



**AMERICAN
LEGION**



American Legion Post 1995

October 12th, 2024 - Defender Newsletter

Photo of the Month:

Pentagon Stone Memorial - National Museum of the United States Army (Fort Belvoir)



On 11 September 2024, the National Museum of the United States Army held a wreath laying ceremony at the NMUSA Pentagon Stone Memorial to commemorate the 23rd anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States. (Jim Robison photographer)

Military Quote of the Month

“A good Navy is not a provocation to war. It is the surest guaranty of peace”

Theodore Roosevelt

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Commander's Corner

Battle of Chantilly Remembrance – On September 1st Post 1995 conducted its second annual remembrance of the Civil War battle at the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. The Post presented a wreath and a prayer for the fallen in all wars. Next year we plan to reach out to other interested community organizations to expand participation.



Randy Young, Jim Robison, and Bob Barrs

Five Year Plan Progress – Under the leadership of 1st Vice Commander Dave Benson, your executive committee is beginning the process of mapping out the next five years for your post. We are also looking for a “home base,” not a post home, but a place where we can belong and have access to social quarters on an ongoing basis. On September 18th I attended the monthly membership meeting of Post 184 in Herndon. They meet at the Herndon Moose Lodge. It was interesting how Post 184 benefits from their association with the Moose Lodge. If you have ideas for our Post’s future, we want to hear about them so please send them in or better yet come to a membership meeting.

Post 180 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony – On September 11th I was invited to attend this ceremony at the Vienna Community Center hosted by Post 180. In attendance were the Mayor of Vienna, Linda J. Colbert, and numerous city council members, the Chief of the Fire Department, and the Chief of Police. Music was provided by the Town of Vienna Ensemble. The master of ceremonies was Dave Wallace, Commander of Post 180. Mayor Colbert delivered a proclamation by the Town Council entitled “A Day to Remember.” The keynote speaker was Matthew Shuman, National Security Chairman of the American Legion.

Centreville Day – October 19th will be Centreville Day in the historic area. Post 1995 will have several key roles in making the day a success. Please come by our tent and say “Hello.” Read more about Centreville Day later in the newsletter.



Chris Torrelli, Steve Hunter, Jim Robison, and Al Schenck (2022)

Centreville Day is the largest local community non-school related event each year. It celebrates Centreville's history, features local crafters/vendors, first responders, a parade, and other local government office with outreach programs. This year we plan to have an expanded Eco Expo to educate the community on recycling. I will send the Centreville flyer and other information out next week. **This event helps the Post to show our flag, educate area residents on our programs and outreach to Veterans, and to recruit new members. Please see the end of the newsletter for a sign-up matrix to help staff the booth.**

Veterans Day Observances Coming in November – It will be a very busy month in November with Veterans Day and Thanksgiving; both are occasions for which to give thanks, one for our Veterans and one for the nation they defend. This is your holiday, and I encourage you to participate in any way you can. Donate money to wear a poppy or attend a commemoration of Veterans service and sacrifice. Let your neighbors know you are a veteran and start a simple conversation about what your service has meant to you.



Each wreath represents a Legion family organization: Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders

BE the ONE – Post 177 in Fairfax conducted a suicide prevention seminar at the Post on Sunday, September 29th at 2 PM. Techniques for de-stigmatizing the burden of suicide ideation among Veterans were identified. Every month the American Legion magazine has

information about how to educate yourself about the challenge we face. Every day you can do something small about this scourge of the Veteran community. LISTEN when a Veteran needs to talk. Remember: dial 988 then #1 to ask for help for yourself or another Vet.

Get Out The Vote:

Tuesday, 5 November, is election day. Early voting has already started in Virginia and continues through 2 November. In Fairfax County, early voting sites are the Fairfax County Government Center, Mount Vernon Governmental Center, and North County Governmental Center. Starting 17 October, additional early voting centers will open, including the Sully Governmental Center and the Centreville Regional Library.

Absentee by mail voters may vote in person if they choose. If you received a ballot in the mail, you must bring it with you and surrender it to vote in person. If you received a ballot but do not bring it with you, you may vote a provisional ballot. Mail ballot drop boxes are available during early voting location operating hours.

