

HUBERT M SMITH

# AMERICAN LEGION POST 77

NEWSLETTER : DEC2024

Hendersonville, NC

legion77.org

**Wreaths Across America: 14DEC2024**

**Hendersonville:** Forest Lawn

**Black Mountain:** WNC Veterans St Cemetery

## COMMANDER'S Christmas

DINNER

14 DECEMBER 2024 | TICKET PURCHASE REQUIRED  
CONTACT POST 77: TICKETS ARE GOING FAST

Type to enter text

American  
Legion  
National  
Commander

Visits

American Legion  
Post 77



## American Legion National Commander visits: Hendersonville, NC Post 77



Legion Family



Post 77 Cmdr/Adj    National Cmdr



National Commander



Detachment Cmdr



Dept Commander

US Department of Veterans Affairs

# Center for Women Veterans

The Center's mission is to advocate for equitable outcomes and access to VA benefits, services, and opportunities for women Veterans through education, outreach, and collaboration. By empowering women Veterans to achieve their life goals through VA benefits and services in collaboration with community stakeholders. -Va.gov



The Women Veterans Call Center will help you navigate VA, point you in the right direction, and connect you with the Women Veterans Program Manager at your local VA medical center.

**This service is free and confidential, and you can call as many times as you need.** If you are a woman Veteran you may call for yourself, or a friend, relative, or caregiver may call for you.

Call or text the Women Veterans Call Center at **1-855-VA-WOMEN (1-855-829-6636)** or use the online chat feature. Women Veterans Call Center representatives are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. ET, and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. ET, excluding federal holidays. If you contact the Women Veterans Call Center after hours and leave a message, you will receive a return call the next day the call center is open.

The Women Veterans Call Center is your resource for information about a variety of services and benefits that you have earned and deserve through your military service. The Women Veterans Call Center can be your first call to find out how VA can help you. No question is too big or too small, and every question is important.

*Happy  
Holidays*



*From:*

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 77  
HONOR GUARD**



**HENDERSON COUNTY, NC**

*Special Thanks to  
Henderson County  
Government For  
many years of  
continuous  
support!*



## American Legion Post 77 Message From Assistant Adjutant

-Bob Scruggs

**A**n American Legion may have as many appointed officers as the Post requires, and has been approved by the Post Executive Board (the elected officers of the post). For decades, the Post has had an Adjutant (appointed by the Commander) and an Assistant Adjutant (appointed by the Commander)  
**- BOTH ARE THEN APPROVED BY THE Executive Board**

The Adjutant's duties are spelled out in National American Legion Officer Handbook, but the duties are spelled out by the Adjutant, Commander and the Executive Board.

Generally: taking of minutes at all regular and special called meetings; typing them up; reading/handing out and getting minutes approved; insuring proper filing of minutes and making copies available when asked for.

Only letters requested to be typed up and delivered as specified by Executive Board/Commander. Any Other duties when requested by Executive Board/Commander/Adjutant.

Bob Scruggs - appointed Assistant Adjutant (non-voting).  
July 25, 2024

DISTRICT-DIVISION MEETING DATES FOR 2024 - 2025					
November 22, 2024 * Final District Meeting in bold, last column					
	MEETING 1	MEETING 2	MEETING 3	MEETING 4	MEETING 5
<b>DIVISION I</b>	Sat, July 6, 2024 Post 263 Washington 11:00 AM	Sat, Oct 12, 2024 Post 58 Rocky Mount 11:00 AM	<i>Div Oratorical Contest Sat, March 1, 2025 Post 38 Roanoke Rapids 11:00 AM</i>		
<b>DISTRICT 1</b>	Sat, Aug 24, 2024 Post 223 Elizabeth City 12:00 PM - Lunch 1:00 PM - Meeting	Sat, Nov 9, 2024 Post 362 Hertford 12:00 PM - Lunch 1:00 PM - Meeting		Sat, Feb 8, 2025 Post 102 Ahoskie 12:00 PM - Lunch 1:00 PM - Meeting	<b>Sat, April 26, 2025 Post 288 Coinjock 12:00 PM - Lunch 1:00 PM - Meeting</b>
<b>DISTRICT 2</b>	Sat, Sept 21, 2024 Post 131 hamilton 11:00 AM	Sat, Nov 16, 2024 Post 34 Scotland Neck 11:00 AM	<i>Dist Oratorical Contest Sat, Feb 8, 2025 Post 38 Roanoke Rapids 11:00 AM</i>		<b>Sat, May 3, 2025 Post 164 Plymouth 11:00 AM</b>
<b>DISTRICT 3</b>	Sat, Aug 17, 2024 Post 289 Ayden 10:00 AM	Sat, Oct 5, 2024 Post 39 Greenville 10:00 AM	<i>Dist Oratorical Contest Sat, Feb 1, 2025 Post 39 Greenville 11:00 AM</i>	Sat, Jan 25, 2025 Post 15 Washington 10:00 AM	<b>Sat, May 3, 2025 Post 151 Farmville 10:00 AM</b>
<b>DISTRICT 4</b>	Sat, July 20, 2024 Post 58 Rocky Mount 10:00 AM	Sat, Oct 19, 2024 Post 13 Wilson 10:00 AM	Sat, Jan 18, 2025 Post 17 Wilson 10:00 AM	Sat, March 8, 2025 Post 293 Nashville 10:00 AM	<b>Sat, May 17, 2025 Post 19 Tarboro 10:30 AM</b>
<b>DISTRICT 5</b>	Sat, Sept 14, 2024 Post 547 Warrenton 11:00 AM	Sat, Dec 7, 2024 Post 52 Franklinton 11:00 AM	<i>Dist Oratorical Contest Sat, Feb 8, 2025 Post 138 Roxboro Time TBD</i>	Sat, Feb 22, 2025 Post 52 Franklinton 11:00 AM	<b>Sat, Apr 12, 2025 Post 60 Henderson 11:00 AM</b>
<b>DIVISION II</b>					
<b>DISTRICT 6</b>			<i>Dist Oratorical Contest Sat, Feb 8, 2025 Post 24 New Bern 11:00 AM</i>		
<b>DISTRICT 7</b>	Sat, Sept 14, 2024 Post 536 Snow Hill 9:00 AM	Sat, Dec 7, 2024 Post 43 Kinston 10:00 AM	<i>Dist Oratorical Contest Sat, Jan 18, 2025 Post 103 Mt Olive 11:00 AM</i>	Sat Feb 8, 2025 Post 379 Albertson 10:00 AM	<b>Sat, May 17, 2025 Post 219 Kinston 10:00 AM</b>
<b>DISTRICT 8</b>	Sat, July 13, 2024 Post 525 Fayetteville 9:00 AM	Sat Dec 7, 2024 Post 202 Fayetteville 12:00 PM	<i>Dist Oratorical Contest Sat, Jan 18, 2025 Post 230 Spring Lake 11:00 AM</i>	Sat, Feb 22, 2025 Post 32 Hope Mills 12:00 PM	<b>Sat, April 26, 2025 Post 202 Fayetteville 12:00 PM</b>
<b>DISTRICT 9</b>			<i>Dist Oratorical Contest Sat, Jan 25, 2025 St James Comm Center 10:00 AM</i>		
<b>DISTRICT 10</b>	Sat, July 17, 2024 Post 5 St Pauls 12:00 PM - Lunch 1:00 PM - Meeting	Sat, Oct 26, 2024 Post 5 St Pauls 12:00 PM - Lunch 1:00 PM - Meeting	Sat, Jan 25, 2025 Post 5 St Pauls 12:00 PM - Lunch 1:00 PM - Meeting	Sat, April 26, 2025 Post 5 St Pauls 12:00 PM - Lunch 1:00 PM - Meeting	<b>Sat, June 14, 2025 Post 5 St Pauls 12:00 PM - Lunch 1:00 PM - Meeting</b>
<b>DIVISION III</b>					
<b>DISTRICT 11</b>	Sat, Aug 17, 2024 Post 141 Selma 12:30 PM	Sat, Oct 19, 2024 Post 1, 2024 1:00 PM		Sat Feb 1, 2025 Post 187 Wake Forest 1:00 PM	<b>Sat, May 17, 2025 Post 71 Clayton 1:00 PM</b>
<b>DISTRICT 12</b>	Sat, Aug 10, 2024 Post 6 Chapel Hill 11:00 AM	Sat, Nov 2, 2024 Post 63 Burlington 11:00 AM		Sat, Feb 8, 2025 Post 427 Haw River 11:00 AM	<b>Sat, May 10, 2025 Post 95 Mebane 11:00 AM</b>



