



# SALUTE

A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

**Date: September 2025**



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## Message from the Detachment Commander

HELLO KANSAS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION!!!

August has been a busy and fun month! I will start off by thanking everyone who attended the American Legion Family Homecoming in Overland Park, you all made it a memorable day. A huge shout out to Squadron 370 they made an awesome meal. I look forward to working with Commander Honn and President Bownes this year.

Byron and I had a great time at The Sons of The American Legion National Convention in Tampa, Florida along with the entire Kansas Delegation. Congratulations to Kansas' own Dan K. Wiley for being elected as The American Legion National Commander, thank you Dan, for including the entire Legion family in your ceremony and celebration. His partners this year are Pam Ray American Legion Auxiliary National President and Sons of The American Legion National Commander Bill Clancy III. We look forward to watching the new leadership take on the new year and continue the Be The One mission.



While at National Convention I registered for The American Legion's USA 250 Challenge, a year long initiative beginning July 3, 2025 and ending on our great nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, July 4, 2026. The challenge centers around 3 categories: fitness, mental wellness, and community service while raising funds for the Veterans & Childrens Foundation. I choose fitness, as a second time new dad I need to do more to improve my health so that I can be around and able bodied for many more years to come. I

challenge each of you to join me in the USA 250 challenge. For more information visit <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/usa250/challenge>. The challenge can also be done as a group; I will be launching a Detachment challenge soon but haven't decided on a goal. If you have an idea that would be attainable but challenging please send me an email.

As always it is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Detachment Commander!

Matthew Krupco

620-224-7355

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### Message from the Detachment Vice Commander

We spent the last week of August at the American Legion National Convention in Tampa we were able to be a part of the installation of the new national commander from the great state of Kansas. As your vice commander we are looking for all member to renew their membership this year to show that Kansas can lead the Nation. It will take us all to hit our goal to show support for National Commander Dan Wiley



Absolutely! Hitting 100% membership is a big deal for the Sons of The American Legion (SAL). It means every eligible member has renewed or joined, which strengthens the squadron, detachment, and the entire Legion family's impact.

Here's why reaching that 100% goal matters:

- Stronger Voice: Full membership boosts the SAL's influence in advocating for veterans and their families.
- More Resources: It unlocks better funding, programs, and support from The American Legion.
- Community Impact: More members mean more hands for service projects, events, and outreach.
- Pride & Recognition: Squadrons and detachments hitting 100% get special recognition and awards.

If you're part of a squadron or detachment, here are some tips to push toward that goal:

- Use "Get One For The Legion" programs — reward members who recruit others.
- Host membership drives or special events to attract new members.
- Reach out personally to past members who haven't renewed.
- Promote the benefits of being in SAL — community, camaraderie, and supporting veterans.
- Stay connected via social media and newsletters to keep members engaged.

Do you want help drafting a message or campaign ideas to rally members to meet that 100% goal?

Michael Weber

Det Vice Commander

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620 430 0651

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### Message from the Detachment Adjutant

Greetings, Kansas Sons!

This month, I'm passing on a story that our new American Legion National Commander Dan Wiley related at National Convention, from Legion.org. It's worth your time to read.



Newly elected National Commander Dan K. Wiley pledges to continue highlighting Legion's veteran suicide prevention mission, calls for teamwork among American Legion Family.



Upon being elected 2025-2026 American Legion National Commander on Aug. 28, Kansas Legionnaire Dan K. Wiley took the stage at the organization's 106<sup>th</sup> National Convention and thanked all of those who helped him get to this day.

And then he told a story.

It was the story of a young attorney in Wiley's hometown who, due to various circumstances, was going through a difficult time – one he thought was just physical.

When the attorney went to his doctor for some cold medicine, the doctor noticed a difference in his patient and began asking questions: "Do you value your work? Do others value your work? Do you think you are doing good work?"

Puzzled, the attorney said he just wanted his cold prescription, but the doctor didn't let it go. He asked the attorney if he was considering self-harm and offered to provide some medication to address that.

After a week, the attorney admitted he could not think clearly, explaining, "It's like I'm driving a car, and it is foggy, and I cannot get the defroster to work. I can stay on task and get things done, but I can't see ahead." He then agreed to take the prescription for 30 days, which improved his condition considerably. He was then advised to continue to take the prescription for one year.

