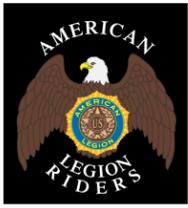


**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF COLORADO
HOME OF THE PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER
MIKE MOSS**



**Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage
Colorado Sons Electronic Update
Online at www.salcolorado.org**



2012-2013

TRIPLE NICKEL DETACHMENT

Commander Robert Jones

An unofficial publication of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Colorado



Volume 9 Issue 2

April 2022

This publication does not express the official position of the SAL Detachment of Colorado, The American Legion Department of Colorado or their respective National Organizations. It is a forum to share information about events and happenings within the Detachment of Colorado, the National Organization of the Sons of The American Legion, and information of that is pertinent to the programs and four pillars of The American Legion. All members of the Colorado American Legion Family, particularly, Department & Detachment Officers, Committee Chairs, Post Officers, Squadrons and individual members of The American Legion Family are invited and encouraged to share and submit information about programs and events their Post, Squadron or Units are participating in or conducting relevant to the mission of the Sons of The American Legion and purposes of The American Legion. Email your write-up and pictures you wish to have published to: mark.kilstrom@comcast.net. This publication is compiled and published as a volunteer service by Mark Kilstrom.

THAT'S RIGHT! \$12,551 RAISED AT CWF BANQUET!

Not exactly an all time high record, but considering all the circumstances facing us these days, it was one heck of a rebound. Coming off the heels of the Covid Pandemic, sky high gasoline prices, run away inflation, many folks struggling financially and the uncertainty of

April weather in Colorado, we did one heck of a job. After a two year absence due to *the virus*, the annual Child Welfare Foundation Banquet made a huge rebound at Ovie Vernon Post 2 in Pueblo on April 2nd. The day started with a great showing at Imperial Gardens Cemetery, (see related story on page 2), followed by the Detachment Executive Committee meeting and the introduction of our special guest, Chris Carlton, Leading Candidate for SAL National Commander.

As always the host post came together as The American Legion Families do, to coordinate a great evening of fun and money raising for a good cause. The evening kicked off with some social time allowing folks to get reacquainted as this



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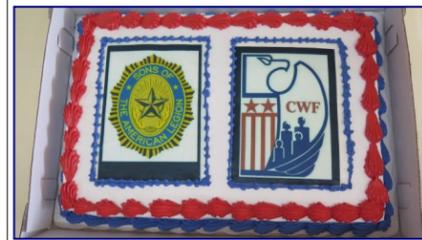
was the largest gathering of The Colorado Legion Family since the pandemic and government

ordered shutdowns. Hopefully we won't see a repeat of those cold days and we can continue to reboot and reignite our purposes



and programs.

Auxiliary Unit 2 lead by Shelly Rodriguez put out an excellent meal in typical Pueblo style which did not disappoint.



There were a lot of happy faces as the drawings for

fabulous prizes for the evening began. Among the many wonderful riches given away were gift cards for merchants such as American Furniture Warehouse, Target, Home



Depot, various restaurants and more. There were two \$250 vouchers for travel on Frontier Airlines, two aprons loaded with Lotto scratch tickets with potential winnings of \$2,015,000. The tally of cash donations started after dinner with walk up donations for various Posts, Units Squadrons, ALR units and individual donations. Enhancing the individual donations was a \$500.00 challenge from Detachment ANEC Nick Arceo which was quickly matched. In all a great time was had. It was a true American Legion Family event with representation from the Department leadership, both Legion and Auxiliary, as well as representatives from various Legion Posts, Auxiliary units, ALR from various post and of course various SAL Squadrons. It was a good beginning to the process of reemerging from the darkness and a rebooting the organization. Next stop, Department Convention at the end of June. We hope to see you there.



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Washington Conference

Submitted by Detachment Jr. Vice Commander Richard Humphrey

Even though the Washington Conference was cancelled for The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion Legislative Commission continued its obligation of laying wreaths at the World War II, Vietnam Wall and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Commander of the Sons of The American Legion

The 63 members of the Sons who came to pay tribute to those fallen comrades met downstairs of the Washington Hilton hotel at 8 o'clock for pictures with National Commander Fox and the 22 Detachments that purchased wreaths.



The bus was loaded, we departed to the WWII Memorial. After getting half of the wreaths unloaded, we walked in a column of twos through the arch of the Memorial, down the ramp to the center in front of the Freedom Wall of Stars. The Freedom Wall holds 4,048 gold stars with each star representing 100 American service personnel who died and are missing from WWII or 405,399.



The National Chaplain lead us in prayer for those who gave all for our freedom and Commander Fox and his aide posted a wreath. The Detachments then found their state pillar and posted their wreaths. After photos were taken, walking around for awhile we loaded the bus and departed for the

Arlington Cemetery.

This was a new experience for me. The last time I was here was well before all this covid stuff, plus a couple of years. We drove up to the amphitheater, got off the bus, walked around to the Tomb, watched the change of the Guards, and left. Now you park down the hill and walk through the visitor center (didn't know they had one) and metal detector. You then purchase a ticket for a tram ride that will take you to the tomb. Along the way you are told about several interesting people and facts about the Cemetery.



At 11 o'clock the bells chimed and the Staff Sergeant in charge came out and completed a change of the guard. At 11:15 he returned to announce that there will be a wreath laying performed by a children's organization from Florida.

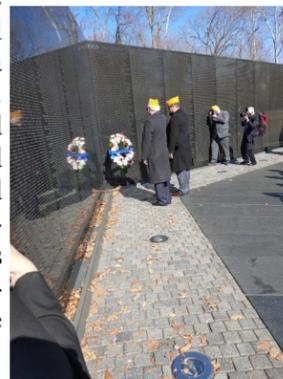


That completed, he returned to announce that there will be a wreath laying performed by the veteran's organization, Sons of The American Legion. Commander Fox and three Vice Commanders joined him in placing a wreath at the Tomb. We stayed and walked around while Commander Fox and group got a tour of the guard's quarters. Then back on the bus.

From Arlington Cemetery to the Vietnam Wall. After a quick lunch, the wreaths were off loaded, we lined up in a column of twos and started to walk across the mall to the

Wall. For being the end of February in Washington DC, it was a beautiful day. Sun was shining, about high 40's so by now there were crowds around the area visiting the mall area: Lincoln Memorial, Korean Memorial, Vietnam Wall, etc. As we came walking through the crowds parted for us, people were taking pictures of us. When we arrived at the center of the wall, there was a family taking an imprint of a name. We waited

to give them time. The Chaplain thanked all for the day and gave a final prayer at the Wall. Commander Fox and Detachments placed their wreaths around the center, we all answered some questions from some of the visitors and returned to the bus.



Chairman Tom Deal, Legislative Commission, had scouted the area previously and in accordance with Commander Fox's project, we were taken to a cemetery about 30 minutes away to place the U.S. Flag on the graves of those veterans buried there.



We were each given 3 flags to place and walked the cemetery. All two hundred flags were placed on graves from WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.



