

NEWSLETTER

American Legion
Post 77 Hubert M. Smith

Devell "Bo" Durham Jr.



Dept. of North Carolina
American Legion Commander
2025-2026

04TH JULY

INDEPENDENCE DAY

250Th



The American Legion
Post 77 Hubrt M. Smith
July Email Briefing

**Happy 4th
of July!**



New NC Department Commander Dezell "Bo" Durham Jr. gives a speech after his installment.

**New Department
Commander Installed**

The American Legion Department of NC installed Dezell "Bo" Durham Jr. as the new Department Commander June 23rd at the NC Department Convention in Raleigh.

July Canteen Events

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30- Bingo Upstairs
July 4, 18- Karaoke With Wanda
July 5- Fine Line Upstairs 7-10pm
July 11, 25- Karaoke With Elite
July 12- Shaggers Upstairs
July 17- Free Veteran's Breakfast Buffet
July 19- Calcutta Upstairs 7-10pm
July 20- Golf Buffet
July 26- Korean War Buffet
Local Gossip 7-10pm

Meetings

July 3- Auxiliary Meeting
July 8- Executive Board Meeting with
Special Appearance by Department
Commander Durham
July 10- General Membership Meeting 7pm
July 15- DAV Meeting Upstairs
July 19- SAL Meeting
July 21- Marine Corps League Meeting
July 24- Riders Meeting



New Department President

The Department of NC American Legion Auxiliary installed Beth Whitaker, of Post 77, as the new Department President during the 2025 Department Convention.

New Retaining Wall Built

Thank you to Miller Construction, Blue Ridge Welding Services, and The Tamara Peacock Company Architects for all of their hard work building this donated project.



Legion News



**Henderson County
Honor Guard**

The Henderson County Honor Guard performed a double Veteran's ceremony in Black Mountain at the Veteran's Cemetery June 27th. They were joined by the Nurse Honor Guard, and celebrated Past Honor Guard Commander Glenn Richardson's last funeral.



**Daughters of the
American Revolution**

Martha and Beth Whitaker of the Auxiliary Unit 77 as well as the Daughters of the American Revolution gather at the Post to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the US Army June 14th.

SAL Detachment Commander

The American Legion Detachment of NC installed Post 77's Brian White as Detachment Commander, and Larry Barnwell (also of Post 77) as Detachment Adjutant.



ALA Dept President 2025-2026

and Post 77 member

Beth Whitaker



SAL Detachment Commander
Squadron 77 Commander
Brian White addresses Legion
members #DeptConvention



100s of Legionnaires
attended NC Convention



Division Meeting

Department of North Carolina American Legion 2025 Convention

Held in Raleigh, NC

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY AND THE GREAT AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

As we gather to celebrate Independence Day, American Legion Post 77 invites our members, families, and community to reflect on the profound significance of this holiday. July 4th marks not only the birth of our nation in 1776 but also the launch of what has been called the Great American Experiment—a bold endeavor to create a society founded on liberty, self-governance, and the pursuit of happiness. This Independence Day, let us honor the sacrifices of our veterans, the resilience of our communities, and the enduring principles that make America a beacon of hope.

The Meaning of Independence Day

Independence Day commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, a document that boldly proclaimed the 13 American colonies' break from British rule. Authored primarily by Thomas Jefferson, it articulated a vision of government deriving its powers from the consent of the governed, with inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. As we enjoy fireworks, parades, and barbecues, let us remember the courage of the Founding Fathers and the countless patriots who risked everything to secure our freedoms. For veterans and their families, this day holds special meaning, as it connects their service to the defense of those same ideals.

The Great American Experiment

The term “Great American Experiment” captures the revolutionary idea that a nation could be built on democratic principles, individual rights, and equality under the law. As Alexis de Tocqueville observed in his 1835 work *Democracy in America*, the United States was a unique experiment in self-governance, testing whether a diverse people could unite under a shared commitment to liberty. This experiment has not been without challenges—civil war, social struggles, and economic hardship have tested our resolve. Yet, through each trial, Americans have worked to expand the promise of freedom, from abolition to women’s suffrage to civil rights.

