

## Legion World Series

2024 CHAMPIONS!  
POST#70 Alabama

## NATIONAL SECURITY : AMERICAN LEGION PILLAR



SUICIDE AWARENESS  
MONTH  
**BE THE ONE PROGRAM**  
Dail 9-8-8



HONOR GUARD  
JOIN TODAY!

# AMERICAN LEGION **POST 77**

*Hubert M. Smith*

## 105th

The American  
Legion National  
Convention  
New Orleans

Accomplished

# Monthly Newsletter



**Canteen**  
**Open Daily**

216 4TH AVE W  
Hendersonville, NC

## SEPTEMBER POST 77

*Hear Ye, Hear Ye*

## Post 77 - New Bingo Sign!!!

Thanks SAL Detachment Cmdr

And all those helped make it  
happen.

**SAL 77 - 2025: March 2-5** \*Subject to change

Washington Conference

**Sons of The American Legion**

## Riders 77 - 1100 Mile Legacy Run

completed

18-22 August 2024. The final leg New Orleans.  
American Legion Post 267 was the final stop of  
the Legacy Run. **Supporting the Veterans and  
Children Foundation.** Special Thanks to ALL  
legion Riders!

**Bingo- Every Wednesday**

**POST 77**

**Canteen Open  
Sundays!!!**

### Legislative Agenda

### Spotlight:

#### Pay the Coast Guard

U.S. Coast Guard personnel carry out vital national security missions. Still, because the Coast Guard is under the Department of Homeland Security instead of DOD, its members are more likely to experience pay interruptions during prolonged government shutdowns. The common threat of shutdowns brings severe and unnecessary hardship on these men, women, and their families. The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that would guarantee that Coast Guard personnel are paid in case of a shutdown.

**Pay Our Coast Guard  
Parity Act (H.R. 2693)**

## **Commander's Corner:**



**Cmdr Terry Banks**



### **American Legion Post 77**

216 4th Ave W  
Hendersonville, NC 28739

[legion77.org](http://legion77.org)

Dear Members,

It is with great pride and honor that I welcome each of you to American Legion Post 77. Whether you are a new member or have been with us for years, your presence strengthens our community and our mission.

Our mission at The American Legion is to serve our veterans, their families, our community, and our nation. We are here to ensure that the sacrifices of those who served before us, as well as those who continue to serve, are honored and remembered. Together, we support our fellow veterans, advocate for patriotism, and promote the values that make our nation great.

As members of Post 77, we each have a vital role to play. Whether it's participating in our community service projects, supporting our youth programs, or simply being a source of camaraderie for fellow veterans, your contributions make a difference. I encourage all of you to stay active, stay engaged, and continue to uphold the ideals that The American Legion stands for.

Thank you for your commitment to our cause. Together, we will continue to build a strong, supportive community that honors our past and shapes our future.

For God and Country,

*Terry Banks*

Commander, American Legion Post 77



# Happy Birthday United States Air Force

18th September

*Since 1947*

Birthday Wishes to Members who's birthday is in the month of  
**September**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY from American Legion Post 77**



## New Sign!

**BINGO EVERY  
WEDNESDAY**

SAL Detachment Commander Brian White and SAL Detachment Adjutant Larry Barnwell posted a new bingo sign at Post 77.



## SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

In 1995, worldwide electronics leader Samsung endowed a scholarship fund of \$5 million to be administered by The American Legion. Meant to show appreciation for U.S. veterans who came to Korea's aid during its struggle against communist forces during the Korean War, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship program established a series of scholarships derived from the interest and other income from the principal amount.

Scholarship applications are only available to high school juniors who attend the current session of either an American Legion Boys State or Auxiliary Girls State program, and who are a direct descendant, i.e., child, grandchild, great grandchild, etc., or a legally adopted child, of a wartime U.S. military veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for American Legion membership.



# Be The One

<https://www.legion.org/betheone/about>

### What will Be the One achieve?

At its core, The American Legion is activating a national platform to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. The Be the One campaign will:

- Destigmatize asking for mental health support, creating opportunity for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need.
- Provide peer-to-peer support and resources in local communities.
- Deploy FDA-approved therapeutics for veterans to identify issues and find resources for support.



**216 4TH AVE W**

## Dogs in the Military and Their Role in Supporting Veterans

Dogs have played a crucial role in military operations and continue to provide invaluable support to veterans. Their involvement in the armed forces dates back centuries, with their duties evolving alongside advancements in warfare. From battlefield companions to modern therapy dogs, their contributions are both heroic and heartwarming.

### **National Service Dog Day!**

**20th September 2024**



Canteen Open Daily:

Pool Tables  
Darts  
NC Lottery  
Great Fellowship

Reminder to sign in your guest, in guest book  
located by the Canteen entrance!