**American Legion**  
**Post 77**  
**Canteen**  
**H e n d e r s o n v i l l e , N C**



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Facebook:



# DECEMBER EVENTS

ALA: TBA

Executive: 10Dec2024

Post 77: 12DEC2024: 7pm

Cmdr's Christmas Dinner: 14Dec2024

Wreath's Across America: 14Dec2024

Christmas in the Mountains: 21Dec: 1-4pm

The Masci Band singing Christmas Carols

Kids Meet Father Christmas and Photo, gifts for kids all ages

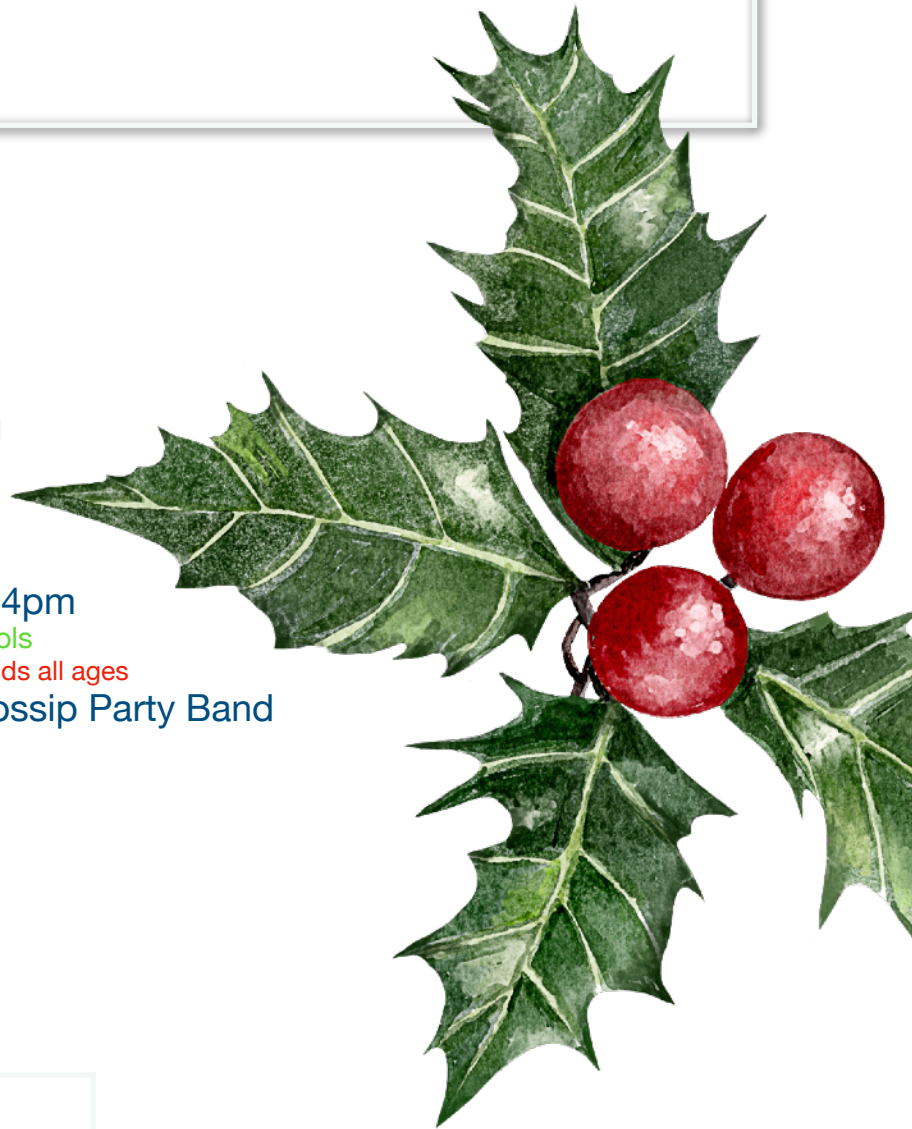
New Year's Party: 31Dec2024: Local Gossip Party Band

SAL: TBA

Legion Riders: TBA

Bingo Limited operations during month  
December call American Legion Post 77 for  
details on Bingo nights!

Happy Birthday Space Force: 20Dec





14DEC2024: Wreaths Across America Day  
31DEC2024: Local Gossip Party Band



# Christmas in and Out of Uniform: A Unique Perspective

## The Spirit of the Season, Military Style

Christmas in the military is a unique experience. Far from home, surrounded by fellow service members, the holiday season takes on a special meaning. While the familiar traditions of family gatherings and cozy firesides may be absent, the military community finds ways to celebrate the spirit of Christmas in its own way.

- **A Different Kind of Home:** For those deployed overseas, Christmas might be spent in a combat zone, a remote base, or a ship at sea. Yet, even in these challenging environments, the holiday spirit endures. Military bases often organize festive events, from Christmas dinners and parties to religious services. These gatherings provide a sense of camaraderie and a temporary escape from the rigors of military life.
- **Gifts of Gratitude:** One of the most heartwarming aspects of Christmas in the military is the exchange of gifts. While traditional presents may not always be readily available, the simple act of giving and receiving takes on a deeper significance. Service members often express their gratitude to each other through small tokens of appreciation or handwritten cards.
- **A Sense of Purpose:** For many, serving their country during the holidays is a source of pride and purpose. Knowing that their sacrifices contribute to the safety and security of their nation can make the holiday season even more meaningful.



