

THE AMERICAN LEGION
 EVERGREEN PARK POST 0854
 9701 S. KEDZIE AVE.
 EVERGREEN PARK, ILL. 61108-3124



Moving?
New Address Information:
Name: _____
Address: _____
Zip (5 Digt: _____
City & State: _____
 Please include the mailing label with the notice.

Repair+
 SMARTPHONE & TABLET REPAIR

Mon-Sat 10am-6pm
 Sun closed

**3209 W 103RD ST.
 CHICAGO, IL 60655
 773.941.8160**

REPAIRPLUSMOUNTGREENWOOD@GMAIL.COM

MATTHEW GINN
 Mortgage Consultant
 NMLS # 923142
 DIRECT: 773.303.0034

www.GinnMortgage.com
 MGinn@wintrustmortgage.com
 10258 S. Western Ave. Chicago, IL 60643

WINTRUST
 MORTGAGE

H&R BLOCK

DEBBIE HADLEY
 SENIOR TAX ANALYST

Stonebrooke Plaza Shopping Center
 3279 W 115th St
 Merrionette Park, IL 60803
 Phone: 708.385.6527
 deborah.hadley@tax.hrblock.com

HREBLOCK.COM

Birthdays? Anniversaries?
Weddings? Showers?
Funeral Luncheons?
Seminars?
Call for Hall Rentals:
708.422.9513
7:30 AM to 1:30 PM

QUEEN OF HEARTS

The Post Family, the Sons, Auxillary, Riders, and the Legion would appreciate your support for the Queen of Hearts.

BE SURE TO BUY YOUR TICKETS FOR OUR WEEKLY QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING THAT TAKES PLACE EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 PM.

YOU CAN'T WIN IF YOU DO NOT PLAY!

Once & Always
 a MARINE

George Mulvaney
 Director
 LZ4vets@gmail.com
 ph 773. 704. 2150
 www.OnceandAlways.org

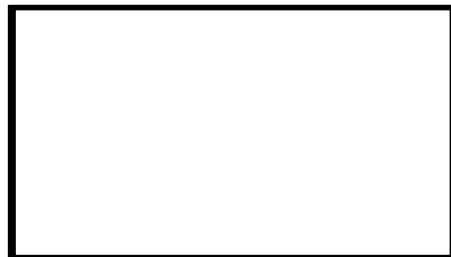
a point of information & activity supporting Marine units and its Veterans in the Chicagoland area

The "Once & Always" continuing to march the veterans' agenda forward for those who proudly served. In the Air, on Land and C'ya on the beachhead. charlie-mike out.

Semper Fidelis
Chicago MARINES

QR code

ONCE & ALWAYS
 Chicago MARINES



AMERICAN LEGION



Evergreen Park Post 0854 "The Hospitality Post"

9707 South Kedzie
Evergreen Park, Illinois
707.422.9513

Commander:	Bruce Petersen
Senior Vice Commander:	Matt Ginn
Junior Vice Commander:	Chuck McKeating
Finance Officer:	Sean Walsh
Adjutant:	Maria Scruggs
Service Officer	Maria Scruggs
Sgt at Arms/Historian:	Richard Venckus
SAL Commander:	Ed Isbell
Legion Riders Director:	Rick Mitchell

WE ARE AN AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY!

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE - B. Petersen

GREETINGS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Here we are half way thru '25 and looking forward to another Legion season.



Officers for '26 have been elected; we welcome Sean Walsh aboard as Finance Officer. Sean joins the incumbent Legion officers in placing 'service before self' and working towards fulfillment of the four pillars of the American Legion - Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Defense, Children and Youth, and Americanism.

I've also appointed Maria Scruggs as Service Officer for the coming year. She is proving to be a valuable and dedicated resource.

Due to the way dates fall this year, the 4th of July parade will have been conducted June 27th.

Our Color Guard performed *flawlessly* for the school awards and each of the Memorial Day events - THANKS to them and the Sgt. of the Guard Len Wantroba. To be in the guard, all you need is your cap - they will uniform you with the rest.

Please check the attached calendar closely. If there is a time or location in error or if you have questions, call the Post. We may be changing up the manner in which you receive this newsletter. Printing costs and postage are making hard copies cost-prohibitive. If we have your e-mail address, we'll send electronically. If you feel strongly about it, come to a meeting and sound off. Comrade Jim Quintavalle has done a superlative job as

editor for many years. Let us know how you feel.

As a reminder, dues for 2026 will increase to 45 bucks, with 40 of that going to headquarters.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER - M. Ginn

Greetings,

Welcome to the final edition of the American Legion Evergreen Park Post #854 Newsletter for our fiscal year (and quite possibly the last print edition).

As Bruce mentioned, the increased costs of production and postage, along with our new digital capabilities via email and our website, we will be making the decision whether or not to distribute the quarterly newsletter electronically with the possibility of a very small number of physical copies available at our Post.

If you have a valid email address and currently do not receive the newsletter electronically, please get us your email so we can add to our growing distribution list.

Membership - It looks like we will close out the final months of our term just above 92% membership renewal at XX%. Thank you to Jimmy Q for processing membership. This is not an easy task but it is necessary. We will need help processing 2026 renewals starting in August. This is always a busy time and we can typically renew on average 30-40 a week during the first few weeks of the new membership year. Please considering donating an hour or two of your time helping processing membership cards for 2026.



