



Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Colorado Electronic Update



**THESE ARE OUR
OUR PROGRAMS**



This is Our Purpose:

To Adapt in Letter and Spirit, All the Great Principles for Which The American Legion Stands, and to Assist in Carrying on for God and Country

**A 2012-2013 Triple Nickle Detachment
Home to Past National Commander Mike Moss**

Commander Richard Humphrey

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 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, and individual are invited and encouraged to share and submit information about programs and events their Post, Squadron, Units and Chapters are participating in, planning or conducting on a regular basis that are relevant to the mission and purposes of The American Legion. Email your write-up and pictures you wish to share to: saladj@coloradolegion.org. This publication is compiled and published as a volunteer service by Detachment Adjutant Mark A Kilstrom

Commanders Mission Objective: Rekindle the Spark

Mission Statement: To not only honor our fathers, mothers and grandparents by our continued service to God And Country, but to rekindle the spark of our veterans and community with the ideas of patriotism, citizenship and the American Flag

New Year, New Officers, New Message, New _____ (fill in the blank)

July 5, 2022 Denver, CO

The various Squadrons within the Detachment of Colorado gathered at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Conference and Convention Center in Denver, Colorado on the 30th of June through the 3rd of July for the 54th annual Convention of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Colorado.

Detachment Officers and Committee chairs gave their year end reports on their activities and accomplishments since last years' Convention. Meeting minutes and reports are available at www.salcolorado.org

The convention opened with a joint session of The American Legion, Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion.

Northglenn Post 22 Color Guard presented the Colors for the opening session and also performed the POW/MIA empty chair ceremony, which is always a solemn and moving ceremony reminding us of those who still remain unaccounted for from the wars in which American men and women have fought for freedom around the world.

The Junior Auxiliary performed the children's version of the empty chair ceremony remind-

ing us of the sacrifices military families make when a parent or spouse service mem-



ber is deployed or stationed far away and many important family events such as birthdays and holidays are missed.



During the SAL Convention meeting four resolutions recommending changes to the Detachment Constitution and the Uniform Code of Procedure for Convention were submitted by Squadron 2. Resolution 1 was an administrative change to the Constitution to re-sequence Articles III & IV was amended to include the re-sequencing of Articles V and VI by the Convention Resolutions Committee. This aligned the Detachment Consti-


tution to mimic the sequencing of the National Constitution. Resolutions 2, 3 and 4 were combined and modified by the Resolutions Committee into new Resolution 5. This resolution modified Article IV Section 3 of the Detachment by-laws by adding "Any Squadron which does not submit the officer list to the Detachment Adjutant will not have a vote at any Detachment meeting." Both of these resolutions were passed unanimously by the Convention Delegations.

Resolution 1 as previously stated was merely administrative housekeeping. However Resolution 5 has significance and reinforces the necessity and importance of Squadron requirement to submit a list of their slate of officers to the Detachment Adjutant.

The Detachment leadership understands that some squadrons encounter some difficulty at times on getting more than a couple members involved and may not have had enough participation to elect all the officers they should have. In cases such as this, an officers list with someone listed as a primary contact is required with a note attached simply stating that there is not enough membership involvement to elect the officers required. Not only does this provide the Detachment with a contact person, but also allows the squadron a vote at Detachment meetings, and alerts us to the fact that the a squadron may need some assistance in finding ways to rejuvenate membership and get more members involved. Your Detachment leadership is here to help in any way possible.



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Chaplain's Corner

Submitted by Brad Henderson, Detachment Chaplain



"Can We Talk About...?"

Folks rarely bring sensitive, private matters out into the open. The commercial for a popular digestive remedy stunned millions when a well-dressed young man asked, "Can we talk about... diarrhea?"

Sometimes, we need to face a threat "head on" publicly, even if a little embarrassing. **It may save lives.** Any threat to the body, whether large or "runny nose", has an impact on our quality of life. Regular maintenance for men, requires an annual check of the Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA). If you are a man and you haven't had your PSA checked recently, I highly recommend that you do. My PSA score has continued to rise without explanation. Now, we know. My latest biopsy discovered two small tumors.

"It is a PUZZLEMENT!" In the musical "The King and I", the king grapples with what he knows and what he does not know. Faced with teaching a son whose inherited beliefs are challenged by European ideas, he struggles to find a way to guide his son toward the truth. So it is with prostate cancer.

I feel blessed that this was caught early. At the same time, I'm wrestling daily with what I know, and what I do not know. I don't know what lies ahead and frankly, that can be frightening – especially when stretched out over a

lifetime. How do we fight it? We fight it with education, action, and our faith.

