



“Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage”
Supporting the Principles of The American Legion Since 1932
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Colorado
A 2013 Triple Nickle Detachment
Home to Past National Commanders
Michael Moss and Danny Smith
2022-23 National Vice Commander Michael Kirsehner
Richard Humphrey, Commander
Colorado Sons Electronic Update February, 2023



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. This publication is compiled and published as a volunteer service by Detachment Adjutant Mark A Kilstrom. Submit questions, comments, photos and stories to saladj@coloradolegion.org.

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

CWF Banquet Reaps \$16,000

1 April, Colorado Springs, CO

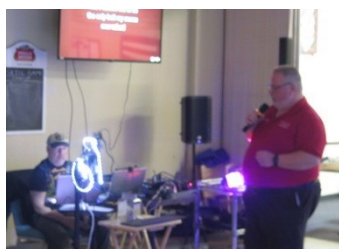
The Detachment annual Child Welfare Foundation fund raising banquet was a huge success at Neal Thomas Jr Centennial Post 209 in Colorado Springs. The event was well attended and there were lots of items for folks to bid on. As always the day started off with our Detachment Executive Committee Meeting. We were pleased to welcome our guest, the Leading Candidate for SAL National Commander JR Hall from the Detachment of Maryland. Accompanying JR was his aide Tom Deal also from the Detachment of Maryland. The weekend was packed with activities for our guest starting Friday afternoon. Commander Richard, NEC Scott and Adjutant Mark brought our guests to Mount Carmel Veterans service Center in Colorado Springs for a tour and briefing of their facility. The center is a non-profit organization with various locations in Colorado that provide a wide range of services for not only veterans but also active duty military members and families. Their services range from providing vision care from the VA, men-

tal health services to claims processing, a furniture loan closet, resume preparations, job interview training and even a lightly used suit closet for job interviews and job placement services. Later in the day Commander Richard and NEC Scott took them to Pueblo, CO for a visit and tour of the Center for American Values and the Medal of Honor center. The day was capped off with a visit to Ovie Vernon American Legion Post 2 to support the Young Guns dinner and some Karaoke. I wasn't there but was told that JR has some pretty decent pipes.

Saturday afternoon was the Detachment Executive Committee meeting and JR expressed his gratitude for our hospitality and how he was

impressed with the locations he visited. JR also spoke of the importance of engaging in American Legion Family Day activities and using the event to engage with our communities and displaying what our organization stand for, what we do and use the event to grow membership.

The CWF banquet as always was well attended with a wide variety items to encourage attendees to spend their money and raise funds for this important American Legion program. Since 1988 the Sons of The American Legion has raised and donated over \$9,000,000 for the CWF, and over the past decade plus, the Detachment of Colorado has been at the forefront earning recognition for the large contributions we make annually. In the end, the amount raised was just over \$16,000. A great result which will serve a lot of children in need. Each year the CWF board of directors, which includes members from the Sons of The American Legion, meets to review grant applications and makes the decisions on which grant request to honor.



Sights from the CWF Banquet



Your 2022-2023 Detachment Leadership



NEC (Assistant Adjutant)
 Scott Garrett
 123 Laura Ave
 Clifton, CO 81520
 (303) 257-8698
 ceilingmanjsg@yahoo.com
 Squadron 200



ANEC
 Nick Arceo
 7821 Owl Creek Cir
 Littleton, CO 80125
 (303) 903-5262
 nicrco@gmail.com
 Squadron 103



Commander
 Richard Humphrey
 1803 Carson St
 Aurora, CO 80011
 (720) 244-7389
 dandrigh11@comcast.net
 Squadron 23



Sr. Vice Commander
 Wally Weld
 1187 E Berry Ave
 Englewood, CO 80111
 (303) 995.1739
 wwrmac24@msn.com
 Squadron 1



Jr. Vice Commander
 Robert Jones
 PO Box 815
 Durango, CO 81302
 (970) 749-7104
 norton85020@yahoo.com
 Squadron 28



Jr. Vice Commander
 Ron Noakes
 1477 3rd St
 Pueblo, CO 81007
 (719) 544-3284
 mrron14@yahoo.com
 Squadron 2