As Bruce mentioned, (seems he stole some of my thunder with his article) dues will increase to \$45 for the 2026 membership year.

Building and Grounds - With extremely limited budget there are no new major projects on the horizon but we are aware that we have to budget for the long term.

At some point, over the next few years, our bathrooms will need to be remodeled and we will need to resurface the parking lot. We need to continue to maintain and take care of what we have and we will be in good shape. If there is anything you would like to see changed, fixed, or replaced please come to a meeting and let us know what we can do to help.

Hope to see you soon.

FINANCE OFFICER- S. Walsh

No Article at this time...

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-C. McKeating

Greetings from the JR Vice Commander:



Hello fellow comrades: well summer is upon us. Time to enjoy the sunshine and summer activities. The grilling outside, the beach, the pool and concerts perhaps.

These next few months at the Post, with our events (car show, 4th of July parade, musical acts, etc.,) should make for some fun filled times.

Please consider coming out with family and friends and supporting the Post. As always volunteers are what make our Post a success. Feel free to give a hand.

As of this printing the elections have taken place. Congratulations and good luck to our new officers!

Have a happy and safe summer!

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER - C. McKeating



From the Chaplain's Corner -

A little food for thought:



Our foundation of the American Legion begins with the declaration "for God and country".

In the heart lies a sacred mission: to serve the needs of our beloved Veterans. Let us pause and reflect on this noble purpose, rekindling our passion and commitment to those who have served. As comrades, let us reevaluate our respect for one another, from our local posts to our administrative staff and to our leadership. Through unity and mutual understanding, we can forge a stronger, more cohesive community. Furthermore, let us encourage both current and future generations of Veterans through our actions and words. Let us lead by example, embodying the values of faith, patriotism, and selflessness. Together, let us renew our dedication to God and country, ensuring that our organization remains a beacon of hope and support for all who have served.

Like our nation's founding fathers, the veterans who founded The American Legion acknowledge God as the source of all our rights and freedoms.

Let us all have a safe and productive summer!

ADJUTANT- R. Mitchell

We had our annual elections this past month and I was asked to conduct the elections and I did my best being the first time.



Our new Officer Team is as follows:

- * Commander: Bruce Petersen
- * Sr. Vice Commander: Matthew Gin
- * Jr. Vice Commander: Chuck McKeating
- * Finance Officer: Sean Walsh
- * Sergeant-at-Arms: Rich Venckus
- * Appointed: Adjutant Maria Scruggs
- * Post Historian: Rich Venckus
- * Post Chaplain: Chuck McKeating
- * Judge Advocate: Rickie Mitchell
- * Captain of the Color Guard: Len Wantroba

- * Service Officer: Maria Scruggs
- Elected Executive Committee Officer's :
- * Steve Regovic
- * Marty Lavin
- * Len Wantroba
- * Rickie Mitchell

The remaining Executive Committee Officers are the elected Post Officers and Past Commanders.

I was elected to take the Jim Cummings vacancy on the Finance Committee.

We are still short four Delegates for 8th District, First Division and the Department to represent our Post.

As per our Constitution and Bylaws all Elected Officers who do not attend three consecutive regular Post meetings shall be deemed to have vacated his/her office and, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, his/her office shall be vacated.

All elected or appointed Officers do not take Office until after the Department Conventions in July and must have their dues paid in full before taking office. Any such officer failing to pay his/her dues, within ten days after elected shall have his/her office declared vacated.

SERGEANT AT ARMS - R. Venckus

Foundations of Freedom XIII

President Lincoln understood that slavery was the tragic flaw that united, as well as divided, all Americans.



Slavery was the dark reverse of the coin of liberty the Founders had bequeathed the republic. Those men remained the most brilliant generation of statesmen the nation had brought forth. The revolution they had made changed the history of the world. But their revolution's noble principles were mocked by the continuation of human slavery in the new country. They could find no solution even within the sweep of their vision. In the end they had made an enormous compromise. It could not be hidden by the Constitution's vast silence, with its handful of oblique references to "Persons held to Service or La-



bour" and its outlasting of the African slave trade in 20 years.



If slavery was the republic's original sin, redemption extracted a fearsome price. The Civil War ransomed some four million black Americans from their ancestral captivity only after four years of the most deadly fighting. More than 600,000 American soldiers lost their lives, yielding the grim ratio of one man destroyed for every six people set free. That these casualties were inflicted on a population of only 32 million assured that the waves of grief and desolation washed over every part of the land.

Even after more than a hundred years and two great world wars, the number of Civil War dead still exceeds the total, combined losses in every other war the United States ever fought. And that war cost billions of dollars at a time when 20 US Dollars bought an ounce of gold. (Slave Property alone had been valued at two to three billion dollars in 1860.) Lincoln had known that the nation had suffered terribly.



Abraham Lincoln hated slavery. "If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong," he said, but he accepted that as the Founders dilemma. He knew that the Constitution they had framed gave the federal government no power to interfere with slavery in those states it had already taken root. He held to this principle for nearly all his political life and for about half his presidency. Although it was a calculated political statement, Lincoln could hardly have been more clear when he said that his "paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save nor destroy slavery...."

Before the war, Lincoln had believed, like many others in the new Republican Party, that the government could do no more than exclude slavery from new states and territories. Then they hoped that, confined to the South, the peculiar institution would dwindle towards a natural extinction. The war changed all that.