Education: The first step toward victory in any battle is to know your enemy. In my grandmother's time, a diagnosis of cancer was a death sentence. Not today. "The Beast" will likely wound me with side effects. Hopefully, they will be temporary. I am blessed with an excellent medical team at UC Medical Hospital North, including the experience of a 30-year oncology nurse. As time goes by, I am discovering reliable resources, state-of-the-art procedures, and prostate cancer support groups.

Action: I have consulted with my Radiology Oncologist of 20 years to discuss what we are dealing with, where the tumors are located, how we will attack "The Beast", and when to commence. I am thankful for the fellowship of my brothers and sisters in the Legion Family, and for the shared experience of a new family of prostate cancer fighters and survivors. I feel confident that I have many newsletter articles ahead. (Hey – I'm just sayin'...)

Faith: Back in my college days, I could keep our Volkswagen "Beetle" running with a simple change of "points and plugs". Today, my Toyota is stuffed from one end of the engine compartment to the other. Sometimes, our machine requires a fix from someone who knows more about mechanics than we do.

This will be a test of faith. I have been test-

ed before. I am entering a dark tunnel, but *darkness fears the light.* In my belief system, Jesus Christ is "the Light of the world" for all who believe in Him. The CHALLENGE is to place the greatest trust in Him at a time when it is most difficult to do so. The King that I believe in and serve, knows everything: the past, the present, and the future. I need not search for the truth. "*I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life...*" (John 14:6)

During this battle I might encounter significant and unpleasant side effects, emotional mood swings, perhaps even total exhaustion. Once again, I will call on my faith; and one of my favorite scriptures: "*But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.*" (Isaiah 40:31)

Generals Washington and Patton each believed prayer to be a force multiplier. All prayers are welcomed.

Serving God and Country,
 Chaplain Brad



Respect the red, white and blue, for it is the flag of our country for which we fought and died to defend from tyranny

George T Sakato
 United States Army
 Medal of Honor

A Message from TAL National Commander



Dear American Legion Family and Friends,

On the day when Americans gather to celebrate our independence, another tragic mass shooting broke out. It seems inappropriate at this time, just a week after I called for [just one day of togetherness](#), to address any other topics.

Instead, we're once again mourning victims of a mass shooting, sending thoughts and prayers to their loved ones, and searching for answers.

We also must remember to keep our first responders in our thoughts. Day after day, they display courage in healing the victims and keeping our streets safe. While the mass shooting outside Chicago dominated the news coverage on July Fourth, we should not easily dismiss the attack in Philadelphia where two police officers were wounded by an assailant.

Let me be absolutely clear on one thing that we should all agree on: It is honorable to pick up arms to defend America against enemies foreign and domestic. It is indefensible to pick up arms and target innocent Americans.

Paul E. Dillard
National Commander
The American Legion

Ten Things You Didn't Know About The Army

From Legion.org

JUN 13, 2022

June 14 is the birthday of the U.S. Army. According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History's website – at history.army.mil – it was on June 14, 1775, that “the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of expert riflemen to serve the United Colonies for one year.”

The site also includes information about the specific birthdays of the Army's basic and special branches. Those are interesting factoids in themselves, but here are some other things you might not know about the institution.

1. Before World War II, 45th Infantry Division members wore a swastika patch on their left shoulder in honor of Native Americans. It was changed to a thunderbird in the 1930s. (via USO)

2. The Army was tasked with mapping America, including the Lewis & Clark expedition. Army officers were some of the first American citizens to see Pikes Peak and the Grand Canyon. (via USO)

3. The Army was the last service branch to adopt an official song. On Veterans Day 1956, “The Army Goes Rolling Along” was so declared. (via USO)

4. Twenty-four U.S. presidents served in the Army, including in state militias that supported it during the American Revolution and the Civil War. (via Mental Floss)



5. And two of them are connected: in the famous painting “Washington Crossing the Delaware” by Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze, the man holding the flag alongside future president George Washington is future president James Monroe. (via Mental Floss)

6. There are Army astronauts, who wear astronaut wings. One is retired Col. Douglas Wheelock, who logged 178 days in space after serving as the first active-duty soldier to command the International Space Station. (via Mental Floss)

7. If the Army was a city, it would be the 10th-largest in the United States. (via We Are the Mighty)

8. And it owns so much land that if it was a state, it would be larger than Hawaii and Massachusetts combined. (via We Are the Mighty)

9. In 2011, each soldier required 22 gallons of fuel per day on average; a soldier during World War II only required 1 gallon of fuel per day on average. (via Fact Retriever)

10. The oldest active-duty infantry unit is the famous 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, also known as “The Old Guard.” Stood up in 1784, the 3rd is an official ceremonial unit and escort to the president of the United States, and is also in charge of the “Changing of the Guard Ceremony” at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Old Guard received The American Legion’s Distinguished Service Medal in [2016](#). (via Fact Retriever)



Squadron 103 Presents Colors at Area High School

Submitted by Nick Arceo, Squadron 103

Squadron 103 presented colors at Dakota Ridge High school's "Legacy of Champions Night". Athletes from all sports are recognized for their achievements. We have done this for several years and it's a great honor. Pictured are Dual members, Joe Cordova and Steve Valdez, and SAL member Nick Arceo.