Flying Flags for Heroes

On April 2nd, members of Squadron 2 and the Detachment Leadership gathered at Imperial Gardens Cemetery in Pueblo to support SAL National Commander Michael Fox' service project, *Flying Flags for Heroes*. In all 41 volunteers gathered to place flags on the grave



sights of deceased veterans. Among the volunteers were members of JROTC units from Pueblo Centennial and County High Schools. This was the second of what we hope to be many events conducted by the Detachment of Colorado. Previously Squadron 5 held an event in December and placed 441 flags at Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs, at this event in Pueblo,



lo, 1,500 flags were placed bringing our state total to 1,941 as we inch our way to the Detachment goal of 5,280 flags on the grave sites of veterans who have been laid to rest in public cemeteries in Colorado.

The National Commander has set a goal of 1,000,000 flags across the nation. As of this writing, the total flag placement reported nationwide is at 193,478, so we have a long way to go, not only as a



nation but certainly as a Detachment, With the weather warming, snow melting and the ground beginning to thaw, I'm sure our numbers will begin to climb. If your squadron has and event planned please let Mark Kilstrom (mark.kilstrom@comcast.net 719-640-6692) know so he can report the planned event and also give Mark the numbers of volunteers and flags placed after your event, so they can be reported to the National Chairman.



If the ground is frozen in your area, using a screwdriver to prepare a hole for the flag is a good tool. Also keep in mind that the Detachment can provide the flags if you need them.



I am confident we can achieve our goal.



I am confident we can achieve our goal.



Legislative Happenings at the National and State Level of Interest to The Legion

National Commander Dillard Testifies Before Congress

From The American Legion weekly Legislative update
3-4-2022

President Biden highlighted the need to expand coverage for toxic-exposed veterans in his SOTU address Tuesday night, and for Congress to pass legislation on the topic. Earlier that day, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it will issue a proposed rule to add service presumption for nine rare cancers experienced by toxic-exposed veterans. Wednesday morning, a contingent of American Legion members, congressional representatives and activists called for House passage of the Honoring Our PACT Act, a comprehensive piece of legislation on this topic. Thursday morning, the House passed the Honoring Our PACT Act. It codifies 23 new service presumptions to make it easier for veterans to prove their illnesses are service connected. It also, among other measures, expands the VA's research in this area, standardizes data collection in both the VA and DoD.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee on Tuesday considered what to do about the 2001 AUMF. Passed just three days after the 9/11 attacks, this AUMF has formed the basis for US military operations against organizations in as many as 20 countries at any given time. The AUMF authorizes operations against Al Qaeda and the Taliban. Since then, Administrations have stretched it to include new organizations defined as successors to Al Qaeda. In recent years, there have been increasing bipartisan calls for Congress to craft a new AUMF to replace both the 2001 and 2002 documents. Only then, proponents argue, can Congress fully conduct its oversight responsibilities in how the US uses its military forces.

3-11-2022

American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard testified March 8 before a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs. The leader of the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization (VSO) addressed lawmakers on critical issues and legislation veterans are facing.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is a stark reminder that peace is fragile, Dillard told lawmakers. "At any time, with or without notice, military personnel may be called upon to defend freedom," he said during the testimony. "An essential purpose of The American Legion is to ensure that those personnel are not forgotten after the fighting is done." Peer support is the backbone on which The American Legion continues to fight for servicemembers and veterans, Dillard said. Throughout various war eras The American Legion has led

"VETERANS WHO ARE SUFFERING NOW CANNOT WAIT DECADES TO RECEIVE THE CARE THEY NEED AND RIGHTFULLY DESERVE,"

campaigns to ensure that servicemembers exposed to toxins receive the proper benefits. Those battles include fighting for government accountability to servicemembers exposed to dangerous toxins while in uniform, securing health-care benefits for bomb test veterans who were exposed to atomic radiation and proving Agent Orange poisoned tens of thousands of Vietnam veterans. Now The Ameri-

can Legion is fighting for Gulf War and Global War on Terrorism veterans who were exposed to toxic fumes of burn pits in the Middle East. Dillard called for Congress to take a three-pronged approach in his testimony: Concede that exposure occurred to all veterans deployed to identified locations during the Gulf War and the Global War on Terror. • Establish a list of presumptive illnesses associated with exposure to burn pits and other toxic hazards where scientific evidence exists. • Create a framework for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish additional presumptive illnesses when scientific evidence shows an association. "Veterans who are suffering now cannot wait decades to receive the care they need and rightfully deserve," he said. "Whether a veteran was exposed to toxins in the jungles of Vietnam or a combat outpost in Iraq, we in The American Legion all stand as peers who have been down this road before and know the government can do better to accept responsibility and help these veterans as they confront illnesses caused by preventable exposures."

Suicide prevention continues to remain at the top of The American Legion's priorities. The organization has led from the front in these efforts by implementing year-round Buddy Checks conducted by American Legion posts and members. The Buddy Check program is one of the best examples there is of peer support, Dillard said. Since its spring 2019 launch, The American Legion's Buddy Check program has assisted approximately a half million veterans through outreach services performed by more than 3,600 Legion posts in 2020 and 3,800 in 2021. Some veterans needed food, medicine or help in the

"WHETHER A VETERAN WAS EXPOSED TO TOXINS IN THE JUNGLES OF VIETNAM OR A COMBAT OUTPOST IN IRAQ, WE IN THE AMERICAN LEGION ALL STAND AS PEERS WHO HAVE BEEN DOWN THIS ROAD BEFORE AND KNOW THE GOVERNMENT CAN DO BETTER TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY AND HELP THESE VETERANS"

home, said Dillard, but many were simply happy to hear another veteran's voice during hard times. Recent surveys have shown that over 60% of veterans who die by suicide lacked consistent contact with VA and 40% were unaware they were eligible for VA mental health services. American Legion peer support extends to immigrant veterans. Military service has opened a reliable pathway to U.S. citizenship. More than 760,000 immigrants have become naturalized U.S. citizens since the nation's inception through serving this nation. However, said Dillard, this pathway has become obstructed as citizenship assistance programs have disappeared from military bases.

Improving VA health-care services for women, fighting for GI Bill education bene-

fits for reserve and National Guard veterans, advocating for better quality of life for military personnel as stories of the deplorable living conditions at the barracks of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center came to light, and demanding that U.S. Coast Guard personnel are protected from pay interruptions in the event of government shutdowns are just some of the ways in which The American Legion continues to fight for veterans. "Today — as U.S. troops deploy to eastern Europe to defend our allies in case the war expands — history

"HISTORY REMINDS US AGAIN THAT WE NEVER KNOW WHEN — OR WITH WHAT NOTICE — MEN AND WOMEN WILL BE CALLED UPON TO FIGHT."

reminds us again that we never know when — or with what notice — men and women will be called upon to fight. "How we treat them now — and in the years ahead, when the effects of their sacrifices are upon them — is certain to be more than a matter of compassion — but one of national security as well," said Dillard. As the largest

ground war since World War II rages on European soil, it is disheartening to know that there are WWII veterans alive today that still do not have access to VA health care, Dillard said. "The American Legion is fighting to correct this lapse with legislation pending in Congress. Our World War II veterans halted the spread of tyranny, securing our democracy for generations to come." Fewer than 240,000 WWII veterans remain and hundreds pass away every day, he added. "Time is running out for these veterans." SVAC Chairman Jon Tester, D-Mont., highlighted issues currently being seen in VA's caregiver program as a result of the department narrowing eligibility. "I am disturbed by reports that veterans and caregivers ... are being rejected at very high rates," he said. "What is your membership experiencing with the caregiver program and the application and appeals process?" American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Ralph Bozella told lawmakers that they are finding that caregivers who apply for those claims are being rejected at a rate of 86% to 87%.

