

# LEONARD C. BARNES POST 450

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



### Joe Shyne Public Servant Award

Caddo Commissioner Kenneth Epperson, Sr. Honored With the Joe Shyne Public Servant Award



Caddo Parish Commissioner Kenneth Epperson, Sr. has been selected as the recipient of the esteemed Joe Shyne Public Servant Award, a distinction reserved for individuals whose leadership, integrity, and unwavering commitment to community service set a standard for others to follow.

In addition to his work as a public official, Commissioner Epperson also serves as the Public Relations Coordinator for American Legion Post 450, where he plays a vital role in promoting veteran-focused initiatives, strengthening community partnerships, and elevating the mission of the Post. This award recognizes Commissioner Epperson's decades-long dedication to improving the quality of life for residents across Caddo Parish. His work—ranging from civic engagement and veteran advocacy to neighborhood development and public policy—reflects a deep belief in service, accountability, and strengthening the community he proudly represents.

Commissioner Epperson's consistent presence in parish initiatives, his responsiveness to citizen concerns, and his leadership in fostering collaboration highlight the very values this award was created to honor. His contributions continue to leave a meaningful and lasting impact on the people of Caddo Parish.

**Congratulations to Commissioner Kenneth Epperson, Sr. on receiving this well-deserved and distinguished recognition.**

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### WELCOME NEW & TRANSFER MEMBERS

Welcome to Post 450—to our new enrollees and transfers. By joining, you become part of a proud legacy of service, fellowship, and community; your commitment strengthens our Post and honors those who served before us. We look forward to serving alongside you and to the contributions you will bring to our mission.

Clayton Wider, Sr.  
Mortimer Harris  
Paul J Jarzabek  
Edward Gier

Calvin Rosalies  
Ronald Roan  
John Richardson

Andrew Adger  
Sebron Deloach  
John Richie

Please submit an unaltered copy of your DD-214 to the Post Adjutant as soon as possible to complete your membership file; bring it to the next meeting or mail it to: Leonard C Barnes Post 450., PO Box 5063, Shreveport, LA 71135. Regular Post meetings are held every 3rd Saturday of the Month at 10:30 AM and location 717 Crockett Street, Shreveport, LA 71101.

### BIRTHDAY WISHES

#### APRIL

JOE L. HUGHES  
DAN D TAYLOR  
RADOLPH RAGSTER  
JOHN L SAMPSON

#### MAY



#### JUNE

MELVIN HUMPHREY SR  
WILLIE G WYNN  
ROBERT NEWMAN

**Veterans, America's First Heroes.  
Every Day Should Be Veterans Day in America.**

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A regional roundup of events, education, and ways to get involved

Northwest Louisiana continues to shine with cultural celebrations, family-friendly activities, and opportunities to learn, serve, and connect. Whether you're in Shreveport-Bossier, down in Mansfield, or over in Coushatta, there's something meaningful happening in every corner of our community.

### Shreveport–Bossier City

- ◆ *Go for the Gold 5K & Fun Run*: March 21, 2026 – A.C. Steere Park — A great family fitness event supporting local causes.
- ◆ *Shreveport Mudbugs Hockey Games*: Various dates – Hirsch Memorial Coliseum — Enjoy high-energy hometown hockey with matchups against teams like the IceRays, Jackalopes, and Amarillo Wranglers.
- ◆ *Vegan Community Cookout*: April 11, 2026 – JADE Events Venue — A fun, food-centered gathering promoting healthy living and community fellowship.

(continues on page3)

## LAUGH LINE

Senior discounts are the reward for surviving laugh lines and longer lives.

What's the secret to having a smoking hot body in your old age?  
Cremation.

Which underwear brand do seniors love best?  
It Depends.

The older we get, the earlier it gets late.

What goes up but never comes down?  
Your age!

When is the best time to start thinking about your retirement?  
Before the boss does.

Love is like one long, sweet dream. Marriage is the alarm clock.



## ALERTS—BEWARE

### Fraud Alert for Veterans

#### ⚠ DO NOT PAY FOR VA OR COMMUNITY CARE APPOINTMENTS UP FRONT

Protect yourself from a recent scam targeting Veterans.

A Veteran recently received a fake letter claiming he had a VA appointment and was asked to pay for the visit.

- VA later confirmed he was not enrolled in VA health care, and no appointment had been scheduled.
- The letter and payment request were fraudulent.

