

POST 77

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**



NEWSLETTER

JAN 2025



American Legion Department of North Carolina

2025 Mid Winter Conference - February 13 - 15, 2025

Hilton Raleigh North Hills

3415 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27609

1-800-445-8667

Room rates are \$117, cut-off date for this rate is January 15, 2025.

When making reservations, be sure to tell them you are with the American Legion.

Online Reservations Available Soon

[Follow Us FACEBOOK](#)

American Legion
Post 77
Canteen
Hendersonville, NC



Resolution ideas? Join P77 Honor Guard today!



-Legion Member
-US Navy Veteran
-39th President

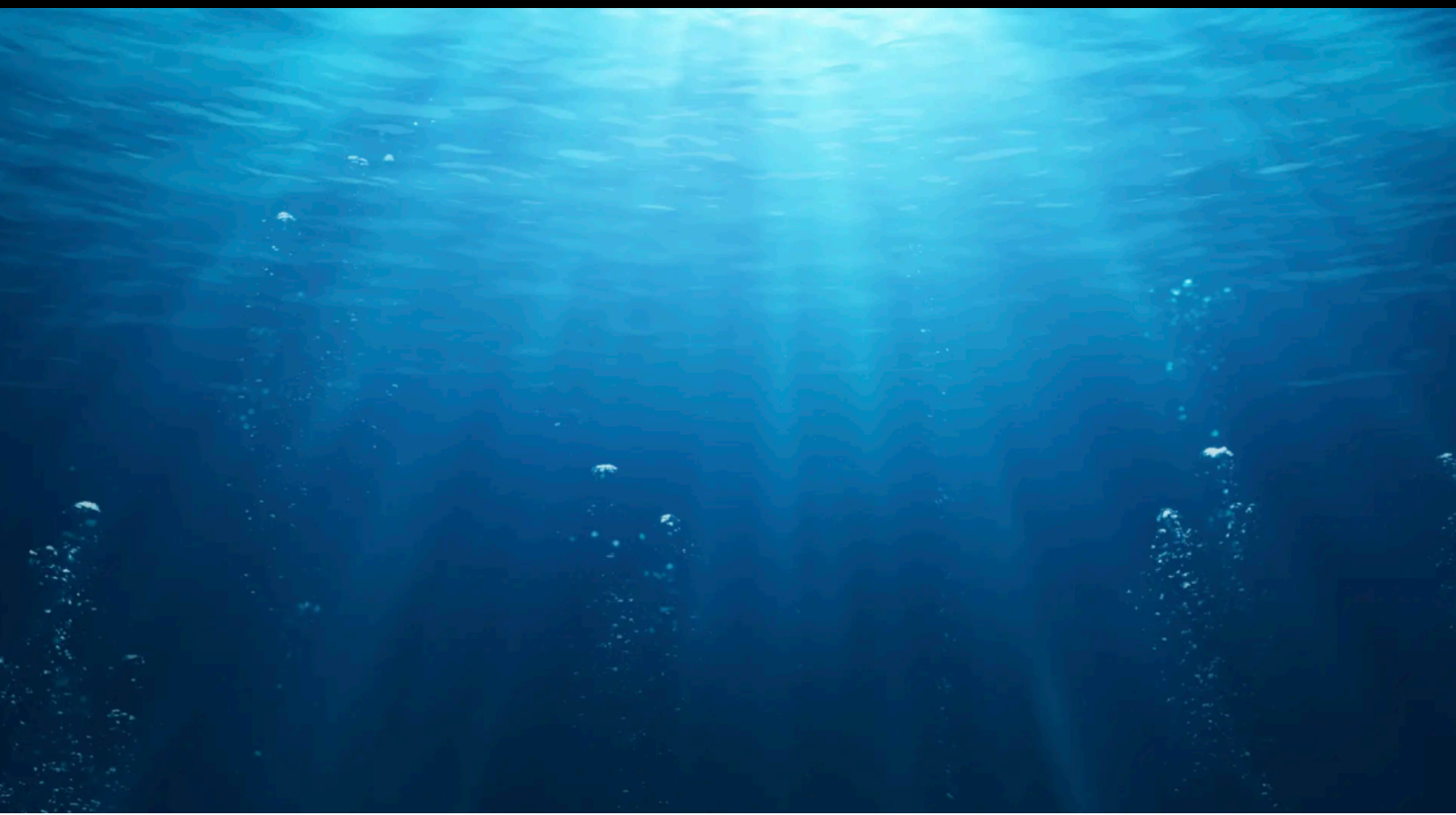
Departed from Earthly Ranks



Jimmy Carter
1924-2024

**SUBMARINE
VETERAN**

RIP



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.



