



## ROUND-UP

A weekly digest of happenings in the Sons of The American Legion

Next Goal

# 80%

March 15, 2023

Volume 4 | Number 23 | Issue 174 | February 26, 2023

# Legionnaires to converge on nation's capital to share legislative priorities

The American Legion | February 23, 2023

American Legion National Commander Vincent J. Troiola's testimony before a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs will highlight the 2023 Washington Conference, which will bring Legionnaires from all over the nation and abroad into the nation's capital Feb. 26-March 1.

Troiola will testify March 1 at 10 a.m. about the [Legion's top priorities for Congress in 2023](#), including implementation and oversight of the PACT Act, Department of Veterans Affairs modernization, and mental health and suicide prevention.

On Feb. 26 and 27, various American Legion commissions and committees will meet, hearing from staff from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, and other organizations and agencies.

The following day, during the Commander's Call, conference attendees will receive briefings from members of Congress, VA staff, the military and Oksana Markarova, the Ukraine ambassador to the United States.

Following the Commander's Call, American Legion Family members will head to Capitol Hill to meet with their representatives and senators, sharing the Legion's top priorities this year for Congress. Click on the ["Know Before You Go" video](#) to learn about The American Legion's 2023 legislative priorities.

[An employment fair](#) for job-seeking veterans, transitioning servicemembers and military spouses will take place Feb. 28, during which time veterans in need of VA claims assistance will be able to meet with American Legion-accredited service officers.

View a complete Washington Conference schedule, along with other information, [here](#).





# ROUND-UP

### National Commander

Chris Carlton (IN)

### National Vice-Commander Central Region

David Mennel (MI)

### National Vice-Commander Eastern Region

Ernie LaBerge (MA)

### National Vice-Commander Midwestern Region

Michael Kirschner (CO)

### National Vice-Commander Southern Region

Ron Roberts (MS)

### National Vice-Commander Western Region

Jack Youngs (ID)

### Immediate Past National Commander

Michael Fox (CA)

### Leading Candidate

Don "J.R." Hall (MD)

### Trailing Candidate

Joseph Navarrete (NM)

Round-Up is a publication designed to disseminate information related to Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Family. It is published weekly and distributed each Sunday.

**SUBMITTING ARTICLES:** All submissions are to be made electronically to [jef-fvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jef-fvrabelsr@gmail.com). If you need assistance, please send an email to same.

PNVC Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

All information must be submitted by noon each Friday



The current SAL membership report can be accessed on the national website at

[www.legion.org/membership/standings](http://www.legion.org/membership/standings)



**RENEW  
ONLINE  
TODAY**



**MEMBERSHIP  
RENEWAL  
TARGET DATE**

**March 15, 2023**



**CHRIS CARLTON  
NATIONAL COMMANDER  
2022 – 2023**



Chris Carlton, National Commander  
Sons of The American Legion

*"Purpose is why we journey;  
passion is the flame that lights the way."*



**YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
MATTERS**





**DAVID MENNEL**  
**NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER**  
**CENTRAL REGION**  
**2022 – 2023**

**MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING**  
 Third Thursday of Each Month  
 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time  
 (720) 527-5854 | 202 4742#



**JACK YOUNGS**  
**NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER**  
**WESTERN REGION**  
**2022 – 2023**

**MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING**  
 Fourth Wednesday of Each Month  
 7:00 p.m. Mountain Time  
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
 Meeting ID: 847 2013 6661 | 697 464



**ERNIE LABERGE**  
**NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER**  
**EASTERN REGION**  
**2022 – 2023**

**MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING**  
 Fourth Tuesday of Each Month  
 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time  
 (605) 313-4388 | 346 8542#



**MICHAEL KIRSCHNER**  
**NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER**  
**MIDWEST REGION**  
**2022 – 2023**

**MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING**  
 First Tuesday of Each Month  
 7:00 p.m. Mountain Time  
 (605) 313-5379 | 830 520



**RON ROBERTS**  
**NATIONAL VICE-COMMANDER**  
**SOUTHERN REGION**  
**2022 – 2023**

**MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING**  
 Second Tuesday of Each Month  
 7:00 p.m. Central  
 (945) 218-0044 | 472 0682

Here is the information I received from the Detachments on what works for them concerning membership. I am sharing this with you so everyone has the opportunity to see what is working for different Detachments, perhaps some other Detachments may want to try any of the below listed ideas.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

CALIFORNIA. Sr. Vice Commander Sean Brandon with his committee have come up with a new idea. Bingo. It's a card that you fill out that qualifies your squadron for prizes. I'm sending you the card and the rules. It's definitely a new approach, and hopefully gets our squadrons attention. Both pdf and docx files are included for your perusal .

**CA SONS Membership 2023 BINGO!**

90% retention 2022 members	105% by Convention	CSO in
102% by May 15, 2023	CSR in	100% goal by tax day (4.15.2023)
SDR in	50% goal by Vets Day	60% retention 2021 members

myfreebingocards.com



## OFFICIAL RULES FOR "CA SONS MEMBERSHIP 2023 BINGO" CONTEST

Only Squadrons in good standing at the beginning of the membership year are qualified to compete.

The size of the Squadron is of no consequence. Benchmarks are based on percentages only, and not raw numbers.

*Areas and Districts may create competition amongst themselves, and are encouraged to come up with additional, more local incentives, costs of which to be borne at those levels.*

The criteria are represented on nine (9) squares, and include the following:

- A) All three (3) mandatory forms being submitted on time (CSO, SDR and CSR) according to instructions on the forms.
- B) The Sr. Vice CDRs two (2) stated goals of 50% of the Squadron's membership goal being met by Veterans Day (11/11/22), and 100% by "tax time" (4/15/23).
- C) Hitting 102% by 5/15/23.
- D) Hitting 105% by the week prior to convention.
- E) In hitting your overall membership goal percentages, you must have at least 60% retention of 2021 members on your roster, and
- F) 90% retention of your 2022 members.
- G) A letter of certification, signed by the Squadron Commander and/or Adjutant, attesting to the milestones met, must be filed with the "X"ed out Bingo card attached. Please write the Squadron number on the back of the Bingo card with ink in at least 1 and 1/2 inch tall numbers. It is the actual Bingo cards, twice folded, that will be randomly and blindly drawn from a container. The certifying Squadron officer must be prepared to substantiate representations made in the letter by copies of dated forms, transmittals, etc. upon request of the Detachment Sr. Vice Commander or his designee. **ONLY ONE BINGO CARD PER SQUADRON MAY BE SUBMITTED.**
- H) The drawing will be held the week prior to convention (witnessed via Zoom), with the winner(s) announced at the 2023 Detachment convention in Visalia.

### Grand Prize Drawing

Any Squadrons hitting all nine benchmarks will have their Squadron number on their Bingo card entered into a drawing for a big-screen (approx. 48" – 50") TV. This prize may be used by the Squadron however they like. For instance, they may award it to their member who recruited the most new members in the year. They could raffle it off at the Squadron/Post level as a fundraiser. They could donate it to their Post to be used in the canteen/home/club facility. They could donate it to another veterans' facility in need, or to a needy or disabled veteran.

If all nine benchmarks are not hit by any Squadrons, we will then go to those hitting the next eight. If none hit eight, then seven and so on. For instance, if at the end of the contest there are no Squadrons qualifying with all nine criteria, but there are four who hit everything but the 105%, then those four Squadrons will be entered in the drawing. If none hit all eight, but there are eleven that hit seven out of nine, then those eleven will be in the drawing pool.

### Consolation Prizes

If there are three or more Squadrons in the drawing pool, two additional Squadron numbers will be drawn for \$100 gift certificates for Emblem Sales.

Sean Brandon  
Sr. Vice Commander '22-'23  
Detachment of California  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

[salsrvicecdr@gmail.com](mailto:salsrvicecdr@gmail.com)

**Sean Brandon, Sr. Vice Commander '22-'23**  
Detachment of California  
(760) 881-1344

**ARIZONA.** While I was Squadron #66 Commander in Green Valley Arizona, I had a standing offer for SAL paraphernalia from The American Legion Catalogue.