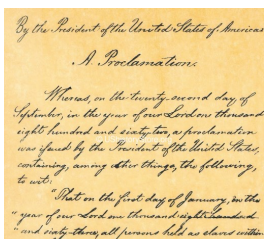
On the first day of 1863, President Lincoln issued The Emancipation Proclamation as a military measure by the "Commander-in-Chief....in time of actual armed rebellion

against authority and government of the United States....” The Proclamation was part of a strategy to crush the Confederacy without making more enemies in the slave-owning border states. It proved a most powerful weapon of war. Many saw an irony in the President’s declaring freedom for slaves in only in those regions still in rebellion, that is, only in places where the government had not the power to enforce its will.

Still, it would not be long before the



Grand Armies of the Republic, each trailing its throngs of newly-freed people, advanced across the doomed Confederate States of America. More than two years



remained until the last Southern army laid down its arms, but the Emancipation Proclamation had already served slavery with a Writ of Execution.

African Americans throughout the South, people who had been working at their own emancipation through generations of resistance and escape, had no doubt at all as to the meaning of the Proclamation.

COLOR GUARD: L. Wantroba

Hello everyone,

Legion Member Len Wantroba has stepped up and is trying to keep the color guard together. Thank you Len! He cannot do this alone. He needs YOUR help!

Do you still remember how to march? If so, the Color Guard needs you and your particular talent.

Our Color Guard represents our Post as honorably as is possible. It is the face of our Post people most remember long after the particular ceremony is done.

It's not unusual for the Color Guard to earn exemplary reviews and praise from those in attendance. Whether you are a male or a female Veteran, please consider becoming a part of this team.

Younger Veterans please join this vital group. You are our future.

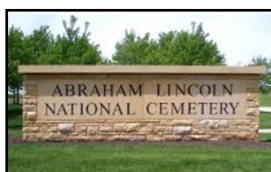
YOUR POST NEEDS YOU TO STEP UP!

POST SERVICE OFFICER: M. Scruggs

Greetings, fellow Legionnaires,:

My name is Maria Scruggs, and I am your Post Service Officer. I am glad to assist you in exploring benefits you may be entitled to as a veteran.

In this article, I wanted to highlight the importance of having your DD214 and other important documents handy. As much as I hate to mention it, two things are certain in life: death and taxes, and I won't talk about taxes right now. The only thing we don't know is when our turn to pass away will come. As veterans, we may be eligible for some benefits upon death.



Veterans, service members, spouses, and dependents 08 be eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery, as well as other benefits, if they meet one of these requirements.

One of these must be true:

- The person qualifying for burial benefits is a Veteran who didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, or
- The person qualifying for burial benefits is a service member who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty for training, or
- The person qualifying for burial benefits is the spouse or surviving spouse of a Veteran (even if they remarried after the Veteran's death), or
- The person qualifying for burial benefits is the minor child of a Veteran (even if the Veteran died first) or, in some cases, the unmarried adult dependent child of a Veteran.

An easy way to find out if one is eligible is to apply for pre-need eligibility, and it is for planning one's own burial in advance.

Prepare for the application:

Find out if you're eligible. One of these must describe you:

- A Veteran who didn't receive a dishonorable discharge when you separated from the military, or
- The spouse or dependent child of a service member or Veteran, even if

the service member or Veteran has already passed away, or

- In some cases, the adult dependent child of a service member or Veteran (if you aren't married)

1. Choose the VA national cemetery where you'd prefer to be buried.
2. Gather the supporting documents and information you'll need to fill out the application.
3. Be sure to fill out an application for each person requesting a pre-need eligibility determination.
4. If both you and your spouse are applying, you'll each need to fill out your own application.

What information do I need to apply? To apply, you'll need the veteran's:

1. Social Security number
2. Date and place of birth
3. Military status and service history (like service dates, discharge character, and rank—commonly found on the DD214 or other separation documents)
4. Discharge papers (DD214 or other separation documents).
5. If you're applying as a spouse, surviving spouse, or unmarried adult child, you'll also need your personal information, including your Social Security number.

All of this information and more can be found at <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility/>. You can apply online at: <https://www.va.gov/burials-and-memorials/pre-need/form-10007-apply-for-eligibility/introduction> or request VA Form 10-10007 and send it in. I can provide you with the form, just request it.

In addition, here are some of the benefits I can assist with:

1. Accessing VA health care
2. Burial benefits
3. Getting a copy of your DD-214
4. Helping you speak to a counselor
5. Applying for the Honor Flight
6. Women Veterans Health Care
7. Other general questions.

As our previous service officer used to say, "I am not only here for you, but I am available to every Veteran who needs help." If it is something I don't know about: I am happy to research it for you. If it is something above what I can do, I can make a referral for you to the VSOs at the Regional Office in Chicago (by Jesse Brown VA).

Maria Scruggs
Service Officer
American Legion Post #854

LEGION RIDERS: R. Mitchell

Here's the latest news for the ALR's:

Doing our part in working with



the local community; we are sponsoring Mount Greenwood Park District Softball Team. these young men are showing up at the Post on Mondays and Wednesdays to show their support for our Post, bring in new faces and revenue.