At Post 77, we see the Great American Experiment in action every day. Our Veterans and Legion Family members embody the spirit of service, our community programs strengthen the bonds of fellowship, and our youth initiatives inspire the next generation to carry forward the torch of liberty.

Independence Day reminds us that this experiment is ongoing, requiring each of us to contribute to a more perfect union.

A Call to Action

Every act of service, no matter how small, strengthens the fabric of our democracy. Together, we can ensure that the ideals of 1776 continue to thrive for generations to come.

On behalf of American Legion Post 77, we wish you a safe and joyful Independence Day. May we always hold fast to the principles of liberty, justice, and unity that define the Great American Experiment.

Works Cited

- Jefferson, Thomas. *The Declaration of Independence*. 1776, National Archives, www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declarationtranscript.
- Tocqueville, Alexis de. *Democracy in America*. 1835, translated by Henry Reeve, Project Gutenberg, www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/815.
- Wood, Gordon S. *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*. Vintage Books, 1993.

FIREWORK SAFETY:

CELEBRATE WITH CARE

Fireworks are a dazzling part of celebrations, from Independence Day to New Year's Eve, but they come with risks that demand respect. In 2023, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported over 9,700 firework-related injuries treated in emergency rooms, with 8 deaths. Teens and young adults are particularly vulnerable, accounting for a significant portion of injuries. By following safety guidelines, you can ensure your festivities remain joyful and accident-free.

Key Safety Tips

- **Know the Law:** Firework regulations vary by state and locality. Check with your local fire department or municipal website to confirm what's legal. Illegal fireworks can lead to fines or serious accidents.
- **Buy Smart:** Purchase fireworks from reputable, licensed vendors. Look for products labeled with the manufacturer's name and instructions. Avoid homemade or altered fireworks, which are unpredictable and dangerous.
- **Set Up Safely:** Use fireworks outdoors in a clear, open area away from buildings, vehicles, and dry vegetation. Keep a bucket of water or a hose nearby for emergencies. Never use fireworks in glass or metal containers.
- **Handle with Care:** Light one firework at a time and never attempt to relight a "dud." Keep spectators at a safe distance—sparklers, often considered harmless, burn at over 1,200°F and cause nearly 1,000 injuries annually. Never point or throw fireworks at people or animals.
- **Supervise Kids:** Children under 15 account for a third of firework injuries. Never allow young children to handle fireworks, including sparklers. Adults should closely supervise older kids and model safe behavior.
- **Clean Up Thoroughly:** Soak used fireworks in water before disposal to prevent fires. Clear debris promptly to avoid accidental ignition.

What to Do in an Emergency

Dial 9-1-1

Protecting Pets

Fireworks can terrify pets, leading to stress or escape attempts. Keep animals indoors in a quiet, secure space with familiar items. Ensure they have identification tags or microchips in case they flee.

A Safer Alternative

Consider attending professional firework displays, which are managed by trained pyrotechnicians and eliminate personal risk. Check local event listings for public shows.

By prioritizing safety, you can enjoy the sparkle and excitement of fireworks without the hazards. Let's light up the sky responsibly!

Works Cited

- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. 2023 Fireworks Annual Report. www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Fireworks.
- National Fire Protection Association. Fireworks Safety Tips. www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Seasonalfire-causes/Fireworks.
- American Academy of Pediatrics. Fireworks Safety Tips for Families. www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/news-features-and-safety-tips/Pages/Fireworks-Safety-Tips-for-Families.aspx.



CHRISTMAS In JULY

HELP SUPPORT OUR VETERANS WITH AMERICAN LEGION POST 77

As the summer sun shines bright, let's spark some holiday spirit with a Christmas in July celebration that gives back to those who've served our nation! American Legion Post 77 is calling on our generous community to support our Veterans at the VA Medical Center with donations and in-kind contributions. This is the perfect time to share warmth, gratitude, and holiday cheer with those who've sacrificed so much for our freedom.

Why Give Now?

