



SALUTE

A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

Date: August 2026



107th National Convention Louisville, KY

Message from the Detachment Commander

Brothers,

July has been a month filled with patriotism, fellowship, and honoring the traditions that make our organization and our nation strong. It has been a privilege to represent the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Kansas, at several outstanding community events across our state.

On **Independence Day**, I had the honor of attending the **July 4th celebration in Dodge City**. It was inspiring to see families, veterans, and community members come together to celebrate our nation's freedom. Events like these remind us that the liberties we enjoy today were secured through the sacrifices of generations of American service members. As Sons, we have a responsibility to preserve that legacy and to ensure those sacrifices are never forgotten.

Later in the month, I attended the **153rd Soldiers and Sailors Reunion in Erie, Kansas**. This historic gathering continues one of the nation's longest-running traditions of honoring military service and bringing together veterans, their families, and patriotic organizations. It was an honor to represent our Detachment and to witness the continued commitment to remembering those who have served our country with courage and dedication.

I also had the opportunity to participate in the **Dodge City Days Parade**. Seeing our organization represented in such a visible way is an important reminder that our presence in our communities



matters. Every parade, ceremony, and public event gives us the chance to share the mission of the Sons of The American Legion, promote patriotism, and demonstrate our continued support for veterans, active-duty military, and their families.

I want to thank every Squadron and member who volunteers their time to participate in community events, support local American Legion programs, mentor our youth, and serve our veterans. Your dedication strengthens not only our organization but also the communities we proudly call home. As we move into the coming months, I encourage each Squadron to continue finding opportunities to be visible in your communities. Whether it's participating in a local parade, assisting with veteran outreach, or volunteering alongside your American Legion Family, every act of service reflects the values we stand for.

Thank you for all you do on behalf of the Sons of The American Legion, the American Legion Family, and the veterans we proudly serve.

For God and Country,

FROM YOUR COMMANDER

MICHAEL WEBER

det.cmdr.ks@gmail.com

spidercreek220@gmail.com

620-430-0651

Message from Detachment Vice Commander,

Greetings Fellow Sons,

As membership is winding down for the 2026 year we are still sadly in 46th place. We still have a few weeks till National convention to get some renewals. I know many of you are concentrating on 2027 now, as we are at our squadron, but don't forget to remind them if they missed last year, they can still keep their continuous years. Offer to just collect the \$20 for last year as they pay for this year. The membership cards are out and you should have them by the time you are reading this. If not please contact me, so we can find out why you haven't received them. Many of you should have seen the Re-membership plan by now. I hope you are taking advantage of it and giving it a try. If we retain 90% of our renewals we have a great chance of making our goal for the 2027 year. Let's all pick up the phone this month and do a buddy check! Ask how they are doing (RE-connect), invite them to an event (Re-connect) and your chances just increased for a simple (Re-new). Just in case you haven't seen the plan. You just did. It's that simple to Re-Membership. Thanks for all you do!



For God and Country

Your,

Detachment of Kansas

Vice Commander

Jeff Kerns

Message from the Detachment Adjutant

Greetings, Kansas Sons!

I've devoted my article this month to promoting the American Legion's position on the Take Care of American Veterans Act (TCAVA). Our American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley has taken a strong stand on this legislation, and I call on all Sons to support him and the American Legion in the effort to get this bill passed. Please take a few minutes to contact your representatives in support of this bill.



Grassroots Support: *STAY INFORMED ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES*

Want to see the issues Legionnaires are discussing with lawmakers? The 119th Congress, 2nd Session Legislative Priorities materials are available now. View and download them on the Legion website [here](#).

CALL TO ACTION



From American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley (KS):

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

The American Legion has never backed down from a fight for veterans. We did not quit on the GI Bill or Agent Orange, and we won't now.

The Take Care of America's Veterans Act includes more than 60 measures that will benefit tens of millions of veterans and their families — especially Gold Star families, combat-injured medically retired veterans, surviving spouses, and caregivers. It includes critical funding for expanded suicide prevention programs and tens of billions of dollars for veterans' programs are at risk if Congress fails to act.

We will not be distracted by misinformation or fear-mongering. The facts matter: TCAVA includes no retroactive cuts. VA/OMB will make rating changes by regulation regardless of what happens to TCAVA, and future veterans rated under the new rules will still have a stronger VA healthcare and benefits system that works for them. The question is not between TCAVA and a perfect bill. The question is whether those savings will support veterans' programs or be lost to the Treasury.

