

American Legion  
Post 77 Hubert M. Smith

Featured August Military Dates:

**07August - Purple Heart Day**

14August- V-J Day

16August - National Airborne Day

Military Birthdays:

04August - Coast Guard Birthday

10August - DOD

29August - Marine Corps Reserve

American Legion  
Post 77  
**Canteen**  
Hendersonville, NC

**OPEN DAILY**

"Landmine Collins" Featured  
Post 77 Member  
-Retired USMC/Purple Heart

Purple Heart Day 07Aug



**AUGUST2025**

# NEWSLETTER

**828-693-3922**

## The American Legion Post 77

Hubert M. Smith



### August Email Briefing

#### Meetings

**August 7: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 77**

**August 12: Executive Board**

**August 14: American Legion General Membership 7pm**

**August 16: SAL Squadron 77**

**August 28: American Legion Riders Chapter 77 7pm**

#### Canteen Events

August 6, 13, 20, 27: Bingo

August 8, 15, 22, 29: Karaoke

August 16: Blue Ridge Big Band

August 18: Marine Corps

August 21: Free Vets Buffet

August 31: Barn Yard Bingo



Happy Birthday  
Post 77

Assistant Adjutant  
Bob Scruggs

07AUGUST

  
**POST 77 BINGO**

**\$2500**  
**IN GIVEAWAYS**

**HENDERSONVILLE**  
\$  
**WEDNESDAYS**  
\$  
**DOORS OPEN 5PM**

Bingo open to Public

216 4th Ave W  
Hendersonville, NC 28739

Legion National Convention

22-28 August 2025

See you in Tampa!

# Purple Heart Day: Honoring America's Wounded Heroes

-Grok3

On August 7th, the United States observes Purple Heart Day, a solemn occasion to honor the brave men and women who have been wounded or killed in service to our nation. This day commemorates the creation of the Purple Heart, one of the oldest and most revered military decorations, and celebrates the resilience, sacrifice, and patriotism of those who bear its weight. As we reflect on the significance of Purple Heart Day, we recognize the vital role these heroes play in our society and explore meaningful ways to pay tribute to their courage.

## **The History of Purple Heart Day**

The Purple Heart traces its origins to the Badge of Military Merit, established by General George Washington on August 7, 1782, during the Revolutionary War. Designed to recognize soldiers for “singularly meritorious action,” the badge was a purple, heart-shaped cloth with a silver border. Only a handful were awarded before it faded from use. In 1932, to mark the 200th anniversary of Washington’s birth, the War Department revived the decoration as the Purple Heart, expanding its purpose to honor those wounded or killed in combat. Officially designated as a national day of observance, Purple Heart Day has been celebrated annually since 2014, when Congress passed a resolution to recognize August 7th as a day to honor Purple Heart recipients. Today, approximately 1.9 million Purple Heart medals have been awarded, each representing a story of sacrifice and survival.

## **The Significance of Purple Heart Heroes in American Society**

Purple Heart recipients embody the core values of duty, honor, and sacrifice that define the American spirit. These heroes—soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen—have faced the horrors of war and carry the physical and emotional scars of their service. Their courage under fire and resilience in recovery inspire us all, reminding us of the cost of freedom and the strength of the human spirit.

In American society, Purple Heart recipients serve as living symbols of patriotism and selflessness. They connect generations, from the battlefields of World War II to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, weaving a thread of valor through our nation's history. Their stories teach us resilience, foster gratitude, and unite communities in shared appreciation for those who protect our way of life. Beyond their military service, many recipients continue to contribute as leaders, advocates, and mentors, enriching our society with their wisdom and compassion.

