



Washington Conference  
Schedule of Events

Arizona attends the 2026  
Wild Willy's Western Rendez-  
vous

Georgia: Weekend at Tybee  
Island

National VA&R: Together  
Making a Difference

Sons on Social: Snapshots of  
the SAL around the country

National Convention: Louis-  
ville 2026 Preview

How-To Series: Being a Histo-  
rian and Creating a Photo Year  
Book



Top Ten Detachments  
2026 Membership Percentage

1. Philippines 108.33%
2. Utah 103.79%
3. Dist. Of Col. 101.12%
4. South Carolina 88.69%
5. France 87.43%
6. Wisconsin 87.27%
7. Idaho 86.11%
8. Iowa 85.62%
9. Florida 84.58%

Statistics as of 05 February 2026

BE THE ONE



National Commander William Clancy III (NY)—Special to *The Millennium*

## DPA: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Imagine for a moment, you're a modern day descendant of a veteran who went missing-in-action during World War II. That would mean that 80-85 years ago, someone in your family received the devastating news that a loved had gone missing and was perhaps presumed dead. It's an event far in the past, yet it still captures the heart.

Now imagine being in the modern day when you receive the shock of a lifetime ... when the US Government calls to say, "Your missing loved one from almost a century ago has been found, and they'd like to bring that person home for a proper burial and overdue recognition of that missing veteran's service to their country."

How unbelievable is that scenario?

Sounds remote, but it's something playing out on a regular basis as modern science, high technology, and the resolve of researchers and scientists fulfilling their mission at the US Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPA)

It's an unbelievable and little known agency of the government that is fundamentally the world's most advanced forensics laboratory, and it's based at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

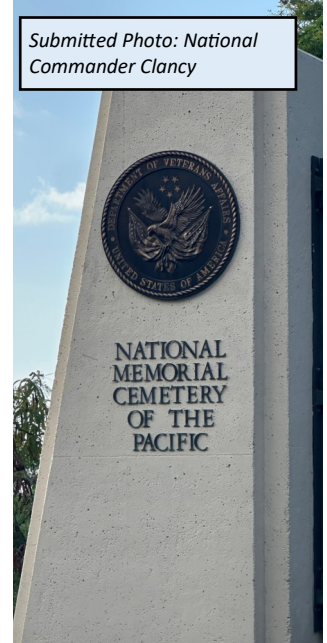
During my Hawaii visitation, myself, American Legion National Commander Wiley, and American Legion Auxiliary President Pam Ray all had an opportunity to visit this agency.

We learned about soldiers and sailors who were buried in mass graves in Pearl Harbor and elsewhere around the world. It was a common war time practice when bodies were found wounded beyond recognition. Those graves are being slowly and respectfully opened today, with an attempt to identify those bodies.

We also learned about research teams going out in the field, visiting various sites in Europe and across Pacific Islands ... anywhere American troops shed their blood. The researchers are playing detective on multiple levels; researching battle sites, speaking to local people who might be old enough to have first-hand knowledge of events back then, or maybe just hearing some stories from their ancestors. "We think a plane went down on that mountain", or "We heard that bodies were buried in those woods", "There's a sunken ship in that Lagoon" - any local legend or tale that could lead to a dig site where an American might be uncovered.



Submitted Photo: National  
Commander Clancy



Continued on Page 3 >>>



**Russell "Rusty" Myers III (NJ),**  
Editor of *The Millennium*

## February Editorial: What's In This Month's Newsletter

This is one of those months that *The Millennium* took **forever** to put together .... But that isn't a bad thing.

We start putting this together around the 20th of the month, with our editorial meeting on the fourth Wednesday, where we go over story pitches and ideas.

We gather content throughout the month, with the first draft being due at National HQ usually around the first Wednesday of the month, in preparation for distribution on the second Wednesday. That includes Andy Proffett sharing content from [legion.org](http://legion.org), and pulling stories from [Legiontown, USA](http://Legiontown.com).

Here I am now, writing this editorial two days before I should have the first draft done .... And every time I think I'm close to being done, I add **another** page to the newsletter. I finish with that page, come back to finish up the next day, and find I've added yet another page.

It's not because of lack of planning ... or maybe it is .... it's more because there is so much fantastic content out there that's timely, and warrants finding a place in these pages. Patrick Gallagher (NJ), our contributor who scours social media looking for pictures, just keeps sending over more and more of these stories or photos we need to show!

So this month, the newsletter is all over the place. We try to keep each month almost themed, where we place a focus on a few different topics. But, because we have so much that's happening across all of the detachments, this month has a little bit of everything.

Newsletters which end up like this one make me so proud, because this exemplifies everything the Sons of The American Legion is about. We're "all over the place" as well—which speaks to the impact we make across the board.

A few "for examples" from within these pages....

**Six new squadrons:** This month, we feature new charters being awarded in Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, and two in South Dakota. I'm quite sure there are many more each month, but just these six are evi-

dence of the vitality and growth we talk about within the Sons.

**How-to:** We have the first in our series of how-to articles, this time by Mike Pook (WI) on how to be a historian. More to come on that over the next few months, but this is where *The Millennium* is doing its part as a training resource.

**MIA's:** Our cover story was written by the National Commander, with a companion piece from Stars and Stripes. In an offline conversation with Commander Clancy, he had reflected on his experience at the DPAA facility at Pearl Harbor and the impact it made on him. Many of these newly-identified warriors will be reinterred in their home states—so be on the lookout for how you can honor them upon their return home.

**Planning:** The National Convention, and right around the corner, the Washington Conference. The latter is by far my favorite week-end throughout the year... and you will most certainly read more next month about that.

**Pictures, pictures, and more pictures:** That's what's added pages and pages each week. Between Mid-winter conferences, the National Commander's trips, events at your squadrons and districts, and of course the Wild Willy's Western Rendezvous (say that five time fast) ... you've been busy. Even the Young Sons of Maryland shown below was a last minute photo I stumbled across which needed to make the cut.

In any event, enjoy the newsletter this month. Thanks—as always—for reading. This is truly a labor of love for me, and I really do enjoy seeing what great things my brother are doing across the organization.

Keep up the great work, and keep letting us know at [rusty.myers@ymail.com](mailto:rusty.myers@ymail.com) what you're been up to!



## THE MILLENNIUM

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All information must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon the twentieth of each month and must be made electronically by emailing the editor at [rusty.myers@ymail.com](mailto:rusty.myers@ymail.com)

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**CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS.** Our goal is to promptly correct errors. Please email the Editor to report a mistake, error, to request a clarification. Please reference the edition, page number, and title of the article in question.

### Distribution Schedule:

Check your email inboxes for the SAL Newsletter / *Millennium* on the second Wednesday of the month (subject to change):

**11 March 2026**

**08 April 2026**

**13 May 2026**

**10 June 2026**

**08 July 2026**

**12 Aug 2026**

**Corrections:** For the last few months, we inadvertently had the regions for NVC's Casey and Honigfort transposed. What appears above is correct.

**Detachment Commander Jason Miller (MD), in a Face-book Post: (phot at left)** "So incredibly proud of these young men. I have watched them grow up over the last several years and they continue to amaze me by their dedication to our mission. This weekend [the Maryland's Midwinter Conference] they completed their one star training and wrote 250 thank you cards to our Veterans as part of the 250 challenge. These fine men [are] our future, and I look forward to the day I can sit back and watch them move our organization forward..."







