SALUTE

A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

Date: November 2026



Message from the Detachment Commander



Kansas Sons of The American Legion: Serving Our Veterans, Children, and Communities

The Sons of The American Legion (SAL) across Kansas continue to demonstrate what it means to serve our veterans, support our communities, and make a difference in the lives of children and families. October has been a busy month, with homecomings, community events, fundraising efforts, and opportunities to work alongside the entire American Legion Family.

Every event we attend and every dollar we raise represents the dedication of our members and their commitment to the principles of The American Legion. I want to thank everyone who continues to give their time, energy, and support to our programs. Our success depends on working together, communicating with one another, and remembering why we became members in the first place.

October Events and Accomplishments

October 10, we attended the District 3 Homecoming in Arkansas City, Kansas. It was another opportunity to get together with members of the American Legion Family, visit with fellow Legionnaires, and continue promoting our programs and projects.

During our time in Manhattan, approximately $650 was raised for the ALF Dog Project. On October 11, we traveled to Emporia for the District 4 Homecoming, where another $725 was raised for the project. These contributions show what can happen when our members and communities come together to

support a worthwhile cause. Every dollar helps us move forward, and I appreciate everyone who participated and contributed.

On October 16, we visited Chapman, Kansas, to spend time with the American Legion Family ahead of the Eisenhower Pilgrimage held the following day. These visits are important because they allow us to strengthen relationships, share information, and remind our local organizations that the Sons of The American Legion is an active part of the Legion Family.

October 17 brought us to Abilene, Kansas, for the Eisenhower Pilgrimage. We also held a lunch for the Vice Commanders' Homecoming at the Greyhound Museum in Abilene. During this event, approximately $175 was raised for the ALF Dog Project. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day a success and supported our fundraising efforts.

On October 18, members gathered in Hutchinson for our Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting. Along with conducting department business, we continued our commitment to supporting young people in our communities. We raised $300 for the Lyons, Kansas, Junior ROTC program to help cover registration costs for junior shooting sports. Supporting programs like this gives young people opportunities to develop responsibility, discipline, confidence, and sportsmanship. These are valuable lessons that can serve them throughout their lives.

As October came to a close, we visited Independence, Kansas on October 30–31 for Neewollah, the city's annual celebration. The American Legion Family participated, providing another opportunity to be visible in our community, meet the public, and demonstrate the good work our organizations do throughout Kansas.

Commander's Project: Children's Organ Transplant Association

Our Commander's Project is the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA). This project supports children who need organ transplants or who have already undergone a transplant. Families facing these situations often experience tremendous emotional and financial challenges. By raising funds and bringing attention to this cause, we can help make a difficult time a little easier for children and their families.

I encourage every squadron to learn more about COTA and look for ways to get involved. Fundraisers do not have to be large to make a difference. A small donation, a local fundraiser, or a community event can all contribute to the overall goal. When every squadron does its part, the combined effort can have a meaningful impact.

We should be proud to support a project that helps children and families when they need it most. Please continue sharing information about COTA with your members and communities, and look for opportunities to support this important work throughout the year.

Continuing Our Support for the ALF Dog Project

We are also continuing to raise money for the ALF Dog Project. The fundraising efforts throughout October show that our members are willing to step up and support this cause wherever they go. From Manhattan and Emporia to Abilene, every contribution helps keep the project moving forward.

I want to thank everyone who has donated, helped organize an event, or encouraged others to contribute. Please keep the ALF Dog Project in mind as your squadron plans upcoming activities. Whether you organize a special fundraiser or add fundraising to an event you already have scheduled, every effort counts.

The key is to keep talking about the project, keep our members informed, and continue working together to reach our goals.

November 22-Hour Vigil in Lyons, Kansas

One of our important upcoming events is the 22-hour vigil scheduled for November 22 in Lyons, Kansas. We are looking for volunteers to help serve during this event.

A successful vigil depends on people willing to give their time and take part. If you can volunteer, please consider stepping forward. I encourage squadrons to share this information with their members and help us find volunteers to make sure the event is properly supported.

Additional information about the vigil, including details for those interested in volunteering, is available at **SALKansas.org**. Please visit the website and share the information with your squadron.

Stay Informed and Stay Involved

Communication is one area where we can always improve. Our members need to know what is happening across the state, what projects we are supporting, and what opportunities are available to participate. We have several ways to help keep everyone informed.

