



July 2023 Issue

# The Oregon Legionnaire

The Voice of Oregon's Veterans, since 1919  
**Congratulations**

To our New Officers for 2023-2024



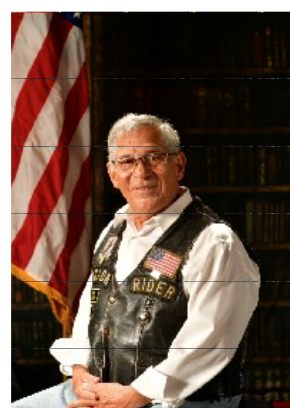
Department Commander  
Cory Brockmann  
2023-2024



Auxiliary President  
Catherine Brockmann  
2023-2024



Son's Detachment Cmdr  
Robert Liebinow  
2023-2024



Legion Riders Chair  
Gale Sears  
2023-2024

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Scouting Commission



**BE THE  
ONE**



American Legion Marketing Commission Chairman Paul Evenson provides an update on the “Be the One” program. (Photo by Hilary Ott)

### **Legion Family members urged to raise ‘Be The One’ awareness at the start of each month**

During Day 1 of The American Legion National Executive Committee’s Spring Meetings, the organization’s governing body approved a new method for raising awareness of the Legion’s “Be the One” veteran suicide-prevention initiative. The NEC passed Resolution 13: Be the One Days. The resolution urges American Legion Family members and American Legion posts to – on the first of each month, starting this June – set aside that day as an opportunity to reduce the stigma around mental health issues. Legion Family members are urged to wear a “Be the One” item to signal their commitment to the initiative.

“We believe it will take a little bit of time to get this off the ground,” said American Legion Marketing Commission Chairman Paul Evenson. “But once it spreads widely across the Legion Family, it will be a great way to keep the awareness high about this important issue all year long.”

During Evenson’s remarks, Kim Meesters – Brand Strategy and Innovation Director in the Legion’s Marketing Division – shared the story of a servicemember who approached national staff during an event earlier this year and said he had contemplated suicide, at one time having a weapon in his hand to do so. He was immediately connected with an American Legion service officer.

“Not only did they quickly get him some companionship and some compassion and tell him they would help, but within 24 hours the gentleman had the appointments he needed, the right caretakers to help him (and) he had been connected with a (Legion) post,” Meesters said. “How do we measure success with (‘Be the One’)? We measure it if we save one life. It means all of this is worth it.”

By Steven B. Brooks

MAY 11, 2023

# BE THE ONE

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is important not only to your Post but also to the state and national organizations. Each year, the number of members and programs for veterans and communities are reported to Congress. Truly, there is strength in numbers, positively affecting proposed legislation for veterans benefits. Stand up and show your support for our veterans and The American Legion, as well as the men and women currently serving, by renewing your membership today.

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# Freedom has a voice

The 4th of July, what does it mean to you? What does it mean to be an American? Why do we still honor the nation's

Founding Fathers? What's in it for me? Well "To me, it all means FREEDOM." Every 4th of July, Americans come together to honor the signing of the 1776 Declaration of Independence. Families and friends gather to pay tribute to the Stars and Stripes and to honor what it means to be an American. It means that we should remember the meaning of liberty, what it means to be an American [and] the sacrifices that have been made for us for our freedom here in this country." Some Americans view the summer holiday as a time for relaxation and fun-filled festivities, to travel, visit family, the holiday is known for celebratory fireworks, parades and barbecue feasts covered in red, white, and blue decorations. While the holiday is a time to reflect on what Independence Day means, it's also an opportunity to get connected with loved ones." It's not just about Independence Day and celebrating as a nation, it's also a very family-oriented holiday. National pride has been at or near historical lows in recent years, with only 39% of adults saying they were "extremely proud" to be an American, according to a Gallup poll conducted June 1-20 with over 7,000 respondents. Still, two-thirds said they were proud or extremely proud to be an American. "The 4th of July is the day you celebrate our American Values and love of country that should be celebrated every July 4th. "That's what we fought a revolutionary war for, [a] civil war," Everything that we have is celebrated on that day especially our FREEDOM. "If you live in this country you need to be proud of it, and show it.



# Commanders Corner

Our American Legion Family is united. We are united *for God and Country*. We are united by *service*. And we are united by *sacrifice*.

It is important that we honor the sacrifice and recognize the contributions that bring success to each of our programs and to our engagements with veterans and our veteran-supporting partners. It is in that spirit that I congratulate and thank all of our volunteers and supporters for the tremendous year just completed. It takes teamwork to be successful, and there is no better team than Team Oregon!

I extend congratulations to Larry Wittmayer on the year he just completed as our department commander and for his successful accomplishments, and I offer sincere gratitude for the sacrifices he made during his year in office.

We have achieved many successes during the year that just ended and sought to add to it in the year ahead.

Success is found in many different ways and is never linked to a singular event or activity. While our final membership numbers didn't reach what was hoped, there were tremendous successes during the year. From new memberships gained to public outreach and engagements about our programs, from cultivating and strengthening relationships with community partners to thanking our public servants in law enforcement and fire protection with challenge coins, and from attaining our per capita target on Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF) donations to regularly conducting buddy checks; this and more are examples of our successes.

Membership will always remain the lifeblood of our organization, and as such, it is vitally important in the year ahead that we take the steps necessary to increase member retention. It begins with the relationship at the post level. Members need to know they are *valued*, as well as understand the *value* of their membership. Please join me in increasing membership retention.

I wish you and your family a happy, healthy, and enjoyable Independence Day this July 4<sup>th</sup>.

