



AMERICAN LEGION SUMMERS-WHITEHEAD POST 14

Quarterly Newsletter



The General



VOLUME 8 NUMBER 2

For God and Country

JULY 2026

POST 14 OFFICERS

Commander, Chaplain.....Chris Dooley

Vice Commander.....Ray Mitchell

Adjutant.....Alan Syler

423-488-5445, asyler@epbfi.com

Service Officer.....Chuck Alsobrook

Membership Chair.....Vickie Putnam

Judge Advocate.....Jim Fields

Master-at-Arms.....Carl Poston

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POST 14 SHINES AT CAVC AWARDS BANQUET

The post had members involved with the 2026 CAVC Awards Banquet. Scott Hardin, the CAVC Chairman, opened the ceremonies. Scott introduced the event speaker, General B.B. Bell.



General B.B. Bell

The General's speech was both a history lesson and an inspiration.

He pointed out the date, 13 March, which was the same as the date on which George Washington, in 1776, had to make decisions regarding the American Revolution. He continued with comments on the future of America, noting that it is our responsibility to ensure our country endures.

CAVC Awards Banquet, page 10

THE GENERAL EDITOR



Non Sibi Sed Patriae

Most of us can remember where we were in 1976, when our country celebrated its 200th anniversary. I was in the Navy and on duty on 4 July. At the time, I was irritated that I wouldn't be able to watch the parade of tall ships and other aspects of the celebration, but I look back on it now with pride. I was serving my country on its birthday; you don't get much better than that.

I hope everyone looks forward to celebrating our country's 250th. It is my hope that the country will be able to celebrate many more anniversaries. Many factions in our society are working hard to undermine the country's ideals. It is incumbent on us as veterans to ensure that does not happen.

We hope our membership and veterans will renew/join Post 14. Our post aims to support our community, youth, and fellow veterans. Scholarships were awarded to the two recipients at our April monthly meeting. Well done to these fine students.

We will sponsor six boys and two girls to Boys and Girls State, respectively.

Alan Syler

423-488-5445, asyler@epbfi.com



Post 14 will host a blood drive at 1200 Mountain Creek Road, Chattanooga, behind the post, Suite 320.

Date: 29 June

Time: 1200-1700 hours

Sign up online at <https://www.bloodassurance.org/>

We hope our fellow legionnaires, family, and friends will make this drive a success. The post will be open to provide refreshments.

1 BLOOD DONATION SAVES 3 LIVES

POST 14'S WEBSITE

"amlegion14.us"

Scan the QR code to visit our website.

We will keep our site up to date to ensure you are kept informed about post-meetings and events.



POST 14 FACEBOOK PAGE

Scan the QR code to visit our page.
"American Legion Post 14 Chattanooga"



POST MEETING AND EVENTS

29 Jun Blood Drive at the Post

4 July Independence Day, 250th

July NO MONTHLY MEETING

16 July Fallen Five Memorial

4 Aug Post monthly meeting

1 Sep Post monthly meeting

7 Sep Labor Day

6 Oct Post monthly meeting

America 250 events in Chattanooga:

- June 14 – A Celebration of the Stars and Stripes at Collegedale Commons, 4950 Swinyar Dr, Collegedale. (2:30 PM)
- June 28 - Democracy Speaks: Opening Celebration at Renaissance Park (5:30 PM – 8:30 PM). Rhyme N Chatt and the City's Office of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy present the next phase of Poetry Pathways, Democracy Speaks. This community celebration explores freedom, justice, democracy, and community through poetry and spoken word, featuring poets, live music, food trucks, and a community gathering in a creative outdoor setting. This Tennessee America 250 Program is supported in part by the Tennessee Commission for the United States.
- June 30 – Veteran Picnic at the First Tennessee Pavilion, 5:00 PM. This is free to all veterans.
- July 2 - Pops on the River at Coolidge Park (4:00 PM – 11:00 PM). Chattanooga's riverfront celebration for over 30 years, traditionally held on the Thursday prior to July 4th, is a large-scale community event featuring an evening of live music, fireworks, food, and family-friendly activities. It includes a Homegrown Vendor Market, food trucks, the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera, and Kids Zone activities, culminating in a large-scale fireworks display. This Tennessee America 250 Program is supported in part by the Tennessee Commission for the United States
- July 3 - Hamilton in the Round at Renaissance Park (7:00 PM - 10:00 PM). A free outdoor community screening and interactive sing-along of the hit musical Hamilton. Held in the round circle, the event invites guests to bring lawn chairs and blankets for an evening of music, storytelling, and community. Lyrics will be available for the audience to sing along, and food trucks will be on-site.
- July 4 - United 250 Mayors' Finale Celebration at the Chattanooga Riverfront. (Riverfront Nights starts at 2:00 PM, drone show at 10:00 PM) The unifying finale event for the entire celebration series. This free downtown celebration, produced in partnership with Hamilton County, will feature a world-class 500-drone show above the Tennessee River in a choreographed patriotic performance, along with a dramatic 1,000-foot pyro waterfall cascading from the Market Street Bridge. Parades will also be held on Signal Mountain and Dunlap.

DD-214 AUDIT REQUIRED

We continue to audit DD-214s. If you haven't already submitted a copy to the Post 14 Adjutant. We would like to meet this requirement as soon as possible. When your DD-214 is verified, it will be shredded. You can submit your DD-214 via snail mail or email to the post Adjutant.

**Mailing address: American Legion Post 14
1200 Mountain Creek Road
Suite 320
Chattanooga, TN 37405**

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POST COMMANDER

Post 14 continues to impact fellow veterans and the local community. Please consider joining us and our great members.

In April, the Post helped build around 35 beds for disadvantaged children with "Sleep in Heavenly Peace," a worthy nonprofit. These events are highly organized and fun. Come out when we do our next bed build and help needy kids in the community. Vickie Putnam is our POC and does a great job.

Post 14 also had a float in the Armed Forces Day parade and helped plan and execute the Armed Forces Day luncheon. This was one of the largest Armed Forces Day events ever. Kudos to Alan Syler who got the trailer and placards for the parade and drove the route.

Post 14 has been recognized for recruiting more members. Shiela Billings was the star here and received an award from the department commander.

Finally, Post 14 was recognized by the Third District for its support of the Hamilton County Veterans Treatment Court among other things. Several of the mentees in the court have progressed to the next higher level and are nearing graduation. This is a great achievement. Props go to Alan Syler, Ray Mitchell, Scott Hardin, Vickie Putnam, and Janet Meyer of our post.

Now something serious. Within the last month, two of my friends have had serious strokes and another friend fell and broke his hip and was hospitalized. Take the time to check your health and be careful. There is only one of you and your family needs you to be whole and functional.

For God and Country,

Chris Dooley



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

I have experienced some concern these past months due to events affecting my friends and relatives. When people close to us suffer, we suffer. But there is a solution and comfort available.

Psalm 8 is the favorite of one of my friends, Dr. Russ, who is a physicist and cosmologist. He observes the universe and writes scientific articles. He also lectures throughout the world. This mental giant recently suffered a stroke and is paralyzed. He is now struggling to regain his health.

Psalm 8:4 has David looking at the moon and stars and writing, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" He was saying the universe was so big and wonderful that man seems insignificant in comparison. David did not only admire the universe, but he also worshipped the Lord who created it. *Psalm 8* ends like it begins: "How excellent is Thy name in all the earth."

David, who had gone through many trials with God protecting and guiding him, knew the Creator and Sustainer of the universe had the power and desire to keep him secure throughout all trials and adverse situations.

Likewise, my friend, Dr Russ, does not put his entire faith in doctors and medicine to get him through his stroke, he puts his absolute trust in his savior, Jesus Christ.

How about you? Who do you trust? Do you trust your abilities, the abilities and skills of others, or the creator of the universe?