## Transitioning to Civilian Life: A New Chapter

For veterans, the transition from military to civilian life can be both exciting and challenging. The holiday season, with its emphasis on family, tradition, and togetherness, can be a bittersweet time. While some veterans may feel a sense of relief and anticipation for the future, others may experience feelings of loneliness, isolation, or even post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

To help veterans navigate this transition, various organizations and support groups offer a range of services, including counseling, job training, and social activities. By connecting with fellow veterans and seeking professional help, veterans can find the support they need to build a fulfilling life after military service.

## Supporting Our Veterans

This holiday season, let's remember to honor and support our veterans. A simple gesture, such as sending a thank-you card or volunteering at a local veterans' organization, can make a significant difference. By showing our appreciation for their sacrifices, we can help ensure that veterans have a happy and fulfilling Christmas season and beyond.



# American Traditional Christmas: A Festive Blend of History, Culture, and Celebration

The American Christmas is a rich tapestry woven with diverse traditions, practices, and cultural influences. While Christmas is celebrated around the world, the American version has evolved over centuries, combining elements of European, African, Native American, and indigenous customs to create a holiday that is distinctly American in flavor. From festive decorations to family gatherings, gift-giving, and the iconic image of Santa Claus, the American traditional Christmas is a time of joy, togetherness, and giving.

## The Roots of American Christmas Traditions

The modern American Christmas tradition can be traced back to the early European settlers who brought their own customs to the New World. Early American Christmases were relatively quiet and religious in nature. The Puritans, who settled in New England, initially frowned upon Christmas celebrations, viewing them as pagan relics. It wasn't until the 19th century that Christmas began to emerge as a widely celebrated holiday in the United States.

The transformation of Christmas in America was heavily influenced by the Victorian-era celebrations in Europe, particularly in England. The publication of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens in 1843 and the introduction of Christmas cards and gifts began to shift Christmas into a more family-centered and commercially-driven holiday. In this period, Christmas grew from a religious observance into a broader cultural celebration, with a particular emphasis on charity, family, and goodwill toward others.



## Key Traditions of American Christmas

### 1. Decorations and the Christmas Tree

One of the most iconic symbols of Christmas in America is the Christmas tree. The tradition of decorating Christmas trees was popularized in the United States in the 19th century, particularly after Queen Victoria of England and Prince Albert, her German husband, were seen with a decorated tree in their home. The tradition, which originated in Germany, took off in America as well, with families adorning their trees with ornaments, tinsel, and lights. The Christmas tree became the focal point of holiday decor in many homes, especially in the living room, where gifts are exchanged and family members gather.

Along with the tree, homes are often adorned with wreaths, garlands, and stockings hung by the fireplace. Lights, both on the tree and strung on homes and public buildings, have become an essential part of the Christmas landscape, with entire neighborhoods transforming into glowing displays of festive cheer.

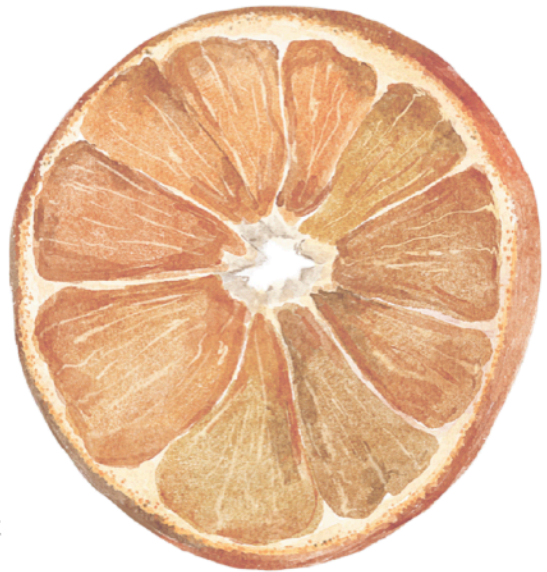


## 2. Santa Claus and Gift-Giving

The figure of Santa Claus, also known as Saint Nicholas or Kris Kringle, is one of the most enduring symbols of American Christmas. The modern image of Santa—fat, jolly, with a white beard, red suit, and sleigh full of toys—was solidified in the 19th century, in part through the illustrations of Thomas Nast, a political cartoonist for *Harper's Weekly*. Santa Claus was also popularized by Coca-Cola in the 1930s through a famous ad campaign that depicted Santa as a warm, friendly figure enjoying a Coke.

Santa's legend plays a central role in the American Christmas tradition. Children hang stockings by the fireplace and leave out milk and cookies for Santa to enjoy as he makes his rounds delivering presents. On Christmas morning, they eagerly rush to see the gifts left by Santa, creating a sense of magic and wonder that fuels the excitement of the season.

Gift-giving is a cornerstone of American Christmas, symbolizing the spirit of generosity and love. While the exchange of presents often involves family and friends, it has also become an important part of the commercial side of Christmas, with stores, advertisements, and online retailers driving the shopping frenzy that begins in earnest with "Black Friday."

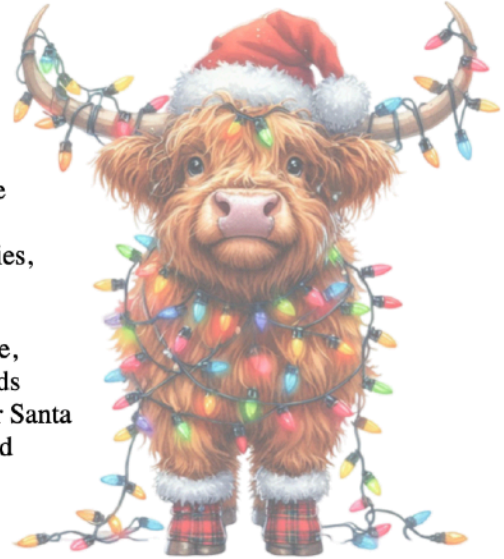




### 3. Christmas Meals and Treats

Food is central to the American Christmas experience, and the meals vary depending on region, family tradition, and cultural background. However, some dishes are common to many households. A Christmas dinner often includes roasted meats such as ham, turkey, or prime rib, along with a variety of side dishes like mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans, cranberry sauce, and rolls. Desserts, especially pies (apple, pumpkin, pecan), cakes, and cookies, are enjoyed throughout the holiday season.

One of the most beloved treats during Christmas is the sugar cookie, often decorated with colorful icing or sprinkles. Families and friends gather to bake and share cookies, and the act of leaving cookies for Santa is a cherished tradition for many children. Eggnog, a creamy, spiced drink made with milk, sugar, eggs, and alcohol, is another festive favorite.



### 4. Christmas Music and Carols

Music plays an integral role in setting the mood for the season. Traditional Christmas carols, both religious and secular, are sung by families, churches, and choirs across the country. Songs like “Silent Night,” “O Holy Night,” and “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” reflect the religious origins of the holiday, while more lighthearted tunes such as “Jingle Bells,” “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” and “Frosty the Snowman” capture the joy and playfulness of the season.

