



## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF MARYLAND WWW.MDSAL.ORG

Comrades,

It is a great honor to serve as your Detachment Commander for the 2025-2026 Administrative Year. Recently, the Sons of The American Legion held their 53rd Annual National Convention in Tampa, Florida. Not only did we celebrate exceeding 400,000 members, I am happy to report that the Detachment of Maryland proudly accepted ten awards for our support of various programs and the outstanding job we did in membership for the 2024-2025 Administrative Year. Maryland truly leads the way and is a model for all to follow. We celebrate these achievements because of the work you all do back at your Squadrons. Together, each one of you is what makes this organization so great, as we proudly honor and support our Veterans and communities.

This year, I have issued a "Commander's Challenge" and I am calling on all of you to accept this challenge. The challenge is in the form of a BINGO card and each square is in support of a program or an activity. The purpose is to educate and increase support of our programs and urge our Squadrons to become more engaged. Collectively, we have the ability to make a huge impact! Squadrons may complete one line, up, down or horizontal or they may complete the entire card! The choice is yours!

Squadrons completing a single line will receive a Certificate of Recognition and will be invited to an end of year celebration at a date and location to be determined. Those completing the entire card will also be entered in a raffle to receive a set of custom cornhole boards.

Attached is your BINGO card, key and Verification Form. Should you have any questions, please reach out to our Commander's Challenge Chairman, Jerry Hudson at [jhudsonIII@comcast.net](mailto:jhudsonIII@comcast.net).

I am looking forward to seeing the great things we will do this year and I again thank you all for your hard work and dedication. Together we are, "Sons Honoring Veterans Everyday".

Yours in service,

*Jason C. Miller*

Jason C. Miller  
Commander



# DETACHMENT OF MARYLAND COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE











	<p>ATTEND TWO REGION MEETINGS</p>	<p>AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY DAY</p>		
	<p>PRESIDENTS PROJECT</p>	<p><b>75x</b></p> <p>MEMBERSHIP BY LAST MEMBERSHIP REPORT OF DECEMBER 2025</p>	<p>HOLD A COMMUNITY EVENT</p>	
	<p>SUBMIT AN ENTEY FOR SNAPSHOTS OF SERVICE</p>	<p>AMERICAN <b>LEGION</b> COMMANDERS PROJECT</p>	<p>ATTEND TWO DEC MEETINGS</p>	
	<p><b>90x</b></p> <p>MEMBERSHIP RETENTION</p>	<p>MARYLAND  <b>BOYS STATE</b></p>		

2025-2026







THIS CHALLENGE IS OPEN TO ALL SQUADRONS, POSTS, UNITS AND CHAPTERS. PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED "CHALLENGE KEY" AND VERIFICATION FORM FOR MORE INFORMATION.  
COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE COORDINATOR-JERRY HUDSON, JHUDSONIII@COMCAST.NET

	<p><b>Special Olympics Maryland:</b> The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year- round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The Detachment supports events such as the Bowling Tournament, Polar Plunge and Winter Games.</p> <p><b>Send two (2) members to participate at an event or donate \$1.00 per member to the program.</b></p>
	<p><b>National Emergency Fund:</b> Established after Hurricane Hugo in 1989, the National Emergency Fund has delivered over \$10 million in aid to Legionnaires, helping prevent post closures and support recovery. With grants of up to \$3,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for posts, the NEF ensures rapid relief when it's needed most.</p> <p><b>Donate \$1.00 per member to the program.</b></p>
	<p><b>Casey Cares:</b> Casey Cares helps keep families' spirits high by arranging palliative programming, whether it's a care package for a simple movie night and a fresh pair of pajamas, visiting a live show, going to the zoo or attending a major sporting event.</p> <p><b>Donate \$1.00 per member to the program or hold a pajama and/or supply collection.</b></p>
	<p><b>BeTheOne:</b> The mission of The American Legion's Be the One initiative is to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. We're actively working on ending the stigma associated with mental health treatment and empowering everyone to take appropriate action when a veteran or service member may be at risk, one life at a time.</p> <p><b>Donate \$1.00 per member to the program or host a BeTheOne training seminar or community event.</b></p>
	<p><b>Patriot Point (Commander's Project):</b> Patriot Point is the Military Bowl Foundation's 294-acre retreat that provides a safe, secure and tranquil outdoor recreational retreat facility for wounded, ill, and injured active duty service members, veterans, their families and caregivers who face daily struggles related to their time spent defending our great nation.</p> <p><b>Donate \$1.00 per member to the Commander's Project or host a fundraising event.</b></p>
	<p><b>Laps of Love:</b> Laps of Love is held annually at the Detachment of Maryland Convention supporting various children &amp; youth programs.</p> <p><b>Register a member to participate in this event at Detachment Convention or donate \$1.00 per member.</b></p>