Jr. Vice Commander
 David Smith
 221 W. 8th St
 Loveland, CO 80537
 dueces65@gmail.com
 Squadron 1985



Jr. Vice Commander
 Robert Barry
 4245 Midlothian Ct
 Colorado Springs, CO 80909
 (719) 930-5725
 Colo.rsrb@yahoo.com
 Squadron 209



Jr. Vice Commander
 Jim Gaddis
 1755 Road 3
 St Francis, KS 67756
 (720) 963-8343
 Jeremiah_579@yahoo.com
 Squadron 211



Jr. Vice Commander
 Randy Forsythe III
 12449 Wagon Wheel Rd,
 Eckert, CO 81418
 (970) 644-7811
 jax5203@gmail.com
 Squadron 65



Adjutant
 Mark A Kilstrom
 1870 River Dr
 Fountain, CO 80817
 (719) 640-6692
 sadadj@coloradolegion.org
 mark.kilstrom@comcast.net
 Squadron 2

Chaplain

VACANT



Sergeant-at-Arms
 Teddy Kuntz

 Contact Detachment
 Adjutant
 Squadron 1985



Finance Officer
 Rick Baldessari
 P.O. Box 615
 Golden, CO 81230
 (303)423-1887
 rbaldessari@hotmail.com
 Squadron 21



Assistant Finance Officer
 Jim Gelwicks
 P.O. Box 539
 Gunnison, Co 81230
 (970) 641-1101
 jgelwicks@western.edu
 Squadron 54

Support Children & Youth Month and Celebrate Legion Family Day

Share Your American Legion Family Day Events

By SAL National Commander Christopher Carlton
 APR 17, 2023

Greetings, Sons of The American Legion, Spring is upon us and it's a busy time of the year. I have a few topics



I would like to address: **Children & Youth Month** April is **Children & Youth Month**, and I trust that you have been active in your community already in

showing how the American Legion Family is dedicated to our country's youth. Of course, as SAL members we are actively supporting our youth year-round, and it's vital that we demonstrate that in our **Consolidated Squadron Reports (CSR)**. I hope you've been recording data for your CSR throughout the year; if not, now is the time to get caught up before the end of the reporting year, May 31.

Data from the CSRs is used to create a final report to The American Legion and Congress, and is critical in demonstrating what the SAL does nationwide.

American Legion Family Day
 In February, **I encouraged you to be active**

participants in your post's American Legion Family Day. Prompted by a resolution from the Detachment of Maryland that was initially approved by the SAL National Executive Committee, this resolution of The American Legion NEC establishes the event to be observed annually on the last Saturday in April, with posts opening their doors to the community and celebrating the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons, and members of the American Legion Auxiliary. The Legion Family is also encouraged to use American Legion Family Day to "Be The One" to help prevent veteran suicide. I hope you've made plans to do so, and I ask you to share your squadron's efforts at Legiontown.org.

Membership
 As of April 13, we're at 93.81% of our membership goal — a terrific accomplishment. Please continue to get out into the community and find those former SAL members whose membership has lapsed, as well as those who are eligible for membership but haven't yet joined.

I look forward to standing before the SAL NEC during our Spring Meeting in Indianapolis, May 6-7, to share our outstanding membership numbers as well as the other successes we've achieved so far this year.