Chris Dooley

Chaplain

MEETING MINUTES

April:

Commander Dooley opened the Post 14 meeting.

Chaplain Dooley led us in the opening prayer.

Commander led the Pledge of Allegiance, with all reciting.

All observed a moment of silence.

Commander Dooley read the American Legion Opening Ceremony.

The Adjutant read the minutes of the last meeting held on 3 March 2026.

Commander Dooley asked for a motion to approve the minutes as read.

Jim Fields moved to accept the minutes; Scott Hardin seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The Adjutant also reviewed the March 2026 financial report.

Membership numbers reported: 101 paid for the 2026-2028 period.

Correspondence: None

Commander Dooley described the naming of the *Medal of Honor Memorial Scholarship*. He pointed out the pictures and citations of Post 14's three recipients displayed in the meeting room.

He thanked the scholarship committee for their effort in selecting the two recipients from 16 applicants.

He presented Anne Marie Dreyer and Dominic D'Apice with a certificate and Larry Taylor challenge coin.

Syler reminded both that he will require the university's bursar's address to pay the funds each semester.

Commander Dooley briefed the membership on developments regarding the post property at 814 Lindsay Street. When additional information is available, the membership will be informed.

Commander also discussed the assistance Post 14 plans to provide Post 95. Following their extended shutdown, they need funds to cover numerous bills and building repairs. The membership will be informed of further developments.

Commander stated Jim Fields will be using the office designated as the VSO's office. Our post VSO, Chuck Alsobrook, doesn't work out of the office, since he's the Hamilton County VSO and has an office.

Commander also reminded the membership of the use of Post 14 by other veterans' organizations and others as approved by the Executive Committee.

He stated that the Department of State, invited by US Senator Marsha Blackburn, will use the post on 29-30 April for Passport completion sessions.

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Syler indicated he will be present both days to support the effort.

Commander reminded the membership of the *Carl E. Levi Assistance Fund*. He explained the purpose of the fund, and he noted past opportunities to assist veterans.

Commander also reminded the membership of our post funding six (6) boys to Boys State and two (2) girls to Girls State.

He also indicated that the post funded two (2) individuals to attend the *Freedoms Foundation Founding Forward* program.

Commander stated the Executive Committee had voted to purchase a new golf cart for the Chattanooga VA Clinic. Scott Hardin will be the lead person on the procurement.

Commander reminded the membership that the post has a Facebook page, Syler reminded everyone the name is *American Legion Post 14 Chattanooga*. He indicated the website will be kept up to date with information regarding upcoming post meetings and events.

Commander reminded everyone of the *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* bed build on Saturday, 11 April, at 0900 hours.

Syler stated the location of the build is identified by a banner on a chain-link fence at 6135 Airways Blvd, behind Sam's Club on Lee Highway.

Commander stated the post will plan a celebration of America's 250th anniversary. Additional information will be provided in the future.

Commander Dooley stated the Medal of Honor Heritage Center will be in the near future. Our post will support their fundraising efforts.

Commander Dooley opened the floor for officer nominations. He stated that the Commander, Vice Commander, and Sergeant-at-Arms positions are to be elected.

No one was nominated, and the Commander stated elections would be held at the May meeting. Nominations could be made prior to the election.

Commander Dooley asked whether there were any additional items to discuss; there were none.

Commander read the American Legion Closing Ceremony.

Syler stated that the next post meeting will be on 5 May 2026 at 1830 hours.

Commander Dooley closed the meeting, and we adjourned.

May:

Vice Commander Mitchell opened the meeting.

Billy Hewitt led us in the opening prayer.

Scott Hardin led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, with all reciting.

Commander read the American Legion Opening Ceremony.

All observed a moment of silence.

VC Mitchell welcomed a Legionnaire from California to the meeting. He recently moved to Chattanooga.

The Adjutant read the minutes of the last meeting held on 7 April 2026.