The ALR's are also doing the Wednesday Queen of Hearts with the Sons of the American Legion. I believe this will be our third year since we started at our Post and we are doing our best to support our Legion Post and our community.

Our new Officers will be Director Bob McDonald, Vice Director Lorin Grikmanis, Treasurer Sean Gallagher, Secretary Rickie Mitchell and Sergeant-at-Arms Steve Horvath.

We are looking forward to another great year for our group.

Be safe and watch out for those other guys who never see you.

Thank you,
Rickie Mitchell

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION-E. Isabel

Hope everyone has a great Summer!



June 13th will be a Flag Burning in our back lot at 6pm. Please come join us for the ceremony and burning of our Flags.

Please be patient with our membership we are working to get them all processed and out in the mail.

QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING

The Post Family, the Sons, Auxiliary, and the Legion appreciate your support for the Queen of Hearts.

BE SURE TO BUY YOUR TICKETS FOR OUR WEEKLY QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 PM.

YOU CAN'T WIN IF YOU DO NOT PLAY!

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Post 854 would like to enter the 21st Century and we would like to send our newsletter to you via E-Mail so if you like to receive FUTURE Newsletter via E-Mail:

Send an email to: Postmanag-er@americanlegion854.org

View our Web Address: AmericanLegion854.org

MEMBERSHIP

We are seeing great progress in our membership efforts, and we need to keep the momentum going into the next Legion year!

Our current (and probably ending) membership stands at **92.29%**. Almost made it to 100%, but almost all counts with horse shoes and had grenades.

How Can You Help?

Renewing your membership is quick and easy:

- **Online-** grab your renewal notice and renew through our online system.
- **In-Person-** Pay with cash, Check , or credit card at the Post.
- **By Mail-** Send your payment directly to the Post

Don't wait until tomorrow- take action today! Let's reach our goal together.

REQUEST

If a member wishes to attend a meeting, and has no transportation, we may be able to get a ride for you. If you call the Post, it may be possible to arrange transportation for you. We are trying to set up a crew of volunteers to get you to our meeting and back home. Call 708-422-9513.

BLUE CAP CORNER:

Think about this: Your Legion needs YOU! You are not being asked to give all of your free time to participate in Post activities. You are not being asked to give an inordinate amount of your time. Think about this. Can you afford to give a couple of hours per month to you Post? There are so many simple ways you can contribute. Things like:

- Your participation in Legion Events
- Your help occasionally with mess duties

JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING:

Every 3rd Tuesday of the month, our Post holds its General Meeting— an important time to come together, share ideas, and strengthen our mission.

We know participation has been low. Out of over 400 members, fewer than 20 typically attend. That needs to change. We need you- your presence, your voice, your support.

So why not give it a try?

- * No cost to you
- * Dinner and drinks provided
- * Your chance to make a difference

What do you have to lose? Just a little time. But what you stand to gain is more: camaraderie, purpose, and the pride of being active at your Post.

THE LEGION NEWSLETTER, ADVERTISING:

Do you own a small business? Something you run to pay bills and save for the future? Are you getting your name out there? It's one thing to run a business and a totally different thing to be recognized as a business that provides what the customer needs; when he needs it. We have an answer for you right here in and on these pages. It's called Legion Newsletter advertising. You might be saying what can this do for me? It can assure that you will be seen by almost 500 members! Perhaps

some of those members have a need for your services.

A straightforward ad in the newsletter can be a powerful tool. It puts your business in front of potential customers who are already part of a community, making it easier for them to reach out and connect with you. Sometimes, it's all about being in the right place at the right time.

Offering flexible ad sizes makes it easier for businesses to choose what fits their budget and needs. Here's a quick rundown of the options:

- **Full Page Ad:** Maximum visibility and impact.
- **Half Page Ad:** Significant space to showcase key information.
- **Quarter Page Ad:** A compact option for essential details.
- **Business Card Size:** Perfect for concise contact info.

Legion Newsletter Advertising Rates (07, 08, and 09 2025)

- **Full Page Ad:** \$150 for 3 months
- **Half Page Ad:** \$100 for 3 months
- **Quarter Page Ad:** \$75 for 3 months
- **Business Card Size Ad:** \$50 for 3 months

With these straightforward options, businesses can choose the level of visibility that best fits your needs and budget.

If you are interested, please contact our Commander and/or our Sr Vice Commander through the Post: 708-422-9513.

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The **American Legion** is a patriotic veterans organization chartered by Congress in **1919**. It was founded by war-weary veterans of **World War I** who convened in Paris for the first caucus in March 1919. The organization quickly grew, focusing on service to veterans, servicemembers, and communities¹.

Some key milestones in its history include:

Promoting programs that teach American history and civics in schools.

Community Service

Encouraging volunteerism and community involvement.

Recognizing outstanding community service efforts and acts of patriotism.

The American Legion works tirelessly to ensure that the principles of Americanism are upheld and passed on to future generations. If you'd like more details on any of

these programs or have other questions, feel free to ask!

AMERICAN LEGION CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The **Children & Youth** pillar of the American Legion focuses on programs and initiatives designed to protect, nurture, and support the development of young people. Here are the key aspects:

Child Welfare

Protecting children from abuse, neglect, and other harmful conditions.

Supporting efforts to provide safe and stable environments for children in need.

Educational Opportunities

Providing scholarships and educational programs to help children and youth achieve their academic goals.