#### Remember:

- Veterans should never pay for any VA or Community Care appointment before or at the time of the appointment.
- VA does not charge upfront fees for appointments.
- VA does not send payment requests by email, text message, or phone.
- Community Care appointments are authorized by VA and are free to Veterans except standard VA co-pays when applicable.

#### If you receive a suspicious letter, call, or message:

- Do not send money or share personal or financial information.
- Contact your local VA medical center directly to verify any appointment.
- Report suspicious activity to your facility's Integrity and Compliance Officer, Integrity and Compliance Helpline at (866) 842-4357 or [VHAOICHelpline@va.gov](mailto:VHAOICHelpline@va.gov), VSAFE at 1-833-388-7233 or the [VA OIG](https://va.oig.gov) Hotline at 1-800-488-8244.

Your VA team is here to ensure your care is safe and legitimate.

#### SEE SOMETHING. SAY SOMETHING.

General instances of non-compliance, including potential fraud, waste and abuse:

Office of Integrity and Compliance Helpline  
[VHAOICHelpline@va.gov](mailto:VHAOICHelpline@va.gov) or 866-842-4357 (VHA-HELP)

Veterans who suspect they have experienced fraud:

VSAFE Fraud Hotline  
<https://vsafe.gov/> or 833-38V-SAFE

Reports made to VA OIC or VSAFE may be referred to the independent Office of Inspector General (OIG) for investigation into fraud or other wrongdoing or for its oversight of VA programs and operations.

## Fraud & Security Alert

Protecting Your Finances and Personal Information

### Rising Fraud Attempts Targeting Customers

Banks and businesses nationwide are reporting an increase in scams designed to steal personal information, account access, and money. Criminals are using text messages, emails, phone calls, and fake websites that appear legitimate. These messages often claim there is an “urgent problem” with your account to pressure you into acting quickly.

### What Banks and Businesses Will Never Do

To help you stay safe, remember that legitimate institutions will **NOT**:

- ◆ Ask for your PIN, password, or full Social Security number
- ◆ Request remote access to your phone or computer
- ◆ Demand immediate payment or threaten account closure
- ◆ Send links asking you to “verify” your account information

If you receive any of these requests, treat them as suspicious.

### Common Scams to Watch For

- ◆ Fake text alerts claiming unusual account activity
- ◆ Phishing emails that look like official bank or business messages
- ◆ Spoofed phone calls where scammers pretend to be customer service
- ◆ Package delivery scams asking for personal details or payment
- ◆ Fake invoices or donation requests targeting nonprofits and community groups

### How to Protect Yourself

Contact your bank or business using the number on your card or official website

- ◆ Enable two-factor authentication on all accounts
- ◆ Monitor your statements regularly
- ◆ Avoid clicking links in unexpected messages
- ◆ Report suspicious activity immediately

### If You Suspect Fraud

- Reach out to your bank or the business directly. Quick reporting helps protect your account and prevents further damage.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

*(continues from page 2)*

### Regional (Mansfield, Coughatta & Surrounding Areas)

While smaller towns may not host large-scale events as frequently, they remain hubs for:

- Civic engagement workshops
- Church-based educational programs
- Youth development activities
- Cultural heritage events

These gatherings give us space to honor our veterans, uplift our youth, support local businesses, and celebrate the rich heritage that makes our area unique. They also remind us that service doesn’t end when the uniform comes off — it simply takes new forms. Whether we’re marching in a parade, attending a civic meeting, supporting a school program, or volunteering at a community event, Post 450 continues to lead with dignity, unity, and pride.

As we move forward, let’s stay connected, stay visible, and stay committed to the work that keeps our community strong. Every handshake, every conversation, every act of service adds to the legacy we are building together. Post 450 is more than a membership — it is a living example of what it means to serve with purpose and heart. When we show up, we strengthen the ties that hold our region together.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 01 APRIL 2026

- ◆ Be the ONE Day
- ◆ Department Eagle Scout of the Year applications due to National Headquarters
- ◆ April is Children & Youth Month
- ◆ Department Certification of Oratorical Contest Winner

### 15 APRIL 2026

- ◆ Media & Communications Contest Deadline

### 25 APRIL 2026

- ◆ Media & Communications Contest Deadline

### 01 MAY 2026

- ◆ Be the ONE Day
- ◆ Child Well-being Foundation Grant Application Opens
- ◆ Sons of The American Legion Spring Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana

### 04 MAY 2026

- ◆ American Legion Spring Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana

### 08 MAY 2026

- ◆ Victory in Europe Day—V-E Day (1945)

### 13 MAY 2026

- ◆ 100% Membership Target Date
- ◆ National Convention Housing Cutoff
- ◆ Department Recruiter of the Year
- ◆ District Commander's New Post Achievement Award
- ◆ District Commander Achievement Award and District Honor Ribbon
- ◆ Post Membership Retention Award

### 15 MAY 2026

- ◆ American Legion National Oratorical Contest in Hillsdale, Michigan

### 16 MAY 2026

- ◆ Armed Forces Day

### 22 MAY 2026

- ◆ National Poppy Day

*(continues from page 5)*

## Post 450 Shines at the 38th African American Parade



Downtown Shreveport was filled with excitement, pride, and community spirit as thousands gathered for the 38th Annual African American Parade, a celebration that continues to honor culture, heritage, and unity across generations. The streets were

alive with music, bright colors, and the joyful energy of families and friends who came together to celebrate this beloved tradition.

This year, American Legion Leonard C. Barnes Post 450 made a powerful and heart-warming impact. The Post's float—decorated with care and bursting with community pride—featured a dedicated group of members who waved to the crowd and tossed candy to children lining the sidewalks. Riding the float were Riley Young, Jr., Richard Thomas, Willie Wynn, Johnny B. Allen and family, Joan Welch, and Margaret Mims, each helping to spread joy and celebration as the parade rolled through downtown.



While the float energized the crowd, the Post 450 food team kept parade-goers well-fed and smiling. Richard Russell, Howard Warren, David Williams, and W.J. Nelson worked together to prepare hot dogs, nachos, drinks, and snacks, serving a steady stream of visitors who stopped by for a warm bite and friendly conversation. Meanwhile, Wilma Draughn-Davis kept the popcorn popping—fresh, hot, and irresistible—serving it with the same hospitality and heart that Post 450 is known for.



The day also brought a moment of recognition when KTBS-3 News stopped by to interview Post 450 members. Wilma Draughn-Davis, Richard Russell, and David Williams spoke proudly about the Post's mission, its service to veterans and the community, and the importance of participating in events like the African American Parade. Their words reflected the heart of Post 450: unity, service, and a commitment to uplifting the community.

From the lively music to the colorful floats, from the smell of fresh popcorn to the laughter of children catching candy, the atmosphere was unforgettable. A grand time was truly had by all—those riding, those serving, and those cheering from the sidewalks.

The 38th African American Parade once again proved why it remains a cornerstone of Shreveport's cultural calendar. Through service, fellowship, and celebration, Leonard C.



Barnes Post 450 was honored to stand proudly in the heart of it all.

Please join us next year as we continue the celebration of our proud legacy.

## BRAIN TEASERS

1. I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have no body, but I come alive with wind. What am I?
2. What gets wetter the more it dries?
3. What has keys but can't open locks?



### Advertise With Us!

Legion Leonard C. Barnes Post 450 invites Legionnaires, local businesses, and community partners to promote their services in our quarterly newsletter, on our Post website, or through a combined visibility package. Your support helps us continue serving veterans and uplifting Northwest Louisiana.

#### Advertising Rates

##### Newsletter (Quarterly)

- \* Business Card — \$10 (Legionnaire) / \$20 (Non-Member)
- \* Quarter Page — \$25 / \$40
- \* Half Page — \$40 / \$60
- \* Full Page — \$75 / \$100

##### Website (Monthly)

- \* Sidebar Ad — \$20 / \$35
- \* Banner Ad — \$35 / \$55
- \* Featured Spotlight (1 week) — \$25 / \$40

##### Bundle & Save

- \* Newsletter + Website Basic — \$35 / \$60
- \* Visibility Package — \$70 / \$90
- \* Premium Partner — \$100 / \$150

Contact Adjutant at [lcbpost450@gmail.com](mailto:lcbpost450@gmail.com)

## WHY EVENTS MATTER

For Post 450, community events across Shreveport, Bossier City, Mansfield, Coushatta, and the surrounding parishes are more than entertainment — they are opportunities to live out our mission of service, unity, and civic responsibility. Every festival, educational workshop, parade, and cultural gathering strengthens the ties between veterans and the communities we continue to serve.