If you have questions, check your county office of elections.

Fairfax County: [Office of Elections | Elections \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

Loudoun County: [Elections & Voter Registration | Loudoun County, VA - Official Website](#)

Prince William County: [Home | Prince William County Office of Elections \(pwcvotes.org\)](#)

Fauquier County Office of Elections: [Office of the General Registrar | Fauquier County, VA](#)

How to Avoid Election Related Scams or at least reduce your risk.

https://www.malwarebytes.com/blog/news/2024/09/how-to-avoid-election-related-scams?utm_source=iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=b2c_pro_oth_20240909_septemberweeklynewsletter_paid_v2_1_172562958264&utm_content=Election
(Source: Malwarebytes Labs, September 9, 2024)

Honor a beloved veteran with a special tribute of ‘Taps’ at the National WWI Memorial in Washington, D.C.

<https://www.legacy.com/news/sponsored-content/https-www-legacy-com-news-sponsored-content-honor-a-beloved-veteran-with-a-speical-tribute-of-taps-at-the-national-wwi-memorial-in-washingotn-d-c/>

National Museum of the United States Army

The National Museum of the United States Army is hosting a “Call to Connect, VA Claims Day” at the museum on 17 October from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Counselors from the Virginia Department of Veterans Services will be available on site to advise Virginia veterans on current federal, state and local veterans’ programs, entitlements, and referral

services. If you wish to attend, you do need to register on-line at the NMUSA website. Click here to learn more and to register. [US Army Museum - Booking \(thenmusa.org\)](https://www.usarmymuseum.org/booking)

American Legion National Membership Impact Report – September

To review the impact report archives back to November 2018, see this link:

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

Veteran Entrepreneur Opportunity

Mustang Sally Brewing Company in Chantilly is looking for craft vendors on Veterans Day November 9th. The event is FREE for vendors. Since it is Veterans Day weekend, the event is focusing on current service people or veteran owned businesses. If interested, please email me at secondlifedecoupage@gmail.com.

Association of Military Banks of America: <https://ambahq.org/>

The AFFG is a reliable source for new members of the military as well as those who are already financially literate to learn more about investments, budgeting, and general money management. Check it out for yourself and/or pass it along to someone you know who a new member of our armed forces is. Armed Forces Financial

Guide: https://ambahq.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ArmedForces_AMBA_low-res_2022.pdf

Servicemembers: Lending a helping hand? Do not hand over your phone!

Thieves can be surprisingly good at deception and theft when using your phone, heed the FTC's advice to stay safe and keep your money in your accounts and not theirs.

https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2024/09/avoid-scams-when-you-hire-moving-company?utm_source=govdelivery (Source: FTC, Terri Miller, Consumer Education Specialist, July 12, 2024.)

Membership Update

We will be conducting a membership drive at the Centreville Coast Guard Exchange on November 9th from 10:00 until ~ 17:00. Please let me know if you can assist recruiting for a two-hour block. **See the sign-up matrix at the end of this newsletter and let the editor know when you may be available to assist.**

Our current membership status as of October 3rd is 85 renewals (online/mail) and 51 (Paid Up for Life) PULFs. National set our membership goal for 2025 at 198 which is a 9% increase over 2024 of 180. We are current at 68.69% of that goal. I thank all those who have renewed for 2025 already and those who have chosen to renew for three years. You may renew by sending back one of the renewal letters National sends out or going online at

[Renew \(mylegion.org\)](https://mylegion.org) to renew. It is your choice, but doing so online is quick, simple, and saves you the cost of a stamp, plus you get your new membership card a bit faster. Should you have any questions about your membership, please call or email the post's adjutant/membership chairman.

National raised its dues by five dollars, therefore the Post's dues amount included that increase, so all the increase goes to National. The Post retains \$11 dollars of the \$45. The rest is divided between supporting the Department and National.