As we proceed into the year ahead, please continue to join me to 'Be The One' in your post and community should the need arise. We are *Veterans Strengthening America*.

# Buddy Checks

Cory Brockmann  
Commander  
Department of Oregon

"Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it."

- UNKNOWN



#### 2023-2024 PROPOSED

##### ACCOUNT NAME

Membership Budget Based On:	10,875
Actual Membership	
Dues @ \$13.50 (per member)	\$ 146,812.00
Department Convention Income	
SAL Detach Funds(1400 x \$15.00)	\$ 21,000.00
SAL Dues (1400 x \$5.00)	\$ 7,000.00
SAL Willie Williams Scholarship	
SAL Charitable Donations & Pins	
ALA Postage Reimbursement	\$ 600.00
ALA Phone Reimbursement	\$ 600.00
ALA Copier	\$ 400.00
Emblem Sales Royalty	\$ 1,200.00
Boys State Income	\$ 70,000.00
AL Baseball Income	\$ 12,500.00
Law Enforcement Career Camp	\$ 8,000.00
Revenue Enhancement Program	\$ 10,000.00
AGIA Insurance	\$ 35,000.00
USAA Insurance	\$ 9,000.00
Department Fund Challenge	\$ -
Veterans Childrens Fund (VCF)	
Other Income/Pass Throughs	\$ 3,536.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 325,648.00</b>

## Department Finance Officer



We have just returned from our Department of Oregon Convention. Our 2023-2024 Department Budget was presented to the Finance Convention Committee and then to the Post Delegates to our Department Convention and was adopted. Some difficult decisions had to be made in our 2023-2024 Budget, and it is our responsibility to come up with a balanced budget; lower membership numbers, and reduced income, it does affect our Department Budget and what we can do to complete our mission and our commitments to our Members and Veterans Community. We have challenges that we need to address this year.

Remember, the Oregon American Legion Foundation is a 501©3, and contributions are tax-deductible. Funds are used for our programs and only programs. There is a lot of information and grant requests on our Web Site. Department Program Chairs, there are grants available for most of our programs. All you must do is apply for them. There are a lot of grants available. We have our Foundation, which is a 501c3, which grants can be made out and earmarked for your Program.

PDC Bob Huff,



## Points to Ponder

**Is believing that your life has purpose a delusion to make you feel better?**

**Tell a person that there are 400 billion stars, and they will believe you, Tell them a bench has wet paint, and they will have to touch it!**



## CHAPLAINS PULPIT

**“WE NEED CHAPLAINS”** Gen. George Washington spoke those words to the Continental Congress 247 years ago, and on July 29, 1775, the Army Chaplain Corps was established.

The Army Institute for Religious Leadership (IRL) celebrates this historic event on July, 29th.

“We celebrate our 247th Birthday, may we cherish the legacy of the Chaplains Corps and may we be inspired by those whose shoulders we stand on and continue to serve as a reminder of God’s presence to Soldiers and Families, wherever the call may be. July 29, 247 years since the first chaplains served in the Continental Army and today we draw inspiration from that long history and celebrate what this corps provides for our Soldiers and Veterans, and their families, past, present and future.

On July 29 a wreath-laying ceremony was held at Chaplain Corps Memorial Garden on the IRL campus. The Memorial Garden includes a water fountain and wall structure that holds the names of chaplains and religious affairs specialists who have given the ultimate sacrifice in wars, conflicts and other hostile actions from the Revolutionary War to present time.

As we celebrate the Chaplains corps birthday on July 29th, I want to thank our TAL, ALA, SAL & ALR Chaplains for carrying out the legacy of those first Chaplains in that Continental Army. Let us build on our historic past as we look forward to a heroic future. For God and Country, Live the Call The U.S. Army Chaplain Corps is one of the oldest and smallest branches in the Army. Since the War for Independence, Chaplains have served in every American war. Today, there are some 1,300 active duty Army Chaplains and 1,200 in the reserve components, representing five major faith groups; Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim and Buddhist.

Congratulations to all TAL, ALA, SAL, & ALR Chaplains, it’s not an easy job, but we do our best, and we are always ready, willing & able to take the steps needed to support and help our veteran’s and their families in anyway we can.

“The warriors of Amalek came to fight against the people of Israel at Rephidim. Moses instructed Joshua to issue a call to arms to the Israelites to fight the army of Amalek. Meanwhile, Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. And as long as Moses held up the rod in his hands, Israel prevailed: but whenever he rested his arms at his sides, the soldiers of Amalek prevailed. Moses’ arms finally became too tired to hold up the rod any longer; so Aaron and Hur rolled a stone for him to sit on, and they stood on each side, holding up his hands and arms until sunset. As a result, Joshua and his troops overcame the army of Amalek.” Do you have that kind of faith in God, knowing that as long as you are out there fighting the battle, God is holding you up, up, UP! Believe me He does! So Chaplains stand tall, be proud of what you are doing, because it takes a special person to stand in the gap, especially in today’s world.

All Commanders, Chaplains, District Commanders & Chaplains, please send me an e-mail, phone call, text, and let me know who your Chaplains are, with their Phone #’s, & e-mails. Help me put together a tighter Chaplains Corps here within our American Legion.