Examples: Bring in 4 new members you get an SAL jacket - bring in 6 you get your membership paid for in the coming year and bring in 10- you get an SAL membership ring.

Handing out a business card wallet that can go with you anywhere, included was "why I belong", on one side and your name and contact information on the other side.

Joe Miller, PDC AZ  
(520) 405-7352

Alaska. We support events that are open to the public such as Wednesday night taco night, Friday night steak and Sunday Turkey shoots, just to mention a few. We encourage our members to invite any one they meet, anywhere they meet them, to join the Sons of The American Legion and we encourage our members to carry apps for all entities with them at all times.

I'm sure there are other ways all of our members let it be known that we exist, including where we are located, what events we have upcoming and how they can qualify as a member.

Jimmy Griffith, Adjutant  
Sons of The American Legion  
Susitna Valley Squadron #35  
(907) 354-2134

**INDIANA.** We do drive arounds with the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL within our District. We try to visit 5 or 6 posts and answer any questions they have and make sure they have our information.

Our District offered every squadron a chance at \$200.00 if they reached 75% membership by January 5th. We had 20 of our 28 squadrons hit 75%. They were all entered into the drawing with one winner.

Dave Stephens, PNC IN  
(317) 919-0795

**GEORGIA.** About 3 years ago, we changed our targets for membership. For example, right now Georgia's February target goal is 100%. Detachment is currently about 83%.

Some Squadrons have membership BBQs and if the member has paid his dues, his meal is free. One Squadron in my District gets about half of the renewals that day.

George Gray, Detachment of Georgia  
(770) 335-6072

If you have any questions on a specific topic above, all persons identified have allowed me to use their names and contact information for your convenience if you have any questions.



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# BE THE ONE

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Legionnaire Jeffrey Freeman shares his Be the One story.  
Photo by Henry Howard

## Suicide survivor extols Be the One message

[Henry Howard](#) | February 19, 2023

# BE THE ONE

Jeffrey Freeman shared his story of surviving a suicide attempt for the first time to a live audience.

“This is a topic that is very near and dear to my heart,” said Freeman, an Air Force veteran and member of American Legion Post 190 in Ripon, Calif. Freeman, who had previously shared [his story on The American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast](#), relayed how a back injury, subsequent fibromyalgia and inability to work led him down a spiral.

“I can say the Legion saved my life,” Freeman said during a presentation at [a Veterans Campaign Awareness event](#) Feb. 18 in Merced, Calif. “It was 10 years ago next month when I attempted suicide. And in the process of my recovery, I joined the Legion and that’s what gave me what I needed in the past 10 years. It gave me purpose. It gave me a mission. [Be the One](#) is a fantastic campaign because anyone can ‘Be the One.’”

The American Legion is highlighting the initiative, which aims to reduce the rate of veteran suicide by raising awareness and destigmatizing mental health treatment.

Freeman’s presentation played a prominent role in the Feb. 17-19 event at American Legion Post 83 in Merced, Calif. The beefed-up revitalization connected veterans with service officers, raised awareness about suicide prevention and more.

Freeman, the California Area 3 vice commander, is the architect of the event. He drew a parallel between his mission and that of Be the One.

“If I can save the life of one veteran with my story, then I’ve accomplished my goal,” he explained. “By telling my story I can get veterans to realize the stigma of mental health treatment is not true. Asking for mental health treatment is not a weakness, it is a strength. If I can get anyone understanding that and getting help, then I have accomplished my goal.”

American Legion Department Chaplain Dave Whalen also spoke about Be the One.

“That’s what we need,” he said, referring to Freeman. “People talking about their experience and educating our comrades. I’m going to talk with you about a topic that is near and dear to my heart, veteran suicide.”

Whalen said that in order to make Be the One successful, it takes an entire organizational effort. Posts, districts, and departments are encouraged to conduct events to raise awareness.

“The American Legion says, ‘enough talk,’” Whalen told the audience. “It’s time to put boots on the ground. Be the One has been created to start saving veterans’ lives. How is The American Legion going to achieve this? By making it OK for veterans to ask for help with mental health issues.”

What you can do. Posts, districts, and departments have conducted Buddy Checks, hosted educational symposiums, and pushed out the Be the One message in other ways. There are promotional resources available at the [Be the One webpage](#) to assist in these events.

Among them:

- **Brochures:** There are two trifolds available. One introduces Be the One and can be used to promote an event in your community. The second one, which is intentionally half blank, is intended for posts to customize with local resources and distribute to veterans in their community.
- **Videos:** There are videos available on the Legion’s YouTube playlist. You can also access the Vimeo

channel, download videos, and play them on a mobile device without WiFi.

- Sample press release: A template for a press release to promote your event. Download the Word document, update it with your specific event information, and distribute it local media, community partners and others.
- Wallet cards: A collection of printable business-card sized with Be the One branding and QR codes. They can be used as single-sided cards, combined for double-sided cards, or added to the back side of a personal business card.



## NATIONAL COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

### Advisory Committee

Joe Mayne (MN), Chairman

### Americanism Commission

Chris Casey (NE), Chairman  
Fourth Thursday of Bi-monthly  
7:30 p.m. Eastern  
[Join Zoom meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 956 9846 2868 | 840 830 | (877) 853-5257

March 23, 2023 | May 25 | July 27



**FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES**  
[www.flyingflagsforheroes.com](http://www.flyingflagsforheroes.com)

As of February 23, 2023, **12,634** flags have been placed and reported to honor our veterans since September 1, 2022

The American Legion National Headquarters is looking for volunteers to help with the 2023 National High School Oratorical Contest Finals in Indianapolis, April 21-23. Needed volunteer positions include judges, escorts, and holding room/assigned topic room monitors. Click the link for more information.

<https://www.legion.org/oratorical/257908/volunteers-needed-2023-national-oratorical-finals?fbclid=IwAR0NBqrjuTui6-Yg0b-6YOS4VY54YgA2aXfm4PVVyx3VIlzgUbjr11kmf-s>

# ACTION ALERT

FEBRUARY 2023

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SONSAMERICANISM](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SONSAMERICANISM)



## TOP NEWS

- THE DETACHMENT OF HAWAII PUSHES THE FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES TOTAL ABOVE 10K. THEIR RECENT FLAG PLACEMENT EVENT NETTED 2,390 FLAGS!
- THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND (NEF) PROVIDED 104 GRANTS TOTALING OVER \$261,000 DURING 2022. REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY.
- AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN AT [WWW.BASEBALL.LEGION.ORG/](http://WWW.BASEBALL.LEGION.ORG/). THE EARLY DEADLINE IS MAY 15TH, WITH A FINAL DEADLINE OF JUNE 1, 2023

### FLYING FLAGS FOR HEROES

THIS IS AN ONGOING PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION. PLEASE REMEMBER TO REGISTER YOUR FLAG PLACEMENTS AND UPLOAD PICTURES AT [WWW.FLYINGFLAGSFORHEROES.COM](http://WWW.FLYINGFLAGSFORHEROES.COM)



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED FOR THE NATIONAL ORATORICAL FINALS TO BE HELD APRIL 22-23, 2023, IN INDIANAPOLIS. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO COMPLETE THE VOLUNTEER FORM, VISIT: [WWW.LEGION.ORG/ORATORICAL/VOLUNTEER](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/ORATORICAL/VOLUNTEER).



## Americanism report highlights Legion's dedication to youth

The American Legion | February 21, 2023

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

The released Americanism By-the-Numbers report for 2022 highlights the commitment by Legionnaires to uphold a 100 percent Americanism through youth program support and post activities.

[See the full Americanism By-the Numbers report for 2022 here.](#)

Below are a few highlights from the report:

- 50,575 youth from 2,975 teams played American Legion Baseball, representing 49 American Legion departments.