## **September Events**

**September 4th**: Bingo (Upstairs)

**September 6th**: Karaoke

**September 7th**: Chapter 77 Bike Night (Upstairs)

**September 11th**: Bingo (Upstairs)

**September 13th**: Karaoke

**September 18th**: Bingo (Upstairs)

**September 20th**: Karaoke

**September 21st**: Live Music with Johnnie Blackwell

**September 25th**: Bingo (Upstairs)

**September 27th**: Karaoke



## **Canteen Weekday Specials**

**Monday**: Meatloaf Plate

**Tuesday**: Taco Special

**Wednesday**: Beef Tips w/ Rice ~or~ All Day 8 Piece Wings \$10

**Thursday**: Asian Ribs

**Friday**: Catfish Plate ~or~ 2 Piece Chicken Plate



# Women Veterans News:

VA's Center for Women Veterans (CWV) is on the lookout for outstanding nominees for its 2025 [Women Veterans Trailblazers](#) "Women Veterans Forging a Path" initiative. The program seeks to recognize women who have separated from military service and have made significant impacts on the lives of Veterans, their families or caregivers.

## What defines a Trailblazer?

A Trailblazer is a woman who embodies leadership and change through impactful actions or events, over time, in crucial areas such as:

- Education: Advocating for or providing educational opportunities for Veterans.
- Employment: Assisting Veterans in securing meaningful employment.
- Entrepreneurship: Supporting Veteran-owned businesses.
- Homelessness: Working toward eradicating Veteran homelessness.
- Legal Assistance: Offering legal help to Veterans.
- Mental Health and Wellness: Promoting mental health services for Veterans.
- Research: Building women's health research to transform Veterans' care.
- Violence Against Women: Combatting domestic violence, harassment and sexual assault against Veterans.

## How to nominate a Trailblazer

The deadline for nomination packages is Monday, Sept. 30, 2024. If you or someone you know fits the above description, the Center for Women Veterans is eager to hear from you. [Submit](#) your nominations now and learn more. Selected nominees will be announced in March 2025, aligning with Women's History Month. The selection process may include an interview to further explore the nominee's contributions.

**Deadline: 30 Sept 2024**

# Center for Women Veterans (CWV)

Local Contact:  
Charles George  
VAMC

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.

## Women Veterans Call Center (WVCC) is your guide to women's health

If you have questions or can't find what you're looking for, you can call, text, or chat online with the WVCC at [1-855-829-6636](tel:1-855-829-6636) to get help and find available resources and services in your area. Trained women representatives can also help you with issues such as:

- Enrolling in VA health care if you have not already
- Setting up a medical appointment in your area
- Answering questions about eligibility (including questions about disability ratings) and other VA benefits like employment, education, and home loans

WVCC 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.

**TALKING POINTS: FROM AMERICAN LEGION POST 77****Assistant Adjutant & Post Service Officer :  
Bob Scruggs**Post Service Officer Info

**E**ach National Veterans organization set the guidelines for Local Service Officers - this includes the requirements and guidelines as set forth by the Veterans Administration.

On January 16, 2024, a letter was sent from the American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehab Division to all Department Commanders and Adjutants, addressing what a Post Service Officer can, and cannot do.

Post Service Officers must adhere to pertinent federal laws and VA regulations, maintaining compliance without infringing upon laws and regulations exclusively applicable to **VA-ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES**.

A Post Service Officer is TO ASSIST (NOT DO) veterans or families in obtaining VA benefits. Post Service Officers should forward the gathered information to Department Service Officers or County Veteran Service Officers representing the American Legion.

A Post Service Officer is here to insure all questions are answered and insure that the correct information is gathered and sent to the correct person  
**- WE CANNOT DO ACTUAL CLAIMS PAPERWORK.**

Approved VA Officers are; Henderson County has two Service Officers (Five Days a week in the new Hedrick Rhodes Service Center); at the Charles George VAMC - two Service Officers are located on 4 South (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 0800 to 1330, first come, first seen).

Bob Scruggs -  
Elected Post 7 Service Officer. July 25, 2025.



### Assistant Adjutant

**A**n American Legion may have as many appointed officers as the Post requires, and has been approved by the Post Executive Board (the elected officers of the post).

For decades, the Post has had an Adjutant (appointed by the Commander) and an Assistant Adjutant (appointed by the Commander)

**- BOTH ARE THEN APPROVED BY THE Executive Board**

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

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

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

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

# AI Takes Command: The U.S. Military's New Frontier

-by Gemini

**A**rtificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming industries worldwide, and the U.S. military is no exception. From autonomous drones to predictive analytics, AI is being integrated into every branch of the armed forces, promising to revolutionize warfare and national security.

## A New Era of Warfare

The U.S. Army is at the forefront of AI integration, developing systems that can analyze vast amounts of data to predict enemy movements and optimize logistics. Autonomous vehicles and drones are being tested for a variety of roles, from supply delivery to combat support.

The Navy is exploring AI for everything from ship maintenance to underwater warfare.

Autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) equipped with AI can map the ocean floor, detect mines, and even conduct surveillance.

The Air Force is leveraging AI for mission planning, target identification, and drone control. Advanced AI systems are being developed to manage complex air operations and improve pilot decision-making.

The Marine Corps is focusing on AI for enhancing battlefield awareness and decision-making. AI-powered systems can analyze real-time data to provide commanders with critical information and support rapid decision-making.

## Industry Partnership: Palmer Luckey and Anduril

A key player in the military's AI revolution is Palmer Luckey, the founder of Oculus VR and CEO of Anduril Industries. Anduril is developing advanced AI-powered systems for border security, counter-drone operations, and maritime surveillance. The company's technology is being used by various government agencies, including the U.S. military.