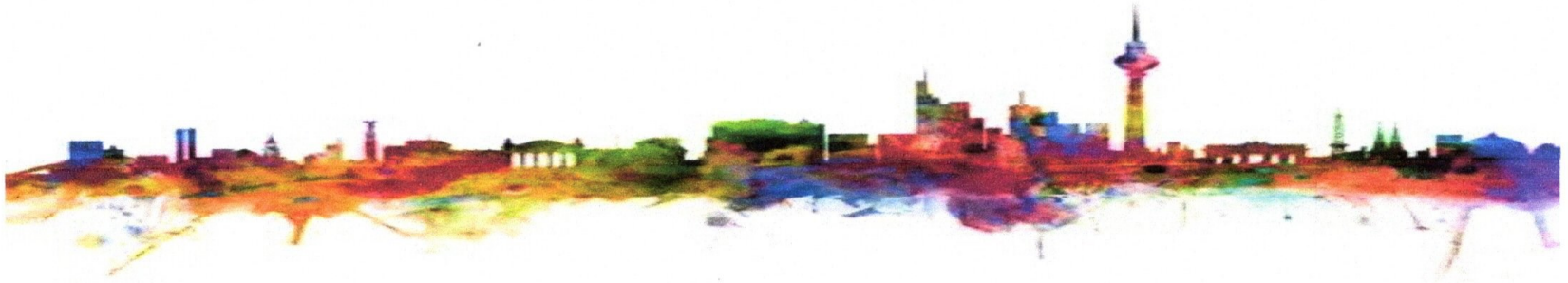
Be the One!
 With passion and purpose.
 SAL National Commander
 Christopher Carlton

The American Legion
 APR 17, 2023

During the 2022 Fall Meetings, The American Legion National Executive Committee passed [Resolution No. 7, American Legion Family Day](#), which established an American Legion Family Day to be observed annually on the last Saturday of April.. This year for Legion Family Day on April 29, posts are encouraged to open their doors to members of their community for the day to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion members, Legion Riders and American Legion Auxiliary, and to bring awareness to the organization's "[Be the One](#)" [initiative](#) to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. "Tell them about our Be the One campaign and our efforts to de-stigmatize the courageous decision to seek mental wellness," National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola said earlier this year. "Too many veterans take their lives while feeling isolated and alone. Some have no close relatives to whom they can reach out. It is a mistake for them to believe they have no family. Whether they know it or not, they have an American Legion Family." We've created a Legion Family Day flyer [available for download](#) to help publicize your event, as well as a [toolkit](#) to help plan your event.

If you are planning a Legion Family Day event April 29, please email sbrooks@legion.org. And once you've conducted your event, please share your photos and story with national at legiontown.org





Celebrating

Department of Colorado Auxiliary President

Bettina Kossow's Homecoming

Sunday 05/21/2023, 12- 4 PM

You are cordially invited by Auxiliary Unit 2008

RSVP by May 12th to:

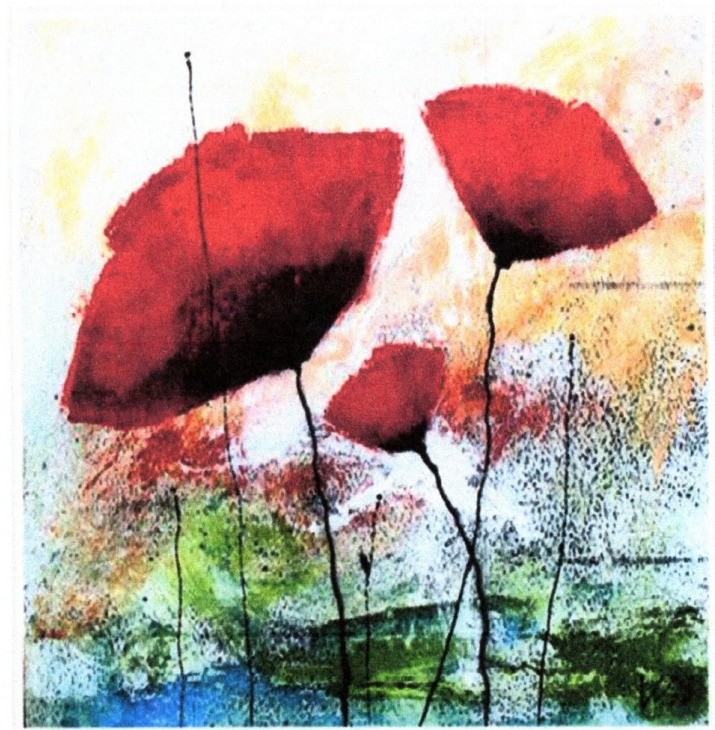
Dana Ware – 719-440-9761 or Sharon Wickliff – 719-337-1986

At Post 209

**3613 Jeannine Dr, Colorado
Springs, CO 80917**

Lunch Provided

**Donations accepted towards
President's Project- Fisher House**



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Yvonne

Kirschner

SATURDAY APRIL 29, 2023 2:00PM - 5:00PM
AMERICAN LEGION POST #2
701 W. 9TH ST.