3-18-2022

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Inspector General (IG) released three reports on Thursday related to the implementation of the new Cerner EHR at the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center. The reports focused on medication management deficiencies, the faulty ticket process for resolving problems identified by clinical staff, and care coordination deficiencies after the new system went live. The OIG found that the VA does not have a timeline for mitigating the large number of unresolved deficiencies. In fact, the assistant IG for healthcare, John Daigh, concluded that ongoing deployment of the EHR without resolution of these deficiencies could pose risks to patient safety. The VA says it has already resolved many of the issues cited in the reports.



Freedom is purchased with the lives of those magnificent people who value American liberty above all.

Jack H Jacobs, United States Army, Medal of Honor

Squadron Officer Contact List

Each Squadron is required to submit an annual Officers Contact List to the Detachment Adjutant, It's a pretty simple form to complete and can be submitted by mail or e-mail. Even an email providing the same information in a free form text would be acceptable. Why is it required? Well, first we need to know who to communicate with and how to communicate with them. Secondly we need to know who is authorized to represent your Squadron at DEC meetings and vote for the Squadron. Without it, a Squadron has no voice, no vote at the DEC meetings, and more importantly, we do not know who can designate delegates to the annual Detachment Convention, Of the 63 Squadrons reporting membership, 28 of them did not submit an officer's contact list for 2021-22 membership year. That is 44% not reporting. Since most Squadrons normally elect their officers in April or May, we are providing the 2022-2023 list form you now. There is really no legitimate reason not to transmit this list to the Detachment Adjutant Prior to Convention. The form is also mailed to each Squadron along with the Call to Convention, and it is available to download from the Detachment website. It has been discussed in the past that if a Squadron does not submit this report by the annual Convention, that they will not be allowed to seat a delegation at the Convention and will not receive their Squadron membership cards until they provide one. It was decided not to take that approach. However, this is the procedure that the Department of Colorado follows, and as we are a program of The American Legion, and strive to emulate The Legion, it is not out of the question for this to be discussed again, and who knows what the decision will be then?



Squadron Officer List for 2022-2023

Squadron

... Our Squadron regular meetings are held on _____
 Starting at: AM / PM at _____
 We do do not have regular meetings
 The dues for our Squadron are \$ _____

Squadron Mailing Address: _____

 Commander: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 1st Vice: _____
 Address: _____

 phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Adjutant: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Finance Officer: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone _____
 Email: _____

Chaplain: _____
 Address: _____

 Squadron Representative to the Detachment
 Executive Committee : _____

 Address: _____

 Phone: _____
 Email _____
 Squadron Advisor: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Indicate by check mark who the Squadron wants
 listed as pomt of contact for the Squadron in the
 Department Directory

American Legion Riders

The American Legion Riders perform many functions supporting the Four Pillars of The American Legion and are great ambassadors to the communities where they live. It's important to remember that to be eligible for membership in the ALR, they must first be members of The American Legion, Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion. Keep in mind that dues to the primary organization must also be paid on an annual basis to be eligible to be a member of the ALR.



Meet the Candidate

Chris Carlton, from the Detachment of Indiana is the leading candidate for National Commander, Sons of The American Legion. Chris' eligibility for membership in the Sons of



The American Legion stems from his grandfather Edna Carlton who served in the U.S. Army and is a WWII veteran. Chris is a 15 year member of the

SAL. As a member in Leo F. Walsh Jr, Squadron 495 in Indianapolis, In, he has served in many capacities hold nearly every elected office in his Squadron and Detachment including Detachment Commander. Chris has also served as the National Chairman of the Child Welfare Foundation Committee, National Chairman of the Veterans Employment

and Education Commission and is a

“Our membership is what makes programs of The American Legion work. As our membership grows, we become stronger and it plays a major role in continuing on the great programs and work of The American Legion”

Chris Carlton

graduate of the SAL National Management Institute. Chris and his wife Veronica are very active in The American Legion Family. Veronica is a REGISTERED NURSE WORKING AT THE Roudebush Veterans Administration Medical Center in Indianapolis.

When not working on behalf of veterans as SLA programs, Chris is Team Lead/Certified Welding Inspector for ALTEC Industries and a Journeyman in the Sheet Metal Workers Union.

Two things close to Chris' heart are the Child Welfare Foundation and all aspects of Veterans Employment and Education. He wants to see more Detachments raising money that will benefit children in their own states. He also wants to work to end homelessness for veterans and help vets get the economic necessities of life that will provide them and their families with dignity.

Be it membership, volunteering, raising money or donate g, Chris knows the one thing that we can always be sure of is that Sons have fun working Legion programs and make many friends in the process.



VA&R Awards

Submitted by Nick Arceo, VA&R Chairman

VA&R Awards and Scholarships

Charles B Rigsby Volunteer of the Year Award

A plaque and SAL cap will be presented to the Volunteer of the Year at the National Convention, this award, will be based on the Rehabilitation Commission's judging reports submitted to the

National Rehabilitation Commission prior to the National Convention.

The Rigsby application is on the National Web page in a down loadable form and should be reproduced by Detachment for their squadrons. Rehabilitation and assistance to veterans should be reported on an outstanding individual, if applicable, from any Squadron. Squadrons should submit their nominees to be judged at De-

achment Conventions. Detachments will select one application from their respective State during their Detachment Convention and send it to the National Adjutant, Sons of The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. The National Winner will be chosen at the National Convention. This is a yearly award and is based on the applicants work during the current membership year. It is not a lifetime achievement award.



Charles B. Rigsby Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Volunteer of the Year Award

Section I General Data

Nominee: _____
(name, address, city, state, zip code) (date)

Squadron #: _____
(name, address, city, state, zip code of Squadron)

SAL Card #: _____ Detachment of _____

Section II Total VAVS Hours and Visits

Number of Hours Volunteered: _____ Number of Visits: _____

Section III Remarks

Volunteer Activities:

Location of Volunteer Performance (VA Homes and Hospitals):

General Remarks:

Section IV Certification

Submitted by: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

Attested by: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

Marvin P. Nay Veterans Employment and Education Outstanding Contributor Award

Submitted by Nick Arceo, VA&R Chairman

Marvin Nay was a VE&E commission member until he passed suddenly. The Commission members at that time wrote a resolution to create this award in his honor.

Criteria

The nominee shall be a member in good standing in the Sons of The American Legion. The nominee shall be engaged in the fundraising, distribution of funds or goods, and/or volunteering at an event deemed beneficial to veterans' employment and/or education (to include homelessness). At least one picture of the nominee at the event must be submitted with the nomination form.