Luckey's vision for AI in the military is focused on enhancing human capabilities rather than replacing them. He believes that AI can be a powerful tool for augmenting human intelligence and decision-making, leading to safer and more effective military operations.

## Ethical Considerations

While the potential benefits of AI in the military are immense, there are also significant ethical challenges to address. Issues such as autonomous weapons, data privacy, and algorithmic bias require careful consideration. The U.S. military is committed to developing and using AI responsibly, with a focus on human oversight and accountability. As AI continues to evolve, its role in the U.S. military will undoubtedly expand. The integration of AI into the armed forces has the potential to reshape warfare and national security for decades to come.

## The Transformative Power of AI in American Life: How Companies Are Leading the Charge

-by ChatGPT

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer just a buzzword—it's a transformative force that is rapidly becoming an integral part of the American way of life. Across industries, AI is revolutionizing the way businesses operate, how services are delivered, and how consumers interact with the world around them. Let's explore some of the key areas where AI is making a significant impact, highlighting the innovative companies driving these changes.

### AI in Healthcare: Transforming Patient Care

AI is revolutionizing healthcare, with American companies leading the way in making medical care more personalized and efficient. **IBM Watson Health** is at the forefront, using AI to analyze massive datasets to assist healthcare professionals in diagnosing diseases and crafting personalized treatment plans. Watson's AI capabilities are particularly impactful in oncology, where it helps in identifying effective cancer treatment options based on the genetic profile of individual tumors.

**Tempus**, a Chicago-based technology company, leverages AI to accelerate the pace of precision medicine. By analyzing clinical and molecular data,

Tempus's AI tools help doctors customize treatment plans tailored to each patient's unique needs, especially in the field of cancer care. **AI in Finance: Boosting Efficiency and Security**

The financial sector is harnessing AI to enhance efficiency, security, and customer experience. **JPMorgan Chase** employs AI across multiple facets of its operations, including fraud detection and contract review. Their AI system, COiN (Contract Intelligence), processes complex legal documents in seconds, drastically reducing the time spent on routine tasks.

**Square**, a leader in financial services and mobile payments, utilizes AI to help small businesses manage their finances more effectively. Its AI-powered tools provide business insights, such as sales trends and customer behavior patterns, allowing business owners to make informed, data-driven decisions.

### AI in Retail: Enhancing the Shopping Experience

AI is transforming the retail industry, making shopping more personalized and efficient. **Amazon** is a leader in this space, using AI to power its recommendation engine. This AI system analyzes customer browsing and purchasing history to suggest products tailored to individual preferences.



Amazon also uses AI to optimize its logistics and supply chain, ensuring that products are delivered with unmatched speed and efficiency.

**Walmart** is another retail giant utilizing AI to enhance both customer service and inventory management. AI-driven robots in Walmart stores monitor inventory levels, ensuring that shelves are always stocked with the right products. Additionally, Walmart's AI-powered chatbots help customers navigate online shopping, providing a more seamless experience.

### **AI in Transportation: Driving the Future with Autonomous Vehicles**

The transportation industry is undergoing a major transformation thanks to AI, particularly in the development of autonomous vehicles. **Tesla** is a trailblazer in this field, using AI to power its Autopilot system, which assists drivers with steering, acceleration, and braking. Tesla's AI is continually learning from the data it collects, enabling the company to refine and improve its self-driving capabilities over time. Tesla's advancements in AI are paving the way for a future where fully autonomous vehicles are a common sight on American roads.

Another key player in the autonomous vehicle space is **Waymo**, a subsidiary of Alphabet Inc. Waymo's AI-driven vehicles have been extensively tested on American roads, and the company has even launched a limited autonomous ride-hailing service in Phoenix, Arizona. Waymo's commitment to safety and innovation is setting new standards for the future of transportation.

### **AI in Entertainment: Creating Personalized Experiences**

AI is reshaping how Americans consume entertainment, making content more personalized than ever before. **Netflix** uses AI algorithms to recommend movies and TV shows based on users' viewing habits. This personalization ensures that each user's experience is unique, with AI suggesting content that aligns with individual tastes and preferences.

Similarly, **Spotify** employs AI to curate personalized playlists for its users. By analyzing listening patterns, Spotify's AI creates custom playlists that cater to each user's musical preferences, enhancing their overall listening experience.

## Conclusion: AI's Expanding Role in American Life

AI is rapidly becoming a cornerstone of the American way of life, influencing industries from healthcare and finance to retail, transportation, and entertainment. Companies like IBM, JPMorgan Chase, Amazon, Tesla, and Netflix are at the forefront of this transformation, demonstrating how AI can drive innovation, improve efficiencies, and deliver personalized experiences.

As AI technology continues to evolve, its impact on our daily lives will only grow deeper, promising a future where AI is an indispensable part of how we live, work, and play. The ongoing advancements in AI, particularly in autonomous vehicles and personalized services, signal a future where the possibilities are endless.

