it; if we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity, it must be known that we are at all times ready for War." George Washington.

2. To be true to its purpose, the U.S. military cannot be a mirror image of the society it serves. Values that are admirable in civilian society — sensitivity, individuality, compassion, and tolerance for the less capable — are often antithetical to the traits that deter a potential enemy and win the wars that must be fought: Conformity, discipline, unity.

Direct ground combat, of the type we must be prepared to fight, is only waged competently when actions are instinctive, almost irrationally disciplined, and wholly sacrificial when required. Consensus building, deference, and (frankly) softness have their place in polite society, but nothing about intense ground combat is polite — it is often sub-humanly coarse.

- Relevant Wisdom: "We sleep soundly in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to do violence on those who would

harm us." Attributed to George Orwell, possibly originally from Richard Grenier.

3. There is only one overriding standard for military capability: lethality. Those officeholders who dilute this core truth with civil society's often appropriate priorities (diversity, gender focus, etc.) undermine the military's chances of success in combat. Reduced chances for success mean more casualties, which makes defeat more likely. Combat is the harshest meritocracy that exists, and nothing but ruthless adherence to this principle contributes to deterrence and combat effectiveness.

- Relevant Wisdom: "I shall see no officer under my command is debarred...from attending to his first duty, which is and always has been to train the private men under his command that they may without question beat any force opposed to them in the field." The Duke of Wellington

4. A military should not be designed to win but to overwhelm. In baseball, you win if your total score is one run better than your opponent's. In war, narrow victories incur what we call "the butcher's bill."

- Relevant Wisdom: "But these things do not belong to war itself; they are only given conditions; and to introduce into the philosophy of war itself a principle of moderation would be an absurdity." Carl Von Clausewitz.

5. Wars must be waged only with stone-cold pragmatism, not idealism, and fought only when critical national interests are at stake.

Hopes for changing cultures to fit our model are both elitist and naive. The failures of our campaigns in Iraq and especially in Afghanistan confirm this.

- Relevant Wisdom. "They enjoy playing poker with someone else's chips." B.V. Taylor

6. A military force's greatest strengths are cohesion and discipline. Individuality or group identity is corrosive and a centrifugal force. Indeed, the military wears uniforms because uniformity is essential. The tenets of Critical Race Theory — a cross-disciplinary intellectual and social movement that seeks to examine the intersection of race and law in the United States, but which has the unfortunate effect of dividing people along racial lines — undermine our military's unity and diminish our warfighting capabilities.

Recruit training teaches close order drill and the manual of arms (drill with weapons) not because they still have relevance to maneuvers on the field of battle, but because they instill a sense of how conformity creates efficiency and superior group results. Upon a firm foundation of cohesion, imaginative leaders can spark initiative and innovation. But when we highlight differences or group identity, we undermine cohesion and morale. Failure results.

- Relevant Wisdom: "Four brave men who do not know each other will not dare to attack a lion. Four less brave, but knowing each other well, sure of their reliability and consequently of mutual aid, will attack resolutely. There is the sci-

Continued on page 26

A retired Marine 3-star general explains 'critical military theory'

Continued from page 25

ence of the organization of armies in a nutshell.” Colonel Ardant du Picq.

7. “The enemy gets a vote.” An objective lens for military theory is how the nation’s foes regard our martial ethos; after all, that is what constitutes deterrence...or lack of it. Ferocity, not sensitivity, prevails.

- Relevant Wisdom: “We will not fight them. They are not normal. When we shoot at them, they run towards us. If we fight them, we die. They are worse than the sons of Satan.” Taliban radio intercept after engaging U.S. forces.

8. Infantry and special operations forces are different. The mission of those who engage in direct ground combat is manifestly distinct, and their standards and requirements must be as well. Not necessarily better, but different. For direct ground combat units, only the highest levels of discipline, fitness, cohesion, esprit, and just plain grit are acceptable. Insist on making their conditions and standards conform to other military communities, and you weaken the temper of steel in these modern-day Spartans.