The sounds of Christmas music can be heard everywhere—on the radio, in stores, at holiday parties, and even during parades. Many families enjoy attending Christmas concerts, listening to holiday music in their homes, or participating in Christmas caroling as part of their traditions.

### 5. Religious Observances

For many Americans, Christmas retains its religious significance as a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Christian families often attend church services on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning. In some churches, midnight Mass is a key event of the holiday, while others host special services throughout the season. The Nativity scene, which depicts the birth of Jesus, is also a common feature in American homes and public spaces.

In addition to church services, some families also observe Advent, a period of four weeks leading up to Christmas, by lighting candles on an Advent wreath or using Advent calendars to count down the days. These practices add a spiritual dimension to the otherwise festive nature of the holiday.

## Regional and Cultural Variations

Though certain aspects of American Christmas are ubiquitous, regional variations and cultural influences also play a significant role in shaping holiday celebrations. For example:

- **Southern Traditions:** In the South, Christmas celebrations are often characterized by a warm climate, where people may spend Christmas Day outdoors, attending parades, or enjoying barbecues in addition to traditional meals.
- **Italian-American Christmas:** Many Italian-American families celebrate Christmas with the “Feast of the Seven Fishes,” a meal that typically includes multiple courses of fish and seafood, reflecting the Italian Catholic tradition of abstinence from meat.
- **Mexican-American Christmas:** For Mexican-American families, Christmas traditions such as *Las Posadas*, a reenactment of Mary and Joseph’s search for lodging, and the celebration of *Nochebuena* (Christmas Eve) are central to the holiday.

## Conclusion

American traditional Christmas is a celebration that blends historical influences, cultural diversity, and personal family traditions into a holiday filled with warmth, joy, and meaning. Whether through the joy of decorating a Christmas tree, the magic of Santa Claus, the sharing of a festive meal, or the religious observances that mark the season, Christmas in America is a time to embrace the values of love, generosity, and togetherness. As the holiday continues to evolve, it remains a time of connection, creating memories that resonate through the years.









# Hiking Photography:

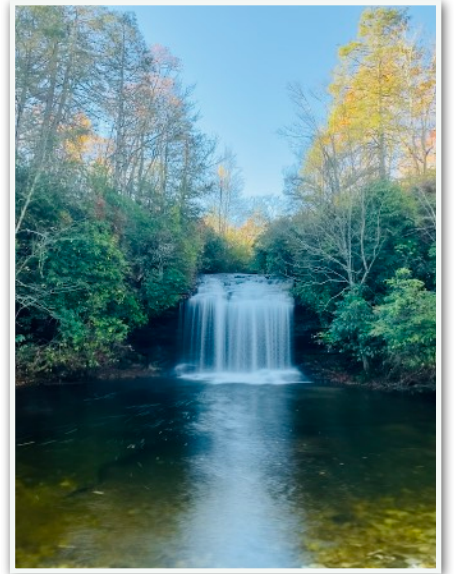
-Photo Credit: Greg Bias  
-Article Credit: @AllegedlySpeakn



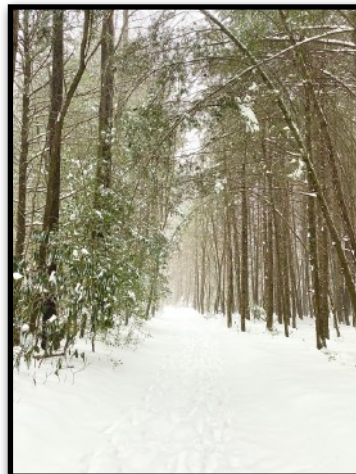
## More than a Black Bear Shadow

*Photo by Greg Bias:*

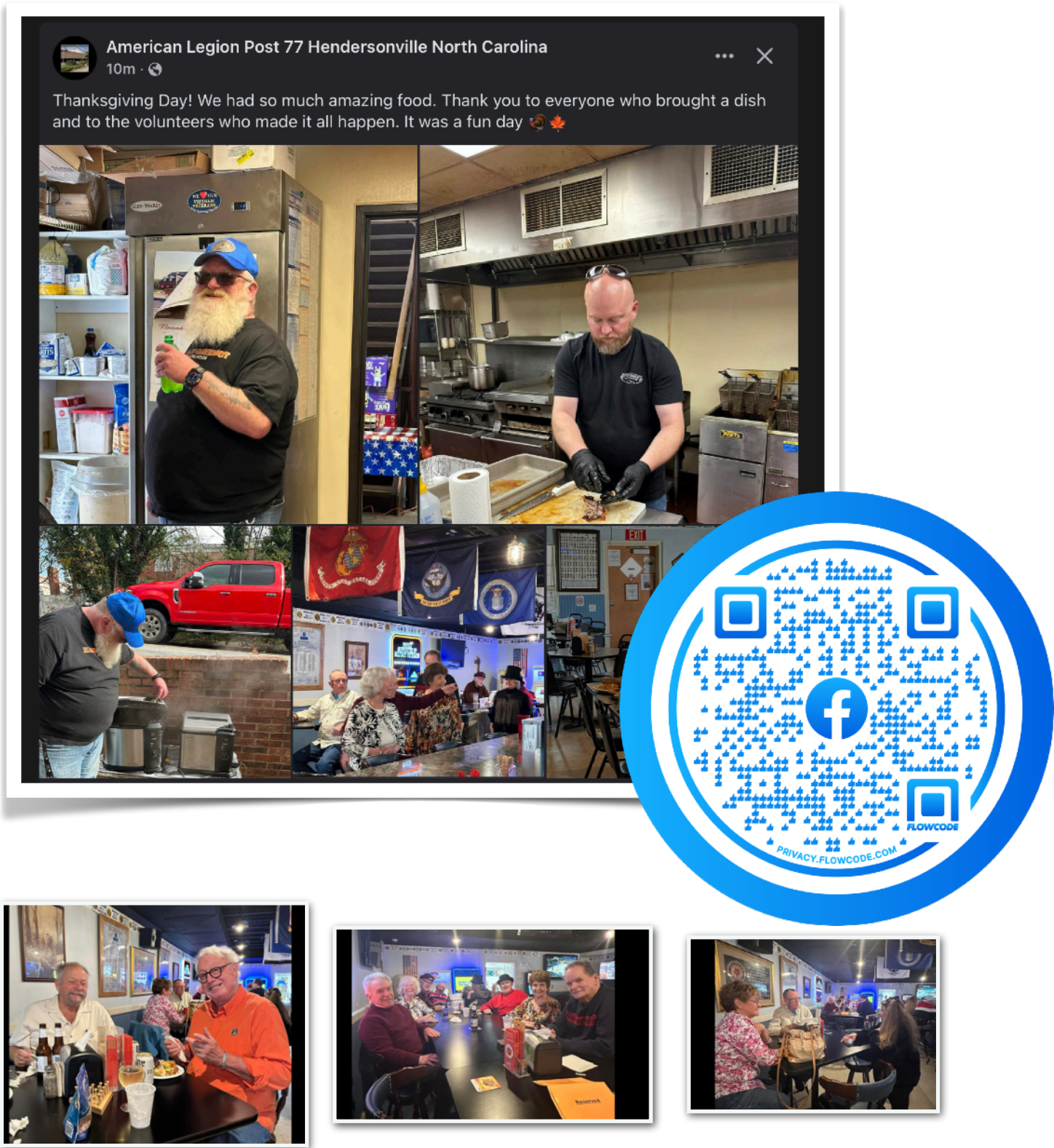
Shadow of a bear Jackson County, NC (Great Smoky Mountains) is one of many incredible experiences possible in the mountains of NC and TN. Greg Bias (recent 1st place in both 2024 VA Regional winner and Amatuer photographer WNC State Fair). Check out more of Greg's Photos <https://legion77.org/post-77-newsletters>