**William "Bill" Clancy III (NY),  
National Commander**

**DPAA (continued from Front  
Page)**

A human bone or fragment, perhaps even just teeth is enough to go off to the science lab to see if they can get an accurate DNA reading.

Then, if they have the match, to track down the family!

Amazing stuff, but they need our help. The POW MIA accounting agency has a lot of bones without any DNA to match it to, so they are launching an effort to reach out to the public for any family that has an MIA in their family history to get in touch and perhaps have them share a swab of saliva to see if there's a match.

So help spread the word if you meet or anyone who has an MIA in their family, tell them to get in touch with the US Defense Dept POW MIA accounting agency ... and their family story might have an amazing end to in by bringing a missing loved one home.

**By Wyatt Olson, *Stars and Stripes*—02  
January 2026**

### **DPAA has 'record year' identifying America's missing warfighters**

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — The defense agency that accounts for the nation's missing warfighters identified the remains of 231 service members in the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, far exceeding its tally in recent years.

"Fiscal year 2025 was a record year for us, really a tremendous result," Capt. Meghan Bodnar, deputy director for operations for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, said Tuesday at the agency's lab at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

New DNA techniques, maturing projects and higher funding in prior years are factors in the agency's record-breaking year, according to Bodnar.

The agency in recent years has failed to reach its annual target of 200 identifications. It accounted for 172 service members in fiscal year 2024. It identified 158 in 2023 and 166 in 2022.

Those tallies are tiny compared to the vast number of service members still unaccounted for according to the DPAA web site: 71,806 from World War II, 7,386 from the Korean War and 1,566 from the Vietnam War.

Eight of the remains identified in the last fiscal year were from the Vietnam War, roughly double the number in recent years.

"We haven't had as many identifications from Vietnam since fiscal year 2018, so it was a really big year for us," Bodnar said.

The uptick in overall identifications resulted first from several long-term identification

projects maturing and become more efficient, she said.

Most of these projects included methodical disinterment of service members buried as unknowns.

The Korean War Project, for example, saw a 75% increase in identifications from fiscal year 2024 to fiscal year 2025, she said.

DPAA in 2022 began exhuming the graves of unknown service members associated with the Enoura Maru, a Japanese ship that was carrying 1,619 POWs from the Philippines, via Taiwan, to Japan in 1945.

descendants.

"The result is that we are able to use other branches of family trees for our family reference samples that we previously didn't have available to us," Bodnar said.

Thirty identifications in fiscal year 2025 were possible because SNPs was available, she said.

A third reason, according to Bodnar, was increased DPAA funding the past three fiscal years that enabled the agency to field more missions each year, which sent more remains and artifacts to the lab, she said. With a

\$185.5 million budget last year, the agency conducted 104 recovery and investigative missions and 30 disinterments, a total of 134, according to an email Wednesday from the agency. That was a roughly 12% increase over the previous year.

The agency this year may have difficulty topping its 2025 record, in part because the recently passed National Defense Authorization Act trims by 8% its operational funding.

The funding cut will slash recovery and investigative missions planned for this year by roughly a third, according to the email.



Some POWs died during an Allied air attack as the ship neared Taiwan, with others dying as the crippled ship made its way to Japan.

DPAA identified 20 Enoura Maru unknowns this past fiscal year compared to only one the previous year, Bodnar said.

Other projects devoted to identifying World War II remains associated with the Solomon Islands, the 1945 Tokyo Prison fire and the prisoner of war Camp Cabanatuan in the Philippines are "hitting their stride," Bodnar said.

DPAA's effort has also been bolstered by the development of a new DNA processing technique by the Armed Forces DNA Identification Lab in Delaware.

The process, dubbed SNPs for its focus on identifying genetic markers called single nucleotide polymorphisms, greatly expands DPAA's capacity to match remains to living



*DPAA / USAF Photo: DPAA personnel conducted a solemn Honorable Carry on the flight line at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for remains disinterred from the Manila American Cemetery on January 30, 2026.*





**Bernie Kessler (OH), National Legislative Chairman**

## Washington Conference Wreath Laying Schedule

**Sunday 01 March 2026:** Meet at Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009—Lower Level

**8:45am:** Receive Tickets for Bus Seats, Lunches, and the Arlington Tram by Detachment. Group pictures of wreaths.

**9:00am:** SAL National Commander Bill Clancy will address the attendees

**9:15am:** Buses Depart promptly from outside the Lower Level (20-minute drive)

**9:35am:** Arrive at the World War I Memorial (40 minutes allowed here)

- Wreath laying ceremony by Nat'l Commander with prayer by Nat'l Chaplain
- Group photograph of all participants
- Detachment wreath placements with National Commander

**10:15am:** Depart the World War I Memorial (10-minute drive)

**10:25am:** Arrive at the Vietnam Wall, via Henry Bacon Drive (35 minutes here)

- Wreath laying ceremony by National Commander with prayer by the National Chaplain
- 5-minute walk (1/4 mile) to the Korean War Memorial, if desired

**11:15am** (or earlier): Begin serving lunches as passengers return to the bus area

**11:45am:** Depart the Vietnam Wall Memorial (10-minute drive)

**12:00pm:** Arrive at Arlington National Cemetery

**1:15pm:** Wreath laying ceremony by the National Commander at the Tomb of the Unknowns

- Group photograph of all participants in the Amphitheater afterwards
- Prayer by the National Chaplain and possible Q&A with the Old Guard

**2:30pm:** Depart Arlington National Cemetery (5-minute drive)

**2:35pm:** Arrive at the USMC (Iwo Jima) War Memorial \* 30 minutes allowed here

**3:10pm:** Depart the USMC (Iwo Jima) War Memorial \* 25-minute drive

**3:35pm:** Arrive back at the Hilton Hotel



*In the February 2025 Editorial in The Millennium, the editor had written his story about attending the Washington Conference. Here is a re-print of a portion of that article, as it has some useful links to things to do in DC:*

If you are a seasoned public transit person used to taking trains, or should this be your first time, rest assured ... [Washington, DC's Metro](#) system is quite easy to figure out. We traveled everywhere that weekend either by subway or Uber.

We had previously done research about specific internments at Arlington which we wanted to visit ([you can look up individual memorials or markers here](#)). Of course we would visit the Tomb of the Unknowns, but we also visited some of our state's heroes buried there—PFC Henry Svehla, a Medal of Honor recipient from Belleville, NJ, GySgt John Bassilone from Raritan, NJ, a memorial to the Four Chaplains (one of which is from Kearny, NJ), and the monument to the USS Thresher which had a serviceman from Nutley on it. We brought a few SAL Challenge Coins with us, and placed one on each marker after observing a moment of silence.

“Breathtaking – there is no other way to describe it other than breathtaking” noted Richard Vlasakakis, Essex County Adjutant and member of NJ Squadron 299.

There is a lot of walking involved, and a good deal of hills—so anticipate your visit to Arlington to taking a few hours. You should also think about doing it independent of the Sunday wreath laying so you can see as much as possible. There is also a [Tram](#).

Beyond Arlington, the National Mall is filled with places to visit. Stretching over two miles from the Lincoln Memorial on the west end to the U.S. Capitol on the east end, The Mall is lined with endless memorials and museums. The Sunday events place wreaths at the [World War II](#) and [Vietnam War](#) memorials, but there is also the [Korean War Memorial](#), the [Lincoln Memorial](#) (don't forget the small often overlooked museum to the left when you walk in), the US Capitol (you can schedule tours online at [www.visitthecapitol.gov](http://www.visitthecapitol.gov)), the [Washington Monument](#), and the handful of other memorials just steps off of the Mall—the [Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial](#), [Thomas Jefferson Memorial](#), [Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial](#), and the [Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial](#) (behind the Air and Space Museum).