Promoting literacy and educational enrichment through various initiatives.

Health and Wellness

Addressing issues such as substance abuse, mental health, and overall wellness among young people.

Partnering with organizations to provide health education and resources for children and families.

Community Programs

Organizing and supporting youth activities and sports programs.

Encouraging leadership development through programs like the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program.

Advocacy and Awareness

Raising awareness about important issues affecting children and youth.

Advocating for policies and legislation that benefit young people and their families.

The American Legion is deeply committed to ensuring that children have the support, opportunities, and resources they need to thrive.

HAPPENINGS:

07/02/2025-Queen of Hearts, 1900 hours at Post

07/02/2025-Coffee and Chat with Maria, 1000 to 1100 hours, all Vets Welcome

07/04/2025-Fourth of July, Fly your Flag

07/07/2025-SAL Mtg 1830 hours

07/08/2025-Finance mtg 7pm Exec Board 8 pm

07/08/2025-Open Mic, 2000 to 2200 hours, Front Bar

07/09/2025-Queen of Hearts, 1900 hours at Post
07/12/2025-John Devlin and Susie J Band, 2000 to 2300 hours, Front Bar

07/14/2025-Flag Day, Fly your Flag
07/15/2025-Riders Mtg. 1830 hours & General Members Mtg. 1930 hours

07/16/2025-Queen of Hearts, 1900 hours at Post
07/16/2025-Coffee and Chat with Maria, 1000 to 1100 hours, all Vets Welcome

07/17/2025-Membership, 1100 hours
07/19/2025-Smokin Joe Karaoke, 2000 to 2300, Front Bar

07/23/2025-Queen of Hearts 1900 hours at Post
07/24/2025-Membership, 1100 hours
07/26/2025-Countryfest, 1500 to 2200 hours, Back Parking Lot

07/27/2025-Evergreen Park 4th of July Parade
07/30/2025-Queen of Hearts, 1900 hours at Post
07/31/2025-Membership, 1100 hours

08/02/2025-Cold Brew Bank, 2000 to 2300 hours, Front Bar
08/04/2025-SAL Mtg. 1830 hours

08/09/2025-Queen of Hearts, 1900 hours at Post

08/07/2025-Membership, 1100 hours
08/12/2025-Finance Mtg 1900 hours & Exec. Board Mtg. 2000 hours

08/12/2025-Open Mic Night, 2000 to 2300 hours
08/13/2025-Queen of Hearts, 1900 hours at Post

08/14/2025-Membership, 1100 hours
08/16/2025-Smokin Joe Karaoke, 2000 to 2300 hours, Front Bar

08/17/2025-Car Show, 1100 to 1700 hours
08/19/2025- Rider Mtg. 1830 hours & General Members Mtg. 1930 hours

08/20/2025-Queen of Hearts, 1900 hours at Post
08/21/2025-Membership, 1100 hours
08/21/2025-Glitter my Palate Event, 1900 to 2200 hours

08/27/2025-Queen of Hearts, 1900 hours at Post
08/28/2025-Membership, 1100 hours
09/01/2025-SAL Mtg.1830 hours

09/03/2025-Queen of Hearts, 1900 hours at Post
09/04/2025-Membership, 1100 hours
09/06/2025-The Koop, 2000 to 2300 hours
09/09/2025-Finance Mtg. 1900 & Exec Board Mtg. 2000 hours

09/10/2025-Queen of Hearts, 1900 hours at Post
09/11/2025-Membership, 1100 hours
09/12/2025-Legion Trivia Night, 1900 to 2100 hours, Main Hall Event

09/13/2025-Old Gold, 2000 to 2300 hours
09/14/2025-Karaoke Smokin Joe 2000 hours to 2300 hours, Front Bar
09/16/2025-Riders Mtg. 1830 hours & General members Mtg. 1930 hours

09/17/2025-Queen of Hearts, 1900 hours at Post
09/18/2025-Membership, 1100 hours
09/20/2025-Smokin Joe Karaoke, 2000 to 2300 hours

09/24/2025-Queen of Hearts, 1900 hours at Post

09/25/2025-Membership, 1100 hours
09/27/2025-Southside Boogie, 2000 to 2300 hours

THE AMERICAN LEGION VETERANS



The American Legion was founded March 15-17, 1919, by members of the American Expeditionary Forces still stationed in Europe awaiting passage home from World War I. Their experiences in what was called the "war to end all wars" would shape an enduring legacy for what has become the nation's largest organization of veterans. Many of the Legion's founders had voluntarily drilled in civilian military camps before the United States entered the war. Trained in the "Preparedness Movement," several future Legion founders were commissioned as officers in the war and discovered firsthand the nation's deficiencies in defense, citizenship and education. Soon after the war's end, they also realized how poorly prepared the United States was to assist a wave of disabled and unemployed veterans who faced uncertain futures in their communities, states and the nation. The American Legion's emergence and rise to prominence was based on a mission to strengthen the nation through programs, services and advocacy that helped millions throughout the organization's first century. The American Legion built its identity with a vision to make the nation prouder, stronger, smarter and more respectful of those who have sacrificed some, or all, in defense of the nation. Following are some The American Legion's achievements during its first century.