*Whose woods these are I think I know.
 His house is in the village though;
 He will not see me stopping here
 To watch his woods fill up with snow*

*My little horse must think it queer
 To stop without a farm house near
 Between the woods and frozen lake
 The darkest evening of the year.*



*He gives his harness bells a shake
 To ask if there is some mistake.
 The only other sound's the sweep
 Of easy wind and downy flake*

*The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
 But I have promises to keep,
 And miles to go before I sleep,
 And miles to go before I sleep.*

Bring your favorite memory of Yvonne
 to share as we celebrate her love of life.
 Donations may be made in Yvonne's name to
 TAL Veterans and Children's Foundation

Appetizers will be served
Music By: Big Steve Productions



Commanders Message

Commander Richard Humphrey

We are coming to that time of the year when it is time to make the major decisions. Nominations are now upon us for those who will serve this organization for the next year. What are YOU going to do in this next year and/or coming years to help your Squadron be a better group, family, and fun place to be for you and your fellow members.

Are you going to step up and participate in the functions of your Squadron: are you going to assist in getting new members; are you going to help teach the younger generation what their fathers, grandfather, and mothers fought for in the service to this country?

Even if you don't become a Squadron officer, everyone needs to step up and get more involved in what your Squadron does and interacts with the Post and Auxiliary. And if you are not doing that now, you need to start. There is too much bad going on in our neighborhoods around the state for us to just sit back and watch, we need to get out and show our neighbors who we are and what good things we do for not only our veterans and their families, but for the community itself. Summer is upon us and is full of opportunities for the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Colorado to get out and BRAG about ourselves and who we are. So, start planning your festivities and activities:

Memorial Day – Place the US Flag on the graves of those who have died defending this great nation. Try to get the Boy Scouts, Jr ROTC, FHA, or any young adult group to assist. Plan a picnic and post open house.

Flag Day – Great day for a Flag Disposal ceremony for those unserviceable US Flags along with a picnic and membership drive.

July 4th – Parades and membership drive plus open house at the Post.

Labor Day – Open house at the Post, membership drive, fund raiser and don't forget to get your membership cards for the upcoming year.

The Detachment has come a long way this year, but we can't stop now. We are a few members away from hitting our goal for the year. Keep up the great work.



Third Squadron Charter Presented At Awards Banquet, 555 Within Reach

April 1, 2023 Colorado Springs, CO

During the CWF fund raising banquet held at American Legion Post 209 in Colorado Springs, Detachment Commander Richard Humphrey presented the Squadron Charter



to newly formed Squadron 109 to Squadron Commander Jake Alexander and Squadron Adjutant Chuck Paulus with National Vice



Commander Michael Kirschner looking on. This was the third new Charter awarded this membership year as the Detachment continues on it's quest to achieve the coveted National Triple Nickle award. The requirements



are five new Squadrons, attaining 105% of the previous years membership and reaching 85% renewals of the previous years membership by June 30th.. During the DEC meeting membership report, Adjutant Mark Kilstrom made a bold prediction and guaranteed five new charters, leaving it up to the Squadrons and leadership in the field to get to the 105% which will bring the 85% renewal. Mark offered to resign at Convention if the five new charters were not achieved. Well since the banquet, Charter number four, from Alex Klein Post 88 in Gran-



by has been received by the national organization. Additionally, Commander Richard and Adjutant Mark were invited by the Commander of POW/MIA Memorial Post 2527 in Bailey to discuss starting up

a Squadron. On 22 April, Commander, Richard, Adjutant Mark and Jr Vice-commander Rob Barry paid them a visit. After a short briefing and Q&A session, Commander Richard looked on as Post 2527 Adjutant Tom Dickerson and Commander Daniel McCafferty put the final touches on the charter application and associated paperwork. Eleven eligible young (and older)

men completed applications and were presented membership cards. After a nice potluck lunch, Commander Richard walked away with



charter application number 5 consisting of eleven new SAL members. Once endorsed by the Department Commander, it will be sent off to National HQ to complete the first leg of the Triple Nickle. We plan to present the charters at Convention and Adjutant Mark might get to keep his job.