- 10,597 rising high school seniors participated in 50 American Legion Boys State programs.
- 859 oratorical contests were conducted that involved 4,917 youth from 50 departments.
- 854 individual athletes and 134 shooting clubs entered the 2021-2022 postal round competition of The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Tournament.
- 14,205 students were presented an American Legion School Award Medal.
- 4,527 Flag Day activities were conducted by posts.
- 335 citizenship and naturalization activities were conducted in local communities
- 572 American Legion posts participated in American Education Week.
- 1,273 Get Out the Vote activities were conducted.

with the original trust that set up the Foundation. Once the new guidelines are completed it will be shared with the membership. Once the Non-Legion applicants are awarded at the Spring NEC, the information will be posted on the website.

Keeping our membership informed.

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## Children & Youth Committee

James A. Noble (NJ), Chairman  
Second Wednesday of Each Month  
7:30 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 934 1509 0014 | 403 800 | (877) 853-5257

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## Finance Commission

William G. Hill (MD), Chairman  
8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 957 1342 7326 | 44846 | (877) 853-5257

April 13 | May 6 (NEC) | July 13

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## Internal Affairs Commission

William Clancy, III (NY), Chairman  
First Thursday of Each Month  
6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 917 1243 8217 | 914 458 | (877) 853-5257

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## Legislative Commission

Thomas G. Deal (MD), Chairman  
Third Thursday of ODD Months  
7:30 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)



Next week, our National Commander will be testifying in front of a joint session of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs to articulate our legislative priorities for 2023. As a member of The American Legion Family, The American Legion asks that you support him by sharing these 2023 Legislative Priorities with your members of Congress:

[Join Our Action Campaign: Write Your Congressmembers Now](#)



Citizens at the 2022 California Boys State participate in a candidates forum for state offices.

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## Century Committee (CENTCOM)

Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH), Chairman

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Second Thursday of Each Month

7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Meeting ID: 974 1352 0429 | 473 385 | (877) 853-5257

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## Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Mark Nave (PA), Chairman

Third Wednesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 989 9129 8443 | 967 563  
(877) 853-5257

Usually if you went to the CWF website you were able download a CWF grant application or see the current awards and guidelines. That section of the website has been taken down as the guidelines are being re-written by the National Judge Advocate of the American Legion to be more in line

The American Legion continues to serve as a powerful voice for veterans in our nation's capital, but the power of our voice is amplified by the voices of our membership. The American Legion's Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and Sons of The American Legion are the heart and soul of our grassroots organization. This week, we need everyone's help to share our latest priorities far and wide.

Contact your Senators and Representative today to inform them of The American Legion's Legislative Priorities for the first session of the 118th Congress.

## Member Training and Development Committee

Mike Monserud (IA), Chairman  
 First Monday of Each Month  
 8:00 p.m. Eastern  
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 918 2414 1981 | 777 490 | (877) 853-5258

## Membership Committee

Thom Skelley (TX), Chairman  
 Third Tuesday of Each Month  
 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time | (605) 472-5756 | 771 7294

The current SAL membership report can be accessed on the national website at [www.legion.org/membership/standings](http://www.legion.org/membership/standings)

additional membership information appears later in this edition

#	DETACHMENT	2023 DET. YEAR END GOAL	NEEDED TO MEET 80% TARGET 3/15/2023	2023 ACTUAL MBRSH	% OF YEAR END GOAL	2023 RENEWAL %
1	HAWAII	77	-22	84	109.09%	94.74
2	SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	-310	1,400	102.79%	83.13
3	FRANCE	158	-23	149	94.30%	85.26
4	FLORIDA	21,519	-1,819	19,034	88.45%	72.47
5	SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	-116	1,294	87.85%	74.36
6	MARYLAND	16,058	-1,212	14,058	87.55%	79.09
7	NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	-78	923	87.41%	76.47
8	DELAWARE	2,430	-177	2,121	87.28%	74.79
9	WISCONSIN	4,187	-292	3,642	86.98%	76.39
10	PUERTO RICO	123	-8	106	86.18%	52.46
11	KANSAS	5,919	-344	5,079	85.81%	76.75
12	VERMONT	3,818	-221	3,275	85.78%	77.97
13	LOUISIANA	1,790	-103	1,535	85.75%	77.40
14	MISSOURI	3,219	-183	2,758	85.68%	75.63
15	ILLINOIS	13,398	-745	11,463	85.56%	77.25
16	GEORGIA	4,490	-249	3,841	85.55%	72.86
17	OHIO	30,636	-1,689	26,198	85.51%	78.73
18	NEVADA	357	-17	303	84.87%	65.37
19	NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	-276	4,818	84.87%	75.33
20	OREGON	1,414	-89	1,200	84.87%	66.90
21	VIRGINIA	4,109	-194	3,481	84.72%	72.58
22	RHODE ISLAND	336	-15	284	84.52%	72.73
23	PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	-2,730	51,372	84.49%	77.86
24	TENNESSEE	1,718	-64	1,438	83.70%	67.93
25	NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	-96	2,278	83.54%	68.91
26	NEBRASKA	7,015	-234	5,846	83.34%	79.45
27	IOWA	4,857	-157	4,043	83.24%	73.33
28	ALABAMA	2,066	-66	1,719	83.20%	71.67
29	MICHIGAN	24,271	-697	20,114	82.87%	73.44
30	WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	-60	1,950	82.56%	68.98
31	INDIANA	36,387	-827	29,937	82.27%	75.42
32	MISSISSIPPI	722	-16	594	82.27%	70.80
33	ARIZONA	8,004	-115	6,518	81.43%	65.62
34	COLORADO	2,729	-37	2,220	81.35%	69.50
35	MEXICO	31	0	25	80.65%	38.71
36	OKLAHOMA	1,348	-3	1,081	80.19%	64.31
37	ALASKA	1,608	0	1,286	79.98%	64.07
38	WASHINGTON	2,485	3	1,985	79.88%	62.97
39	NEW JERSEY	9,386	66	7,443	79.30%	70.69
40	MAINE	2,617	20	2,074	79.25%	68.45
41	CONNECTICUT	1,867	20	1,474	78.95%	70.59
42	MONTANA	1,108	12	874	78.88%	73.19
43	NEW YORK	29,864	551	23,340	78.15%	71.61
44	MINNESOTA	11,378	358	8,744	76.85%	70.56
45	CALIFORNIA	10,714	369	8,202	76.55%	64.16
46	MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	189	4,165	76.53%	67.59
47	WYOMING	1,298	47	991	76.35%	67.23
48	NEW MEXICO	1,483	64	1,122	75.66%	61.11
49	TEXAS	5,569	262	4,193	75.29%	62.07
50	IDAHO	644	45	470	72.98%	60.46
51	UTAH	449	50	309	68.82%	57.27
52	KENTUCKY	2,609	465	1,622	62.17%	53.45
53	ARKANSAS	447	83	275	61.52%	51.93
54	DIST OF COL	114	26	65	57.02%	45.13
55	PHILIPPINES	70	21	35	50.00%	48.53
<b>Grand Totals:</b>		<b>367,798</b>	<b>-10,612</b>	<b>304,850</b>	<b>82.89%</b>	<b>73.81</b>

### 2023 SAL REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

WESTERN REGION - JACK A. YOUNGS (ID)				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal	
HAWAII	77	84	109.09%	
NEVADA	357	303	84.87%	
OREGON	1,414	1,200	84.87%	
ARIZONA	8,004	6,518	81.43%	
ALASKA	1,608	1,286	79.98%	
WASHINGTON	2,485	1,985	79.88%	
CALIFORNIA	10,714	8,202	76.55%	
IDAHO	644	470	72.98%	
UTAH	449	309	68.82%	
PHILIPPINES	70	35	50.00%	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>25,822</b>	<b>20,392</b>	<b>78.97%</b>	

MIDWEST REGION - MICHAEL L. KIRSCHNER (CO)				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal	
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,362	1,400	102.79%	
NORTH DAKOTA	1,056	923	87.41%	
KANSAS	5,919	5,079	85.81%	
NEBRASKA	7,015	5,846	83.34%	
COLORADO	2,729	2,220	81.35%	
MEXICO	31	25	80.65%	
OKLAHOMA	1,348	1,081	80.19%	
MONTANA	1,108	874	78.88%	
WYOMING	1,298	991	76.35%	
NEW MEXICO	1,483	1,122	75.66%	
TEXAS	5,569	4,193	75.29%	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>28,918</b>	<b>23,754</b>	<b>82.14%</b>	

