



SALUTE

A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

Date: August 2025



Message from the Detachment Commander

HELLO KANSAS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION!!!

As I'm sitting here thinking about what my message should be this month. I am looking at my almost 16-month-old son who is a three year member and I am trying to figure out what I can do to help improve the future of the Kansas SAL for him and his generation. In my opinion improved communication is our biggest need, but it is not as simple as that sounds. There are a lot of factors that affect communication. Across the state we have a huge need for members to step up into district leadership. In most Districts there are only a couple guys active in leadership, and they are doing all they can to improve communication, but they need help. District and Detachment leadership have a lack of contact information for many of the Squadrons, it's hard to get information out to the members if you don't have a means to do so. In an ideal world we would have a different Squadron represented in each of the nine District offices, and every Squadron would be assigned to an officer for information sharing. The sad truth is we are a long way from that. If you are unsure about the contact information District and Department has for your squadron, please send me an email with the correct information for your Squadron Commander and Adjutant and I will pass it along to the rest of the leadership.



MyLegion is an amazing tool for all Commanders and Adjutants, unfortunately less than half of our squadrons use it. As your Detachment Commander I can see every member in the Detachment of Kansas since 2019 that has not renewed. We have lost more than 3000 members since then, many of which have multiple continuous years of service honoring the parent or grandparent they represent. If any of you would like to learn how to use MyLegion or are interested in how they can help at the District level, please reach out. I want to help you, if you want to learn. Additionally, salkansas.org has great information and training, I recommend visiting the website and checking it out. The American Legion Leadership college in June has outstanding classes geared towards all SAL members but especially Commanders and Adjutants.

I hope to see many of you at the Department Family homecoming on August 16th in Overland Park, flyer is attached. As always it is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Detachment Commander!

Matthew Krupco

620-224-7355

det.cmdr.ks@gmail.com

Please reach out if you have any questions. #GETONEFORTHELEGION #SALSTRONG #BETHEONE

Message from the Detachment Vice Commander

🌟 **Get One for The Legion Campaign: Sons of The American Legion, It's Your Time to Shine!** 🌟

The **Sons of The American Legion (SAL)** are vital to the strength of our Legion family, and now it's your turn to step up and help grow our ranks. We're excited to announce the "**Get One for The Legion**" campaign—an exclusive opportunity for SAL members to **recruit new Legionnaires** and earn a **custom polo shirt** as a thank-you for your effort.



How Can You Participate?

It's simple! As a **Sons of The American Legion member**, your goal is to sign up one **new Legion member**. Once you recruit someone to join The American Legion, you'll receive a **special Legion polo shirt** as a token of appreciation for your dedication.

Steps to Earn Your Polo Shirt:

1. **Reach Out to Potential Members** – Think about family members, friends, co-workers, or veterans you know who might be eligible to join The American Legion.
2. **Invite Them to Join** – Share the impact The American Legion has on veterans, their families, and the community. Encourage them to join your Legion family!

3. **Have Them Sign Up** – Once they're ready, guide them to sign up as a Legion member through www.legion.org/join or bring them to a local meeting for assistance.
4. **Submit Your Recruitment Success** – Let us know when you've successfully recruited a new Legion member! Simply provide their name and membership details to **Michael Weber**, Detachment Vice Commander.
5. **Get Your Exclusive Polo Shirt!**

Once your recruit's membership is processed, you will be awarded a **Sons of The American Legion polo shirt** to proudly wear. It's our way of saying **thank you** for your commitment to growing our Legion family.

Why Should You Participate?

- **Honor Our Veterans:** The American Legion's mission of supporting veterans, their families, and our communities is more important than ever. By recruiting a new member, you're directly contributing to that cause.
- **Strengthen The Legion Family:** The more members we have, the stronger we become. New members bring fresh energy, ideas, and resources to help us achieve even greater things.
- **Exclusive Reward:** As a thank you for your recruitment effort, you'll receive a stylish **Sons of the American Legion polo shirt**, a great way to show your pride in both your service and your squadron.

Important Details:

- **Must Be a Sons of The American Legion Member:** Only current SAL members can participate in this campaign.
- **One New Legion Member = One Polo Shirt:** Recruit one eligible veteran to join The American Legion, and you'll receive your polo shirt!

What Are the Benefits of Joining The American Legion?

By signing up a new Legion member, you're giving them access to:

- Advocacy for veterans' rights and benefits
- Community service opportunities
- Youth programs like American Legion Baseball, Boys State, and scholarships
- A nationwide network of veterans who are committed to the same mission of patriotism, service, and community

Let's Get Started!

The Legion's success depends on passionate members like you. Help us grow and strengthen our mission by recruiting new members—and don't forget to claim your exclusive **polo shirt** for your efforts!

For Questions or to Report Your Success:

Contact **Michael Weber**, Detachment Vice Commander

Phone: 620-430-0651

Email: spidercreek220@gmail.com

Thank you for supporting The American Legion and our veterans. Together, we can make a difference!

Message from the Detachment Adjutant

Greetings, Kansas Sons!

This month, I'm highlighting the SHIPS Act and the need for us to act in support of it.