No Credible Evidence' of UFO Activity, Pentagon Official Tells Senators

By Matthew Adams/Stars and Stripes
APR 20, 2023

The official charged by the Pentagon to track the mystery surrounding UFOs told lawmakers on Wednesday that there is nothing unusual to see at this time.

"I state clearly for the record that in our research, AARO has found no credible evidence thus far of extraterrestrial activity, off-world technology or objects that defy the known law of physics," Sean Kirkpatrick, the director of the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office, told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee's subpanel on emerging threats and capabilities.

The hearing was only the second one held in Congress on the phenomenon in more than 50 years.

The Defense Department refers to the idea of

UFOs as unidentified anomalous phenomena, or UAP. Kirkpatrick said 650 UAP cases are being reviewed at this time. He provided examples during his testimony showing two cases, one resolved and one unresolved, of how the department goes through data to try and explain reports.

In the examples, both images were captured from an MQ-9 Reaper drone of what looked like aircraft.

"Time and time again, UAPs are resolved into something already explainable," Kirkpatrick said.

In May 2022, a subpanel of the House Intelligence Committee held the first congressional hearing on UFOs in almost 50 years, months after the Pentagon said it would review UFO sightings more seriously.

The [intelligence community released a report in January](#) showing that the number of UFO

reports involving the U.S. military is increasing. The report released by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence said since its first June 2021 unclassified report on UAPs, it is now aware of 510 sightings.

The New York Times first published cockpit footage in 2017 and 2018 of a Navy aircraft crew that claimed to have encountered a UFO in the air. The Pentagon said it would make more footage available.

The Defense Department created AARO in July to monitor UAPs -- whether viewed as possible extraterrestrials or national security concerns such as the Chinese surveillance balloon. To cut down on layers of bureaucracy, Congress ordered the AARO director to report to top Pentagon and intelligence community leaders.





**2023 Department Convention
Sky Ute Casino and Hotel, Ignacio, Colorado
6/29/23 – 7/2/23**

For reservations call 970-563-7777

Let them know you are a member of the American Legion Department of
Colorado

Rates are \$135/night + 3% tax and 5% resort fee
RV parking is \$50/night + 3% tax and 5% resort fee

Agenda and more info to follow.

Sky Ute Casino



14324 Hwy 172 North
Ignacio, CO 81137
970-563-7777
Skyutecasino.com

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Falcon Freedom
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present
the Legionaires'

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ROCK ISLAND ARMORY GI MATTE NICKEL FS 1911
PEARL GRIPS
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8-ROUND CAPACITY
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\$25-Non-Members

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*MUST BE 21 OR OLDER.
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PARIS POST 1

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SEARCHING FOR THE GRAVES OF WWII VETERANS BURIED IN COLORADO

HISTORY, why are we doing this?:
All of these men's graves have been adopted in Europe, and ceremonies are performed on their behalf.

MISSION, would you like to help us?:
Locate graves on list of veterans buried in Colorado.

FIND LOCATIONS, send to Scott at Paris Post 1:
Email the first and last name of the veteran plus location of gravesite (include cemetery name).

VETERAN NAME LIST:

1. William H. CRABTREE
2. Edward A. DREES
3. Irving V. FRANCIS Jr
4. Joe A. GARCIA
5. Richard W. HAMILTON
6. Carl H. MILLER
7. Edward C. RECTOR
8. John R. ROGERS
9. Eldo A. RUSSELL
10. Charles A. J. SHACKLEY

EMAIL: Scott at Paris Post 1:
USALIAISON@PARISPOST1.FR
WWW.PARISPOST1.FR

PROMOTE YOUR SQUADRON EVENT HERE

The Meaning of Our Preamble

By Nick Arceo, ANEC



Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of all wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of The American Legion" for the

following purposes:

This opening statement links the Sons of The American Legion Members together across the nation. To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of American;

Our American Constitution contains the fundamentals of our system of government. It is one guarantee of liberty, freedom, and democracy. Written by inspired men, it is destined to serve as long as our nation endures.