Steven D. Shollenburg, Dept. Chaplain

## LEGIONNAIRE

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

### *The Oregon Legionnaire Committee:*

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**Member:** *Mike Speer*

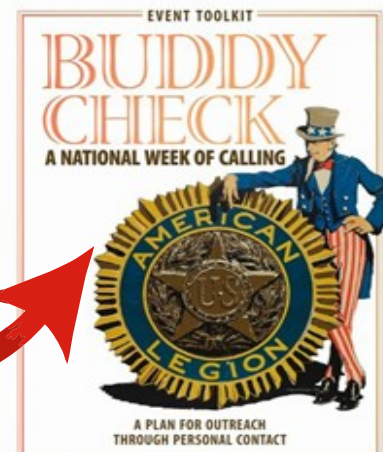
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# AMERICAN LEGION



## Oregon American Legion Foundation

The American Legion Foundation is kicking off a new year, and our hope is to be even better this year. What can you do to help us to make it better? First, donate to The Oregon American Legion Foundation that supports our Four Pillars; second, go out and find donors willing to support the Foundation; third, become a champion and spread the word for what we do. If you have ideas on a project or program you would like us to work on, let me know or one of the Board Members.

The Board will be looking at another one of our American Legion programs to help boost their visibility, so stand by for the launch. We will continue our relationship with the Hillsboro Hops as they have become a great partner these past two years, and we hope to do something with Portland Trailblazers again this fall. We are here to support your programs through grants. Give us a try. We are always here to help in any way way possible.

Thank you,

Kevin Owens, PDC

**BE THE ONE  
BUDDY CHECKS  
“TODAY”**



## Americanism



At this time frame,  
I have contacted  
most of the chairs

to introduce myself, and they are all working their individual post programs. They will have more info for me in the future as they learn & proceed with their post programs. Let's all get on board and support our 4 Pillars and all the programs within The American Legion. We have these young people taking advantage of our 4 Pillar programs, our Post graciously sponsor these young people, but yet, we are lacking in the support they get for their graduation ceremonies, from TAL. This last year (Boys State) we had (1) District representative show up at the graduation to support their sponsored person.

If a Post sponsors a child to a program, their needs to be a Post representative at their graduation. These are very important programs TAL & ALA offer to them, at least we can show up to support them.

Ian Gerstel

Americanism Commission Chair  
District 2 / Post 57



## SAL Commander Detachment of Oregon



We have just completed another good year for the Detachment of Oregon. Although we lost eight squadrons this past year, we revived two. To this date, we have 19 goal squadrons, one more than last year.

This year, I am trying to stress that we need to work with our posts and get along. You can not turn to the Detachment to save your squadron. You are a program of your post and should work alongside them to promote all programs of The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion. You are under the jurisdiction of your post, just like the Detachment of Oregon has to answer to the Department.

As a Detachment, we cannot interfere with the programs of the posts. If you have problems with your post officers, contact your area commander. He, in turn, can bring it before the Detachment. From there, it should go to the district commander and if need be, to the department commander. If it is not a constitution and by-laws issue, we can do little.

WE ARE A PROGRAM OF THE AMERICAN LEGION. THE POSTS DO NOT HAVE TO WORK ALL PROGRAMS, AND THAT INCLUDES YOU AS A SQUADRON. We can try mediating an issue but not dictate to the posts.

Robert D. Libenow

# BE THE ONE

## POINTS TO PONDER

**Is believing that your life has purpose a delusion to make you feel better?**

**Tell a person that there are 400 billion stars, and they'll believe you. Tell them a bench has wet paint, and they have to touch it to see.**

Military help line  
for Legionnaires

<http://militaryhelpline.org>

[/about-us/](#)

**Have you done  
your**

**BUDDY  
CHECKS**

**today?**

EDITORS

NOTES



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



## District 2 Commanders Stall

Hi, District 2.

My name is Mike Speer, your brand new, right out of the box, District 2 Commander! If you were to ask me two years ago if I wanted to be at the district level, I would have laughed. Then Commander Juan called me and asked if I would consider running for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice. I was flattered. Do they want me? But the more I thought about it, the more I thought, why not? Then, at the March district meeting, I was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice three months early when the previous 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice stepped down due to health reasons. OK, I can do this. Then in June, I was elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice! That was quick! A year later, and now I'm Commander. Who'd a thunk? I learned that if you want someone to volunteer for something, just ask them one on one. You might be surprised. "You want me?"

Speaking about wanting folks, let me introduce our district team: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Ian Gerstel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Michael Ireton, as Adjutant, the legendary Richard Ramey, our special connection to Dept, Judge Advocate and Dept 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Renee Ohler and our connection with the All Mighty, Chaplain Steve Shollenberg.

Our District team has had our first meeting (pre-convention), and we are working on some ideas for this year. Oh yeah, I invited the district Auxiliary. After all, we are a family, and families plan things together, right?

I remember the saying, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." But then there is the other saying, "If you want to make God laugh, tell him about your plans." It sounds like a Catch-22 (Google it, kids). I don't know about you, but I like it when God laughs. We'll see how things work out. Stay

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your  
BUDDY  
CHECKS  
today?**

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## Permanent Finance Commission



We are starting a new Legion Year with our newly elected Officers, and now the work really begins. We have some challenges to face, but I know that they can be overcome with all your help. It is talked about all the time, and I know we all get tired of hearing it, but as you know, membership is our income to the Department. We are a business, and capital is how we keep it going. If each person in our Department would sign up just one new member, we would double in size. Knowing that this is not realistic if just half of those members could solve all the financial challenges we face. To assure all of you, we are not out of money, but we have a budget to follow that was voted on by the Convention body to abide by. With less membership and higher costs to our Department Headquarters operations, the Administrative & Advisory Commission has had to make some hard choices and continue to look at reducing costs. We need your help to increase our ranks by signing up one new member and reaching at least 90% retention with our current members. Thank you for all you do to make this Department, our Districts, and our Posts the best we can be.