Completed in the Fall of 2024, there is the [World War I Memorial](#) located a block or two from [The White House](#) in Pershing Park on 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

This isn't even to mention [The National Archives](#) where the founding documents rest, and other places like [Ford's Theatre](#) and the [Supreme Court](#).

The crown jewel of any trip to DC are the museums, though—which are all free. The [Smithsonian Institute](#) is made up of [17 DC-area museums](#), plus the [National Zoo](#) (which is not at all close). Our contingent truly enjoyed time at the [Air and Space Museum](#) (which requires you register for a [timed-entry pass](#)), and the “Price of Freedom” exhibit at the [National Museum of American History](#).

About 30-miles south of downtown Washington is another Air and Space Museum, located in Chantilly, VA. [The Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center](#) is located near Dulles Airport, and is HUGE—with a space shuttle, an SR-71, and the Enola Gay B-29 at the location.

First and foremost, the Washington Conference is about the American Legion's legislative priorities; I write this “tour guide” with embedded links because I hope you will taking full advantage of all Washington, DC has to offer as well. We hope to see you there!





[Facebook.com—SAL Squadron 91 Chandler, AZ—02 February 2026](https://www.facebook.com/SAL-Squadron-91-Chandler-AZ)

## Wild Willy's Western Rendezvous: Arizona Detachment Makes Its Mark

The Detachment of Arizona proudly participated in the 13th Annual Wild Willy's Western Rendezvous (WWWR) Training for the Western Region, traveling to Las Vegas, Nevada for a weekend of education, camaraderie, and service-focused leadership.

Under the leadership of Commander Manwell, the Arizona delegation set out on a spirited caravan to the event, stopping at a total of five American Legion posts between Arizona and Nevada along the journey to and from Las Vegas. These visits strengthened regional connections and set the tone for a collaborative and mission-driven weekend.



Upon arrival in Las Vegas, attendees gathered at Pub 365 for a meet-and-greet that brought together many familiar faces along with new members from across the Western Region. The relaxed evening provided the perfect kickoff to a full and engaging weekend.

Training took place on Saturday, January 31, 2026, and covered a wide range of valuable topics for Sons of The American Legion (S.A.L.) members. National Vice Commander Frank Meraz opened the session with a welcoming address, emphasizing the importance of leadership, education, and continued commitment to veterans and communities. The Detachment of Arizona was well represented, with 24 S.A.L. members in attendance.

Highlights of the training included a turnkey presentation on a Veterans Show & Tell program, as well as an insightful session on veterans living with PTSD, both facilitated by Bobby Crevelli of the Detachment of California. Brandon Curry of the Detachment of Kentucky delivered an informative presentation on proper Flag Etiquette, reinforcing the values and traditions central to the organization.

This year's team-building exercises were especially well received and were expertly led by Jim Stewart of the Detachment of Nevada, encouraging collaboration and strengthening bonds among participants.

Attendees also had the privilege of hearing from guest speaker Rick Lofgren, who shared meaningful information about the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) and its impact on families in need.

The Detachment of Arizona extends its sincere thanks to all host posts and volunteers for their outstanding hospitality and for making the 2026 Wild Willy's Western Rendezvous a memorable and successful event. Looking ahead, excitement is already building for next year, when Arizona's own Detachment member, Matt Griffis, will host the event in 2027.

Mark your calendars now for January 29–31, 2027, and plan to attend the 14th Annual Wild Willy's Western Rendezvous. The Detachment of Arizona looks forward to seeing everyone there.



Facebook Photos







**Harl "Butch" Ray (IL), National Membership & Squadron Activities Chair**

### Butch's Bullet Points

#### *"Therefore be it Resolved..."*

January; the start of another year! Did you know that the second Friday following January 1st of each year is called "Quitters Friday"? It has been determined that this is the time that a majority of people give up and quit on the "New Year's Resolutions" they had made.

We must remember that the word "Resolved" is powerful. It is more than just another word for "decided" ... In fact the word resolved works as a bridge between a "wish" and a "reality". It transforms an idea into a goal. When a person is "resolved" all debate ends and the pursuit of the goal begins.

One way this can be illustrated is to remember Japanese Admiral Yamamoto who after the success of the attacks on Pearl Harbor Hawaii on December 7, 1941 was quoted as saying... "I feel all we have done is awaken a sleeping giant, and filled him with a terrible RESOLVE" His prediction as we know of course, came true.

We, the members of the Sons of The American Legion, need to make and keep our own New Year's resolutions for the good of the American Legion Family!

In regards to our membership, our January 6th membership report showed that we were approximately 3,000 members ahead of that same time the year before. This is great news, but we still have about 35% to go to reach our 100% goal. We need to seek to resolve rather than retreat.

According to Webster's Dictionary, the definition of RESOLUTE is to be purposeful, determined, and unwavering.

We've almost reached the halfway point in our yearlong journey, with the finish line in sight. Take a moment to celebrate this progress... "It always seems impossible until it's done." Every member, every event, every hour volunteered, builds the momentum we need.

New and renewed membership reflects commitment. "Commitment builds trust. Trust builds family."

There is no shortage of opportunity in the Sons of The American Legion, only a short-

age of resolve to do what our opportunities and our missions require.

One of our greatest missions is passing on knowledge—of flag respect, American history, and citizenship. With America's 250th birthday approaching, educational outreach is more important than ever. SAL members can play a vital role in teaching young Americans. Educational programs, flag etiquette workshops, and patriotic events teach respect and pride in our country's symbols and heritage. These are ways to engage members and attract new recruits who seek purpose and community.

Resolutions don't change your life; your actions do. We don't need a plan; just consistent effort to continue working towards our membership and mission goals!

#### *Therefore be it Finally Resolved...*

SAVE PAPER.  
SAVE POSTAGE.  
SAVE TIME.



www.legion.org/SAL-renew

QUICKLY AND EASILY RENEW ONLINE

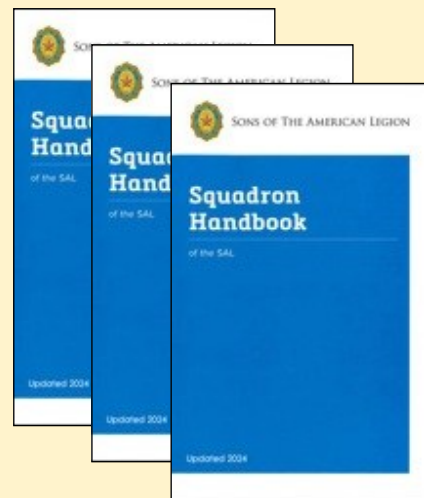
**MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION



**Mike Pook (WI), Staff Contributor to "The Millennium"**

### "Mentoring Moments"



*The Squadron handbook has lots of useful information within its pages. All Squadron officers and new members should be given a handbook to read up on. There is a general meeting script to follow for the Squadron First Vice Commander when the squadron commander is absent.*



### Make Note of these Important dates on The American Legion Calendar

15 March	American Legion Birthday
25 March	Medal of Honor Day
27-29 March	Northeast Unofficial Gathering
29 March	National Vietnam Veterans Day
April 2026	Children and Youth Month
10-11 April	National Commander Clancy's Homecoming in NYC
25 April	American Legion Family Day
1-3 May	Spring NEC Meetings
08 May	V-E Day (1945)
16 May	Armed Forces Day







**Casey Hansen (SD), National Membership and Squadron Activities Midwest Regional Chair**

### South Dakota: New Charters

**Facebook.com:** South Dakota Detachment Commander Wyatt Reis, Vice Commander Dan Wyatt, and Adjutant Bob Condon traveled to Tabor to present the post with their brand new Sons of The American Legion charter (top photo).