But a few months later, the attorney decided to apply for a vacant judgeship – but then realized that the application called for disclosing current medications taken, but not past medications.

"Well, you can see this train wreck coming," Wiley said. "It's the most attorney thing ever: 'I'm going to stop taking the medication, and then when I sign that form in 30 days, I don't have to disclose it.'"

"It's the stigma, right? It's the stigma of mental health that we're combating. Trying to let people know it's OK not to be OK."

The attorney called his doctor to inform him he was going to stop taking the medication. But the doctor wasn't hearing it, telling the attorney that those reviewing the application would judge the attorney based on his ability and character, and would see it as a positive as someone helping himself.

Then the doctor explained that roughly 20 percent of the population will have a depressive episode in their life. "You are not alone," said the doctor.

The attorney agreed, continued to take the medication and ended up becoming a state court judge.

But that career now has come to end. Kansas Circuit Court Judge Dan K. Wiley is now American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley.

"That's why the Be the One mission is important to me. It's personal," Wiley told convention delegates. "I can't tell you that Dr. Richard Whitlow saved my life. I can tell you he made a difference in my life. He made it better."

Continuing Be the One, the Legion's suicide prevention program, is one of Wiley's priorities for the upcoming. The others are his slogan "Better Together", The American Legion legislative agenda; the Veterans and Children Foundation; celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday; and what he said are the three Cs: communication, community and camaraderie.

A U.S. Air Force veteran and cattleman, Wiley is a paid-up-for-life member of Byron H. Mehl American Legion Post 23 in Leavenworth and is a past department commander of the Kansas American Legion. He also served as Kansas' National Executive Committeeman.

He spent Thursday's remarks focusing on Be the One and "Better Together." "Be the One is a personal and passionate mission for me," Wiley said. "Taking care of one another is what we do. It's who we are."

Wiley's theme of "Better Together" focuses on the American Legion Family. "I am a big believer in the American Legion Family," he said. "Those posts that are successful are the ones that are inclusive and not exclusive. They're the ones that operate in unity with the units, squadrons, and chapters. Those are the successful posts: the ones that care about the mission and helping each other. Taking care of one another."

“But better together has an even deeper meaning. We use phrases like ‘I got your 6’ and ‘I got your back’. Those are not just nice sayings. It’s what we were trained to do when we served. It’s human nature. It’s who we are.”

To illustrate his point, Wiley told how in December 2023 he received a phone call from American Legion Past National Commander Jake Comer, who had received an email from a disgruntled former court litigant.

“My first reaction was that I’m not too worried about someone attacking me. I’m used to it as a judge,” Wiley said. “But when you start bothering my friends it upsets me. And I was mad.”

Wiley said he called Comer back, and that the past national commander could tell quickly Wiley was upset. “About 10 seconds into the conversation ... he said ‘Dan, we had that forwarded to you for your situational awareness. We’re not concerned about you. We know who you are,’” Wiley said. “And then the four words that mattered the most. He said, ‘We got your back.’ That’s all I needed to hear. Powerful words in that moment.”

Wiley plans to pay that forward to the men and women he will lead over the next 12 months. “This next year as your national commander, I got your back,” he said. “The American Legion has had your back since 1919. The American Legion had your back in the 1920s when we advocated for the creation of the Veterans Bureau, which would eventually become Veterans Affairs. The American Legion had your back in 1944 when we advocated the GI Bill of Rights. The American Legion had your back in 1983 when we alone funded a study on the disastrous effects of Agent Orange, which culminated with Congress passing the Agent Orange Act in 1991.

“And most recently, The American Legion had your back with the passage of the PACT Act. The American Legion had your back yesterday. The American Legion has your back today. And The American Legion will have your back tomorrow. As long as America exists, and as long as there are veterans, there will be an American Legion, and we will have your back.”

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

Chris Krueger  
Detachment Adjutant

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### **Message from Master at Arms Jeff Kerns**

Greetings,

This year is going to be big! As Sons let's all be apart of it. The country turns 250 years old, Kansas own Dan Wiley as National Commander . Along with Detachment Commander Matthew Krupco commitment to challenge 250, let's get out and find another 250 why's. We all belong for a reason let's hear thier stories.