Kevin Owen,  
PDC, NEC

**AMERICAN  
LEGION**





# The Purple Heart

By: Debra Godwin, PDP

I had just arrived at my Post and happened to glance up at the camera. I noticed a young man riding his bike up to the front door. I continued to watch him climb off his bike, and head in through the front door, as if he was on a mission. The young man had a look on his face that I will never forget.

He told me, that he and his mom bought a box full of stuff at a yard sale, and when I was digging through it, at the bottom, I found this. He held out a tightly clenched fist, and in my hand, he laid a Purple Heart Medal. He then stated, I know it is important and if I brought it to you, then maybe you could find it's home.

I instantly felt a pain in my heart. I was holding a Purple Heart that had belonged and awarded to a Soldier. The young man said, please ma'am could you find him? He needs to have his medal back. I told him I would do my best, and if not, we would clean it up, replace the ribbon and honor him here.

I went home that night and could not sleep. My heart felt heavy, and the thoughts of the soldier flooded my mind, I knew I had to do something.

The next morning, I headed to the Post with one thing on my mind, the Soldier that was missing his Purple Heart. Bob Wittrock was setting at the counter and I began to tell him the story, and he immediately picked up his iPad and began to search. On the back of the Purple Heart the name, Ted Q. Reed Jr., was engraved. Bob then said, "I found him." I looked at the picture Bob had pulled up: the tears filled my eyes. The more information we found on Ted, the more I felt I knew him.

he more I felt I knew him.

We found him, an American Hero!

I kept the Purple Heart pinned above the register at the Post and everyday I came in I would say good morning Ted. George, a member of Post 21 came in one day and asked, "hey, what's with that Purple Heart pinned up there?"

I began to tell him the story, he said give me his name and I will see what I can find. About 3 hours later George came back with all the

information we needed, even newspaper articles found about Ted. George had done a genealogy search and found the soldier's cousin. George made a call to one of the cousin's, and they gave him a phone number, and the name of Ted's living sister, Evelyn E. Curry. George called the number, but it was no longer in service. George then found Evelyn on Facebook and sent a message to her with no response. My heart sank, were we ever going to take Ted home like I promised.

Not a day went by that I didn't say Good Morning Ted and promised that I would someday take him home, but I felt like I was at a dead end, never finding Ted's sister. I know Evelyn's last known address was in Lebanon, Oregon, so I reached out to Bobbi Peebler, and ALA member of the Lebanon ALA Unit. When I began to tell Bobbi the story she said, Debra, I know Evelyn. I can't possibly even start to put down in words to describe the feeling that rushed over me. Bobbi said let me find her number and reach out to



you. Several days passed and not a call. Once again despair filled my heart.

Then it happened, Evelyn called, she cried, and I cried. She couldn't believe we had found Ted's Purple Heart. We set up a date so I could take Ted home, a promise that had been fulfilled.

Steve Shollenburg, our Department Chaplain, helped me find a new ribbon, and a presentation box to put the Purple Heart in. Then I cleaned and polished it the best I could, I wanted the Purple Heart to be perfect when we took it home.

June 12, 2023, I headed to Lebanon to meet with Bobbi then head to Evelyn's. We pulled up in front of her home, and she met us outside. It felt like Evelyn was an old friend, as if I had known her my

Cont. on pg 10: Purple Heart

Cont. from pg. 9: Purple Heart



whole lifetime. Beautifully place on a small table on her deck was a picture of Ted. As I looked at his picture, a feeling of comfort filled my heart.

I asked Evelynnn what her fondest memory of Ted was. Her eyes filled with tears, and she smiled. She began to tell me her story: "When were little we lived in Sweet Home, and there was a field behind our house. Ted would take me out to the field and play soldiers. Evelynnn said that Ted dreamed about being a soldier when he grew up. She also said they would find the biggest dirt clods and throw them like bombs." She said they would play for hours. The tears felled my eyes, then I asked what Evelyn's last memory of Ted was. She began to tell us that the hole family had spent the day in Portland having fun, then they all loaded into the car and headed to Fort Lewis.

When the arrived at the main gate of fort Lewis, the guard wouldn't let them drive through the gate, so Ted grabbed his beg, hopped out of the car, excited to become a soldier and headed towards the base. Evelynnn sat in the car watching him. Ted stopped, turned around, smiled and waved goodbye. Tears rolled down Evelynnn's face, as she said, that was the last time I ever say my brother, Ted.

I then asked who was the 1st known person that had Ted's Purple Heart. Evelynnn told me their stepmom, who loved Ted as if he was her own. She lived in Caldwell, Idaho, and had passed away in 1997, and no one knew where Ted's Purple Heart had gone.

Talk about an emotional moment, how did Ted's Purple Heart get from Caldwell, Idaho to McMinnville, Oregon and end up in a box in a yard sale., then end up in my hands, and take 26 years?

We always say For God and Country, God sent Ted's Purple Heart to me for a reason, and I wished I understood why. What a great honor to have taken one of our American Hero's Purple Heart home.

Following is the information for Ted.

Sgt. Ted Quinton Reed, Jr.  
Light Weapon's Infantry  
(US Army)

Enlisted: 07/06/1968

Casualty Date: 03/07/1969

Location of death: Quang Tim  
Providence, South Vietnam.



