



SALUTE

A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

Date: September 2026



Message from the Detachment Commander

August is a great time to remember what the Sons of The American Legion is all about **service, fellowship, and honoring those who served our nation.**

Across Kansas, our squadrons are making a difference through community service, supporting our veterans, helping our Posts, and keeping the American Legion Family strong. Every member has a part in that mission.

This month, I want to challenge every Kansas SAL member to **bring one more person into the family.** Talk to a son, grandson, great-grandson, or eligible family member of a veteran. Tell them what the SAL means to you and invite them to a meeting.



Get One for the Legion

If every Squadron found just one new member, think about what that would mean for Kansas. More volunteers. More community projects. More support for veterans. And a stronger American Legion Family.

Don't wait for someone to walk through the door—**go find them.**

Don't Forget ALF Dogs!

The American Legion Family's **ALF Dog program originally started in Wisconsin** is another great way to make a difference. Kansas adopted this program to help bring attention to the needs of veterans and their families while giving us another opportunity to show what the American Legion Family stands for. We are looking to get this program back up and running in the Kansas detachment we are looking for DONATIONS to purchase new A.L.F. dog to be giving to way.

Whether you're helping with a fundraiser, participating in an event, or simply spreading the word, your involvement matters.

One Member. One Veteran. One Mission.

As we move through August, let's keep our focus simple:

Find one. Invite one. Serve one.

Let's continue building the Sons of The American Legion in Kansas—not just for today's members, but for the generations of veterans and their families who will need us tomorrow.

I would also encourage all sons to look up CHILDREN ORGAN TRANSPLANT ASSOCIATION. AT (cota.org) As a legion family member, you can help a child in need of life saving transplant by working with COTA. As your Commander of the Detachment of Kansas I have choice this organization as my commander project

Kansas SAL—let's keep serving, keep growing, and keep the SALute strong!

For God and Country,

FROM YOUR COMMANDER

MICHAEL WEBER

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Message from Past National Vice Commander Terry Harris,

Kansas American Legion Family to Stand Watch in Honor of Veterans and Promote "Be the One"

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

Message from Finance Officer Michael Saindon,

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

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 TCAVA, "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 TCAVA and why has The American Legion invested so much political capital into getting this legislation passed?
- Clarifies one of the criticisms of TCAVA, which is that the legislation is basically robbing Peter to pay Paul.
- What specifically will TCAVA 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 TCAVA umbrella and why is it important?
- What are the major changes for caregivers under TCAVA?

"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 TCAVA Today](#)

Other Upcoming events:

- Kansas American Legion Riders State Rally – 25-26 Sep, 2026 – Post 370, Overland Park
- Eisenhower Pilgrimage – 17 Oct 2026 – Abilene

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

Chris Krueger

Detachment Adjutant

Notes from the Editor

Some photos from your hard-working delegates at convention





★ 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



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.



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. ★

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 ★

Sons Of The American Legion Squadron 408 Presents



Mouse Races!!!



Yes!!! Mouse Races!!!

When: Saturday, October 24, 2026

Where: American Legion Family Post 408

120 E. Washington—Derby, KS

Doors Open @ 5:00 PM

Dinner Served @ 5:30PM

Choice of Chili or Sloppy Joe & Chips

\$7.00 Per Person

Races Start @ 7:00PM

6 Races & 1 Championship Race

Mouse Roulette, Door Prizes, 50/50 Raffle

Thank You to our Sponsors



WHEAT STATE
INSURANCE GROUP



For More Information, Contact:

Mike Saindon @ 316-9936416

Dale Rotramel @ 316-648-1902

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MEMBERSHIP ID



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

★ DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT EXPIRES — RENEW TODAY! ★