## **How to Honor Purple Heart Recipients**

Honoring Purple Heart recipients is a meaningful way to express gratitude and ensure their sacrifices are never forgotten. Here are some ways to pay tribute on Purple Heart Day and beyond:

- **Attend or Host a Ceremony:** Many communities hold Purple Heart Day events, such as wreath-laying ceremonies or veteran recognition programs. Check with local veterans' organizations, like the Military Order of the Purple Heart, or stop by P77 Canteen.
- **Support Veterans' Organizations:** Donate to or volunteer with groups that assist veterans, such as the American Legion Post 77 Wounded Disabled American Veterans and VFW. These organizations provide critical resources and support to Veterans and thier family
- **Educate Others:** Share the history and significance of the Purple Heart with friends, family, or students. Social media posts, school presentations, or community discussions can raise awareness about the sacrifices of these heroes.
- **Visit a Purple Heart Memorial:** Many cities, such as New Windsor, New York, or Fort Bragg, North Carolina, have memorials dedicated to Purple Heart recipients. Visiting these sites offers a moment for reflection and tribute.
- **Advocate for Veterans' Services:** Support policies and initiatives that improve healthcare, employment opportunities, and mental health resources for wounded veterans. Your voice can help ensure they receive the care they deserve.

## **A Call to Action**

Purple Heart Day is more than a date on the calendar; it is a call to honor the courage and sacrifice of those who have given so much for our nation. By remembering their stories, supporting their needs, and celebrating their contributions, we strengthen the fabric of our society and renew our commitment to the values they defend. This August 7th, let us pause to salute our Purple Heart heroes, ensuring their legacy of bravery endures for generations to come.

### Works Cited

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- "Purple Heart Day." National Day Calendar, [www.nationaldaycalendar.com/national-day/purple-heart-dayaugust-7](http://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/national-day/purple-heart-dayaugust-7).
- U.S. Department of Defense. "The Purple Heart: America's Oldest Medal." Defense.gov, 7 Aug. 2020, [www.defense.gov/Explore/Features/Story/Article/2299901/the-purple-heartamericas-oldest-medal/](http://www.defense.gov/Explore/Features/Story/Article/2299901/the-purple-heartamericas-oldest-medal/).
- Wounded Warrior Project. "Our Mission." Wounded Warrior Project, [www.woundedwarriorproject.org/mission](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/mission)

## Highlighting American Legion Post 77 Member

John "landmine" Collins

Retired USMC,  
Purple Heart Recipient OIF

Legion Post 77 Member

**THANK YOU "LANDMINE" FOR YOUR MANY YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE AND SCARIFICE FOR THIS NATION. AND THANK YOU TO ALL PURPLE HEART VETERANS!**

**THANK YOU JOHN FOR BEING PART OF POST 77 LEGION FAMILY, AS WELL AS, MANY YEARS OF LEADERSHIP AS DAV14 COMMANDER.**



John Collins: DAV Chapter 14 Cmdr  
American Legion Post 77 member  
Purple Heart OIF

# Division 5 gathered in Asheville

## Post 77 Family attended including:

SAL Detachment Commader  
Brian White

SAL Detachment Adjutant  
Larry Barnwell

Post 77  
Assistant Adjutant Bob Scruggs  
Vice Commander Ashton Warren

Riders  
Ashton Boyette

Honor Guard  
Ashton Boyette

Legislative Director:  
Andrew Clark

**POST 70 of Asheville** wins  
**Legion Baseball State 2025!**



**Division Commander Jim Sherman, conducted a great Division 5 Meeting, with many in attendance.**

**Commander Sherman highlighted his vision for Division 5 to improve, while also highlighting the extraordinary accomplishments recently in Division 5**