**R.I.P. TED**

**Leadership  
Is not about  
being  
The best or  
knowing  
the Most.**

**Leadership is  
about  
Making everyone  
Else better.**



## *Spaghetti FEED Fundraiser*

**Sunday, September 10, 2023**

**3PM to Closing**

**Harvester Tap Room**

**20260 River Rd., N.E.**

**St. Paul, Oregon**

**All you can eat \$26.00**

**1 time through \$14.00**

**LIVE MUSIC, RAFFLES**

**The Harvester was founded by local firefighters  
and Veterans. They are a HUGE supporter of the  
Veteran Community and jumped at the chance to  
partner with us with this event.**

**Families with kids, welcome**

**"EVERYONE INVITED"**





## Legislative Commission

Recently, the Senate did not have enough votes to pass the Veterans Programs Improvement Act of 2023, a package that includes the Home Care Act, which means we need your voice more than ever to let the Senate know that we will not abandon our caregivers.

This bill would expand community-based services for aging veterans and improve VA support for veterans and caregivers of all ages, increase expenditure cap, expand access to home and community based alternative care programs, require VA to create a centralized website to disseminate information and resources related to home care, create a pilot program to provide home health aide services for veterans. (Read more about this bill by going to [Legion.org](http://Legion.org), programs, legislative, alerts.)

Our Commander is working with Senator Manning to approve a Veterans Day at the Capital, if approved it will allow Veterans to go to the Capital and meet with their Legislators for Q&A's. Get a hold of your representative and let them know this is something that we need.

HB 2146A was signed by the governor to make Hwy 30 the Oregon Gold Star Memorial Hwy, thanks to our Legislators and the Governor for getting this done. Now we need more support for Senator Wyden and Senator Crapo who are taking up the issue of getting Hwy 20 the National Medal of Honor Hwy, which will be taken up in the next session, again give them a call and let them know that you support their efforts in getting this done.

Stay updated on all of our Legislative progress by going to the websites and reading about what we are doing. Your voice does count in a big way, so don't hesitate to let your Representative know how you feel on their support of issues towards Veterans, and other issues.

The American Legion Legislative Agenda for Congress is the voice of nearly 1.6 million U.S. military veterans and servicemembers. A resolution based organization, The American Legion's positions represent the views of it's members. Stay updated, it's important.

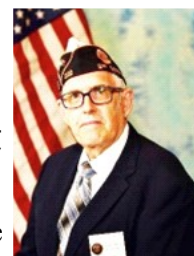
Steven D. Shollenburg  
Legislative Chair



Which country was split in half, into 2 zones, due to the Yalta Agreement?

Famed as a Rat Pack member, who died on Christmas Day?

## Training & Development



We celebrate our achievements in June with awards and recognition at Convention. Hopefully, every Post has submitted awards documenting the successes achieved in conducting the associated programs in their communities.

The Convention is also a time when Legionnaires can attend training. This year we have training in Membership, Post Chaplain, Finances, Post Adjutant, and Parliamentary Procedure. Also, the Americanism and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation briefings will provide additional information.

This year, Convention attendees will also have opportunities to visit with members of various Department Commissions and Committees to learn about the programs and initiatives that are being promoted around the Department. Each Commission / Committee will host a table for approximately 3 hours to provide information and answer questions. Take advantage of this time to find out how these committees can help with the programs in your Post.

Richard Ramey, Chairman

CORY E. BROCKMANN

Aloha #104

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

2023-2024

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism.

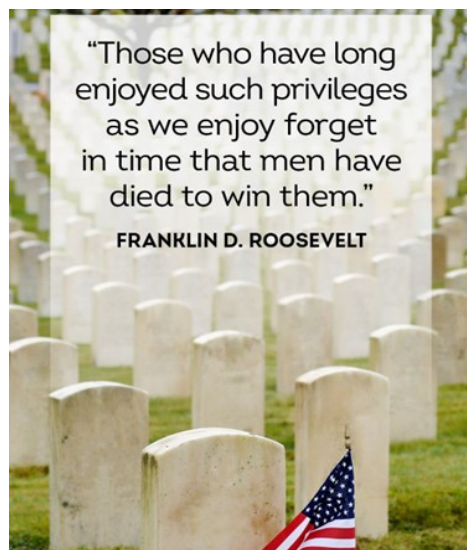
Tenets of good leadership - trust, purpose, direction, reliability, accountability and values - are required to be effective.

Join with me to help strengthen our American Legion.

One Legion. One Family. THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY.



VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA



"Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them."

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT





Just a day  
at the office

## WORDS OF WISDOM

“The best index to a person's character is how he treats people who can't do him any good, and how he treats people who can't fight back.”

## Internal Affairs Commission



Department of Oregon Convention marks the transition from the 2022-2023 leadership year to the 2023-2024 year. For The American Legion Posts and Districts the new year starts when the new officers are installed. Now is the time to look forward to the objectives of the new year. Increased membership will always be a goal, but each of the Posts, Districts, and Department will be setting goals for what they can accomplish in each of the many programs we work on in each community.

To start the year right, I encourage the leadership to set goals. A good starting step for any post is to review the **Analysis of post operations** and **Steps to a better post** in the Post Officer's Guide, pages 21 through page 23 (downloadable from the The American Legion National's website [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)). In this way, a post can re-focus itself on improving and conducting The American Legion programs in their community.

Resources for leadership and committees are available on the National website. On the American Legion website, go to the “Media” tab, then select “Publications”, and scroll through the vast listing of pamphlets, booklets, brochures, etc., that are available. Most are downloadable for free and will provide much needed information for your post operations.

If you cannot find a publication that meets your requirements, try searching in the digital archives. Go to the National's website, select Digital Archives or use the Search box in the header on the website. Always utilize your District leadership and Department Commission / Committees as a resource for information regarding programs within the Department.

All members should use this start to a new membership and leadership year to think about the programs your post already conducts and find ways to make each program just a little bit better this coming year. Think about adding one or two new programs to your activities. For instance, does your post have a program in each of the Four Pillars of The American Legion. Perhaps you would like to try something new. Look around and find like-minded members who would be willing to join with you in working on a particular program that you have a heart to work on.

