



**AMERICAN
LEGION**



American Legion Post 1995

July 14th, 2026

DEFENDER NEWSLETTER

Monthly Military Quote

“A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent.” *Douglas MacArthur*

Military Graphic of the Month



Graphic on the cover of the 2026 Department of Virginia Convention Program

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Auxiliary Unit 1995 is NOT meeting in July

Commander's Corner

Post Officer Installation – We had the honor of having our prospective Department Commander, Mike Kimlick conduct the installation ceremony with the assistance of incoming District Vice Commander Erick Parkhurst. While many of our stalwarts offered to continue to serve in their current positions we swore in Greg Hinton as 1st Vice Commander replacing Chris Torelli who is moving to the Department of South Carolina. He will be missed. Jasper Boomer has agreed to serve as 3rd Vice Commander taking on special projects.

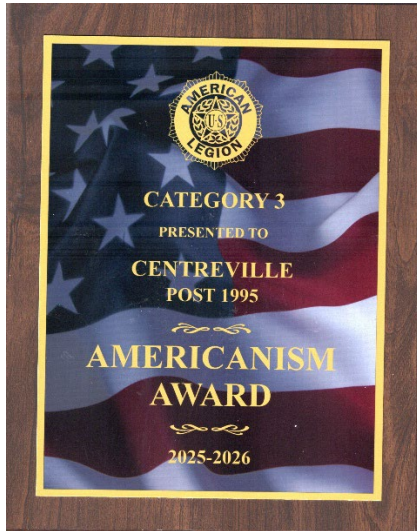


L>R Jasper Boomer, Jim Robison, Mike Kimlick, Randy Young, Steve Hunte, Yahmin Norwood, Al Schenck, Tom Joplin, Mark Miller, Greg Hinton, Mike Reilly, and Eric Parkhurst

Our 250th Fourth of July – The thing to remember is that it is not over on this past Saturday. The America 250 and Virginia 250 campaigns will continue every month for the next six years reliving the key events of the Revolutionary War. The goals of both campaigns are to re-educate the public about our history and the importance of participatory citizenship. This newsletter will include information about upcoming events on the calendar. Make a commitment to get involved and attend an activity or visit a historic place. Learn more about how to get involved at america250.org.



Department of Virginia Convention – The 108th Department of Virginia Convention and was held this past weekend at the Double Tree hotel in Midlothian, VA just outside of Richmond. The convention ran from the 9th-12th. Our Adjutant, Steve Hunter completed his tour as Department Sergeant-at-Arms. Mike Kimlick from Post 177, and a friend of Post 1995, was elected as the new Department Commander for 2026-2027. Post Commander Young, Adjutant Hunter represented the Post. The highlight for the Post was to receive for the fourth year in a row the Americanism award for our annual report in category III. There are six categories divided by post size with I being the smallest to VI being the largest.



Americanism Award Plaque



Department of Virginia 2026 Pin

We Are Now a Medium Sized Post! – Every year our Membership Chairman, Steve Hunter does two specific things to grow our Post. First, he organizes and leads our in-person recruiting events, usually at the Coast Guard Exchange. He also recruits at other venues like the Patriot Day event at the Winery at Bull Run, or at Family Day at the National Reconnaissance Office last week. Second, he mines the roster of the Department holding detachment, Richmond Post 141, for Legionnaires who live in our Zip Codes. He writes to them personally enticing them to transfer membership to Post 1995. This is much harder because we don't have a post home or social quarters to entice people. This year we recruited seven new Legionnaires, 53 of you have a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership, and 138 of you have renewed your membership in our no-longer-little Post. Post 1995 now has over 200 members for the first time in its history.

I thank you for your continued loyalty.

BE the ONE – As we pause to reflect on what it is to be an American, we have to know in our hearts that if it would not be for the over 41 million Veterans, there would be no USA 250. This is not hyperbole, just proven fact. We don't often thank each other "for your service". This month lets find a Vet and let that brother or sister in arms know they mattered. And while you are doing that ASK Veterans in your life how they are doing. It is a

good way to start the conversation. Remember: dial 988 then #1 to ask for help for yourself or another Veteran.