**From storm recovery to American Legion program achievements.**

**Goal of sending more to Boys State and Oratorical Contest**

**Dept Commander Durham, Jr speaking on encouragement and inspiration to division 5 during Sunday afternoon's meeting**

**POST 70 HOSTED DIVISION 5 MEETING  
PROVIDING LUNCH FOR ALL**

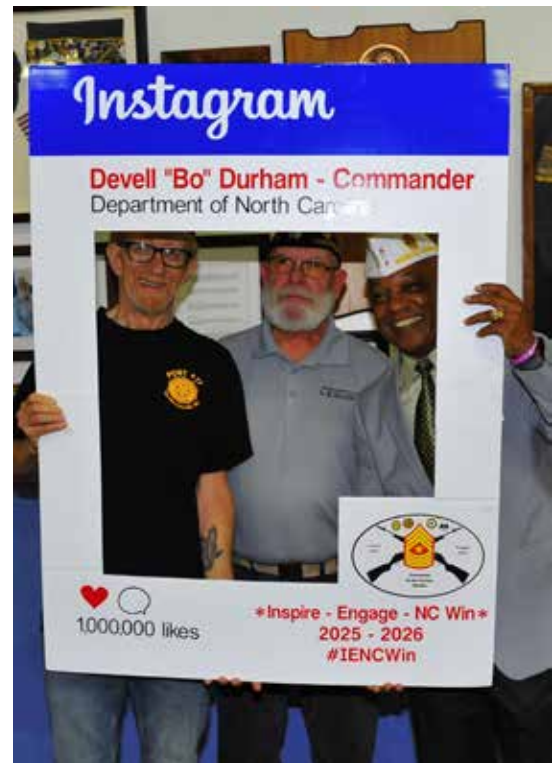
NC Dept Commander Durham Official Visit to Post 77: Attending Executive Board Meeting to Conduct Installation of Post Officers. SAL Commander White and Dept Aux President Whitaker attended. Assistant Adjutant Sruggs present













# Legion Riders

**THE AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY RUN**

American Legion Riders chapters are well known for their charitable work, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veterans homes, severely wounded servicemembers and scholarships. Since 2006, Riders nationwide have participated in The American Legion Legacy Run to annually raise money for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, established to provide scholarships to children of U.S. military personnel killed since Sept. 11, 2001.

## History

In Garden City, Mich., in 1993, Chuck "Tramp" Dare and Bill "Polka" Kaledas, commander of American Legion Post 396, shared an idea to start a motorcycle enthusiasts association within the organization. The two longtime riders wanted an environment where Legion family members could come together to share a common love for motorcycles.

Dare and Kaledas wrote a letter to Michigan Department Adjutant Hubert Hess, sharing their idea. Hess replied that he liked the concept and wanted to pursue it. Later, he gave Kaledas and Dare instructions for managing the program at the post level. He also explained how they could be approved to use the American Legion emblem, and how to gain Membership's support and recognition. At a regular meeting, Post 396 members passed a resolution for a new program to be known as the "American Legion Riders."

Joined by 19 other founding members from their post, Dare and Kaledas were flooded with requests for information about their organization. They agreed to establish a central source for the Riders to ensure that chapters formed not as motorcycle clubs or gangs, but as Legionnaires and Auxiliary and SAL members joining to ride as Legion family.

## Legion Riders today

Currently, over 110,000 American Legion Riders meet in over 2,000 chapters in every domestic department and in at least three foreign countries. Riders in Iowa have formed an honor guard called The Five Star Freedom Riders, and Riders in Mulvane, Kan., founded the Patriot Guard to protect the sanctity of military funerals from protesters. Riders in all states have escorted military units returning home from combat tours overseas, conducted massive cross-country fundraising events for wounded warriors from all services, and have raised millions of dollars for countless local, state and national charities. Many Riders, supported by their departments, conduct annual statewide Legacy Runs in direct support of American Legion scholarship programs of Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW), supporting our wounded servicemembers across the nation.

True to the Legion's grassroots tradition, each chapter manages its programs at the post level, where the best ideas are born. The Riders are part of many projects and events, including:

- Annual regional rides such as Operation Wounded Warrior, sponsored by Riders in Nevada, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, California and other Western states.
- Local charity events in support of The American Legion and local communities.
- Raising money for VA hospitals, women and children centers, children and youth centers, schools and other facilities.
- Sponsoring or participating in motorcycle runs to benefit numerous charities.
- Local memorial ceremonies and community parades.
- The American Legion Legacy Run, an annual cross-country fundraising ride from National Headquarters in Indianapolis to the national convention city.
- Riding to honor fallen military men and women, and to protect the sanctity of their funerals from those who would dishonor their memory.
- Escorting military units to departure airfields and airports for combat tours overseas, and welcoming them home upon their return.