**P77  
PR**



Legion 77 Family potluck Thanksgiving

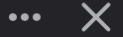






American Legion Post 77 Hendersonville North Carolina

5h · 🌐



We want to keep everyone informed of our holiday hour changes. Thank you all for understanding!

### **HOLIDAY HOUR CHANGES**

**12/14** WE WILL BE CLOSING THE CANTEEN AT **12PM** TP PREPARE FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

**12/15** WE WILL BE CLOSING THE CANTEEN AT **5PM** FOR THE STAFF PARTY

**12/24** THE CANTEEN WILL BE OPEN **12-5PM** FOR THE POTLUCK

**12/25** WE ARE **CLOSED** CHRISTMAS DAY

**12/31** WE WILL BE CLOSING THE CANTEEN AT **5PM** TO PREPARE FOR THE NYE PARTY UPSTAIRS



## A Military Spouse's Christmas

The tree stands tall, the lights aglow,  
But there's an empty chair below.  
This Christmas feels both near and far,  
With love that stretches like a star.

The stockings hang, though one is bare,  
A symbol of the love we share.  
The soldier's heart, though miles away,  
Is with me here on Christmas Day.

I tuck the kids into their beds,  
Whispering prayers and dreams ahead.  
I wrap their gifts with gentle hands,  
Though mine are tied to distant lands.

I count the days, and count the hours,  
I hold onto the strength I've found in flowers —  
The ones you sent in your last letter,  
A simple gesture, but nothing's better.

I'll toast to you with a quiet smile,  
Though we're apart, you're with me, mile by mile.  
The Christmas lights blink bright and true,  
Just like my heart, still waiting for you.

So here's to love that knows no end,  
To honor, sacrifice, and friends.  
We'll make it through, as we always do —  
With hope, with faith, with love so true.

Merry Christmas, my dear, wherever you are,  
You're always with me, no matter how far.

-ChatGPT

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/veterans/military-spouses>

**Department of Labor Military  
Spouse support**

Check out for more info!





**nclegion.org**

# American Legion Department of North Carolina

## American Legion Uniform Cap Etiquette American Legion National Headquarters Indianapolis, Indiana

- The left side (emblem side) of the cap is reserved only for the Legion emblem, city, county, district or state lettering.

- If desired, the following items must be placed on the right side of the cap:

- A) additional lettering, restricted to either the name of a Post, or to an officer title (such as "Past Commander"),
- B) cap insignias or badges (for Past or Present officers),
- C) consecutive membership insignia, membership stars, and/or authorized Legion or military services decorations.

- Names or nicknames of individual members cannot be used on caps.

- The Legion Uniform Cap should be worn by its members only when in attendance at official Legion meetings or ceremonies, or as official guests at patriotic or other civil functions, or by individuals when officially representing The American Legion on public occasions.

- A member is considered to be in uniform if wearing an official Legion Uniform Cap. Therefore, it is not proper to wear the cap while eating a meal at an official Legion or civic luncheon or dinner.

- The cap should be worn in a place of worship only by the Guard of Honor, Color Guard and Commander of same while in marching order or standing guard. When returned to and seated in pews, the cap should be removed.

- Legion posts marching in formation into a place of worship should uncover, at the door, hold the cap with the right hand over the heart until the arrival in the pews and commanded to take seats, remaining uncovered during the entire service. At the close of the service, upon command, the post shall arise, the members holding the cap with the right hand over the heart will march out of the place of worship and recover after marching through the door.

- Legion members not in formation will uncover upon entering the place of worship and remain uncovered during the entire service and will recover after leaving the place of worship.

- When at a funeral, the cap should be held over the heart as one approaches the casket, and is not at any time worn in a place of worship (except by the Guard of Honor, Color Guard or Commander of same while in marching order or standing guard). At the graveside, the cap should be held in the right hand over the heart during the entire service. In cold and inclement weather, the cap should not be worn.

- In Legion meetings, the cap should be worn except during moments of the Pledge of Allegiance, prayer, and when standing in silent reverence in memory of departed comrades, when the cap should be held with the right hand over the heart.

- Female members of the Legion should wear their caps in the manner prescribed for female personnel of the armed services.





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LEGION



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# The Legion Bulletin

December 2024

Hours - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Email - [adjutant@nclegion.org](mailto:adjutant@nclegion.org)  
Website - [www.nclegion.org](http://www.nclegion.org)



**Holiday Office Hours:**  
Closed Dec 24-25, 2024  
and Dec 31 and Jan 1, 2025



PO Box 26657  
Raleigh, NC 27611  
919-832-7506

## Mid Winter Conference

The Department Mid-Winter Conference scheduled for **February, 13-15, 2025** will be held at the Hilton Raleigh North Hills. Room rates are \$117 plus tax per night. For reservations call 1-800-445-8667, identifying yourself as being with The American Legion by **January 15 for the rate.**  
<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhoen=RDUNHHF&groupCode=AMLWC&arrivaldate=2025-02-13&departuredate=2025-02-15&cid=OM> Be sure to edit stay dates at top of page. Code if calling for reservation is AMLWC.

## Legionnaire support for Those Impacted by Hurricane Helene

*We would like to take the time to thank all the posts and members who have contributed to the needs of our fellow veterans, members and their communities suffering from the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Your support through donations, time, monies and volunteer work has been immense.*

*Thank you for all you have done*

*Your generosity and good deeds have not gone unnoticed.*

## 2024-25 RIFLE RAFFLE

**GRAND PRIZE, Special edition Gold plated .22 caliber Henry Repeating Rifle  
5 prizes of \$100 each**

**The drawing to be held  
Mid-Winter Conference on  
Saturday afternoon, February 15, 2025.**

## Oratorical Contest

Please do not forget this year's Oratorical Contest. The dates are listed below and will be followed without

**By December 17, 2024** – School Contests completed

**Dec 18-Jan 15, 2025** – County or Post Contests completed

**Jan 16-Feb 11, 2025** – District Contests

**Feb 12-Mar 2, 2025** – Division Contests

**March 29, 2025** – Post 6 Chapel Hill

District and Division Chairmen, remember to report your Contest Dates to Department as soon as your plans are made. It will also be imperative that you keep your contestants aware of their contest dates in your respective districts as turn around time is very tight for Department to get information out to the winners at the various levels. Contests leading up to the State Final may be held virtually if appropriate by state guidelines. The State Final must be held in person if NC is to send a finalist to the National Competition. **National rules apply to all levels of competition in North Carolina.** Please review your American Legion National Official rules as well as your Chairman's guide.