<p>ATTEND TWO REGION MEETINGS</p> 	<p><b>Attend Two Region Meetings:</b> Each Squadron is placed into a Region specific to their location. Each Region oversees 20-30 Squadrons to share information, assistance and provide a shared voice. Each Region selects Detachment Executive Committeemen and Delegates based on their membership total. The participation of each Squadron is highly encouraged.</p> <p><b>Have a member(s) attend at least two Region Meetings. Current Region or Detachment Officers do not count for this purpose.</b></p>
<p>AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY DAY</p>	<p><b>American Legion Family Day:</b> Held on the last Saturday of April, Posts are encouraged to open their doors to members of their community to promote our programs and celebrate the accomplishments of the American Legion Family. Activities can include displays, activities for all ages, food and more!</p> <p><b>Celebrate this day by opening your doors to the community.</b></p>
	<p><b>Maryland Gold Star Run:</b> Join this multi day annual event traditionally held in June, as American Legion Riders and supporters across Maryland ride to raise funds for the American Legion Veteran and Children's Foundation. VCF delivers needed aid for military and veteran parents who face unexpected financial hardships. This organization also trains Department and Post level Veteran Service Officers.</p> <p><b>Donate \$1.00 per member to the program and consider participating in the ride.</b></p>
	<p><b>Child Well-Being Foundation:</b> The American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation formally known as Child Welfare Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations that address the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of children across the nation.</p> <p><b>Provide a copy of the completed 2025-2026 100% Per Capita Banner Program Request Form that was sent to CWF. Deadline May 31, 2026. Forms can be found at <a href="http://www.legion.org/sons">www.legion.org/sons</a> (Publications &amp; Forms)</b></p>
	<p><b>Fisher House Foundation:</b> This foundation builds comfort homes where military &amp; veteran families can stay free of charge, while a loved one is in the hospital. These homes are located at military and VA medical centers around the world. (Bethesda, MD) Fisher Houses have up to 21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room, and an inviting living room.</p> <p><b>Donate \$1.00 per member to the program or collect items to be donated on the wish list provided.</b></p>
 <p>PRESIDENTS PROJECT</p>	<p><b>Department of Maryland Auxiliary President's Project (Girls State):</b> Held at Salisbury University in June, this program is a civic and government-orientated program designed for our future generation of lady leaders, fully sponsored and hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Maryland.</p> <p><b>Donate \$1.00 per member to the program and assist in promoting this program to your local community.</b></p>

<p>75% MEMBERSHIP BY LAST MEMBERSHIP REPORT OF DECEMBER 2025</p>	<p><b>75 Percent Membership:</b> Our members ensure the success of our organization and its programs. 2025 membership cards expire on December 31, 2025. Leave no member behind! We urge all Squadrons to reach or exceed 75 percent membership by the last membership report provided by the Department in December.</p> <p><b>Reach or exceed 75 percent by December 31, 2025, for the 2026 Membership Year.</b></p>
<p>HOLD A COMMUNITY EVENT</p>	<p><b>Community Event:</b> Community engagement is imperative for the success of our Posts and American Legion Programs. The American Legion Family is asked to hold a community event or attend an event within your community.</p> <p><b>Organize a community event or attend an event within your community representing your Post Family. (American Legion Family Day does not count for this purpose)</b></p>
	<p><b>Toys For Tots:</b> The mission of the Marine Toys for Tots Program is to collect new unwrapped toys and distribute those toys to economically disadvantaged children at Christmas. Toys for Tots does not accept realistic looking weapons and gifts with food. If donated, such items will NOT be distributed.</p> <p>Each year the Detachment of Maryland collects new unwrapped toys at our Fall DEC Meeting which will be held on November 8, 2025, at Towson Post 22.</p> <p><b>Donate new unwrapped toys or donate \$1.00 per member to Toys for Tots.</b></p>
	<p><b>Heroes Haven:</b> Heroes Haven teams up with others in the community to provide resources to our Heroes when they need it. Support to local veteran agencies, assistive devices such as ramps and track chairs, obtaining service dogs, outdoor sporting opportunities including our own hunt week and more.</p> <p><b>Donate \$1.00 per member to Heroes Haven or attend a sponsored fundraising event such as the Annual Crab Feast or Golf Tournament.</b></p>
<p>SUBMIT AN ENTRY FOR SNAPSHOTS OF SERVICE</p>	<p><b>Snapshots of Service:</b> Show us what your Squadron is doing in your communities to support the American Legion's Four Pillars by submitting a photograph or video. Visit <a href="http://legion.org/sons">legion.org/sons</a> (publications &amp; forms) for National Contest Rules and submission forms.</p> <p><b>Submit a photo or video to the National Snapshots or Videos of Service Contest.</b></p>
	<p><b>Department of Maryland Commander's Project:</b> Commander Randolph proudly champions the strengthening and unity of the American Legion Family. Together we serve our veterans, their families and our communities with one voice. VA&amp;R, supporting those who served, C&amp;Y, protecting and guiding our future and Americanism, promoting patriotism &amp; civic pride.</p> <p><b>Hold a joint ALF event supporting one of the four pillars of The American Legion or donate \$1.00 per member to the Department Commander's Project.</b></p>