Vice Commander asked for a motion to approve the minutes as read.

Jim Fields moved to accept the minutes; Wes Billings seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The Adjutant also reviewed the April 2026 financial report. Syler reported that we will move one of our Truist Investments into an annuity. Billy Hewitt questioned the amount of the fee. Syler advised that he would research the possible fees.

Membership numbers reported: 102 paid for the 2026-2028 period.

Correspondence: Card from Anne Marie Dreyer thanking the post for the scholarship.

Vice Commander Mitchell opened the floor for nominations of 2026-2027 officer candidates for the election at the June meeting.

Jim Fields nominated Chris Dooley as Commander, Ray Mitchell as Vice Commander, and Scott Hardin as Sergeant-at-Arms.

No other candidates were offered for any of the officer positions.

Vice Commander Mitchell, a Sale Agreement is to be signed for the sale of the post's property at 814 Lindsay Street.

Billy Hewitt questioned why the post is selling the property. Syler explained that we don't want to be in the real estate business. He explained that we pay taxes on the property lease income, which accounts for a significant portion of the lease payment.

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Jim Fields explained that the property lease is held by four individuals in the partnership, Patten Parkway Development. If one or more passed away, we'd be required to negotiate with their estate, which could be an issue. Jim Fields explained that if the sale is fulfilled, the post should net approximately \$1.75 million.

Vice Commander Mitchell discussed the Post 95 loan request. He stated that our post is awaiting additional financial information from Post 95 before making our decision.

Vice Commander Mitchell also discussed the use of the post by other veteran organizations. Syler stated that the State Department used the post for two days to complete passports.

Jim Fields also discussed the recent eye clinic at the Hope for the Inner City and the participation of optometry students.

Vice Commander Mitchell and Scott Hardin reported on the purchase of the golf cart for the Chattanooga VA Clinic.

Vice Commander Mitchell also discussed the possibility of a 250th celebration. Syler stated that Dunlap has a 4th of July parade. Jim Fields stated that Signal Mountain does as well, plus the Lions BBQ sale.

Scott Hardin reminded all of the Veteran Picnic at the Tennessee Pavilion on 30 June at 1700 hours.

Vice Commander Mitchell indicated the post will host watch parties for the Army-Air Force game on 7 November and the Army-Navy game on 12 December.

More information will be forthcoming.

Jim Fields indicated that his wife, Pam, would appreciate the opportunity to attend a post-meeting to provide information regarding the Founding Forward program.

Vice Commander Mitchell discussed the Challenge 22 Sequatchie Walk and Fun Run scheduled for 13 June at 0900 CST.

He continued this event in support of veteran suicide prevention through the effort of Gallantry Forward, Lucas Lewis.

Vice Commander Mitchell discussed the purchase of flags on Veterans Bridge. He provided a URL: Chattanooga.gov/pay-and-apply/permits-applications/veterans-bridge-flag.

He also stated that if you have a flag flown and you'd like it returned to you when it's retired, the city would do so.

Scott Hardin stated the flags will be placed on the graves in the National Cemetery on Saturday, 23 May, and the pickup will be the following Saturday, 30 May.

Scott also stated the Wreaths Across Chattanooga wreath placement will be on 12 December.

Vice Commander Mitchell stated that the post will donate to Patriots Ball Educational Leadership, a fundraiser for the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center. The amount provided will be \$12,500.

Vice Commander Mitchell asked if there were any additional items to discuss; there were none.

Vice Commander read the American Legion Closing Ceremony.

Syler stated that the next post meeting will be on 2 June 2026 at 1830 hours.

Vice Commander Mitchell closed the meeting, and we adjourned.

June:

Commander Dooley opened the meeting.

Commander Dooley led us in the opening prayer.

Commander Dooley led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, with all reciting.

Commander read the American Legion Opening Ceremony.

All observed a moment of silence.

Commander Dooley welcomed guests, Bethany and Eric Irizary. Also, Post 95 Commander Freddie Parrish and David Sherril, Adjutant, attended.