04JAN2025



FINE LINE 1/4/25
COME READY TO ROCK N ROLL
DOORS OPEN AT 7PM
\$5 DONATION AT THE DOOR
LOCATED UPSTAIRS
8PM – 11PM
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Post 77 Canteen Events

December 31- New Year's Eve Party with Local Gossip

January 3- Karaoke

January 4- Music by Fine Line Upstairs 8-11pm

January 7- Executive Board Meeting

January 8- Bingo is Back!

January 9- General Membership Meeting 7pm

January 10- Karaoke

January 15- Bingo

January 17- Karaoke

January 18- SAL Meeting

January 22- Bingo

January 23- Riders Chapter 77 Meeting 7pm

January 24- Karaoke

January 25- Music by The Bearded Barbs

January 29- Bingo

January 31- Karaoke

The Foundations of Veteran Advocacy in Early 20th-Century America

During the early 1900s, the United States grappled with the challenge of providing for its military veterans in a rapidly changing society. The period marked a critical shift from ad-hoc care for veterans to the establishment of more comprehensive, systemic benefits. These changes were largely the result of tireless advocacy by individuals and organizations dedicated to the welfare of those who served the nation.

The Landscape of Veteran Care in the Early 1900s
At the turn of the century, the federal government offered limited support to veterans, primarily through modest pensions and the operation of homes for disabled soldiers. However, the aftermath of the Spanish-American War (1898) and World War I (1914-1918) introduced new challenges. The unique needs of returning soldiers—both in terms of health care and financial stability—required a reevaluation of government policies.

Key Figures in Early Veteran Advocacy

Theodore Roosevelt
Hamilton Fish III
General John J. Pershing
Royal C. Johnson and Burton K. Wheeler

Theodore Roosevelt:

As president (1901–1909), Roosevelt played a pivotal role in advancing veterans' rights. Himself a veteran of the Spanish-American War, Roosevelt championed federal pensions for veterans and worked to expand benefits for Civil War veterans. His administration laid the groundwork for later, broader legislative efforts.

Hamilton Fish III:

A decorated veteran of World War I and a member of Congress from New York, Fish became a leading voice for veterans' legislation. He was instrumental in the creation of the *American Legion* in 1919, a national organization that galvanized public support for veterans and advocated for comprehensive benefits. Under Fish's influence, the Legion became a powerful lobbying group.

General John J. Pershing:

As the commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, Pershing became a prominent advocate for the welfare of his troops after the war. His leadership and credibility lent significant weight to the push for improved veterans' health care and pensions.

Royal C. Johnson and Burton K. Wheeler:

Johnson, a South Dakota congressman, and Wheeler, a senator from Montana, were instrumental in crafting and passing the *World War Veterans' Act of 1924.* This law established the United States Veterans' Bureau (a precursor to the Department of Veterans Affairs) and expanded health care and disability compensation for veterans.

Key Achievements and Advocacy Strategies:

The Role of the American Legion: Founded in 1919, the Legion became a formidable advocate for veterans. With a vast membership base, it leveraged its collective voice to lobby Congress, demanding expanded health care services and better financial support for former service members. The Legion's strong ties to political leaders ensured that veterans' issues remained at the forefront of national debate.

Public Awareness Campaigns: Advocacy groups and leaders used newspapers and public speaking engagements to highlight the struggles of veterans. This helped to shift public opinion and build widespread support for legislative reforms.