These events matter because they:

- 1) Honor the legacy of service
- 2) Veterans have always stood at the heart of community life. Showing up at local events keeps that legacy visible and alive.
- 3) Build bridges across generations
- 4) Strengthen partnerships with civic and cultural organizations
- 5) Showcase the values of The American Legion especially Post 450.

Whether it's a parade, a health fair, or a heritage celebration, our presence reinforces Post 450's commitment to collaboration and community uplift. Just as when we participates in youth programs, school events, or family-friendly activities, we model leadership and inspire the next generation of citizens and servicemembers. Duty, honor, patriotism, and service are best demonstrated through action — and these events give us a platform to lead by example. **Let's Get Busy!**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(continues from page 3)

**25 MAY 2026**

- ◆ Memorial Day

**31 MAY 2026**

- ◆ End of Child Well-Being Foundation Award Year

**01 JUNE 2026**

- ◆ Be the ONE Day

**02 JUNE 2026**

- ◆ Legion Baseball Lou Gehrig Day (to raise ALS awareness)

**14 JUNE 2026**

- ◆ Flag Day
- ◆ Army Birthday

**19 JUNE 2026**

- ◆ Juneteenth

**25 JUNE 2026**

- ◆ Korean War starts (1950)

## GET INVOLVED!

Post 450 members have countless ways to stay engaged and visible throughout Northwest Louisiana. Your participation not only supports the community — it strengthens the Post's reputation as a pillar of service and leadership.

### Volunteer & Serve

- Assist with local parades, cultural festivals, and community celebrations where Post 450 can proudly represent veterans.
- Support youth programs, school events, and mentorship opportunities that align with our commitment to education and civic responsibility.
- Partner with churches, nonprofits, and neighborhood groups to provide hands-on help where it's needed most.
- Represent Post 450 at Regional Events
- Attend civic meetings, community forums, and educational workshops to ensure veterans' voices are heard.
- Participate in health fairs, wellness events, and resource days to connect veterans and families with vital services.

### Support Local Arts, Culture & Heritage

- Engage with events that highlight the rich history of Shreveport, Bossier, Mansfield, Coushatta, and surrounding areas.
- Encourage members to attend performances, museum exhibits, and cultural showcases that strengthen community pride.

### Promote Fellowship & Visibility

- Wear Post 450 attire at public events to increase awareness of our mission.
- Invite new residents, veterans, and families to learn more about the Post and consider membership or volunteer opportunities.

Post 450 welcomes your energy, ideas, and participation. If you would like to **suggest an event, attend an upcoming activity, or partner with the Post to support our community**, please reach out to our leadership team. Public Service Representative, Kenneth Epperson, Sr or Post Commander, Riley Young, Jr.

1. An echo 2. A towel 3. A Piano  
**BRAIN TEASERS AND ANSWERS**

## NORTH LOUISIANA RISING—THE QUEEN ADVOCATE



The American Legion Leonard C. Barnes Post 450 proudly recognizes our Adjutant and family for supporting the locally produced film *North Louisiana Rising – The Queen Advocate* at its special showing on Sunday, 11 March 2026, at 2:00 PM by the Robinson Film Center located downtown Shreveport. *North Louisiana Rising – The Queen Advocate* is an informative, community-focused film that highlights the importance of voting rights, civic participation, and the impact of upcoming congressional laws that will affect our communities. The film delivers clear, accessible information designed to empower viewers to stay aware and engaged.

This powerful local production was led by:

- Eugene Collins – Filmer, Director & Producer, whose leadership and vision shaped the film into a bold, unfiltered look at justice work across Louisiana. Collins traveled throughout Northwest Louisiana and down to New Orleans, documenting real stories of advocacy—from school-closure fights to wrongful-death cases, housing injustice, and community demands for accountability.
- Breka Peoples – Starring Advocate, known across the region for her fearless organizing. The film follows her journey from neighborhood leader to being called the “Godmother of Justice,” showing how she mobilizes communities, confronts systems, and stands firm in the face of political pressure. She has faced court dates, jail time, and political pushback simply for getting Black men to the polls and speaking openly about poverty, housing, and power. Her story shows what courage looks like when the stakes are high.
- Oman Ho-Sang – Starring Advocate, whose story reflects the strength of an “impacted” single mother who became an independent organizer. The film captures her transformation into a strategic, outspoken advocate challenging policies that harm families and communities. In addition, to showing her as she challenges policies, confronts officials, and stands with families seeking answers in cases of school closures, community violence, and wrongful deaths. Her advocacy is strategic, fearless, and deeply rooted in love for her people.