Our membership and good will in the community will grow our membership as we raise the public awareness of the positive influence we are making as citizens in our communities.

Richard Ramey

**Legionnaire HospitalHELP Insurance Plan**



Endorsed By  
Your American Legion  
Department

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

**LEARN MORE**





## Scuttlebutt-Vets News

### Time-to-serve-again

It doesn't seem that long ago that I met Jesse Mace while grocery shopping at Safeway. The first thing I noticed was his tee shirt, which seemed to designate him as a veteran. I had to inquire as I am always looking to recruit new members for our American Legion Post. He turned out to be an Air Force veteran. As our conversation ended, I invited him to attend one of our meetings and meet the legionnaires.

He never did attend, nor join, for that matter, and that didn't offend me as we all have lives to live and different interests to pursue. I would soon learn more about him and his family.

Early this spring, I was invited to attend the commissioning ceremony of future Air Force Chaplain Jesse Mace, which will be held at the Living Faith Church on Townsend Road. Two of our members were the inviters, and I felt privileged to attend such an auspicious event.

Allow me a quick side trip before I continue. When I was a youngin' in Old Virginia, I met an Army chaplain who had crawled from foxhole to foxhole, praying with soldiers and ministering to the wounded during World War Two in Europe. He had a chest full of ribbons to substantiate his valor. His stories held my young interest. Since then, Chaplains have had a special place in my memory bank.

I attended the commissioning ceremony by slipping in almost unnoticed. Within a few minutes, I had the brief history of a man called back into action, this time as a military Chaplain.

Upon entering the Air Force, he trained to perform maintenance on the F-16 and advanced to the crew chief position before being discharged.

While stationed in Italy, Jesse and his wife, Melissa, accepted Christ as their personal Savior, and life began to change as they entered into ministry while attending a small church in that country.

Sometime after being released from active duty, he and his wife came home to Hermiston.

Every church needs a youth leader, and Jesse's desire to mentor youth filled the bill, and three and a half years later, the group had grown to over 70 kids.

Pastor Jesse's desire to become a chaplain began years ago, and through a series of Divine interventions, the Lord began calling him back to where it all began - in the Air Force.

In January of 2023, Jesse received a letter of approval for the Air Force Chaplaincy Program, and his official Direct Commissioning Ceremony as an officer was held on March 12 at Living Faith at the close of the morning service. An Army Chaplain swore him in.

After his swearing-in, per tradition, Jesse was rendered his first salute by Air Force veteran and American Legion member Reagan Couch. Air Force veteran and American Legion Chaplain Karl Niemeyer rendered his second salute.

**Last week Lt. Jesse Mace completed Officers School. Congratulations!**

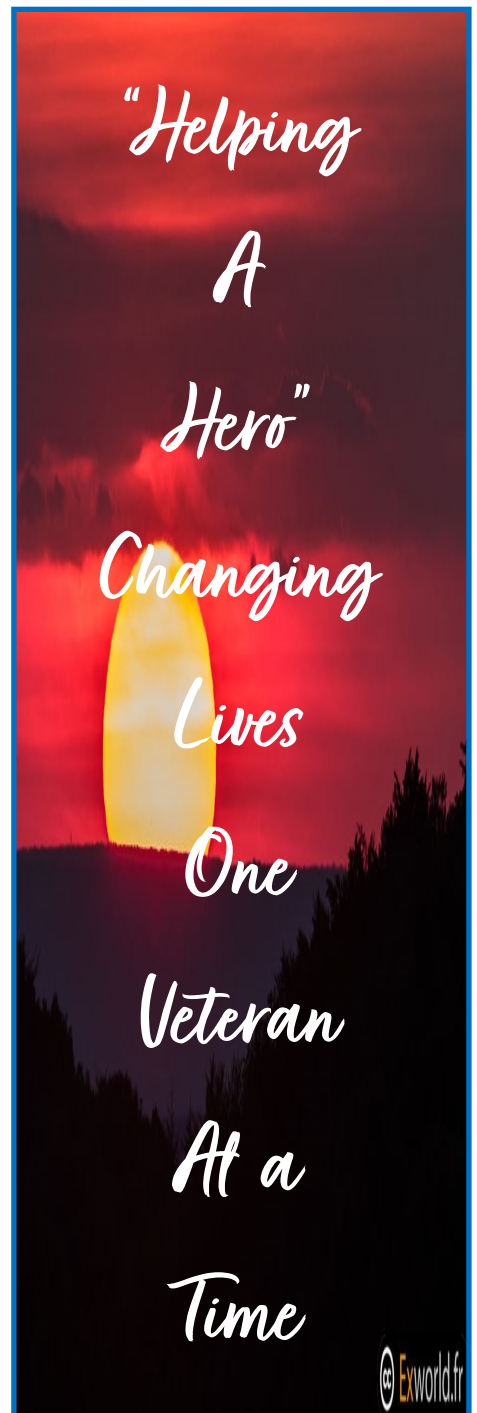
**Additional News.** A BIG "Thank you" to the Hermiston High football team for putting up and taking down the flags at the Hermiston Cemetery. Also, a BIG "Thank you" to Miss Sarah Milburn and her

Stanfield Music Department for providing music for the Memorial Day Service.

A special "Thank you" to our National Guard Honor team, who assisted us in laying to rest a veteran who had not been interred for 27 years.

I want to thank all of you who attended that service taking time to pause and remember our veterans who served.