Sourced from [legion.org](https://legion.org)

### "American Legion Riders as a National Program"

RESOLUTION 5, APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ON MAY 5-6, 2021.

All American Legion Rider (ALR) groups must be a program supported by a post or department of The American Legion and shall uphold the declared principles of The American Legion and conform to and abide by the regulations and decisions of the department, post, or other duly constituted department governing body.

The following guidelines are recommended for The ALR program of The American Legion:

1. All members of The American Legion Riders shall be current members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion.
2. Each ALR member shall establish and maintain membership by owning, individually or through marriage, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required by state law.
3. ALR programs may allow for continued membership for those members who have given up motorcycle ownership because of age, illness, injury, or other reasons outside the member's control.
4. All ALR members shall strive to maintain the image of The American Legion, always upholding The American Legion name and emblem, which symbolizes the integrity and principles of this great organization.
5. All ALR groups shall avoid the perception of being a "motorcycle club" (MC) or biker club."
6. The only recognized American Legion Rider logo is that which is copyrighted and sold through The American Legion National Emblem sales.
7. All Members will obey the motorcycle laws of their state.
8. No use of rockers with the ALR patch because touching the emblem violates trademark laws of the ALR logo. Rockers touching the out edge of the patch is acceptable.
9. Sponsoring organization (post and department) will review liability insurance coverage to ensure that adequate coverage is available to cover the organization to include coverage for any specific special riding events.

American Legion Rider groups shall abide by The American Legion Constitution and By-laws at each level and the established post and department directives, standing rules, etc.

The American Legion National Headquarters and the respective department and post shall maintain general oversight of the ALR Program regarding the proper use of the name and emblem of The American Legion, The American Legion Riders, and The American Legion Legacy Run, and compliance with the National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion.

# Legislative Goals 2025



## MODERNIZING THE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Legislative Point Paper

### PROBLEM:

- The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) provides curriculum to servicemembers leaving the military and transitioning into civilian life.
- Military Life Cycle (MLC) modules are designed to provide servicemembers and their families with **ongoing access to information about VA services and benefits** throughout their military careers.
- VA has reported that **only 30,191 participants engaged with the MLC modules** between FY 2022 and Q2 of FY 2023, indicating a **significant underutilization** of this valuable resource.
- Limited engagement with MLC highlights the need for not only high-quality training materials but also a strategic communications plan to effectively reach and engage the target audience.

### KEY POINTS:

- **70% of transitioning servicemembers are not beginning TAP** at least 365 days in advance of their anticipated separation or retirement.
- Transitioning servicemembers need **unrestricted access to TAP** resources, including access to local, state, and federal resources, to ensure a **successful transition from military to civilian life**.

### WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO:

Congress should, in partnership with interagency partners, community resource groups, and Veterans Service Organizations, modernize TAP delivery by integrating new technologies, specifically through the development of a mobile application equipped with artificial intelligence (AI).



# 70%

TRANSITIONING  
SERVICEMEMBERS WHO  
ARE NOT BEGINNING TAP  
WITHIN AT LEAST 365  
DAYS OF SEPERATION

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION, SCAN  
THE QR CODE OR VISIT  
[LEGION.ORG/ADVOCACY](https://legion.org/advocacy)





# WINNING THE WAR WITHIN

Legislative Point Paper

## PROBLEM:

- Suicide is the **second leading cause of death** among veterans under the age of 45 and the suicide rate is nearly double that of civilians.
- Research conducted by America's Warrior Partnership and Duke University in 2022 suggests veteran suicides are underreported – and as many as **24 veterans a day die on average from suicide**; an additional 20 die by “self-injury mortality,” otherwise known as overdose.