Not only did the leadership present the charter, but Tabor Squadron 183 was ready to elect officers and hold their first meeting, with 100% American Legion Post #183 support. This squadron was chartered with 17 members, and as of the night the charter was presented, they had doubled in size! Great work #183!

A week later, Detachment Commander Reis and Alternate NEC Shane Lamer traveled to Groton, SD to present their Legion Post with their new Sons charter as well. After presenting the charter, two new members were signed up, and all officers were sworn in. This will be a great addition to the Groton American Legion Family.



Facebook Photos



**Bryan Hine (TN), National Vice Commander Southeast**

### Georgia: Weekend at Tybee Island

Our "Weekend at Tybee Island" kicked off early on Friday morning on January 16, 2026. With the vehicle "loaded for bear," my wife, two granddaughters, and I set out from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee for the 550-mile journey. After eight and a half hours on the road, we finally reached Hotel Tybee, where we received a warm welcome from the Detachment of Georgia's Membership Chairman George Gray and Adjutant Ronnie Grist. We were shown to our room, which offered stunning views of the beach from our very own private balcony.

We enjoyed our first dinner at the Rock House Bar & Grill, a local favorite. Saturday morning began at Post 184 with pastries, coffee, and an insightful training session led by Detachment Commander Mark Hines and Membership Chairman George Gray.

By 3:00 pm, the main event arrived: the "Polar Plunge." The sky was overcast, the air was a crisp 60 degrees, and the Atlantic sat at a chilly 55. I'll admit, I was dreading this part of the trip! But I had given my word, and there was no "crawfishing" now. I stood among thirty plus brave souls ready to dive in—most were veterans of the plunge, but I was a total rookie.

Suddenly, the sun broke through the clouds, and we all charged into the surf. To my surprise, it wasn't nearly as bad as I'd feared! We celebrated that night with a fantastic seafood dinner at StingRay's Seafood.

Sunday morning, we headed to Post 154 for the Detachment Meeting, where Thom Skelley and I had the honor of addressing the membership. Once the meetings wrapped at noon, Georgia's NEC Jamey Holloway treated my family to a wonderful tour of Savannah. We capped off the trip with one last great meal at The Crab Shack.

The Detachment of Georgia is truly on top of its game.

This Tybee Island Retreat was not only productive and informative but also deeply family-oriented. It perfectly embodied National SAL Commander Bill Clancy's slogan: "Fun With Purpose." That is exactly what we experienced at the 2026 Tybee Island Retreat!







## SPOTTED BY A SON

*In January's newsletter, we asked if you could find the image of the snowflake. The Millennium went out on 14 January at 9:11am, and by 9:14am we had a winner...*



**John Davies**  
**Squadron 239**  
**Cascade, MD**

*Davies is a 30-year member of Maryland Squadron 239, where he serves as Squadron Commander and Vice Commander for several years. 239 has over 400 members, and annually raises about \$70,000 to donate to veterans and members of the community.*

*He also was Commander of the Western Maryland Region for two years before becoming Second Vice Commander of the Detachment of Maryland, and is now First Vice Commander with hopes of become Commander in June. He is on the National VE&E Commission, and is eligible for service through his father who was a sergeant in Patton's 3rd Army, 94th Infantry Division during WWII. Pictured with John is his wife, Tobie.*

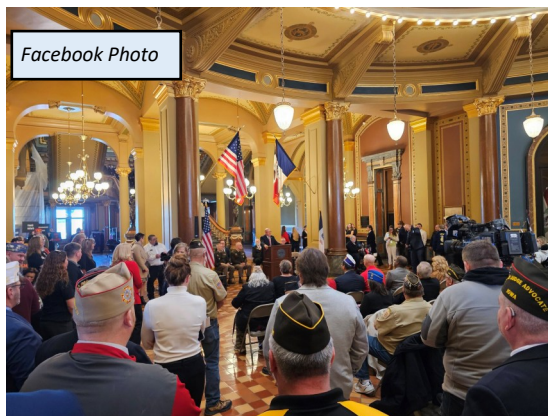


**Mike Monserud (IA),**  
**Trailing Candidate for National Commander**

### Trailing Candidate: "Membership Through Mentorship"

My theme as the Trailing Candidate for National Commander will be "Membership Through Mentorship." In January, I realized that the theme could not be more important than what I had seen. Sometimes you must sit back and let the world around you show you what you need to see, and that came at the Iowa State Capitol.

There was held the Veterans on the Hill Day. The Iowa American Legion Family met at our state headquarters, only blocks away from the Capitol ... where we went over what our priorities were and what we were to talk to our representatives about. Once our meeting was concluded, we headed to the Iowa Capitol building.



watching and listening. As these veterans get older, though, they will not be able to make these trips. Without someone mentoring and giving purpose and drive to carry on the mission to advocate for our veterans' benefits that they earned, then who will?

If we are not mentoring and giving others the direction and drive to complete the mission, then how can we expect them to show up and advocate for our veterans or even retain their membership? We all must show up and see that new person you may have never seen before, and talk to them and ask them if they have questions or if they need help ... because if YOU don't, then they are going to walk out and possibly never come back. We are all mentors in one way or another; we all just need to step up and say I am here to help. If we are not to advocate for the veterans, then who will? If not us, then who, if not now, then when? It starts today and it starts with each one of YOU. Do your part, reach out and be a mentor. Let's all work to make sure our voices are heard so all our legislators know who the American Legion Family is and that we are the ones who will fight for our veterans.

## 2025-26 Membership Target Dates



<b>11 March 2026</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>08 April 2026</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>13 May 2026</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>29 July 2026*</b>	<b>105%</b>

**\* DELEGATE STRENGTH**

SONS OF THE

A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

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Have some news to share?

**Monthly deadline is the 25th**

**Email us at [rusty.myers@ymail.com](mailto:rusty.myers@ymail.com)**







**Bruno Williamson (IL),  
National VA and R Chairman**

### *Together Making a Difference*

Hello, my brother Sons, it is indeed my hope that all of you and your families had a wonderful holiday season. It is also hard to believe that we are almost halfway into the year already.

So, I would like to talk to you about one of our members' projects and a major event that happens at VA's across the country every February.

The National Salute to Veteran Patients is observed annually during the week of Valentines Day, a day of caring and sharing which underscores the salute's expression of honor and appreciation. This year's National Salute to Veteran Patients week will be observed Feb. 8-14 at all VA medical facilities. This is a great time for youth groups, members of the public and veteran service organizations to schedule a visit to spend time with a hospitalized veteran.

The annual VA National Salute to Veteran Patients program began in 1978 when the VA took over sponsorship of a program started in 1974 by the humanitarian organization, No Greater Love.

As with every National Salute to Patient Week, the VA is again requesting you or your organization to send Valentines Day cards to your VA to be given to veterans to show your support and love for their service to our country. The cards provide a small token of your appreciation, and really do impact on the lives of veterans. These messages of encouragement brighten their day, and show them we do honor their commitment to serving our nation.