Aaron Wetterling  
Semper-Fi



## Stay Strong & True, Be Your-Self

People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Thinking only o themselves.

FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY.

If you are kind, people my accuse you of ulterior motives.

BE KIND ANYWAY.

If you are honest, people may cheat you.

BE HONEST ANYWAY.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous.

BE HAPPY ANYWAY.

People may berate you.

STAY TRUE TO YOUR COURSE.

People may hate you.

LOVE THEM ANYWAY.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.

DO GOOD ANYWAY.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough.

GIVE YOUR BEST ANYWAY.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.



SCOUTING



## SCOUTING COMMISSION

Greetings Oregon Legionnaires: My name is Mike Speer and I am the new Scouting Committee Chair. A little background to let you know my credentials. My better half and I have been involved with scouting, off and on, since my oldest sone volunteered us to be Den Leaders back in... well, it's been a long time, let's just say. I've been a Den Leader, Cub Master, Troop Committee member, Woodbadge trained, roundtable staff, Order of the Arrow Chapter Advisor and ceremonies coach, Vigil member and most recently, Charter Org Rep for 3 units.

Recently, Larry Wittmayer (former chair), and I sat down to do a pass-down. I have a ton of file folders to go through, mostly historical documents, which will help me figure out what we have done in the past as a committee.

Speaking of committee, our members are: Myself (Newberg), Larry Wittmayer (Wilsonville), Ian Gerstell (Newberg), Eric Stalling (North Bend), and Norm Hoffman (Eugene). As you can see, we're all on the West side of the state, so I will be looking for someone from the east side to join us. Let me know if your interested in joining the Scouting Team.

Our first order of business is to finalize our Code of Procedures and submit them to Department as soon as we can. There will be a few adjustments, but not much. One of our focuses is to try and get orphan scout units and Legion Posts together.

Stay tuned folks.

Mike Speer

Committee Chair.



## Brownsville, Post 184, Legionnaire of the Quarter

Legionnaires of Brownsville, Oregon's *The American Legion Travis A Moothart Post 184* recognized Greg Billington as their recipient of the JUL-SEP 2023 Veteran of the Quarter (VoQ) during Post 184's regular monthly meeting held July 11, 2023. He currently works as a detective with Linn County Sheriff's Office and, together with his family, makes his home in east Linn County. The citation to Mr. Billington's award reads:

"Gregory Paul Billington graduated from Central Linn High School in 2004 and entered the United States Army the same year. He completed the Ranger, Sniper, and Combat Life Saver courses and deployed to serve in Iraq. Greg served until being released from active service in 2009 as a Sergeant, E5, with an Honorable Discharge. Awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" device for valor, the Army Commendation Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

He next served with 1'Triple Canopy"-an American private security firm-from 2009 to 2012, protecting visiting dignitaries in Iraq. Upon Greg's return to the United States, he served as a Corrections Officer in Springfield, Oregon, from 2012 to 2015, after which he joined the Linn County

Sheriff's Office. Greg continued his progression up to narcotics detective, where he was a member of the multi-task force drug team, and continued to take leadership and decision-making courses. He was named Linn County Sheriff's Office Detective of the Year in 2023 and promoted to Sergeant. Gregory Paul Billington exemplifies the American Legion pillars of National Security and Americanism."

In other American Legion Travis Moothart Post 184 business, local Central Linn veterans: Tim Moore (US Coast Guard), John Burton (US Army National Guard), Greg Billington (US Army), and eleven resident veterans of the Oregon Veterans Home in Lebanon (OVHL) were bestowed with Quilts of Valor from the Mid-Willamette Valley Quilts of Valor group led by Judy Clay. To date, they've given out 640+ quilts. Additionally, Kris Reece-daughter of US Air Force veteran Kneil Stucky-received her 'Star of Valor' quilt which was raffled off during Pioneer Picnic.

Next, a "Thank You" card signed by Legionnaires to accompany the framed Certificate of Recognition and Letter of Transmittal to DARI-MARKET #24 of Brownsville, Oregon, for being the first anchor business to generously assist with the Sergeant Travis A. Moothart Memorial Scholarship lemonade fundraiser.

Cont. pg 16



**FREEDOM**

**has a**

**"VOICE"**

**and**

**IT'S YOUR'S**

 **AMERICAN  
LEGION**

Cont. from pg. 15

DARI-MART, INC. donated ice; 1,000 cups, lids, and straws to the American Legion Post 184, plus DARI-MARKET #24 allowed the placement of a Sgt. Travis A. Moothart Memorial Scholarship Fund jar on its counter. In a further gesture of support for local youth in memory of fallen hero Travis A. Moothart. Following DARI-MART's lead, the



## VITAL RECORDS

With the devastating fires in Hawaii lately, it brings to mind that you need to make sure you PROTECT YOUR VITAL RECORDS from these natural disasters. These may include recent tax returns, Social Security cards, birth certificates, deeds, insurance policies and medical records. You may even want to make copies and store the digitized files on a portable external hard drive, and place your copies in a safe deposit box, or entrusted to someone in a different location.

Take photos of your art, collectibles or other valuable personal property. This will help you support your claims for insurance purposes.

## Legionnaire HospitalHELP Insurance Plan

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



Endorsed By  
Your American Legion  
Department

LEARN  
MORE

HAVE  
YOU



RENEWED  
YET?

