



The Kingsport Legionnaire

THE AMERICAN LEGION Hammond Post 3

Newsletter for August/September 2025



Post meetings are every third Monday of the month, 6 P. M.
in the Eastman Conference Room, 2nd Floor of the
V.O. Dobbins Community Center, 301 Louis Street, Kingsport 37660

August Meeting is August 18, 2025, September Meeting is September 15, 2025

COMMANDER'S CORNER: I hope this newsletter finds you well. It has been a while since we had a newsletter. May was a busy month for the Post. We awarded JROTC Medals to deserving cadets at Dobyns-Bennett, West Ridge and Sullivan East High Schools and four School Awards to graduating seniors at Dobyns-Bennett and West Ridge. We had six members attend the Tri-Cities Law Enforcement Memorial at the Meadowview Convention Center; we did two Poppy collections at the Walmart Neighborhood Market, and another Freddy's Fundraiser. The following people decorated flags at local cemeteries:

Tony Archer	Steve Hite
Wesley Light	Tim Sutton
Alvin & Jennifer Shoemaker	Hank Harvey
Larry Sentelle	Gary Musselman
Emory Sells	William Sells
Richard Nottingham	Joie Kern
Keith McLain	Judy Kiser
Karen Salyer	Tommy & Charlsie Poore
David Arnold	Ellen Burchfield with Abby & Elly Crawford
Dane Clark	

The Post had several members attend the Memorial Day Ceremonies in Kingsport and Blountville the Post 3/Post 265 Honor Guard provided gun salutes at them.

Finally, we sent one boy to American Legion Boys State and two Girls to American Legion Auxiliary Girls State. Angelo Pellitteri, Commander

1st Vice Commander's Message: American Legion "Be the One" Program

What does "Be the One" mean? Across the nation, change is underway to reduce the number of military-affiliated Americans who are lost to suicide. Various estimates have put the daily toll at 18 or 22, while others say those figures underestimate the real number. In any case, The American Legion believes one is too many.

That is why The American Legion has prioritized raising awareness about the issue, providing free suicide prevention training and reassuring those who find themselves struggling that it

is **“OK to not be OK.”** Our goal is to talk openly and boldly about the challenges affecting Americans every day. (from <https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one>)

What is the goal of “Be the One”? Other than hoping to have 100,000 legionnaires trained, the big goal is to prevent veteran suicide overall. Is that a big ask? Yes, but its attainable. together if we pay attention, reach out, and find professional assistance for those found to be in need. Interested in taking the 90 minute online training?
<https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training>

“Everybody here has your own story,” American Legion Be the One Manager, Tony Cross stated. “We’ve all been affected in one way or another (by suicide). Get in your community, spread the word about Be the One and offer them suicide prevention.”

BE THE ONE to act, to call, to serve, to save.

It’s not for everyone, but if you hear, see, sense someone needs a Buddy Check, please reach out to your American Legion Post 3 leadership. Dominick Kasmauskas, 1st Vice Commander

POST OFFICERS:

Post Commander: Angelo A. Pellitteri
Past Post Commander: Gary R. Stidham
Honor Guard Commander: Nancy Rachel
1st Vice Commander: Dominick Kasmauskas
2nd Vice Commander: Gary R. Stidham
Adjutant: Nancy Rachel
Chaplain: Dane Clark
Finance Officer: Angelo A. Pellitteri
County Veteran Service Officer: Hunter Woodall

POST EVERLASTING:

- Albert Overbey

SICK CALL:

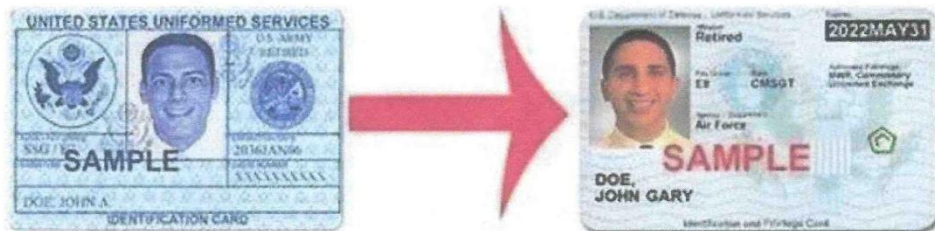
- Bill “Buck” Conant
- Traian Comsa
- Charles Anttila
- Mack Begley
- Paul Bowman
- Richard Lequieu