The Adjutant read the minutes of the last meeting held on 5 May 2026.

Commander requested a motion to approve the minutes as read.

Wes Billings moved to accept the minutes; Jim Fields seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The Adjutant also reviewed the May 2026 financial report.

Membership numbers reported: 103 paid for the 2026-2028 period.

Correspondence: *Founding Forward* attendee letters.

Commander Dooley asked the Adjutant to list the nominated officers for 2026-2027.

Chris Dooley	Commander
Ray Mitchell	Vice Commander

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Scott Hardin Sgt.-at-Arms
Vickie Putnam Historian

Commander Dooley asked for nominations from the floor. With no other nominations, a vote was taken to accept those officers nominated for 2026-2027. The vote was unanimous.

Commander Dooley discussed a potential loan to Post 95. He indicated the executive committee is waiting for additional data from Post 95 to make an informed decision.

Commander Dooley also discussed the effort to obtain the Secretary of Tennessee tax exempt status. Jim Fields continues to work toward the status.

Commander Dooley reminded the attendees that we have an accounting firm, JHM Accountants. The firm prepares Post 14 state and federal taxes.

Commander Dooley discussed the Carl Levi Assistance Fund. He indicated the post had recently aided a veteran being evicted from his apartment and a veteran and Post 14 member to repair his vehicle.

Commander continued by asking if anyone knows of a veteran in need, they should refer them to the post.

Commander Dooley indicated the post will host a Blood Assurance blood drive on 29 June from 1200-1700 hours.

Bethany Irizary asked if the information was being widely disseminated. Syler listed all the organizations that have been informed. He continued that he has fliers to distribute at the 12 June CAVC quarterly meeting.

Commander discussed the use of the post by other organizations. To date, Post 159, Post 291, Submarine veterans, Navy League, MOAA executive committee, and soon the Sons of the American Revolution executive committee.

Commander reminded all of the requirements for an organization to use the post.

Commander Dooley reviewed the 2026 participants, six (6) Boys and two (2) Girls State. He also stated that the post sponsored two students to attend the *Founding Forward* program.

He indicated the post will fund additional students to attend these programs in 2027.

Commander discussed the golf cart that the post recently purchased to replace the decommissioned carts at the VA Clinic. He stated we will ensure the cart is adorned with the Legion seal and Post 14 decals.

Commander discussed the Facebook page.

Syler asked Janet Meyer to add the blood drive to the Facebook page with a link to preregister. He stated it is already on the post webpage.

Commander discussed the *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* bed build and the history of the program. He continued by stating that social workers provide Sleep in Heavenly Peace with information about the need for a bed.

Commander Dooley indicated there are several events scheduled in the area to celebrate the 250th anniversary.

Ray Mitchell listed the events, starting on 28 June. On 30 June at 1700 hours, there is a veteran picnic at the First Tennessee Pavilion. On 2 July, there will be Pops in the Park at Coolidge. Then, on 3 July, there will be a history presentation at Renaissance Park on the north shore. On 4 July, the day is filled with events, starting at the Hamilton County Courthouse at 1200 hours for a dedication, and at 1630 hours, there will be a concert on the riverfront. Later that evening, there will be a drone show. Wes Billings added that he had recently seen the drone show and found it quite enjoyable.

Commander Parrish of Post 95 discussed events at their post. They are planning a July 4th celebration with hot dogs and hamburgers, as well as games for children and adults. A start time has not been determined. On 25 July, Post 95 will host the Department Commander's tour. The start time is 1300 hours. A meal will be served for \$12.

He also reported on the Marine Corps League's food pantry for veterans in St. Elmo. Contact information is Eric Allison (423-653-3703) or Chris Linville (423-667-8070).

Commander Dooley asked if there were any additional items to discuss; there were none.

Commander Dooley read the American Legion Closing Ceremony.