Our Veterans rely on the VA Medical Center for critical care and support. Your contributions help provide essential items, comfort, and a touch of holiday joy to those who need it most. From everyday necessities to special treats, every donation makes a difference in the lives of our heroes.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

American Legion Post 77 welcomes both monetary donations and inkind contributions to brighten the days of Veterans at the VA Medical Center. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Monetary Donations: Funds go directly toward purchasing needed supplies, supporting Veteran programs, and enhancing care services. Every dollar counts!

In-Kind Donations: Consider donating items like:

- Personal care items (toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, etc.)
- New clothing (socks, t-shirts, sweatshirts)
- Non-perishable snacks or individually wrapped treats
- Books, puzzles, or games for recreation
- Blankets or warm accessories for comfort
- Greeting Cards (Sympathy, Birthday, Congrats)

Spread the Word!

This Christmas in July, let's rally together to honor our Veterans. Share this initiative with friends, family, and neighbors to amplify our impact. Your generosity will bring smiles, comfort, and a reminder to our Veterans that their service is never forgotten.

For more information or to coordinate your donation, contact American Legion Post 77 at: info@legion77.org or visit legion77.org. Let's make this summer sparkle with kindness and gratitude for our Veterans!

Thank you for supporting American Legion Post 77 and our Veterans at the VA Medical Center. Together, we can make this Christmas in July a month of giving and hope!

**Drop off donations to
Canteen77:**

216 4th Ave W
Hendersonville, NC 28739

Summer Time

Discover the Charm of Henderson County, North Carolina: Must-visit Destinations

Nestled in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Henderson County, North Carolina, is a vibrant destination brimming with natural beauty, cultural treasures, and family-friendly activities. Whether you're a history buff, an outdoor enthusiast, or a foodie seeking local flavors, Henderson County offers something for everyone. Here's a curated guide to some of the top places to visit in this scenic region, perfect for planning your next getaway.

1. Historic Downtown Hendersonville

Stroll through the pedestrian-friendly Historic Downtown Hendersonville, the second-largest downtown in Western North Carolina. With over 100 locally owned shops, galleries, and 25 restaurants, Main Street is a delightful blend of Southern charm and modern vibrancy. Admire the serpentine sidewalks lined with planter boxes, lush landscaping, and whimsical painted bear statues. Don't miss the 23rd Annual Tulip Extravaganza in spring, when 8,000–10,000 tulips bloom along Main Street, creating a colorful spectacle. The downtown is also part of the National Register of Historic Places, offering a glimpse into the area's rich heritage.

2. DuPont State Recreational Forest

For outdoor adventurers, DuPont State Recreational Forest is a must-visit. Spanning over 10,000 acres, this forest in Henderson and Transylvania counties boasts 80 miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Explore iconic waterfalls like Hooker Falls, Triple Falls, and High Falls, which gained fame as filming locations for *The Hunger Games*. The forest's Little River valley, picnic-worthy mountaintops, and swimming spots like Hooker Falls make it a year-round playground. A valid North Carolina fishing license is required for fishing, and hunting is permitted only with special permits.

3. CARL SANDBURG HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Step into the world of Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Carl Sandburg at the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site in Flat Rock. This 267-acre property preserves Sandburg's modest home, filled with his extensive book collection, and the dairy goat barn operated by his wife, Lilian. Guided tours of the house offer insight into Sandburg's life, while selfguided barn tours let you meet descendant goats. Scenic hiking trails wind through the property, making it a perfect blend of history and nature. Visitors with mobility issues can request assistance for the uphill walk from the parking area.

4. Apple Orchards and the NC Apple Festival

Henderson County, known as "Apple Alley," is one of the top applegrowing regions in the U.S. Visit family-friendly orchards like Grandad's Apples or Stepp's Hillcrest Orchard for U-pick apples, cider donuts, corn mazes, and hayrides. From August to November, agritourism thrives with activities like apple cannons, pumpkin patches, and sunflower fields. The North Carolina Apple Festival, held annually over Labor Day weekend in downtown Hendersonville, celebrates this heritage with food, crafts, and festivities. It's a quintessential fall experience that draws visitors from across the region.