Multi-Year Memberships Are Now Available - As mentioned in previous newsletters, the Legion now has a three-year renewal option. If you do not want the inconvenience of renewing annually, this option may be worth considering. For details on this new option visit this Legion website: <https://www.legion.org/membership/260621/american-legion-multiyear-membership-here>

PUFL Memberships - PUFL members pay a one-time fee for a lifetime American Legion membership. You never have to pay yearly dues again or 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 the 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 interested in a PULF membership, call 1-800-433-3318.

If you have any membership questions, please contact me. Steve Hunter, Adjutant, and membership chairman at geoshunter@aol.com or 703-830-1734.

National Commander's Incentive Program

Every Legionnaire is a recruiter...to get your National Commander's "Be the One" dog tag coin, just recruit three new members for 2025. This a link to the form: https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/documents/LACOURSIERE_THREE%20ONEW%20MEMBER%20INCENTIVE%20FORM.pdf

Military Question of the Month

Which Services operate the Sikorsky HH-60 helicopter (just the "primary name used so that everyone has a chance without looking it up - no need to provide all the variants). For example, the Army operates the Black Hawk. There are several more to go...

Final Thought:

"Our American heritage is threatened as much by our own indifference as it is by the most unscrupulous office seeker or by the most powerful foreign threat. The future of this Republic is in the hands of the American voter."

(Speech to the New York Herald Tribune Forum, New York, NY, 10/25/1949)

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 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/>

Website: The American Legion – Centreville, Virginia Post 1995

<http://centrevillevapost1995.org/contact/> (Webmaster needed)

Post 1995's Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/LegionPost1995/posts/>

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.

Calendars - To view the National Legion calendar, visit this website for the year 2024:

<https://www.legion.org/calendar/2024/>

Access the Emblem Sales store here: Catalog: <https://emblem.legion.org/pdfs/2024-catalog.pdf> Online Store: <https://emblem.legion.org/>

This Month in History:

National First Responders Day

Monday, 28 October is National First Responders Day. In 2017, Congress designated October 28 as National First Responders Day to recognize the heroic men and women who make it their business to take immediate action when an emergency occurs, or a disaster strikes.

Governor Youngkin has issued an Executive Order Supporting First Responder Wellness [Youngkin issues executive order supporting first responder 'wellness' \(newsbreak.com\)](https://www.newsbreak.com)

October 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Post Meeting	9	10	11	12
13 Navy Birthday	14	15	16	17	18	19 Centreville Day
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween		

November 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Dept	2 Conference
3 Williamsburg Daylight Savings Time Ends	4	5	6	7	8	9 CGX Recruiting
10 Marine Corps Birthday	11 Veterans Day	12 Post Meeting	13	14	15	16
17 17 th District Conference Post 177	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanks- giving	29	30

TODAY IN U.S. HISTORY: (Compiled by Jim Robison)

October 1, 1908 – Henry Ford’s Model T, a "universal car" designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time.

October 1, 1979 - After 70 years of American control, the Panama Canal Zone was formally handed over to Panama.

October 2, 1918 – The U.S. 77th Division’s “Lost Battalion” is surrounded by German forces after an American attack in the Argonne Forest.

October 2, 1967 - Thurgood Marshall was sworn in as the first African American associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. He served until 1991.

October 2, 1968 - California's Redwood National Park was established.

October 3, 1863 - President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation designating the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

October 3, 1974 - Frank Robinson was hired by the Cleveland Indians as baseball's first African American major league manager.

October 3, 1993 – The 2-day battle of Mogadishu, Somalia begins.

October 5, 1813 - Shawnee Indian Chief Tecumseh was defeated and killed at the Battle of the Thames in Ontario during the War of 1812. Regarded as one of the greatest American Indians, he was a powerful orator who defended his people against white settlement. When the War of 1812 broke out, he joined the British as a brigadier general.

October 5, 1877 - Following a 1,700-mile retreat, Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce Indians surrendered to U.S. Cavalry troops at Bear's Paw near Chinook, Montana. "From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever," he declared.

October 5, 1986 - Former U.S. Marine Eugene Hasenfus was captured by Nicaraguan Sandinistas after a plane carrying arms for the Nicaraguan rebels (Contras) was shot down over Nicaragua. This marked the beginning of the "Iran-Contra" controversy resulting in Congressional hearings and a major scandal for the Reagan White House.

