

The Oregon Legionnaire

The Voice of Oregon's Veterans Since 1919 September 2022

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

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



Also in this Issue:

Hear from WWII Veterans

Alfred Foust Pgs 15-16

Victor Hanky Pgs 26-28

Remembering 9/11



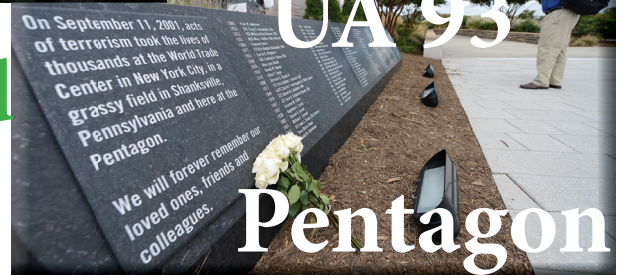
FDNY NYPD



Flights AA 11, AA 77, UA 175 & UA 93



Ground Zero





CORY BROCKMANN
DEPT 1ST-VICE COMMANDER

Legion Family members and veteran advocates, continue to make a positive difference in the lives of veterans. My gratitude to all who joined with me in taking “11th hour” action in contacting their senators in support of a final push to pass the Pact Act. The bill, formally named *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022*, successfully passed the House and the Senate but came into jeopardy as the Senate failed initially to agree on technical corrections during a procedural vote.

National Commander Paul E. Dilliard cited, “(the PACT Act) would not have passed without the tireless efforts of our American Legion Family and friends who contacted lawmakers and encouraged them to do right by America’s veterans.”

The bill will help deliver critical benefits and services to more than five million veterans across all service-era generations whose toxic exposures may have impacted during their service time. For more details, navigate to <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/> and scroll to **FACT SHEET: PACT Act Delivers on President Biden’s Promise to America’s Veterans.**

Youth Programs – Junior Shooting Sports, Boys State/Boys Nation, Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp, and Oregon Legion Baseball each closed out their remaining 2021-2022 youth program year, respective-

ly, as many of those youth participated in regional and national events outside of Oregon.

My thanks to all of Oregon’s youth program committee chairs and members that, through their vital leadership, ensure our programs are vibrant and being delivered safely to our youth.

American Legion Day, September 16th – This day was proclaimed by Congress to recognize our organization’s federal charter on September 16th, 1919. To this day, we continue our unwavering commitment and dedication to the delivery of our four pillars of advocacy, ensuring our veterans have the care and benefits they earned and that our communities and nation remain vigorous and strong.

Our grassroots efforts that helped pass the PACT Act and the volunteers working selflessly to deliver our youth programs are just two examples of how we continue to fulfill our commitment.

Each of you and our Legion Family members makes a difference. Thank you for all you do! *We are Veterans strengthening America.*

Other Notable Dates in September include:

Patriot Day – September 11th

National Emergency Responders Day – September 11th

Air Force birthday – September 11th

POW/MIA Recognition Day – September 16th

Constitution Day – September 17th

Citizenship Day – September 17th



DAN BURKS
DEPT 2ND VICE COMMANDER

Legionnaires, August has been a hectic month, and our months ahead show no sign of slowing down. Beyond being in several meetings, your 2nd Vice has been buzzing around assisting with flag etiquette training for 5th graders, attending the Oregon Legion College, planning different events, speaking with business owners, and even taking a few moments to hold a conversation with our Congressman, Cliff Bentz. Every day is full of Legion activities, and I hope that many of you can say the same.

Our programs are off and running, but each could use your help. Some as volunteers, but all could use your help in your home Post and in your communities. The most elaborate program will fail if there are no participants. Boys state was understandably at an all-time low last year, and the only way to grow the program is for each and every one of you to get to know our programs and recruit for them.

I encourage you to read this to bring up the programs at your own Post meetings and ask what the deadlines are. Who are you looking for? Ask as many questions as possible, and our committee chairs are extremely knowledgeable if the answers aren’t available there. I assure you you will be happy to answer your questions and assist in any way possible. We need momentum in our Department, and that momentum starts with each of you doing your part as Legionnaires and simply lending a hand.

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S. FLYNN PHILLIPS
DEPT ADJUTANT

There are always questions that Adjutants, Commanders, and legionnaires helping with membership, and transfers have. Some are; what the

heck are the letters AD, DMS, and encumbered, unencumber mean. So I ask Michele.

Clarification on a few items, please. Can you explain the difference between **ENCUMBERED** and **UNENCUMBERED**? When does the transferred member count as a member of the Post? And finally, some of the people on our listing in the holding Post have 114 and others 114AD, what is the difference?

Michele Steinmetz, the Member Engagement Coordinator at National, has answered some of these:

"I know it seems confusing, but once you understand it, it isn't."

As income has reduced with declining membership and our other sources of income have reduced, and expenses have increased; we held discussions at our Department Convention and many since then; we have a plan, and it is achievable. A resolution was presented at a special Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting and approved to go forward with our plan. Information will be presented by your District Commander and Department Officers and through this publication and our electronic communications.

Again, District Commanders and New District Officers, 990 Tax filing for your Posts are on your Post assess

DMS means direct mail solicitation, **Encumbered** means all monies stay at national. When they join, first renewal and second renewal, if they are not transferred into a local post, all the dues collected remain with national. Once they are either transferred into a local post or after they renew for the second time (where all dues stay at national), they become **unencumbered**.

Only if you transfer 2023 DMS AD (encumbered) members into a local post will that transfer count for membership goals. If it's a regular HQ 114 member, they will only count when they renew for the next year. HQ 114 transfers will show up in the post's membership totals but won't count for the department or national goal purposes. Only traditional renewals or new starts and 2023 DMS AD transfers will count for membership goals on the membership report.

114 AD means "Administrative" or encumbered (\$\$ stay at National until they have transferred into a local post). I hope this helps. You might need to read this a few times to absorb.

ment sheet. There are no exceptions, and all Posts must file their 990 taxes. We, Department and Posts, are under the National Umbrella and Group Exemption Number 0925, which is our 501c19. Remember, every Post is a separate corporation. It is a business, and you operate under the Corporate Laws of Oregon. You pay a filing fee yearly to the Secretary of State, Corporation Division.

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.

Michele

Still Serving America,

Michele Steinmetz, Member Engagement Coordinator Internal Affairs & Membership Division

Department Officers

Commander	Larry Wittmayer
Imed. Past Cmdr	Don Weber
1st Vice Cmdr	Cory Brockmann
2nd Vice Cmdr	Daniel Burks
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
V. S. O. Assistant	Jody Marsh
Sgt-At-Arms	Phyllis York
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Mike Morris
Asst Sgt-At-Arms	Ward Allen

Let's have a good year. It is already starting off production with many growth opportunities in membership. Our programs are all good, and

PDC, Bob Huff remember, **DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER** we are all on the same team, we are veterans still serving, we are a Legion Family supporting the Veterans Community and anything we set out to achieve, we will achieve.





**PDC, KEVIN OWENS
NECMAN**

can our voice, we pressured the Senate to pass this most important legislation since the bill acknowledged the effects of Agent Orange.

This shows the power of our voice, and the value of your membership

As most of you are aware, the PACT Act passed through the Senate and was signed into law by the President. Because of the American

Legion and our voice, we pressured the Senate to pass this most important legislation since the bill acknowledged the effects of Agent Orange.

We will be inviting our National Commander and National Vice Commander to visit Oregon to give our members an opportunity to hear and visit with our National Commander. We might be coming your way, so please take the time to learn more about our organization from a different point of view.

Along with that, our National Commander will be coming once a date is

set to help with membership. Their role is simple, to carry out the programs of the American Legion and be a champion for membership. Once the date is set and the areas identified we would be working in, the Department Membership & Post Activities Chairmen will make this happen.

This will be the first of two visits, so please take the opportunity to allow them to help in getting our department membership to where it should be. I close by saying it is an honor to serve as your NEC. I do not take this position lightly, as I am elected by the members of this Department and am here to serve the needs of its members. I look forward to the great things that will happen this year in our Department.



**SUSAN HUGHES
DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER**

Well, I hope everyone is well and had a spectacular summer. Now its time to work on membership, do buddy checks on all your neighbors and make sure your Post has a membership officer (usually the 1st vice Commander). Goal numbers are out for the 2023 year, and yes, they went up a little. I attempted to keep everyone within a successful amount of membership goal increase.

All is doable if we work hard at new members and renew others that haven't paid for a couple of years. That's where your buddy checks come into work, find out when visiting them why they have not renewed and if there is something the Post can do to get them to renew their membership.

Our 1st District meeting is September 10th at 104. Lunch is from 11:30 to 12:30. The meeting starts at 1 pm. We need at least one person from each Post (hopefully more).

Please bring in paper what your Post has been doing since May. A list of officers with all information on them. What do you plan on doing until December for your membership and community and Post?

See you in September



Continued from page 2

DAN BURKS

DEPT 2ND VICE COMMANDER

Our Department doesn't grow from the top down. It extends from the men and women at the Post level stepping in and getting involved. Every little bit helps, so let's bond together, help each other out and start moving forward.

Need to Know Dates

September

National Disaster Preparedness Month

Encourage the community to recognize Patriot Day, Sept. 11 Anniversary of Congress' charter of The American Legion on Sept. 16

Sept. 17 is Constitution Day
The third Friday of the month is National POW/MIA Recognition Day

October

Halloween Safety Month
Launch Membership Campaign

NEC 10-13
DEC Oct. 28-30
Rev Up for Veterans Day 11-11

November

Membership Campaign
Lead Community in Veterans Day
American Education Week



BETTY FISH-FERGUSON
DISTRICT 2 COMMANDER

Hello Legionnaires, the first District 2 meeting of the business year has not even been held. That does not mean the District 2 leadership team has been idle. We met as a group to discuss the upcoming year and select dates and locations for these meetings. I have visited 2 Posts and spoken to 2 more as I delivered the Department membership cards.

Dan Burks recently delivered the membership numbers and information following a virtual meeting and attending the National Membership meeting. Membership numbers will be distributed to the Posts shortly. I attended a virtual DEC meeting to vote on the \$93,000.00 deficit and a new innovative idea to raise additional funds to meet this need.

You will all be hearing more about this as the District meetings begin earnestly. It's a new idea, and I voted to implement it as a revenue opportunity. Still, ultimately, we are in the shape we are in because the Department membership, after years of declining membership, has dropped to 13,000 members. We can still turn this around if we all work on the programs that bring in members.