The Squadron also participated in a Flag retirement Ceremony.

Photos provided by Nick Arceo Squadron 103



Squadron 5 Joins in with Colorado Springs Community Memorial Day Services

Sons of The American Legion Squadron 5 participated in various Memorial Day events in Colorado Springs. The memorial recognition events including placing a wreath at the grave of Medal of Honor recipient and Colorado Spring native Floyd K Lindstrom at Evergreen Cemetery. Lindstrom was awarded the Nations highest military honor for his actions in WWI. American Legion Post 5 in Colorado Springs is named in his honor. The Squadron also participated in services at the fallen Police Officer and Firefighters Memorial located in Memorial Park in Colorado Springs.



Photos submitted by Keith LaMee, SAL Squadron 5



THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR YOUR SQUADRON ACTIVITIES

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO..... REALLY?

CURIOUS MINDS WANT TO KNOW

Legion Baseball Alumni at MLB All-Star Game

The American Legion
JUL 11, 2022

The National League’s fan-elected starter at designated hitter, the NL’s “legacy selection,” one of the American League’s starting pitchers, and managers for both teams for the July 19 Major League Baseball All-Star Game are alumni of American Legion Baseball. Full rosters for MLB’s 92nd All-Star Game were completed July 10 with the announcement of pitchers and reserves for the game, which will take place at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles.



Atlanta Braves manager Brian Snitker speaks to the media during Braves Spring Training in Lake Buena Vista, Florida on February 21, 2018. Snitker played American Legion baseball as a youth in Decatur, Illinois. (Jacob Langston for The American Legion)

Justin Verlander (Post 201/Powhatan, Va.) of the Houston Astros earned his ninth All-Star selection and first since 2019. After missing the entire 2021 season following Tommy John surgery, Verlander leads the American League with 11 wins (tied with the Dodgers’ Tony Gonsolin for the major league lead entering Sunday). He’ll be joined in L.A. by Houston manager Dusty Baker (Post 412/Fair Oaks, Calif.), who is managing the American League All-Star team after leading the Astros to last season’s AL

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Legion Riders Eligible for CWF Awards

The American Legion
MAY 23, 2022

The American Legion Riders are a strong supporter of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, which provides grants to nonprofits that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children. Since 1955, the CWF has awarded \$19 million in grants.

The CWF presents awards annually for significant contributions to the foundation. American Legion Riders are now eligible for several of those awards as a recognition of their great support to CWF.

U.S. “Udie” Grant Legacy Award

To qualify: Must be the top department nationally, based on combined total contributions of The American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Riders and Eight & Forty during a contribution year.

Garland D. Murphy Jr. Award

To qualify: Must be the most active department in the nation, based on actual contributions received during a contribution year. One department from each organization (The American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Riders and Eight & Forty) is recognized.

Both the U.S. “Udie” Grant Legacy Award and Garland D. Murphy Jr. Award are pre-

sented on stage during The American Legion’s annual national convention.

“Heritage Circle” Gift Club

Awarded to departments (American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, Legion Riders and Eight & Forty) for their cumulative donations made during the contribution year.

Benefactor (gold): \$5,000

Patron (silver): \$2,500

Sponsor (bronze): \$1,000

“Children First” Gift Club

Awarded to American Legion posts, Auxiliary units, Sons squadrons, Legion Riders and Eight & Forty salons for their cumulative donations made during the contribution year.

Iowa Legion Riders Again Localizing Rolling Thunder

The American Legion
MAY 04, 2022

In 2014, a group of Iowa American Legion Riders – led by American Legion Wasmer Post 241 member Larry “Doc” Foster – took what they had experienced participating in Rolling Thunder in the nation’s capital and brought it home. Those Riders set up their own event similar to Rolling Thunder’s “Run for the Wall,” pulling together fellow Legion Riders and others – around 80 motorcycles – and traveling from Sioux City’s Tyson Event Center to Siouxland Freedom Park in South Sioux City, Neb., home to a permanent half-scale Vietnam Memorial Wall.

The Riders’ “Thunder on the Missouri” expanded in 2015 to the five-state area and drew 140 motorcycles, while 2016 and 2017 each saw around 200 bikes, along with additional

events added.