Together they captured the moments the news cameras never returned to cover— strategy sessions, courthouse steps, community vigils, and the emotional weight of fighting for justice day after day. Their cameras follow protests, court hearings, community meetings, and the quiet moments of planning and resilience that rarely make the headlines. Their work captures the reality of advocates fighting an uphill battle in systems designed to resist change.



At the heart of *North Louisiana Rising – The Queen Advocate* is a truth our communities know too well: people of color continue to face systemic injustice that touches every part of life — from the ballot box to the classroom to the courthouse. The film does not shy away from this reality. Instead, it shows how these injustices are lived, challenged, and confronted every day by ordinary people who refuse to



be silent. Breka Peoples and Omari Ho-Sang stand in that long tradition of Black women who carry their communities on their backs while fighting systems that were never built to protect them. The documentary captures how they push against:

- ◆ School closures that destabilize Black neighborhoods
- ◆ Wrongful deaths that go unanswered by the ones paid to protect us
- ◆ Voting barriers that silence our voices
- ◆ Housing and poverty issues that are ignored until someone demands accountability

Their work reminds us that injustice is not abstract — it is personal, generational, and deeply rooted. And yet, the film also shows the power of resilience, strategy, and community love. Even when the battle is uphill, they keep climbing because our people deserve better. Adjutant Draughn-Davis would like to thank them for their dedication to telling the stories mainstream media often overlooks. For documenting the truth of what advocacy looks like in real time that we don't see everyday but it stills there hunting our lives.

Even while facing an uphill battle for justice, accountability, and equal treatment, Breka Peoples and Omari Ho-Sang still make time to pour back into the very communities they fight for. Between court hearings, organizing meetings, and long drives from Shreveport to New Orleans, they continue to coordinate food donations and help distribute meals to families in need. Their commitment goes far beyond protest lines and policy debates. Whether they are delivering groceries to elders, supporting families affected by school closures, or helping feed neighborhoods overlooked by larger systems, Breka and Omari show that advocacy is not only about challenging injustice — it is also about meeting people where they are and making sure no one is forgotten.

Their work reminds us that true leadership is rooted in service, compassion, and the belief that our communities deserve nourishment, dignity, and hope.

### **Strength in Numbers: Why Your Voice (and Your Vote) Matters**

Joining a veterans' service organization (VSO) is about more than just a membership card; it's about collective power. For many, the transition from military to civilian life can feel isolating, but organizations like The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and the Wounded Warrior Project provide a renewed sense of mission.

Voices from the Front Lines of Advocacy.

Legionnaires across the country often share how joining has redefined their post-service lives:

*"I found the camaraderie I thought I'd lost forever. It gave me a reason to get out of the house and back into my community."*

*"The Legion didn't just give me a place to grab a coffee; it gave me a platform to ensure the next generation of soldiers doesn't struggle the way we did."*

*"Between the DAV's help with my claims and the Legion's social support, I finally feel like I'm winning the battle at home."*

### **Every Member is a Vote in Congress**

There is a direct correlation between the size of our membership and our influence on Capitol Hill. When leadership from the American Legion, DAV, or Wounded Warrior Project testifies before Congress, the first thing representatives look at is the roster size.. In the eyes of a legislator, every single member represents a constituent vote. Legislation Impact: From the PACT Act to improvements in VA wait times, these wins only happen because our organizations represent millions of voters.

**Daily Support:** These bills aren't just legal text; they dictate the quality of healthcare, disability compensation, and education benefits that affect veterans and their families every single day.

**The Cost of Silence:** When membership numbers dip, our "voice" in Washington gets quieter. We cannot afford to be silent when bills regarding mental health, housing, and family caregiver support are on the table.

### **Your Mission Isn't Over**

By maintaining your membership and staying active, you are providing the "ammunition" our advocates need to fight for veterans' rights. Whether it's through the American Legion's community pillars or the specialized advocacy of the DAV, your involvement ensures that the promises made to those who served are kept.