Those who endorse AND oppose TCAVA have supported efforts in Congress to pass all these bills for years. But notably, those who continue to oppose this bill have not offered a realistic alternative to secure these critical reforms. Passing a "clean" bill waiving PAYGO has not happened, despite years of bipartisan effort for a slew of these bills and will not happen now. Finding another DOD or VA offset has not happened. Those claiming otherwise are not being objective or forthright. Too many people have already waited years - in some cases decades - for these critical reforms. And none of these hypothetical options will stop VA/OMB from finalizing the rule.

We stand with 22 other veterans and military service organizations who have joined this call.

A postponed vote does not mean the fight is over. We will continue to work with members of Congress and staff in both chambers, of both parties, to find a way forward. The time to act is now. [Contact your members of Congress to urge them to pass TCAVA](#). We urge Congress to bring TCAVA to a vote as soon as possible and pass the bill.

As the voice of nearly 3 million members of The American Legion family, we remain fully committed to this fight!



Dan K. Wiley
American Legion National Commander

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT TAKE CARE OF AMERICA'S VETERANS ACT?

TCAVA: PODCAST ADDRESSES KEY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

This article's original publication can be found [here](#)

AMERICAN LEGION LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR JOINS TANGO ALPHA LIMA PODCAST TO EXPLAIN TCAVA, WHAT THE LEGISLATION DOES, HOW IT SUPPORTS MENTAL HEALTH AND MUCH MORE.

A special Tango Alpha Lima podcast addresses the Take Care of America's Veterans Act, or TCAVA, featuring American Legion Legislative Director Cole Lyle.

In [this week's episode](#), podcast co-host Stacy Pearsall quizzes Lyle about what TCAVA does, where it stands, and why veterans across the country should be paying attention. (For more information, facts and videos, visit the [TCAVA web hub](#).)

Pearsall was medically retired from the Air Force after 10 years because of combat wounds sustained in Iraq. “My military retirement is offset by my VA disability compensation,” she says. “I’m also rated for tinnitus. That means this legislation could affect me from more than one direction.”

Calling TCVA, “the largest and one of the most impactful pieces of legislation to impact the broader veteran community,” Lyle discusses the nuances of the bill, the policy and more.

Among the questions addressed:

- What is TCVA and why has The American Legion invested so much political capital into getting this legislation passed?
- Clarifies one of the criticisms of TCVA, which is that the legislation is basically robbing Peter to pay Paul.
- What specifically will TCVA do to improve mental health services and suicide prevention?
- How are my ratings for tinnitus and sleep apnea going to be affected?
- What is access to care under the TCVA umbrella and why is it important?
- What are the major changes for caregivers under TCVA?

“Whether you support the bill, oppose parts of it, or simply haven't made up your mind, our goal today is to give you the information you need to make an informed decision,” Pearsall says.

Don’t miss this inspiring conversation. Subscribe to the Tango Alpha Lima Podcast on Spotify, YouTube, Apple Podcasts, or wherever you listen. Join a community that celebrates authentic veteran stories and proves that service is a lifelong commitment.

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW

[Contact your Members of Congress today](#) and urge them to support the Take Care of America's Veterans Act. This is not a drill, and they need to hear your voices. We either pass this legislation, or we lose critical funding that our nation's veterans have earned and depend on.

[Tell your Representatives to Support TCVA Today](#)

A.L.F. Dogs for Kansas children of deployed servicemembers:

The Detachment of Kansas Sons of The American Legion is proud to announce a special project designed to support the children of our deployed military service members.

Our goal is to raise funds to purchase A.L.F. (American Legion Family) Dogs that will be presented to children whose parent or parents are currently deployed in service to our nation. These plush dogs serve as a reminder that the entire American Legion Family is thinking of them and appreciates the sacrifices they make alongside their loved ones.

Each A.L.F. Dog proudly wears a red shirt displaying the four American Legion Family emblems:

- The American Legion
- American Legion Auxiliary
- Sons of The American Legion
- American Legion Riders



These dogs represent the love, support, and unity of the entire American Legion Family. While they may seem like a simple gift, they can provide comfort and reassurance to a child during the difficult time of a parent's deployment.