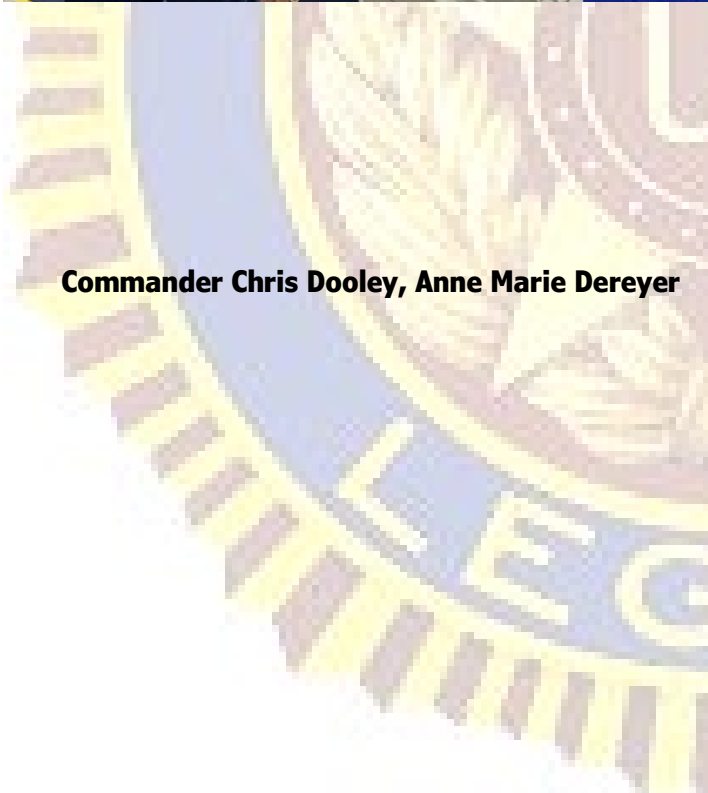
Syler stated that there will be no July meeting; the next post-meeting will be on 7 July 2026 at 1830 hours.

MEDAL OF HONOR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Post 14 awarded its 2026 Medal of Honor Memorial Scholarships at the April meeting. The two scholarships will provide each recipient with \$1,000 per semester for four years of college. The two recipients are Anne Marie Dreyer and Dominic D'Apice.



Commander Chris Dooley, Dominic D'Apice



Commander Chris Dooley, Anne Marie Dreyer





L-R: Jim Fields (Scholarship Committee Chairman), Anne Marie Dreyer, Dominic D'Apice, Commander Chris Dooley,
Note: Pictures in the background of the three Post 14 Medal of Honor recipients for whom the scholarship is named.

POST 14 SHINES AT CAVC AWARDS BANQUET, *continued*:

Fellow Legionnaire, Bill Norton, Post 95, made the award presentations. We were pleased that Scott Hardin, Post 14, is the 2025 Charles H. Coolidge Veteran of the Year. Scott's wife, Susan, is the Associate of the Year. Rounding out the awards was the Milton Thomas award, which went to Hope Jones.



L-R: General B.B. Bell, Scott Hardin, Susan Hardin, Eli Hardin (son), Lucy Lowery (granddaughter)

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE BED BUILD

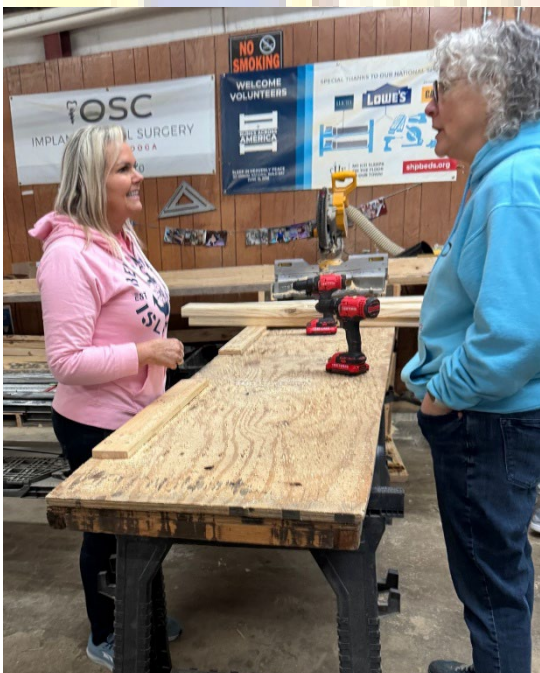
Saturday, 11 April, Post 14 supported another Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build. This time the build was held at the warehouse used by the organization. The number of volunteers wasn't what we expected, although five members participated. Since there was a lack of volunteers, we were able to build only 36 beds. This is far short of the number we hoped to build. Those from Post 14 put in a good day.