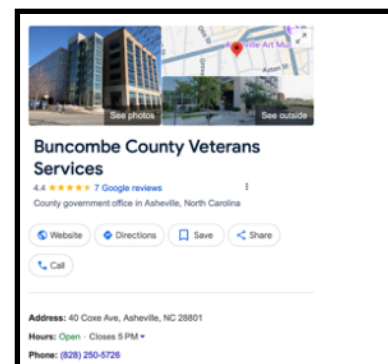
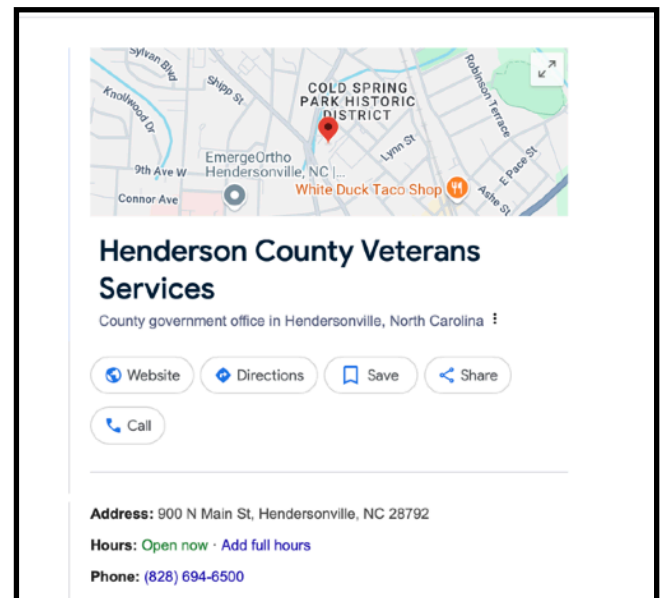
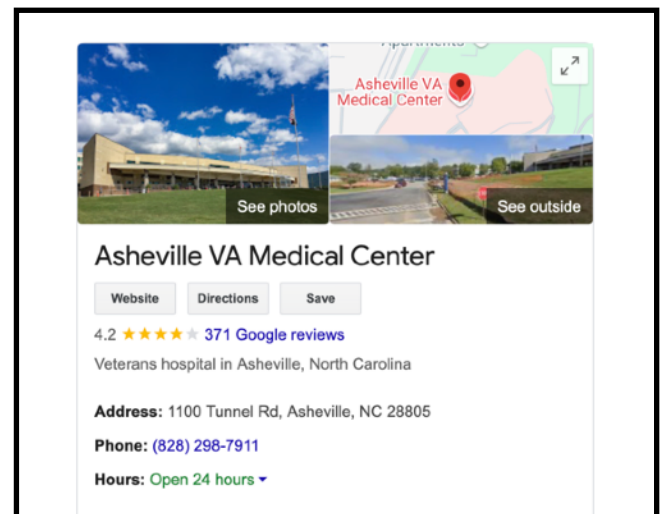
Legislative Milestones: -The World War Adjusted Compensation Act of 1924* (Bonus Act): This law provided World War I veterans with "bonus certificates" as a form of delayed compensation. Though contentious, it underscored the growing recognition of veterans' financial hardships.

- The Sheppard-Towner Act of 1921*: Though primarily a public health law, it indirectly benefited veterans by addressing broader health care needs, which included efforts to support disabled soldiers and their families.

The Legacy of Early Advocacy: The early 20th century laid the foundation for the modern system of veterans' benefits in the United States. Advocacy during this era demonstrated the power of collective action and the importance of political will in addressing social justice issues. It also established a model for how veteran-focused organizations could influence policy through lobbying, public engagement, and coalition-building.

The efforts of these early advocates and the legislation they inspired ensured that the United States began to fulfill its obligation to those who served. Their work not only reshaped the lives of veterans but also set a precedent for future generations to continue advocating for those who sacrifice for the nation.

-ChatGPT



Entertainment News only : Opinion : Not Medical Advice:

Suggested Medical Journal

Sleep Patterns:

- 1) When do you go to bed?
- 2) When do you fall asleep?
- 3) Do you wake up during sleep? If so:
 - (a) What caused you to wake up
 - (b) How many times on average to you wake per during sleep

Recording your health:

- 1) Health concern or condition
 - A) How bad is the condition? Pain 1-10 (10 most painful) and/or the number of times condition happens on a weekly average
 - B) What limitations does the condition cause?