- Relevant Wisdom: “It is fatal to enter a war without the will to win it.” General Douglas MacArthur.

9. Those who enlist in our military swear an oath to carry out dangerous, sometimes fatal duties. We call it “being in the service,” because it’s service to others....selfless sacrifices when the other option was often more comfort, freedom, individuality, and higher pay. Those who occupy the

most senior ranks of the military must repay this selflessness with courage that is even rarer — moral courage. Civilian control of the military is disputable, but its corollary is the ordinary principle that advice is sought, offered, and seriously considered before crucial decisions are made. My personal experience provides examples — the willful exclusion of military judgments in the build-up to the Iraq War with the attendant consequence that the invasion force was too shallow (thereby creating a vacuum which the insurgents quickly filled), and the decision to disband the Iraqi Army (the single most unifying institution in that country) after the incollapse of the Baathist regime. A more recent example worth considering involves the Afghanistan withdrawal.

- Relevant Wisdom: “There’s a great deal of talk about loyalty from the bottom to the top. Loyalty from the top down is even more necessary and is much less prevalent.” General George S. Patton.

So what’s the problem? The problem today is one of both priorities and standards. We signal a dangerous shift in priorities (as just one example) when global warming, not preparedness to defeat aggressive global competitors, is considered the greatest problem for the Department of Defense and headquarters and rank inflation blossom out of control to the point that the support element greatly diminishes the ground combat element that wins wars. A problem of standards when every service and the Special Operations community dilute requirements based purely on merit in favor of predetermined outcomes to favor social engineering goals, and when new training requirements

crowd out expectations and measurements of combat performance.

This principle is the most clearly and frequently violated in our current military environment. Although the examples are many, the most egregious sidestepping of scientific evidence occurred when the U.S. Marine Corps’ lengthy examination of the effects of integrated (coed) ground combat performance was refuted and ignored (often by those who hadn’t read it). This brings to mind the verbiage used in another context: “inconvenient truths.”

The critical tasks outlined above may omit some essentials, but these serve as a starter and perhaps as a wake-up call. We have witnessed extraordinary and sacrificial service by our Armed Forces — too good to squander by confusing our military’s purpose with those of individuals who don’t pay in blood for their errors. And too good for a foe to misjudge our intrinsic toughness. In any case, these are not Critical Military Theories; these are Critical Military Facts.

Greg Newbold is a retired Marine Corps Lieutenant General who commanded at every level from platoon to division. His last assignment was as Director of Operations for the Joint Staff in the Pentagon. In retirement, he operated a science and technology think tank, and co-founded a private equity firm and consulting group. He has been a director on a dozen non-profit and for profit companies.

Update: This story has been modified after publication to correct the accuracy and attribution of several quotes.



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Letter-writing “Coast Guard Lady” dies at 102



Lois Bouton, the Coast Guard Lady, is made an honorary chief by six prospective chief petty officers at the Chief's Call to Indoctrination dinner in St. Louis, Oct. 25, 2013. Bouton has been writing to members of the Coast Guard for 40 years after serving as a SPAR during World War II and was the guest of honor. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Ayla Kelley)

The American Legion
FEB 10, 2022

Lois Bouton, the World War II Coast Guard veteran who wrote as many as 100,000 letters to her fellow Coast Guardsmen over 50 years, died on Feb. 5 at 102 in Rogers, Ark.

Born Lois Guenette in Illinois in 1919, she and her late husband William had lived in Rogers since 1974. The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported that she had admired the Coast Guard since her teaching days reading about their rescue work on the Great Lakes. After Pearl Harbor she tried to enlist with the service but was turned down.

But in 1942 the Coast Guard Wom-

en's Reserve was established, and Bouton joined it in 1943. She served as a radio operator and was discharged in November 1945. The Boutons moved back to Illinois, and she went back to teaching, retiring in 1972. In 1974, she began writing letters of support to Coast Guard members in locations from "isolated stations" to lighthouses.