To add members to the list contact:
Ellen Burchfield (423) 246-6991
Angelo A. Pellitteri (423) 276-5358

HONOR GUARD: The Post 3/265 Honor Guard is looking for volunteers. It is our most visible service in the community. The Honor Guard provides military funeral honors for local veterans and firing parties for Memorial and Veterans days. They average 5 - 10 funerals per month with fifty-eight so far this year. Uniforms are provided. Transportation is provided for all events. If you are interested in this important service, email Nancy Rachel at hammondpost3@yahoo.com.

BLUE ID CARD CHANGE OVER:

News From Our Partners: Next Generation USID Card for Retirees, Spouses, & Dependents



Military retirees are required to update their Uniformed Services Identification (USID) cards to the new Next Generation USID card by **December 31, 2025**. The paper-based USID cards with indefinite expiration dates will no longer be accepted after this date. The new cards are more secure and durable, incorporating features like plastic cardstock and enhanced security measures.

According to the DoD Common Access Card website, USID cards are issued to retired military and Reserve members, dependent family members of uniformed Service members, and other eligible individuals in accordance with DoD policy.

It's important for military retirees/dependents/surviving spouses to know these old forms of ID will **not** be valid to access a military installation, and you will **need** issuance of the NextGen ID card. This will be true even if your old ID card has an INDEF expiration date on it - the ID will still be **invalid**. The deadline is **31 December 2025**.

Based on this, we strongly encourage everyone with an old-style ID card to get a NextGen ID card now!

There are several ways to make an appointment to get a new ID card. (1). You can visit the RAPIDS ID Card Office Locator website to find the closest office and either call them to make an appointment or (2). schedule your own appointment using the website. <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/> To make an appointment using this site select the "ID Card Office Locator & Appointments" block. - do it now!

Update: As indicated in a memo received by Jessi Webb from the SSM DEERS/RAPIDS Military ID Cards Armed Forces Reserve Center in Mount Carmel, TN, "There is currently no designated

'end of life' for Teslin cards. All unexpired Teslin cards (Blue ID cards) remain valid and should not be confiscated from customers."

Here is the memo:

Replacement Guidance of Teslin ID Cards with USID Cards

13-AUG-25

In July 2020, DMDC introduced the Next Generation USID cards as the replacement for the Teslin cardstock. The Next Gen USIDs are more secure and are now the preferred ID Card for the USID populations: Retirees, Reservists, Family members, and other eligible individuals in accordance with DoD policy.

The following guidance applies to USID issuance and Teslin ID card replacement:

- Teslin ID cards that are expiring or requiring a change of information, will be replaced by a USID upon reissuance.
- Indefinite Teslin ID cards currently are not required to be replaced, but it is recommended that Site Security Managers (SSMs) and Verifying Officials (VOs) encourage these customers to upgrade to the USID if they observe them in possession of a Teslin card.
 - Some customer populations may be hesitant to part with their Teslin ID card as their reason to not upgrade to USID.
 - *DMDC does not object to returning the Teslin card to the customer upon them receiving a USID, however, it is recommended to alter the Teslin (e.g. punch a hole in the corner of the card), so it cannot continue to be used for physical access.*
- To date, there is no established "end of life" for Teslin cards, and all Teslin cards that are unexpired are still considered valid and should not be confiscated from the customer.

Arby's Fundraiser: Local

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 2025

4: Coast Guard Birthday

18: Post Meeting

20 – 29: National Convention, Tampa, FL

September 2025

13 – 14: Tennessee Legion College, Department Headquarters, Nashville, TN

15: Post Meeting

18: USAF Birthday

Thank You for Your Continued Membership!