October 6, 1949 – “Tokyo Rose” (Iva Toguri d'Aquino) was sentenced in San Francisco to 10 years imprisonment and fined \$10,000 for treason. She had broadcast music and Japanese propaganda to American troops in the Pacific during World War II. She was pardoned by President Ford in 1977.

October 7, 1765 - The Stamp Act Congress convened in New York City with representatives from nine colonies meeting in protest to the British Stamp Act which imposed the first direct tax by the British Crown upon the American colonies.

October 7, 1985 - Palestinian terrorists seized the Italian passenger ship *Achille Lauro*, threatening to blow it up if Israel did not free 50 Palestinian prisoners. Leon Klinghoffer, an elderly wheelchair-bound American, was murdered.

October 7, 2001 – Operation Enduring Freedom begins in Afghanistan.

October 8, 1871 - The Great Fire of Chicago erupted. Over 300 persons were killed and 90,000 were left homeless as the fire leveled 3.5 square miles and destroyed 17,450 buildings.

October 8, 1918 – A relief force from the 77th Division links up with the “Lost Battalion”.

October 8, 1918 - During World War I in the Argonne Forest of France, U.S. Sergeant Alvin York lead a small group of men in taking out a German machine-gun battalion, silencing 35 machine guns, killing over a dozen, and capturing 132. He was later awarded the Medal of Honor and the French Croix de Guerre.

October 10, 1973 - Spiro T. Agnew resigned the office of Vice President of the United States amid charges of income tax evasion. He was succeeded as Vice President by Gerald R. Ford, who went on to become President after the resignation of Richard M. Nixon.

October 11, 1939 - Albert Einstein warned President Franklin D. Roosevelt that his theories could lead to Nazi Germany's development of an atomic bomb. Einstein suggested the U.S. develop its own bomb. This resulted in the top secret "Manhattan Project."

October 13, 1775 - The United States Navy was born after the Second Continental Congress authorized the acquisition of a fleet of ships.

October 13, 1792 - The cornerstone of the White House was laid by George Washington. In November of 1800, President John Adams and his family moved in.

October 14, 1912 - Former President Theodore Roosevelt was shot by a fanatic while campaigning in Milwaukee. Roosevelt was saved by his thick overcoat, a glasses case, and a folded speech in his breast pocket, all of which slowed the bullet.

October 14, 1947 - U.S. Air Force Captain Chuck Yeager became the first man to break the sound barrier, flying in a rocket-powered research aircraft.

October 14, 1964 - Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

October 16, 1859 - Abolitionist John Brown seized the Federal Arsenal at Harpers Ferry with about 20 followers. Three days later, Brown was captured, and the insurrection was put down by U.S. Marines under the command of Col. Robert E. Lee. Brown was convicted by the Commonwealth of Virginia of treason, murder, and inciting slaves to rebellion, and was hanged on December 2, 1859.

October 17, 1777 - During the Revolutionary War, British General John Burgoyne, and his entire army of 5,700 men surrendered to American General Horatio Gates after the Battle of Saratoga, the first big American victory.

October 17-25, 1944 - The Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle in history, took place off the Philippine Islands, during World War II. The battle involved 216 U.S. warships and 64 Japanese ships and resulted in the destruction of the Japanese Navy.

October 19, 1781 - The British Army surrendered to the Americans at Yorktown. More than 7,000 British and Hessian troops, led by British General Lord Cornwallis, surrendered to General George Washington. The war between Britain and its American colonies was effectively ended. The final peace treaty was signed in Paris on September 3, 1783.

October 19, 1960 - The U.S. embargo of Cuba began as the State Department prohibited shipment of all goods except medicine and food.

October 19, 1987 - "Black Monday" occurred on Wall Street as stocks plunged a record 508 points or 22.6 per cent, the largest one-day drop in stock market history.

October 20, 1818 - The U.S. and Britain agreed to set the U.S.- Canadian border at the 49th parallel.

October 20, 1944 - During World War II, U.S. forces landed on Leyte Island in the Philippines. General Douglas MacArthur fulfilled his promise, "I shall return."