The dates for District 2 meetings are:

Sept. 18th, at Sheridan Post #75

Dec. 11th, at Carlton Post #173

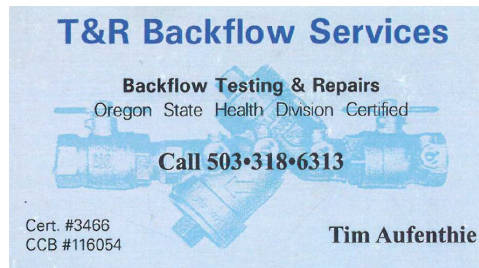
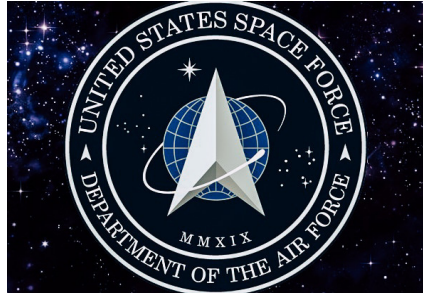
Mar. 5th, 2023, at Canby #122

May 7th 2023, at Salem Post #136

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Fish-Ferguson
503-781-3215



United States President Warren G. Harding signed what Act into law during September?

- A. Smoot-Hawley Tarrif Act
- B. Tyding-McDuffie Act
- C. Fordey-McCumber Tarrif Act
- D. Taft-Hartley Act

Editors Notes

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Since 1919
The Voices of Oregon Veterans
The Oregon Legionnaire

Official Publication of The American Legion, Department of Oregon.

Published online 12 times per year by The American Legion, Department of Oregon.

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

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Calendar of Events

September National Disaster Preparedness month

05 Labor Day (Closed)

11 Patriots Day

16 POW/MIA Day

16 Congress Charter

17 Constitution Day

18 District 2 Mtg

19-23 Americanism & Children & Youth

October Halloween Safety Month

12-13 NEC

28-30 DEC

31 Halloween

November Veterans Day

11 Veterans Day (Closed)

24-25 Thanksgiving (Closed)



TIM TROUPE
DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER

It has been a busy time since the State convention. We have had an emergency DEC by a video conference about the state of the budget. It had some rough spots, but our commander Larry Witmayer is working on a plan. I voted the way the District wanted, "no on the measure," it passed, with District 8 being the only dissenting vote.

There is some learning on the governance rules, but overall, it was good.

I will be visiting each post in our District. What I need from each post is your meeting schedules and Calendar. I have the green bar sheets; however, they will not be given out until all your paperwork is submitted to the department. Next, we need each post to have a membership chair, and those people are automatically on the District 8 membership committee.

For the next bit of fun, we need volunteers for offices in the District. We have four officers, Commander, Sgt at Arms, Finance Officer, and The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC).. We need a 1st Vice and an Adjutant, plus a Service Offi-

cer. Our next meeting is at Post 180 on the 3rd Tuesday of September, 7 to 9 pm.

I need each post to have a volunteer for officers, that way, we share the load. Our District had post 5 give a tour to Paul Dillard, our National Commander to the Salvation Army Veteran and Family Service Center. He was impressed with how this program was working and saw how the Legion Foundation of Oregon worked with them so they could get monetary help from the Legion. Post 5 has managed to recruit seven members for them and 1 for Post 10 so far, with several more joining shortly. These brothers and sisters need the Legion to help with a purpose. Their involvement also brings satisfaction in giving back.

Our District is last in the membership drive in Oregon. I spoke with Ward Allen, and we have set a District revitalization for Oct 20th (the third Saturday). Between now and Sept 6th, I need each post to submit their post zip codes for verification. I e-mailed each Post their District Membership goals. They are different than departments, except the Sandy Post, which has 20 members.

Thank you for being so supportive. We have lots of work to do and members to acquire and renew. I remain. The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC link is <https://www.legion.org/hamradio>



JIM JEROME
DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER

District 10 held its first District meeting on July 30th at Post 77. We had five of our six posts present. The usual suspects of Legion year ahead were

discussed. Membership, Money, and Programs. Our next meeting is in Vale at Post 96. October 22nd, 10 am Mt Time. Thank you, 1st Vice Cmdr. Cory and Vice President Catherine Brockmann for traveling to the vast hinterlands of Eastern Oregon. We appreciated their participation in our meeting.





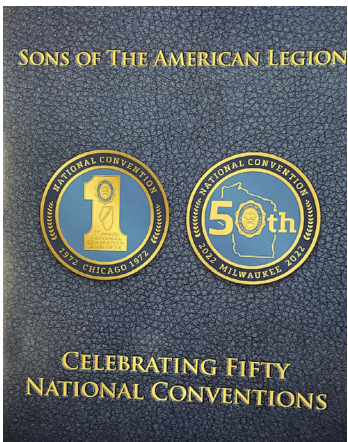
PNVC, ROB LIEBENOW
DETACHMENT COMMANDER

I have a POW/MIA Wooden flag, made by a fellow veteran, that I am raffling off for my Commanders Project.

The tickets are **6 for \$5.00, or 30 for \$20.00** giving you an extra 6 tickets.

Please call me at **503-318-6426** if you wish to purchase some tickets.

The drawing will be held at Department Convention in June 2023



MARC CHANEY
SAL NECMAN

Chris Carlton from the great state of Indiana as OUR National Commander. Back when Chris was Chairman of C.W.F., he would run on stage yelling, "WE RAISE MONEY!" then he would ask the audience 'what do we do', and we all would shout back, "WE RAISE MONEY!" So, this year I am asking ALL our Squadrons to find a way to contribute money to The American Legion's Veterans and Children Foundation (V.C.F.).

What this foundation does is to support The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistant (TFA) program. It also goes to help train our outstanding Service Officers, Ed Van Dyke and Jody Marsh. My goal is to see Oregon raise at least 15 thousand dollars this year! You may think this is an unrealistic goal, but on August 30th, with the hard work of our Squadrons, I was able to present Past National Commander Mike Helm a check for



mander Mike Helm a check for



Greetings to our American Legion family! Just left the 50th National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We elected

\$7,500 for the V.C.F. Program. That means we are already halfway there.

This is important because when we look back to 2019, when the government shut down, this program stepped up and—for those that applied—gave our Oregon Coast Guard grants for \$15 hundred dollars, no questions asked, and they don't need to pay it back. The V.C.F. funded over 1.1 million dollars to the Coast Guard, with \$250,000 coming into Oregon. It's OUR responsibility to help replenish this fund.

There is going to be a silent auction at our Fall D.E.C. in Springfield in October. There will be a limited edition 50th Convention Coin, a 50th Convention Pin, and a 50th Convention Book that not only shows photos of every one of our 50 Conventions but additionally a program from the 50th Convention Banquet signed by Past National Commander Michael Fox, incoming National Commander Chris Carlton and actor/comedian Joe Piscopo, who is a S.A.L. member from Illinois.

There is a lot of interest & individuals have already started asking what the bid is going to start at. So if you can't be there but would like to make a bid, you can reach out to me at marc@gmail.com



Boys State

The two Oregon Delegates pictured in front of the White House just returned to their homes in Oregon from their trip to Washington DC. Samuel Bohn (sponsored by Tigard Post #158) and Orion VanBuskirk (from Springfield Post #40) had this to say about their recent experiences at Boys Nation. "It was the most exciting experience of my life", "I got to meet Boys Nation Delegates from every other State". They each met with Oregon's

Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley as well as some of the Staff's members of our Federal Representatives.

Both of our Senators were required to draft and submit a bill to Boys Nation for consideration. Bohn's submission concerned utilizing federal monies for education. The Federal Welfare clause was used for his research. VanBuskirk's proposal was a bill for Federal legislation of Marijuana that mirrored Senator Wyden's. Neither bill made it out of the Senate Calendar Committee to be heard on the Boys Nation Senate floor.

Samuel and Orion have committed to return to Western State University for the next session of Oregon Boys State where they will perform duties of key Staff and assist in



FRED BROADWATER
BOYS STATE CHAIR

running the program. Next year Boys State will be held in late June, with the specific dates to be announced in late September 2022. Applications for Boys State are available from any Legion Post and are due to Department by June 16 2023.

Sons of The American Legion



For God and Country

* NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS * P.O. BOX 1055 * INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46206 *

* www.legion.org/sons *

A year of incredible achievements

Dear Sons of The American Legion (SAL),

As we enter the final days of my year as your SAL National Commander, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the achievements we've made and thank you all for your membership and support of the Legion Family.

Membership. The SAL membership report from Aug. 11, showed that 18 detachments had surpassed the 105 percent membership goal. 37 detachments reached the 100 percent membership goal for this year. The SAL stands at 360,618 members — which is 101.09 percent of our membership goal for 2022. As we see our membership rolls increase in the wake of the pandemic, it's a testament to all of you who got out there and spread the word on what the SAL can do for our veterans, military families and our communities. Thank you for renewing your SAL membership; thank you to those who joined or rejoined the SAL; and may you continue to encourage those who are eligible for membership in the SAL to join our great organization.

Donations. The SAL continues to be the biggest supporter of the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), and we surpassed \$9 million in total donations this year. I look forward to seeing the SAL hit the \$10 million mark in CWF donations, and beyond. I thank those of you who participated in the 100 Miles for Hope Challenge. It's such a great way to improve your own fitness while supporting our disabled veterans and military families. I hope we'll see even greater participation in next year. Kudos to those who selflessly volunteer countless hours in VA centers and elsewhere to help our veterans.

Flying Flags for Heroes. My commander's project this year was Flying Flags for Heroes, aimed at placing 1 million flags on veterans' graves in local cemeteries nationwide. We shattered that goal! At last count, we placed over 1.8 million flags. I am amazed and grateful for your support, and I hope this will continue so that no veteran's grave goes without recognition.

This has been a year I will cherish for the rest of my life. Thank you all for your support and hospitality during my travels. I look forward to seeing you all in Milwaukee at our 50th National Convention and welcoming in our new National Commander.

There is no limit to the amount of good we can do. We are the Sons of The American Legion.

We are #SALSTRONG. God bless our veterans. God bless the United States of America.
God bless our military in harm's way.

Yours in Service,

Michael Fox
National Commander
Sons of The American Legion
"Leadership through action, not through position"





JOHN LEE
LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

The PACT Act Passes

Bill HR3967
Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive

sive Toxics Act of 2022, better known as the PACT Act of 2022, passes.