CENTRAL REGION - DAVID J. MENNEL (MI)				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal	
WISCONSIN	4,187	3,642	86.98%	
MISSOURI	3,219	2,758	85.68%	
ILLINOIS	13,398	11,463	85.56%	
OHIO	30,636	26,198	85.51%	
IOWA	4,857	4,043	83.24%	
MICHIGAN	24,271	20,114	82.87%	
INDIANA	36,387	29,937	82.27%	
MINNESOTA	11,378	8,744	76.85%	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>128,333</b>	<b>106,899</b>	<b>83.30%</b>	

EASTERN REGION - ERNEST E. LABERGE (MA)				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal	
FRANCE	158	149	94.30%	
MARYLAND	16,058	14,058	87.55%	
DELAWARE	2,430	2,121	87.28%	
VERMONT	3,818	3,275	85.78%	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	5,677	4,818	84.87%	
RHODE ISLAND	336	284	84.52%	
PENNSYLVANIA	60,803	51,372	84.49%	
WEST VIRGINIA	2,362	1,950	82.56%	
NEW JERSEY	9,386	7,443	79.30%	
MAINE	2,617	2,074	79.25%	
CONNECTICUT	1,867	1,474	78.95%	
NEW YORK	29,864	23,340	78.15%	
MASSACHUSETTS	5,442	4,165	76.53%	
DIST OF COL	114	65	57.02%	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>140,932</b>	<b>116,588</b>	<b>82.73%</b>	

SOUTHERN REGION - RONALD E. ROBERTS (MS)				
Detachment	Goal	Actual	% of Goal	
FLORIDA	21,519	19,034	88.45%	
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,473	1,294	87.85%	
PUERTO RICO	123	106	86.18%	
LOUISIANA	1,790	1,535	85.75%	
GEORGIA	4,490	3,841	85.55%	
VIRGINIA	4,109	3,481	84.72%	
TENNESSEE	1,718	1,438	83.70%	
NORTH CAROLINA	2,727	2,278	83.54%	
ALABAMA	2,066	1,719	83.20%	
MISSISSIPPI	722	594	82.27%	
KENTUCKY	2,609	1,622	62.17%	
ARKANSAS	447	275	61.52%	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>43,793</b>	<b>37,217</b>	<b>84.98%</b>	

What we have accomplished thus far has been nothing short of spectacular. After a shaky start, we have managed to meet the last four target dates, almost a full month ahead of schedule.

We are consistently hovering around 20,000 members ahead of last year's pace. We have more Detachments meeting the goals than before and each Region is outperforming their numbers from last year.

As of this report, we have roughly 55 days until our 90% target and need 26,200 members to get there. Do not let up!!

Now, more than ever, is the time to "get to work." Check in on our members that have forgotten why they joined. Reach out to those in need of help. Seek out new members and share who we are and what we do.

I am proud to be a member of the Sons of The American Legion....who's with me?

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## National Convention Committee

Christopher Byrd (NC), Chairman

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 961 5391 3982 | 690 337 | (877) 853-5257

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## National Executive Committee

### Liaison Committee

Jim Stewart (NV), Chairman

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## National Vice-Commander Selection Committee

James Hartman (MD), Co-Chairman

David Stephens (IN), Co-Chairman

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## Public and Media Communications Commission

Kevin Chaplin (VA), Chairman

Fourth Tuesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 963 1528 2340 | 075 079 | (877) 853-5257

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## Subcommittee on Resolutions

Ned Fox (CA), Chairman

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## Subcommittee on National Appointments

Donald Allisot, Jr. (ME), Chairman

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## Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

Seth A. Rippe (NE), Chairman

Fourth Monday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 941 4100 3972 | 378 079 | (646) 931-3860

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## Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Jim Coates (NY), Chairman

Third Wednesday of Each Month

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 935 4405 3884 | 786 114 | (877) 853-5257

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SONS OF THE

 AMERICAN  
LEGION

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**PURPOSE**

**PASSION**



**PROUD POSSESSORS  
OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE**

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Past Detachment of Ohio Commander Rex Buchs, Fairport, OH Police Chief Dave Koran, and Department of Ohio Commander Charles Stennis. Stennis and Buchs are members of Squadron 336 in Painesville, Ohio, and presented Chief Koran a check for \$1,000.00. Squadron 336 also donated

\$1,000.00 to the Painesville, OH Police Department and the Grand River, OH Police Department.

Squadron 336 makes quarterly donations to area police departments.

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## Son celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> birthday

Mike Pettijohn of OH Squadron 178 recently celebrated his 75th birthday. Sons from macros the nation send cards, pins, coins, and other well-wishes.

Mike was “extra excited” to have received a card and coin from National Commander Chris Carlton.

Happy birthday Mike!



Due to some great thinking, they decided to go with a 3rd option. They have changed the menu and are now serving All You Can Eat Soup/Salad lunches.

Last Saturday was the 2nd time they used this format, and it has been well received. This has been successful enough they are now planning for more options to potentially rotate menus as they go through the year.

A shout goes out to the team for finding a way through COVID and rising egg prices, I know I am looking forward to partaking in their next meals!!



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## Squadron 11 Green Bay finds a way to keep raising funds for local veteran efforts

Allen Watry | Detachment of Wisconsin

Squadron 11 in Green Bay, Wisconsin has a long history of raising funds for local veterans organizations through holding a monthly All You Can Eat Eggs/Sausage Breakfast. Prior to COVID, these were very popular with the local community and were well attended. Unfortunately, COVID did require them to stop these fundraisers for a period of time.

They have started back up, but now they are facing a new challenge. The skyrocketing costs of eggs is cutting into the margins significantly. They had to make a decision. Do they raise the price of the meal, or do they settle with raising less for the local veteran efforts?



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AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families



Vickie Koutz, National President  
The American Legion Auxiliary

National  
Poppy Day®  
is  
May 26 this year



## How to Get Members to Renew

The American Legion Auxiliary | July 10, 2018

Too often the only contact a member receives is her “dues renewal notice” sent by the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters office. Personal connection is necessary to help members become engaged in the organization. Below are samples for how units can reach out and make a personal connection with their members and ask them to renew their membership:

- Personal phone call: Remind members why they joined the American Legion Auxiliary. Share the ways your unit has made a difference in the lives of veterans in your community, state, and country. Encourage them to become a part of activities. Transportation may be an issue, so if your unit members can offer to provide a ride, this may be the key to increasing involvement. Offer to pick up their dues at a scheduled time.
- Personal letter: Send letters out to all of your members at the beginning of the Auxiliary year. Outline the events on a calendar for all of the exciting things your unit is planning throughout the year and let members know that their membership is important to the mission of the organization. To view a sample letter, visit [www.ALforVeterans.org/](http://www.ALforVeterans.org/) and click on “how to get members to renew on the lefthand side.”
- Renewal Open House: Host an event at the beginning of the year where members can come renew their dues and mingle with other members. Encourage them to bring other family members along. These family members may be eligible for membership, but if not, remind them they are welcome to attend activities and that you do welcome their help in advancing the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. Combine this event with your Legion Family. It is a win-win for everyone.
- Plan a Member Day of Recognition: Everyone needs a pat on the back or a “way to go.” At your meetings, you can share information about a member’s family history with the Auxiliary, what she is doing to advance the mission of the Auxiliary, her community service work, etc. Then share this information with your division

membership chairman so we can begin to share her accomplishments with the entire American Legion Auxiliary membership.

- Share your own personal experience as a member: Let your members know there will be ups and downs, but to always keep their eye on the big picture – the mission of the Auxiliary – not just personal rewards.

For more tools and tips on American Legion Auxiliary membership, visit [www.ALforVeterans.org/](http://www.ALforVeterans.org/).