In 2018, fellow Post 241 Legion Rider Larry “Grumpy” Hartz began coordinating the event, and a year later the route was changed to depart from Post 662 in Sgt. Bluff, Iowa. More than 300 motorcycles participated, while Post 662 provided food and beverages throughout that Sunday.

Then came 2020 and COVID-19, which cancelled “Thunder on the Missouri.” The event resumed in 2021 with around 150 motorcycles. And immediately after its conclusion, Hartz began preparing for this year’s ride, which again will take place Memorial Day Weekend.

“As soon as one’s done, the next one starts. It makes it easier to take a little bit at a time and move that way, instead of waiting until the last minute and trying to throw it together,” Hartz said. “When I took this over it was

just me, and what I wanted to do I knew I couldn’t do alone. So, I formed a committee that consists of about 80 percent Legion Riders (from Chapters 241 and 662 in Iowa, and Chapter 307 in South Sioux City, Neb.)”

Hartz said with the way this year’s event has been publicized, he expects more than 400 motorcycles to participate. He said that when Rolling Thunder staged its last national ride in Washington, D.C., in 2019, it urged local Rolling Thunder chapters to get involved in local rides – such as Thunder on the Missouri. This year’s Thunder on the Missouri will kick off Friday, May 27, with a Patriot’s Bike Blessing at Siouxland Freedom Park. Later that night a Vietnam Memorial candlelight ceremony will take place, similar to what used to take place during Rolling Thunder at the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial.



New York Legion Riders Chapter Raises Funds to Assist Veterans Impacted by Toxic Exposures

The American Legion
JUL 13, 2022

Through intense lobbying by The American Legion, and other veterans service organizations and advocates, the Honoring Our PACT Act [was passed in the U.S. Senate in June](#). The legislation addresses the full spectrum of issues affecting toxic-exposed veterans’ access to VA benefits and care, while also reforming VA’s presumptive decision-making process.

On the local level, American Legion Riders in New York are doing what they can to assist those veterans exposed to toxins during their military service.

On July 9, American Legion Riders Chapter 925 in Norfolk, N.Y., staged their 17th annual motorcycle charity ride. The beneficiary this year was Americans Supporting Armed Services (ASAS) in Potsdam, N.Y., in order to assist the nonprofit’s efforts in advocating for more resources and help for veterans affected by burn pit exposure.

ALR Chapter 925 Director Thomas Morrison, who is a member of American Legion Post 514 in nearby Winthrop, said considering the recent passage of the PACT Act, the timing and cause of the chapter’s annual ride couldn’t have been better.

“A lot of our members are Vietnam-era, and

Agent Orange was a huge thing,” Morrisons said. “Having that reflection with the burn pit exposure really keyed up a lot of the guys. If we can help before all these (veterans exposed to burn pit toxins) are dead, that’s what we want to do.”

Chapter 925 has been staging its annual charity ride since the year after its founding in 2005. Previous recipients of the funds raised – which normally range between \$5,000 and \$10,000 – have been the Children’s Miracle Network, Make-A-Wish Foundation and Fort Drum Wounded Warriors.

“Members go out and look for charities that

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NY ALR Helps Afflicted Vets

(Continued from page 5)

we think are worthy. We usually try to focus on veterans and as local as possible,” Morrison said. “We came to (ASAS President) Tammy Sauve, and she came and spoke to us. Their biggest thing is burn pit exposure from Iraq and Afghanistan. After she spoke to us, we were convinced. We said, ‘OK, this is the group we’re going to ride for this year.’”

This year’s ride started out at Post 925 and made several stops along the way, including at American Legion posts and other veterans organizations. Following the ride was a meal, raffle, 50-50 drawing and a poker hand.

Morrison said 97 motorcycles, including Chapter 925 Legion Riders and other motorcycle groups, took part in this year’s ride. “This year was a little different because (Sauve) ... opened the door to cars and trucks as well. So, we had quite a few people following the column in cars and trucks. I don’t want to even guess what our numbers were. We had a lot of support along the way.”

[Sauve told nny360.com](#) that Chapter 925’s ride “is a really important day for us to bring awareness to our cause. We hope that everyone will be a little bit more aware of what our veterans are going through.”

Morrison said he doesn’t have a total yet for the amount raised from this year’s ride, though he estimates it to be around \$10,000. “It’s great to be able to do that,” he said, noting that while St. Lawrence County, where Chapter 925 is located, has one ALR chapter. “Because it’s the only chapter in St. Lawrence County, we take in members from all over the county. We’ve got a roster of about 50 Riders. It’s really cool. We all work together well.”