With 100,000 letters going out over the decades, many servicemembers received them who later rose to leadership positions in the Coast Guard. Retired Master Chief Petty Officer Vince Patton first heard from Bouton in 1986 and commented to the Democrat-Gazette, "It was refreshing, when you are stationed on a ship, deployed away from home, this cheery

letter comes with encouraging words When you read the letter, you couldn't help but smile." As she had reached out to them, they reached out to her, with visits – including from commandants and master chief petty officers – and honors. The Guard gave her its Distinguished Public Service Award, the Coast Guard Auxiliary made her an honorary commodore, and the Department of Defense presented her with its Spirit of Hope Award.

Bouton was a 75-year member of The American Legion, the bulk of that time with Lake County Women Post 1122 in Illinois, which she had helped charter in 1947.

The Milwaukie American Legion Post has conducted **10** blood drives from June 2021 to February 2022. These blood drives have collected over **300 pints** of blood saving approximately **900** lives according to the Red Cross.

We currently have **10** more drives scheduled through December 2022 (see attached). The Milwaukie American Legion Post has a strong commitment to serving our veterans and our community. In addition to our work with the Red Cross, the Milwaukie Post has conducted food, clothing, and toy drives to serve our community and local neighborhoods. We are very active with the Willamette National Cemetery and have been involved with 200+ military burial ceremonies providing rifle salutes, taps, and flag folding services for deceased veterans.



American Legion Scheduled Blood Drives 2146 SE Monroe Street, Milwaukie, OR

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June 11th 8 AM—1:30 PM	November 12th 8 AM—1:30 PM
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See Page 31



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July 9, 2021

My name is Donald Smith. I'm retired Army, and a veteran of DESERT SHIELD/STORM and the Cold War. I've written a book about a unique episode in America's Cold War history. It's a success story, which should make Americans and Berliners proud. It deserves to be remembered.

Steinstuecken (German for "stone pieces") was a West Berlin neighborhood that belonged to the American Occupation Sector after WWII. **But, it was completely surrounded by Soviet territory!** Steinstuecken sits one kilometer *outside* the Berlin city limits. No West-Berlin owned road or strip of land connected it to West Berlin. During the Cold War, this caused lots of problems for the residents and the United States. Many interesting and inspiring stories resulted; my book tells those stories.

I'm asking you to buy the book and tell all your friends about it. Here's why I think this book is worthwhile to read, purchase and share with others:

- With Steinstuecken America did the *right* thing, instead of the *easy* thing. The U.S. could have easily justified letting the East Germans take over the neighborhood—but it didn't. The U.S. had promised to protect West Berlin, and Steinstuecken was part of West Berlin. For over *twenty years*, the Army and State Department safeguarded the village and kept it free. (The Army even set up an MP post in the village, sustained by a helicopter airlift). *America kept its word.*
- Many Americans know about the many things the U.S. did for Berlin, such as the Berlin Airlift. But, my book also talks about some things that Berliners did to help the U.S. during the Cold War. Berliners supported the Americans, openly and frequently, and often at real personal risk to themselves. For example, in 1946, Berlin held city elections. Thousands of Berliners voted for the Western political parties, even though they knew the Soviets were watching. (Kidnappings by Russian secret police were an everyday occurrence all throughout Berlin at this time). This was a huge PR blow for the Communists; my book tells this story, and others like it.
- During the Cold War, hundreds of thousands of American servicemen and their families built close relationship with their German neighbors and friends. Many of those relationships are still strong today. My book will help remind people of a proud moment in American-German relations...and hopefully strengthen those relations for future generations.

My book features stories and personal photographs of the people who lived the Steinstuecken story themselves—the MPs who guarded the village, the helicopter pilots who maintained the "airbridge" to the neighborhood, the diplomats who wrangled with Soviet and East German officials on its behalf, and the villagers who tried to live as normal a life as possible.