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# SPORTS

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## SQUADRON EVERLASTING

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to have a member's information listed here,  
please send to [jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com)

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### Jeffery "Jeff" Cleeter



Jeffery "Jeff" Cleeter, 61, of Dillsboro, IN, passed away Thursday, February, 16, 2023 at his home. Jeff was born on Friday, January 19, 1962 in Lawrenceburg; son of Estal and Helen (Pavy) Cleeter. Jeff was a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 292 of Dillsboro, Teamsters Union, the Hopewell F & AM Lodge

#80 in Dillsboro, and the Southeastern Indiana Murat Shrine. Jeff worked at the Aurora Casket Company for 36 years as an over the road truck driver. Jeff enjoyed classic cars, watching NASCAR, mowing his lawn, and spending time with his friends at the Legion. Jeff most of all loved his family.

Jeff will be missed by his sons Kreig (Jennifer) Cleeter of Greendale, Kurtis Cleeter of Dillsboro, and Karson Cleeter of Harrison, Ohio; mother of children Kim (Rob) Beavers of Harrison, Ohio; brother Jerry (Pat) Cleeter of Aurora; sisters Jean Connolly of Harrison, Ohio, and Joyce (Phil) Hardwick of Greenwood, Indiana; as well as grandchildren Iyla Cleeter and Brooks Cleeter.

Jeff was preceded in death by his parents Estal and Helen Cleeter.

Family and friends may gather in remembering Jeff from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at the Filter-DeVries-Moore Funeral Home in Dillsboro. A masonic service will be held at 11:45 AM provided by the Hopewell F & AM Masonic Lodge #80, the Sons of American Legion Post 292, with a funeral service to immediately follow. Burial will take place in Oakdale Cemetery. Memorials may be given in honor of Jeff to the Sons of American Legion Post 292 of Dillsboro.

Filter-DeVries-Moore Funeral Home has been entrusted with arrangements: 12887 Lenover Street, Box 146, Dillsboro, IN 47018, (812) 432-5480. Please visit our website at [www.filterdevriesmoore.com](http://www.filterdevriesmoore.com) to share your condolences and memories of Jeff.

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### Keith J. Kennison



Keith J. Kennison, 72, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. He was a resident of Rock Springs for

the past 50 years and former resident of Idaho.

He was born January 17, 1951 in Wendell, Idaho; the son of David Carl Kennison and Zella Helen Reddick Kennison.

Mr. Kennison attended schools in Richfield Idaho and was a 1969 graduate of Richfield High School.

He married Karen Marie McRoberts June 16, 1969 in Richfield, Idaho.

Mr. Kennison worked for The Jim Bridger Power Plant for 30 years and retired in April 2013 as a Mechanic and Certified Welder.

He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion; Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #151 and was a Golden Eagle; Boilermakers Local #182 for 12 years and UWUA Local #127 for 30 years.

He enjoyed spending time with family; fishing with his son; camping; hunting; bowling; playing guitar; pinochle and was an avid San Francisco 49ers football fan.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Karen Marie Kennison of Rock Springs, Wyoming; one son, Keith D. Kennison and wife Lisa of Loveland, Colorado; two daughters, Michelle Bennett and husband Rick of Rock Springs, Wyoming; Becci Messick and husband Brad of Rock Springs, Wyoming; four brothers, Al Kennison and wife Connie of Rock Springs, Wyoming; Gary Kennison and wife Valerie of Buhl, Idaho; Jim Kennison and wife Tonette of Richfield, Idaho; Douglas Kennison and wife Cindy of Buhl, Idaho; three sisters, Lonetta Breshears of Cascade, Idaho; Kathy Archibald and husband Virgil of Buhl, Idaho; Cammie Garner and companion Mike of Twin Falls, Idaho; twelve grandchildren, Zachary Kennison and wife Katie; Riley Kennison; Brady Kennison; Avry Kennison; Kassidee Brown; KC Brown; Andy Messick; Delanie Messick; Skylar Messick; Canyon Messick; Nikki Reed and husband Rex; Alyssa Muniz and husband Holdin; five great-grandchildren, Ryland Brown; Jaelee Messick; Ryker Reed; Haisley Reed Taytum Reed; several cousins; nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; father and mother-in-law, Fred and Betty McRoberts; one brother, Dick Kennison; one grandson, Chance Messick.

The family respectfully requests donations be made in Keith's memory to Hospice of Sweetwater County, 333 Broadway Street, Suite 220, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901. Cremation will take place; a Celebration of Life will be conducted at 11 a.m., Saturday March 4, 2023 at American Legion, Gunyan Hall, 543 Broadway Street, Rock Springs, Wyoming.

Condolences may be left at [www.vasefuneralhomes.com](http://www.vasefuneralhomes.com).

## Robert A Rhoads

Robert A. Rhoads, age 76, of Julian, PA, died February 13, 2023. Born in Bellefonte, September 2, 1946. He was the son of George F. and Helen L. (Poorman) Rhoads. Bob was predeceased by his partner Sharon M. Mellott in 2017.

Bob served in the National Guard in the 1960's. He retired from The Pennsylvania State University where he worked as a Stock Delivery Clerk for many years.

Bob was a member of the Bellefonte American Legion and

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 33. An avid Fisherman and Penn State Football fan.

Bob is survived by a daughter, Lisa Lose and son, John Rhoads both of Mingoville. He also had several grandchildren. Four Sisters Barbara Naugle and her husband Howard of Sarver, Pa. Debra Wegener, and her husband Randy of Milesburg, Pa. Peggy Kline of San Antonio, Tx. And Rebecca Ishler and her husband Donald of Pleasant Gap, Pa. Three brothers David Rhoads and Philip Rhoads of Bellefonte, Pa. And Barry Rhoads and his wife Jo Beth of Overland Park Ks. He was preceded in death by his partner Sharon M. Mellott, His daughter Vonda Rhoads. His sisters Carol Moore and Judy Rhoads. His brothers Clair and James.

Friends will be received from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm on Friday, February 17, 2023 at the Haky/Georgiana Centre County Funeral Home 1034 Benner Pike State College, Pa. 16801 with a funeral service to immediately follow. Internment will take place at Centre County Memorial Park, State College, Pa.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Bob's memory can be made to The Centre County Veterans Assistance Program 1826 Zion Rd. Bellefonte, Pa. 16823. An online guestbook may be signed, and condolences left for the family at [www.hakygeorgianafh.com](http://www.hakygeorgianafh.com)

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).



# FROM THE EDITOR

Honor the Veteran Who Made You Eligible. Renew Today!

Jeff Vrabel, Sr., Editor

[jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com) | [Team Vrabel](#)

[click a button for more information](#)

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## Central Region Extravaganza

2023 marks the first year that a gathering of members in the Central Region is officially taking place. Taking place the weekend of April 21 – 23, 2023, 2023CRE1 has a jam-packed line-up of great presenters and speakers. Attendees will learn, participate, have fun, and most importantly, come together to further the mission of the American Legion Family.

The Embassy Suites Airport in Columbus, Ohio is the location of the Extravaganza, and an evening of fun is planned for Saturday night, as there are tentative plans to visit American Legion Posts in the area.

Attendance is open to Sons, as well as to Legionnaires and members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

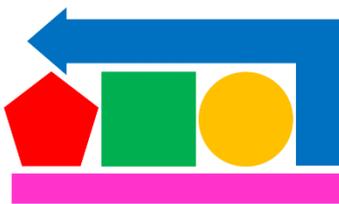
The event flyer appears later in this edition.

To register, please email [jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com). Please register early, as there is a limit of fifty participants, and spots are filling up fast. Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel.

The line-up of speakers will be published in the next few weeks.

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## Meeting of the Jeffs



There will be a Meeting of the Jeffs on Saturday, April 22, 2023 during the Central Region Extravaganza.

All Jeffs planning to attend the meeting must email [jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com).

Jeffs do not need to attend the conference to attend this very important meeting.



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# AMERICAN LEGION



## More than 200 new items at Emblem Sales

The American Legion | February 22, 2023

Perhaps you noticed something a little different at the district meeting. Maybe a flash of color caught your eye during an awareness ruck, golf outing or 5K.