To maintain law and order;

Members of the American legion have fought in several wars and missions to uphold the law and order among nations. It is as important that law and order be likewise supported in our domestic affairs.

To foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism;

Americanism is an ideal. It stands for individual rights, fair play, and justice. It stands for equal opportunities for all.

To preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in all wars;

Service under arms is a great experience, but it is more than battles in muddy fields, at sea or in the air. It means recalling the comradeship, endurance, and bravery of friends from all levels of society building bonds to sustain them in battle. It means that when some gave their all, we should more willingly give to help keep our nation worthy of their sacrifices.

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

Always interested in building a better nation, the founding fathers believed then, and the Legion family believes now, that such building must start with the individual. This means initiating and supporting community projects, and schools. It means we must take responsibility for all of those things that will make a better community, state, and Nation.

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses;

Composed of a cross section of American citizenship, the American Legion family repre-

sents all political convictions and all races and creeds. That is why no other organization is better suited to stand as the protector when class or mass threatens.

To make right the master of might;

The ideal situation is right backed by might. But we have witnessed the use of might by the powerful to suppress the rights of smaller nations. At home and abroad we must stand with the right, to protect the weak, and preserve the liberties as guaranteed by our constitution.

To promote peace and good will on earth;

The Legion Family maintains that our peace efforts are best served by maintaining a strong national defense. As a "Strong Man, well-armed, keepeth the peace," so a moral and upright nation, with no lust for the territories of other peoples, must remain well armed to protect its own and deter aggression.

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

Our nation grows strong by its adherence to these principles. We have tried to live by the golden rule and the mark of justice. We nourish the ideals of democracy and help establish democracies.

To consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness;

This is a dominate characteristic of The American Legion family, supporting charities and volunteering.

To adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

This statement declares that The Legion family recognizes the influence of an Almighty God in all worthwhile endeavors, and links the allegiance of The American Legion Family to both God and Country. The words of this principle are the benediction of this preamble, and a fitting "Amen" to our reason and purpose of existence. They reach the highest exemplification in our vast and unselfish programs of rehabilitation and the welfare of children. This is the meaning of our preamble. It is our foundation. It has never cracked in ten decades. It is from this foundation that The American Legion Family will draw their strength and

The Emil A. Blackmore Museum

From legion.org

The Emil A. Blackmore Museum of The American Legion is located on the fourth floor of National Headquarters in Indianapolis, between the library and the National Executive Committee Room. The museum occupies two rooms: one a display of military and Legion-related items and the other a fine-art gallery. Emil A. Blackmore, the museum's namesake, served as the Legion's national adjutant from July 1, 1956, until his death on April 21, 1967. Online exhibits based on museum collections are available at legionmuseum.omeka.net.

The delegates at the Legion's first convention empowered the National Executive Committee "to make suitable provision for the collection of war photographs, equipment and such other paraphernalia of war as would preserve our knowledge of the Great War for all time." Today, the Emil A. Blackmore Museum



honors this tradition by collecting and exhibiting artifacts associated with the history of The American Legion and the wars its members have fought. The museum is free of charge and open to the public weekdays from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Museum Collections and Exhibits

Lewis Gun, World War II Rifles, and other weapons of war

American Legion uniforms and memorabilia
American Legion National Convention badges and award medals

Military uniforms and gear

United States Service Medals and personal decorations

Dioramas depicting scenes from World War I,

OCW Grant Helps Provide Gaming Tournament for Fort Irwin Soldiers

The American Legion

By Jeric Wilhelmsen

APR 19, 2023

Fort Irwin, Calif., is often referred to an island in the middle of the desert. A National Training Center for the U.S. military the installation is situated in the Mojave Desert 37 miles northeast of the closest town, Barstow.