## THE LEGION'S EFFORTS:

- The American Legion created the **Be the One Suicide Prevention** initiative. The goal of this groundbreaking initiative is to talk openly and boldly about the mental health challenges affecting Americans every day.
- We, as a nation, must own the issue of suicide, understand at-risk behavior, and know what to do if you or someone you know is wrestling with thoughts of suicide.
- The American Legion **Buddy Check Program** aims to reconnect veterans who may need assistance but do not know where to turn. The VA held its first Veteran Buddy Check Summit in 2024 and included Keynote speakers, fireside chats, testimonies, and opportunities for social connection.
- The American Legion is also actively **combating the “broken veteran” narrative** and believes that trauma can be a source of strength. Post-Traumatic Growth (PTG) is a recent theory rooted in the belief that veterans can grow from traumatic experiences, and the Legion supports improved access to alternative therapies.

## WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO:

1. Enhance access to and funding for suicide prevention training efforts.
2. Enact evidence-based strategies to combat veteran suicide and ensure VA's data is timely, effective, and standardized.
3. Enhance access to alternative therapies, fund VA's outreach efforts, and continue to invest in cutting-edge mental-health research.
4. Update and standardize the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) codes and improve the funding, training, and standards for coroners and medical examiners for validating military service and cause of death.



# 24

AVERAGE NUMBER  
OF VETERANS WHO  
DIE BY SUICIDE  
EVERY DAY

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION, SCAN  
THE QR CODE OR VISIT  
[LEGION.ORG/ADVOCACY](https://legion.org/advocacy)



# IMPROVING THE LETHALITY OF OUR ARMED FORCES

Legislative Point Paper

## PROBLEM:

- The continued **modernization of the armed forces is essential** for maintaining military superiority and ensuring national security in an increasingly complex and dynamic global environment.
- As adversaries adopt new technologies and strategies, the U.S. must stay ahead by **embracing cutting-edge solutions** and modernizing its defense capabilities.
- This includes **investing in next-generation weaponry**, cybersecurity measures, and artificial intelligence; all critical to maintaining **strategic advantage**.
- America no longer has the world's largest Navy and China's shipbuilding capacity is 232 times greater than the United States.
- The modernization process also involves updating military infrastructure, improving logistics, and enhancing the training and operational readiness of personnel to **address evolving threats**.

## KEY POINTS:

- Enforce modernization through **funding for Research & Development (R&D)** and **incentivizing innovative practices** and rapid procurement next-generation technologies.
- **Strengthen the defense industrial base** by prioritizing funding for replacing expended weapons and ammunition stocks, shipbuilding, fostering private-public partnerships and transitioning critically skilled military personnel into defense industry.
- **Enhance talent acquisition** by reforming recruitment strategies and offering retention incentives and ensuring high quality of life to military personnel with advanced technical skills.

## WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO:

1. Increase funding for defense-related R&D initiatives to **accelerate fielding capabilities in all domains of conflict, especially rapid prototyping and experimentation, hypersonics, artificial intelligence, space, and quantum.**
2. Ensure National Defense Strategy related spending prioritizes joint and Combined warfighting capabilities and service force development efforts to retain lethality and capability advantages.
3. Prioritize defense funding to focus on increasing shipbuilding capacity through construction of additional shipyards and associated work force trade schools.



# 232 TIMES GREATER

CHINA'S  
SHIPBUILDING  
CAPACITY COMPARED  
TO THE US

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION, SCAN  
THE QR CODE OR VISIT  
[LEGION.ORG/ADVOCACY](https://legion.org/advocacy)



# Financial Stability among U.S. Veterans

*A summary of financial-related research by the Millennium Cohort Study*

## OVERVIEW

Economic well-being is essential for veterans, yet some struggle to meet basic needs such as food and housing during their transition to civilian life. A number of veterans encounter significant barriers when seeking civilian employment despite the training, educational resources, and valuable experience gained during their service.

Financial difficulties can create a disconnect between the benefits received during military service and the reality of post-deployment life. This financial strain is often linked to issues such as homelessness, substance misuse, and mental health challenges, underscoring the need for targeted support to improve veterans' financial and overall well-being.