That “something different” is a dynamic variety of new American Legion Emblem Sales apparel and merchandise that adds the organization’s new brand marks to the traditional, time-honored emblem on products we use, to promote the organization – and look good doing it. Newly designed shirts, hats, and even [golf balls](#) are moving fast from the Geiger Operations Center in Indianapolis.

And, in case you missed it, the U.S. Space Force awaits welcome from The American Legion, including items like [out-door flags, patches, decals, shirts and mini-flag sets](#).

More than 200 items are brand-new to the Emblem Sales catalog and website this year. In fact, something new is added every week, from [Be the One T-shirts and IndyCar jerseys](#) to spread the message of our life-saving initiative to prevent veteran suicide (look for Be the One pins to be available in the coming months) to doormats, table runners and [bumper stickers displaying the new design and the motto, “Veterans Strengthening America.”](#)

In 2022, Emblem Sales had a record year, thanks not only to the newly branded items, but also to the best sales ever of American-made U.S. flags.

Robust sales of new American Legion apparel, gear, patriotic and promotional items are a pretty strong indication that it was time for “something different” to show our pride, not only in The American Legion, but in the Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Legion Riders. Remember to keep checking back at [emblem.legion.org](http://emblem.legion.org) because even more is on the way in 2023.



I strongly urge you to look through the growing selection of items – as well as traditional American Legion clothes, gear, promotional materials, and supplies – and place a convenient, secure order online or call 888-453-4466.

Most important of all, remember that every purchase you make through Emblem Sales helps support a program or pillar service of The American Legion, from oratorical competition to career fairs for veterans and their families, to Scouting awards, site visits to VA hospitals, testimony before Congress, and much more. Put simply, your purchase from Emblem Sales helps fulfill our mission to serve communities, states, and the nation.

Vincent “Jim” Troiola, National Commander  
The American Legion



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## Watch the national commander testify before Congress March 1

The American Legion | February 15, 2023

American Legion National Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola will present the Legion’s legislative priorities to a joint session of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans’ Affairs. The presentation is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Eastern Wednesday, March 1.

[Tune in to www.legion.org to watch live or view a replay.](http://www.legion.org)

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## 2023 Washington Conference Information

Sunday, February 26 – Wednesday, March 1

Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave., Washington, DC

American Legion National Commander Vincent J. Troiola’s testimony before a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans’ Affairs will highlight the 2023 Washington Conference. The national commander will testify at 10 a.m. ET on March 1; check back here for a link to the live testimony.

The Washington Conference is back in person this year, giving our organization’s leadership a chance to meet with elected officials to discuss legislative initiatives and priorities important to American Legion members and their families. It also provides a forum that allows Legionnaires to hear from senators, representatives, and officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as they address our members at the conference.

[Washington Conference Agenda](#)  
[Information Sheet](#)

[Dress Code](#)

[Reserve Hotel Online](#)

[Emblem Sales - Location/Hours](#)

[Scooter Rentals](#)

[Read Before You Attend](#)

[Congressional Contact Report Form](#)

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# REMEMBERING THE GREATEST GENERATION

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To honor a World War II Veteran,  
please send information to [jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com)

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## Albert John “Jack” Leetch



YOUNGSTOWN, OH — Albert John “Jack” Leetch, 95, passed Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023, at the Briarfield Place.

Jack was born June 13, 1927, in Youngstown, the son of the late Albert and Jane F. Jones Leetch. He was a life-long area resident.

He graduated from Ursuline High School Class of 1945 and soon after he enlisted in the United States Army, serving his country until being honorably discharged in 1946.

Jack worked for Wean Industries as a storeroom attendant until his retirement in 1989.

He married the love of his life, JoAnn Collins, on Jan. 4, 1950; sadly, she passed away March 16, 2010. The couple were longtime members at St. Dominic Church.

Jack enjoyed spending time with his family and loved watching sports, especially Notre Dame football, the Cleveland Browns, and the Cleveland Indians baseball.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving family, sons, David (Karen) Leetch, Robert Leetch and Timothy (Susan) Leetch; and daughters, Jayne (Harry) Kale and Carrie Leetch. Jack also leaves eight grandchildren, Mary Pat Pelini, Ryan Leetch, Brian and Matthew Kale and Corey, Lauren, Tim Jr., and Owen Leetch; eight great-grandchildren; his sister, Mary Jane Leetch; and brother, Thomas Leetch.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, and sons John P. and Scott Leetch, and daughter, Mary Pat Leetch; a sister, Norma Jean Wardle; a brother, Robert J. Leetch; and granddaughter, Kirsten Leetch Pepperney.

Family and friends may call 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023, at the Fox Funeral Home, 4700 Market St., Boardman, and again from 9 to 9:50 a.m. Friday, Feb. 24, 2023, at St. Dominic Church, 77 E. Lucius Ave., Youngstown, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m.

Interment will be in Calvary Cemetery.

Material tributes may be made to Sanctuary Hospice of Ohio, 6715 Tippecanoe Road, Suite B-101, Canfield, OH 44406; or Wounded Warrior Project, 4899 Belfort Road, Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

The Leetch family would like to thank the Inn at Poland Way and Briarfield Place for the love and compassion shown to their father.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Edward J. Fox & Sons Funeral Home, 4700 Market St., Boardman, OH 44512. Family and friends of Jack may visit [www.foxfuneralhome.org](http://www.foxfuneralhome.org) to view this obituary and to leave condolences for the Leetch family.

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## Eugene “Gene” Holley



SALEM, OH — Eugene “Gene” Holley, 97, formerly of Cortland, passed away Friday, Jan. 27, 2023, surrounded by close family members.

He was born in Windsor, Ohio, to Frank Holley and Margaret Scheffel Holley, May 27, 1925. He grew up in Windsor with his three brothers, Robert “Bud,”

Carl “Cart” and Richard “Dick” Holley, working on the family farm. He attended the Windsor School and High School (class of 1943), where he developed lifelong friendships and where he met the love of his life, his wife, Elinor “Ellie” Holley. He grew up in the 1930s Depression Era and (fondly) recalls being barefoot much of the summer, when shoes were only meant for school and special occasions.

Gene was most solidly a part of the American “greatest generation.” After high school graduation in 1943, he volunteered for military service in World War II and became a B-17 flight navigator. Gene flew seven bombing missions over Germany in early 1945, at the age of 19. The Lady Jane II was shot down by German anti-aircraft fire and ME 262 jets. After parachuting into the countryside near Hannover, Germany, and evading capture for three days, Gene was

captured and processed as a POW and sent to Luft Stalag 1. He spent the last few months of the war as a POW, was liberated on May 1, 1945, and subsequently flown to France in "Operation Revival."

Liberated American POWs were processed at Camp Lucky Strike in Le Havre, France. After spending his 20th birthday there, Gene rode an American troopship home. The story of his crew and aircraft, the Lady Jane II, have recently been immortalized in a book by Lisa Vans, "The Last Mission of the Lady Jane II: The Life and Death of an 8th Air Force B-17 and Her Crew."

After the war, he earned an engineering degree from Case Western Reserve University. Gene had a long career as a civil engineer in Northeastern Ohio, first as a state engineer. He worked the majority of his career at Soda Construction Company in Niles, starting as the senior engineer, and eventually purchasing it. He worked there until his retirement, after passing the company on to a son and a grandson.

Gene's greatest passion in life was for his wife and children. Gene and Ellie had a family of seven children, Paul Robert Holley, Russell Eugene Holley, Sue Anne Holley Suarez, Dan Allen Holley, Craig William Holley, Hugh Richard Holley, and Mark David Holley. Somehow, he managed to not only work tirelessly to provide, but to provide an example and act as a mentor to his children. Gene was a hero to his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Gene and Ellie had a continuing participation and influence in the lives of their children, always taking interest and helping where needed. They provided a special love, which all his children knew was unconditional.