The PACT Act is the most significant expansion of benefits and services for toxic-exposed veterans in more than 30 years. It expands VA health care to more than 3.5 million post-9/11 Veterans exposed to toxins and could potentially benefit 1 in 5 current Veterans.

The bill provides VA medical care eligibility to veterans who participated in a toxic exposure risk activity or served in specified locations on specified dates. It will add 23 conditions to VA's presumption list for toxic exposure. It will provide toxic exposure screenings to all veterans at VA medical appointments and boosts training

and education for VA personnel on illnesses connected to toxins. The PACT act will establish 31 new VA facilities and invests in VA claims processing.

It also expands the list of locations with presumed exposure to Agent Orange to include Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Atoll, covering Vietnam War-era service in most instances and extending past the war's end for some locations.

In addition, it will require a series of research projects, studies, and surveys tracking toxic exposure-related health care concerns, ranging from cancer rates to mental health issues to overall VA treatment.

This bill had to pass numerous hurdles and move back and forth between the House and Senate as various amendments were made. It passed its last hurdle when the Senate passed the bill in an 86 to 11 vote on August 2. There was hope that President Biden would sign it on August 4, but it looks like it will be next week. President Biden has stated he is committed to this bill and plans on signing it.



GREG MARVIN
NATIONAL SECURITY CHAIR

As Chairperson of the National Security Commission, it was my pleasure to present to two outstanding Public Service Officers

the awards for the Department of Oregon Law enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year at the 2022 Convention.

Detective Michael Day, City of Oregon City Police Department, was nominated by Pioneer Post 149 as Law Enforcement Officer of the year. He has been with the Oregon City Police Department since 2007. He has served as a Clackamas County Inter-agency Crisis Negotiating Team member and has been a field training officer. He was appointed as the first Homeless Liaison Officer, where he created the program, what it would look like and how he would interact with the homeless community, provide resources and enforce laws. He quickly got to know the homeless community, treated them with respect, connected them with resources, and gained respect. He has been awarded the Oregon City Police Distinguished Service Medal, the KATU TV Everyday Hero, the Oregon City Police Officer of the year, the Hostage Negotiator of the Year, and several other awards.

Captain Brent Wellington, Hillsboro Fire and Rescue Department, Hillsboro, Oregon, was nominated by Hillsboro Post 6 as the Firefighter of the year. He has been a member of the Hillsboro Fire and Rescue Department since 2001, beginning his career as a Firefighter/EMT. In 2005 he was

Continued on page 10



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GREG MARVIN assigned to **NATIONAL SECURITY CHAIR** work on an aerial fire truck, where he initiated and managed the Department's rope rescue program. This program trained firefighters on the specialized equipment and techniques of using rope in various emergencies. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2013, where he and his crew assisted with the training classes of probationary firefighters. He was asked to lead the development, restructuring, and implementation of the Department's recruit firefighter academy. He was promoted to Captain in 2021.

Beyond his service to the Community of Hillsboro, he traveled to Honduras in 2003 and spent six weeks building projects for an orphanage. He was activated to respond as a FEMA resource for the Community Assistance Program during Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In 2011 he was among a team from Hillsboro to travel to Cambodia to provide Emergency Medical Ser-

vices to nurses and Doctors. He was recognized and awarded a Distinguished Unit Commendation by Hillsboro Fire and Rescue for a technical rescue incident and his service deployment for Hurricane Katrina. He has received seven lifesaver awards throughout his career.

Upon selection as Department of Oregon Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year, Detective Day's and Captain Wellington's nominations were forwarded to Legion National Security Commission to be considered as Western Region Law Officers and Firefighters of the Year. They were both selected in their respective contests and forwarded to the National Contest, where they will be considered Officers of the Year.

They both received their region awards at the convention banquet. It is an honor for the National Security Commission to present these awards to outstanding Public Service Officers.

The Oregon American Legion Foundation (TOALF) was **RICHARD RAMEY** **TOALF MEMBER** created to provide funds for The American Legion Department of Oregon programs. Its unique structure allows organizations wishing to contribute to our programs through a 401(C3) tax code structure. To give you an idea of how successful this entity is, the TOALF has contributed over \$500,000 to The American Legion programs. These programs include Boys State, Girls State, Baseball, National Emergency Fund, Scouts, and the American Legacy Scholarship.



Each of us can help by contributing to The Oregon American Legion Foundation. There are many ways you can contribute, even through your purchases of products through Amazon by using the SMILE feature. We can ask our employers to contribute through matching contributions. But the best way is for each of us to contribute directly. At several Department Executive Committee meetings and Conventions, attendees donated to the Foundation. And you can help. We can receive matching funds from other charitable organizations when we get contributions from our members.

So, whatever method you choose, whether it's saving the money from your loose change each day, coordinating with your employer, having a designated event at your local post with the proceeds to be donated to the Foundation, etc., all are worthwhile efforts if we can bolster the funds that we can contribute to supporting the great American Legion programs throughout our state.



BE THE ONE

TO **ASK** VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.

TO **LISTEN** WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.

TO **REACH** OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.

SAVE PAPER.
SAVE POSTAGE.
SAVE TIME.



www.legion.org/renew

QUICKLY AND EASILY RENEW ONLINE
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS





PDC, BOB HUFF
VA&R CHAIRPERSON

Our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission members for the 2022-2023 membership year are IPDC

Don Weber, Department

2nd Vice-Commander Dan Burks, Ann Everetts, and PDC Bob Huff, Chair. The focus of the Commission is oversight over VA&R activities for our Department. Our Commission members Department 2nd Vice-Commander Dan Burks, Ann Everetts, and PDC Bob Huff, Chair, met on Wednesday, July 27, and discussed our mission and any changes required for our Code of Procedures.

We approved our Code of Procedures as is and had an overview of our mission. We still have an opportunity for another Legionnaire in good standing an opportunity, if interested in joining or participating with this elite team and being part of our future supporting Veterans and family in our Department. As we have started a new Membership Year, our Department Veteran Service Officers will be transitioning to some normal, not all yet, with COVID protocols still necessary.

The team works virtually and in person and supports our Veterans and their families. During this Pandemic over the past two years, now starting the third year in many of our areas, they have adapted and adjusted to support our family of veterans during this critical time. They continue to support the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Traveling Boards and fill a void when our Veterans with appeals need computers and support

VA & R

that we can support that need. When you see one of them, Ed VanDyke and Jody Marsh, thank them, they are our first team.

The Commission also has oversight of our Department VAVS Program, which has representatives at our VA Facilities in Oregon, which all need more volunteers desperately. Our VAVS community at Portland VA and Roseburg VA has been significantly impacted by volunteer positions with COVID protocols.

VA SORCC in White City has an American Legion presence which has increased with COVID to support this facility. With the closing of Compensation and Pension activities in Roseburg and White City with staffing issues and reassigning clinical staff to higher priority assignments, and moving patient needs to community care. The VHA is working very hard to support Veteran's needs.

Volunteer Drivers are desperately needed and in critical need with some services moving to Portland and veterans in need of transportation from rural and other areas of our Department. If interested, if you have some extra time and want to help and support Veteran's needs, please contact your local VA or CBOC as there are lots of vacancies.

You will meet new people, help veterans and their families, our first pillar, and make a difference. We submitted an application for the Linker Award for our Legionnaires' service in our Department for this past year, VAVS, Drivers, Assistance, Employment, Education, what all our Posts members do, our contributions, TFA submittals, with examples of our sup-

port.

We were notified by our National Organization that our Department of Oregon was selected to receive the Linker Trophy at the National Convention this year. Thank you to all of you that continue to support our Veterans community. Keep up the excellent work.

Issues that are being currently discussed and worked on are transportation, rural area support, and an aging Veteran population. The VA will not allow anyone to fill volunteer positions without being complete on their COVID shots by Federal direction. Face mask requirements continue at all Federal and Medical facilities which are in red. If going to a VA or Federal Building, you are required to wear a face mask.

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. The Commission also supports the System Worth Saving Program and has supported four events in the past at our Roseburg and White City VAs with our National Organization.

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 or support with our Pillar I Veterans activities, don't hesitate to contact me; we will be happy to support you.

Thank you

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION and HOMELESSNESS



PDC, BOB HUFF
VEE & H CHAIRPERSON

PDC Bob Huff (Chair). Wednesday, July 27, we had a Commission meeting. All were present and attended with guest District 8 Commander Tim Troup. We discussed our plan for this membership year, issues with not being able to hold large events with COVID protocols, and opportunities for this year. We held discussions on holding events on VA facilities, with

The Veterans Employment, Education and Homelessness Commission and Committees members are District 9

Commander Larry Hill, Tom Fitzgerald, and

the need for Veterans Courts and a lot of good dialogs.

Commander Tim Troupe spoke on his work with the Salvation Army, his partnership with a company providing Veterans in need with computers, and his providing training in order to assist Homeless Veterans with opportunities for employment and housing. In covering three parts of the Department presently, we feel we have a good start this year. We are still seeking more Commission and Committee members to provide coverage for the whole Department.

If interested, please provide your contact information as this is a needed service for our veterans and their families. We did receive two candidates' information during our meeting, which I am reaching out to now.

The Commission and Committees support Veterans Employment, Education, Homelessness, Service Connected, and Veterans Small Business opportunities. With the Pandemic still active, we are still having restrictions on our ability to hold large events, which we desperately need.

Each event we hold will still require complying with the rules for the area we are holding them in and the number of participants allowed. All rules are followed for everyone's safety. All our partners are participating. We continue to gather equipment and clothing and have met with the VA Directors for a venue. We are getting closer with in-person events starting. We had follow-up meetings in Klamath County, which we are working with them on for an immediate needs requirement.

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- The #1 tool for effective engagement in a member organization is COMMUNICATION!!!!!!!

WORDS OF WISDOM

"It takes as much energy to wish as it does to plan."

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

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[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.

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Dear UVGO Members,

Yesterday, President Biden signed into law the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The PACT Act is the most significant expansion of benefits and services for toxic-exposed Veterans in more than 30 years. The legislation tottered at the brink of enactment, and it only passed after the strong leadership of our Veterans' organizations and the individual outreach from many of you. We can be proud of our Oregon Congressional representatives, who almost unanimously voted in favor of the PACT Act.

As we all know, this is only the beginning of helping our fellow Veterans receive the care and compensation for exposure to toxic and radioactive substances in the line of duty. Veterans Administration (VA) Secretary McDonough and the VA have strongly encouraged all affected Veterans, their family members, or survivors to apply now for benefits by filing a claim.