Example:

- Veteran X:**
- 1) Back
 - a) pain scale of 8 of 10 per week, bad "gives out" 2-3 times per week
 - b) Limitations are: distance walked - 40 yards then take a 3-5 rest time standing - average 30min then take a 3-5 rest time sitting - average 1 hour take stand 3-5

Try to avoid the words: Can't, sometimes, kinda, better as this words do not provide an accurate description to your health provider.



216 4th Ave W
Hendersonville, NC 28739

Hubert M Smith American Legion Post 77 Presents:

Bearded Barbs: 25Jan2025





12 WAYS TO PREPARE

<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Sign up for Alerts and Warnings</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Make a Plan</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Save for a Rainy Day</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Practice Emergency Drills</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Test Family Communication Plan</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Safeguard Documents</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Plan with Neighbors</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Make Your Home Safer</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Know Evacuation Routes</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Assemble or Update Supplies</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Get Involved in Your Community</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <p>Document and Insure Property</p>



 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

American Legion
Post 77
Canteen
Hendersonville, NC

HENDERSON COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 77
HONOR GUARD**

Legislative

NC Law begins
01Jan2025:

Disabled Veterans
100% by VBA eligible
for tax exemption on
vehicle

House Bill: 905

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

H

1

HOUSE BILL 905

Short Title: Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Ward, Cleveland, and Goodwin (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 25, 2024

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO EXEMPT FROM LOCAL TAXATION MOTOR VEHICLES OWNED BY A
3 VETERAN WHO HAS A ONE HUNDRED PERCENT DISABILITY RATE.
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 105-330.1(b) reads as rewritten:
6 "(b) Exceptions. – The following motor vehicles are not classified under subsection (a) of
7 this section:
8 ...
9 (10) Motor vehicles owned by a person who has a one hundred percent (100%)
10 disability rate as determined by the United States Department of Veterans
11 Affairs."
12 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2025, and applies to motor
13 vehicles registered on or after that date.



THE ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION

SUMMARY

- The Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) rollout is currently in a pause which started in April of 2023. The pause was initiated after reports of veteran harm and deaths in Spokane, WA and elsewhere. A report by the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) in summer of 2022 found that the EHRM Rollout had caused at least 148 incidents of veteran harm.
- During a House Oversight hearing on September 13th, acting program executive of the VA EHRM Office Dr. Neil Evans said that serious discussions for resuming the EHRM rollout will happen in summer 2024.
- VA has encountered many challenges throughout EHRM initial implementation including lost referrals, disappearing prescriptions, inadequate system uptime, and more. Additionally, when the system isn't up, providers have to rely on paper records, adding a substantial amount of time to various tasks.

ISSUE #1 – Training of Staff

VA has experienced many difficulties in staff training as the EHRM rollout has progressed. Initial training modules were so unlike the end user software that it rendered much of the initial training useless. Other issues were with trainers, who were often temporary employees hired recently and only given a crash course on the software themselves before teaching it.

The VA has made good progress on this front. Training modules now look like the final end product, and trainers are increasingly VA employees who have had extensive experience with the system.

ISSUE #2 – System Downtime

The EHRM system is required by government contracts to have a 99.7% or greater amount of system uptime, which is comparable to civilian hospitals. However, during the initial rollout phase the system was averaging between 87 and 97% uptime. This was one of the main reasons that the current pause was put on the rollout.

The VA and Oracle are currently working on this issue. As the rollout resumption is more than half a year away, it remains to be seen if progress is being made on this issue.

CURRENT LEGISLATION

- **S. 1125/H.R. 2809, the EHR Program RESET Act**
 - aims to restructure and enhance the EHRM program, while also mandating frequent reporting to Congress to increase oversight, accountability, and transparency by requiring the VA to develop clear metrics to guide "whether and how" the agency should deploy the EHR system

Info for
consideration:



LEGISLATIVE POINT PAPER THE FUTURE OF VA HEALTHCARE

BACKGROUND

The future of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare is as a hybrid system consisting of inpatient and outpatient care, telehealth, and community care. Ensuring VA is equipped to meet the unique needs of an increasingly diverse veteran population requires VA fully leverage all healthcare modalities and a seamless transition between them. Modernizing electronic health records, veteran-centric access standards, and a transparent online scheduling system for VA-provided care and community care alike are key to ensuring veterans receive the benefits they deserve. The means by which VA delivers care may change, but one thing cannot – VA must deliver the best care anywhere to our nation's veterans.