The nominee must be wearing identifiable SAL clothing (cover, cap, shirt, jacket or combination)

The nomination form must be signed by the nominator and "attested to" by a Post/Squadron officer, to include title. Mail completed nomination form to: (include pictures) The American Legion National Headquarters c/o Sons of The



American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055 RE: Marvin P. Nay VE&E Award Nomination OR Scan & email to: sal@legion.org (write in subject line: "Marvin P. Nay VE&E Award Nomination") All nominations must be received prior to the Veterans Employment and Education Commission

meeting during the Spring NEC meetings for consideration (the award recipient will be voted on at that time to ensure proper time for presentation at the National Convention)

A Detachment may submit more than one (1) nominee

A Sons of The American Legion member may nominate himself



Marvin P. Nay Veterans Employment and Education Outstanding Contributor Award Nomination Form

Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone/email: _____

Squadron name/number: _____ Detachment: _____

Membership I.D. # _____

Contribution Details

How many events: _____

Total volunteer hours: _____

Total money raised/donated: _____

Description details (who, where, when, what) include picture(s):

Submitted by: _____ Title: _____

Attested by: _____ Title: _____

Honor our Fathers, Grandfathers, One Step at a Time

From www.legion.org/sons

By SAL National Commander Michael Fox

MAR 22, 2022

Dear Sons of The American Legion,

The third annual 100 Miles for Hope campaign is underway, and I hope you're registered. If not, [sign up at Emblem Sales](#) today. The campaign is an excellent way to improve your own fitness and wellbeing while also honoring our fathers and grandfathers.

This is an important way to actively participate in supporting our veterans and military families.

Remember why you joined the SAL: to show your support and appreciation for your father's service, and/or your grand-

father's service. The proceeds of the 100 Miles for Hope campaign go to The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (V&CF). Those funds in turn provide training, education and resources to support 3,000 accredited American Legion service officers, and provide aid to military families with minor children at home who are facing financial struggles through no fault of their own.

By helping raise donations for V&CF through the 100 Miles for Hope campaign, we can help ensure that veterans like our fathers, our grandfathers and their comrades receive the benefits they earned for serving our country.

For more information, please go to Legion.org/100Miles.

There is no limit to the amount of

good we can do.

We are the Sons of The American Legion.

We are #SALSTRONG.

God bless our veterans.

God bless our military in harm's way.

And God bless the United States of America.

P.S. Congratulations to the 39 detachments that reached the 80 percent membership goal by the March 9 deadline. The 90 percent deadline is April 13; eight detachments had already reached that mark by March 17. Kudos! With spring (and nicer weather) here, let's get out there and invite members back to the post and get them involved.



California Renews Call for 100 Miles for Hope Challenge

From www.legion.org

By Henry Howard

MAR 13, 2022

The Department of California is off and running, walking, cycling and raising critical funds for [The American Legion 100 Miles for Hope](#).

The department kicked off its 2022 100 Miles for Hope campaign with a mile walk at Veterans Memorial Park in Santa Maria during its Department Executive Committee (DEC) on March 12.

"The thing about walking is it clears your head," Department Commander Autrey James said. "If you have been inside all day, listening to speakers, giving reports, it's really refreshing to be able to get out into the fresh air. Then, as you are walking, it clears the fuzz that you get from sitting all day."

(Don't delay, [register and start your 100 Miles for Hope journey today](#). Registration fees and donations fund the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. The V&CF provides grants for military families facing financial hardship and provides resources for disabled veterans to receive their earned benefits.)

In 2021, James helped launch the Department Breakout Challenge, encouraging other departments to see who could raise the most funds for the V&CF. [The winners](#) included California, Minnesota, Michigan, New Jersey, Alabama and Idaho. Each winning de-

partment received a plaque from the national commander, recognizing their accomplishment.

Again this year, the departments that raise the most money for the V&CF in their category will receive a plaque from the national commander. For more about the Department Challenge, [visit this page](#) and scroll down for information on how to join your department team and a breakdown of the department categories, divided up by size.

James outlined why he is so passionate about 100 Mile for Hope.

"One is for health reasons," he said. "One of the things we did at this DEC is we focused on veterans health," he said. "It wasn't just a day of sitting and going through reports. We brought in folks who discussed with us the importance of veterans maintaining their health. For me personally, I have had some health challenges over the last year coming out of COVID. My doctor told me the best thing I could do was to keep active. It's also a good time to get together with our comrades. It's fun to get them pumped up for the challenge going forward."

The afternoon session was dedicated to health and wellness, according to Chris Yates, department judge advocate.

Before the official kickoff walk, Dr. Carol Bowman from the Los Angeles Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

presented on [VA's Whole Health initiative](#). "It's an endeavor that VA is taking for Whole Health with different modalities in which veterans can use to establish a plan to which they can live and act healthier," Yates said.

Jennifer Campbell, the 24th District commander, followed Bowman with a presentation, "The Power of Walking." Campbell discussed why it's important to move every day. Jeff Daly, who along with Campbell is a member of Hollywood Post 24, discussed 100 Miles for Hope.

"We believe that as a department, we need to embrace one another again, we need to get back to hugging," Yates explained. "We need to get back to uniting as veterans, re-establishing that camaraderie, living a better and more healthy lifestyle while raising funds for The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. We're going to have some fun here today."

Yates challenged other departments, saying California would not only accumulate the most miles, but also raise the highest total of fundraising dollars for the V&CF. "We want to be among the leaders in reaching the national commander's goal of \$450,000. Our goal is to make sure that he gets that. California is going to be leading the way. But more importantly, besides raising that money, we're going to help one other by becoming healthier and live better and happier lives."



100 Miles for Hope: How to get started

From www.legion.org

The American Legion

MAR 14, 2022

The American Legion 100 Miles for Hope, now in its third year, takes place through Sept. 5 (Labor Day) in 2022. Proceeds from registrations and donations go directly to supporting disabled veterans and

military families through The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (V&CF).

To get registered, [please visit the Emblem Sales web page](#). Please note: We are not using the Kilter app this year.

Just like in the inaugural challenge during 2020, this year participants

register for \$30 and receive a T-shirt and a [finisher's certificate for downloading upon completion of their miles](#). There also is the option to decline the T-shirt.

To learn more about this year's 100 Miles for Hope challenge [visit the web page](#) and consult the [frequently asked questions](#).



Commanders Message

Good day my fellow Sons I hope this finds all of you and your families well and healthy. Next month you can participate in the Memorial Day events in your community. Take pictures of the flags that you help place in our cemeteries for our veterans, send those pictures to Mark Kilstrom, who will forward them to our National Commander and his program of Flying Flags for Heroes. This also follows with my mission of honoring all those who walked before us. The goal set for Colorado was 5,280

flags, I'm sure we can surpass that. Memorial Day is the one day that everyone remembers our veterans, But as Sons of the American Legion, we remember daily what our veteran did to add to our freedoms. Our State has finally reopened, which allows us to gather and pay respects to our veterans and heroes, so reach out to your Post Commanders and get involved in the plans they have.

Remember to keep pushing for membership, the end of this year is right around the corner and 100% of all

Squadrons would make a big statement to national.

I look forward to seeing the flags waving on Memorial Day, and hearing of all the events you have participated in. If there's anything you need let me know, I'll either handle it or find a way to get it handled.

Have a great Memorial Day and God Bless everyone

Robert E Jones
State of Colorado
Detachment Commander



Chaplains Corner "Pounding The Preacher"

Submitted by Brad Henderson. Detachment Chaplain

Pounding the preacher was a common event in nineteenth century Texas. In some locales it was done up until the second world war. You may even know of someplace where it happens today. This wasn't abuse, but a way of welcoming a new preacher and making sure his larder was full. On the day appointed, each member of the congregation would arrive at the preacher's door with a pound of something: coffee, sugar, flour, butter, honey, what have you. Of course, a pound wasn't always a pound. Someone might give a ham, a bushel of corn or a jug of molasses. Then they would spend the evening visiting with the new preacher, getting to know him and his family.