Importantly for our UVGO membership, this includes Veterans who were affected by exposure during the Vietnam War, Cold War, and post-9/11 wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and

other conflict zones.

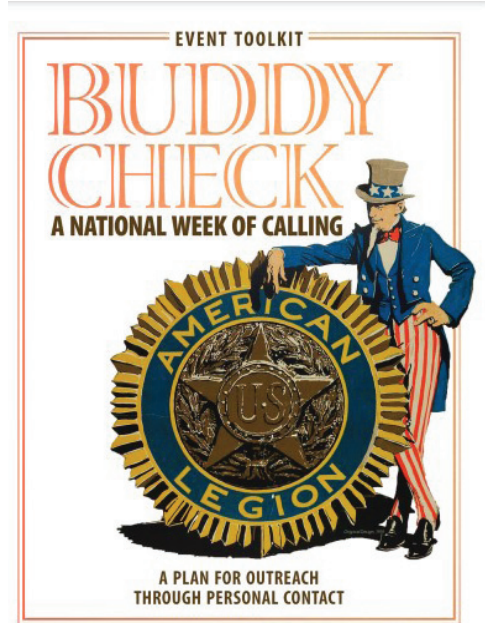
The VA's new website for the PACT Act [can be found here](#). Veterans, family members, and survivors also can call (800) 698-2411 to have their questions answered. The hearing impaired can access information through 711 via teletypewriter.

I encourage all our UVGO membership to make a special effort to ensure that our individual members are aware of this new legislation, and the resources available to help Veterans, family members, and survivors get on record with the VA. This is what we do best ---- Veterans taking care of Veterans.

Regards,

Mary J. Mayer

MARY J. MAYER,
Colonel, USAF (Ret)
Chair, United Veterans' Group
of Oregon (UVGO)
MaryJMayer@yahoo.com



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





PACT ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The Act (1) expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and (2) expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?

VETERANS AND SURVIVORS CAN FILE CLAIMS FOR ALL CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN THE PACT ACT IMMEDIATELY.

For Gulf War and post 9-11 Veterans, that include:

Brain cancer, Glioblastoma, Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Head cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Melanoma, Asthma (diagnosed after service), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis,

Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), High blood pressure (hypertension).

How can Veterans apply for VA health care?

Apply **online** at [VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction).

Call our toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387, M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET.

Mail a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ).

Bring a completed, signed VA Form 10-10EZ with you to your nearest medical center or clinic or get help through your state's Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officer.

Get help filing your claim by working with an accredited representative.

What are the PACT Act key components?



The Act expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.



VA will improve the decision-making process for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.



Every enrolled Veteran will receive an initial toxic exposure screening and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



VA health care staff and claims processors will receive toxic exposure-related education and training.



The Act requires research studies on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.



The Act will help VA build a stronger, more skilled workforce to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.



The Act authorizes 31 new medical facilities across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.

How can a Veteran file a claim?



Veterans who would like to file a claim must complete VA Form 21-526EZ to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.



To learn about standard VA disability claims, supplemental claims, secondary claims, and more visit: [VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file](https://va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file).

If a Veteran was previously denied a claim, what can they do?

VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)
Download the VA Health and Benefits App
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)



VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

You may be eligible for VA benefits and services after your loved one has passed.



The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on va.gov/family-member-benefits.



Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.



Accrued Benefits

A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing.

Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



Burials and Burial Allowance

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.



Education and Training

Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.



Final Monthly Payment

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.



Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



Health Care

Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)
Download the VA Health and Benefits App
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)

The American Legion Hails Senate for Passing Honoring our PACT Act

WASHINGTON (August 2, 2022) – The head of the nation's largest veterans organization praised the Senate for its passage of legislation that will provide comprehensive benefits to veterans suffering from conditions linked to toxic exposure during their time in the U.S. Armed Forces. A previous version passed on June 16 but had to be reconsidered due to parliamentary objections to a technical provision.

"Tonight, the U.S. Senate passed historic legislation that will make a difference in the lives of millions of veterans," American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard said. "After some unusual delays for a bill that is largely identical to what passed on June 16, a bipartisan majority of senators voted in favor of the *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act*. This act will save lives and offer health care and benefits for those exposed to the poisons of war while serving our country. It would not have passed without the tireless efforts of our American Legion Family and friends who contacted lawmakers and encouraged them to do right by America's veterans. We look forward to President Biden signing the PACT Act expeditiously."

The Honoring Our PACT Act, which had already passed in the House of Representatives, will provide health care for millions of veterans who were exposed to contaminants emanating from open-air burn pits. It establishes presumptions of service connection for 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers linked to burn pits and other hazards. It will also provide additional resources and staff to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

[The American Legion](https://www.americanlegion.org/) 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. Legionnaires in more than 12,500 posts across the nation and regions overseas serve their communities with a devotion to mutual helpfulness.

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

President Signs Honoring Our PACT Act, American Legion Commander Praises 'Patriotic Advocates'

WASHINGTON (August 10, 2022) – The American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard praised President Biden and the bipartisan majority of congressional members who supported the most comprehensive veterans' health-care legislation in decades.

Dillard, who attended the bill-signing ceremony at the White House this morning, pointed to the law's overwhelming support. "The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act is now the Honoring Our PACT **law**," Dillard said. "We thank President Biden for signing this legislation. Millions of veterans and their families can take comfort in knowing that their government truly appreciates their service and sacrifice. This comprehensive health care law is the result of hard work and bipartisanship by patriotic advocates, members of Congress and American Legion Family members worldwide. It was a privilege to represent all of our allies at the White House today. I encourage all veterans who have been exposed to toxic substances while serving in the military to contact their American Legion service officers for free assistance in accessing the benefits that they have earned. The claims process can be complicated, and American Legion service officers are happy to help."

The PACT Act will provide health care for millions of post-9/11 veterans who were exposed to contaminants emanating from open-air burn pits. It establishes presumptions of service connection for 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers linked to burn pits and other hazards, including Agent Orange and atomic radiation for veterans whose exposure was previously unrecognized for VA health-care services and disability benefits. It will also provide additional resources and staff to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Enactment of the PACT Act was a major legislative priority for The American Legion in this session of Congress.

[The American Legion](https://www.theamericanlegion.org/) 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. Legionnaires in more than 12,500 posts across the nation and regions overseas serve their communities with a devotion to mutual helpfulness.

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

WWII Veteran Alfred Foust

GEANNE HORNE

ALA DEPT HISTORIAN

My grandchildren (Shamus 9, Layson 8, Liesl 6 and Hiedi 4) and I attended the B-17 Alliance Museum & Restoration Hanger in Salem Oregon on Thursday August 25th. Boy was my Grandson Shamus excited to see and walk through his favorite plane of all time the B-17. The rest of the grandchildren really enjoyed going through it so much that they went back for seconds. (Not to forget the B-25 too.)



They were able to meet the Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Rider members from Post 58 who had a booth with many different trinkets thanks to Tig-ger.

Next to Post 58 was Terry Brown from Post 74 manning the American Legion booth. The grandchildren really enjoyed the Department van.



As we ventured through the booths we came to the hanger. The children were able to make Cards for Vets. They were very eager to do so and proud of their creations.

Also, in the hanger, they had the pleasure of meeting Quilt of Valor honoree Alfred Foust, US Army veteran from WWII at 100 Years young. Alfred was happy to show off his quilt and get a
Continued on page 16



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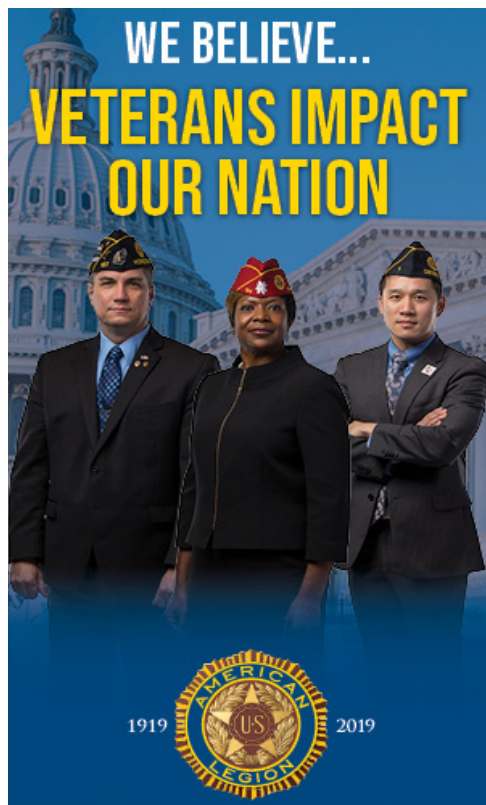
GEANNE HORNE picture with
ALA DEPT HISTORIAN the grandchil-
dren each of them shaking his hand
and thanking him for his service.



After this the children had the honor of meeting Lori Heinz from Post 58 Legionnaire and Rider. She was so impressed with the children she had to get their picture. Each child thanked her for her service with a hug.



Thank you for the advertisement in The Oregon Legionnaire and the advertisement at the Department of Oregon that my grandchildren could enjoy this special day and its history.



ONE A DAY

Nathan Lee Kent Story

MICHEAL CHITWOOD
ADJUTANT, TH02

Chapter 1

On average, one U.S. citizen passes away in Thailand. **ONE** a day. This death begins a series of events involving many different individuals from various organizations. For us, that day was July 25th, 2022. On that day, the **ONE** individual who passed away was a U.S. Navy Combat Veteran.

ONE US Veteran of the hundreds that die daily. I want to try and share our experience and involvement with this **ONE** US Veteran. We are members of the American Legion Post TH02 in Pattaya, Thailand.

On July 25th, a U.S. Navy Combat Veteran passed away quietly in his hotel room in Pattaya. That was the day the owner and wife of the hotel discovered our Veteran. The hotel owners start this process with a call to the local Pattaya police.

The Pattaya police officer responded to the hotel. He immediately secured the room and called for an ambulance. The ambulance responds and transports our Veteran to the nearest public hospital. The Veteran arrives at the hospital, where the attending physician declares death.

The police officer, in the meantime, continues with his investigation. He searches through the personal possessions to establish an I.D. of the individual. He secures the Veteran's possessions and takes them to



the police station to begin his task. The room is secured, and the hotel staff is instructed to keep the room locked until he releases it. After he arrives back at the station, a call is made to the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok to notify them of a death of a U.S. citizen. The police officer makes his initial determination if any foul play is suspected and begins his police report. The foul play would require a more in-depth investigation as to the cause of death.