Detachment Master at Arms  
Jeff Kerns

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### **Message from the Public Relations Committee Chairman**

The kids are back in school, Kansas' own Dan Wiley is National Commander, and all of us are getting back in the swing of the Legion year. There are plenty of things going on in September but I am going to ask you to put a few things on your calendar for October.

- Eisenhower Pilgrimage and Department Vice Commander's Homecoming - 11 October 2025 – Abilene
- Detachment EBoard and training – 12 October 2025 13:00 – Hutchinson (you don't have to be on the EBoard if you want to stop in to watch and learn)

Now is the time to get the ball rolling on your plans for this coming year. If you need any help please reach out to any of the District Commanders:

1<sup>st</sup> District Kevin Funk  
2<sup>nd</sup> District Rick Miller  
3<sup>rd</sup> District Ronnie Rommel  
4<sup>th</sup> District Open  
5<sup>th</sup> District Dan McDowell  
6<sup>th</sup> District Kelly Pflughoeft  
7<sup>th</sup> District Rick Munsch  
8<sup>th</sup> District Michael Weber  
9<sup>th</sup> District Monte Lewis  
10<sup>th</sup> District Mark Wessel  
11<sup>th</sup> District Randy Porter

For God and Country,

Rick Miller

# AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY HOMECOMING

## HONORING:

GEORGE POGGE – AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT VICE-COMMANDER

CINDY WARD – DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY VICE-PRESIDENT

MICHAEL WEBER – SAL DETACHMENT VICE-COMMANDER

October 11, 2025

11:00AM Social, 12:00pm Lunch

Greyhound Hall of Fame

407 S Buckeye Ave, Abilene, KS 67410

**\$18.00 (RSVP by October 1) \$20 at the Door**

## LUNCHEON MENU:

Brisket or Italian Chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, salad, roll, & tea/lemonade



**venmo**

-or-



George Pogge  
\$GeorgePogge06

**Make checks payable to George Pogge and mail to 16718 13th St., Lawrence, KS 66044**

-----Please cut and mail -----

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

| Name | Brisket | Chicken |
|------|---------|---------|
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The Sons of the American Legion,  
Detachment of Kansas introduces a new  
program that will benefit the entire Legion  
family!



## Get One For The Legion!

This program rewards Sons of the American Legion members for doing the work and supporting the American Legion, while the Legion gets the new members and continues to grow their membership and stay alive and active. ***And the whole American Legion Family benefits:*** Every time the Legion gains a new member, chances are there are family members that are eligible to join the Auxiliary, Sons, Riders and Cruisers.

How it works: Any SAL member (regular, dual, or triple) that recruits a NEW legion member gets a polo shirt courtesy of the Detachment of Kansas. The detachment pays for the shirts and the embroidery. On one side of the shirt, it is embroidered with "Got One For The Legion Family" and on the other side it is embroidered with the SAL logo/emblem. The shirts were designated to be a bright neon color for two reasons: 1) When you know the program and see someone wearing the shirt, you know they signed up a new legion member 2) It is a great conversation starter for people unaware of the program. The shirt color will change each year, but will be a bright color to draw attention to the program.

Go to <https://salkansas.org> to download the submission form!





## Get One For The Legion Submission Form



|                                        |  |                           |  |
|----------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| Recruiting SAL Member Name:            |  | Membership ID #:          |  |
| Squadron #                             |  | Squadron City:            |  |
| Recruiting SAL Member Mailing Address: |  | Polo shirt size:<br>S-5XL |  |

|                                |  |                               |  |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| New Legion Member Name:        |  | Address:                      |  |
| Phone:                         |  | Email:                        |  |
| Date Member was signed up:     |  | New Membership ID#:           |  |
| Post City:                     |  | Post #                        |  |
| Post Adjutant Approval - Name: |  | Post Adjutant Membership ID#: |  |
| Signature:                     |  | Date:                         |  |

|                                |  |       |  |
|--------------------------------|--|-------|--|
| Detachment Adjutant signature: |  | Date: |  |
|--------------------------------|--|-------|--|

Email to [det.adj.ks@gmail.com](mailto:det.adj.ks@gmail.com) (preferred) or print and mail to Get One for the Legion, c/o Argonne Post 180, Box 721, Great Bend, KS 67530