We can thank the First Amendment for this tradition. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion..." You see, before the American Revolution, Congregationalist and Anglican churches were publicly funded and the "preacher" thus provided for. People who were not Congregationalists or Anglicans didn't care for that. So, after independence, the various states designed schemes where religious taxes were laid on all citizens, each of whom could designate which church got his share. The ratification of the US Constitution in 1787 put an end those ideas. After that, if a congregation wanted a church and a preacher, it had to build one and provide for the other. **So cometh the pounding.** Some ministers had contracts stating that in addition to their salaries, they would be

pounded once a year. For small congregations, where the preacher was likely to have another livelihood, a yearly pounding might be given as a token of thanks. In 1878, a story appeared in the *Frontier Times* at Fort Griffin. A congregation had welcomed its new preacher with a pounding, but instead of the mix of staples you would expect, a plurality contributed cold biscuits. During the night, the preacher considered the situation and concluded his calling lay elsewhere. The next morning, he was gone...but those biscuits were neatly stacked on the parsonage fence posts. Man does not live by bread alone.

(Credit: Texas Reader, February 19,2022)S

Serving God and Country,
Chaplain Brad



100 Miles for Hope: How to Track Your Miles

From www.legion.org

MAR 21, 2022

Among the improvements for the third annual American Legion 100 Miles for Hope is an easier way for participants to track their miles. In fact, there are two options. First participants will need to register. If you have not already done so, visit [www.emblem.legion.org/100 Miles For Hope" Registration-2002/productinfo/100m22](http://www.emblem.legion.org/100MilesForHope/Registration-2002/productinfo/100m22). Please note: We are not using the Kilter app this year. There are two options for participants to track their miles on their own page on legion.org. To learn how to track your miles, there are resources including www.legion.org/100miles/activitytracking. And virtually any activity will count. There are dozens of activities to choose from such as walking, cycling, rucking, running, skiing, riding a motorcycle, canoeing, using a stand-up paddleboard and more. If you can't find your activity, you can simply choose "other" and log your miles. If your activity is based on time, just use your best judgment as to how many miles you tallied. To learn more about this year's 100 Miles for Hope challenge visit www.legion.org/100miles and consult the FAQ.



Post 1052 in Chicago Raises Money for Kentucky Tornado Victims

From www.Legion.org
The American Legion

FEB 16, 2022

It didn't take long for the Legion Family at Wayne-Wright Post 1052 in Chicago to step up when they found out their ties to Mayfield, Ky.

Shortly after Mayfield was struck by a devastating tornado on Dec. 10, the commander of Post 1052's SAL squadron, Brian Dziemiela, noted that his wife, Susan Lofton, was born in Mayfield.

"So we discussed it and we said, why don't we do something sooner than later (to help)," Squadron 1052 member Dave Grzenia said.

With a holiday party already planned,

post members set about to collect donations there as well as from neighbors in the community around Post 1052. The effort collected \$2,200.

But where exactly to send the money?

"We didn't want to just send it to the Red Cross or to any of the national organizations; we wanted to make sure it really got down to the people that were there," Grzenia said.

A news report on a Chicago TV station highlighted St. Jerome Catholic Church in Fancy Farm, Ky., just east of Mayfield.

"Even though they were so close to Mayfield, the tornado jumped right over them," Grzenia said. "It was unbelievable how they didn't get any devas-

tation."

Grzenia sent a check for the \$2,200 to the church for its tornado relief fund. In the letter, he wrote, "I know it is a small token given the scope of recovery, but we hope it will assist where it is most needed."

In a response thanking the post for its donation, Father Darrell Venters wrote, "We are humbled by the outpouring of generosity to those in need."

Grzenia said the cash donation likely won't be the last effort Post 1052 makes to help those impacted by the tornado. "We were going to connect again with St. Jerome to see if there's any specific needs (we can help with)," he said.



Legion members educate first-graders about U.S. flag

From www.legion.org

First-grade students in Hanover County elementary schools in Virginia recite the Pledge of Allegiance every morning. But questions of what the words mean, where they come from and why we say them were ones that members of American Legion Post 175 in Mechanicsville wanted to answer for the students through a flag education program.

The program started three years ago when Sons of The American Legion Squadron 175 Commander Jim Oliver approached Hanover County's director of elementary school education with the idea and was given permission to approach the individual school principals to accept the offer of presenting the program to their students. Oliver addressed the school board in early 2022 to petition the school board to reinstitute the program after COVID restrictions were eased and was again given permission to contact the individual school principals.

"We think it's very important that our youth have more awareness about the flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, what it means, why we do it," Oliver said. "Especially we felt in our public school system many students aren't exposed to any type of that information anymore. I think in our community here, they are. They do say the Pledge of Allegiance, they do have units that talk about that subject material. We are fortunate in that regard but it's pre-emptive action on our part to make sure that it doesn't slip away like it has in other communities. That's why we began the program several years ago and continue it today."

Since late February, over 500 students have attended the flag education programs and an additional 300 have received flag materials.

"It's been a positive experience all the way around," said Post 175 Commander George Navas. Post 175 members "are getting a renewed sense of purpose because they are back out in the community, they are educating children, they are getting the word out of who we are, and we are getting a very positive response from all the schools and the folks involved. Which makes us feel really good."

About six members from the post attend

the flag education program at the schools. This includes Navas, Oliver, honor guard members, a Legion Rider and other post members. Each presentation is about 20 minutes in length and is held where the school deems best, whether that's in a classroom, cafeteria or assembly.

For its flag program, Post 175 members:

- Introduce each post member and their branch of service
 - Share briefly what The American Legion is and when it was founded
 - Explain what the American flag symbolizes and places you will often see it flying
 - Explain what the colors of the flag mean and what the 13 stripes and 50 stars represent
 - Ask the students if they have seen a military veteran in a movie or book
 - Ask if they have a family member who served. "We get more than 90% hands up," said Navas when this question is asked. Then the students will say "what branch of service their family served in."
 - Open it up to questions. Navas said they will ask where flags come from and if other countries have a flag like the United States, or about the state of Virginia's flag and what it means. And they ask about the Legionnaires' honor guard uniforms. Every first-grade student who attends Post 175's flag education program receives the "[I Pledge Allegiance](#)" comic book from American Legion Emblem Sales to help them understand what the words of the Pledge of Allegiance mean and why we say them. And they are given a small flag to take home with them. When presenting the flags, the group says to the students, "You may take it home and place it in your room, or other place you choose. It is provided so you may have your own, personal reminder of how special it is to be ... an American."
- Oliver said the post holds three or four fish fry's a year to fundraise for the purchase of the small flags and "I Pledge Allegiance" comic books. Before the Legion members leave the students, the group gives them a challenge – to count how many American flags they see on their way home from

school. "You see more American flags than you realize," he said. During a flag presentation March 22, Navas told the students that he saw 14 American flags on his way to their school. "Unless you are looking for them, you don't realize how many you see."

For example, while in a classroom Navas asked students how many flags they saw, and they pointed to the one hanging in the classroom. But then he showed them the U.S. flag on the Legion Riders vest, honor guard uniform, etc., and "we actually had seven flags in the classroom. No longer just the one."