The American Legion endorses the Shipbuilding and Harbor Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security (SHIPS) for America Act which is designed to improve the maritime security of the United States.

This crucial domain has been overlooked for too long. Our members are clear in their belief that the US needs sustained investment in our national security to reduce the chances of armed conflict.

America's maritime infrastructure is plagued by aging military and commercial vessels, dropping shipbuilding capacity, billions of dollars in maintenance backlogs for ports and waterways, a shortage of qualified mariners, and a plummeting sealift capacity. All of this while our competition with China reaches a fever pitch.

By the Numbers:

- *The United States has a merchant fleet of 185 ships. **China has 7,838.***
- *In 2023, the US built 0.1% of the world's ships. **China built 50.7%.***
- *The US's goal for sealift capacity is 85%. It is currently 59% and dropping.*
- *America's sealift capacity was USTRANSCOM's number 2 readiness concern in 2021. It is now the top concern.*
- *The US is now expected to lose 1-2 million square feet of sealift capacity every year.*
- *The US has a \$163 billion dollar maintenance backlog for ports and inland waterways.*
- *As of 2023 the US had just 5 shipbuilding orders in shipyards. **China had 1,700.***

The American Legion has always advocated for a strong national defense. Legion members served the nation in wartime and know the dangers of poor readiness. We cannot let the burden of these security failures fall on our service members. To prevent this from happening, Congress should pass the SHIPS for America Act now.

You can play a valuable part in this effort by contacting your elected representatives via VoterVoice. You can sign up for VoterVoice alerts [here](#).

Did you know?

The MyLegion website allows Squadron Adjutants to save time when transmitting memberships. Instead of filling out the form and the return portion of all the membership cards, Adjutants can simply submit those renewals online and give the card to the member.

If you'd like to learn more, please contact me at det.adj.ks@gmail.com and I'll help get you started. I've been submitting memberships on MyLegion for years now, and I can't imagine going back to paper.

And finally, a shameless plea for your hard-earned money!

This year will be my 17th year riding on the American Legion Legacy Run, and this year, I'm fundraising for The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. Every dollar I raise helps military families and disabled veterans in need, as well as training American Legion Service Officers who help our Veterans get the VA Benefits they so richly deserve. Please support them by making a donation today!

Here are just a few ways your donation makes an impact.

Sometimes military and veteran parents face unexpected financial crisis through no fault of their own. This is when The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation steps in. It helps cover the costs of necessities such as food, rent and medical care. The V&CF also funds the training of thousands of American Legion service officers who provide expert assistance — free of charge — to veterans and families applying for VA disability benefits.

The American Legion Veteran & Children Foundation is a lifeline to military families and disabled veterans. You can support this amazing work by making a donation or becoming a fundraiser - TODAY!

Just text Rider51 to 71777 and click the link you get back. I thank you in advance for your donation!

Thanks for all you do!

Chris Krueger

Detachment Adjutant

Message from the Public Relations Committee Chairman

Summer time flew by and believe or not the schools are getting ready to throw open their doors and get started with their new year of learning and developing the leaders of tomorrow. And I am sure some of your posts are already on their calendars to provide flag education, get out the word of our programs and honor kids with scholarships and awards.

Here are some of the events for **your** calendars over the next couple of months. First off, as of publication time it isn't too late to RSVP for the Department homecoming. The flier with deadline and other information attached.

Also one of the best events for bringing the Legion Family together is coming up this September. Dates for districts state fair days are below. Sons lets get out there and help the Legion and Auxiliary spread the good word on what we do.

Your District Legion leadership team will have all the information on what time blocks are needed and how to get parking and entry passes for volunteers while supplies last.

Fri, Sept. 5..... 8th District
Sat, Sept. 6..... 4th District
Sun, Sept. 7..... 6th District
Mon, Sept. 8 10th District
Tues Sept. 9 9th District
Wed, Sept. 10 5th District
Thu, Sept. 11..... 11th District
Fri, Sept. 12..... 2nd District
Sat, Sept. 13..... 3rd District
Sun, Sept. 14..... 1st District

And finally as so many of you are also American Legion Riders there are some events coming up as well.

August 12 – The Wall That Heals will be in Emporia.

September 12-13 – The ALR State Rally will be in Gardner.

For God and Country,

Rick Miller

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: 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:	
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Email to 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

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY HOMECOMING

HONORING:

GEORGE HONN – AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

ANNDI BOWNES – DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

MATTHEW KRUPCO – SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER

August 16, 2025

12:00PM Social, 1:00pm Lunch

American Legion Post 370

7500 W 75th St, Overland Park, KS 66204

Guest Speaker: Leading Candidate for National Commander Dan Wiley

\$15.00 (RSVP by August 9) \$17 at the Door

LUNCHEON MENU:

Meatloaf or chicken, mashed potatoes, corn/green beans, salad, roll, & tea/water



Venmo



Cash App



PayPal



Zelle

-or-

Make checks payable to Matthew Krupco and mail to 510 E Main St., Blue Mound, KS 66010

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

Name	Meatloaf	Chicken

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____