As the Veteran was not under a doctor's care, the public hospital then arranged for the deceased to be transported to the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Bangkok for an autopsy to determine the official cause of death.



The U.S. Embassy in Bangkok begins its involvement with the task of notifying the next of kin. After the notification, the Embassy provides the options to the family for the disposition of their family member. After the notification, a communication series begins between the case officer at the Embassy and the family. The family was provided a list of Thai mortuaries that would assist in the disposition. Unfortunately, this is an expensive option.

During the conversation, the family asked if there was any help that the V.A. could provide to get their son returned to the USA. This is where our participation began. The Embassy provided the contact information for the American Legion Post TH02.

Continued on page 17

ONE A DAY

Nathan Lee Kent Story

MICHEAL CHITWOOD
ADJUTANT, TH02

Chapter 2

We first received an email from the individual's father that I initially dismissed as a scam. After receiving a second email, we took the request a little more seriously. A response was sent asking what it was we could do after receiving a little more detailed email with contact information and additional details. A phone call was made, and after this initial conversation, it was apparent the 85-year-old father was at a loss for what to do and how to do it. He admitted his inability to use email effectively and sought assistance from a family friend. We immediately offered to assist the family. Unfortunately, the timing was bad as the U.S. Embassy was closed for a four-day holiday.

A video conference was set up on Friday, July 28th, between the Officers of American Legion Post TH02. Based on the conversation with the family, the best option was to have the deceased cremated, and the remains returned to the states. The return of a body from Thailand is an extremely costly process.

Contact was made with the U.S. Embassy on Monday, July 31st, following the long weekend. We offered to assist the family, and the U.S. Embassy was receptive to our assistance. After receiving confirmation from the family, a letter was drafted authorizing us to act on behalf of the family. This letter is titled: "Introducing a representative for deceased American Citizen." Until

we had this letter in our possession, there was nothing we could do at this point with the exception



of preplanning.

On Tuesday, August 1st, arrangements were made at a Wat (temple) to receive the individual and perform the funeral rites prior to cremation. Another member of TH02 went to the U.S. Embassy and received the letter that allowed us to begin our part. The letter was mailed to the Adjutant. This letter was received on Thursday. In the meantime, calls were made to the Police and the Forensic hospital for details on what was needed to proceed.

The beginning of this process was to meet with the investigating police officers and present the letter to him. An appointment with the police officer was established, and the Adjutant met with him on Friday, August 5th. The Adjutant was able to get the personal effects of the deceased member and the first important document. The document was the police report.

The police report was needed by the Forensic Hospital prior to the release of the body. Also, in the personal effects, a copy of the individual's DD214 was found and a copy of his V.A. award letter. This was confirmation of the individual's Veterans status. It was determined the individual was a combat medic and a Veteran of the U.S. Navy.



personnel interviewing family members who were dealing with their own tragedies after a horrible fire at a nightclub that claimed the lives of 15

young Thais.

The copy of the police report and letter was presented to the clerk, and the first real snag occurred. The clerk insisted that the police report presented was not an original but a copy. After insisting that what was given was what was received from the police officer, the process ground to a halt. Luckily for us, the individual from the Wat (temple) who was there to transport the deceased came to our rescue. His experience with this office was invaluable in getting things smoothed over. After completing additional paperwork, all of which was in Thai, the process was back on track. After about 15 minutes, we were called back into the office and received the "cause of death paperwork," or as we know it, the autopsy report and the release of the body. The transport personnel received the body and transported it to the Wat (temple).

On Monday, August 8th, the Adjutant returned to the police station to provide the police officer with the "cause of death paperwork." This document allowed the police officer to close his case as it was determined by the Institute of Forensic Medicine Bangkok the death was from natural causes. He then provided another document showing the case was closed, and a Thai death certificate could be issued.

Leaving the police station and traveling to the Pattaya City Hall with all necessary documents, the Adjutant was able to secure a Thai Death Certificate. This concluded the necessary documentation.

The Thai Death Certificate and the
Continued on page 18

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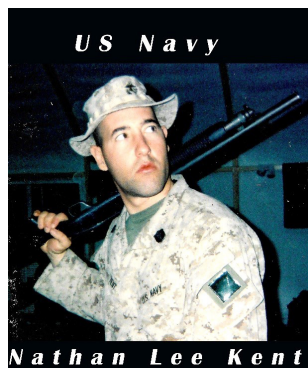
MICHEAL CHITWOOD cause of death
ADJUTANT, TH02 were then sent
to the U.S. Embassy to allow them to
issue the U.S. death certificate known
as Report of an American Citizen
Abroad.

This event of the passing of an American Citizen set a series of involvement from many, many individuals. Starting with the hotel owners and staff, the police officers, the ambulance, the hospital attendants, forensic hospital doctors, administrative personnel, monks and Wat employees, city hall staff, and of course, our veterans and their families. All these individuals played a part in this process. All this from the death of a U.S. Navy Veteran.

Chapter 3

Born January 30th, 1981

Died July 25th, 2022



At the time of his passing, Nathan was a traveler and passed away on one of his explorations in Pattaya. Hence no one here knew him personally. But to us, he was not a stranger. Nathan served his country honorably as a member of the United States Navy.

Nathan volunteered to serve in the United States Military during a time of war by enlisting in the Navy in October of 2005.

After basic training, his Military occupation specialty was designated as a Corpsman. Navy corpsmen come in two types: Blue and Green, blue stripe Corpsman work in either ship or land-based hospitals. Green stripe Corpsmen are assigned to the United States Marine Corps infantry units.

This requires additional training in treating acute traumatic injury and in the tactics and physicality of a Marine infantryman.

Once assigned to an infantry platoon, the corpsman undergoes the same training in weapons, tactics, strength, endurance, and depravations as a Marine infantryman. In September of 2006, Nathan was assigned to the Third Battalion, First Marines, or 3/1, First Marine Division, India Company. 3/1, known as the Thundering Third, is based out of Camp Horno, located in Camp Pendleton, California. On April 10th, 2007, 3/1 deployed as the ground combat element of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. A MEU can simply be described as America's 911 first responders. Its mission is to be able to respond anywhere in the world within 24 hours.

They were ordered into Iraq as part of Operation Phantom Thunder. The ground combat element, of which Nathan was a part, began operating on June 15th, 2007, north of Falluja. During his time in Iraq, Nathan went on more than 100 patrols and treated Marines injured in IED attacks and Iraqi civilians injured by gunfire. 3/1 concluded operations in Iraq after 90 days on September 20th, 2007, and

returned to Camp Pendleton on November 17th, 2007.

After his separation from the Navy in 2008, Nathan enrolled at California State University Fullerton. He graduated in May of 2014 with a B.A. in Anthropology.

The cultural element of this degree may explain his love of travel, and in 2016 he became a student of the world. We ask why we have to lose such good men? part of the answer is that only good men volunteer to serve and defend their country. He chose the harder life of a soldier in a time of war. I do not know where such men come from, except to say they are the kind of men who have made America great and will continue to preserve it.

Chapter 4

On Saturday, August 6th, Nathan



was transported from the Institute of Forensic Medicine Bangkok to Wat Nong

Khayat in Phanat Nikhom District, Chon Buri. Thus began the final process for this U.S. Combat Veteran. Nathan was received by the monks of the

Continued on page 19

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

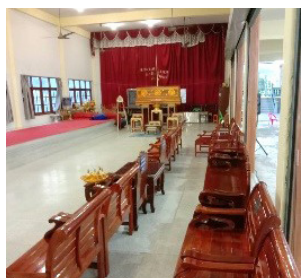
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MICHEAL CHITWOOD temple, and the **ADJUTANT, TH02** final rites were started. For the monks, they begin with their first series of chants for the deceased.

At the conclusion of the first chant, members of TH02 and their families pay homage to the monks with offerings.



The members of American Legion Post TH02, VFW Post 9876, and VFW Post 12146 arrive on Sunday, August 7th, to finalize the preparations before the 1400 service.



Promptly at 1400, the service begins to render Military Funeral Honors for

Nathan Lee Kent, a U.S. Navy Combat veteran. The purpose of conducting Military Funeral Honors is to honor the Veteran and to support their family by providing those honors. Providing military funeral honors



is our nation's way of showing gratitude and paying final tribute to a veteran's honorable military service.

The service began with opening remarks from the Commander of American Legion Post Th02, William Ahlberg (USN). Followed by the prayer presented by TH02 Chaplain Shane Curtis (USAF). The eulogy by First Vice Commander Howard Gundy (USMC) and closing comments.

The Honor Guard ceremony begins with the playing of TAPS, perhaps the most famous 24 musical notes in history. The conclusion occurs with the folding of the Flag. Although our role in honoring this American Veteran has concluded, we contacted a local American Legion Post close to the parents, where we will send the personal effects, the Flag, and ashes for them to present to the family.



Rest in Peace
Nathan Lee
Kent



Back the Blue

PDC, Tom Harris standing next to a wax figure of a Police Officer. 103rd National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Legionnaire Insurance Trust



Welcome to the NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END VETERAN SUICIDE®

<https://www.na2evs.org/>

<https://www.na2evs.org/OVF>

Workshop: Operation Veteran Freedom

A 4 session online workshop (or full day in person) specially designed for Military/Veteran families by a Vietnam era Combat Veteran (Jan McHenry). It uses some of the technology of brain science and some of the technology of a very powerful and highly regarded educational corporation. This is not a suicide prevention workshop, instead it is more like an **Operator's Guide to Your Brain**.

You do *NOT* need to relive your trauma to be free!

Commitment: Is for you to discover new ways to look at yourself, the world including your past and present circumstances. By seeing these things in a new light your past will no longer dictate to you how you feel and limit what actions you can take.

Outcomes: Upon completion You will experience more Power, Freedom, Full Self-expression, and Peace Of Mind.

Costs: Sponsors cover expenses so that it is **FREE** for our Service Members, Veterans and their adult family members or caregivers.

Online via Zoom and locations in WA & OR & CA are regularly scheduled, consider attending online or in person. With additional sponsorship we can bring this workshop to communities across the nation. To start the conversation for your community, send an email to Rod.Wittmier@na2evs.org for more information: Contact the website or,

Mark Ayers 541-816-2665

Legionnaire HospitalHELP Insurance Plan



Endorsed By
Your American Legion
Department

LEARN MORE

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





At the 103rd National convention, Our National Commander, Paul Dillard, expressed his desire that we all sign up for Legislative alerts.