National Salute to Veteran Patients Week not only provides Sons an opportunity to visit veterans, but it may also serve as that spark to become a Regularly Scheduled (RS) volunteer or a Sons VAVS representative. Remember, I have a goal of the Sons having representation in 60 VAMC's. The VA has many opportunities for you to showcase your talents, and give your time. From greeting veterans at the main entrance of your local VA as a Red Coat Ambassador, to visiting veterans in the Community Living Center, to becoming a Volunteer Transportation Network driver, the VA has a job for you.

CDCE also has many ways you can support your VA through donating items or making a financial contribution to support food banks, homeless veteran programs, baby showers, and many other endeavors.

The USO is a program that the commission has not talked about in quite some time, and this year our Central Region point-of-contact Bill Sutterlin chose the USO to promote. Here is "Buster's" report:

Do you know that USO stands for United Service Organizations? While it is not an agency of the government, it is chartered by Congress and is supported through donations. The USO serves the active duty, guard and reserves in all branches of the military and families through their programs. Some of the programs offered are Canine program, Care Package program, Centers, Coffee Connections, Gaming, Entertainment, Holidays, Mobiles, Program in a Box, Reading Program, Special Delivery, Sports and Fitness, Transition Program, USO2Go, Youth programs, Education, Employment, Financial Wellness, and Mentorship.

There are over 250 USO organizations nationwide. All states in the central region have USO centers except for West Virginia. To locate those in your state go to the USO website [USO.com](http://USO.com) and go to the locator tab and type in your state.

Ways that you can support the USO are through donations, volunteering, and fundraising. You can sign up for the USO newsletters through their website. Recently, the USO put out emails to notify people that there were matched donations to provide assistance during the government shutdown, and then for Thanksgiving meals. Currently Coca-Cola has provided a matching donation of \$50,000 which ended in December.

Locally, our electric cooperative is collecting donations for USO Ohio. Many states did Christmas events. Great Lakes USO Center in Great Lakes, Illinois is had a family fun night in December for families to make gingerbread houses, and the supplies are provided free. Fort McCoy in Wisconsin had a tree lighting ceremony with hot chocolate. On December 10th, there was a USO Michigan and Ohio virtual Coffee Connection which connects military spouses to chat while making winter holiday cards.



**Celebrate the nation's semiquincentennial by taking part in The American Legion's USA 250 Challenge. Your participation, whether as an individual or part of a team, helps honor our veterans and uplift communities nationwide while promoting physical fitness, mental wellness, and community service.**

**Participants may engage in one, two or all three activities as an individual or as part of a team like an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron and/or an American Legion Riders chapter.**

**For a \$30 registration fee, participants will receive their choice of a USA 250 Challenge tech shirt. The proceeds will go to the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF).**

### **Register Here**

[www.legion.org/get-involved/  
community-programs/usa250/  
challenge](http://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/usa250/challenge)





**Allen Watry (WI), Natn'l Convention and Meetings Cmte. Chair**

**National Convention:  
Louisville 2026**

Who remembers the theme of a set of BASF commercials which aired in the 1990s? I will give you a second, if you need, to do a quick search....The theme of this commercial series I am referring to was *"We do not make a lot of the products you buy. We make a lot of the products you buy better"*.

BASF is a chemical company. And while they did not directly produce products consumers purchase, they developing better materials/plastics for their customers, which they in turn were using to improve the products consumers were buying.

I believe the goals of the National Convention and Meetings Committee are very similar to the role BASF to consumers. The National Convention and Meetings Committee is not the primary group planning and executing the convention. Rather, we are working with those groups to ensure the convention is engaging and memorable for everyone who attends.

To achieve this, the efforts we are working on include (but are not limited to):

- Planning a Friday Night Social
- Development and sales/distribution of Coins/Pins/other memorabilia
- Preparing Audio/Video Clips to be used throughout the Convention proceedings.
- Providing awareness of the resources delegates will have available to them to move about the Convention Activities and other Events while in Louisville.

We are off to a great start, but we have a LOT of work to do yet. And we could use a little help for all of you to ensure the upcoming Convention is Engaging and Memorable. This help includes:

- Providing Audio/Video Clips content to be used during the Convention proceedings.
- Sharing/distributing the information which the Committee will be providing in the next couple months to your squadron/squadron members.

We will be providing more details, updates, and information in the coming months as we continue to prepare for the 2026 Convention in Louisville. Do not hesitate to reach out to me or the Committee with thoughts/idea/content. And we are looking forward to seeing many of you in Louisville in late August!!



## 2026 Media & Communications Contest



**The annual American Legion Media and Communications Contest is underway for 2026, to recognize the great work American Legion Family members do at the post, district, and department levels to positively promote and educate about the organizations. Members of the Legion, Sons, Auxiliary and Riders are encouraged to enter the contest to showcase their work in various media channels.**

**Learn more about the various categories and how to enter by [clicking this link](#).**

## Submit your Photos to the SAL Snapshots and Videos of Service Contests

Submissions are being sought for the Sons of The American Legion's **Snapshots of Service** and **Videos of Service** programs. The best entries will receive national awards.

Entry forms for both programs can be found at [Legion.org/Sons/Publications](http://Legion.org/Sons/Publications).

**Snapshots of Service:** Photos submitted to the Snapshots of Service program must represent one of the Four Pillars: Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, or Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

**Videos of Service:** The SAL Videos of Service program is open to all SAL members. Video submissions must contain an SAL member or members wearing SAL covers or SAL-branded clothing participating in an activity or event that falls under one of three categories: program support; community engagement; or membership and recruitment.

**Entries for both the Snapshots of Service and Videos of Service should be submitted by email at [sons.public.media+video@gmail.com](mailto:sons.public.media+video@gmail.com).**

***Did your picture appear in The Millennium over the last few months? That means that we thought it was engaging ... so consider submitting it!***





Legion.org—06 February 2026

## SAL: Share Your Why

With over 400,000 members, the Sons of The American Legion undoubtedly contains over 400,000 unique stories on why its members are going above and beyond to honor the veterans whose service enabled those members to join the SAL.

At The American Legion National Headquarters, we want to share those stories. We're calling on SAL members to "Share My Why."

We've set up a link ([CLICK HERE](#)) through which SAL members can briefly share why they joined, what makes their squadron unique, and what makes them proud to be a Son.

The Legion's Media & Communications Division will use some of these videos across the gamut of our social media to highlight the SAL. And we'll follow up with some of the more compelling stories to delve into those members' "why."

Before you click on the link:

**Prepare your answers.** We want your answers to be concise, so before you log on to make your recording, think about how you can answer each question in a minute or less.

### The questions are:

- 1: Why did you join the Sons of The American Legion? Did you grow up as part of the squadron? Did someone invite you? How did you first hear about the Sons? What made you want to be part of the organization?
- 2: What makes your squadron unique? Are there special activities? Is it a unique group of people? Is there someone famous who currently belongs to your squadron or was a part of your squadron in the past?
- 3: What makes you proud to be a Sons of The American Legion member? Tell us your "WHY" - what keeps you involved and engaged with the organization.

**Choose your recording location.** You can log in using a smartphone, tablet or computer. The device must have a microphone and

camera (or be connected to external microphones and/or cameras).

You must be in a location with internet access during the recording. Find a location that is quiet where you will not be disturbed for 10-15 minutes while you record. Using earbuds that include a microphone (like AirPods) will help mitigate noise and provide clear audio recording.

Try to find a well-lit location. Natural light is ideal, but don't sit with a large window at your back. Whether using a window, household lighting or video lights, position yourself so that the strongest light

source is situated in front of you and slightly angled to one side.