The book is available for preorder now. We're also running a "GoFundMe" fundraiser, to raise money to send copies of the book to libraries in the U.S..

Thank you for considering my request.

Donald W. Smith



Please Support our **GoFundMe** Campaign, to Send Copies of the New Book Steinstuecken: A Little Pocket of Freedom To Libraries Across The United States

Our publisher, Acclaim Press, normally launches a book by selling several hundred copies to a sponsor—a company, an organization, etc... That helps publicize the book, and it covers Acclaim's costs. We are VERY grateful that Acclaim decided to publish this book, and we want to help!

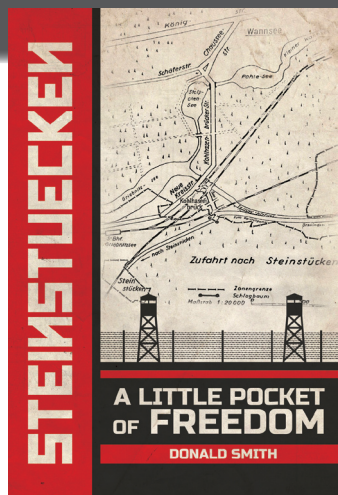
We have launched a GoFundMe to collect money to help Acclaim Press launch the book—by sending copies to libraries across the U.S.!

Our goal is to raise enough money to buy **200** copies of the book and mail them to libraries in the U.S. This will allow potentially thousands of people to read (and be inspired by) the Steinstuecken story.

[Here is the link to our GoFundMe campaign](#)



Youngsters from Steinstuecken explore the helicopter display.



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STEINSTUECKEN

A Little Pocket of Freedom
by Donald Smith

When the Cold War split Berlin in half, between East and West, one neighborhood was trapped in the middle and became a symbol of Cold War tensions. For more than twenty years, the hamlet of Steinstuecken was caught in a tug-of-war between the Americans and the Communists. *Steinstuecken: A Little Pocket of Freedom*, tells this hamlet's story against the backdrop of the Cold War in Western Europe.

Steinstuecken officially belonged to the U.S. Occupation Sector of Berlin. But, it was located outside the city boundaries, completely surrounded by East German territory. No West Berlin-owned roads or trails connected it to the city. It was a de facto Western island in a Communist sea.

America could have turned its back on Steinstuecken—but it didn't. U.S. officials in Berlin rose to the hamlet's defense. During the Berlin Wall crisis, the Americans sent a Military Police (MP) detachment to the village to ensure its safety. Army MPs maintained an outpost in Steinstuecken for more than ten years, flying in and out on Army helicopters.

Steinstuecken was a test of America's resolve to keep its promise to defend West Berlin. It was a frequent target of Communist pressure. The neighborhood's name was often in the news; its fate drew the attention of world leaders—even the President of the United States. Meanwhile, the villagers tried to live as normal a life as possible.

Steinstuecken: A Little Pocket of Freedom describes the challenges America faced in occupied Berlin and the courage so many West Berliners showed when facing Communist soldiers on a daily basis.

About the Author

Don Smith is a retired Army Reserve officer who served in Germany from 1986-89. He visited Berlin (West and East) three times. On one of those trips, he saw Steinstuecken and never forgot it. He has been published in *Military History* magazine, *World War II* magazine, and the U.S. Army Intelligence Center's (USAIC) *Military Intelligence Professional Bulletin*. He lives in Tucson.

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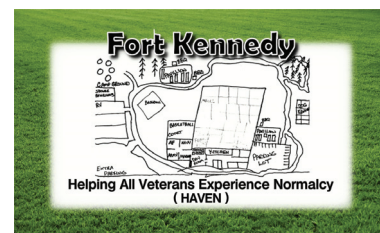
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Since its creation, AGIA has worked closely with the Trust to develop insurance programs especially designed for Department members and their families. We are proud to serve you through the Trust and invite your inquiries and suggestions on any aspect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

More Than **50** Years Of Service To The Legion Family

45080 ©2018 AGIA

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PLUS

Helps you handle almost any crisis
when you're away from home.