Our Kansas Sons of The American Legion Facebook page and **SALKansas.org** contain important information about department activities, upcoming events, programs, and opportunities to get involved. Please take time to visit these resources regularly. Share the information with your squadron members and encourage them to stay connected.

If your squadron is holding an event, conducting a fundraiser, or completing a community service project, let us know about it. Sharing our accomplishments helps other squadrons learn from one another and may give them ideas they can use in their own communities.

Working Together for a Stronger SAL

As we move forward, I ask every member to stay involved, support our projects, and encourage others to join the Sons of The American Legion. Membership is important, but what we do with that membership is what truly matters. We must continue reaching out to eligible family members, welcoming new members, and showing our communities the value of being part of the American Legion Family.

October has shown that our members are making a difference through fundraising, community involvement, youth support, and fellowship. We should be proud of these accomplishments, but we cannot stop here. There is more work to do, more families to help, and more opportunities to serve.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Kansas Sons of The American Legion. Thank you to our squadrons, volunteers, donors, and the entire American Legion Family for everything you do.

Keep up the good work, keep supporting our projects, and keep spreading the word about the Sons of The American Legion. Together, we can accomplish great things for our veterans, our children, and our communities

FROM YOUR COMMANDER

MICHAEL WEBER
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spidercreek220@gmail.com
620-430-0651

Message from Detachment Vice Commander,



Fellow Sons,

As we approach November, we need to make sure we meet the challenge of completing five Buddy Checks. This is an important opportunity to show our members that we care about them and that they are an important part of our organization.

Please continue working with the Re-Membership Plan, and don't hold up renewals. Every renewal matters, and we need to stay focused on retaining the members we already have while continuing to grow.

Most importantly, reach out to your members. Check on them, make sure they are doing okay, and remind them that they are valued. Sometimes, a simple phone call or personal visit is all it takes to let someone know they haven't been forgotten.

Membership is more than collecting dues. It's about people, fellowship, and looking out for one another. Let's make those Buddy Checks count, keep our renewals moving, and invite our members back into the family.

Thank you for all you do for the Sons of the American Legion. Let's keep moving forward together!

For God and Country,

Your,
Detachment of Kansas
Vice Commander
Jeff Kerns

Message from the Detachment Adjutant



Greetings, Kansas Sons!

This month, the Kansas American Legion Family will host a very meaningful event, the 22 Hour Vigil.

On November 22 and 23, members of the American Legion Family across Kansas will come together for a solemn 22-hour vigil designed to bring attention to one of the most serious challenges facing America's veteran community — suicide.

*The **22-Hour Vigil** will begin at **2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 22, 2026, and continue until 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Monday, November 23**.*

*During the vigil, members of the Kansas American Legion Family will stand watch in **22-minute increments over a flag-draped casket**, symbolizing the veterans who are lost to suicide and the need for their fellow veterans, families and communities to stand watch over one another.*

*The number 22 is significant. For years, estimates of veteran suicide have commonly been represented by the figure of 22 deaths a day, although current estimates vary. The American Legion emphasizes that regardless of the exact number, **one veteran lost to suicide is one too many**.*

The vigil is more than a remembrance. It is a call to action.

*The event is being held to promote **The American Legion's "Be the One" initiative**, a national effort to reduce veteran and servicemember suicide by encouraging people to recognize when someone may be struggling, reach out, listen and help connect them with support.*

*"Be the One" reminds us that saving a life does not always require special training or knowing exactly what to say. Sometimes it begins with simply asking a veteran, **"Are you OK?"***

*The American Legion encourages its members and the public to **Be the One to act, to call, to listen and to reach out when a veteran is struggling.** The initiative is built around ending the stigma surrounding mental health treatment and empowering Legion Family members, veterans, military families and members of the community to take action.*

A Family Standing Together

*The 22-Hour Vigil is intended to involve the **entire American Legion Family of Kansas** — The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, The American Legion Riders, First Responders as well as members of the community.*
Members will take their places beside the casket in 22-minute shifts, ensuring that the vigil continues without interruption for the full 22 hours.

Each person who stands watch will represent more than a number.

They will represent a veteran who served.

A family who misses someone.

A friend who wishes they had known what to say.