### Key Findings

- Mental health conditions, such as depression, anxiety, and panic disorders, were associated with unemployment among veterans.<sup>1</sup>
- Veterans who experienced combat while in service were more likely to develop financial difficulties, including severe financial problems<sup>3</sup> and homelessness.<sup>2</sup>
- Problematic anger among veterans was associated with economic difficulties such as, major financial problems, financial insecurity, homelessness, employment status.<sup>4</sup>
- Veterans who identified as non-Hispanic Black, gay, lesbian, or bisexual, as well as those who lacked a college degree, were in an enlisted pay grade, or received a general or other than honorable discharge had an increased risk of experiencing homelessness.<sup>5</sup>

### Impact

- Between 2001 and 2008, approximately one out of five veterans reported experiencing unemployment after leaving the service.<sup>1</sup>
- Veterans who had a single combat experience while in service were 21% more likely to have serious financial problems when compared to veterans who never saw combat, while those who experienced combat multiple times were 43% more likely to face the same financial concerns.<sup>3</sup>
- 2% of veterans experienced homelessness between 2001-2016.<sup>5</sup>
- Participants with problematic anger were 47% more likely to experience financial problems, such as bankruptcy, compared to those without.<sup>4</sup>

## IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Results of this research suggest that combat exposure increases veterans' risk of financial difficulties and homelessness, particularly for those with mental health issues or multiple combat exposures. The findings emphasize the need for targeted policies that address both the financial and mental health challenges faced by veterans, with a focus on early intervention to improve veterans' long-term well-being.

- Policies to strengthen health or financial management skills may be best applied to targeted populations regardless of deployment selection.
- Mental health concerns are indicators of post-service employment status. This may help identify veterans most in need of job placement services following military service.
- Combat exposure during deployment significantly increased the risk of homelessness among veterans. Policies and programs that promote the physical and mental health of service members, especially those with pre-existing health conditions, may help reduce this risk.

# Risk Factors for Sleep Problems among U.S. Service Members

*A summary of sleep-related research by the Millennium Cohort Study*

## OVERVIEW

Poor sleep has negative effects on service member readiness. The Millennium Cohort Study research team has investigated the effects of sleep health over the last decade. Key study findings indicate that poor sleep and sleep disorders increase risks for chronic health conditions, mental health issues, and sleep medication usage.

### Key Findings

- Certain military-related factors (e.g., active component, Army or Marine Corps service, longer than average deployment lengths, and combat deployment) were associated with the new onset and reoccurrence of short sleep duration and/or insomnia symptoms.<sup>1</sup>
- Risk factors for new-onset insomnia included Army service, combat deployment experience, and separation from military service.<sup>2</sup>
- Time-in-service and separation from the military had differing relationships with sleep duration and insomnia symptoms; they lowered risk for those with  $\leq 5$  h sleep but increased risk for insomnia symptoms.<sup>1</sup>

### Impact

- Short sleep duration, insomnia, and obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) negatively impact service member readiness through multiple mechanisms such as impaired cognitive processing (brain fog) and slowed reaction times, worse physical health (e.g., type 2 diabetes, weight gain), and worse mental health (e.g., PTSD, anxiety, depression).
- More than half who screened positive for insomnia reported using sleep medication. Findings indicate that there may be an underlying issue related to the inability to obtain adequate sleep in certain populations, such as military personnel with combat experience and individuals who have recently separated from the military.

## IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sleep interventions (e.g., relaxation methods, consistent bedtime routines, reducing stimulus before bedtime) may be useful during periods when service members have more liberty with their daily activities and sleep schedules (e.g., when stationed within the United States or deployed to non-combat zones).
- Given the importance of sleep hygiene for service member readiness, military leadership can identify opportunities to distribute sleep health best practices and help increase the importance of sleep prioritization within the military. In addition, assessments of sleep quality and quantity should be included as part of routine health screenings.