**20th Sept 2024:**  
**Concussion Awareness Day**

**15-21 Sept**  
**National Farm Safety and Health Week**

**National Food Safety Education Month (NFSEM)** is an annual campaign observed in the United States every September to raise awareness about the importance of food safety. The month is dedicated to educating the public, food industry professionals, and other stakeholders about best practices in food handling, preparation, and storage to prevent foodborne illnesses. Here are some key points about NFSEM:

- **Purpose:** NFSEM aims to reduce the incidence of foodborne illnesses by increasing knowledge and promoting safe food practices among consumers and food service workers.
- **Activities:** Activities during the month may include workshops, webinars, social media campaigns, distribution of educational materials, and public service announcements to spread food safety messages.
- **Partnerships:** NFSEM is often supported by government agencies like the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), as well as by food industry organizations, public health groups, and educational institutions.
- **Resources:** Various resources, such as posters, fact sheets, and training guides, are made available to help organizations and individuals promote food safety practices effectively.
- **Consumer Education:** The month provides an opportunity for consumers to learn how to properly handle and prepare food at home, reducing the risk of foodborne illness for themselves and their families.
- **Long-term Impact:** The campaign's goal is to instill lifelong food safety habits that extend beyond the month of September, ultimately contributing to a safer food supply.

NFSEM is a valuable initiative that highlights the importance of food safety and encourages everyone involved in the food chain to take an active role in preventing foodborne illnesses.

## Concussion Awareness Day: Raising Awareness for Brain Health

Concussion Awareness Day, observed annually on the third Friday in September, serves as a crucial reminder of the importance of recognizing, understanding, and preventing concussions. Concussions, a type of traumatic brain injury, can occur in various situations, including sports, accidents, and falls. Despite their prevalence, concussions are often misunderstood, and the long-term effects can be severe if not properly managed.

The goal of Concussion Awareness Day is to educate the public, athletes, coaches, parents, and healthcare professionals about the signs and symptoms of concussions, the importance of early diagnosis, and the necessity of proper treatment. Common symptoms include headaches, dizziness, confusion, memory problems, and changes in behavior. However, symptoms can vary widely, making it crucial to seek medical attention if a concussion is suspected.

Awareness initiatives on this day emphasize the need for a cautious approach to return-to-play decisions, especially in sports. Rest and gradual reintegration into activities are essential for recovery. The day also highlights the ongoing research into concussions and their long-term effects, such as chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a condition linked to repeated head injuries.

By promoting awareness and education, Concussion Awareness Day aims to reduce the incidence of concussions and ensure that those affected receive the care they need. It encourages a culture of safety, where protecting the brain is a priority for everyone, from athletes to everyday individuals.

## National Farm Safety and Health Week: Key Highlights

- **Event Dates:** National Farm Safety and Health Week is observed annually during the third week of September, promoting awareness and safety in the agriculture industry.
- **2024 Theme:** The theme for this year is "No One Can Take Your Place," focusing on the critical importance of individual safety and well-being in farming communities.
- **Daily Focus Areas:** Each day of the week addresses a different safety topic, including tractor safety, mental health, and health and safety for children in agriculture.
- **Why It Matters:** Agriculture remains one of the most hazardous industries, with high rates of accidents and injuries. This week emphasizes preventative measures to protect the lives and health of farmers, farmworkers, and their families.
- **Get Involved:** Farmers, educators, and community members are encouraged to participate in local events, share safety resources, and implement best practices in their daily work.
- **Resources Available:** Free webinars, educational materials, and safety checklists are available from organizations like the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS).

**National Farm Safety and Health Week serves** as a vital reminder that safety in agriculture is everyone's responsibility and vital to the American way of life.



## **T**he National Veterans Creative

**Arts Festival** originated as two separate competitions. Muriel Barbour, then chief of recreation therapy at the McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Va., created the visual arts competition, VET ARTS, in 1981, as an observance of the International Year of Disabled Persons. Shirley Jefferies, a recreation therapist at the Waco, Texas, VA Medical Center, initiated the performing arts competition, The National Music Competition for Veterans, in 1981. The premier live winners' stage show was held in 1981 at the VA Medical Center in Tuskegee, Ala. The second show was staged in 1982 at the Coatesville, Pa., VA Medical Center.

In 1984, the live stage show was presented in Washington, D.C., and the music competition was renamed "The Music Festival." The following year, the stage show took place in the historic Constitution Hall. The Music Festival and VET ARTS merged and drama and dance divisions were added, to create the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in 1989. Designed to spotlight the four creative arts therapies of art, music, dance, and drama, this landmark Festival was performed to an audience of 4,000 in the Fox Theater in St. Louis, Mo. In 2005, a fifth creative arts division, creative writing, was added to the Festival roster.

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival continues to evolve each year as it showcases the artistic achievements of Veterans from across the country in each of the five artistic divisions. Each Festival features an art exhibit showing the first-place artwork from 51 categories. A live stage show, complete with orchestral accompaniment generously provided by the Music Performance Fund, is performed by Veterans who have achieved medal-winning status in a variety of categories from the performing arts divisions of music, drama, and dance, as well as creative writing. Workshops are offered during the Festival week for participants and staff, educating them in a variety of artistic modalities by utilizing the talents of local community artists. There is no competition at the Festival itself, as it is a showcase for previously judged medal winners.