Nebraska Legion Riders Gathering to Honor State’s Medal of Honor recipients

The American Legion

MAY 04, 2022

In mid-May of 2021, [Nebraska Legionnaires Ken Hanel and Daryl Harrison traveled U.S. 20 on a 12-day, 432-mile trek](#) across the state to honor Nebraska’s 74 Medal of Honor recipients and continue to raise awareness for the campaign to rename U.S. 20 from Oregon to Massachusetts as the federal Medal of Honor Highway.

When the pair concluded their journey at Siouxland Freedom Park in South Sioux City, Neb., a contingent of motorcyclists largely made up of Nebraska American Legion Riders – but including some from as far away as Wyoming and South Dakota – were there to provide the pair with a flag line. The Riders had traveled across the same highway that day, carrying the Medal of Honor flag with them.

Many of those same Riders will again travel U.S. 20 later this month, riding from Wyoming to Iowa to honor the state’s Medal of Honor recipients and then to join up with other Legion Riders from Iowa and surrounding states to take part in “[Thunder on the Missouri](#),” a three-day event staged similar to the former national Rolling Thunder Memorial Day Weekend.

The two-day Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway 20 Thunder Run will leave Van Tassell, Wyo., on May 27 and finish up in Sioux City the next day for a program, before joining with “Thunder on the Missouri” participants to take part in their events, including a trip to the Vietnam War Memorial in Freedom Park.

Nebraska Thunder Run organizer Casey Walton, adjutant of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 34 and sergeant-at-arms for Western Sandhills American Legion Riders Chapter 34 in Gordon, Neb., said this year’s ride already has commitments from ALR members from Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota and Iowa.

“Last year when we got to South Sioux City we had 239 bikes,” said Walton, a past state liaison for Nebraska’s American Legion Riders and current Western Area vice commander for the Sons. “That wasn’t strictly American Legion Riders. There were also some Patriot Guard (Riders) and whoever else who wanted to ride for the cause. This year is going to be bigger. We’ll have a lot of bikes.”

After leaving the Wyoming-Nebraska border, the Medal of Honor Highway 20 Thunder Run will make a stop in Gordon for an unveiling of Post 34’s new Medal of Honor plaque that honors all of the state’s 74 Medal of Honor recipients. The ride will stay the night in Valentine, make a lunch stop the next day in Valentine before arriving in South Sioux City.

There, ride participants will take part in a Nebraska Medal of Honor Foundation ceremony honoring Nebraska native and Medal of Honor recipient Charles Hagemeyer. The Vietnam War Army veteran was scheduled to be at Siouxland Freedom Park in 2021 for the arrival of the Hanel and Harrison, but he passed away three days before the conclusion of their walk.

Walton said staging the two-day ride is part of the American Legion Riders’ “way of giving back. That’s what we do. We honor veterans in any way possible.”



Kansas, Missouri Legion Riders Come Together on State Legacy Runs

The American Legion

JUN 30, 2022

For a few years a handful of American Legion Riders from Missouri have taken part in the Kansas Legacy Run, and vice versa. But this year, a handful became much larger.

On June 25, the two state rides converged, riding together from Leavenworth, Kan., to St. Joseph, Mo. Almost 110 motorcycles from the combined two groups took part, again raising awareness and money for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund while honoring veterans memorials along the way. “It was awesome,” said Terry Harris, the lead ride captain for the Kansas Legacy Run. “We went through one small town that was having their annual celebration, and everything came to a complete stop so they could watch us ride through. It was pretty cool.”

Brian Sapp, Missouri’s American Legion Riders state director, said the two departments were looking for a way to combine part of a day from each state’s Legacy Run.

“It was very cool,” said Sapp, a Legion Rider and member of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion Squadron from Post 152 in Ashland, Mo. “It was timing. We started kicking around the idea (with Kansas Legion Riders) that, ‘Hey, if everything lines up and the dates line up, why don’t we try to do something where we get both of our groups together?’ The stars aligned and the dates aligned, and

they were able to plan their route and be near where we were going to be at on a particular day.”

The Missouri state ride started at American Legion Tirey J. Ford Post 21 in Independence on June 24 and wrapped up at American Legion Post 642 in Sedalia on June 26. Around 64 motorcycles and 86 total participants took part over the course of the three-day trek, which has raised more than \$80,000 so far. Sapp said more will come in prior to and during Missouri’s department convention.

One individual donated \$15,000 this year, while American Legion Riders Chapter 5 in Jefferson City delivered \$10,500. “Any time we get to ride for children, (motorcyclists) are for it. That’s the way it’s always been, and that’s the way it always will be,” said Sapp, Missouri’s District 8 commander. “That right there puts it at the top of our list. And this being one of our scholarships that helps children all over the country, we can create some excitement. It’s a friendly competition, because they all want to be announced as giving the biggest donation in the state. And it also helps that 100 percent of everything we send in goes directly into the fund itself.”