**Dress code.** You may dress in casual or business attire, but make sure you are well branded. You must be wearing your Sons of The American Legion cap, and you may wear any additional branded clothing or accessories as you prefer.

**Logging in.** When you click the link, you'll first see a page that guides you through a check of your mic and camera settings. It will default to the internal devices in your camera or phone, but if you have external devices connected, you will see drop-down options to select these instead.

The next screen will help you set up your shot.

The third screen is where you will adjust the teleprompter settings. The script is just there to remind you of the questions. If you hover the cursor over the text at the top of the page, you can stop and start the prompter, make the letters larger or smaller, and control the speed of the words as they move over the page.

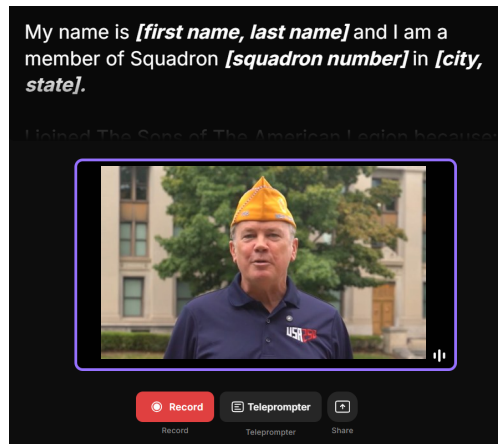
Once you are ready to record, tap the red RECORD button at the lower edge of the screen. The system will count down and the recording will begin. Run through the script, answering the questions. When you are done, tap on the STOP button at the bottom of the page.

If you make a mistake during the recording, you can just say Take 2 and restate whatever question you were working on. If you want

to start over, you can tap the RESTART button. This action will erase everything recorded and give you a fresh start. The Teleprompter button is also available on this screen.

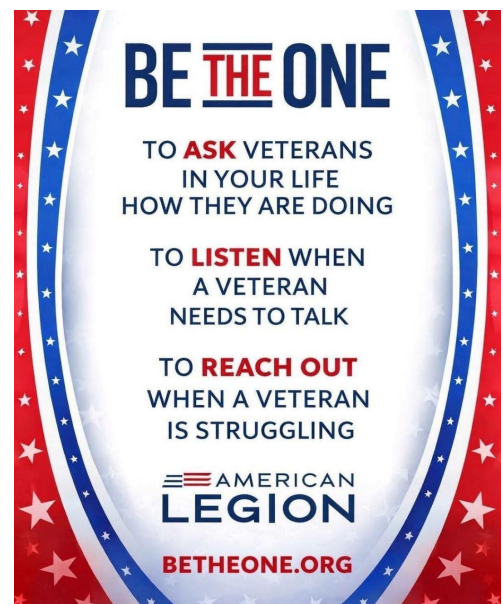
Once you stop the recording, you'll be able to see a preview of your submission and you'll have one more chance to record again. Type in your name and e-mail address and tap the purple SEND RECORDING button.

One last screen will confirm that your recording was successfully sent.



SAL members are encouraged to share why they joined and what makes them proud to be a Son via a video recording platform, as shown above.

[Click here to begin recording your video.](#)





[Fecbook.com—WI SAL Photo-Journalist](#)  
—25 Jan 2026

On

### Wisconsin: Let's Go Fishing!

Saturday 24 January 2026, with sub-zero temperatures, 135 people entered the SAL 521 Fox Lake Fishery. For 17 years, Dave Deprue has been coordinating this community event that the SAL hosts in the tiny American Legion Post. Every kid receives a door prize. There is a freezer full of meat raffle, basket raffles, paddle raffle, and a silent auction going on. Amazing turn out considering the weather.



Facebook Photos



[Fecbook.com—Sons of the American Legion Detachment of North Carolina Group](#)  
—17 Jan 2026

### North Carolina: Division Meeting

January's Division 1 and 2 meeting was a great success, and American Legion Post 116 (Fuquay Verina, NC) was honored to serve as host. It was truly a pleasure to bring together a meeting of the minds, share ideas, and strengthen our collective mission of serving our veterans and community. The Sons of North Carolina value the camaraderie and collaboration demonstrated today and look forward to continuing this spirit of partnership in the future.



Facebook Photos



**Bryan Hine (TN), National Vice Commander Southeast**

### National Commander Clancy visits Tennessee

National Commander Clancy recently made his official visit to the Detachment of Tennessee.

Commander Clancy was presented a "Barrel-Head", given by Detachment Commander Pat Unger at the Detachment's Mid-Winter Conference on 10 January 2026.



Submitted Photo

Commander Unger stated "This one-of-a-kind masterpiece was commissioned specifically for you and handcrafted by Master Woodwright Kevin Nell, a proud member of Loretto Squadron 146. Meticulously fashioned from an authentic Tennessee whiskey barrel head, this work of art represents our state's finest craftsmanship and heritage".

Commander Clancy was also commissioned as an "Honorary Tennessean" by NVC Bryan Hine on behalf of Tennessee Governor Bill Lee.



Submitted Photo







Delaware NEC Chris Rechard with American Legion Auxiliary National President Pam Ray at her official visit to the state.



Squadron 375 (Mukwonago, WI) members ANEC Mike Pook and Detachment Vice Commander Randy Timms present a check donation to A.L.F. Dog chairman Bob Sirovina Jr, with the Detachment Commander Chris Dannenmann on the far right. Operation A.L.F. provides stuffed dogs to comfort and help children through the challenges of a parent's deployment.



Sons at the Department of Arizona Open House in January.

Another fantastic Living History Night at Ronald Reagan - Palisades Post 283 (Los Angeles, CA). Dr. Richard Baum, 104 year-old Jewish WWII veteran and an Assistant Squad Leader in the 65th Armored Infantry Battalion (part of the 20th Armored Division) recalled tales of his military service.



The Sons of Squadron 112 (Omaha, NE) were recognized for their work at the Detachment of Nebraska Mid-Year Conference. Benson won all four categories for the best Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) award—for Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Americanism, and Veterans Employment and Education.



Squadron 155 (Kings Mountain, NC) Officer Elections & Installations.







January's Breakfast Buffet cooked by the Sons of Squadron 226 (Edgewater, MD).



Leading Candidate for National Commander Thom Skelley (TX) on a recent visit to the Detachment of Oregon.



The Clancy Boys, Geir and Stenn, showing their Herculean strength lifting a projectile made for one on the USS Missouri's Mark 7 16" guns in Hawaii. (The real shells are around 2,700 pounds—they found the replicas made out of wood).



Scenes from the Detachment of Pennsylvania's Mid-winter Conference. Below, Detachment Commander Mark Nave accepting a donation from District 19 Commander Matt Nickel.



Detachment of New York Leadership, along with NVC Jeremy Rivell (VT), second from right, making a donation at the Mid-winter Conference to the Fisher House in Albany.



SAL Pennsylvania District 12 December Meeting.

Missouri's newest charter, Squadron 117 (Braymer, MO) with Detachment Commander Mike Walter



Squadron 574 (Hudson Falls, NY) making a \$1,000 donation to the Fisher House in Albany





# SONS ON SOCIAL

THE SAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA



The Annual Bull and Oyster Roast hosted by Squadron 166 (Ocean City, MD)



Squadron 184 Commander Mike Matthews (Savannah, GA) welcoming all to the Georgia Detachment Training Class.