Appreciation to Post 175 members for coming to the schools and educating youth on flag etiquette is visible from the principals, teachers and students. "They thank us, they appreciate it, and they seem excited to have us there," Oliver said. The post also recently received several thank you letters from the kids. "That's a positive indicator there that it's having a positive impact." By the end of the 2021-22 school year, Post 175 will have visited or sent flag materials to 12 of the 14 public schools in the county. "Every year it will be our goal to reach every first grade student in the county," said Oliver, "to keep trying to influence the kids" on flag education and American Legion youth programs.

Post 175 sees this opportunity of getting into the schools as way to reach younger veterans for membership. When the kids bring home the "I Pledge Allegiance" comic book their parents see that The American Legion was in the school, and each school that Post 175 visits puts pictures of the Legion members interacting with the youth on their social media platforms for parents to see.

"It's another touchstone for us (for recruiting)," Navas said. "Again, we reach in and connect to where veterans are."

And the follow-through of educating youth about flag etiquette goes beyond elementary school with Post 175. In middle school students can participate in Post 175's flag essay contest; and high school students can participate in the Legion's Oratorical Contest and Boys State program, as well as the Junior Shooting Sports program.



Colorado Legion Oratorical Contest

Submitted by Nick Arceo, Alt NEC

The Department of Colorado had a very successful Oratorical contest this year. This was the first year in our new venue, Golden View Classical Academy. We have already secured this location for next year's event. We had 13 students compete this year. The Results are as follows: 1st place Emily Kastens Post 1187, 2nd place Rachael Densmore, Post 1, 3rd place Jackson Kastens Post 1187, 4th place Mae Webster Post 1260. All these students were excellent contestants! This was the closest competition we have ever had. Judges had a tough time this year. The judges got it right! The Department of Colorado is sending a true Champion to the finals in Indianapolis April 22-24, 2022. Our 2023 contest is already set for Saturday February 4, at Golden View Classical Academy.



Help on the Way for Legion Family Impacted by Colorado Fire

From www.legion.org

JAN 06, 2022

The fire that destroyed almost 1,000 homes and damaged hundreds more last week in Colorado impacted many members of the Legion Family. But other Legionnaires, Sons and Auxiliary members are mobilizing to help.

American Legion Post 119 in Estes Park, Colo., is raising money to help members of Post 111 in Louisville who were impacted by the fire.

“From personal experience, we know what it’s like to fear for our homes but can’t imagine what it was like to see them destroyed,” Post 119 Commander Steve Irish [wrote for the Estes Park Trail Gazette](#).

In addition to collecting financial donations, Post 119 is planning a series of fundraising events “to provide ongoing support for those affected as they rebuild their lives in the long months ahead,” Irish wrote.

Also, Past Department Commander Greg Jackson has set up a [Facebook fundraiser](#) to help veterans and their families displaced by the Boulder County fire. And

the [Department of Colorado Auxiliary](#) is coordinating donation efforts as well.

The area impacted by the fire has been declared a major disaster area, opening up federal funding to those affected. It also opens eligibility for The American Legion’s National Emergency Fund (NEF) and the [American Legion Auxiliary’s Auxiliary Emergency Fund](#) (AEF).

The NEF is available to help American Legion members and posts, and Sons of The American Legion members, who have been impacted by natural disasters. The AEF is a national grant assistance program that provides temporary emergency assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis.

The NEF provides up to \$3,000 for American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members with an active membership who have been displaced due to damages to their pri-

mary residence, and up to \$10,000 for posts that have been damaged by a natural disaster and whose programs and activities within the community are impacted.

Apply for an NEF grant by visiting legion.org/emergency/apply.

Since Jan. 1, 2021, the NEF has provided more than \$150,444 in grants to 71 American Legion and Sons members, and five American Legion posts. The program began in 1969 as a one-time effort in the wake of Hurricane Camille, which devastated the Gulf Coast – primarily Mississippi, and parts of Louisiana and Alabama. NEF was resurrected in 1989 when Hurricane Hugo pummeled the Carolinas and Puerto Rico, and since then has provided more than \$8 million in direct financial assistance to American Legion and Sons members, and American Legion posts. NEF relies on donations to help Legionnaires, posts and Sons recover from disaster. One hundred percent of donations to the NEF directly help veterans and their families recover from natural disasters.



NEF Issued Over \$200,000, in Grants in 2021

From www.legion.org

The American Legion

JAN 11, 2022

The American Legion’s National Emergency Fund (NEF) issued 102 grants totaling \$203,240.13 in 2021 to help American Legion posts, Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion affected by natural disasters.

Seven posts and 95 individuals received grants from the NEF, which since 1989 has provided more than \$8 million in direct financial assistance to Legionnaires, Sons and American Legion posts.

The number of grants and total financial assistance both increased from 2020, when the NEF issued 93 grants totaling over \$160,000.

Last year was the third-most active Atlantic hurricane season in history; NEF grants also went to aid those impacted

by tornadoes, wildfires, and flooding.

National Emergency Fund

The American Legion’s National Emergency Fund (NEF) is available to help American Legion members and posts, and Sons of The American Legion members, who have been impacted by natural disasters.

The NEF provides up to \$3,000 for American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members with an active membership who have been displaced due to damages to their primary residence, and up to \$10,000 for posts that have been damaged by a natural disaster and whose programs and activities within the community are impacted.

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NEF relies on donations to help Legionnaires, posts and Sons recover from disaster. One hundred percent of donations to the NEF directly help veterans and their families recover from natural disasters. You can donate at www.legion.org/donate.



Request Assistance

From www.legion.org

Eligibility

Eligibility open to Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion members (up to \$3,000) Legion Posts (up to \$10,000).

Applicant must have been displaced from their primary residence due damage sustained during a declared natural disaster.

Not meant to replace or repair items, only to meet most immediate needs (i.e., temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.) during the period immediately following the

disaster.

Does not cover insurance compensation or monetary losses from a business, structures on your property (barns, tool sheds, etc.) equipment or vehicles.

Membership must be active at time of disaster and the time of application.

Application requirements

Application must be submitted to the [Department Headquarters](#) within 90 days of disaster.

Disaster must be a "declared" natural disaster for Legion Family members.

Supporting data (photos, receipts, repair estimates, etc.) should be included if at all possible or statements (testimony) from post/district/department officers attesting to damages to residence requiring displacement.

Only one grant per household per disaster.

Post grants must derive from a declared natural disaster and substantiating documentation must provide that The American Legion post will cease to perform the duties and activities in the community due to losses sustained.



Donate now to help Legion's National Emergency Fund

From www.legion.org

The American Legion

APR 06, 2022

The 2022 Atlantic hurricane season officially begins June 1. But forecasters at Accuweather already expect the season to be above-normal in terms of storm activity, continuing a streak of such seasons.

Accuweather's tropical weather forecasters are predicting 16-20 named storms this season, with six to eight hurricanes — three to five of which are forecast to be Category 3 or stronger. In 2020, there were a record 30 named storms during the Atlantic hurricane season; 2021 was the third most active year on record with 21 storms. Fortunately for many of those affected

by those storms, The American Legion's National Emergency Fund (NEF) was available for assistance. The NEF is available to help American Legion members and posts, and Sons of The American Legion members, who have been impacted by declared natural disasters.

The NEF provides up to \$3,000 for American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members with an active membership who have been displaced due to damages to their primary residence, and up to \$10,000 for posts that have been damaged by a natural disaster and whose programs and activities within the community are impacted.