For Kansas, its seventh state Legacy Run has raised close to \$23,000, with a final total forthcoming. Barry Maples, chairman of the Department of Kansas ALR Committee and a member of Post 17 in Manhattan, was “very pleased” with this year’s state Legacy

Run, which had 44 motorcycles participate. Being able to contribute a substantial amount to the Legacy Fund also is a strong motivation for staging a successful ride.

“It gives us a chance to give back to our fellow veterans and their children ... so the scholarship fund can continue on,” Maples said. “We enjoy our ride. There are a lot of things about it. But it’s mainly giving back to the veterans and their families.”

This year’s Kansas ride started at Independence Post 139 on June 23 and wrapped up in Salina on June 26. Along the way were multiple stops to lay wreaths at various veterans memorials and national cemeteries. Those stops are important to Harris, Kansas’ Sons of The American Legion Detachment adjutant and a member of Squadron 180 in Great Bend. “Both of my parents were veterans ... and they’re no longer with us,” Harris said. “I do this to honor them and other veterans. As a member of the Sons, it’s my responsibility to help keep those memories alive. Not everyone came home, and we need to remember them.” And while being back together on the ride for the second straight year after a one-year hiatus in 2020 due to the pandemic felt good, Harris said it’s the cause that drives the Kansas American Legion Riders.

“We don’t do this for ourselves,” Harris said. “It’s for those children whose parents didn’t come home, or those whose parents were wounded while serving. That is why this cause is so important.”



Send us your Colorado ALR story and spread the news of your service to veterans, children and your community

saladj@coloradolegion.org Subject line: ALR Colorado

Celebrated Personality Joins Sons of The American Legion

In his father's name: SNL alum Joe Piscopo joins Sons of The American Legion

From legion.org/sons

At the height of the Vietnam War, Joe Piscopo and his father had a life-changing conversation.

"I was the worst student ever in high school. I got kicked out so many times. But my father was great, he got me through. Then he wanted me to go to college," Piscopo recalled. Piscopo wanted to follow in his father's footsteps and join the military.

"He says, 'You're going to go to Vietnam, and I know you, you're not going to go to officer training school, they're going to put you right on the front line,'" Piscopo said. But the elder Piscopo, a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II, had seen the horrors of war and didn't want his son to serve.

So Joe Piscopo went back to Jones College in Jacksonville, Fla., where he studied television and radio. He went on to star on "Saturday Night Live" from 1980-84, appear in movies including "Johnny Dangerously," "Wise Guys," and "Dead Heat," and host his own talk radio show on weekday mornings on AM 970 in New York City.

And on May 14 in Woodstock, Ill., Piscopo, who said he "always, always" regretted not serving in the military, honored his late father's service by joining the Sons of The American Legion squadron at Post 491 in nearby McHenry.

His induction into the SAL took place at the gazebo in Woodstock's town square where scenes from the 1993 film "Groundhog Day" were shot. Piscopo and former "American Idol" contestant Haley Reinhart performed later in the day at the Woodstock Opera House in a fundraiser for Post 491.

The fundraiser came about through the efforts of Post 491 Legionnaire Mike Kerry, who

works for Piscopo's booking agent. Once Post 491 members realized Piscopo's eligibility to join the SAL, the idea of an induction ceremony in connection with the show came about.



Photo by Alex Wroblewski / The American Legion

SAL National Commander Michael Fox participates in an induction ceremony for former Saturday Night Live cast member Joe Piscopo in Woodstock, Ill., on May 14, 2022.

"We're very honored, he's very excited to be a member of the squadron and be part of the Legion Family, so it's going to be a real positive," said Squadron 491 Commander Russ Hyatt. "... We hope this will bring some energy to the Legion Family." SAL National Commander Michael Fox, Detachment of Illinois Commander Jeff Trout, and other officials participated in the induction ceremony.

Fox said coming to Woodstock was "a privilege ... in itself."

"And then to have someone like Joe Piscopo that's just so engaged with the veterans, to be on our side in fighting the good fight to protect our veterans and their kids, to want to become a member is huge. And using the things that he does with his shows to help

promote The American Legion Family is going to be so beneficial, not only to the millions of members that are in the American Legion Family but those average citizens to help spread the word. It's amazing to be asked to be part of this endeavor," Fox said.

Piscopo also was happy to make the trip to small-town America.

"This is America. Not what you see that's out there. Not the lectures that we get out of Washington," he said. "We are one nation under God, this is the greatest country on planet Earth, they're not going to take us down.

They don't understand this. I don't think that they come to great places like Woodstock, Ill., and understand the strength and the goodness of the American people. That's who we are, on God's green Earth, and I'm so proud to be here."