Past Detachment Commander Brian Massey, Jr. of Vermont ...Penguin Plunge anyone?



Squadron 68 (Clayton, OK) receiving their new charter.



Presenting the new charter to Squadron 399 (Okauchee, WI)



Squadron 323 (Lebo, KS) receiving their new charter

Detachment of Illinois at the January NRIC (National Regional Information Conference) in Indianapolis, along with National Vice Commander Honigfort (OH). At right, a membership seminar from the NRIC.



Maryland Detachment Commander Jason Miller, left, alongside National Commander Clancy, center, raising a flag above Fort McHenry during the Maryland Midwinter Conference.



National Membership Midwest Committee Chairman Casey Hansen visiting Squadron 138 (DeSmet, SD) on their Bingo Night with 80 attendees, where members in attendance or working the event showed off their new 2026 SAL Recruitment Polo shirts.







**Russell "Rusty" Myers III (NJ),**  
Editor of *The Millennium*

### The Four Chaplains: Father Washington's Home Parish

Taken from John 15:13, the hymn played during communion praises that "There is no greater love, says the Lord... than to lay down your life for a friend."

This is the account of the Four Chaplains, celebrated at a mass each year at Saint Stephens Church in Kearny, NJ; a mass attended annually by the American Legion Family of Essex and Hudson Counties.

The story of the Four Chaplains is one of service, heroism, and ultimately sacrifice.

Attendance at the mass is an affirmation of the commitment of the American Legion Family – veteran Legionnaires, Sons, and Auxiliary members – to honor our collective legacy of service, and to never forget the sacrifices of the past. It is a testament to the Legion's heritage of promoting Americanism.

SAL County Commander Kevin Infield of Nutley Squadron 70 noted afterward that "... marching in as a unit shook me to my core ... it was one of the most moving experiences of my life."



Father Washington

Saint Stephens has the unique distinction of being a church where one of the Chaplains was actually stationed as a parish priest. Originally from the Roseville section of Newark, Father John P. Washington was assigned to Kearny

in 1938, before his enlistment in 1941. Because of his connection to the church, there is a large statue outside of the four men standing and praying on the deck of the Dorchester, along with the Sanctuary of the Four Chaplains residing in the church itself.

The Four Chaplains - Methodist minister Rev. George L. Fox, Reform Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Catholic priest Father John P. Washington, and Reformed Church in America minister Rev. Clark V. Poling – all served as US Army Chaplains in the first year of World

War II. In January of 1943, they set sail from New York along with 900 other soldiers headed for Greenland aboard the USAT Dorchester, a troop transport which was part of a larger convoy. On the morning of February 3rd, the ship was torpedoed by a German U-boat, with the ship sinking quickly.

The chaplains were seen handing out life jackets and helping soldiers into the water, eventually giving up their own life jackets to save other men. Survivors of the Dorchester, of which there were only 230 out of 904, recall seeing the four men standing arm-in-arm on the ship as it went down, praying and singing hymns. The chaplains all went down with the Dorchester.

As members of the "Greatest Generation", they made the ultimate sacrifice by helping save as many of their fellow servicemen as they could - a testament to their commitment as officers and men of faith to serve their fellow man.

"Blessed are the peacemakers... in a world torn apart by war, they embodied unity across faith", spoke Bishop Pedro Bismarck Chau in his homily. "Blessed are the merciful ... they placed the lives of strangers above their own."

To honor that sacrifice, veterans, patriotic organizations, and veteran service organiza-



Submitted Photo: Procession into St. Stephens Church

tions from around the area gather at the invitation of Saint Stephen's to attend a mass in the Chaplain's honor each year on the first Sunday in February. In a remarkable addition to that, descendants of the Dorchester's survivors from around the country attend, as well as descendants of the chaplain's themselves – now 83 years after the vessels sinking.

"It is so important that we do what we can to keep this story going, because it's an important part of our history - not just because it's national history, but because it's church history...." said Father Joe Mancini, Pastor of Saint Stephens at the conclusion of mass. "They had the freedom to choose, and they embraced that freedom and did it with joy."



Submitted Photo: Four Chaplains Monument in Kearny, NJ



Submitted Photo: The Sons of Essex County, NJ





## Polar Plunge with the National Commander at the Maryland Midwinter Conference



Facebook Photos

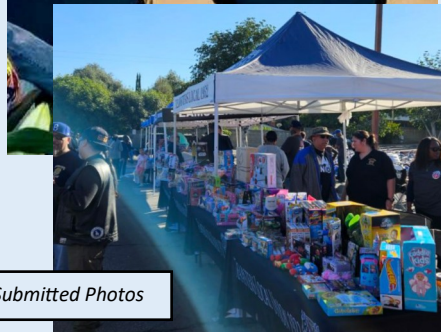


**John Mejia (CA), Colton Squadron 155 Commander**

### California: Squadron 155 Hard at work for our Vets and Their Families

Squadron 155 has been busy over the past two months, holding these events:

- 17th Annual Winter Wonderland for Ronald MacDonald house in Loma Linda
- 24th Annual Christmas Barstow Veterans Home
- Annual US Vets Homeless Village Annual Christmas party for children and vets



Submitted Photos



**Edward Ranney (IL), Commander, SAL 5th District of Illinois**

### Starting the New Year with a Strike in Illinois

The American Legion Family of the 5th District of Illinois was well represented at the 76th Annual American Legion Auxiliary 1st Division bowling tournament at Stardust Bowl in Addison, IL. 1st Division Bowling Chairmen Patty Buhle from Unit 330 Calumet City put together a wonderful event that included 24 teams from multiple American Legion posts, divisions, and districts representing the Legion Family while raising money for ways and means.



Submitted Photos: Left, Squadron 687 (Stickney, IL) and Post 96 (Cicero, IL)







**Mike Pook (WI), Staff Contributor to "The Millennium"**  
**Create a Photo Year Book**

A physical photo year book allows you to showcase your squadron's work in a physical format. Unlike digital images on your social feed, a book offers a curated presentation of your Sons of The American Squadron year. The photo year book goes in chronological order, starting with the election of the squadron officers for the next 12 months ... usually ending the month before the annual elections.

During the 12 months of your squadron's year, take pictures with a camera or with your cell phone. To create a photo "year" book, gather and select your best photos, choose a platform for designing it, then upload, arrange photos using layouts and themes, add text/captions, customize the cover, and finally, preview and order for printing or share digitally. If you plan to submit your squadron's photo yearbook to a competition, make sure it follows the judging guidelines when you create your photo book.

First, the most important is to start by selecting the best images to go in your photo yearbook. Aim for a theme or narrative that ties the images together, so that the book flows nicely as you flick through the pages. You can link your pages by balancing color and tone, and linking the emotional impact each image conveys. You don't want to spend hours deciding the order of your images only for them to be pixelated when you get your photo yearbook back, so be sure to choose high-resolution images that print well. Some printers may have different requirements, so it's best to double-check before sending anything off!

**Define a theme and narrative:** When considering if certain images have more impact when next to others, and which images compliment or juxtapose each other, remember

that some text will need to go along with each picture. Date the photograph and talk about what the picture is about. Add names and titles so the person looking through your photo year book can identify with the story you are telling. By defining a clear theme and narrative for your photo yearbook, the year-long story takes shape. A well-defined theme will guide your image choices. Aim for a natural progression that keeps the viewer engaged. If the images are part of an overarching project, do they need to be in a certain order? It's best to plan this out before you start creating your photo year book.

