

Why you should belong

The American Legion is the nation's largest and most powerful organization in the U.S. for veterans and their families.

Its members work together to support their local communities focusing on services classified under the organization's four pillars:

- National Security
- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
- Americanism
- Children and Youth

Based at Cantigny Park, Post 556 is active throughout the year working to achieve the standards set by the Legion Constitution. In addition to meetings and social activities, members conduct public fundraising events at the park such as pancake breakfasts, pasta dinners and poppy distribution during Memorial Day weekend. The Post's primary community service project is the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Wheaton. The Post offers opportunities for our community's youth through an annual oratorical competition and the opportunity to attend the Boys/Girls state program each year.

Post executive meetings are held the **Second Monday of each month at **6:00 pm**. All members and prospective members are welcome to attend.**

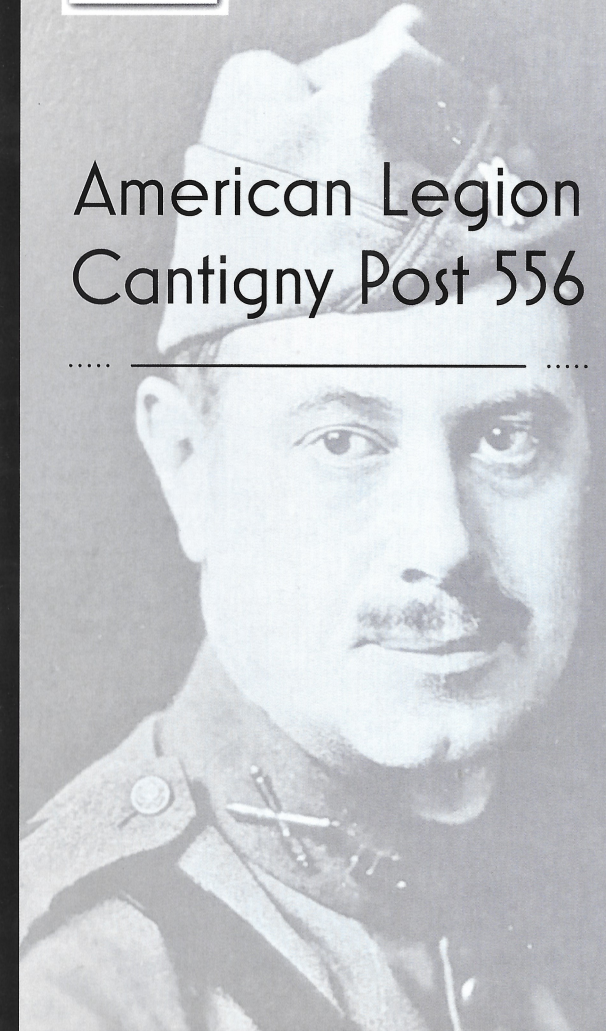


Post 556 contact information:

- Post 556 website: <http://cantignypost556.org>
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American Legion Cantigny Post 556



Founded by Colonel Robert R. McCormick in 1928
Cantigny Park, Wheaton, Illinois



History of Cantigny and Post 556

Cantigny is the former estate of Robert R. McCormick, a lifelong friend of all military veterans. A true citizen-soldier, McCormick joined the Illinois National Guard in 1915 and served on the Mexican border in 1916. At the time, he was editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. He further volunteered for service in World War I with the First Division (now the 1st Infantry Division, the famous "Big Red One"), eventually earning the rank of Colonel. The Battle of Cantigny in 1918 was the only major battle in which McCormick participated, but the experience affected him deeply. Upon returning to the United States, he changed the name of his Wheaton estate from Red Oaks Farm to Cantigny. Colonel McCormick started two American Legion Posts: Chicago Tribune Post 348 and Cantigny Post 556. Founded in 1928, Post 556 today includes nearly 300 members who all share the Legion ideals of service and patriotism. Their gatherings at Cantigny continue a tradition of camaraderie among veterans initiated by the Colonel himself 100 years ago.

What the American Legion can do for you

- The American Legion is an advocate working to improve the lives of our veterans and their families
- Continuously holds the VA accountable for better care, facility management and the receipt of proper benefits.
- Service officers to help process claims, provide referrals and resources on education, employment and death benefits.
- The American Legion's position on national defense, homeland security, border control and military support are all part of the long-held Legion value that the key to peace and world stability is a strong, well resourced defense. To read more about our contribution to national security: www.legion.org/security
- The American Legion makes a difference in our community by engaging our young people in an annual oratorical competition that continues to the national level, providing scholarship funds to the winners.
- Education assistance - www.legion.org/scholarships
- U.S. Flag protection and education - www.legion.org/flag

Veterans Crisis Line

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>

Available 24/7: Dial 988 then Press 1,
Chat live, or text 838255.

Please return completed application and a check for \$50.00 made payable to American Legion Post 556

American Legion Post 556
c/o First Division Museum at Cantigny Park
1s151 Winfield Road
Wheaton, IL 60189-3353

The American Legion Membership Application

30 009 Signature of applicant _____ Date _____ Name of recruiter _____

(Name) _____ (Date of Birth) _____

(Mailing Address) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____ (Post #) _____

(Phone Number) _____

(E-mail) _____ (Gender) ☐ Male ☐ Female (Dues) _____

☐ I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below

☐ Global War on Terror ☐ U.S. Army ☐ Merchant Marines (WWII only)

☐ Gulf War ☐ U.S. Navy ☐ U.S. Air Force

☐ Panama ☐ Lebanon/Grenada ☐ U.S. Marines

☐ Vietnam ☐ U.S. Coast Guard

☐ Korea ☐ Other Conflicts



Receipt of Dues

(Please Print)

From _____

\$ _____ for 20 ____ Post # _____

Recruiter's Name _____

Recruiter's Signature _____

Recruiter's Phone # _____