# AMERICAN LEGION POST 77

## 2025 OFFICERS

### American Legion Post 77 2026 Officers:

#### **Elected:**

Commander— -- Walt Lunsford  
First Vice Commander— -- Ashton Boyette  
Second Vice Commander — -- Terry Chevalier  
Third Vice Commander— -- Bob Buchanan  
Finance Officer— -- George Miller  
Parliamentarian — -- Shuford Edmisten  
Chaplain — -- David Yelton  
Sergeant of Arms— -- Joe Stancar  
Historian— -- Jim Lewis  
Service Officer— -- Bob Scruggs

#### **Appointed:**

Adjutant — -- Shuford Edmisten  
Assistant Adjutant — -- Bob Scruggs  
Commander's Aid — -- Terry Banks  
Legislative Chairman — -- Andrew Clark

# Honoring Courage in the Skies: National Airborne Day

-Grok3

Every August 16th, the United States celebrates National Airborne Day, a heartfelt tribute to the bravery, innovation, and sacrifice of the nation's airborne forces. This day marks the first official U.S. Army parachute jump on August 16, 1940, a daring leap that reshaped military strategy and gave rise to the elite airborne units we revere today. From the battlefields of World War II to modern conflicts, airborne soldiers—known as “Sky Soldiers”—have exemplified courage, parachuting into danger to secure victory and defend freedom. Let's dive into the history, significance, and ways to celebrate this remarkable day, including the inspiring efforts of organizations like American Legion Post 77.

## **A Historic Leap Forward**

The origins of National Airborne Day trace back to 1940 at Fort Benning, Georgia (now Fort Moore), where 48 volunteers from the U.S. Army Parachute Test Platoon took a leap into history. Their successful jump, under the guidance of Major William Lee, proved the viability of deploying combat forces via parachute behind enemy lines. This concept, first proposed by Brigadier General William Mitchell post-World War I, transformed warfare. By November 1942, the 2nd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment made America's first combat jump in North Africa, solidifying the airborne's critical role. World War II saw airborne units shine in operations like D-Day's Normandy invasion, the Battle of the Bulge, and the invasion of Southern France.

Their strategy of “vertical envelopment” disrupted enemies and turned battles in the Allies' favor. Over the years, airborne forces proved their mettle in Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Desert Storm, and Afghanistan, with iconic units like the 82nd Airborne Division (“All American”), the 101st Airborne Division (“Screaming Eagles”), and the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team (“Sky Soldiers”) earning legendary reputations.

## Why National Airborne Day Matters

Proclaimed by President George W. Bush in 2002 and later affirmed by Senate Resolution 235 in 2009, National Airborne Day honors the courage and sacrifices of airborne soldiers, past and present. These paratroopers endure grueling training to master parachuting into hostile zones with precision and resolve, living up to their rallying cry, “Airborne, All the Way!” The day also underscores the airborne’s enduring importance. Modern paratroopers train for rapid deployment across diverse environments—Arctic, desert, or urban—ensuring readiness for any crisis. The reactivation of the 11th Airborne Division in Alaska highlights this adaptability, keeping airborne forces vital to national security.

## Celebrating with American Legion Post 77

National Airborne Day is a chance to reflect and connect.

### How to Celebrate

Here are a few ways to honor National Airborne Day:

- **Attend Local Events:** Check with groups like American Legion Post 77 Canteen for great menu items, Drinks, Fellowship, and game room.
- **Learn Their Stories:** Visit museums like the Airborne & Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, NC, or read about airborne history in books like Band of Brothers.
- **Support Veterans:** Donate to organizations, including the American Legion, that aid Veterans and their families.
- **Share the Legacy:** Post about National Airborne Day on social media using hashtags like #NationalAirborneDay to spread awareness.

National Airborne Day reminds us of the fearless men and women who soar into the unknown for our nation. Let’s celebrate their legacy with pride and gratitude.

### Works Cited

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- “American Legion Post 77.” [legion77.org](http://legion77.org) 13 April. 2025.

# COAST GUARD BIRTHDAY

## **Celebrating the U.S. Coast Guard's Birthday: A Legacy of Service and Sacrifice**

On August 4, 2025, the United States Coast Guard celebrates its 235th birthday, marking over two centuries of unwavering dedication to protecting our nation's shores, waterways, and maritime interests. This milestone offers a moment to reflect on the Coast Guard's storied history, its vital missions, and its role in safeguarding America today.