The program began in 1969 as a one-time effort in the wake of Hurricane

Camille, which devastated the Gulf Coast — primarily Mississippi, and parts of Louisiana and Alabama. NEF was resurrected in 1989 when Hurricane Hugo pummeled the Carolinas and Puerto Rico, and since then has provided more than \$8 million in direct financial assistance to American Legion and Sons members, and American Legion posts.

NEF relies on donations to help Legionnaires, posts and Sons recover from disaster. One hundred percent of donations to the NEF directly help veterans and their families recover from natural disasters.

To donate to the NEF, visit www.legion.org/donate.

Apply for an NEF grant by visiting legion.org/emergency/apply.



Words from The American Legion National Commander

From www.legion.org

Improve path for non-citizen veterans to gain citizenship

By Paul E. Dillard, National Commander

APR 06, 2022

Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends, For more than 100 years, The American Legion has proudly supported U.S. citizenship through military service for immigrants. In that time, more than 750,000 immigrants have served our nation with honor and then raised their hands once again, cementing their status as U.S. citizens.

However, the path to citizenship is littered with obstacles. Assistance programs have disappeared from military bases. Some veterans have been discharged as resident alien non-citizens.

The American Legion is pushing Congress to address these issues. In revealing testimony on March 29, National Security Director [Mario Marquez shared his own story](#).

Marquez, a 31-year Marine Corps veteran, told lawmakers about his own personal struggle to gain legal acceptance into the country he swore to die for. [Read Marquez testimony and the background information](#).

Marquez was on Capitol Hill, [voicing support for two key pieces of legislation](#) being considered by the House Veterans Affairs Committee. The two bills are:

- HR 1182, which provides protections from deportation for non-citizen veterans.
- HR 1183, which establishes the Military Family Immigration Advisory Committee and modifies the naturali-

zation procedures for a non-citizen in the Armed Forces.

Right now there are approximately 24,000 men and women of other nations serving their chosen homeland, America, honorably. Let's make sure that when the time comes, we greet them with open arms and welcome them as citizens, without the bureaucratic hassles that Marquez and tens of thousands of other veterans have faced. It's time for members of Congress to act and ensure that the path to citizenship through service is simplified for our comrades who defended our — *their* — nation with honor.

For God and Country,
Paul E. Dillard
American Legion
National Commander



Legion Family Part of Naturalization Ceremony of 99 new U.S. Citizens

From www.legion.org

Second-year pre-med student Dua Tariq led the Pledge of Allegiance in a room of more than 150 people. The 19-year-old student, who attends Indiana University Purdue University in Indianapolis, was born in Pakistan and moved to the United States with her parents when she was only a few months old. Tariq was one of 99 people becoming naturalized U.S. citizens during a special ceremony held in conjunction with the 101st National Convention of The American Legion in Indianapolis Aug. 27 at the Indiana Convention Center.

"I realized how privileged it is to be a U.S. citizen. I can vote, I can have a voice," said Tariq, who wants to go to med school in Indiana and become an

anesthesiologist.

The Hon. James R. Sweeney II presided over the ceremony that involved Legion Family members, the 99 citizens and their families.

Sweeney, a retired Marine colonel and Paid-Up-for-Life American Legion member, shared in his remarks how many in the room came from places such as Mexico, Zimbabwe and the Philippines, to name a few. "You are now citizens and part of the Indiana family," he said. "All of you came for freedom. I'm proud to be among the first to greet you as my fellow Americans. You have the rights and freedoms to enjoy as Americans ... there's nothing you cannot achieve. With citizenship there's also a profound responsibility. Each year over 700,000 naturalized Americans take the oath of

allegiance and prepare for the same rights, liberty and justice of generations of Americans, including the Legionnaires who came to this convention who fought in the name of freedom. Freedom is not free. Nor does it come without sacrifice."

Tuesday's naturalization ceremony was the first one The American Legion National Headquarters has helped put on, which was made possible by the Americanism Commission.

"It's very special today to welcome all of you as U.S. citizens ... enjoy the fruits of this great country ... liberty and the pursuit of happiness," said Richard Anderson, Americanism Commission chairman.

Sweeney added in his remarks that "The American Legion was founded by

(Continued on page 13)

A Sleepout in the Elements – and for a Good Cause

From www.legion.org/sons

The American Legion
FEB 16, 2022

A few years ago, members of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 294 in Hartland, Wis., discussed the idea of staging an event to raise awareness about veteran homelessness. Discussions were tabled until 2020, when Squadron 294 Commander Mark Pape said, “We took the bull by the horns and said, ‘We’re going to do it this year. We’re going to make it happen.’”

The first event took place that year, with members of Post 294’s American Legion Family sleeping outside of the post in tents and cardboard boxes in frigid February temperatures. Another “Sleepout for Veterans” took place in 2021, as did one Feb. 11-13, when around 30 people slept outside for two nights in temperatures that ranged from the high 20s to single digits.

Pape said choosing to sleep outside during the Wisconsin winter made a bigger impact. “Anybody can sleep out in May or June,” he said. “So, the idea came up that we’d sleep out in February in cardboard boxes, small tents and small shelters to simulate what the homeless go through. What they have to deal with every day – especially in the winter-time.”

Squadron 294 uses the event as a fundraiser to benefit two Wisconsin agencies that provide support to homeless veterans, splitting the money evenly between the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative (MHVI) and Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin (VOW). The MHVI offers six programs to assist veterans, including providing food, furniture and household necessities, a women veteran initiative and case management.

VOW’s program in Racine provides a village of tiny homes for veterans, along with a food market and trauma-informed programming.

During the initial “Sleepout for Veterans” in 2020, Modern Woodmen – a fraternal financial services organization with an office in Hartland – offered to match the first \$2,500 raised by Squadron 294. “So that was our goal: \$5,000. If we make a little more, so be it,” Pape said. “Our first year we raised \$20,000 on the two-night sleepout. We were just getting our feet wet, kind of sticking our toes in the water and not knowing what to expect. And the community just came out and supported us. We did clothing drives and food drives, and besides the \$20,000 we raised ... we filled boxes full of food and clothing that we sent to each of these organizations.”

Squadron 294 set a goal in 2021 of

topping its 2020 effort. But when all the totaling was finished, their event had raised double that amount, hitting \$40,000 – again splitting the money evenly between VOW and MHVI.

So far, this year’s event has raised \$46,000, with what Pape said is at least another \$5,000 yet to be collected. That doesn’t include the clothing and food again that was donated during the three days.

Pape said he believes the fundraiser has been so successful for multiple reasons. One, Squadron 294 has turned it into event that includes live music on Friday and Saturday nights for those who attend and wish to go inside the post.

But he also believes that taking the event outside – and being able to promote it in both traditional and social media – has made a difference. So has having a strong support team in place, one that starts planning for the sleepover in October.

“It’s an awful lot of coordination to get everything done,” Pape said. “I have great people I work with. It’s not me or any one person in our organization. It is an ‘us’ mentality.

“We were just looking to bring real awareness to the homeless veteran project, not only in Southeastern Wisconsin, but across the country. We wanted to start with our post first, our squadron.”



SAL members place 1,000 U.S. flags in classrooms

From www.legion.org/sons

Members of the 18th District Sons of The American Legion in Michigan have dedicated themselves to a patriotic cause since 2004 – placing an American flag in every school classroom in Oakland County. To date, they have placed over 1,000 U.S. flags.