The next Suicide Prevention Training is on July 23

The American Legion has partnered with Columbia University to host free, 90-minute training classes that provide the tools to safely intervene when a veteran is in crisis. The training supports the Legion's veteran suicide prevention mission – [Be the One](https://www.legion.org/information-center/calendar/columbia-protocol-suicide-prevention-training-july-24/) – which encourages Legion Family members to take action when a veteran is at risk of suicide.

For more information and to register for the training open this link:

<https://www.legion.org/information-center/calendar/columbia-protocol-suicide-prevention-training-july-24/>

Post 1995 - Centreville, VA baseball hats are now available.

Purchase your distinctive Post 1995 hat in either blue or black for only \$25.00. This is a savings of \$4.99 off the catalog price before shipping. Some members have bought both colors! Hats will be available at our monthly meetings until they are all gone.



Legislative News:

The Department of Virginia's Convention Committee's legislative report is attached to the July newsletter email distro. It covers both federal and state legislation.

Grassroots Action Center (National): <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>

American Legion's 2026 Legislative Priorities:

The full documentation of The American Legion's legislative priorities for the 2nd session of the 119th Congress: <https://www.legion.org/advocacy/legislative/legislative-priorities>

Auxiliary Grassroots Action Center: <https://www.legion-aux.org/grassroots-action-center>

Annual Post Reports

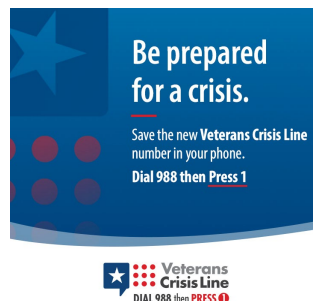
As mentioned in the Commander's Corner, our Americanism Report was recognized as being the best in Category III within the Department. This is due to the reporting we get from you. We had 15 members submit reports, so just imagine the report we could provide if more members contributed their volunteer hours, expenses, and charitable donations. The Americanism Report was included with the June newsletter distribution. Attached to this month's email are the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and Children and Youth reports. You will notice that these two reports pale in comparison to the Americanism submission.

I request that you start documenting your volunteerism with total hours, mileage, expenses, what you did and for whom in a short narrative, and your charitable contributions to your church, veteran, medical, or other charity that you support. These reports are combined with other post reports at the state level then further combined at the national level to report to Congress the impact the American Legion has to support our fellow veterans and our communities. As veterans we do a lot, so let's report it!

National Membership Impact Report for June 2026

<https://www.legion.org/about/reports/membership-impact>

This link provided access Membership Impact Reports for the past four and half years.



Department of Virginia Convention

The Department moving forward will host one annual conference (mid-winter) and one convention instead of a fall and spring conferences and the summer convention. The winter conference will be held in Williamsburg

As mentioned in the June Newsletter, the fund raiser Linden Dixon's candidacy for National Commander included opportunities to win a collection (17) of Department Commanders' coins as the first raffle prize. Second and third place winners received framed posters of the coins. Your Adjutant was fortunate to win third place for the 8 ½ x 12½ poster. He plans to request the past Department Commanders sign the back of the poster at the next Department Conference.

2026 National Convention

This year's National American Legion Convention will be held in Louisville, Kentucky from August 27th to September 4th. If you wish to attend and stay in the Department of Virginia Hotel, you must submit your registration form to Department Headquarters NLT than July 17th. If interested contact your Post Adjutant for the form and where to digitally submit it. If you have never been to a National Convention, it provides a unique insight into the breath of what the American Legion and by extension what WE collectively do, to support our country, local communities, and veterans.

Membership Update

We ended our 2026 membership year with our highest ever membership. Our goal this year was 196 members and we ended with 209 or 106.63% of the goal. Thanks to everyone who renewed your memberships, became Paid Up for Life members, transferred your membership to Post 1995 or joined the Legion and our Post.