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion Auxiliary present the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Festival in a new city annually to raise the visibility of the creative achievements of our nation's Veterans. The program is also supported by many other organizations both locally and

nationally. <https://department.va.gov/veteran-sports/national-veterans-creative-arts-festival/>

# Post 77 Members Participates in Local VA Arts Competitions: Greg Bias Shares His Story PART 1:

## Greg Bias :

**Interview 1: 22Aug2024**

**Editor:**

Why Photography?

**Greg B:**

I am an avid advanced Hiker, many during extreme conditions: such as really cold weather (best for ice sickles at waterfalls)

Hiking, being out in nature is very therapeutic for me - I had the desire to share my hiking various outdoor experiences with those that weren't physically able to get to these beautiful places God has blessed us with.

**Editor:**

Tell us about when you first started out in photography

**Greg B:**

My old iPhone, then upgraded iPhone, now old school semi-pro D300s (used from eBay) and multiple lens from eBay and local photography shops- fills up a backpack

**Editor:** There's more to your story then camera equipment. Do you mind sharing that with our Legion Family?

**Editor:** There's more to your story than camera equipment. Do you mind sharing that with our Legion Family?

**Greg B:** Sure. I've always been an outdoorsman, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, and enjoying hunting and fishing. But about eight years ago, I had to retire early due to service-connected disabilities. I spent over a year traveling across the country for VA treatments, visiting Mayo Clinics, and being isolated in a dark room because of light sensitivity. With no answers from doctors, I eventually started hiking again. During those hikes, I began posting photos on social media.

My wife, who is a member of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary, started printing my pictures and making greeting cards for our local DAV chapter. The demand quickly grew, and now my photos are used for sympathy cards at the VA, as well as greeting cards for Post 77. It's my way of contributing to our local Legion mission. While hiking and photography provides me with healing and reconnecting, it's has been really special giving back (photos) for those who aren't able to physically handle the extreme hiking required to get to some of these places.

**Editor:** Your photography takes you to many places. Do you have a favorite? And how would you describe your style as a photographer?

**Greg B:** Great questions. Yes, I love the beach! But I also really enjoy visiting and hiking through the variety of National and State parks. I would describe myself as an outdoors extreme photographer, because of the weather conditions and challenging hikes I often face. I specialize in capturing nature and wildlife, and sometimes I incorporate the blend of man-made structures in those natural settings. Now expanding my photography experiences, for the first time, I have submitted my work in two local art competitions. The VA arts competition and WNC State Fair on display soon!

**Editor:** That's right, and what prompted this interview part: Highlighting the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival: a Department of Veterans Affairs and American Legion Auxiliary co-presented event, since 2000. You (Greg B) have submitted at the local level, referred as Local Creative Arts Competition held at Charles George VA Medical Center?

**Greg B:** Yes, thanks to the help of my VA caregivers with the administrative process... And more so, all the assistance they give everyday and getting me to these hikes. I submitted worked at VA viewable 05th Sept. And my photos will be on display at the WNC State Fair over at the Ag Center State Fair Grounds, this month (Sept).

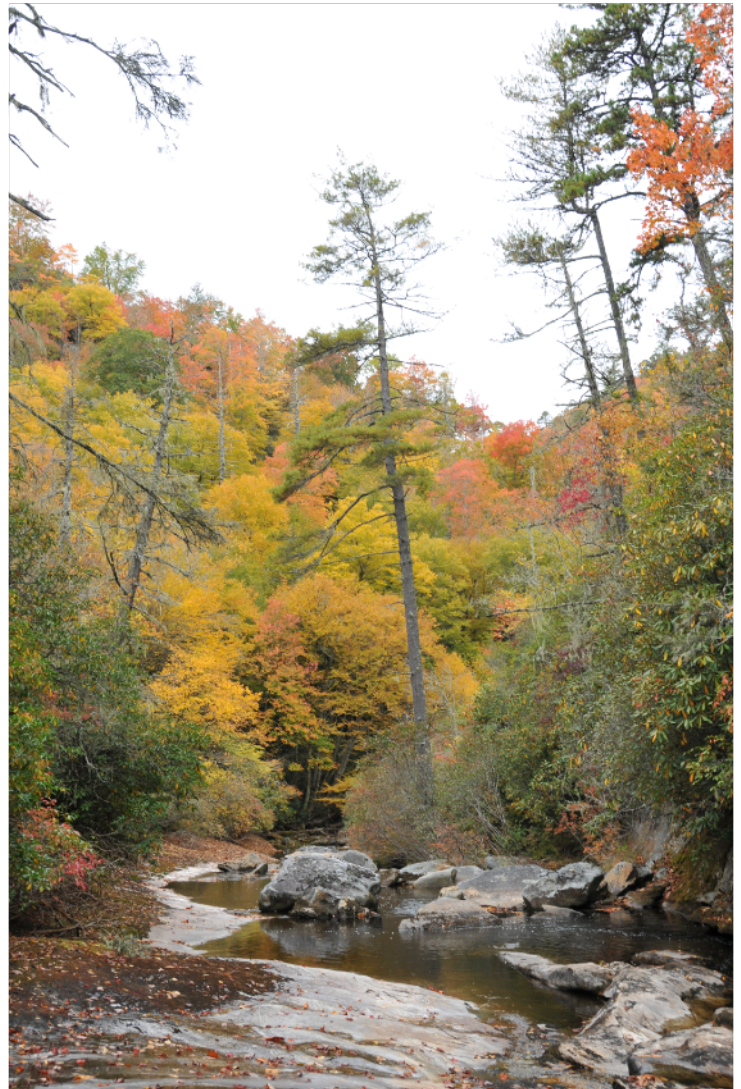
**Editor:** Best of luck in the Art Competitions, I sure it's safe to say Post 77 Family is cheering you on! And we thank you for sharing your photography with us (American Legion Post 77)