We are asking each Squadron to consider donating to help fund this meaningful project. Every contribution, regardless of the amount, will help us place an A.L.F. Dog into the hands of a deserving military child here in Kansas. The minimum order is 144, and the cost is \$10.00 each, so we are needing \$1,440 to make this project a reality. If each Squadron can contribute \$10, we will be well on our way to funding this project.

Together, we can remind these young heroes that they are never alone and that the American Legion Family stands beside them every step of the way.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our veterans, active-duty military, their families, and our communities. We sincerely appreciate your consideration and support of this important mission.

For additional information please contact me at det.adj.ks@gmail.com.

To donate, please send a check to Detachment Finance Officer Michael Saindon, 312 E Tall Tree Rd, Derby KS 67037

Other Upcoming events:

- Kansas American Legion Family Homecoming – 15 Aug 2026 – See flyer below
- SAL National Convention – 27-29 Aug 2026 – Louisville, Ky
- Kansas American Legion Riders State Rally – 25-26 Sep, 2026 – Post 370, Overland Park
- Eisenhower Pilgrimage – 17 Oct 2026 – Abilene

- Kansas American Legion Family Vice-Commander's/Vice President's Homecoming – 17 October, 2026 – see flyer below

Thanks for all you do and remember to **Be The One!**

Chris Krueger

Detachment Adjutant

Message from the 1st District Commander

Happy July, Detachment of Kansas! I am trying something a bit different for the SALute, as Districts don't usually have an article in the monthly newsletter. I figure we too have something to offer.

Having just assumed this new-to-me-role in the 1st District SAL, I want to start off by celebrating a couple of our Squadrons. First, hats off to new Squadron 423 in Mayetta. They were chartered in 2025 and have worked hard to grow their membership their first year. It was a pleasure to go to Squadron 142 in Perry to present them with their 2025-26 membership award. I will be doing the same thing at Squadron 6 in Atchison soon. They not only reached 138% membership but reached it by May 1, 2026. Great job to both squadrons. That will be something for all 1st District Squadrons to shoot for in 2026-27, including my own at Squadron 400!

Our new Detachment Vice Commander Kerns has provided all SAL Districts what he has titled the "Re-Membership Program." I trust that you all have a copy of it by now. The concept is simple; think about why we, and others, joined the SAL, and reach out to our members so they know we are thinking about them and value them. Personal story: I called a member of our Squadron who had not been to a meeting for many months. Turns out his wife has been experiencing serious health problems and he was devoting his time to her care. He came to our next meeting and then paid his dues for 2027 even before our Early Bird membership drive on July 4th! Remembering our members and talking to them works. We started another new membership "thing" at Squadron 400 in July. We bought patriotic postcards and postcard stamps and for the first time mailed a Happy Birthday card to each member born in July, including those whose membership had lapsed. Too early to tell if it will make a difference, but it will be a monthly duty for our Adjutant.

August is nearly here and so is the Homecoming for our Department Commander, Detachment Commander, and Auxiliary President. District Homecomings will be coming soon as well. 1st District's will be on October 10th, with the location TBD (Looks like Posts 44, 161, and 400 are in the running). Please attend these events, as well as Squadron and District meetings. Our members and their families are our Squadrons and Districts, and we appreciate each one of you.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer, and for all our ALR brothers and sisters, ride safe.

Respectfully,

Steve Christenberry

1st District SAL Commander

Notes from the Editor

Summer flew by. If you have something your Squadron or District is doing and want the rest of the Detachment to know, let us know.

We would be glad to share the news.

Also it is not too early to get the ball rolling and get off the goose egg for membership. Let those members you haven't heard from in a while know you are there for them and let's work towards 100% retention. It is equally as important to keep those members we have as it is to go find new ones.

Fraternally yours,

Rick Miller

Join us as we
CELEBRATE
— ★ the leadership of our ★ —
AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



AMERICAN LEGION

VICE COMMANDER

ED BORING



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

VICE PRESIDENT

LAURIE KERNS



SONS OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION

VICE COMMANDER

JEFF KERNS

Join us for a
HOMECOMING

HONORING THEIR SERVICE. SUPPORTING THEIR MISSION. CELEBRATING TOGETHER.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026
BEGINNING AT NOON



GREYHOUND HALL OF FAME
407 S BUCKEYE
ABILENE, KANSAS



MEAL:

Roast Beef or Italian Chicken
with Sides

PLEASE RSVP
BY SCANNING THE CODE HERE:



venmo

Jeffry Kerns
@blkcldkerns

★ ★ PLEASE RSVP BY OCTOBER 5TH ★ ★

\$15

PER PERSON
IN ADVANCE

\$20

AT THE DOOR

★ We Thank You for Your Service ★

AMERICAN
LEGION
FAMILY

★ JOIN US FOR THE ★

DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS

FAMILY *Homecoming*

★ STRONGER TOGETHER ★

Celebrating Service, Leadership, and the Kansas American Legion Family

HOSTED BY AMERICAN LEGION POST 4, WICHITA, KANSAS



GEORGE W. POGGE
TAL DEPARTMENT
COMMANDER



KRISTEN HENSLEY
ALA DEPARTMENT
PRESIDENT



MICHAEL WEBER
SAL DETACHMENT
COMMANDER



SATURDAY,
AUGUST 15, 2026
11:00 AM - 2:30 PM



AMERICAN LEGION POST 4
816 N WATER STREET
WICHITA, KANSAS

RSVP BY AUGUST 5, 2026



**MEATLOAF
WITH SIDE & DESSERT**

\$20

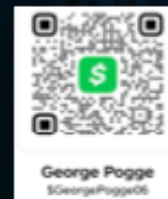
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
MICHAEL WEBER
440 Prairie Road
Dodge City, KS 67801



VENMO



PAYPAL



-OR-

LEADERSHIP ★ SERVICE ★ VETERANS

Stronger Together for Kansas Veterans

★ SONS OF ★ THE AMERICAN LEGION

***DID YOU
KNOW?***

★
YOU CAN RENEW YOUR

2027
MEMBERSHIP
ONLINE!



IT'S QUICK AND EASY!



legion.org/sal-renew



**RENEW WITH A
CREDIT CARD**



**USE YOUR
LAST NAME AND
MEMBERSHIP ID**



**UPDATE YOUR
CONTACT
INFORMATION**



**2026 MEMBERSHIP CARDS
EXPIRE DECEMBER 31ST, 2026.**

★ **DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT EXPIRES – RENEW TODAY!** ★



54th NATIONAL CONVENTION AGENDA FLYER
KENTUCKY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER (KICC)
LOUISVILLE, KY | AUGUST 28 - 30, 2026

SAL National Convention Registration For Delegates, Alternate Delegates, and Guests

National Staff Offices - KICC, Hall A, Upper Concourse

- 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM - Wednesday, August 26 - Friday, August 28
- 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Saturday, August 29 (hours subject to change)

Wednesday, August 26 - Monday, August 31

SAL Staff Offices - KICC, Hall A, Upper Concourse

- 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM (hours subject to change)

Friday, August 28, 2026

SAL Training - KICC, L009, Lower Concourse

- 8:00 AM - 8:45 AM SAL Communications/Public Speaking
- 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM SAL Squadron/Post Relationships
- 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM SAL Resolutions
- 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM SAL Effective Networking

SAL National Convention Committee Meetings

KICC, L011, Lower Concourse

- 8:00 AM Internal Affairs
- 9:30 AM Membership and Squadron Activities (M&SA)
- 11:00 AM Finance

KICC, L002, Lower Concourse

- 8:00 AM Children and Youth (C&Y)
- 9:30 AM Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R)
- 11:00 AM Constitutional Amendments

KICC, L012, Lower Concourse

- 8:00 AM Americanism
- 9:30 AM Scrapbook / History Book Contest
- 11:00 AM Legislation & Rules

KICC, Ballroom C, Main Concourse

- 11:00 AM Credentials

Saturday, August 29, 2026

SAL Youth 250 - KICC, L002, Lower Concourse

- 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM (hours subject to change)

SAL National Executive Committee and General Sessions - KICC, Ballroom C, Main Concourse

SAL Pre-Convention National Executive Committee

- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Friday, August 28 (hours subject to change)

Sons of The American Legion National Convention General Sessions

- 1:00 PM (Opening) - Friday, August 28
- 9:00 AM - Saturday, August 29
- 8:00 AM - Sunday, August 30

SAL Post-Convention National Executive Committee

- 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM - Sunday, August 31 (hours subject to change)

Monday, August 31, 2026

SAL Transition Meeting - KICC, L003, Lower Concourse (National Officers & Chairmen Only)

- 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM (hours subject to change)