You can help support
The American Legion
Legislative Agenda.



Scan the QR Code
to sign up for
Legislative
Action Alerts

The call went out to legionnaires to help contact your representatives during the PACT Act. Because of you and the responses of 33,000 members who answered the call, the PACT ACT was passed and signed.

He urges all of us to scan the QR code and sign up to get the alerts; instead of 33,000, we could have reached 1.3 million.

We have a voice, and
It gets noticed.



Please do this today!



Hermiston Post 37



Prepping the float. Legionnaire Jim Morris follows in his rebuilt Military Jeep, waiting for the parade to begin.



Our volunteers

Hermiston, Post 37, in the Umatilla County Fair Parade on Saturday, August 6. This year Post 37 honored all the veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and sported the flag on their behalf. As the float coursed through Hermiston, 12 volunteers, led by Legionnaire Jodi Hinsley, distributed 4,000 miniature American

flags to parade visitors. Post 37's float participated in 4 local parades, during which time volunteers have distributed an estimated 8,000 flags. The Legion float, festooned in all the service flags and Legionnaires, has been requested to lead these parades. The American and Legion flags fly high from the vehicle pulling the float.



Stayton Post 58



Aumsville Corn Festival Parade

MIKE SOWLES The event was at **BASEBALL CHAIR** tended by 15 Legionnaire Family members and friends. Four Post 58 Riders accompanied the float, two in the front and two in the rear. The members included 7 legion, 7 Sons of American Legion, and two Auxiliary members. This parade is the 5th parade this year, with two more scheduled.

The first Street Fair in Stayton Returned for 2022 after the covid of 2019



Past District Commander Ann Evertts of Post 149 and Adjutant Mike Sowles of Post 58

The first Street Fair in Stayton Returned for 2022 after the covid of 2019. **Stayton Post 58** sponsored booths for the ten years prior and now again sponsored a booth in 2022. Ten Volunteers of the American Legion family worked the booth in shifts from 8 am to 5 pm on Saturday, July 30th. Members supplied Legion information and applications, gave away poppies, candy and promoted the Activities of Post 58 to the roving crowd.

Estacada Post 74 Annual Cruise In



S. FLYNN PHILLIPS you to PGE Parks
DEPT ADJUTANT and Recreation Department.

On July 9, 2022, the American Legion Carl Douglas Post 74 in Estacada, Oregon, held their 8th Annual Cruise-In at Timber Park. We had 165 vehicles participating in the event



In the shade is Post Commander Jim Moriarty Exchanging a tattered Flag for the Post's Flag Exchange Program. Pictured right is MC Flynn Phillips getting comments from Mr. Hoffman after he wins one of the Westin Kia's Prizes.

Continued on page 23



ranging from 1930 to 2000s and newer (18 classes). Other categories were Muscle Car, Orphan, Convertible, Import, Trucks, Motorcycles, Under Construction, and Just Cause Its Neat. We also had our First and Second place trophies, Best in Show, American Legion picks, Participant's Pick, and Club Participation.

We had several local food vendors, including Figaro's Pizza, a Mexican Food Cart, Grateful Dogs, GDC Ice Cream, and Trails End Kettle Corn. The Carl Douglas Post 74 had an American Flag exchange at the Cruise-In. We exchanged a total of 9 tattered American flags and replaced them with brand new American flags.





Continued from page 22

S. FLYNN PHILLIPS
DEPT ADJUTANT

The Post invited Michael Fox, National SAL Commander, out to the Crise in. the Detachment NECMAN Marc Canney, Alt NEC Larry Horne, and SAL Adjutant Ward Allen are Pictured right. And Charlie Peppers, Post 74 Riders Director and SAL member on loan from Detachment 180 until Post 74 gets the required number of people to start its Detachment. Michale Fox gave a great speech and talked about his Cemetery Flag project across the United States. He was well received.



What sets our cruise-in apart from the rest is our unique handmade Trophies. Pete Magnuson, above, and his crew work all year round building these trophies.

Tigard Post 158 "Calling all Posts for Vittles for Vets"



The Pictures above show one delivery for the Post, Jim is in the Red Shirt

Jim Waggoner, 1st Vice of Post 158, is growing this program and now it's busting at the seams. Actually, the Stores are asking more and more of him. So he needs some Help.

Here is an opportunity for Posts to distribute perishable and frozen food to veterans and other outlets. i.e Foodbank, church, etc., in your town.

To help: Your Post needs to have a person(s) committed to picking up food from the Store that you would be assigned to in your area.

When the store calls, you need to be ready to pick up the food, take it to your Post or building, and then Distribute it out.

Please Call Jim at 503-624-2332 for more details, and invite him to your Post, or District Meeting, if outside the area, I will set up a **GO TO MEETING** for you Virtually.

Use this opportunity to show what the Legion is doing in your area, and it's a great membership engagement tool. This has the potential to be state-wide.

In October of 2021, opportunity knocked post 158 answered. A new member of our post approached me with several innovative ideas to better community relations and do things a little differently, so we began to think out of the box.

We found many of our ideas were heading in the same direction, one of which was how to use perishable food that at the time was, for the most part, was, going to the landfill. We both decided at that time to find a way to stop this tremendous waste. We approached Safeway, and after a few meetings with different executives, an agreement was reached, and Vittles from Veterans was started with one pick up a week; after a few short weeks, it became three pickups a week.

Today we have expanded and are acting as a distribution center. We pick up products or products that are donated and delivered to us. We sort and are able to distribute food to several food banks, homeless shelters, and church food banks as well as some of our food-challenged members and neighbors. At this time, we are assisting other posts in starting their chapter of Vittles from Veterans.

This is a tremendous opportunity to serve the community by directly helping the needy and becoming a center of goodwill and a bigger part of your local community.

We are expanding and will keep reporting on our progress while assisting other posts and the community.

Jim
Waggoner



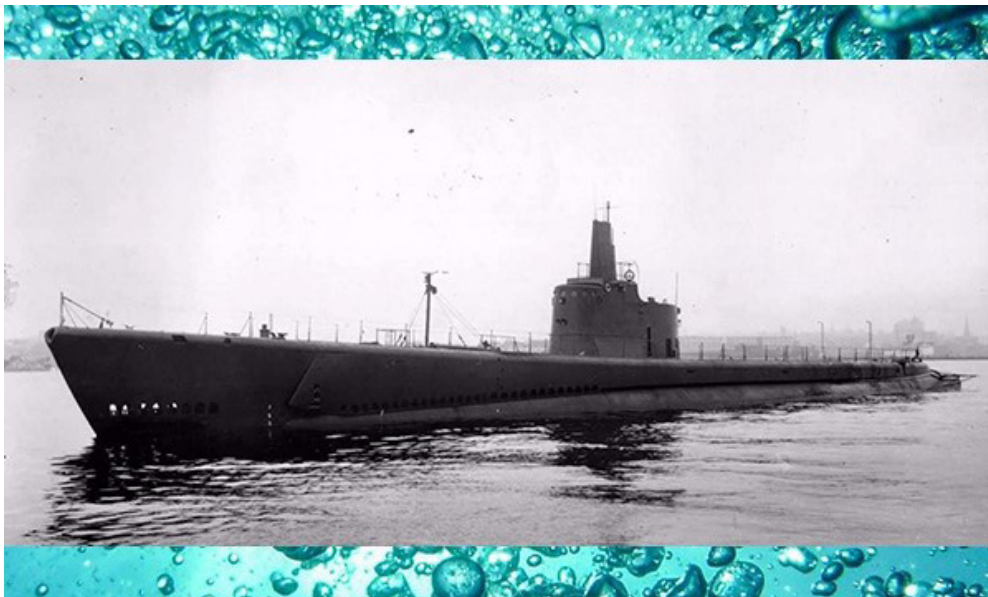
Vittles from Veterans

Vets still proudly
serving our community

503.624.2332

Proudly sponsored by Tigard American Legion Post 158

USS Albacore (SS-218) FOUND



FRED MEYER

POST 124 ADJUTANT

More than fifteen years ago, Beaverton Post

#124 was approached to consider placing a submarine veterans' monument within our Beaverton Veterans Memorial Park. The submarine assigned to Oregon is the USS Albacore SS-218. The monument was indeed built and then dedicated on November 11, 2008.

The USS Albacore was commissioned on June 1, 1942, and lost all souls on November 7, 1944. It is believed the USS Albacore struck a naval mine very close to the shore off Hokkaido, Japan.



The USS Albacore earned nine battle stars for her service and the Presidential Unit Citation for four of her many patrols during WWII. Among her many successful targets were the transport Kenzan Maru, the light cruiser Tenryu, the destroyer Oshio, the gunboat escort Heijo Maru, the Choko Maru, and the aircraft carrier Taiho. The USS Albacore holds the distinction of sinking the highest warship tonnage of any US submarine.

Suicide Prevention is Not a Spectator Sport

Get Informed! Get Involved! **RACE** to Save a Life!



988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

We can all help prevent suicide. The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States.



FOUND: In 2022, a Japanese research team using multi-beam survey sonar and unmanned submersible found the USS Albacore. The submarine sits on the ocean floor at a depth of 200 meters. As of May 2022, the US Navy had not yet investigated the site. Once the confirmation is made, it will certainly bring closure to many families of the crew. The median age of the crew was mid-twenties.

Attached is some information and pictures which may be suitable for a future Oregon Legionnaire issue.

About R.A.C.E. Suicide Prevention Training

The complete **R.A.C.E.** Suicide Prevention training is three 1-hour sessions delivered over three consecutive weeks. Each session is a prerequisite for attendance at subsequent sessions. Active participation is encouraged and assigned "homework" encourages practice of skills learned during the training.

The acronym **R.A.C.E.** stands for:

- Recognize signs of distress
- Ask the person about what they are thinking and feeling
- Care for the person and actively listen to them
- Escort the person based on their needs

The **R.A.C.E.** model for suicide prevention has been used throughout the United States Marine Corps for many years. The model stands out among others because it includes an important aspect of suicide prevention that other models do not; that is Recognize signs of

<https://www.nami.org/Support-Education/Publications-Reports/Guides/Navigating-a-Mental-Health-Crisis/>

<https://racesuicideprevention.us/>



HOW DID IT DO?



We are excited to report that the Emergency Assistance Plus campaign we mailed in February brought in over 1,900 new members!



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

AND AS ALWAYS, DON'T FORGET:



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

The next mailing is Hospital Help on July 6th.