**Stand with us. Speak with us. Vote with us.**



## MAJOR CONGRESSIONAL BILLS THAT COULD AFFECT US ALL

Congress is currently considering a wide range of bills that touch on voting rights, taxes, education, public safety, housing, and federal benefits. Below is a simple breakdown of some of the most impactful categories, based on the latest activity in the 119th Congress.

### Voting Rights & Constitutional Amendments

Several proposals could change how elections work nationwide.

- H.J.Res. 29 – A proposed constitutional amendment affecting eligibility for federal office.
- Bills addressing election procedures, voting access, and federal oversight continue to appear in committee discussions.

These types of bills can directly affect how communities vote, who can run, and how elections are administered.

### Taxes & Federal Budget

Congress is debating bills that could reshape taxes and federal spending.

- ♦ H.R. 25 – FairTax Act: Would replace federal income taxes with a national sales tax.
- ♦ H.R. 1: A major budget reconciliation bill that sets federal spending priorities.

Changes in these areas affect take-home pay, cost of living, and funding for community programs.

### Education Policy

Some bills could significantly change public education:

- ♦ H.R. 899 – Would eliminate the U.S. Department of Education.
- ♦ H.R. 28 – Addresses participation of women and girls in sports.

These proposals could impact school funding, student protections, and state-level control.

### Justice, Oversight & Civil Rights

Some bills focus on government accountability and civil rights:

- ♦ HB7814 – Creates an independent commission for DOJ oversight.

These proposals influence transparency, policing, and civil liberties.

Healthcare & Social Benefits

### Healthcare & Benefits

SB4001 – Updates eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

- ♦ HB7841 – Expands VA benefits to include infertility linked to toxic exposure.

These changes affect seniors, veterans, disabled individuals, and low-income families.

### Public Safety & Gun Policy

Congress is reviewing bills related to firearms and constitutional rights:

- ♦ S. 4013 – Enforces rights under the Second and Fourteenth Amendments.
- ♦ H.R. 38 – National concealed carry reciprocity.

These bills influence public safety, policing, and community gun regulations.

### Housing & Community Development

Housing affordability remains a major issue:

- ♦ SB4020 – Creates grants for housing supply and affordability plans.



This could influence rent prices, homeownership, and local development.

### Environment & Disaster Response

Congress is also reviewing bills on environmental protections and disaster safety:

- ♦ HB7848 – Establishes a National Weather Safety Board for disaster investigation.



- ◆ SB4011 – Reauthorizes conservation programs for forests and coral reefs.

These affect storm response, environmental health, and climate resilience.

### What This Means for Us

Understanding the bills Congress is debating isn't just a civic duty — it's a

Many of these bills—especially those involving voting rights, education, housing, and justice—have direct consequences for communities of color, working families, veterans, and rural areas like Northwest Louisiana.

Staying informed helps us understand:

- how laws may shift our rights,
- how federal funding reaches our communities,
- and how policy decisions shape our daily lives.

### Why Studying the Bills & Casting Your Vote Matters?

Understanding the bills Congress is debating isn't just a civic duty — it's a form of protection. Every proposal, every amendment, every vote has the power to shape our schools, our healthcare, our rights, and the future of our families. When we take the time to study these bills, we give ourselves the knowledge needed to make informed decisions at the ballot box.

*But knowledge alone isn't enough. Real change happens when we vote,* and when we encourage others to vote too.

Every conversation, every reminder, every ride to the polls helps strengthen our community's voice. When we show up in numbers, we make it clear that our concerns, our needs, and our future cannot be ignored. Staying informed, voting with purpose, and helping others do the same is how we protect our rights and ensure our communities are heard.



**That is how we move forward — together.**

### Louisiana Positive News Snapshot

Across the state, Louisiana is seeing a welcome wave of positive developments that highlight growth, resilience, and community pride. Conservation efforts are moving forward as new acreage is added to several Wildlife Management Areas, strengthening natural habitats and protecting the state's diverse ecosystems. In Iberville Parish, Shintech's \$3.4 billion expansion is set to create more than 160 new jobs, offering a meaningful boost to local families and the regional economy.

Louisiana's natural beauty is also in the spotlight with the continued growth of the rare "TinyTim" plant, a reminder of the state's rich ecological diversity and the importance of ongoing preservation work. Meanwhile, the United Cajun Navy—known for its courageous volunteer rescue efforts—is on track to receive official recognition, underscoring the spirit of service that defines so many Louisiana communities. And in a lighter cultural moment, new polls celebrating each state's signature dishes once again shine a spotlight on Louisiana's beloved culinary traditions.