## UP COMING EVENTS

- August 13-18: Jim Willis, Law Enforcement Camp
- August 19: Dist 2, Picnic, St. Paul Harmony Center
- August 25-31: National Convention, Charlotte, NC
- August 31-Sep 3: Grand Prix of Portland
- September 4: Labor Day
- September 9: District 2 meeting, Post 21
- September 13: Roseburg Stand Down
- September 22-27: National Commander Visit
- September 29: Air Show, McMinnville
- October 9: Columbus Day
- October 28-29: Fall D.E.C., Klamath Falls
- November 4: District 10 meeting
- November 5: Day light saving ends
- November 10: Veterans Day observed
- November 11: Veterans Day
- November 18: District 2 meeting
- November 23: Thanksgiving
- December 8: Hanukkah (1st day)
- December 9: District 9 meeting
- December 25: Christmas
- December 31: New Years Eve



## VA & R

### Commission Report

Our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission members for the 2023-2024 membership year are IPDC Don Weber, Ann Everetts, Dr. Casey Shillam, Betty Fish-Ferguson, and PDC Bob Huff, Chair. The focus of the Commission is oversight over VA&R activities for our Department. Our Commission will hold our first virtual meeting in the next couple of weeks after reviewing our Code of Procedures. Our Commission is very active and busy and is getting busier with increased activity in our Department to support our Veterans and their families. Our Department Service Office is focusing on virtual, telephone, and outreach to support our veterans and their families. We have positive outcomes from all three of these activities. We are scheduled for additional outreach at several events in our Department, and more are being planned. The list is growing, which is good and offers new challenges. We have scheduled Veteran Service Officers to do outreach and be present at all our Department events and support our District and Post events. If your Post or District is scheduling a Veterans Stand-Down, Employment, Education or Benefits event, or Revitalization for Membership, please let us know and if not conflicting with another event, we will support it in person. Remember, Veterans and Families do not have to be members of our Legion Family to receive support from our Veterans Service Officers; we are available. We also have oversight of our Department VAVS Program which two of our team are VAVS Representatives, and we are being asked by the VA for more support. Remember, our VAVS, VA Volunteers, and VA&R members are all volunteers, and we need more Legion Family volunteers to support our programs. If you have some extra time and looking for a challenging volunteer assignment supporting Veterans, we need you. We have a lot of members in all areas of our Department. We do not have a lot of volunteers.

The VAVS arm also supports the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) with activity at our National Cemeteries. 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.

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, and we will be happy to support you. Thank you.

PDC Bob Huff, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R)  
Commission Chair







## Legionnaire Committee 2023

Check out our display at the convention showing all the cover pages for the Legion year. Great job to the team!

Kudos to the Legionnaire Committee for continuing to produce a product without a budget. The volunteer hours that go into producing a product that reaches the membership population of the American Legion in Oregon are extensive. Hopefully, the Posts are ensuring their members are receiving a copy.

Those Department Leaders willing to submit an excellent article representing their dedication to the Legion and sharing their expertise with all Legionnaires are to be commended. Our team reviews all articles submitted, provides feedback on spelling and grammar, and looks for ways to improve the product. We intend not to change or add to any articles but to clean them up a little.

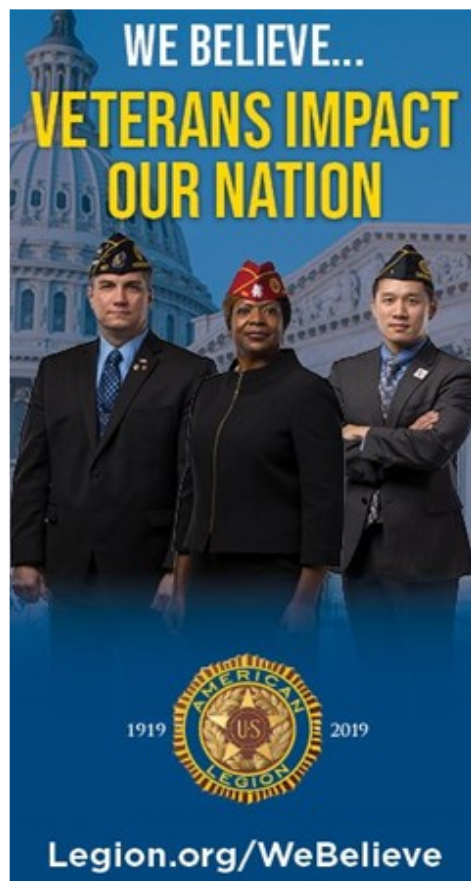
The Teams next objective is to work on the layout of the articles and get all the articles on one page and consecutive pages and reduce the choppiness of the articles. Looking for a possible grant or donation to upgrade the programs and possibly producing hard copies in small batches. Where there's a will, there's a way.

For God and Country

God Bless

Rene Ohler

Chairperson



### Military Foreign Lovers

Why do members of the military often marry lovers from the foreign countries they were deployed in?

When they come home, they get to leave their in laws thousands of miles away.

### TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. The country of Germany was split due to the Yalta Agreement. in 1945.
2. Dean Martin of the Rat Pack, died on Christmas day in 1995 at 78 years old.

## Department Officers: 2023-2024

Commander:	Cory Brockmann
Immediate Past Cmdr:	Larry Whittmayer
1st Vice Cmdr:	Dan Burks
2nd Vice Cmdr:	Renee Ohler
Adjutant:	Flynn Phillips
NECman:	Kevin Owen
Alt. NECman:	Gene Hellickson
Finance Officer:	Bob Huff
Chaplain:	Steven Shollenburg
Historian:	Windy Berger-Wood
Judge Advocate:	Gene Hellickson
Service Officer:	Ed Van Dyke
Veterans Service Officer	Jody Marsh
Sgt-at-Arms:	Robert Hornbeck
Asst Sgt-at-Arms:	Ryan Shockley
Asst Sgt-at-Arms:	Ward Allen