A critical component of modernizing VA healthcare is investing in its infrastructure. The average age of a VA medical facility is approaching 60 years old, while the median age of a private sector medical facility is approximately 11 years old. The changing nature of healthcare over the last 60 years, combined with shifting veteran demographics, has outpaced VA's ability to realign its infrastructure according to patient demand. While the authorization of 31 major medical leases in Section 702 of the *PACT Act* was a critical first step in addressing VA's infrastructure demands, more must be done.

Another cornerstone of VA healthcare modernization is the Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) Program. It is expected to take ten years to implement across all VA facilities, with projected completion in Fiscal Year 2028. The acquisition of the Cerner system has been riddled with challenges. For example, VA staff reported difficulties adjusting to the new systems due to a lack of proper training. In addition, it was discovered the new system created an "unknown queue," a problematic feature causing referral orders to effectively go missing at VA.

Moreover, according to the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) audit team, VA lacked a reliable integrated master schedule consistent with scheduling standards, which increases the risk of missing milestones and delaying the delivery of a system to support timely quality care to veterans. Scheduling delays extending the program are also likely to result in \$1.95 billion in annual cost overruns and may undermine VA's other modernization efforts on supply chain and financial management systems. More must be done to rectify these issues.

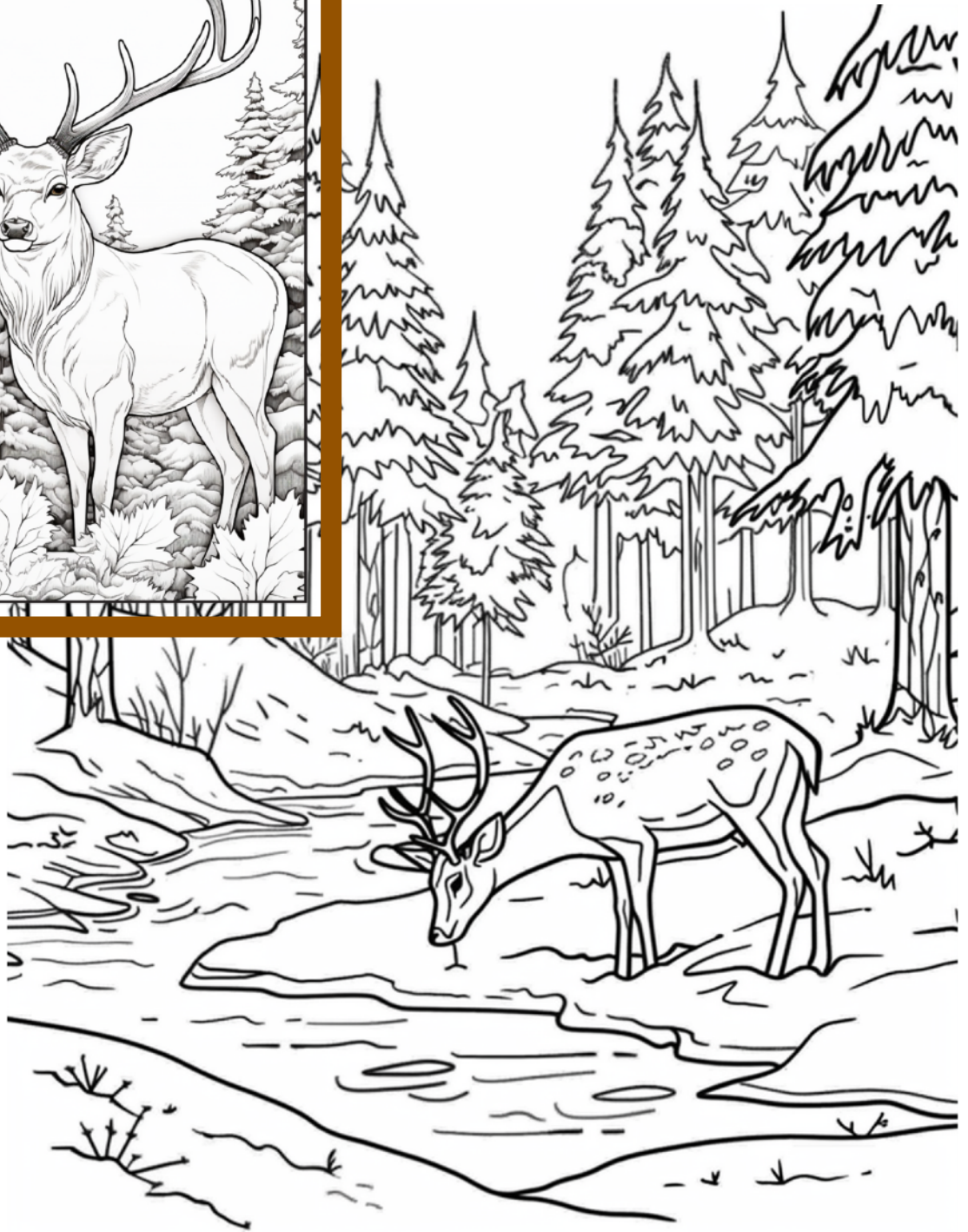


2025 Post 77 Greeting Cards Design!

Photo Credit: Greg Bias