From Your American Legion Department



Travel confidently with EA+

HELPING A HERO

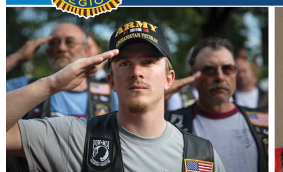
Changing Lives, One Veteran at a Time



THIS IS



THE AMERICAN LEGION



Veterans strengthening American communities worldwide.



The American Legion is the largest veterans service organization

Working and volunteering in communities, states and around the world. The American Legion has been dedicated to veterans, troops, national security, youth and patriotism since its founding over a century ago.

Nearly 2 million wartime veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces are members of The American Legion. Joining them are nearly 1 million members of the American Legion Auxiliary, the nation's largest patriotic women's association, and more than 375,000 Sons of The American Legion, male descendants of U.S. wartime veterans. They work as one great American Legion Family of shared values, at more than 12,000 local posts worldwide, in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America and Asia.

As a federally chartered organization, The American Legion upholds a sacred duty to provide free expert assistance for all who have served our country in the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as their families.

The American Legion is at work today in rural towns, urban neighborhoods, military installations and college campuses everywhere.

Each local post has its own unique identity, but they are all connected by common core values. A post in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, for instance, provides care for children with cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome and other serious diseases. The American Legion in Wyoming coordinates the state high school rodeo championships. An American Legion post in central

California operates a multi-county ambulance service. Another, in Alabama, offers after-school mentorship for students seeking direction. A post in Connecticut built, owns and operates a housing facility to help homeless veterans restart their lives. Local examples of The American Legion's highest values are found worldwide, where differences are made daily for individuals, communities, states and the nation.

The Legion's fastest-growing membership segment is the post-9/11 generation. More than 100,000 strong and increasing, these young veterans join hundreds of thousands more who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces since World War II. No matter the era, our members are indelibly connected through love of country, hope for the future, remembrance of the fallen and duty above self.

The Constitution.

Law and order.

Americanism.

Memories of the Great Wars.

Individual obligation.

Peace, good will, prosperity, justice, freedom and devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Such values are embedded in the language of the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution. Generation after generation, one century to the next, the words have come to define a purpose as meaningful today as ever before.



A legacy of American Legion accomplishments and impact

- Consolidation of multiple disconnected federal offices, agencies and bureaus into one Veterans Administration in 1930
- Formulating, drafting and fighting for passage of the GI Bill of Rights in 1944, which educated millions, triggered a half-century of U.S. prosperity, revolutionized higher education and made home ownership possible for average Americans
- Establishment of a U.S. Flag Code and standard rules of respect and display
- Collaborated with Columbia University to prove that exposure to the deliriant Agent Orange caused deadly diseases and adverse health conditions among veterans
- Introduction, growth and continued administration of unparalleled youth programs in government (Boys State and Boys Nation); constitutional understanding and public speaking (American Legion Oratorical Contests); healthy competition (American Legion Baseball and Junior Shooting Sports); and more
- National leadership to help Veterans Affairs improve care accessibility, accelerate processing, update education and achieve employee accountability
- Leadership in veteran care including employer-applied successful business to representation in Washington, D.C. the military-to-civilian care



Services that make differences

Representing at no cost more than 700,000 veterans and their families seeking VA disability and medical benefits every day.

Participating in more than 1,000 job fairs and other career events for veterans and their families every year nationwide.

Fighting for fair conversion of military experience into credit hours for civilian careers in specialized fields such as emergency medicine, commercial driving, civil engineering and hazardous materials handling.

Providing comfort items for hospitalized military personnel recovering from wounds and illnesses.

Supporting and helping homeless veterans

Spending millions of volunteer hours at VA medical facilities at an estimated annual value of \$20 million.