And the countless veterans who are struggling today and need someone to notice, listen and care.

The quiet hours of the vigil are particularly significant. While much of the community sleeps, members of the Legion Family will remain standing watch — a visible reminder that the responsibility to look after our veterans does not end when the uniform comes off.

Bringing the Conversation Into the Light

Veteran suicide can be difficult to talk about. The Be the One initiative seeks to change that by encouraging open conversations and helping people recognize warning signs and respond appropriately.

The American Legion encourages its members to ask veterans how they are doing, listen when someone needs to talk and reach out when a veteran is struggling. It also provides suicide-prevention training to help Legion Family members become better prepared to respond when someone may be at risk.

The Kansas 22-Hour Vigil is intended to turn those words into action.

*Those attending the vigil are encouraged not only to stand watch, but also to learn about **Be the One**, suicide-prevention resources and ways they can help veterans in their own communities.*

The message is simple:

Ask. Listen. Act. Be the One.

More Than 22 Minutes

Each 22-minute shift during the vigil will carry a special meaning.
For those 22 minutes, the person standing watch will be asked to think about the significance of the mission. The goal is not simply to mark time, but to remember why the vigil is taking place.

When one person's 22-minute shift ends, another person will step forward.
And then another.
And another.

For 22 hours, the Kansas American Legion Family will demonstrate what it means to stand together for those who have served our nation.

The vigil also serves as a reminder that veterans should never have to face their struggles alone.

A conversation can make a difference.
A phone call can make a difference.
A friend who refuses to give up can make a difference.
One person can make a difference.

Be the One.

The American Legion's Be the One initiative is a national mission to reduce the number of veterans and servicemembers lost to suicide. The organization encourages everyone — veterans, family members, friends, caregivers and community members — to become part of the effort.

The Kansas 22-Hour Vigil will give the American Legion Family an opportunity to remember those who have been lost, honor those who served and, most importantly, reach out to those who are still here.
Because the ultimate goal is not simply to remember the 22.

The goal is to save the next one.

Vigil 22 will be held at 101 West Commercial Street, Lyons Kansas at the Rice County Courthouse. November 22, 2026 at 2:00 PM.

For more information contact: Terry Harris @ 620-910-7998 or Angela Evans @ 719-659-0837

Make plans to attend the 2026 Veterans Strategy Summit!

The American Legion Family is encouraged to attend this important summit focused on establishing legislative priorities and developing strategies to advance veterans' interests during the upcoming Kansas legislative session. Join fellow veterans, supporters, state legislators, and Veterans Service Organizations to discuss key issues, strengthen advocacy, and ensure veterans' voices are heard.

📅 Saturday, November 14, 2026
🕐 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
📍 Kansas State Capitol Rotunda, Topeka
🚪 Enter through the North Side Visitors Entrance
🇺🇸 Stronger Veterans. Stronger Kansas.

See the flyer at the end of the SALute.

One more thing…

I would like to add a personal note – I announced at the Fall SAL Detachment Executive Committee Meeting that I would not be a candidate for Detachment Adjutant at Detachment Convention next June. I was asked by National ALR Chairman David Heredia to take a larger role in the planning for the 2027 National Legacy Run, and that is an invitation that I couldn't turn down.

However, I recognize that I can't fill all the roles that I currently hold to the standard that I set for myself, so something had to give. I made the announcement at the Fall DEC to allow time for selecting my replacement, and for me to give them all the tools needed to excel at the role. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as your Detachment Adjutant and will help however I can to ensure a seamless transition. If you're interested in learning more about the role, feel free to contact me at det.adj.ks@gmail.com and we'll talk!

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

Chris Krueger
Detachment Adjutant

Message from the Finance Officer

S.A.L. Detachment of Kansas Scholarships

Did you know every year the Detachment of Kansas gives out 5, five hundred dollars scholarships and 1, one thousand dollars scholarships.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? 1. The applicant should be an average or better student scholastically. 2. High School seniors, undergraduate college students, and adults holding High School Diplomas and/or College credits who are enrolled or intend to enroll in an approved Junior College, College, University or Trade School located in the state of Kansas will be considered. 3. The applicant must be the son, daughter, grandson, or granddaughter of a member of the Kansas Sons of the American Legion or a member of the Kansas Sons of the American Legion for the past three (3) consecutive years. (Please attach copy of current year's membership card of the member from whom eligibility is derived.) SAL members who are US citizens are eligible to apply. 4. The applicant may obtain eligibility through a deceased member whose membership was paid up in The Sons of the American Legion in the year of death. (Please attach certification from Squadron Adjutant.)