Traveling Photography: Greg Bias: 2024 Samples



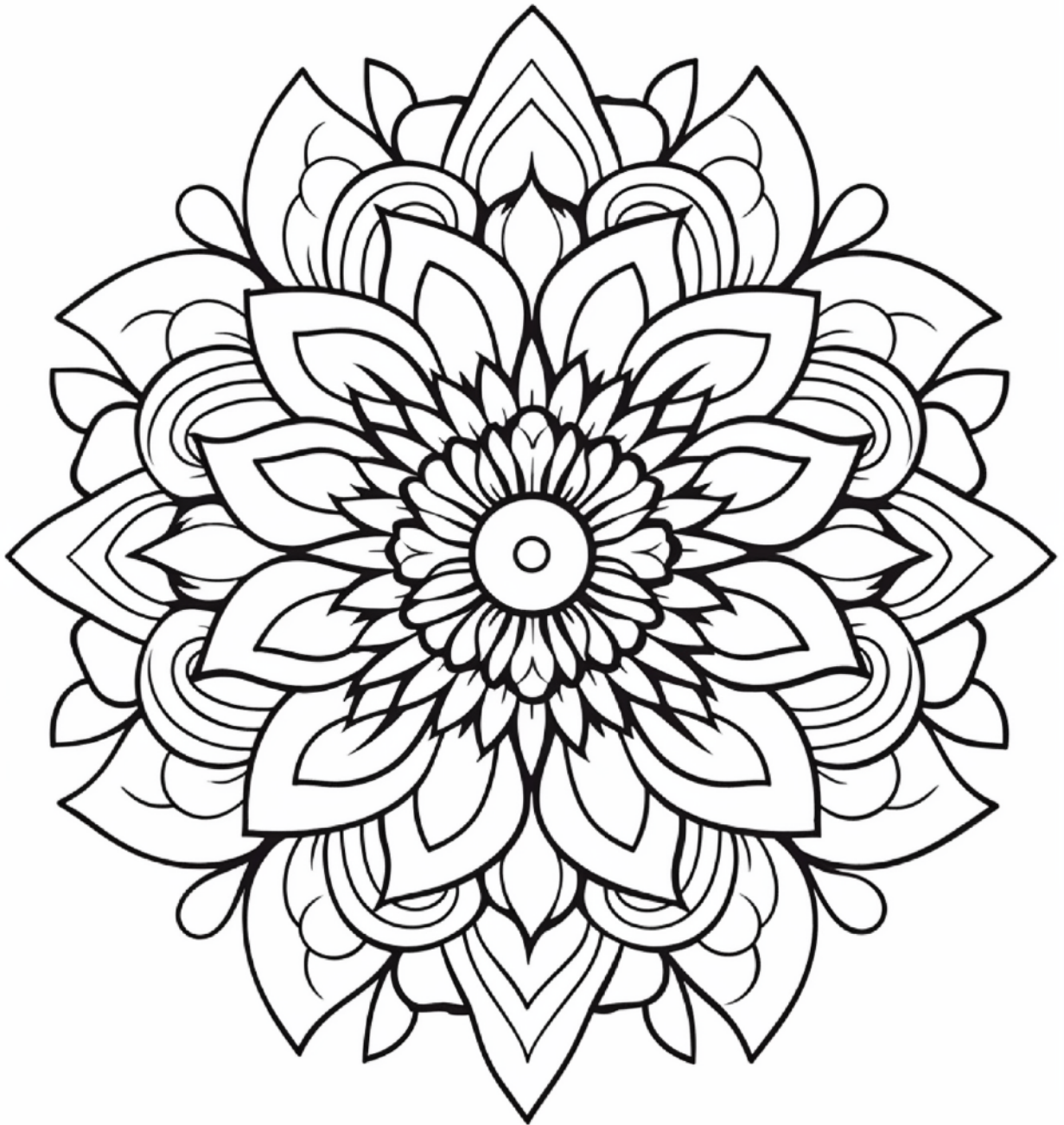


Coloring Activity



Pictures of new Year's Party





American Legion Post 77 Message From Assistant Adjutant

-Bob Scruggs

An 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

Pictures of Wreath's across America

CRAFTING YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR SUCCESS

Assisted by Grok:

As the calendar turns to a new year, many of us are inspired to set resolutions - goals that we hope will lead to personal growth or change. However, the ambition often outpaces execution, with statistics showing that only about 9% of people feel they achieve their New Year's resolutions. Here's a strategic guide to planning your New Year's resolutions with a higher chance of success:

Self-Reflection:

Start by looking inward. What areas of your life do you want to improve? Are you aiming for better health, career advancement, learning a new skill, or fostering relationships? Reflect on your motivations.

Why?

What?

Why is always the best question and what it's going to take? Why do you want to complete the

Set SMART Goals: (Resolutions)

Smart goals can take form, after asking yourself Why? What? However, writing down your goals can have profound results from the action!

Studies continue to suggest, that writing down your goals with pen and paper can increase your success by 42%. Positive speakers like Bob Proctor (CR Navy) and Rev Ike (US Air Force), both now departed from earthly ranks, spoke on the importance of positive thinking (laws of attractions) and manifesting the life one desires through positive thinking. Use positive thinking when setting your smart goals.

Starting Resolution:

- 1) *Make your resolutions Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound:*