5. Flat Rock Playhouse

Experience world-class entertainment at the Flat Rock Playhouse, the State Theatre of North Carolina. Located in the village of Flat Rock, this professional, nonprofit theater presents an eight-month season of Broadway musicals, comedies, and dramas. Since its founding in 1937, the playhouse has become a cultural cornerstone, known for its talented actors and creative sets. Whether you're catching a classic show or a new production, it's a perfect way to spend an evening in Henderson County.

6. Mineral and Lapidary Museum of Henderson County

Geology enthusiasts will love the Mineral and Lapidary Museum of Henderson County, a free attraction showcasing North Carolina minerals, fossils, and geodes. Highlights include a life-size T-rex head casting, fluorescent minerals that glow under black light, and a Hendersonville meteorite. The museum's gift shop offers geodes for purchase, making it a fun stop for families and rock hounds alike. Its downtown location makes it an easy addition to your itinerary.

*Home of the BEST
Canteen in the World!*

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

Open Daily

828-693-3922



Dual burial ceremony provided by Post
77 Honor Guard



ABOUT THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

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://www.legion.org)

"American Legion Riders as a National Program"

RESOLUTION 5, APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ON MAY 5-8, 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.

FOR RIDER AND MEDICAL (EMT)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Cell Phone _____
Religious preference _____

BLOOD TYPE _____

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RECORD



American Legion Riders
www.legion.org/riders
(317) 630-1376 — kgeorge@legion.org
ATTN: POLICE & MEDICAL PERSONNEL

Insurance Information

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Cell Phone _____
Date of Birth _____ Gender _____
Date this medical form was completed _____
Companies Policy # _____ Phone _____
Medicare # _____
Physicians Phone _____

In Case of Emergency Please Notify

Primary Contact _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____

Keep this card with you at all times.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Cell Phone _____

BLOOD TYPE _____

In Case of Emergency Please Notify (please list two)

Primary Contact _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____

Secondary Contact _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____

Keep this card with you at all times.



Legion Post 77
Riders meets
-4th Thursday
each month
-7pm

Please indicate any information you feel we should know.

Medical Conditions: _____

Allergies: _____

Medications: _____

Additional Information: _____

Are you a first responder? If yes, please specify: ☐

Keep this card with you at all times.

FOR RIDER AND MEDICAL (EMT)

I am taking the following medications:
(Including over the counter and herbal products)

Drug Name	Strength/Dosage	How Often	Reason/Condition For the Drug

I have the following medical conditions/allergies:

Medical Conditions	Allergies (Penicillin, Sulfa, etc.)	Reactions to Allergies

Keep this card with you at all times.

Operation Comfort Warriors represents the Legion's expression of gratitude to those who sacrificed to protect our freedoms.



HOW RECIPIENTS BENEFIT

Today, wounded warriors need a variety of items to help in their recovery. Some patients require loose-fitting sweatsuits to cover their healing wounds without adding pressure to burns sustained in combat. Others use fitness equipment to rebuild strength in their muscles. Still others enjoy the camaraderie and fresh air that come from a fishing trip, thanks to donated gear.

Some gifts have included sports equipment for the adaptive therapy program at Fort Jackson, gift cards to patients at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and fishing and kayak gear at Fort Drum.

The success of the program relies entirely on donations, which are used to purchase items for U.S. servicemembers.

To make a donation, go to legion.org/ocw.

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

Operation Comfort Warriors

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

Operation Comfort Warriors
P.O. Box 361626
Indianapolis, IN 46236
317-499-1573
legion.org/ocw
legion.org



Connect with The American Legion

Because we care

Checks may be mailed to:

**Operation Comfort Warriors
The American Legion
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216.**



OPERATION COMFORT WARRIORS

As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have drawn to a close, many servicemembers left the battlefield only to be faced with a new fight: a struggle to overcome the mental and physical wounds suffered during deployment. Those with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) returned home in unprecedented numbers. In fact, the Army has estimated that up to 20 percent of the men and women who served in Afghanistan or Iraq have suffered a TBI.

Even when not at war, those in the military still face inherent dangers during training exercises and while performing other hazardous duties.

While the care at military hospitals and warrior transition units is extraordinary, The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program was created to provide "non-essentials" – items that help wounded warriors in their recovery but don't usually show up as a budget line on government spreadsheets. OCW is not a program designed to help with bills (mortgage, rent, utilities or credit cards), car repairs or home repairs.