Supporting veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

Addressing and lobbying Congress and the White House to provide timely VA health care, efficient benefits processing, effective GI Bill education provisions, a decent quality of life for active-duty military personnel and other issues important to Americans.

Assisting during natural disasters, from converting local posts into clinics after hurricanes and tornadoes, to providing food, relief items and other needs to displaced citizens.

Providing financial assistance to needy military and veteran families with young children at home.

Awarding grants to organizations that provide support for children in need.

Awarding college scholarships to children of U.S. servicemembers killed or disabled while on active duty since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Mentoring youth through American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation, as well as local, state and national American Legion Oratorical Contests.

Running hundreds of youth programs, including more than 3,000 Scouting units, nearly 4,000 American Legion Baseball teams, dozens of Junior Shooting Sports clubs, Junior ROTC and Junior Law Cadet programs.



Providing citizenship and naturalization education and support for legal immigrants seeking to become Americans.

Serving as the nation's foremost authority on U.S. flag respect, procedures and code.

Educating school children on such topics as flag respect, military service, history and patriotism.

Providing and distributing U.S. flags for the graves of American military personnel laid to rest at overseas cemeteries.

Demanding full accounting and repatriation, when possible, of all U.S. military personnel listed as prisoners of war or missing in action.

Participating at thousands of patriotic observances and events around the world each year at the local, state, national and international levels.

Handling honor guard services and memorial tributes for fallen military personnel and veterans, from individual funerals to memorial dedications.

Help us help others. Join now.



Anyone who has served federal active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces since Dec. 7, 1941, and has been honorably discharged or is still serving, is eligible for membership in The American Legion.

Because eligibility dates remain open, all active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join The American Legion at this time, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States. U.S. Merchant Marines are eligible for membership but only if they served from Dec. 7, 1941, to Dec. 31, 1946 (WWII).

legion.org/join

(800) 433-3318

Get involved

Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary offer membership opportunities to the families of Legion-eligible veterans, and The American Legion Riders offers additional opportunities to members of all three organizations.



alaforveterans.org



legion.org/sons



legion.org/riders

Support

Tax-deductible donations help support the many American Legion programs serving veterans, youth, families and communities across the United States.

legion.org/donate

(800) 433-3318



THE AMERICAN LEGION

P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

(317) 630-1200

@legion.org

legion.org/facebook

twitter.com/AmericanLegion

FOR VETERANS

- Free assistance for veterans and families applying for VA benefits
- Relentless advocacy for a strong VA health-care system
- Free representation for veterans appealing claims decisions
- More than 1,000 job fairs and career events
- Support and assistance for homeless veterans

FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH

- American Legion Baseball
- Scholarships
- Flag education programs
- Oratorical competitions
- American Legion Junior Shooting Sports
- Youth Cadet Law Enforcement program
- Boys State and Boys Nation
- Junior ROTC
- Scouting

DEFENSE

- Cash grants for military families who have temporary financial needs
- Comfort items for hospitalized military personnel
- Advocacy for fair military retirement benefits
- Family Support Network of volunteers to help military families
- Representation in Washington to support proper DoD funding
- Assistance in cases before military discharge review boards

AMERICANISM

- National leadership in U.S. flag protection and respect
- Services to help legal immigrants become U.S. citizens
- Support for public expression of the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem

COMMUNITY

- Honor and remembrance of those who served and sacrificed
- Emergency relief in times of natural disaster
- Leadership at patriotic ceremonies and special events
- Connections with local schools and home-school students
- Numerous local programs and initiatives, tailored to each community's needs

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THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



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

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

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



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Date _____

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____

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

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

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

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

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

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____

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

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

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

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

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

ALA 12/2013

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date _____
Received From _____
\$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues
Squadron No. _____
Department of _____



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

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

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

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

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

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

Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance.
Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due.
Membership pending approval of application.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

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

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

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

Veteran Served:

☐ WWI (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)

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

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

Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Female Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Mother |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grandmother | <input type="checkbox"/> Sister | <input type="checkbox"/> Self |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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

DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

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