Application can be downloaded from https://salkansas.org/resources

HOW TO APPLY 1. Applications must be received in The American Legion Headquarters, 1314 Topeka Ave., Topeka, KS 66612, by February 15. 2. All requested support documents and information in a single envelope deliverable by USPS. 3. Copy of current membership card in the Kansas Sons of the American Legion or Adjutant's certification.

Please share this information!

Mike Saindon

Scholarship Charman


★ 22 VETERANS A DAY. ★
22 HOUR VIGIL
22 HOURS TO HONOR. | 22 LIVES LOST EACH DAY.
Join us as we stand together in remembrance, awareness, and hope for our nation's heroes.
TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.
DATE
NOVEMBER 22, 2026
TIME
STARTING @ 2 PM – 12 PM
(22 CONSECUTIVE HOURS)
LOCATION
LYONS, KANSAS
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
22 A DAY
OUR BROTHERS. OUR SISTERS. OUR MISSION.
Every day, 22 veterans die by suicide.
That's 22 too many.
This 22-hour vigil is a time to remember those we've lost, support those who are struggling, and raise awareness that suicide prevention works.
No one has to face this alone.
HONOR
REMEMBER
SUPPORT
PREVENT
BE THE ONE
TO ASK.
TO LISTEN.
TO REACH OUT.
TO SAVE A LIFE.
Small conversations can make a BIG difference.
Be the One.
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS
REACH OUT
Check in on fellow veterans.
LISTEN
A listening ear can save a life.
ENCOURAGE
Support treatment and resources.
CONTACT INFO
Angela Evans
Phone: 1-719-659-0837
Email: angieevans66@yahoo.com
Terry Harris
Phone: 1-620-910-7998
Email: taharris.sal@gmail.com
AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS
YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
If you or someone you know is in crisis, help is available 24/7.
988 Press 1
TEXT 838255
LEARN MORE.
GET HELP.
GET INVOLVED.
www.kansaslegion.org
★ HONOR. REMEMBER. SUPPORT. PREVENT. ★

Support the A.L.F. Dog Project!

Sons of The American Legion · Detachment of Kansas

Helping comfort Kansas children of deployed military service members

Our Goal: Raise $1,440 to purchase 144 A.L.F. Dogs
Just $10 per dog — every Squadron contribution helps!

Bring Comfort to a Military Child

The Detachment of Kansas Sons of The American Legion is raising funds to purchase A.L.F. (American Legion Family) Dogs for children whose parent or parents are currently deployed in service to our nation.

These plush dogs are more than a gift. Each one is a reminder that the entire American Legion Family is thinking of these young heroes and appreciates the sacrifices they make alongside their loved ones.

Each A.L.F. Dog Represents the American Legion Family

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



Each dog proudly wears a red shirt displaying the four American Legion Family emblems and represents love, support, and unity during the difficult time of a parent's deployment.

How You Can Help

We are asking each Squadron to consider donating to help fund this meaningful project. The minimum order is 144 dogs at $10 each, for a total of $1,440. If each Squadron contributes $10, we will be well on our way to making this project a reality.

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.

Donate Today

Send checks to:
Detachment Finance Officer Michael Saindon
312 E Tall Tree Rd
Derby, KS 67037

Questions? Contact ANEC Terry Harris at taharris.sal@gmail.com.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO DETACHMENT OF KANSAS



2026 VETERANS STRATEGY SUMMIT

★ VETERANS ★ LEGISLATION ★ RESOURCES ★ COMMUNITY ★

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 14, 2026

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

KANSAS STATE CAPITOL
ROTUNDA
TOPEKA, KANSAS

ENTER THROUGH
NORTH SIDE
VISITORS ENTRANCE



★ ALL VETERANS ★
ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

MEET WITH LEGISLATORS
Share your experiences and voice your concerns.

LEARN ABOUT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
Stay informed on issues affecting veterans in Kansas.

CONNECT WITH VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
Discover resources and support services available to you.



★ STRONGER VETERANS ★ *STRONGER KANSAS* ★