HOW TO HELP

Most military medical centers are not equipped to store large quantities of care packages. The Legion strongly prefers monetary donations so that it can expedite the purchase and delivery of items to servicemembers.

HOW TO GIVE: Visit legion.org/ocw to donate electronically, using your credit card. Checks may be mailed to The American Legion, Operation Comfort Warriors, PO Box 361626, Indianapolis, IN 46236.

HOW TO RAISE MONEY: A fundraiser such as a motorcycle run or a fish fry can be a great way to gather donations. A Legion post, Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron, Legion Riders chapter, church group or other charitable organization could assist in sponsoring a fundraiser. Proceeds from a fundraising event can be donated to OCW via the website or mailing address listed above.

HOW TO GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Check out legion.org/ocw for the latest news and information about the program.



HOW IT WORKS

The American Legion is contacted by individuals, VA hospitals, warrior transition centers and communities with needs for wounded, injured, disabled or ill servicemembers. Once a need is identified, the items are ordered by the Legion and delivered in an expeditious manner. It's as simple as that. No red tape.

All of OCW's administrative and marketing costs are paid from Legion membership dues, meaning that 100 percent of donated funds go directly to purchasing comfort items for the servicemembers.

ABOUT OPERATION COMFORT WARRIORS

As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have drawn to a close, many servicemembers left the battlefield only to be faced with a new fight: a struggle to overcome the mental and physical wounds suffered during deployment. Those with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) returned home in unprecedented numbers. In fact, the Army has estimated that up to 20 percent of the men and women who served in Afghanistan or Iraq have suffered a TBI. Even when not at war, those in the military still face inherent dangers during training exercises and while performing other hazardous duties.

While the care at many military hospitals and warrior transition units is extraordinary, The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors program was created to provide nonessential items that help wounded warriors recover but don't usually show up as a budget line on government spreadsheets.

How it Works

Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) is an officially recognized program of The American Legion Charities Inc., and its purpose is to assist wounded, injured, or ill active-duty military personnel and veterans by providing morale-enhancing gifts to warrior transition units, VA, and DoD medical care facilities, military installations, and 501 (c)(3) and (c)(19) organizations which are part of The American Legion Family or such nonprofit entities sponsored by an American Legion entity.

How Recipients Benefit

Ensuring the health and morale of those currently serving and the well-being of Veterans are essential to the purposes of this program. The Legion provides items and services through programs and entities that provide aid and comfort services to the recipients and their families. Through its support of warrior transition units, VA and DoD medical care facilities The American Legion demonstrates to these recipients that those that have come before them will continue to stand by them in their service to our great nation.

Family is an enormous part of the recovery process. Event grants may include a recipient's family. Through an event grant OCW can provide outings to amusement parks and other outdoor activities such as sporting events and fishing trips where recipients are encouraged to bring their immediate family to enjoy a day away from the hospital, therapy, or the daily grind of living with their newly found limitations and recharge themselves.

How You Can Help

The American Legion strongly prefers that monetary donations be made as most military, and VA medical centers are not equipped to store large quantities of care packages. The monetary donation allows for the donation to be expedited for items to be purchased and delivered to our wounded warriors and Veterans.



LEGISLATIVE

Americanism

The American Legion's Americanism Commission oversees programs and services that elevate pride, education and awareness of the United States and its identity. Included are Boys State/Boys Nation, which mentor young people to learn and serve in the American democracy; Oratorical Contests that offer scholarships at the local, state and national levels for students who learn to speak fluently on the U.S. Constitution; and, emphatically, respect for the U.S. flag under which U.S. military men and women have served and sacrificed since the founding of the nation.