WHAT'S MAILING THIS MONTH?



We are mailing Travel Accident on June 22nd.

Quick reminder about Travel Accident:

Pays if you were to die as the result of a covered Travel Accident in a private vehicle or common carrier. Also pays a daily benefit if you were to be treated as an inpatient in a hospital because of a covered travel accident. 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/Travel-Accident.



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S. Flynn Phillips:
Vic, tell me
your full
name.

Victor H.
Banky:
Victor H.
Banky.

S. Flynn
Phillips:

Okay. And you're a World War II veteran.

Victor H. Banky: World War II
veteran.

S. Flynn Phillips: And were you
in Korea also?

Victor H. Banky: No, I was not
in Korea.

S. Flynn Phillips: So Vic, tell
me a good story, the one that's most
memorable to you.

Victor H. Banky: I told a guy one
yesterday, so I can... A lot of that stuff
I don't remember anymore, but-

S. Flynn Phillips: Well, best of
your recollection.

Victor H. Banky: Well, yeah, okay,
I'll... One of the things we had to do,
we had to... Our battalion was a lead
battalion through the Siegfried Line,
which separated Belgium from Ger-
many. And the Germans were really
bent on holding us on one side, on the
Belgium side. So our battalion was a
lead battalion through the line. And
we were just catching hell. Well, they
were throwing mortars mostly and
small arms fire. And a buddy and I
were trying to get down below ground
level, digging like mad. And a captain
comes up, and he says, "Banky, come
with me."

WWII Veteran Victor H. Banky US ARMY (a Conversation and story in his own words)

And I thought, "Oh crap. That's the
end of..." And I hadn't been in com-
bat before. And so, anyhow, we went
around a little bit, and he picked up
three or four more other guys, and he
says, "That pillbox over there is hold-
ing us up. We can't move." See, on that
Siegfried Line, every so many feet,
they had an igloo with slots in it that
they could shoot out of. So that one
was holding us up.

And so he says, "We got to take that."
And they usually took them by... I get
this secondhand because I never got
that far. But they'd get a bunch of guys,
and they'd shoot at those slots. And
then they'd get somebody to run up
and pitch a hand grenade in, and that
would take care of it. That's about the
only way they could get in them be-
cause they had a concrete wall about
that thick, iron reinforced. Then igloo
type, they'd shoot artillery at them
and just knock off the concrete.

But anyhow, just got started, and the
captain got shot through the stomach.
So I went over to help him, and no
more than I got started, and then I got
shot through the shoulder. And so, we
were helping each other back to the
aid station. And he was worse than I
was. They took him to England, and
they took me to Paris to the hospital. I
was about three weeks in the hospital
there in Paris.

And anyhow, it was fine. But at least
we had clean sheets and so forth. But
yeah, I don't know, it's hard to say. You
don't feel you should be there. You
feel you should be someplace else, as
dumb as that sounds. But anyhow,
they got me patched up and back to
the company again. And my first

thought was,
"I'll find my
foxhole bud-
dy and see
how he's do-
ing." And I
asked one of
the guys, I
said, "Where's
Jud?" And he
says, "Well,
shortly after you
left," he said, "he
got direct hit with a mortar."



S. FLYNN PHILLIPS
DEPT ADJUTANT

He said, "We just picked up bits and
pieces of him." So I got thinking about
that, and I think that I've been think-
ing about it all my life. Why am I still
here? Man upstairs. Got more work
for you to do. Yeah. And so, I've had a
couple of bouts like that, so that's my
war story...

I went through three major battles
with the 82nd—Ardennes, which was
the Bulge, Rhineland, and Central Eu-
rope.

Well, I think through the Siegfried
Line was the hardest. Yeah. Of course,
we were the lead battalion. If you're
back up, the next battalion, the only
time you go in if the other one has
trouble. And the third battalion, he
goes in if you really have trouble. So,
yeah, it's a different deal. I enjoyed
my time in the service. I met a lot of
good guys, a lot of good officers. We
had good officers. And I'm sorry that I
didn't... I was able to serve. I was able.
I'm glad I was....

We were on patrol, and we were
supposed to... I was called on patrol,
and we had to go over a certain many
miles this way and then hit a road and
take a left and go up there a mile or
two and see if the bridge was still in-
tact over a stream. And there's a little
town on the other side. I think there

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S. FLYNN PHILLIPS
DEPPT ADJUTANT

were three of us on patrol. We found the road and got up there and got right to the bridge and looked at it and everything looked good. And we headed back, and our own artillery started coming in. Of course, they didn't know we were there. You're on patrol; nobody knows. And evidently, one of the shells had spooked some horses on the other side of the bridge that was hooked to our artillery piece.

And there was a road that went right down through there and across the bridge, actually. And everything was frozen. It was ice and cold and just miserable cold. And you can imagine what this sounded like, a team of horses pulling hard-wheeled artillery pieces down a frozen road. It sounded like the whole German army was coming at. I can still remember that, hearing them way off in the distance, still running. The horses were spooked. And I don't know if you've been to a runner 18 or not, but when I was a kid, I went through it a time or two. Yeah, they got by pretty good with not having any fuel. Turn it over to horses. They had the horses.

More..

... concentration camp in Germany. Ludwigslust was a town. Wöbbelin was a camp. You can pick it up on the internet. But that was kind of an eye-opener to me. We heard about concentration camps. And you're in there, but nothing really. And all of a sudden, you're up against it. The lead guys that were there shot off the locks on the gates, opened the gates, and we let the guys out, or most of them. A lot of them couldn't move. They were in a big courtyard. Some of them were sitting down. They couldn't get up. And some of them were in the barracks in bunks, and some of them had died

that way. A few of them could get up and walk around. And of course, the first thing we did was give them some of our K-rations, "Gee whiz, the guy's hungry, I'm sure. Yeah, he's nothing but bones and skin." And of course, then the porter comes out, "Don't give them anything," because they were passing out. They were hungry, but they couldn't handle it.

I think we stayed there probably [inaudible] there a week. That was about 60 miles from Berlin. We could've taken Berlin if we'd wanted to, but you'd have to ask higher-ups.

There was a lot of politics going on there. Yeah. But let's see, where was I? Lost my train of thought. The town of Ludwigslust was a fairly small town. I'd say probably smaller than Sheridan, probably more like Lafayette. But anyhow, we had all the people in town lined up, and they had to march... Well, first of all, we had them dig graves, 200 graves in a lot right next to town. And got that done, and we had them pick up the bodies and carry them over and put them in the graves. They put on mattress covers and let them down into the grave and left it open. Then we had to get the people in town... This was one of my jobs: get them rounded up and lined up, and they had to single file march to the cemetery and go down one row of the grave and back up and over, just to see what's been taking place because they said they knew something was going on, but they didn't know what it was. Impossible, but anyhow...

That cemetery was supposed to have been left there in perpetuity for people to reflect back on what took place. And it was set up nice. It was set up just like a military cemetery. It had cross of David and stars and the graves all in a nice row. And the cemetery looked nice when we left. Of course, when we left, then the Rus-

sians moved into that area. So I went back with a group from Fort Bragg on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. And, of course, we wanted to see the cemetery an hour away. So we got the bus driver to go over there. And we couldn't find it, couldn't find it. It was right next to town and had the stars and crosses. Of course, we went over to the city offices and asked, "Where's that cemetery?" And they said, "Well, it's right there across the street." And trees up there 40 feet in the air. They had made a park out of it. There was nothing left of the crosses or anything like that. They had a little marker on one corner that said, "This is the burying place of 200 inmates of Wöbbelin Concentration Camp." That's all that was there.

And I never did get it straight whether the Russians have done away with that, when they come in because they didn't like us very well either. They didn't like us at all at that time. We didn't like them either. But we were allies, so we had to live together. Or whether the Germans themselves had taken it down. Never did find out for sure. But we did meet up with a group, probably 15 or 20 people from this town, that are still... They've got a little museum for it, and they're keeping this alive on their own.

So we got a little information from them, but most of them were younger kids, and they didn't have a lot of... So anyhow, that's the story of that. There was a lot of those right at the end of the war, where a lot of infantry outfits mainly overran a concentration camp. Most of them were labor camps, and that's what this was. There were no women, all men. And I don't know. I'd guess they'd be half Jewish because you could tell because of the crosses and the stars. And the rest of them were probably East Europeans, like Poles and whatever. But interesting,

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S. FLYNN PHILLIPS

I don't know.

DEPPT ADJUTANT

And then they had a mass grave outside that they had used before we got there. They buried 600 from that camp that had died over a period of time.

I asked the guys there in Germany. I said, "You guys, when you need guys for work, why did you starve them to death and they couldn't do anything?" He says, "Right toward the end of the war," he says, "there was very little food. Anything that'd come out, number one, went to the German military. Number two went to the government offices. Number three, if there was any left, then it went out to the concentration camps." So they didn't have anything to feed them, which is kind of what I figured anyhow. But that's the story on that one.

But where were they going to get their food? Anybody over 18 or 16 was in the service. And what was left were these kids and women, so you didn't have a lot of growing any food. So it was a real time for them, yeah.

Flynn, Well, a great story.

Interesting things to make
you say



Hmmm.....

America's first aircraft carrier, The USS Langley, was commissioned in 1922.

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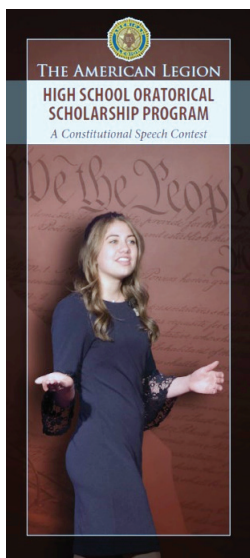
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They are there to help you get your children involved



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YOUR SUMMARY OF AMERICAN LEGION BENEFITS

Reserved for Members

BENEFITS FOR THE HOME

Office DEPOT OFFICEMAX - Members receive up to 80% off of over 93,000 items online or in-store with a purchasing card printable online. Next day delivery is free on purchase of \$50 or more for American Legion members.

LifeStation LIFESTATION - Members can receive special discounted rates on a medical alert system and a free extra item.



OMAHA STEAKS® - Members can enjoy free shipping on exclusive combos and an additional 10% off entire order with Omaha Steaks.

ADDED MEDICAL BENEFITS

CVS/caremark DISCOUNT PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM - Members and dependents can save up to 20% or more through CVS/caremark.