**To learn more about The National Arts Festival and how to participate by submitting your creative talents visit the following website:**

<https://department.va.gov/veteran-sports/national-veterans-creative-arts-festival/>

***Sample Photos: From Greg Bias Fall and Winter Collection.***

***You may notice some on Post Greeting Cards!***











Donation Items for VAMC-Asheville:  
Sympathy Cards  
Birthday Cards  
Universal Cards

Other Donations items For VAMC-Asheville: Supporting  
Programs not federally funded  
Can be dropped off to Canteen:

Individual Snacks (chips, cookies, debbies)  
Canned sodas, Bottle Waters, Favored waters,  
Coffee, Hot Cider, Hot Coco, Lemonade mix, sugar, creamer,  
8oz hot cups, Coffee grinds





## AMERICAN LEGION PILLAR: NATIONAL SECURITY

The American Legion, established in 1919, stands as one of the most influential veterans' organizations in the United States. Among its foundational pillars, National Security plays a crucial role, reflecting the Legion's commitment to safeguarding the nation's safety, supporting the military, and ensuring that America remains resilient against threats both foreign and domestic.

### ***H**istorical Context and Purpose*

National Security has been a cornerstone of the American Legion's mission since its inception. In the aftermath of World War I, veterans understood the significance of a strong national defense and the importance of a prepared and well-supported military. This pillar embodies the Legion's dedication to ensuring that the United States maintains a robust defense posture, capable of protecting its citizens and interests worldwide.

The National Security pillar is not just about advocating for a strong military; it also encompasses a broader understanding of security. This includes cybersecurity, intelligence, homeland security, and ensuring the nation's preparedness for disasters. The Legion's efforts are aimed at creating a comprehensive approach to national security that covers every aspect of modern threats.

### **Supporting the Armed Forces**

At the heart of the National Security pillar is unwavering support for the U.S. Armed Forces. The American Legion actively advocates for policies that ensure the military is well-funded, well-equipped, and well-prepared. This support extends beyond advocacy to include direct assistance to service members and their families.

The Legion works closely with lawmakers to secure appropriate defense budgets and to push for legislation that benefits active-duty personnel, reservists, and veterans. They also focus on ensuring that military families receive the support they need, recognizing that the well-being of families is integral to the overall strength and morale of the military.

# OPEN DAILY

## Veterans' Role in National Security

The American Legion also recognizes the unique role that veterans play in national security. Veterans bring a wealth of experience, leadership, and skills that are vital to various sectors of national defense and homeland security. The Legion advocates for the integration of veterans into these sectors, promoting their employment in defense industries, cybersecurity roles, and intelligence agencies.

Additionally, the Legion is committed to ensuring that veterans have access to the resources they need to transition successfully to civilian life, where they can continue to contribute to national security through various roles in the public and private sectors.

*“A.I. is far more dangerous than nukes”*

**Elon Musk**



## Homeland Security and Disaster Preparedness

In the modern era, the concept of national security extends beyond traditional military concerns. The American Legion understands that threats to the homeland, such as terrorism, natural disasters, and cyberattacks, require a coordinated and comprehensive approach. The Legion advocates for strong homeland security policies and disaster preparedness programs at both the federal and local levels.

The Legion encourages its members to be actively involved in their communities, promoting disaster preparedness and response initiatives. They work with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that communities are resilient and capable of responding effectively to emergencies.

NC Lottery Now Available

@American Legion Post 77 Canteen:



## Cybersecurity and Emerging Threats

As technology continues to advance, cybersecurity has become a critical component of national security. The American Legion recognizes the growing importance of defending the nation against cyber threats, which can range from attacks on critical infrastructure to the spread of misinformation and cyber espionage.

The Legion advocates for policies that strengthen the nation's cybersecurity posture, supporting initiatives that enhance the capabilities of both the government and the private sector to defend against cyber threats. They also emphasize the importance of educating the public about cybersecurity, recognizing that a well-informed citizenry is essential to national defense.

## Commitment to a Strong National Defense

The American Legion's National Security pillar is a testament to its enduring commitment to the defense of the United States. Through advocacy, support for the military, and involvement in homeland security and disaster preparedness, the Legion plays a vital role in ensuring that America remains secure.

The Legion's efforts in this area reflect the organization's understanding that national security is multifaceted, encompassing everything from military strength to the resilience of communities and the protection of critical infrastructure. By promoting a comprehensive approach to security, the American Legion continues to honor its mission of service to the nation and its citizens.