**Quality over quantity:** This is the time to curate your images and see how they work together in the photo yearbook. Which photographs flow and add to the overall book, or which don't really need to be there. For example, selfies are not very interesting. You'll want to select images for your photo year book

that are technically strong and well-composed. Create a shortlist of potential images before finalizing your selection for your photo yearbook, so you can review and refine your choices. Once you're happy with your final selection and image order, it's time to create your document for print.

**Layouts:** Experiment with different layout options and designs. Do you want every page to be the same? Think about how you want the images on each page to look. Balance your pages by placing your elements evenly across pages. This includes images, text, and negative space. Create rhythm by varying the size and placement of images so that the page may look more interesting. White space, or negative space, provides visual breathing room and guides the viewer's focus in your photo book. If your photo year book has chapters or sections, consider cre-

ating chapter introduction pages to better explain your work or give background information. These can include titles, subtitles, and brief text to introduce each section.

**Font Size:** Choose a readable font and size for your text and maintain consistency throughout, as it will give a professional look to your photo yearbook. Experiment with font sizes and styles to distinguish between headings, captions, and body text. As a rule, you'll want to stick to two fonts maximum (one for your cover or heading 1 text, and another for your text body) and two or three font sizes. Keep these consistent throughout the whole photo book.

**Proof Reading and Proof Copy:** Proofread your text and review your layouts. Make sure you use a spell checker to avoid any spelling errors. Ensure that the flow of images and text makes sense, and it looks good to flick through! Then send it to at least two other people to proofread. You'll be surprised what you've missed!!

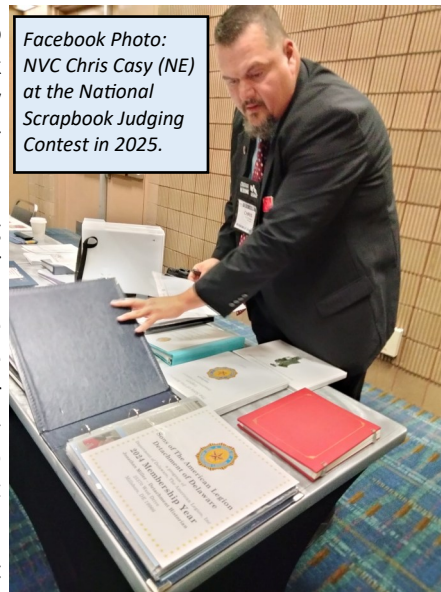
Once you are happy with the pictures and text of the yearbook, it's time to look for a physical copy. It's always a good idea to print a test copy first (Proof Copy) before sending off to the printer (trust us, it will save you a lot of time, money, and headaches!). This will give you a good idea of what to expect when you get the final printed photography book back. Also, you will be able to make changes if needed before the actual printing of your photo year book.

Creating your own photo year book is a rewarding experience that allows you present your photographs in a stylish and timeless way. At the end of the process, you'll hold in your hands a physical copy of your hard work that you can treasure forever and show off to everyone! The squadron never looked so good!

*This article is the first in a series of "how-to" pieces we're doing, going over the nuts and bolts of being in a certain office. Look each month for more on how to be an effective squadron officer.*



Facebook Photo: Contributor Mike Pook holding a history book at the Wisconsin Midwinter Conference.



Facebook Photo: NVC Chris Casy (NE) at the National Scrapbook Judging Contest in 2025.







**Tyler Vanice (VA), SAL 100  
Ad-Hoc Committee Chairman**

### **SAL 100th Anniversary: Preserving Our History**

Your 100th Anniversary Committee is working on many ways to commemorate and celebrate 100 years of Sons supporting The American Legion, but it mostly starts with you.

Preserving your history is essential because it allows future generations to understand the roots and evolution of your organization. By maintaining records and memories, you honor the achievements and sacrifices of those who came before, ensuring their legacy continues to inspire. Additionally, a well-documented history provides valuable lessons and guidance, strengthening your community's identity and sense of purpose as you celebrate milestones such as your centennial anniversary.

It also underscores one of the statements in our preamble: "... to preserve the memories of our former members ..." Doing this as members of the Sons of The American Legion is vital because it ensures that their individual stories and contributions are never forgotten. These memories capture the unique experiences, traditions, and camaraderie that have shaped our organization over time.

A centennial celebration is a chance to mark a significant milestone. It gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on our past, review our achievements and renew ourselves. It helps us to better understand why we are here, what our purpose is and to springboard us into building our future by providing a platform for organizational pride and unity.

At right is a bit of history from the 1930's, called "The Song of the Sons" ... and it still rings true today.



## **Carry-On**

### **The Song of THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

Words by

WES. MASTERS, POST NO. 329

Department of Ohio, The American Legion

TUNE: "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

We are the sons and work-ers  
Of American Le-gion-nares;  
For God and Coun-try and our Flag  
We al-ways firm-ly stand;  
We fight the foes of free-dom  
As our fa-thers did in France.  
For them we'll car-ry on.

#### **CHORUS:**

Sons and work-ers of the Le-gion,  
Sons and work-ers of the Le-gion,  
Jus-tice, free-dom and de-moc-ra-cy  
Legion-heirs will car-ry on.

We're sons and work-ers of the men  
Who heard their Coun-try's call  
When to save the world from sel-fish greed  
Make lib-er-ty for all  
They sailed a-cross the o-cean  
And brought peace to all the world,  
For them we car-ry on.

#### **CHORUS:**

Our Coun-try's star-ry ban-ner  
We will car-ry on for you,  
For jus-tice, peace and lib-er-ty,  
The grand Red, White and Blue;  
The em-blem of our Coun-try  
It shall nev-er know de-feat.  
For it, we'll car-ry on.

#### **CHORUS:**



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

A newsletter of Sons of The American Legion

# THE MILLENNIUM

Sons of The American Legion | PO 1055 | Indianapolis, IN 46206 | [www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons)

Postage  
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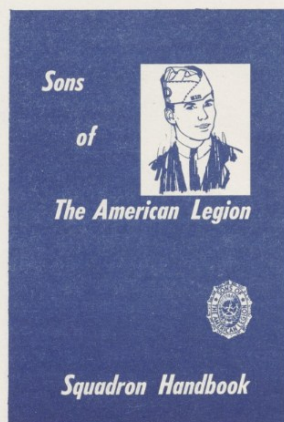
## This Month, On The Back Cover .....

“Mentoring Moments” on Page 6 talks about the Squadron Handbook ...

### Revised SAL Squadron Handbook Now Available

A newly revised SAL handbook is now available through your department headquarters. Additional copies are for sale at 25 cents per copy by writing to: The American Legion, National Membership and Post Activities Committee, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Ind. 46206.

An excellent source of SAL information, the handbook contains suggestions for the organization of a squadron, a suggested program of activities, forms for a squadron constitution and squadron by-laws, a listing of squadron officers and their duties, etc. The handbook also contains program suggestions for various holidays, the SAL Manual of Ceremonies, SAL trophies and awards, and a picture and description of the official uniform of the Sons of The American Legion.



[American Legion Digital Archives, Sons of The American Legion Newsletters](#) : SALutations, Volume 1 Number 1—June 1967

## Be on the look out for “Spotted by a Son”

Every month, The Millennium will hide a small picture or graphic inside the newsletter—first one to find it who email's [rusty.myers@ymail.com](mailto:rusty.myers@ymail.com) will get their name published in the next newsletter and will receive a prize!

**Being that the Legion Family is headed to DC at the end of February, look for the Capitol Building this month!**