A BRIEF HISTORY VETERANS

Formed a network of service officers in 1919 that now exceeds 3,000 to help disabled veterans, free of charge, file for government benefits. Campaigned to put all veterans services under one federal authority, which led to creation of the VA Assisted millions of veterans in pursuit of rewarding careers; by June 1922 had already placed more than 500,000 veterans in permanent jobs and 200,000 more in temporary positions

NATIONAL SECURITY



Lobbied persistently for a better-funded and more efficient national system of defense. Called for the establishment of a separate service branch for aeronautics as early as 1919, which helped give birth to the U.S. Air Force in 1947. Pushed Congress for "universal military training" for decades, culminating in the Reserve Forces Act of 1955. Conducted thousands of troop-support programs, including deployment ceremonies, welcome-home events and provision of needed items in theater. Established and staffed thousands of local first response units and civil patrols during World War II. Provided financial and volunteer aid for military parents through American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance and Family Support Network programs established during the Gulf War. Began The American Legion Blood Donor Program in 1942, and became the largest organizational blood donor to the Red Cross in the nation. Re-established the Blue Star Banner program to recognize military families with deployed loved ones after 9/11. Launched a program to provide comfort items for U.S. military personnel recovering from wounds in DoD hospitals or transition units, ultimately named Operation Fought to protect veterans benefits, VA hospitals, training programs and services from federal budget cuts. Developed programs and advanced research into what became Post-traumatic stress disorder as early as 1921. Produced studies that led to official diagnosis of PTSD in 1980 and proved that service-connected exposure to Agent Orange and radiation caused diseases. Achieved Veterans Preference Hiring for federal jobs. Drafted and pushed to passage the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, the GI Bill that transformed America; worked to improve subsequent renditions, including the 2017 Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, the "Forever GI Bill." Led efforts to achieve VA recognition for veterans previously denied benefits and health care for conditions caused by exposure to toxic burn pits in the Global War on Terrorism, as well as others who suffered illnesses caused by atomic radiation and Agent Orange. Led a nationwide "Be the One" initiative to reduce and prevent veteran suicide. Comfort Warriors in 2008, which has distributed millions of dollars of goods, games, books, music, recreational equipment and event passes for troops and their families. Provided emergency grants for members of the U.S. Coast Guard who had pay delays due to the January 2019 federal government shutdown. Fought to protect military retirement benefits and TRICARE insurance. Stood as a national leader in the recovery and repatriation of all U.S. POWs and MIAs. Passed and reaffirmed national resolutions, beginning in 2008, supporting the troops and their mission in the global war on terrorism.

AMERICANISM



Actively promoted responsible U.S. citizenship and patriotic awareness beginning in 1919. By January 1920, began providing U.S. citizenship and naturalization programs for immigrants, with support from Congress. Led flag conferences in 1923 and 1924 that established the first standard rules for treatment and respect of the U.S. flag, adopted in 1942 as U.S. Flag Code. Established official retirement ceremonies for worn-out U.S. flags, often a joint activity with Boy Scouts of America units. Began American Legion Boys State in Illinois in 1935 to counter communist inspired youth camps in the United States and to teach the way government operates in a democracy, a program that went national in 1946 and ultimately became American Legion Boys Nation. Strongly advocated for active participation in the voting process, conducting thousands of candidate forums and a national Get Out the Vote program. Assembled the Citizens Flag Alliance after the controversial 1989 Supreme Court ruling defining deliberate flag desecration as free speech and began a campaign to seek a constitutional amendment to return to the states the right to pass laws to protect the flag.



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Urged American Legion support for Boy Scouts of America as the organization's first youth program backed by resolution, in November 1919. Established an enduring relationship in 1921 with the National Education Association "to cooperate in securing for America a program of education adequate to meet the needs of the 20th century ... which will make all, native or foreign-born, good American citizens." Launched American Legion Baseball in 1925 to promote citizenship through sportsmanship, a program that would grow to field thousands of teams over the century. Developed and operated marksmanship competitions that became the national American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program in 1991. Sponsored thousands of Junior ROTC programs across the country and at American schools overseas. Created and operated a National Oratorical Contest beginning in 1938, continuing today, that requires high school-age orators to speak on the U.S. Constitution. Established a national network of child-support field representatives in the 1920s and operated orphanages throughout the country to assist kids who needed stable homes and mentorship. Formed the Child Welfare Foundation in 1954 to provide grants to support organizations and agencies that assist young people facing challenges not of their making. Provided thousands of scholarships for high school students seeking college educations. Launched an ongoing program in 1926 that recognizes with School Award Medals young people for their character, service and citizenship. Was chosen by Samsung Corp. in 1995 to administer a \$5

million fund to provide scholarships for Boys State or Girls State participants who are descendants of U.S. wartime veterans. Established an American Legion Legacy Scholarship in 2001 that provides college funds for children of military personnel killed or 50% or more disabled.

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Established civil defense as a function of The American Legion and began a century of support in communities wracked by disasters, including mining accidents, tornados, wildfires, earthquakes and hurricanes. Launched a Community and Civic Betterment Bureau in 1923 to help municipalities build and improve parks, playgrounds, health-care facilities, swimming pools, schools and theaters throughout the United States. Served meals, provided housing for refugees and searched for survivors of the massive Mississippi and Ohio River floods of 1927 and 1937. Sponsored soup kitchens at American Legion Posts to help destitute citizens during the Depression throughout the country.