## Conclusion

In an ever-changing world, the importance of national security cannot be overstated. The American Legion's focus on this pillar ensures that the United States is prepared to face any challenge, with a strong military, engaged veterans, and resilient communities. Through its ongoing efforts, the Legion remains a steadfast guardian of America's safety and security, upholding the values that have defined the organization for over a century.

***OPEN DAILY***

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

## Sponsor Recognition

## Community Recognition

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### **Canteen News**

The Post 77 Canteen kitchen and staff installed a new pass through August 18th. Thank you to all who worked hard and contributed their time and efforts to help make this happen.

The new stainless steel pass through not only gives the kitchen a better appearance, but will also aid in maintaining cleanliness in the kitchen. All of the equipment was also removed from the kitchen, and the canteen crew performed deep cleaning to all surfaces. The staff are also grateful to all the patrons for their patience and understanding of limited privileges during the operation. Well done!

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<https://www.legion.org/honor/chaplains>

## American Legion Chaplains



The chaplaincy has many purposes. One of its major purposes is to help persons grow in their relationship with God and one another. Also, we serve as a reminder of the transcendent and seek to develop an environment within which Legionnaires are encouraged in their personal and collective moral and spiritual growth. We are to remind all Americans that God is the source of all rights and privileges.

The American Legion is comprehensive in nature embracing all religions, faiths, and denominations within its ranks. The chaplaincy being non-denominational and non-sectarian, wishes to minister to the spiritual needs of all without regard to either affiliation or nonaffiliation.

Chaplains seek to minister to people wherever there is a need. For many, chaplains are the only ministers they will ever know, as they have no affiliation with church, synagogue, or other religious institution. The role of the chaplain is ever increasing due to the aging of our membership. Each Legionnaire should be alert to the physical and spiritual needs of his/her comrades. The chaplain should be notified when there is death, illness, or special concern in the membership. At that point the chaplain should provide all ministry and service available.

- Add the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) number ([988](#) and Press 1, text [838255](#)) to your phone and encourage your loved one to do the same.

**Vacant Office****Post 77 Chaplain**

Welcoming Members to Join the  
**Chaplains Committee**

*Spiritually Supporting  
Legion Families*

**ALA Announcements****Programs**

The American Legion Auxiliary National Convention was held August 23rd-29th in New Orleans, LA at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Join American Legion Auxiliary  
Today!

**Riders Announcements**

Chapter 77 will host their first Bike Night of the year on September 7th at 1900 hours in the upstairs hall of the Post. Join us for fellowship and fun and bring your friends! Non-members are also welcome.

*Interested in joining Chapter 77?* Contact Larry Barnwell:

[lbarnwell190@gmail.com](mailto:lbarnwell190@gmail.com)

Or Ashton Cody:

[ashtoncody@protonmail.com](mailto:ashtoncody@protonmail.com)

## The Legacy of 9/11: Americanism Then and Now

On September 11, 2001, the United States faced an unprecedented terrorist attack that forever changed the nation and its people. The coordinated hijacking of four commercial airplanes by al-Qaeda operatives resulted in the tragic loss of nearly 3,000 lives and left a deep scar on the American psyche. The collapse of the World Trade Center's Twin Towers, the damage to the Pentagon, and the crash of United Flight 93 in Pennsylvania marked the beginning of a new era—one defined by grief, resilience, and an evolving sense of Americanism.

### **T**he Days Following 9/11: Unity in the Face of Tragedy

In the immediate aftermath of 9/11, Americans rallied together in a profound display of unity and patriotism. The sight of American flags waving from homes, businesses, and government buildings became a ubiquitous symbol of solidarity. People from all walks of life came together, setting aside political, racial, and social differences to support one another in their collective grief and determination to rebuild.

The concept of **Americanism** during this period was characterized by a renewed pride in the nation's values—freedom, democracy, and resilience. The attacks had aimed to shake the foundations of the United States, but instead, they reinforced a sense of shared identity and purpose. The phrase "**Never Forget**" became a rallying cry, symbolizing a collective commitment to honor the victims and heroes of that day.



## Americanism Today: Reflection and Renewal

More than two decades later, the legacy of 9/11 continues to shape American identity. The nation has evolved, grappling with the lessons learned from that day and the years that followed. Americanism today is unstoppable, reflecting a society that is increasingly diverse and interconnected.

In recent years, there has been a renewed focus on what it means to be American in a rapidly changing world. This has sparked conversations about inclusion, equity, and the values that unite rather than divide. The spirit of unity that defined the days after 9/11 has been challenged by political polarization, social unrest, and global uncertainties.

Yet, the core elements of Americanism—freedom, democracy, resilience, and the pursuit of a better future—remain as relevant as ever. The memory of 9/11 serves as a reminder of the strength that can be found in unity and the importance of living by the principles that define this great nation and **The American Legion Family**.



## The Flag Code: PART 1

According to the U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry the United States flag never becomes obsolete. Any officially approved American flag, irrespective of the number or arrangement of the stars and/or stripes may continue to be used and displayed until no longer serviceable.

**A flag that has been used** to cover a casket can be used for any proper display purpose to include displaying this flag from a staff or flagpole.

The Flag Code is simply a guideline for proper flag etiquette. The law does not provide penalties for violation of any of its provisions.