Before reflecting on his new membership, Piscopo made a quick call to his mom to let her know he was now officially a Son of The American Legion.

"I'm here in the name of my father, and certainly my mother," he said. "... (And) in the name of my father, Captain Joseph P. Piscopo, who couldn't speak English when he first went to school, and his parents, my grandparents, who came from Italy to experience one of the greatest things a human being can experience on Earth, and that is to become an American."

And Piscopo had one more thing to share about his father, who passed away in 2002.

"He was supposed to be a major, he got commissioned, but he called himself a captain, (I asked) can we put 'major' on his gravestone? So we did, it says Major Joseph P. Piscopo. "I got Pop the upgrade."



Americanism Commission Update

From Joseph R. Navarrete-(NM) - Chairman, National Americanism Commission



An update from the National Americanism Commission, Flying Flags for Heroes has been a huge success and with the events at our spring NEC and Memorial Day weekend we have surpassed our goal of 1,000,000 flags placed honoring our veterans! In typical Son's fashion we did not stop there, we are quickly approaching 1.5 million flags placed and hope to have that surpassed when we meet in Milwaukee in August just over one month from now.

The status of the Goals for this administrative year are outlined below.

- Increase Squadron participation in American Legion Baseball, Boy's State, Oratorical and Youth Law Cadet programs by 10%
 - o We have seen several increases in our youth programs, most notably Boy's State and Oratorical, with American Legion Baseball coming up we expect to see it grow even further. The Commission has started to request participation numbers from National and would also like your help, if you helped in a youth program and you know the participation for this year, please let us know.
 - o Increase Entries for Scrap and History

books by 25%

The commission members have been reminding the regions about the Scrap and History book contest that will be judged at Nation Convention in Milwaukee on their regional calls.

Your Americanism Commission has been hard at work spreading the word on the importance of supporting our programs. Always remembering to help educate individuals in citizenship, communities service, and making our country a better and safer place to live. Our youth programs do just that and that is why it is so important to get involved.



Director, National Legislative Division Celebrates PACT Act Victory

From Lawrence Montreuil Director, National Legislative Division

Not long ago, we alerted you to The American Legion's campaign to pass our generation's most comprehensive veterans' health legislation and called on your help to pass it. You responded, and I am proud to share the results of your American Legion advocacy.

After months of negotiation and advocacy, the Senate voted 84-14 to pass the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022. This legislation will comprehensively upgrade the presumptive process for veterans exposed to toxins and provide care for millions of veterans. To quote our National Commander Paul E. Dillard:

"The American Legion is grateful for the service of millions of veterans who were exposed to burn pits, atomic radiation, Agent Orange and other environmental poisons. Thanks to the U.S. Congress, these men and women will be able to receive the care and benefits they have earned. The PACT Act is a historic bipartisan achievement. The American Legion thanks not only those who voted for this legislation but the thousands of Legionnaires and advocates who worked to make this happen. We look forward to President Biden signing the Honoring Our PACT Act into law."

You are a part of today's victory, First Name. You contributed to the over 18,900

messages Legionnaires sent to Congress demanding action on toxic exposure, making this an issue our lawmakers could no longer ignore. Thank you for joining me on this campaign, and I ask that you keep your eye out for future "ALERT" messages from the Legion. See you in our future battles!

Respectfully,

Lawrence Montreuil
[Director, National Legislative Division](#)
 The American Legion National
 Headquarters



Baseball Alumni

(Continued from page 5)

pennant. Guiding the other dugout will be Atlanta manager Brian Snitker (Post 105/Decatur, Ill.), who led the Braves to last year's World Series title. Snitker may be able to call on Albert Pujols (Post 340/Independence, Mo.) for an at-bat or two on July 19. Pujols, of the St. Louis Cardinals, was selected to his 11th All-Star Game, his first since 2015, as a "legacy selection" along with Detroit's Miguel Cabrera. Pujols is playing his final season before retirement. He is fifth all-time in home runs with 683, and is 10th all-time with 3,326 hits. Not at Snitker's disposal due to a broken thumb will be Philadelphia Phillies designated hitter Bryce Harper (Las Vegas). Harper was still elected the starting DH for the National League by the fans, his seventh selection to the All-Star Game.



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NOT REALLY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

IF YOU TOLD US WHAT YOUR SQUADRON, POST AUXILLARY OR ALR IS DOING OR DONE OR PLANNING TO DO.....THIS SPACE WOULD BE FILLED. THERE IS NO LIMIT TO SPACE!!! WE DON'T PRINT THIS, AND OUR EMAIL SERVICES ARE ALREADY PAID FOR.