### **A Rich History of Service**

The U.S. Coast Guard traces its origins to August 4, 1790, when Congress authorized the construction of ten vessels to form the Revenue Cutter Service under the Department of the Treasury. Led by Alexander Hamilton, this fledgling service was tasked with enforcing tariffs and combating smuggling, making it the nation's first federal maritime agency. Over time, the service evolved, merging with other agencies like the U.S. Life-Saving Service in 1915 to form the modern U.S. Coast Guard under the Coast Guard Act.

Throughout its history, the Coast Guard has played a pivotal role in America's defense and security. During the War of 1812, cutters like the USRC Eagle fought British forces, while in World War II, Coast Guardsmen manned landing crafts at Normandy and patrolled for Uboats. The service's adaptability has seen it transition between departments—moving to the Department of the Navy during wartime, the Department of Transportation in 1967, and finally the Department of Homeland Security in 2003. This rich legacy underscores the Coast Guard's motto, *Semper Paratus*—Always Ready.

## **The Coast Guard's Mission**

The U.S. Coast Guard is unique among the nation's armed forces, blending military, law enforcement, and humanitarian roles. Its 11 statutory missions include maritime safety, search and rescue, maritime security, drug interdiction, migrant interdiction, environmental protection, and ports, waterways, and coastal security. Operating under the Department of Homeland Security in peacetime, the Coast Guard can shift to the Department of the Navy during wartime, ensuring flexibility in addressing diverse threats.

From rescuing mariners in distress to interdicting illegal drugs and securing America's 95,000 miles of coastline, the Coast Guard's missions are as varied as they are critical. Its humanitarian efforts, such as saving lives during natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina, highlight its commitment to service. The Coast Guard also maintains aids to navigation, ensuring safe passage for commercial and recreational vessels, and enforces maritime laws to protect U.S. waters from illegal fishing and trafficking.

## **The U.S. Coast Guard Today**

Today, the U.S. Coast Guard remains a vital force with approximately 41,000 active-duty personnel, 7,000 reservists, 8,500 civilian employees, and 21,000 volunteer Auxiliarists. Operating 243 cutters, 1,650 boats, and 190 aircraft, the Coast Guard maintains a global presence, from the Arctic to the Caribbean. Its 2024 budget of \$13.8 billion supports operations across 88,000 miles of waterways and the nation's Exclusive Economic Zone, which spans 4.5 million square miles.

Recent initiatives reflect the Coast Guard's forward-looking approach. The service is modernizing its fleet with new Offshore Patrol Cutters and Polar Security Cutters to address emerging challenges like Arctic operations and cybersecurity threats. In 2024, the Coast Guard conducted over 5,600 search-and-rescue missions, saving thousands of lives, and seized 137,000 pounds of cocaine, disrupting illicit drug networks. Its response to climate change includes protecting coastal communities from rising sea levels and supporting sustainable maritime practices.

The Coast Guard also champions diversity and inclusion, with women and minorities making up significant portions of its workforce. Programs like the Coast Guard Academy's cadet training prepare the next generation of leaders, ensuring the service remains ready for future challenges.

## **Honoring 235 Years of Excellence**

As we celebrate the U.S. Coast Guard's 235th birthday, we honor the men and women who embody Semper Paratus. From its humble beginnings as the Revenue Cutter Service to its modern role as a multi-mission maritime force, the Coast Guard continues to protect, serve, and inspire. Whether patrolling our waters, responding to disasters, or securing our ports, the Coast Guard stands as a beacon of resilience and readiness.

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Canteen Specials for Auxiliary Members for the Month on August

Mondays and Thursdays

**UNIT 77**

**Meetings: 1st Thursday each month**

**Time: 7pm**

216 4th Ave W  
Hendersonville, NC 28739

14th - 19th August 2025

# LEGION WORLD SERIES

Shelby, NC

# **Squadron 77**

## **Detachment NC**

# Greg's Photos





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