<https://www.legion.org/flag/flagmyths>

**There are no provisions of the Flag Code, which prohibit the washing or dry-cleaning of the flag. The decision to wash or dry-clean would of course depend upon the type of material.**

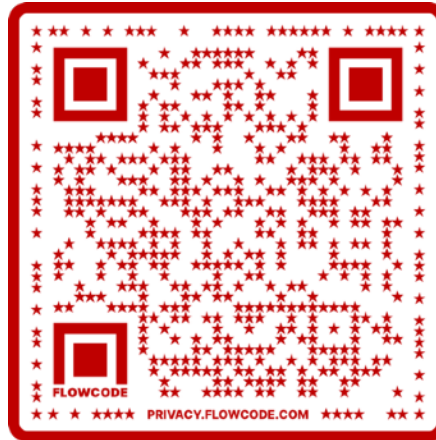
There has been NO CHANGE to Flag Code section 6(a), which states: "It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness."

*The Flag Code as revised and adopted by the Congress of the United States in 1942 has never included the word(s) "private" or "in privacy." Section 8(k) of the Flag Code states: "The flag, when it is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." Since 1937, The American Legion has promoted the use of a public flag disposal ceremony. This ceremony is a fitting tribute and an overt expression of patriotism, which enhances the public's understanding of honor and respect due the American flag.*

# Old Glory

[https://  
www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=3c7GqpoM6wU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3c7GqpoM6wU)

Alhambra Theatre: Youtube 2020 Published



Scan for Video



## FLAG EDUCATION PROGRAM

The American Legion's Flag Education Program increases awareness of proper flag display, dignified disposal and instills patriotism and honor in all Americans. Flag education has been a major activity of The American Legion since its inception, with thousands of flag education programs presented each year in classrooms across the country.

The American Legion encourages and supports efforts to display the American flag and daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in our nation's classrooms.

## Protect the American Flag

The American Legion urges Congress to approve an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. flag.

Additionally, The American Legion urges Congress to pass the Flag Code Modernization Act of 2021 to amend the U.S. Flag Code to codify common patriotic customs and practices as described in

**The American Legion  
Resolution No. 19: Flag Code  
Amendment.  
Senate Joint Resolution 34**

# NEWS



## 12 WAYS TO PREPARE

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



### Prepare Your Pets for Disasters

Your pets are important member of your family! This is why they should be included in your family's emergency plan.

To prepare for the unexpected, keep your pets in mind as you follow these tips:

1. Make a plan.
2. Build an emergency kit.
3. Stay informed.

#### Make a Plan

If you have a plan in place for you and your pets, you will likely encounter less difficulty, stress and worry when you need to make a decision during an emergency.

#### THINGS TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PLAN:

- Know what to do with your pet during an evacuation. Many public shelters and hotels do not allow pets inside. Know a safe place where you can take your pets before disasters and emergencies happen.
- Develop a buddy system. Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.
- Have copies of your pet's vaccination record, and make sure your pet is microchipped. Keep your address and phone number up-to-date and include an emergency contact outside of your immediate area.
- Keep contact information for your local emergency management office or animal control office and shelters on hand in case you become separated from your pet.

#### Build a Kit for your Pet

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival.

Review your kit regularly to ensure that their contents are fresh.

#### HERE ARE SOME ITEMS TO INCLUDE IN AN EMERGENCY KIT FOR YOUR PET:

- Food and Water. Keep several days' supply of both.
- Keep food in an airtight, waterproof container, and have a water bowl to use.



Ready

## Support Local

AMERICAN  
LEGION

**216 4TH AVE W**



## MILLIONS OF SUCCESSES

Since 1925, American Legion Baseball has been a key part of the journey to adulthood for millions of young men.

Some have gone on to play the sport professionally, such as Kris Bryant, Bryce Harper, Albert Pujols, Madison Bumgarner and Justin Verlander. More than 80 American Legion Baseball graduates have been inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

Other American Legion Baseball graduates make their mark in business, politics and other fields. In short, American Legion Baseball alumni are proud contributing members of society and are often among the most successful people in their careers.

Does your team want to belong to the nation's best-organized amateur youth baseball program?

Is your team ready to play other strong competitive teams?

Is your team ready to join a winning tradition?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, contact a local American Legion post. Better yet, attend the post's next meeting with a couple of players and ask the members to help sponsor your team.



### American Legion Baseball

P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206  
(317) 630-1206  
Fax: (317) 630-1369  
baseball@legion.org

[legion.org/baseball](https://legion.org/baseball)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Stock# 21-000 (Rev. 09/23) Artwork# 73ACY0923

**Congratulations To Alabama Post 70**  
**2024 Legion World Series Champions!**





## American Legion National National Convention

next year: Tampa Florida

Post 77 member Ford in selfie with VA Secretary McDonough at Bastion Community Booth at American Legion National Convention 2024 New Orleans

### AMERICAN LEGION SCHOOL MEDAL AWARD

Students who display courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service are recognized by local American Legion posts in the graduating classes of elementary, junior/middle and senior high schools, as well as at the college level.

Awards may be purchased from Emblem Sales at [emblem.legion.org](https://emblem.legion.org).

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



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