## Go-Getters Criteria

Post Adjutants; please refer to the enclosed New Go-Getter Certification Form. December 31 is the final date for Legionnaires to **qualify** to be a Go-Getter. The form should be completed by the Post Adjutant and returned to Dept. Headquarters by **January 31, 2025.**



### Inside This Issue

District/Division Meeting Schedule
Service Officer of the Year Form
News Media Award Form
Boy Scout High Adventure Application
Go-Getters Certification Form
JROTC, NCO and Officer of the Year Forms
Fall Conference Award Recipients
Civil Air Patrol Cadet and CAP Commander of the Year Form
Post Website Award Form
Four Rules of An American Legion Program
Cap Etiquette



## 2



## Membership News

A reminder to all Posts concerning membership renewals: (as found in the North Carolina Constitution and By-laws, article IV, section 5), "A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January 1 shall be classed as delinquent. If dues are paid on or before February 1, reinstatement shall be automatic. If still delinquent after February 1, all privileges shall be suspended. If still under such suspension on June 30 of such year, membership in The American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Post and payment of current dues for the year in which the reinstatement occurs. Provided, however, that the Post, Department and the National organization may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with reference to former members who have been prevented from the payment of dues by reason of active military service" When submitting a member for a PUFL, after January 1, 2025, the 2025 dues must be paid first. Please, when transmitting, recheck your cards and notes before mailing to avoid delay in processing. If a member is transferring and has already paid dues for the year, only include a signed member data form. **"No money, no renewal card"**. When transferring out of state or 1981Adm. (DMS) members, please put the member's current address on the member data form. Finally, membership applications are not accepted for transmittal of new post members. Please provide a 2 part card.



## Post Check Up

1. Is your post incorporated?
2. Does your post have an EIN number?
3. Does your post require 2 signatures on financial transactions?
4. Is your Finance Officer bonded?
5. Did you advise Headquarters of your present post officers' information?
6. Are you proud of the condition of your post home and property?
7. Are your post meetings informative/interesting?
8. Do you invite guests, speakers/local community leaders?
9. Is your post involved in Legion Programs/Community programs?

Be sure your Post has been filing its  
IRS 990 tax return every year.  
Posts with gross receipts under \$50,000 are only  
required to file the 990N e-postcard.  
This will ensure your post does not lose its  
tax exempt status.

CLICK ON LINK BELOW  
TO CHECK YOUR POST

[Tax Exempt Organization Search \(irs.gov\)](https://www.irs.gov/efile)

## The Legion Bulletin

10. Do the local veterans know how to contact your post for assistance?
11. Is the local military recruiter (all branches) a member of your post?
12. Does your post have a membership contact team?
13. Does your post have an annual post audit?
14. Does your post have adequate insurance on the property and activities?
15. Does your post employ security guards during post building rentals?
16. **Does your post file form 990 each year with the IRS?**
17. Have your post officers attended NC Legion College? Recruit + Retain + Reinstat + DMS List = Success

## Baseball and Softball Season 2025

The 202 American Legion Baseball season will hopefully be a go this year. Remember, the process for registering your team is all online, and handled by American Legion National Headquarters. If you need information on how to register, please call your area commissioner or Department Headquarters. Registration may start after January 1, 2025.

## 2025 NC Boys State's 85<sup>th</sup> Year

The 85<sup>th</sup> session of the 2025 Tar Heel Boys State is in the planning stages. The Boys State Committee thanks the posts for your support and encourage you to continue sending the best young citizens from your communities for a positive experience of a lifetime. The Committee Chairman and committee members are always available to you for additional information and assistance. Updated information will be sent to post officers as it occurs. Tar Heel Boys State processing information included with this mailing.

**Headquarters Phone Extensions**  
**Same number for Legion and Auxiliary**  
**919-832-7506**

Legion Adjutant	Extension 5
Legion Exec Secretary	Extension 3
Legion Membership	Extension 2
Legion Program Manager	Extension 4
Auxiliary Secretary	Extension 1





## NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND APPLICATION

### THE AMERICAN LEGION INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

#### INSTRUCTIONS & NEF GRANT APPLICATIONS

For assistance in completing this application, or for contact information, contact your department at [www.legion.org/departments](http://www.legion.org/departments).

**INDIVIDUAL (MEMBER) GRANT (Application – Page 3):** An individual NEF grant may provide immediate emergency assistance to current members of The American Legion or Sons of The American Legion (SAL) in areas devastated by a declared natural disaster, such as floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, and related adverse weather events. The applicant must have been displaced because of damage to the primary residence (or evacuated due to official government order and unable to return to the residence because of unsafe conditions or damage) and had out-of-pocket expenses for food, clothing, and shelter. If evacuation shelters available, they should be used, unless there is a valid reason that the shelter was not utilized. The NEF grant is not designed to replace items covered by insurance or to cover losses from a business, structures such as barns and storage sheds, equipment, landscaping and/or vehicles. Only one grant is available per household for each disaster and cannot exceed \$3,000. Members should also apply for assistance from federal or state disaster relief programs by visiting [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov).

**POST GRANT (Application – Page 4):** The Post NEF grant application is prepared by a post officer and must derive from a declared natural disaster causing damage to the posts building and restricting use of the facilities for programs. Applications must indicate how the post will cease to perform existing and ongoing American Legion programs in the community due to damages sustained. A written report from a district or department officer outlining losses and the impact on the community is to be included with the application. The NEF is not a replacement for insurance and is the responsibility of the post to have adequate business insurance to recoup lost revenue or inventory. Post grants are not to exceed \$10,000 for each disaster.

**REQUIRED APPLICATION INFORMATION:** The application must be filled out completely and accurately to prevent delay in processing. The department headquarters and national headquarters must have enough documented information to justify and approve the grant. Attach all supporting documents such as photographs, copies of receipts, work estimates and government agency statements. If emergency/evacuation shelters are available but not utilized, reasons must be provided. Grant requests must be submitted through the department headquarters and reach national headquarters within 90 days of the date of the disaster. Receipts for food, fuel, clothing, shelter and other expenses dated more than 30 days after the disaster are not emergency related but may be considered with an appropriate explanation and documentation. Mandatory evacuation orders from an area are not considered to be emergencies unless damage to the home prevents a safe return after an evacuation order has ended.

**DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES:** The applicant will forward the application and all supporting documentation to the department headquarters for processing. All grant requests must be reviewed and signed by the appropriate department headquarters officer before being sent to national headquarters. Please be sure to retain a copy for your records. Department headquarters contact information is located at [www.legion.org/departments](http://www.legion.org/departments).