Colorado Exceeds Flags for Heroes Goal

With a big surge over Memorial Day Weekend, the Detachment of Colorado surpassed the goal of placing 5,280 flags at veterans graves in public cemeteries around the State. Considering our late start on the project, not getting things rolling until late November, and despite only eight Squadrons participating, you accomplished a lot. In total 6,916 flags were placed by SAL members and other volunteers. Several Squadrons were involved with their posts' Legion families, some incorporated Scout troops and pacts they sponsor, others engaged shooting sports teams and JROTC units they support. Great job Colorado. Knowing now that this is going to be an annual project, we can plan ahead and conduct events prior to the ground freezing and should have no problem doing 10,000 flags this year.



No matter how difficult it seems at the time, it's easier to do the right thing than spend a lifetime regretting that you didn't.

Robert e O'Malley
USMC
Medal of Honor

SAL Leads CWF Donations in 2021-22

The American Legion

JUN 14, 2022

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) ended its 2021-22 program year with over \$569,000 in donations. Of those donations, more than \$349,789 came from the Sons of The American Legion – the single largest contributor to CWF, donating \$9 million since 1988. Another \$170,856 was donated between The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and 8 & 40. All numbers are subject to final audit. The Child Welfare Foundation provides

grants to nonprofits that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth through programs, research and resources. One hundred percent of all money raised for the CWF is used exclusively for grants. Visit the [American Legion Child Welfare Foundation website](#) to learn more about the program, how to apply for a grant, and how to donate. [CWF grant applications for 2023](#) are currently being accepted. Applications must be received at American Legion National Headquarters no later than July 15.



SAL Donations to CWF Top \$9 Million Mark

By [Andy Proffet](#)

MAY 02, 2022

Mark Nave looked around the room as he stepped to the podium Sunday morning at the SAL NEC Spring Meeting at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel in downtown Indianapolis.

"This crowd looks fine, and you know why. We reached \$9 million," said Nave, the chairman of the SAL Child Welfare Foundation Committee, drawing applause from the NECmen and others in the room.

Last week, the total SAL donations since 1988 topped the \$9 million mark, accounting for close to half of the funds raised for the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF).

"Take pride in that, but the work continues," Nave said. "Yeah, we're 'fine at nine,' but now it's time to reach 'the perfect 10.'"

Dennis Boland, a dual member of The American Legion and the SAL and president of the CWF, thanked the SAL for their donations.

"You have taken the duty upon yourself to take care of the children of our nation, and the veterans of our nation. You have that honor of your family, your father's or your mother's heritage, for their service in our country. Our country, this is our home. Right now the turmoil is going around ... this is still our country, our home, and we take care of it," Boland said. "... I plead with you to keep it up so we will always have an organization that keeps us at the forefront of all the other service organizations at protecting our

veterans and our children," he added. Boland highlighted Squadron 154 from the Detachment of Nebraska, whose \$100 donation last week pushed the SAL's contributions to the CWF over the \$9 million mark. The squadron will be recognized at the national convention in Milwaukee in August.

Nave reminded those in attendance and watching the proceedings on the SAL Facebook page that donations for this fiscal year are due May 31. And CWF grant applications are being accepted now through June 15.

"What better PR do you have in your community than knowing that an organization in your community is awarded a grant?" Nave said in asking SAL members to encourage organizations in their community to apply for CWF grants.

CWF accepts funding proposals from nonprofits for projects that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children. Grants are only given to entities that help U.S. children in a large geographic area; they are not awarded for day-to-day or special operating expenses. Grant applications are available online at [cwf-inc.org](#).

Also on Sunday, approximately \$64,000 in donations were presented on behalf of detachments and squadrons across the country, including roughly \$48,000 to CWF, approximately \$8,000 to Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW), about \$7,000 to the National Emergency Fund (NEF), and approximately \$1,500 to the Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF). "It still always amazes me how much money comes in while we're here," said



Flying Flags for Heroes Hits 1 Million Mark

The American Legion

JUN 01, 2022

With three months to go in his year as National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion,

Michael Fox's service project has hit its goal.

Flying Flags for Heroes has now placed 1 million flags on veterans' graves at

over 450 cemeteries nationwide.

Fox chose Flying Flags as his service project for his term as national commander.

Flying Flags for Heroes evolved into a national project from a local nonprofit created by teen SAL member Preston Sharp in his hometown of Redding,



Calif. There is still time to participate in the program. For information on how to conduct a Flying Flags for Heroes event and more, go

to [flyingflagsforheroes.com](#).

At the Spring NEC meeting held in Indianapolis, IN, several members of the NEC and the SAL National Commander visited a local cemetery and placed several hundred flags at veteran's grave sites.



Photos provided by Nick Arceo Squadron 103