DISCOUNTS ON HEARING AIDS - Members, family and extended family are eligible for hearing care discounts from Amplifon Hearing Health Care. Benefits include: hearing aid low-price guarantee; convenient locations nationwide; risk-free 60-day trial period; 1-year free follow-up care; free 2-year supply of batteries (160 cells).

INSURANCE

LIFE INSURANCE THROUGH MUTUAL OF OMAHA - Members aged 45-85 are eligible for **guaranteed issue** whole life policies. (May not be available in all states).



USAA - Provides a full range of financial products including: insurance, banking, investments, and financial advice. As an American Legion member, you are eligible to join. There are no membership fees to join USAA and when you sign up, your eligible family members can join USAA as well.

AUTO RENTAL, RELOCATION, AND TRAVEL

ALAMO AUTO RENTALS - Members can receive special discounts with ALAMO, NATIONAL, and ENTERPRISE. Note: These discount offers are valid at participating locations and are not valid with any other discounts or special prices in the U.S.

NORTH AMERICAN VAN LINES AND ALLIED VAN LINES - Preferred savings of 50% or more on interstate (state-to-state) moving and in-transit storage.

GOV VACATION REWARDS GOV VACATION REWARDS - Members can get the best discount available on travel including airfare, hotel, car rental, vacation packages, cruises, and more.



VETERANS HOLIDAYS - This program offers members the opportunity to rent a furnished condominium for 2-8 people, for an entire week, for less than they would pay for a single hotel room.

MOTEL 6 - Members receive a 15% discount at any of the 1,100 pet-friendly Motel 6 locations in the U.S. and Canada.

BEST WESTERN - American Legion members can save 10% or more at more than 2,100 North American Best Western locations. Members are also eligible for free enrollment in Best Western Service Rewards®.



WYNDHAM HOTEL GROUP - Save up to 20% off the best available rate at thousands of participating hotels throughout the world!



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BENEFIT ASSISTANCE - The American Legion helps all veterans obtain full medical, career and education benefits, as well as assistance in preparing VA claims applications.

VETERANS' REPRESENTATION - The American Legion is the nation's largest and most effective advocate in Washington D.C. for veterans, troops and their families. The American Legion fights every day on Capitol Hill and across the country for a quality VA health-care system, improved benefits processing and a decent quality of life for active-duty military personnel.

ACCREDITED SERVICE OFFICERS

The American Legion has nearly 3,000 trained experts in veteran benefits nationwide. Visitors of www.legion.org can search online for the service officer nearest to them.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS

The American Legion works closely with numerous employers, lenders and agencies, including the Department of Labor and the Small Business Administration, to produce hundreds of career events across the country each year. The Legion is also the nation's leading advocate for veteran entrepreneurs and job candidates who have service-connected disabilities.

TOP-RANKED MEMBER MAGAZINE - You'll receive a full year's subscription to *The American Legion Magazine*, the nation's most widely circulated publication for veterans and top-ranked magazine, among all titles, for readership. Each issue is packed with features, commentaries, interviews, military history, photos and more of interest to America's veterans.

The American Legion ★ P.O. Box 7017 ★ Indianapolis, IN 46207

NOTE: These discount offers are valid at participating locations and are not valid with any other discounts or special prices. The American Legion does not guarantee any discounts.

Veterans & Children Foundation



Our Impact

Free service for 750,000+ veterans

You see it in the news right now – toxic exposure to Agent Orange or burn pits, invisible wounds of war, unexplained illnesses and other conditions related to military service. These veterans who fought for our country now fight for care and accountability from the government they swore with their lives to defend. Navigating the VA benefits system can be complex. Veterans often give up, leaving them with debilitating conditions; or worse, they die before their claims applications are decided. This is where more than 3,000 American Legion service officers make all the difference.



Accredited American Legion service officers receive special training to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to any veteran or family member of a veteran looking for answers. They help veterans apply for VA disability benefits and assist with critical information, referrals and resources on education, training, employment, business, death benefits and more.

American Legion representatives secured an estimated \$14.25 billion in VA disability compensation and other benefits for veterans and their families in 2020 alone. Without service officers, these benefits would have gone unrealized.

\$500K-\$1M distributed annually in Temporary Financial Assistance



The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance program awards hundreds of cash grants a year to help minor children of military personnel and qualified veterans. These grants help families in crisis with needs like food, shelter, utilities and medical costs, to stabilize homes.

During the 2019 federal government shutdown, members of the U.S. Coast Guard went over a month without paychecks. The American Legion stepped in, delivering over \$1 million

in Temporary Financial Assistance to more than 1,700 junior enlisted personnel who had young children at home.

Be there for a service member or veteran in need

The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation directly provides:

- Necessary training for service officers who provide vital, free support.
- Grants that help active-duty military and veteran families with children during their time of need.
- Hope when it seems there is nowhere else to turn.

About the Foundation

The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation funds a vast network of service officers who provide free assistance to veterans applying for disability benefits they earned through military service. The foundation also extends a financial safety net for military and veteran families with children, who are facing unexpected financial hardships that threaten the stability of their homes.

The American Legion delivers more than hope for America's veterans and military families. We deliver results.

Cases in Point

Tennessee Legionnaire Walter Culberson lost his job when the pandemic hit.

The American Legion responded by providing him with a one-time grant that paid for two months of utilities, food and gas. It was the lifeline he needed until he got a new job and could provide for his family once again.

From June 2020 to April 2021, Oklahoma American Legion Post 88 anticipated the need for benefits assistance during the pandemic.

The post's team of service officers maintained regular socially distanced office hours and worked tirelessly from home on claims.

The result: nearly \$1.1 million in benefits for disabled veterans and their families in the local community.

LEARN MORE ONLINE
LEGION.ORG/VCF

Join your fellow American Legion members who support the Veterans & Children Foundation

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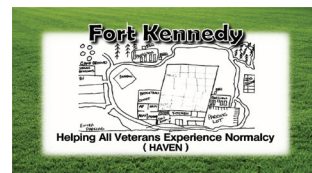
(503) 765-2661

Hours:

9:00AM to 3:00PM

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri

Closed Saturday and Sunday



~ Services available ~

* Housing assistance * Help with VA claims (VSO) * Legal assistance * PTSD classes * AA meeting * Food pantry * Clothing closet * Baby closet * Hair cuts & shaves * Laundry services * Pet food & supplies *

★ Fellowship: a place where people care! ★

★ A place where you will feel welcomed and comfortable! ★

~ People we partner with ~

* American Legion VSO * CVMA * Clackamas County * DAV * Fido Project * Gold Star Wives * Houseless Veteran Programs * In-Country * Legion Riders * Multnomah County * Do Good Multnomah * Teamster Horsemen * VFVW#1324 * VVA#392 * Washington County *



A Blue Star Banner displayed in the window of a home is an American tradition. The banner lets others know that someone in the home is proudly serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. Order your Blue Star Banner from The American Legion National Emblem Sales. Call toll-free 1-888-453-4466 or order online at www.emblem.legion.org.



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.

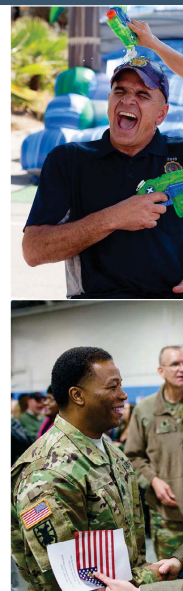
Americanism.

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 defoliant 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 1 of Veterans Affairs impr care accessibility, acc processing, update ed and achieve employee accountability
- Leadership in veteran c including employer-app, a successful business t representation in Wash the military-to-civilian c



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

elp the Department ve health- erate benefits cation assistance, nd management

reer services, icant networking, ask force, and yction to improve reer transition

THE AMERICAN LEGION

P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206

(317) 630-1200

@legion.org

legion.org/facebook

twitter.com/AmericanLegion

Stock # 40-009 (Revised 02/2020)

Artwork # 40MAG2230



A Word About Legionnaire Insurance Trust

Over Five Decades of Partnership for a Healthy America

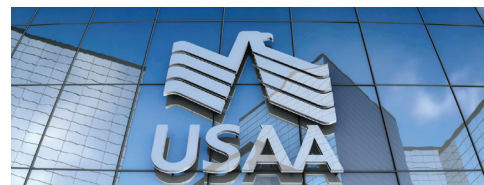
The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) was formed in 1966 with two primary goals: to provide Legion families with low-cost insurance protection, and to provide a source of revenue to participating Legion Departments.

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

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

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

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



LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST

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.



From Your
American Legion
Department



**AMERICAN
LEGION**



Be prepared with the
Lifeline Medical Alert Service

Learn more

Or call 855-495-4359

Fast access to help, 24/7



From Your
American Legion Department

Free
shipping

+ Free
activation

**PHILIPS
Lifeline**



THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____ (Date of Birth) _____
 Mailing Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP) _____
 _____ (Phone) _____ (Email) _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female _____ (Post #) _____ (Dues) _____
 (Gender)

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

Please check appropriate eligibility era and branch of service below:

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

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____ Name of Recruiter _____

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

ALA 08/2019

Date

Received From
 \$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Signature

Recruiter's Phone #



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

Date _____
 Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____
 Name _____ (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____ Recruited by _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____
 Address _____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (ZIP) _____ (Phone) _____
 Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____
 (a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. _____ Department of _____
 OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____
 (c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____
 Has Applicant previously been a member of the SAL? _____ Where? _____
 I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and
 Email Address _____ Transmit \$ _____ for 20 _____ annual membership dues
 Signed By Applicant (or Parent) _____ Eligibility certified by _____

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

ALA 12/2013

Date

Received From
 \$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Squadron No.

Department of



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



DUES RECEIPT (Please Print)

APPLICANT INFORMATION
 Full Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 Email Address _____ Unit # and Location (if known) _____
 _____ / _____ / _____ ☐ Birth - 17 ☐ 18 and over
 Date of Birth (Required)
 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 _____

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:
☐ WWII (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)
☐ Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):
☐ Global War on Terror ☐ Lebanon/Grenada ☐ WWII
☐ Gulf War ☐ Vietnam ☐ Other Conflicts
☐ Panama ☐ Korea
Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:
☐ Male Spouse ☐ Female Spouse ☐ Mother
☐ Grandmother ☐ Sister ☐ Self
☐ Daughter ☐ Granddaughter

To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer
 I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification _____

Date

ALA 09/2019

Date

Received From
 \$ _____ for 20 _____ Dues

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Signature

Recruiter's Phone #

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.