Vickie Putnam (center) instructs the two young ladies on the task at hand.



**Jim Fields
sanding 2x4s**



**Janet Meyer
(left)**



Janet's son, Bryson



L-R: Scott Hardin, Ray Mitchell



Alan Syler (foreground), sawdust was flying

POST 14 HELPS AN ARMY VETERAN

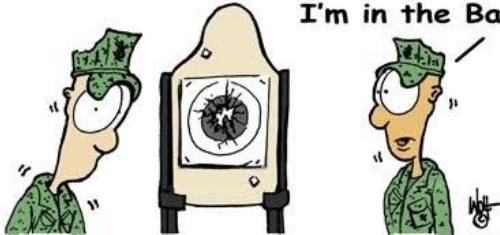


On 18 April, Post 14 and Stanley Heights Baptist Church, due to the efforts of Commander Chris Dooley, worked together to build a platform for an Army veteran and his disabled wife. Both the veteran and his wife have difficulty walking on uneven surfaces and need a solid platform when they get out of their car. Under the supervision of an 80-plus-year-old Army veteran, three men and six teenagers prepared the forms, mixed the concrete, and poured the platform in two hours. The result was a solid foundation for the veteran and a newly formed team of veterans and church members working together to help fellow veterans and their community.

"WHOOAH...!,
Are you a sniper?"



"Actually....
I'm in the Band".



As a group of soldiers stood in formation at an Army Base, the Drill Sergeant said, "All right! All you idiots fall out."

As the rest of the squad wandered away, one soldier remained at attention. The Drill Instructor walked over until he was eye-to-eye with him.

The soldier smiled and said, "Sure were a lot of 'em, huh, sir?"

How different military branches use the stars:

The U.S. Army sleeps beneath the stars.

The U.S. Navy uses the stars to navigate.

The U.S. Air Force selects its hotels based on star ratings.

2026 ARMED FORCES PARADE

The theme of this year's parade was *America 250*. The Coast Guard was to be the highlighted branch, but due to funding issues, an admiral could not attend.

We would like to acknowledge *Trucks 'N Trailers USA* for the loan of a trailer for the parade.

Post 14 was represented in the parade by Commander Chris Dooley and his wife, Cindy, Vickie Putnam, and Alan Syler.

Team members of the Veteran Treatment Court also rode with us: Judge Boyd Patterson, Nicole Evans, and Lauren Messer.

Two submarine veterans of the Carbonero Base also rode with us.



L-R: George Shaw, Alan Syler, Nicole Evens, Vickie Putnam, Lauren Messer, Cindy Dooley, Chris Dooley
Unfortunately, Judge Patterson did not arrive in time for this photo



L-R: Nicole Evens, Judge Boyd Patterson, Lauren Messer
Background: Chris Dooley, Cindy Dooley, Vickie Putnam



George Shaw and Alan Syler rode in the cab

BE THE ONE

The purpose of The American Legion's **Be the One** program is to reduce the rate of veteran and servicemember suicide. It is the organization's top priority, focused on destigmatizing the need for mental health treatment, providing free suicide prevention training, and empowering everyday people to intervene when a veteran is in crisis.