**RECOMMENDATION/SIGNATURE OF NEF GRANT APPLICATIONS:** Upon review by department headquarters, if additional information is needed the department headquarters will contact the applicant. If the application is properly completed the department headquarters officer will endorse the application, recommend an appropriate amount, and forward to national headquarters. After review and approval by the National Adjutant a check will be issued and forwarded to the department headquarters to disburse to the applicant.

If any of the above steps have not been taken, the application may be returned to the department headquarters for amendment or further clarification. Applications not approved will be returned to the department headquarters with reasons for disapproval who will then notify the applicant. In some cases, a partial payment may be approved, and additional funds may be granted (not to exceed \$3,000.00 for members and \$10,000.00 for posts) if complete documentation is later provided within 90 days of the disaster.

**ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. This form provides for two applications in one set. Page **three** is to be used by an individual (member) grant applicant. Page **four** is to be used for a post grant applicant. Only one of the two forms are required to be completed: either for an American Legion or SAL member, or an American Legion post.
2. Written statements from post officers, a service officer or FEMA/local authority officials are valuable for both the member and post applications.
3. NEF is strictly for the basic needs of members immediately after a natural disaster, including shelter, utilities, food, clothing and other expenses related to immediate health and safety. Receipts for food, fuel, clothing, shelter and other expenses dated more than 30 days after the disaster are not emergency related but may be considered with appropriate explanation and documentation. Mandatory evacuation orders to identified places of safety (such as school shelters or county/city storm shelters) are also not considered to be emergencies unless damage to the home precludes a safe return after the weather emergency. If emergency/evacuation shelters are available but not utilized, reasons must be provided.
4. NEF does not take the place of homeowners/rental insurance or auto insurance.

**NEF will not pay for landscaping, insurance deductibles, loss of business, loss of inventory, internet services, insurance, taxes, transportation (except during evacuation and recovery), previous debt or any expense that does not contribute to the immediate emergency needs of the applicant.**

5. The following documents and attachments will speed the NEF application process:
  - ▶ Receipts and other supporting documentation of emergency expenses immediately following the disaster.
  - ▶ A description and documentation of damages sustained, especially if forced to find temporary shelter.
  - ▶ Copy of mandatory evacuation order, if so ordered, and circumstances preventing a safe return to home.
  - ▶ All expenses and documents that you may wish to be considered.
  - ▶ **Post applications only** – include a copy of the most recent Consolidated Post Report (CPR).
6. Ensure all sections of the application are complete and the appropriate signatures are obtained.
7. Applications must be sent to the department headquarters for approval. All applications sent directly to national headquarters will be returned to the appropriate department headquarters without review or action. For contact information for the department headquarters, visit [www.legion.org/departments](http://www.legion.org/departments).

**Before sending a NEF application to the American Legion Department Headquarters, did you:**

- ☐ Pay your current membership before the date of the disaster and before the date of the application?
- ☐ Complete all sections of the application and attach all required documents?
- ☐ Sign and date the application?
- ☐ Make a copy for your records, including all receipts and forms?
- ☐ **For post grant applications only** – did you include the district/department headquarters officers written report and a copy of the posts most recent Consolidated Post Report (CPR)?

**Other forms of assistance are available.** For state, local and federal assistance programs go to <https://www.disasterassistance.gov>. If minor children are in the household (ages 17 and younger) and may temporarily be in the need of food, clothing and shelter, The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance Program (TFA) may also be available to provide a one-time grant up to \$1,500. For information about Temporary Financial Assistance, visit [www.legion.org/tfa](http://www.legion.org/tfa).

**The American Legion  
National Emergency Fund**  
PO Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
(317) 630-1330  
Email: [ia@legion.org](mailto:ia@legion.org)





This form may be reproduced as needed  
**NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND APPLICATION**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
 INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

**National HQ Use ONLY**

Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_

Last Year Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Through The American Legion Department Headquarters of \_\_\_\_\_

**INDIVIDUAL (MEMBER) GRANT APPLICATION**

Member Information (For individual grants):

**DATE OF DISASTER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TYPE OF DISASTER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **COUNTY:** \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Legion or SAL Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 (\*Must be current at date of disaster and application)

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\*In order to be considered for a National Emergency Fund grant, the applicant's membership must be current as of BOTH the date of disaster and of this application. The natural disaster must have been named under a federal, state or city/county disaster proclamation by appropriate civil authority.

Describe damage to primary residence:	Attach supporting documentation such as photographs, repair estimates and/or FEMA statements.
List dates and location while displaced: If shelter available but not utilized, explain why.	Hotel, shelter, relatives, etc. Provide location and/or address.
Damaged address from which displaced:	Street address of damaged home (NO PO BOX).
Rent or owned by member?	Rent _____ Own _____ Other _____, explain other _____
Emergency out-of-pocket expenses. List amounts separately and provide receipts.	Food \$ _____ Lodging \$ _____ Clothing \$ _____ Fuel \$ _____ Other \$ _____ <b>Total: \$ _____</b>
Reimbursements expected. See <a href="http://www.disasterassistance.gov">http://www.disasterassistance.gov</a> and enter your zip code.	FEMA \$ _____ State or local disaster assistance \$ _____ Homeowner/Renter's Insurance \$ _____ Other \$ _____ <b>Estimated total relief expected: \$ _____</b>
Household members and their ages:	<b>ADULTS:</b> Age 18-69 _____ Age 70 and Older _____ <b>MINORS:</b> Age 17 and Younger _____ (See TFA Information, page 2)
Other information:	

*Upon Signature, this form must be sent to the Department Headquarters, NOT National Headquarters*

**Applicant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE:** If you are a recipient of a National Emergency Fund (NEF) grant and would like to be contacted by staff from The American Legion National Headquarters to publicly share your story of how The American Legion assisted you, please sign below. Your testimonial will be used in print, marketing and online American Legion Media. Personal NEF stories promote the American Legion's National Emergency Fund Fundraising efforts, through which grants are made possible, and how donations to the fund support ongoing assistance for American Legion Posts, veterans and their families in need.

(Optional) Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: DECLINING TO PROVIDE YOUR SIGNATURE WILL IN NO WAY ADVERSELY AFFECT THE EVALUATION OF YOUR NEF GRANT APPLICATION.

**FOR DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY:**

**DEPARTMENT OFFICER:** Approve or Disapprove Recommended Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NEF ADMINISTRATOR:** Approve or Disapprove Recommended Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL ADJUTANT:** Approve or Disapprove Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# **NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND APPLICATION**

## **THE AMERICAN LEGION INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

### National HQ Use ONLY

Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_

EIN No. \_\_\_\_\_

Through The American Legion Department Headquarters of \_\_\_\_\_

## **POST GRANT APPLICATION**

**DATE OF DISASTER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TYPE OF DISASTER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **COUNTY:** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post #: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept.: \_\_\_\_\_ EIN (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Post Officer Reporting: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In order to be considered for a National Emergency Fund grant, the post must demonstrate the loss or temporary suspension of *existing and ongoing* post programs related to the Four Pillars of The American Legion as reported on the most recent Consolidated Post Report (CPR).