Renewal letters from National will be arriving in the next week or two for 2027. Membership cards were picked up at the Department Convention, so members who begin renewing either online or through the mail will get their cards soon.

Multi-Year Memberships - The Legion has a three-year renewal option. The benefit of renewing for three years and paying in advance is that you avoid any dues increase over the next three years and getting additional renewal notifications. While there is no discount for the multi-year membership, you are locked in at the current dues amount, even if the fee increases during this time. For details on this new option visit this Legion website: <https://www.legion.org/membership/260621/american-legion-multiyear-membership-here> Four out of the last six online renewals with the post have taken advantage of this new membership renewal option.

PUFL Memberships - PLFL members pay a one-time fee for a lifetime American Legion membership. You never have to pay yearly dues and future increases, which will come over the years. For those considering getting a Paid Up For Life membership, an added incentive would be a \$100 discount, but you must call National and request availability of

it. The kicker, however, is that you must pay all of it with a credit card or check in a single payment. This option is not available with their payment plan. If you are interested in a PUFL membership, call 1-800-433-3318.

Final Thought:

“The essence of patriotism lies in a willingness to sacrifice for one’s country, just as true greatness finds expression, not in blessing enjoyed, but in good bestowed” *William Jennings Bryan American lawyer and politician*

Military History:

The Last US Cavalry Charge in History: 27 Troopers Routed Japanese Forces in the Philippines During WWII

https://www.military.com/daily-news/investigations-and-features/2026/01/15/last-us-cavalry-charge-history-27-troopers-routed-japanese-forces-philippines-during-wwii.html?ESRC=eb_260122.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb&utm_campaign=20260122

Calendars - To view the **National Legion calendar**, visit this website:

<https://www.legion.org/information-center/calendar>

Post Calendars for July and August 2026 are on the next pages.

July 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10 Department Convention	11 Department Convention
12 Department Convention	13	14 Post Meeting	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Buffalo Soldiers Day	29 Army Chaplain Anniversary	30	31	

Link Source: <https://veteran.com/military-calendar-holidays-events-observances/>

August 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 Coast Guard Day	5	6	7 Purple Heart Day	8
9	10	11 Post Meeting	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 National Convention	29 National Convention
31 National Convention	31 National Convention					

Link Source: <https://veteran.com/military-calendar-holidays-events-observances/>

Free Flags - The Post has a considerable number of lightly used U.S. flags of assorted sizes from 3'x 5" to 5'x 9'-5" available to any Post member who needs to replace their house flag. All you need to do is let the Adjutant know what size you need and attend the next meeting after your request. These flags were turned in for retirement by community members for our annual flag retirement ceremony this past November and previous years, however due to their good condition they are not yet ready for retirement. The Post's collection (not giveaways) also includes some unique flags such as 45- and 48-star flags (possible museum donations), and copies of the Grand Union, Bennington, and Betsy Ross flags.

Comments/Submissions to the Editor - Comments about this newsletter relative to its contents and/or presentation style are always welcomed. We also encourage submissions from Post members relative to anything related to the American Legion and/or what we as Legionnaires are doing to serve our communities. If you have missed previous issues of the Post's newsletters, let me know and I can forward any month want.

Editor's Note: Some of the links to articles are here due to the editor's opinion of their importance to veterans relative to News You Can Use, of interest to veterans, and/or to inform membership of the post's activities/meetings/events. The following is always at the bottom of each newsletter.

Department of Virginia Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaLegion/>

Post 1995's Facebook Page: Currently down

1995 Centreville webpage Post: <https://americanlegionpost1995.org>

17th District X (aka Twitter) Account: <https://twitter.com/va17thdistrict>

Facebook: 17th District's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/VALegion17/>), is synchronized to its Twitter page and posts to the 17th District Facebook page are tweeted to the 17th District's Twitter page.

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