The campaign focuses on several core actions to save lives:

- ★ Destigmatizing Help-Seeking: Promoting the message that it is "OK to not be OK" and that asking for help is a sign of strength.
- ★ Education and Training: Equipping members and the public with free, expert-backed training (developed in partnership with Columbia University) to recognize warning signs and safely intervene.
- ★ Peer-to-Peer Support: Encouraging veterans to talk openly about their feelings and urge community members to "**Be the One**" to listen and connect struggling veterans with vital resources.
- ★ To learn more or get involved with local events, you can visit the official Be the One initiative page. You can also view the schedule and register for lifesaving **Be the One** Training sessions online.

MAY 3RD DISTRICT CONVENTION



L-R: Dwight Woodcock, East Tennessee Vice Commander; Chris Dooley

At the 1 May 3RD District Convention, Post 14 Commander Chris Dooley was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for Post 14's involvement in our community. Vickie Putnam and Alan Syler were presented with the Commanders' 100% pins for their efforts in recruiting new and expired members.



The certificate reads:

Certificate of Appreciation

This certificate of appreciation is gratefully presented to

Commander Chris Dooley

In appreciation of Commander Chris Dooley of American Legion Post 14 for outstanding leadership in strengthening veteran programs, supporting community service initiatives, promoting healing through events like Freedom Sings, and fostering fellowship, compassion, and unity among veterans and families.

Presented by East Tennessee Vice Commander Dwight Woodcock

Department of Tennessee

This 1st Day of May 2026

STATE DEPARTMENT PROCESSES PASSPORT APPLICATIONS

Due to the efforts of Senator Marsha Blackburn, Post 14 hosted the State Department to process passport applications. The team of six people was from the Charleston, SC, office.

The post supported the team for two days.

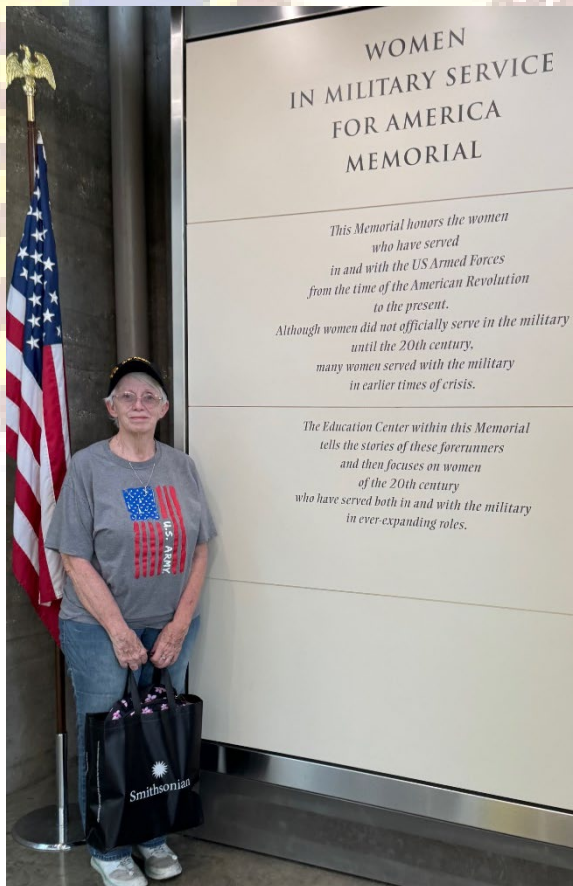
It was sad that 80% of those with an appointment were no-shows. There were several walk-ins.



State Department personnel

At the end of the second day, Paulina Madaris of Sen. Blackburn's office made a \$100 donation to Post 14. Syler indicated to Ms. Madaris that the funds would be used to assist in funding a girl's attendance at Girls State in 2027.

POST 14 MEMBERS VISIT DC



Vickie Putnam in the Women's Veterans Memorial at Arlington Cemetery



Alan Syler with the Lone Sailor at the Navy Memorial