- 2) *Clearly define your goal. Instead of "I want to get read," specify, "I want to read 10 books."*
- 3) *How will you track progress? Maybe through weekly book logs.*
- 4) *Ensure it's realistic. reading 10 books in a month might be too aggressive for some.*

5) *Ensure it aligns with your life's direction. If you're not a morning person, don't plan to wake up at 5 AM to read.*

6) *Set a deadline. "I want to read 10 books in one month."*

Break it Down:

Large goals can be overwhelming. Break them into smaller, manageable tasks:

Partner with a friend who shares a similar goal or one who can support you.

Share your goal on social media or within a community for added accountability.

Use apps or journals to log your progress, and share milestones to keep motivation high.

Join local clubs, groups, or organizations that share your same positive energy.

Life is unpredictable. Be prepared to adjust your plans:

Set up a reward system for milestones reached. These should be positive reinforcements:

At regular intervals, review your progress:

- What's working?
- What isn't, and why?
- Adjust your approach based on these reflections.

Adopt a growth mindset. View setbacks as learning opportunities rather than failures. Encourage yourself with positive self-talk and understand that the journey is as important as the destination.

Conclusion:

The secret to a successful New Year's resolution isn't just in setting the goal but in the meticulous planning and ongoing adjustment. Remember, the aim isn't perfection but progress. By setting realistic, well-structured goals, maintaining accountability, staying adaptable, and keeping your motivation high, you're not just setting a resolution; you're setting a foundation for lasting change. Here's to a successful new year where your resolutions turn into achievements!



Canteen Open Daily!