Top priorities for the 119th Congress, in support of The American Legion's Americanism pillar value include:

Protection of the U.S. flag

Since a 1989 5-4 Supreme Court decision defined deliberate acts of U.S. flag desecration as free speech protected under the First Amendment, The American Legion has led efforts to return to the states their ability to legally prohibit such acts. The American Legion has come within one Senate vote in previous efforts to obtain the needed supermajority for a constitutional amendment that would restore the ability for states to enact and enforce laws that prohibit deliberate acts of desecration against the flag. The American Legion renews its vow to continue fighting to give Congress "power to prohibit physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

Modernize U.S. Flag Code

The American Legion led national conferences in 1923 and 1924 that established the first rules of U.S. flag respect for the nation. Those guidelines laid the groundwork for what would be passed as U.S. Flag Code in 1942. Modern practices at massive public events, such as professional sports contests, frequently run counter to the code, and The American Legion calls for an amendment to modernize the guidelines that would make exceptions for common patriotic expressions of that magnitude that may include, for instance, displaying the flag in a horizontal position.

The American Legion's Grassroots Advocacy

148,517

Actions taken through The American Legion's online Grassroots Action Center on legislative topics in 2024

786,654

American Legion Grassroots Action Center participants as of Jan. 1, 2025

585

Members of The American Legion National Legislative Council, who work with lawmakers in their home districts

24,936

Messages sent through The American Legion's Grassroots Action Center online platform to Congress, seeking passage of the Sen. Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, which was signed into law Jan. 2, 2025

American Legion National Contacts

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americanism@legion.org

**ONE-HUNDREDTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Minneapolis, Minnesota
August 28, 29, 30, 2018**

Resolution No. 29: Commend U.S. Border Patrol

Origin: Texas

Submitted by: Convention Committee on National Security

WHEREAS, Curtailing illegal immigration remains one of The American Legion's major objectives in achieving the fulfillment of the first three purposes for which Legionaries associate ourselves together, "to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, to maintain law and order, to foster and perpetuate a 100% Americanism"; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 23 was approved by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 30, 31, September 1, 2016, resolving that The American Legion supports the Department of Homeland Security and urges the administration and Congress to make security of the United States the top national priority; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Border Patrol is an operational component of the Department of Homeland Security whose primary mission is to detect and prevent the illegal entry of aliens into the United States; and

WHEREAS, A priority of the U.S. Border Patrol's mission is preventing terrorist and terrorist weapons, including weapons of mass destruction, from entering the United States; and

WHEREAS, By executing its mission since its inception in 1942, the U.S. Border Patrol has historically played a vital role in the preservation of our national security; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Border Patrol agents are well known for their compassion, for their respect for the dignity of all others no matter what the circumstance, and for the untold lives they have saved by virtue of their humanitarian assistance provided to immigrants in distress, and

WHEREAS, A large fraction of U.S. Border Patrol agents are military veterans, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 28, 29, 30, 2018, That the American Legion recognizes the U.S. Border Patrol's mission to be an essential contribution to our national security; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion greatly appreciates the practice of the U.S. Border Patrol to employ military veterans; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion highly commends the U.S. Border Patrol for its noble and heroic efforts, frequently in the face of danger and adversity, to preserve our national security; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion commits its steadfast support to the U.S. Border Patrol.

**NINETY-SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
August 31, September 1, 2, 2010**

Resolution No. 134: The American Legion Role In Homeland Security

Origin: Maryland

Submitted by: Convention Committee on National Security

WHEREAS, Since before September 11, 2001, our Nation has been at risk to the new and changing invisible threat of terrorism launched from abroad; the United States, even during the War on Terrorism, has no more important mission than protecting the homeland and her citizens from future terrorism; and

WHEREAS, The National Strategy for Homeland Security aligns and focuses homeland security functions into six critical mission areas, namely, intelligence and warning; border and transportation security; domestic counterterrorism; protecting critical infrastructure; defending against catastrophic terrorism; and emergency preparedness and response; and

WHEREAS, The responsibility for providing homeland security is shared between federal, state and local governments, and the private sector; many homeland security activities, such as intelligence gathering and border security, are properly accomplished at the federal level; In other circumstances, like first responder capabilities, it is more appropriate for state and local governments to handle these responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, After the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, Presidential and Congressional budgets identified four priority areas for additional resources and they included: Support first responders, defend against bioterrorism, secure America's borders and to use 21st century technology to secure the homeland; and

WHEREAS, Although there are Homeland Security appropriations committees in the United States Congress, there are no Homeland Security authorizing committees; and