Gene is survived by six of his seven children, and by 14 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Friends and family will be received from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023, at Lane Funeral Homes, Canfield Chapel. A memorial service will follow at 11 a.m. at the chapel, with the Rev. Bruce Irwin officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes donations be made to the American Red Cross, in Eugene's name.

Friends and family may view this obituary and give their condolences at [www.lanefuneralhomes.com](http://www.lanefuneralhomes.com).



### Sons of The American Legion Membership Application

Detachment of \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron No. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Recruited by \_\_\_\_\_

(First) (Initial) (Last) (Initial) (Last)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Street) \_\_\_\_\_ (City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran through whom eligibility is established \_\_\_\_\_

(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. \_\_\_\_\_, Dept. of \_\_\_\_\_

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

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and transmit \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as annual membership dues.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (By Applicant or Parent)

Eligibility certified by \_\_\_\_\_ (Post Adjutant)

00-001 (2013)

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### RECEIPT

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received of \_\_\_\_\_

**For God and Country** \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of dues for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ in

Squadron \_\_\_\_\_, Detachment of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_



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**First Annual  
Central  
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**EXTRAVAGANZA**

**April 21 - 23, 2023**

**LIMITED TO 50 PARTICIPANTS - PLEASE REGISTER EARLY**



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SUITES**  
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**Embassy Suites by Hilton Columbus Airport  
Reservations (614) 536-0500  
Reservation Code: LDO  
Suite Rate: \$129.00 per night**

**Friday evening Social Gathering & Networking  
Saturday Training, Presentations, and Guest Speakers  
Saturday evening visit local American Legion Posts**

**Topics include:**

**CENTCOM update | Obtaining Discharge Documents  
Keeping Members Involved | Building an Effective Youth Program  
Honoring Veterans in Health Care Facilities | Servant Leadership  
Public Speaking | Being a Military Child | Working with the Media  
Be The One - Suicide: Knowing the Signs, Prevention, & Support**

**Meeting of the Jeffs**

**For more information and to reserve your spot at the conference,  
please contact Jeff Vrabel Sr. | [jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com)  
hotel reservations own your own**

**Local Attractions**





02/23/23		2023 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP STANDINGS				
Region	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Quota Date
1 Southern 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	43,793	37,217	(6,576)	84.98%	285	
2 Central 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	128,333	106,899	(21,434)	83.30%	758	
3 Eastern 4, 5, 6, 7	140,932	116,588	(24,344)	82.73%	804	
4 Midwest 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	28,918	23,754	(5,164)	82.14%	328	
5 Western 1, 4, 5, 6	25,822	20,392	(5,430)	78.97%	123	
<b>TOTALS 1, 4, 5, 6, 7</b>	<b>367,798</b>	<b>304,850</b>	<b>(62,948)</b>	<b>82.89%</b>	<b>2,298</b>	

02/23/23		2023 CENTRAL REGION STANDINGS David Mennell (MI), National Vice-Commander						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Wisconsin 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,187	3,642	(545)	86.98%	39	76.39%	9	
2 Missouri 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	3,219	2,758	(461)	85.68%	37	75.63%	14	
3 Illinois 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	13,398	11,463	(1,935)	85.56%	86	77.25%	15	
4 Ohio 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	30,636	26,198	(4,438)	85.51%	39	78.73%	17	
5 Iowa 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,857	4,043	(814)	83.24%	15	73.33%	27	
6 Michigan 4, 5, 6, 7	24,271	20,114	(4,157)	82.87%	232	73.44%	29	
7 Indiana 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	36,387	29,937	(6,450)	82.27%	269	75.42%	31	
8 Minnesota 5, 6	11,378	8,744	(2,634)	76.85%	41	70.56%	44	
<b>TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</b>	<b>128,333</b>	<b>106,899</b>	<b>(21,434)</b>	<b>83.30%</b>	<b>758</b>			

02/23/23		2023 WESTERN REGION STANDINGS Jack Youngs (ID) National Vice-Commander						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Hawaii 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Q, 10	77	84	7	109.09%	-	94.74%	1	10/10/22
2 Nevada 4, 5, 6, 7	357	303	(54)	84.87%	-	65.37%	18	
3 Oregon 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,414	1,200	(214)	84.87%	2	66.90%	20	
4 Arizona 5, 6, 7	8,004	6,518	(1,486)	81.43%	9	65.62%	33	
5 Alaska 3, 6	1,608	1,286	(322)	79.98%	18	64.07%	37	
6 Washington	2,485	1,985	(500)	79.88%	3	62.97%	38	
7 California 1, 5, 6	10,714	8,202	(2,512)	76.55%	71	64.16%	45	
8 Idaho 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	644	470	(174)	72.98%	11	60.46%	50	
9 Utah 5	449	309	(140)	68.82%	9	57.27%	51	
10 Phillippines	70	35	(35)	50.00%	-	48.53%	55	
<b>TOTALS 1, 4, 5, 6</b>	<b>25,822</b>	<b>20,392</b>	<b>(5,430)</b>	<b>78.97%</b>	<b>123</b>			

02/23/23		2023 SOUTHERN REGION STANDINGS Ron Roberts (MS), National Vice-Commander						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Florida 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	21,519	19,034	(2,485)	88.45%	123	72.47%	4	
2 South Carolina 4, 5, 6, 7	1,473	1,294	(179)	87.85%	2	74.36%	5	
3 Puerto Rico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	123	106	(17)	86.18%	-	52.46%	10	
4 Louisiana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	1,790	1,535	(255)	85.75%	2	77.40%	13	
5 Georgia 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	4,490	3,841	(649)	85.55%	26	72.86%	16	
6 Virginia 4, 5, 6, 7	4,109	3,481	(628)	84.72%	17	72.58%	21	
7 Tennessee 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,718	1,438	(280)	83.70%	11	67.93%	24	
8 North Carolina 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	2,727	2,278	(449)	83.54%	12	68.91%	25	
9 Alabama 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	2,066	1,719	(347)	83.20%	28	71.67%	28	
10 Mississippi 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	722	594	(128)	82.27%	-	70.80%	32	
11 Kentucky	2,609	1,622	(987)	62.17%	56	53.45%	52	
12 Arkansas 1	447	275	(172)	61.52%	8	51.93%	53	
<b>TOTALS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</b>	<b>43,793</b>	<b>37,217</b>	<b>(6,576)</b>	<b>84.98%</b>	<b>162</b>			

02/23/23		2023 MIDWEST REGION STANDINGS Michael Kirschner (CO), National Vice-Commander						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 South Dakota 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Q	1,362	1,400	38	102.79%	2	83.13%	2	02/09/23
2 North Dakota 1, 3, 4, 5	1,056	923	(133)	87.41%	86	76.47%	7	
3 Kansas 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	5,919	5,079	(840)	85.81%	28	76.75%	11	
4 Nebraska 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7,015	5,846	(1,169)	83.34%	114	79.45%	26	
5 Colorado 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	2,729	2,220	(509)	81.35%	66	69.50%	34	
6 Mexico 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	31	25	(6)	80.65%	-	38.71%	35	
7 Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,348	1,081	(267)	80.19%	1	64.31%	36	
8 Montana 1, 3, 4, 5, 6	1,108	874	(234)	78.88%	-	73.19%	42	
9 Wyoming 1, 4, 5, 6	1,298	991	(307)	76.35%	7	67.23%	47	
10 New Mexico	1,483	1,122	(361)	75.66%	138	61.11%	48	
11 Texas 1, 3, 4, 5	5,569	4,193	(1,376)	75.29%	6	62.07%	49	
<b>TOTALS 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</b>	<b>28,918</b>	<b>23,754</b>	<b>(5,164)</b>	<b>82.14%</b>	<b>446</b>			