HONOR & REMEMBRANCE



Took a lead role in 1920 to formally observe Memorial Day at the graves of U.S. military personnel laid to rest in some 2,400 temporary cemeteries in Europe. Was actively involved in the development of the American Battle Monuments Commission in 1923. Backed legislation in 1920 to install the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, dedicated Nov. 11, 1921. Helped dedicate the towering Liberty Memorial in Kansas City during the third national convention, in 1921. Raised funds in 1926 to help build the Ossuary at Verdun, France, to remember the cost of World War I. Pushed for 24-hour guarding for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in 1937 and purchased lights for the shrine in 1969. Raised over \$1.2 million, most by any organization, to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, dedicated in a Legion-sponsored 1982 "Salute to Vietnam Veterans." Passed a resolution in 1985 to open every official American Legion meeting with a prayer for all American POW/MIAs. Helped establish state highway patrols, and supported them, as they emerged across the country. Established the National Emergency Fund in 1989 to formalize The American Legion's long program to provide disaster relief. Delivered millions of dollars in National Emergency Fund grants for relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina, Wilma and Rita on the Gulf Coast, and the flooding that followed in New Orleans. Conducted dozens of natural disaster relief efforts, following Superstorm

Sandy, Hurricanes Irene, Michael, Maria, Ian and others, wildfires in California, devastating flooding in the Midwest and other crises Raised funds and provided marketing support for the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Raised more than \$3 million for the construction of the National World War II Memorial, dedicated in 2007 Served in a leadership role to build the National WWI Memorial in Washington, D.C., dedicated in 2021 Conducted thousands of local memorial services a year at funerals, special events and ceremonies honoring those who served their country and lost their lives Argued in court, including a U.S. Supreme Court victory in 2019, to protect veterans and military memorials from removal due to religious symbolism in their design.

The American Legion P.O. Box 1085, Indianapolis, IN 46209 (317) 630-1200 www.legion.org www.facebook.com/AmericanLegion twitter.com/AmericanLegion Artwork# 81MAG0723 Stock# 40-027 (Revised 07/2023) This institution is an equal opportunity PROVIDER.

THE AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE



The American Legion Preamble is a statement of principles that expresses the values and goals of The American Legion, a U.S. veterans' organization. It is recited at meetings and events to reaffirm members' commitment to service, patriotism, and support for veterans, their families, and the community.

Here is the full text of the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion:

- * *"For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:*
- * To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
- * To maintain law and order;
- * To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
- * To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;
- * To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
- * To make right the master of might;
- * To promote peace and good will on earth;
- * To inculcate a sense of individual obli-

gation to the community, state and nation;

- * To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy;
- * To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

This preamble reflects the Legion's dedication to patriotism, civic duty, and support for veterans and their families.

Here is a breakdown of the American Legion Preamble explaining what each line means and why it is important to the mission of The American Legion.

"For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:"

This opening sets the tone. Members dedicate themselves to service in the name of **faith** ("God") and **patriotism** ("Country").

It highlights the unity and purpose behind forming The American Legion.

"To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;"

Legion members commit to protecting the freedoms and principles enshrined in the

It highlights the unity and purpose behind forming The American Legion.

"To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;"

Legion members commit to protecting the freedoms and principles enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. This reflects their role as veterans who have sworn to defend their country.

"To maintain law and order;"

Emphasizes the importance of a **peaceful and just society** governed by laws. It affirms support for enforcement and justice systems that protect all citizens.

"To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

"Americanism" refers to loyalty to American values, such as freedom, democracy, and civic responsibility. The phrase "one hundred percent" shows a total and unwavering commitment to those ideals.

"To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great

Wars;"

This line is about **honoring the past**- remembering the sacrifices and experiences of those who served in wartime. It keeps alive the legacy of service and insures it is passed down to future generations.

"To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation;"

Encourages members and all citizens to recognize and act on their **duty to contribute** to society at every level. Civic engagement and service are vital parts of a strong democracy.

"To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;"

This line warns against any form of **tyranny or oppression**, whether it comes from powerful elites or mob rule. It promotes a balanced society where no group dominates or silences the others.

"To make right the master of might;"

Emphasizes that **justice and morality** should guide power, not force of intimidation. It's a call to use strength responsibly and in service of what is right.

"To promote peace and good will on earth;"

Reflects a **desire for global peace** and friendship among all people, even as the organization remains rooted in military service. It's a forward-looking hopeful principle.

"To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy;"

A pledge to **protect and pass on** core American Values to future generations, ensuring that they endure beyond the present moment.

"To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

The closing line declares that the bonds between veterans are **sacred**, and these relationships are strengthened through **service to each other and the community**. "Mutual helpfulness" is a central theme in The American Legion's mission.

This preamble is more than just a ceremonial statement-it's a **living guide** for how members are expected to serve and live.

American Legion Post #854

Coffee and Chat with Maria

July 2 - 10 to 11 AM
July 16 - 10 to 11 AM

Open to all military connected people

9701 S Kedzie Ave. Evergreen Park, IL 60805

Questions?
Call: 312-620-0884 or
E-mail: 854vso@gmail.com



The "Hospitality Post" newsletter is the official publication of Evergreen Park Post #0854 of The American Legion. It is published quarterly and distributed by US Mail, and/or emailed to all Post members, Auxiliary members. and SAL Members.