WHEREAS, According to the Council for Excellence in Government, the greatest resource the United States has for enhancing homeland security-which has been largely untapped thus far-is the American people; and

WHEREAS, Polls have indicated that over 62 percent of Americans say they would be willing to spend time volunteering with homeland security planning, training and practicing drills in their communities, yet some 84 percent of Americans and first responders polled admitted to low awareness of federal, state and local emergency preparedness plans; and

WHEREAS, As former members of the Armed Forces trained in vigilance and security, who would be more qualified citizens than veterans to assist in many homeland security activities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 31, September 1, 2, 2010, That The American Legion urges its Legionnaires, Posts and Departments to assist in Homeland Security efforts in communities for example, by developing emergency kits and plans; by remaining informed and assisting families, schools, workplaces and communities in developing emergency plans and checklists; by reporting suspicious activity, or working with community-based organizations.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025**

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HOUSE BILL 299

Short Title: Increase Disabled Veteran Prop Tax Benefit. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Goodwin, Winslow, Pike, and Carson Smith (Primary Sponsors).

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

Referred to: Homeland Security and Military and Veterans Affairs, if favorable, Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 6, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE DISABLED VETERAN PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD
3 EXCLUSION.
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 105-277.1C(a) reads as rewritten:
6 "(a) Classification. – A permanent residence owned and occupied by a qualifying owner
7 is designated a special class of property under Article V, Section 2(2) of the North Carolina
8 Constitution and is taxable in accordance with this section. The first ~~forty-five~~ fifty-four thousand
9 dollars ~~(\$45,000)~~ (\$54,000) of appraised value of the residence is excluded from taxation. A
10 qualifying owner who receives an exclusion under this section may not receive other property
11 tax relief."
12 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective for taxes imposed for taxable years beginning on
13 or after July 1, 2025.

In Committee

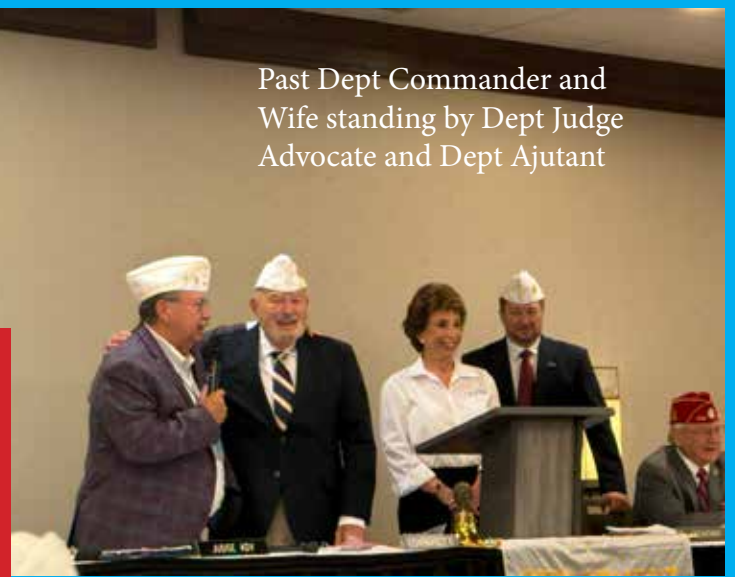
SAL Detachment Cmdr
Past Dept Cmdr



Dept Chaplain



Past Dept Commander and
Wife standing by Dept Judge
Advocate and Dept Ajutant



NECman




**AMERICAN
LEGION**
BE THE ONE

Department of North Carolina

"Veterans Strengthening America!"



Commander Devell "Bo" Durham Jr providing his acceptance address at
The American Legion Department of North Carolina annual convention.



ALA Dept President's project: raising funding to support towards training cost of service dog for Veteran.
Total cost: \$35,000

Want to support? contact
Legion Post 77 Family
828.693.3922



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA



Daughters of Revolution:

Celebrating Army's 250th Bday!



Greg Bias
Spike Photos

Greg Travels:

Spring 2025 SC State Park



Greg Bias
Spike Photos



Greg Bias: SC State Park

 **AMERICAN
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