02/23/23		2023 EASTERN REGION STANDINGS Ernie LaBerge (MA) National Vice-Commander						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 France 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	158	149	(9)	94.30%	1	85.26%	3	
2 Maryland 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	16,058	14,058	(2,000)	87.55%	102	79.09%	6	
3 Delaware 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	2,430	2,121	(309)	87.28%	19	74.79%	8	
4 Vermont 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	3,818	3,275	(543)	85.78%	18	77.97%	12	
5 New Hampshire 4, 5, 6, 7	5,677	4,818	(859)	84.87%	29	75.33%	19	
6 Rhode Island 4, 5, 7	336	284	(52)	84.52%	7	72.73%	22	
7 Pennsylvania 4, 5, 6, 7	60,803	51,372	(9,431)	84.49%	495	77.86%	23	
8 West Virginia 4, 5, 6, 7	2,362	1,950	(412)	82.56%	2	68.98%	30	
9 New Jersey 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	9,386	7,443	(1,943)	79.30%	16	70.69%	39	
10 Maine 5, 6	2,617	2,074	(543)	79.25%	25	68.45%	40	
11 Connecticut 4, 5, 6	1,867	1,474	(393)	78.95%	-	70.59%	41	
12 New York 4, 5, 6	29,864	23,340	(6,524)	78.15%	53	71.61%	43	
13 Massachusetts 4, 6	5,442	4,165	(1,277)	76.53%	37	67.59%	46	
14 Dist. of Columbia	114	65	(49)	57.02%	-	45.13%	54	
<b>TOTALS 4, 5, 6, 7</b>	<b>140,932</b>	<b>116,588</b>	<b>(24,344)</b>	<b>82.73%</b>	<b>804</b>			

02/23/23		2023 SUPER SIX STANDINGS						
Detachment	Goal	Actual	Needed for Quota	Percent	Increase	Renewal Rate	National Rank	Quota Date
1 Florida 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	21,519	19,034	(2,485)	88.45%	123	72.47%	4	
2 Ohio 1, 4, 5, 6, 7	30,636	26,198	(4,438)	85.51%	39	78.73%	17	
3 Pennsylvania 5, 6, 7	60,803	51,372	(9,431)	84.49%	495	77.86%	23	
4 Michigan 4, 5, 6, 7	24,271	20,114	(4,157)	82.87%	232	73.44%	29	
5 Indiana 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	36,387	29,937	(6,450)	82.27%	269	75.42%	31	
6 New York 4, 5, 6	29,864	23,340	(6,524)	78.15%	53	71.61%	43	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>203,480</b>	<b>169,995</b>	<b>(33,485)</b>	<b>83.54%</b>	<b>1,211</b>			

<b>National Totals 4, 5, 6, 7, 8</b>	<b>367,798</b>	<b>304,850</b>	<b>(62,948)</b>	<b>82.89%</b>	<b>2,298</b>	<b>73.81%</b>		
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Q Quota

- 1 Met 09/14/22 goal of 10%
- 2 Met 10/13/22 goal of 25%
- 3 Met 11/09/22 goal of 35%
- 4 Met 12/14/22 goal of 45%
- 5 Met 01/19/23 goal of 60%
- 6 Met 02/15/23 goal of 75%
- 7 Met 03/15/23 goal of 80%
- 8 Met 04/19/23 goal of 90%
- 9 Met 05/17/23 goal of 100%
- 10 Met 07/16/23 goal of 105%



# Sons of The American Legion National Commander

## Christopher Carlton



# Homecoming



## BE THE ONE

### March 24 & 25, 2023

**Friday Night Dinner at the Commanders home Post #495 with entertainment.**

Number of guests  X \$20.00 =

**Saturday visit to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum Followed by lunch at Post #500 and trip to Indiana War Memorial.**

Number of guests  X \$45.00 =

**Saturday night Homecoming Dinner at Post #64, buffet style Program and Entertainment to follow.**

Number of guests  X \$55.00 =

Total Amount =

### Count me in!

Name:  Guests:

**Hotel accommodations at Holiday Inn Indianapolis Airport North, an IHG Hotel.  
5601 Fortune Circle W, Indianapolis, IN 46241, 317-348-0033  
Use Link below for booking**

[https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=INDFC&checkInDate=24&checkInMonthYear=022023&checkOutDate=26&checkOutMonthYear=022023&\\_PMID=99801505&GPC=GRS&cn=no&viewfullsite=true](https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=INDFC&checkInDate=24&checkInMonthYear=022023&checkOutDate=26&checkOutMonthYear=022023&_PMID=99801505&GPC=GRS&cn=no&viewfullsite=true)

**Hotel Reservations are available until **2/24/2023****

**Hotel Airport Shuttle Available, 24/7 Call Hotel**

**Transportation to all events, entertainment and breakfast will be provided at hotel listed above.**

**Breakfast Buffet Available at Hotel listed above Saturday & Sunday with advance order check “X” for yes and list number of people below.**

**Saturday:**  **Guests:**       **Sunday:**  **Guests:**

**You may pay by Check or Credit/Debit Card**

**Name on Card:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Card #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EXP:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CVV:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Or,**

**Make check payable to: “Carlton Homecoming”**

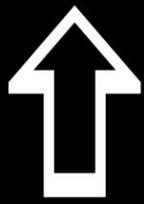
**Send Homecoming Reservations and check or CC Info to:**

**Raymond Giehl, Jr.**

**6767 W Brier Creek Dr., New Palestine, IN 46163**

**Preferred, Email to: [rpgiehl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rpgiehl@sbcglobal.net)**

**Homecoming Reservations RSVP By **3/18/2023****



Your donations to the Child Welfare Foundation  
 give youth-serving organizations across the nation  
 the means to support the needs of children



# CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION

## PROVIDING COMFORT, CARE, AND HOPE FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN



Made with  
 Your Donations

### CWF Donation Facts

Serving Size: A Full Heart  
 Servings Per Can: Thousands of Hearts

Amount/Serving	What U Can
Benefits from Donation	Boundless
	% Daily Value
Generating Kindness	100%
Enhancing Children's Lives	100%
Assisting Military Children	100%
Supporting The American Legion	100%
Making a Difference for Kids	100%

#### NO EXPIRATION DATE

**INGREDIENTS:** Established in 1954, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation was developed as a repository of funds from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children in this country.

- ★ Millions of dollars in grants awarded
- ★ Improving the quality of life for children
- ★ Contributing to the needs of children and youth
- ★ Making a difference one donation at a time

For more information, visit us online at  
[www.legion.org/childwelfare](http://www.legion.org/childwelfare)



Your donations to the Child Welfare Foundation  
 give youth-serving organizations across the nation  
 the means to support the needs of children



**CHILD WELFARE  
 FOUNDATION  
 PROVIDING  
 COMFORT, CARE,  
 AND HOPE  
 FOR AMERICA'S  
 CHILDREN**

**CWF Donation Facts**

Serving Size: A Full Heart  
 Servings Per Can: Thousands of Hearts

Amount/Serving	What U Can
<b>Benefits from Donation</b>	<b>Boundless</b>
	<b>% Daily Value</b>
Generating Kindness	<b>100%</b>
Enhancing Children's Lives	<b>100%</b>
Assisting Military Children	<b>100%</b>
Supporting The American Legion	<b>100%</b>
Making a Difference for Kids	<b>100%</b>

**NO EXPIRATION DATE**

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- ★ Making a difference one donation at a time

For more information, visit us online at [www.legion.org/childwelfare](http://www.legion.org/childwelfare)

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 Your Donations*

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# American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

*"Dedicated to the betterment of all children"*

## 100% Per Capita Banner Program

### Request Form

2022 – 2023

Each American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron, American Legion Riders chapter or Eight and Forty salon donating at least one dollar for each member during the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation's award year (1 June - 31 May) may receive a beautiful banner/streamer.

To qualify for the 2022-2023 year a post, unit, squadron, riders, or salon must donate one dollar per member based upon its official membership total from their national organization as of June 1, 2022. The post, unit, squadron, riders, or salon has from June 1, 2022, to May 31, 2023, to submit this form, **along with the donation**, to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

Post, unit, squadron, riders, or salon name

Address

City

State

Zip

Post, unit, squadron, or salon membership total as of June 1, 2022:

Total enclosed: \$

#### Banner Request Form

Send completed form to:

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation

PO Box 1055

Indianapolis, IN 46206

**ALL REQUEST FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY May 31, 2023**