Jim Quintavalle, Editor

Website Address: AmericanLegion854.org

E-Mail Address: Postmanager@americanlegion854.org

JULY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
		1	2 QUEEN OF HEARTS 1900 HOURS AT POST COFFEE AND CHAT WITH MARIA 1000 TO 1100 HRS OPEN TO ALL VETS	3	4 	5																																																																																											
6	7 SAL MEETING 1830 HOURS	8 FINANCE EXECUTIVE 1900/2000 HOURS OPEN MIC 2000 TO 2200 HOURS FRONT BAR	9 QUEEN OF HEARTS 1900 HOURS AT POST	10	11	12 JOHN DEVLIN AND SUSIE J BAND 2000 TO 2300 HOURS FRONT BAR																																																																																											
13	14 FLAG DAY 	15 GENERAL MEETING 1930 HOURS RIDERS MEETING 1830 HOURS	16 QUEEN OF HEARTS 1900 HOURS AT POST COFFEE AND CHAT WITH MARIA 1000 TO 1100 HRS OPEN TO ALL VETS	17 MEMBERSHIP 1100 HOURS	18	19 SMOKIN JOE KARAOKE 2000 TO 2300 HOURS FRONT BAR																																																																																											
20	21	22	23 QUEEN OF HEARTS 1900 HOURS AT POST	24 MEMBERSHIP 1100 HOURS	25	26 COUNTRYFEST 1500 TO 2200 HOURS BACK PARKING LOT																																																																																											
27 EVERGREEN 4TH OF JULY PARADE	28	29	30 QUEEN OF HEARTS 1900 HOURS AT POST	31 MEMBERSHIP 1100 HOURS																																																																																													
		June 2025 <table border="1"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						August 2025 <table border="1"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>Sa</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							Notes: <div>IF YOUR EVENT DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE CALENDAR; YOU FAILED TO PROVIDE IT!!!</div>
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa																																																																																											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																											
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																											
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																											
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																											
29	30																																																																																																
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa																																																																																											
					1	2																																																																																											
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																											
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																											
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																											
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																											
31																																																																																																	

AUGUST 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
					1	2 COLD BREW BANK 2000 TO 2300 HOURS FRONT BAR																																																																																																		
3	4 SAL MEETING 1830 HOURS	5	6 QUEEN OF HEARTS 1900 HOURS AT POST	7 MEMBERSHIP 1100 HOURS	8	9																																																																																																		
10	11	12 FINANCE EXECUTIVE 1900/2000 HOURS OPEN MIC NIGHT 2000 TO 2300 HOURS	13 QUEEN OF HEARTS 1900 HOURS AT POST	14 MEMBERSHIP 1100 HOURS	15	16 SMOKIN JOE KARAOKE 2000 TO 2300 FRONT BAR																																																																																																		
17 CAR SHOW 1100 TO 1700 HOURS	18	19 GENERAL MEETING 1930 HOURS RIDERS MEETING 1830 HOURS	20 QUEEN OF HEARTS 1900 HOURS AT POST	21 MEMBERSHIP 1100 HOURS GLITTER MY PALLATE EVENT 1900 TO 2200 HOURS	22	23																																																																																																		
24	25	26	27 QUEEN OF HEARTS 1900 HOURS AT POST	28 MEMBERSHIP 1100 HOURS	29	30																																																																																																		
31		<div>July 2025</div> <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>Sa</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31										<div>September 2025</div> <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>Th</td><td>F</td><td>Sa</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30												<div>Notes:</div> <div>IF YOUR EVENT DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE CALENDAR; YOU FAILED TO PROVIDE IT!!!</div>
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa																																																																																																		
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																		
27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																				
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa																																																																																																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																		
28	29	30																																																																																																						

SEPTEMBER 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 SAL MEETING 1830 HOURS	2	3 QUEEN OF HEARTS 1900 HOURS AT POST	4 MEMBERSHIP 1100 HOURS	5	6 THE KOOP 2000 TO 2300 HOURS
7	8	9 FINANCE EXECUTIVE 1900/2000 HOURS	10 QUEEN OF HEARTS 1900 HOURS AT POST	11 MEMBERSHIP 1100 HOURS	12 LEGION TRIVIA NIGHT 1900 TO 2100 HOURS MAIN HALL EVENT	13 OLD GOLD 2000 TO 2300 HOURS
14	15	16 GENERAL MEETING 1930 HOURS RIDERS MEETING 1830 HOURS	17 QUEEN OF HEARTS 1900 HOURS AT POST	18 MEMBERSHIP 1100 HOURS	19	20 SMOKIN JOE KARAOKE 2000 TO 2300 HOURS
21	22	23	24 QUEEN OF HEARTS 1900 HOURS AT POST	25 MEMBERSHIP 1100 HOURS	26	27 SOUTHSIDE BOOGIE 2000 TO 2300 HOURS
28	29	30				
		August 2025		October 2025		Notes: <div>IF YOUR EVENT DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE CALENDAR; YOU FAILED TO PROVIDE IT!!!</div>
		S M T W Th F Sa		S M T W Th F Sa		
		3 4 5 6 7 8 9		5 6 7 8 9 10 11		
		10 11 12 13 14 15 16		12 13 14 15 16 17 18		
		17 18 19 20 21 22 23		19 20 21 22 23 24 25		
		24 25 26 27 28 29 30		26 27 28 29 30 31		
		31				