<p><b>ATTEND TWO DEC MEETINGS</b></p> 	<p><b>Attend Two DEC Meetings:</b> Sharing of ideas and collecting information to disseminate to our blue cap members is imperative for the success of our Squadrons and American Legion Programs. Attendance of these meetings by our Squadrons ensures information is being communicated and reaching our members.</p> <p><b>Have a member(s) attend at least two DEC Meetings. Current Region Commanders, Detachment Officers or DEC' men do not count for this purpose.</b></p>
	<p><b>Blood Drive:</b> The American Legion Blood Donor Program has existed officially since 1942 to help that cause. A healthy donor may donate red blood cells every 56 days or double red blood cells every 112 days, according to the Red Cross. Posts interested in hosting drives can set up a blood drive by contacting one of their local blood banks.</p> <p><b>Organize and host a blood drive at your Post or donate \$1.00 per member to the American Red Cross or local blood bank.</b></p>
<p><b>MARYLAND</b></p>  <p><b>BOYS STATE</b></p>	<p><b>Maryland Boys State:</b> American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for junior high school students. It is a participatory program where each participant becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government. Boys State has been a program of The American Legion since 1935. Maryland Boys State is held in June of each year at McDaniel College.</p> <p><b>Host a young man to attend Boys State or donate \$1.00 per member toward the program. (SAL members are eligible to become Boys State Counselors)</b></p>
	<p><b>Charlotte Hall Veterans Home:</b> Charlotte Hall Veterans Home has been proudly “Serving Those Who Served” since 1985. The Home is situated on 126 beautiful acres in St. Mary’s County and offers a continuum of care from the 126-bed assisted living program to the 318-bed skilled nursing program. Charlotte Hall Veterans Home also offers memory care in secure units.</p> <p><b>Donate needed items included on the wish list or donate \$1.00 per member.</b></p>
	<p><b>Operation Comfort Warrior:</b> Ensuring the health and morale of those currently serving and the well-being of Veterans are essential to the purposes of this program. The Legion provides items and services through programs and entities that provide aid and comfort services to the recipients and their families. Family is an enormous part of the recovery process. Event grants may include a recipient’s family. OCW can provide outings to amusement parks and other outdoor activities such as sporting events and fishing trips.</p> <p><b>Donate \$1.00 per member toward this program.</b></p>
 <p><b>MEMBERSHIP RETENTION</b></p>	<p><b>90 percent Retention:</b> Our members are the heart of our organization and are relied on for our daily operations, support within our communities and success of our programs. Communication and engagement is a must for the retention and involvement of our members year after year. 2025 membership cards expire December 31, 2025 and members become delinquent as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Members not renewed by February 1<sup>st</sup> are no longer in good standing and all rights and privileges as a member are suspended.</p> <p><b>Reach a 90 percent Retention Rate by March 15<sup>th</sup> (American Legion Birthday)</b></p>

# 2025–2026 Commander's Challenge Verification Form

## Squadron Information:

Squadron Name \_\_\_\_\_

Squadron Number \_\_\_\_\_

Region \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

## Summary:

☐ We have completed at least 1 straight line (circle one)    Vertical    Horizontal    Diagonal

☐ We have completed the entire card

## Task Completion Checklist

Challenge	Action Done or Check# & Date	Challenge	Action Done or Check# & Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Olympics Maryland		<input type="checkbox"/> 75 Percent Membership <i>**By December 31, 2025</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> National Emergency Fund		<input type="checkbox"/> Community Event	
<input type="checkbox"/> Casey Cares		<input type="checkbox"/> Toys For Tots	
<input type="checkbox"/> BeThe One		<input type="checkbox"/> Heroes Haven	
<input type="checkbox"/> Patriot Point (SAL Commander's Project)		<input type="checkbox"/> Snapshots of Service	
<input type="checkbox"/> Laps of Love		<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Maryland Commander's Project	
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend Two Region Meetings    Meeting #1: Meeting#2:		<input type="checkbox"/> Attend Two DEC Meetings    Meeting #1: Meeting#2:	
<input type="checkbox"/> American Legion Family Day <i>Held on the last Saturday of April</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Blood Drive	
<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland Gold Star Run		<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland Boys State	
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Well-Being Foundation <i>**Deadline May 31, 2026</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte Hall Veterans Home	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fisher House Foundation		<input type="checkbox"/> Operation Comfort Warrior	
<input type="checkbox"/> Department of MD Maryland President's Project		<input type="checkbox"/> 90 percent Retention <i>**By March 15th, 2026</i>	

**Please review the 2025–2026 Commander's Challenge Key for the list of qualifying actions.**

If a donation was made, please include the **check number, date, and copies of the check or receipt** with this form.

Providing this information helps to properly track your end-of-year awards for credit.