Describe damage to post home:	Attach description and supporting documentation such as photographs, repair estimates or official statements.
Is the post home a leased/rented property or owned by the post?	Rented or Leased _____ Owned by membership _____ Owned by town or municipality _____ Did post programs have to meet temporarily at another location? If yes, where? _____
Emergency expenses - List separately and provide copies of receipts or estimates.	Unexpected expenses related to damages: \$ _____ Unexpected expenses related to programs: \$ _____ <b>Total expenses: \$ _____</b>
Coverage expected:	Post Insurance: \$ _____ Local/Federal Grants: \$ _____ <b>Estimated total coverage expected: \$ _____</b>
Programs suspended by disaster recovery. Provide a copy of the most recent Consolidated Post Report:	If <b>NO</b> Consolidated Post Report, explain reason: _____
Did your post act as an asset to the community?	Describe emergency services provided to community during this disaster. _____
Notes:	_____

*Upon Signature, this form must be sent to the Department Headquarters, NOT National Headquarters*

**Post Officer's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

***NOTICE:*** *If you are a recipient of a National Emergency Fund (NEF) grant and would like to be contacted by staff from The American Legion National Headquarters to publicly share your story of how The American Legion assisted you, please sign below. Your testimonial will be used in print, marketing and online American Legion Media. Personal NEF stories promote the American Legion's National Emergency Fund Fundraising efforts, through which grants are made possible, and how donations to the fund support ongoing assistance for American Legion Posts, veterans and their families in need.*

**(Optional)** Post Officer's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** DECLINING TO PROVIDE YOUR SIGNATURE WILL IN NO WAY ADVERSELY AFFECT THE EVALUATION OF YOUR NEF GRANT APPLICATION.

### **FOR DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY:**

**DEPARTMENT OFFICER:** Approve or Disapprove Recommended Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NEF ADMINISTRATOR:** Approve or Disapprove Recommended Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL ADJUTANT:** Approve or Disapprove Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

H	O	Z	B	H	O	C	A	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	B	L	I	S	S	X	H	O	J	N
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D	X	I	K	B	N	F	J	L	L	J	L	E	N	A	L	M	P	X	A	U	F	U	C	D

☐ PEPPERMINT☐ GINGERBREAD DELICACIES☐ SWEETS☐ HOLIDAY BLISS☐ GOURMET DELIGHTS

## Christmas Safety Tips:

### Christmas Safety Checklist

The holiday season is full of joy, but it's also important to stay safe while enjoying all the festivities. Here's a comprehensive Christmas Safety Checklist to help ensure a safe and happy holiday:

#### 1. Christmas Tree Safety

- **Tree Stability:** Ensure your Christmas tree is securely anchored in a sturdy stand.
- **Live Trees:** Water your tree daily to prevent it from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.
- **Artificial Trees:** Check that the tree is labeled "fire-resistant."
- **Tree Placement:** Keep your tree away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, or direct sunlight.

#### 2. Holiday Lights

- **Inspect Lights:** Check for frayed wires, broken bulbs, or any damage before use.
- **UL-Certified Lights:** Only use lights that are marked with a UL (Underwriters Laboratories) label for safety.
- **Indoor vs. Outdoor Lights:** Make sure to use lights designed for outdoor use if placing them outside.
- **Turn Off Lights:** Always turn off Christmas lights when leaving the house or going to bed.
- **Extension Cords:** Avoid overloading extension cords, and use ones rated for outdoor use if necessary.

#### 3. Fire Safety

- **Fireplace Safety:** Ensure your fireplace is clean and the flue is open before lighting a fire. Always supervise when a fire is burning.
- **Candles:** Keep candles away from flammable materials, and never leave them unattended. Consider using flameless LED candles for added safety.
- **Fire Extinguisher:** Keep a fire extinguisher handy, especially in the kitchen and near any fire sources.





# Snow? What Snow? Being prepared for winter

Holidays have historically been a time for gathering of friends, family, coworkers, old military friends, and of course for Legion Families across this planet.

52% of Americans are estimated to travel during the holidays, according to [travelagentcentral.com](http://travelagentcentral.com)

Whether traveling to a Legion Holiday Party at the Post, Christmas Dinner across town, or New Year's Celebration out of state.

Here are some simple winter travel tips, powered by -Gemini

## 1. Winter Wonderland: Stay Safe on Your Travels

Winter travel can be a magical experience, with snow-covered landscapes and festive atmospheres. However, it's essential to prioritize safety during your winter adventures. Here are some essential tips to keep you safe and sound:

### 2. Before You Go

- Check Weather Conditions
- Pack Appropriately:
- Info Friend or family of travel plans
- Inspect vehicle
- Review travel routes

### 3. During Travel:

- Remember Vehicle Safety
- Winterize vehicle for improved performance
- Pack Emergency kit
- Allow for more travel time
- Stay hydrated
- Protect yourself from the elements



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Edition:77006-1



**VFW National Commander-in-Chief  
VFW Department of North Carolina  
Commander-in-Chief  
Visit Hendersonville, NC**



Veterans Of Foreign Wars National  
Commander-in-Chief:  
**Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt**



VFW Dept North Carolina  
Commander-in-Chief:  
**Annie Cummings**



Local VFW Post 5206 welcomed National And Dept  
Commander-in-Chiefs. County relief supplies occupied building  
their meeting hall. Post 77 was honored to accommodate and  
fellowship with guest, prior to Post 77's general membership  
meeting.

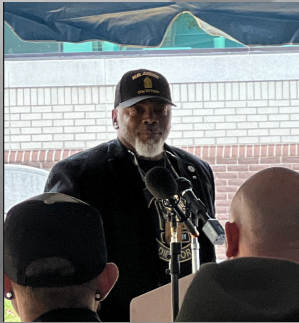






Veteran's Day Charles George VA Medical Center

11 Nov 2024



Author and Commander Sergeant Major  
(Retired) Featured Speaker  
SAEED MUSTAFA



Event Host: Allen Perkal  
Buncombe County Veterans Council



Congressman Chuck Edwards



Medical Director  
Stephanie Young  
VA Asheville  
Healthcare



Scan to watch Youtube video powered by:  
WLOS News13



## **The Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Act will expand quality of care for veterans, support for caregivers and more.**

The American Legion is applauding the House passage of the Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Act, which will improve the quality of health care for our nation's veterans.

In a statement released after the legislation's passage on Nov. 18, American Legion National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr. thanked bill sponsor, Rep. Juan Ciscomani, R-Ariz., as well as Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Mike Bost, R-Ill., and Ranking Member Mark Takano, D-Calif.

"This bill includes a number of critical provisions that will expand the quality of care that veterans receive, increase support for caregivers, improve the functioning of the VA, and much more," LaCoursiere said. "I applaud Congressman Ciscomani's leadership in introducing this important bill, and we echo Chairman Bost and Ranking Member Takano's belief that veterans deserve a VA that works with them. We are excited to see this package make it to the finish line in the House, and remain dedicated to serving veterans and their families in the future."

The legislation now moves to the Senate for consideration.