“We committed ourselves at the very beginning to make sure that every classroom in Oakland County had a flag in it so the kids have that symbol to say the Pledge of Allegiance to in the morning,” said Randy Jackson, District 18 Sons of The American Legion U.S. Flags for Classrooms chairman and a past state detachment commander. “It instills patriotism, Americanism and all of the things that The American Legion stands for and all that Americans should stand for. It’s just been a mission of ours.”

The 18th District Sons recently presented eight outdoor U.S. flags to the Avondale School District Board of Education to replace old ones. Jackson said when

they offer and provide the new flags, school leaders “are just elated that someone thought enough of them to be able to do this for the kids.”

The classroom flag initiative for the district, which is made up of 15 squadrons, started when the daughter of the late David Kays came home from school and said there was not an American flag in her fourth-grade classroom to say the Pledge of Allegiance to. Kays spoke with the school principal for permission to put one up in the classroom. After receiving it, he then asked how many more classrooms needed an American flag. There was a need for 16.

Kays went to his fellow Sons of The American Legion members, who took up a collection and purchased the needed flags. “That was all that we needed to get this ball rolling,” Jackson said. “We decided to take this on as a county-wide project and we weren’t going to stop until every classroom in Oakland County had an American

flag in it.”

Through fundraisers and personal and corporate donations, the 18th District has been able to purchase the flags and keep a supply on hand. All donations go to the David Kays Memorial Flags for Classrooms Fund.

Jackson’s wife, Alice, put together a letter informing the Oakland County School District about the availability of U.S. flags for any school in the district that needs them. “The request just started to trickle in,” Jackson said. “We have donated as many as 160 to a school district.”

The schools are also made aware that any worn flag can be dropped off at a local American Legion post for proper retirement.

Jackson said he “appreciates all of the work and effort that goes into this and all the people who help,” including donors, spouses and school board members.



We want to hear your U.S. flag story

From www.legion.org

The American Legion
MAR 02, 2022

Gunther-McNeely-Nolan American Legion Post 19 in Logan, W. Va., was contacted by nearby Man Elementary

School about the need for a new U.S. flag for its outdoor flag pole. Post 19 “answered the call,” wrote Vice Commander Chris Stone. The post donated an 8x10 flag.

Stone presented the flag during a cere-

mony at the school with students in attendance, and he gave a short speech on the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance.

American Legion Post 607 in Breda, Io-

(Continued on page 13)

Ceremony of 99 New U.S. Citizens

(Continued from page 11)

war-weary veterans who were once an American expeditionary force who fought along foreign shores for American ideals of peace, freedom for all, of which their foundation of pillars includes Americanism. Coupling this naturalization ceremony) with The American Legion's 100th year and 101st National Convention makes it that much more special."

After the Oath of Citizenship was administered, additional remarks were provided by representatives of local dignitaries. Sen. Todd Young, a Legionnaire, was unable to attend the ceremony but provided written remarks that were read aloud.

"I know your journey to this day has

been long and often difficult. America is called the land of opportunity because every individual, regardless of their background, has a chance to make a new life for themselves and their families," Young wrote. "Not only am I proud to call you a fellow American, I'm proud to call you a fellow (Indiana) Hoosier."

Obtaining U.S. citizenship was emotional for Adriana Hernandez, who is originally from Mexico. "It was a big day for me," said Hernandez through tears. "I waited 16 years for this."

For David Aramant of Sweden, who has lived in the United States for 32 years, he became a citizen to be more politically active.

After each new U.S. citizen received their certificate of naturalization from

Judge Sweeney, they had an opportunity to register to vote.

"The magic of the United States of America is that we are all equal. We have equal voice, we have equal vote," said Jeff Stranton, who was representing the Clarence Cook Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

After the new U.S. citizens and their families enjoyed refreshments following the ceremony, Sweeney shared why he loves his job.

"This is the best thing that I get to do, to welcome in new citizens," he said. "It's amazing to hear all of their different stories and what they have gone through to be here ... they don't take it for granted."



Your U.S. Flag Story

(Continued from page 12)

wa, recently recognized the winner of its Flag Essay Contest. Henry Rierson, a fifth grader from the Carroll Community School District, won first place for his flag essay and how the flag reminds him of his great-grandfather who flew B-17 bombers during World War II.

"Maybe next time you see the flag, take a minute to admire it," Rierson wrote in his essay. "Look at some of the details, the stripes and stars. Maybe you could write a story or even make an American flag."

As The American Legion continues its Rally Around the Flag initiative to instill pride for the U.S. flag and all that

is symbolizes – freedom, hope, pride and unity – we want to hear your stories. Tell us about your pride for Old Glory by sharing your story with photo at legiontown.org under the category "Rally Around the Flag."



American Legion Continues Lincoln's Legacy at Annual Pilgrimage

From www.legion.org

By [John Raughter](#)

FEB 16, 2022

The passage of time between the first American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of President Abraham Lincoln and the 2022 event was not lost on National Commander Paul E. Dillard. "Four-score and seven years ago, American Legion Post 32 in Springfield started this wonderful pilgrimage," Dillard said at the burial place of the nation's most beloved president Saturday. "The tradition has endured through a great depression, a World War, snowstorms and a global pandemic. We honor President Lincoln because he is worth it. His legacy is worth it. And, as our 16th president adamantly believed, our Union is worth it."

Many of the speakers quoted a pledge Lincoln made during the closing weeks of the Civil War. "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and for his orphan," has been adopted as the motto for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Those words from President Lincoln's second Inaugural Address could easily be the motto of The American Legion had the VA not already claimed it," Dillard said. "The American Legion always has a robust agenda of service – one that I think President Lincoln would adamantly support." Sons of The American Legion Squadron 32 Commander James Peters, Jr., served as the master of ceremonies during the wreath laying's at the Tomb. He quoted from an 1863 letter that Lincoln wrote to New York City Mayor George Opdyke. "Honor the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause," Peters read. "Honor also the citizen who cares for his brother in the field, and serves, as best he can, the same cause. Honor to him, only less than to him, who braves, for the common good, the storms of heaven and the storms of battle."

During an American Legion Family breakfast Saturday morning, American Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Daudistel recalled memorizing Lincoln's Gettysburg address when

she was a young student. "Over 150 years ago, Abraham Lincoln delivered his speech that made people stop and think," she said. "Today, we look back on Lincoln, on his life and we respect him for his insight, his integrity and his undying belief in this great country. God bless Lincoln for having the courage for standing up against popular opinion at the time and to show us what courage and belief in our fellow man looks like."

Sons of The American Legion National Commander Michael Fox said that the SAL continues to honor Lincoln's promise to veterans. "We do so through our volunteer efforts at our local VA centers. We do so through fish fry's and BINGO nights by our local SAL squadrons," Fox told American Legion Family members at the annual Pilgrimage luncheon. "We do these things because our veterans mean so much to us. They are our fathers and mothers, our grandfathers and grandmothers. It is our privilege as Sons of The American Legion, to thank them for the freedom they defended for us and future generations."



"As Soldiers, our mission is to protect and enhance the dignity of man, not destroy it. As Americans, the principle of our cause will always be our strongest weapon."

Michael J Daily United States Army, Medal of Honor