Together, these stories reflect a state that continues to move forward with purpose—protecting its environment, investing in its people, and celebrating the culture that makes Louisiana unique.

## Why Join Post 450

Joining Leonard C. Barnes Post 450 connects you with a community that puts service into action. Members work together on meaningful projects—like recent donations of essential hygiene items to the Homeless Veterans Program at Overton Brooks VA Hospital—so your time and skills translate directly into measurable help for veterans in need. Beyond volunteer work, Post 450 offers camaraderie, mentorship, and access to local and national veteran resources that make it easier to navigate benefits, find employment support, and rebuild civilian life with dignity.

Membership also gives you a chance to lead and grow. Whether you want to organize drives, serve in leadership roles, or simply build friendships with fellow veterans and community supporters, Post 450 provides training, networking, and opportunities to develop practical skills. The Post's activities strengthen neighborhoods, amplify veteran voices, and create a reliable support network—so joining is both a way to give back and a way to gain lasting personal and professional benefits.

### Post 450 Membership Application

**Please print clearly. Return form with annual membership dues of \$55.00 and unaltered DD-214. All new and transferer veteran must provide a DD-214 to process for membership.**

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Transfer \_\_\_\_\_

If transfer, please provide your existing membership number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cap Size:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Shirt Size:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Military Service

**Branch of Service:** \_\_\_\_\_ **War Era:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Discharge:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Emergency Contact

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Volunteer Interests

Preferred Activities: community outreach; fundraising; event planning; mentorship; other:

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**Monthly Meetings are held every 3rd Saturday of the Month at 1030 hours**  
**717 Crockett Street ~ Shreveport, LA 71104**  
**Membership Annual Dues: \$55.00**

**Make all checks and money orders payable to: American Legion Post 450**  
**Mail to: PO Box 5063 ~ Shreveport, LA 71135**

#### Consent and Authorization

I certify that the information provided is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize Post 450 to verify my military service. I agree to abide by the Post's bylaws and participate in activities in a respectful and constructive manner.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### For Office Use Only

**Application Received By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Approved:**  Yes  No **Membership Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

## INSPIRATIONAL

Enjoy yourself. Do something positive. Project some love. Make someone happy. Laugh a little bit. Appreciate the moment. And do your work. ~ Naval Ravikant

### NORTH LOUISIANA RISING—THE QUEEN ADVOCATE

The American Legion Leonard C. Barnes Post 450 proudly recognizes our Adjutant and family for attending and supporting the local film North Louisiana Rising – The Queen Advocate at its special showing on Sunday, March 11, 2026, at 2:00 PM at the Robinson Film Studio.

#### About the Film

North Louisiana Rising – The Queen Advocate is an informative, community-focused production that highlights the importance of voting rights, civic participation, and the impact of upcoming congressional laws that will affect us as a people. The film blends storytelling with real-world education, encouraging viewers to stay informed, engaged, and empowered.

#### Why This Matters

Post 450 applauds efforts that strengthen civic awareness and community leadership. By supporting this film, our Adjutant and family helped shine a light on issues that directly affect veterans, families, and citizens across Northwest Louisiana.

### To Locate Post 450 Information

To find American Legion Leonard C. Barnes Post 450: Visit our official website <https://lcbpost450.org> for news, membership forms, officers, and events. Visit in person if possible: the website lists meeting times and locations so you can meet officers and pick up materials directly.

For additional information, visit the various sections :

- ◆ Membership and Forms: Download membership applications and renewal forms directly from the website's membership or forms sections; these documents include instructions for submitting an unaltered DD -214 and paying dues. The website is updated with the latest forms and procedural guidance.
- ◆ Post Officers: If you need help with a transfer, dues, or event participation, consult the Post Officers page to find the appropriate officer or committee contact and reach out by the method listed there.
- ◆ About US and News: to see recent projects, such as community outreach and veteran support programs, so you can align volunteer interests with ongoing efforts.

Follow the Post's Facebook activity for real-time photos, event reminders, and community acknowledgments; social posts often include volunteer opportunities and local partnerships.



### LEONARD C. BARNES POST 450

THE AMERICAN LEGION

PO BOX 5063

SHREVEPORT, LA 71135

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STAMP  
HERE