October 20, 1973 - The 'Saturday Night Massacre' occurred during the Watergate scandal as President Richard M. Nixon fired Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox and Deputy Attorney General William French Smith. Attorney General Elliot Richardson resigned.

October 20, 1978 - The Women's Army Corps was disestablished, and all WAC units were integrated with male units.

October 21, 1879 - Thomas Edison successfully tested an electric incandescent lamp with a carbonized filament at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey.

October 21, 1915 - The first transatlantic radio voice message was made by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company from Virginia to Paris.

October 21, 1944 - During World War II, American troops captured Aachen in western Germany after a week of fighting. It was the first large German city taken by the Allies.

October 21, 1967 - Thousands of anti-war protesters stormed the Pentagon during a rally against the Vietnam War in Washington, D.C. About 250 were arrested.

October 22, 1962 - President John F. Kennedy appeared on television to inform Americans of the existence of Russian missiles in Cuba. The President demanded their removal and announced a naval "quarantine" of Cuba. Six days later, the Russians announced they would remove the weapons. In return, the U.S. later removed missiles from Turkey.

October 23, 1983 - Terrorists drove a truck loaded with TNT into the U.S. and French headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, exploding it and killing 241 U.S. Marines and 58 French paratroopers.

October 24, 1861 - The first transcontinental telegram in America was sent from San Francisco to Washington, addressed to President Abraham Lincoln from the Chief Justice of California.

October 24, 1929 - "Black Thursday" occurred in the New York Stock Exchange as nearly 13 million shares were sold in panic selling. Five days later "Black Tuesday" saw 16 million shares sold.

October 24, 1945 - The United Nations was founded.

October 25-30, 1983 - The Caribbean Island of Grenada was invaded by the U.S. to restore "order and democracy." Over 2,000 Marines and Army Rangers seized control after a political coup the previous week had made the island a "Soviet-Cuban colony," according to President Ronald Reagan.

October 26, 1881 - The shoot-out at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona, occurred between the feuding Clanton and Earp families.

October 26, 1825 - The Erie Canal opened as the first major man-made waterway in America, linking Lake Erie with the Hudson River, bypassing the British-controlled lower St. Lawrence.

October 27, 1787 - The first of 85 Federalist Papers appeared in print in a New York City newspaper. The essays, written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, argued for the adoption of the new U.S. Constitution.

October 27, 1904 - The New York City subway began operating, running from City Hall to West 145th Street, the first underground and underwater rail system in the world.

October 28, 1636 - Harvard University, the oldest institution of higher learning in America, was founded in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

October 28, 1886 - The Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France commemorating the French American alliance during the Revolutionary War, was dedicated on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor.

October 28, 1919 - Prohibition began in the U.S. with the passage of the National Prohibition (Volstead) Act by Congress.

October 28, 1949 - Helen Anderson became the first woman ambassador, appointed by President Harry Truman to be Ambassador to Denmark.

October 28, 1962 - The Cuban Missile Crisis ended with the announcement by Soviet Russia's leader Nikita Khrushchev that his Soviet government was halting construction of missile bases in Cuba and would remove the offensive missiles. President Kennedy immediately accepted the offer then lifted the U.S. naval blockade of Cuba.

October 29, 1929 - The stock market crashed as over 16 million shares were dumped amid tumbling prices. The Great Depression followed in America, lasting until the outbreak of World War II.

October 31, 1941 – Mount Rushmore National Memorial was completed after 14 years of work.

October 31, 1950 - Earl Lloyd became the first African American to play in a National Basketball Association (NBA) game when he took the floor for the Washington Capitols in Rochester, New York.

October 31, 1952 - The U.S. detonated its first hydrogen bomb at the Elugelab Atoll in the Eniwetok Proving Grounds in the Pacific Marshall Islands.

October 31, 1968 - During the Vietnam War, President Lyndon Johnson ordered a halt of American bombing of North Vietnam.

Coast Guard Recruiting Staffing Matrix

TIME	LEGIONNAIRE	LEGIONNAIRE	LEGIONNAIRE
09:30-10:00 Set Up	Steve Hunter		
10:00-12:00	Steve Hunter		
12:00-14:00			