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Hubert M Smith

American Legion Post 77

Hendersonville, NC

100% Americanism

Legion77.org



AMERICAN
LEGION
RIDERS



AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

AMERICAN
GION

AMERICAN



**2024 - 2025
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP
TARGET DATES**

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024	10%
OCTOBER 16, 2024	25%
NOVEMBER 14, 2024	35%
DECEMBER 11, 2024	45%
JANUARY 15, 2025	60%
FEBRUARY 12, 2025	75%
MARCH 12, 2025	80%
APRIL 9, 2025	90%
MAY 14, 2025	100%
** JULY 22, 2025	105%
** DELEGATE STRENGTH TARGET DATE	

Understanding the U.S. Legislative System: The Journey of a Bill to Law

In the United States, the legislative process is a complex dance of democracy, defined by checks and balances, and often fraught with challenges. Here's a breakdown of how the system works and the hurdles a bill must clear to become law.

The Birth of a Bill

The process begins when a bill is introduced in either the House of Representatives or the Senate. Members of Congress can propose legislation, and sometimes, bills originate from the President's agenda or from public demand.

House of Representatives: Bills are introduced, assigned to committees where they undergo scrutiny, hearings, and possible amendments. If the committee reports the bill favorably, it moves to the floor for debate and voting.

Senate: The process mirrors that of the House but with some differences, notably the filibuster, where a senator can talk a bill to death unless 60 senators vote to end debate (cloture).

The Legislative Gauntlet

1. Committee Consideration: - Committees are specialized groups that focus on specific policy areas. They can modify or even kill a bill. Getting past this stage often requires political maneuvering, lobbying, and sometimes, compromise.

2. Floor Action: Once a bill passes committee, it goes to the full chamber for debate. Here, amendments can further alter the bill. In the House, debate is more structured; in the Senate, it can be quite open-ended, thanks to the filibuster.

3. Bipartisan Challenges: Achieving bipartisan support is crucial, especially in a politically divided Congress. Bills often need support from both Democrats and Republicans to pass, which can lead to stalemates or watered-down legislation.

4. Conference Committee: If the House and Senate pass different versions of a bill, a conference committee reconciles these differences. This step can be contentious and delay the process.

5. Final Votes: After reconciliation, both chambers must approve the final version. This can be a repeat of the initial challenge, especially if new concessions were made.

6. Presidential Action: Once passed by Congress, the bill goes to the President who can sign it into law or veto it. A veto can be overridden by a two-thirds vote in both houses, a high threshold that seldom gets met.

Funding Challenges

Even if a bill becomes law, funding it can be another battle:

1) Budget Process: Each year, Congress decides on a budget that outlines funding for various programs. New legislation might not have guaranteed funds unless included in this budget or through supplemental appropriations

2) Appropriations: Bills need to pass through appropriations committees, which can cut or redirect funding based on political priorities or fiscal constraints.

3) Debt Ceiling: At times, funding new initiatives can bump up against the national debt ceiling, leading to political showdowns that can delay or alter legislative outcomes.

Current Challenges

Partisanship: Deep political divisions can stall legislation at any stage.

Lobbying: Special interest groups influence legislation, sometimes blocking bills that don't serve their interests.

Public Perception: Legislation often needs public support to gain momentum, but misinformation or lack of awareness can hinder progress.

The journey of a bill from concept to law in the U.S. is emblematic of the democratic process — full of debate, compromise, and sometimes, gridlock. Understanding these steps not only demystifies government action but also underscores the importance of civic engagement in shaping policy.

This newsletter aims to keep you informed about how your government works, the challenges it faces, and why sometimes, change in legislation comes slowly or not at all. Stay engaged, stay informed.

-Grok

How to contact legislators to advocate for veterans, servicemembers, and their families

Posted On: Friday, 27 September 2019 (ALA)

How do I contact my legislators?

Remember: Tips for contacting members of Congress with the traditional methods listed below and email can be found in the ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide.

Through traditional ways like postal mail, phone calls, and faxes:

Handwritten or typed letters used to be the standard for contacting members of Congress, but for security purposes, all letters to the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives are now pre-screened before being delivered to congressional offices. If you do send a letter by postal mail, it can delay arrival by three weeks or longer. Some legislators have a fax number for public use. Fax a letter instead of sending a letter by postal mail to shorten delivery time. Contact your legislator's office for the fax number or check their website.

Make a phone call. These are effective when time is short, for example, just before an important vote. Check your legislator's website for the number.