In an effort to bring entertainment to the troops stationed in this remote locale, the base is in the midst of its second annual Desert Warrior Week. From April 17-21, troops engage in a series of competitions to see who wins the coveted Commanders Cup.

"We're very remote and isolated so this provides them with awesome entertainment and experience," explained Lacey Marshall, with Corporate Sponsorships & Advertising, MWR Fort Irwin. "This is a week where we put on all sorts of contests, and at the end we throw a big party and hand out awards."

One of the first competitions of the week is a video game tournament, in which the soldiers competed playing "Madden" at the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) facility – better known as the Warrior Zone. Through an [Operation Comfort Warriors \(OCW\)](#) grant, The American Legion provided the video

games and other accessories, which was delivered by the nonprofit [Stack Up](#).

Marshall said that the grant from OCW that provided the equipment Stack Up brought to them enabled this tournament to go on. "This was asked from the highest of our leadership being the CG (Commanding General) of the installation, Gen. Taylor, and it's something that these guys like and want to have here," she said.

When Marshall received the order to have a Madden video game tournament, they went to Stack Up to help fulfill that order. Stack Up founder and CEO Steve Machuga, a member of American Legion Post 283 in Pacific Palisades, Calif., rolled up the morning of the tournament to the Warrior Zone in his bright red, Stack Up-branded sprinter van with a couple crates of video games and accessories.

Stack Up is described as a military charity supporting U.S. and allied veterans through gaming and geek culture. The organization received a grant from OCW, which enables it to continue its mission.

"Operation Comfort Warrior gave us a big bag of money at the beginning of the year and said continue to do good work with it,"

Machuga said. "And we've worked with them for some time now and they've been great. They allow us or help us to do our mission."

Due to the OCW grant, Stack Up was able to provide the Fort Irwin Warrior Zone with a VR Oculus Headset and the copies of Madden needed for the tournament,

Machuga describes himself as, "one of those gamers who used to get shoved in those lockers back in the day." He recognized the impact the video game industry has on our culture.

"We are in a different time when gaming has become a multi-million-dollar industry that is outpacing sports and music," Machuga said. "Those kids who grew up on iPads with Minecraft and Fortnite are now our next generation of soldiers. So, it's a natural progression. It just happened that this hobby that I loved turned into a global phenomenon."

The tournament brought dozens of soldiers into the Warrior Zone to compete and watch. Spec. Ivan Lopez with the 11th ACR Iron Horse at Fort Irwin mentioned how recently there have been three tournaments hosted at the MWR Warrior Zone and was excited about the future, "Our regimental sergeant major has gotten light of it, and we now have another one form-

(Continued on page 10)

Around the Detachment

By Adjutant Mark Kilstrom

Commander Richard continues to keep a busy schedule and getting around to visiting Squadrons and Posts throughout the State of Colorado. He recently visited Highland Ranch Post 1260 along with Adjutant Mark pitching the benefits of having a Squadron on board. On his visit to Squadron 151 he presented them with their Joseph Bokan award for largest percentage in membership



with a well deserved Awards Night and Pizza Party. It has been an outstanding session with a lot of talented youth showing how eager they were to learn and grow.



The evening started out with the Frontier Sportsman's Club presenting a generous donation to the Post 209 Junior Shooting Sports Program. Community support helps ensure we are able to continue to teach our youth the safe handling of firearms and fundamentals of shooting.



The American Legion Post 209 Commander Marvin Weaver, Jr., Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Commander Rob Barry, and Venture Crew Leader Chris Hollingsworth opened the awards portion of the night. The Post and Squadron support of the Junior Shooting Sports Program is instrumental to continued success. The addition of the Venture Crew to the Post Family has increased the interest in firearms safety and shooting sports, growing the number of youth participating.

The Marksmanship program presented a lot of new rockers for achieving successive levels of proficiency - Pro-Marksman (P-MM), Marksman (MM), and Sharpshooter (SS):

The Young Guns program graduated 8 new students.

There was also a special award presented to one of Post 209 Junior Shooting Sports Program's original instructors. Chuck has supported the program for a long time and says it's time to retire. Thanks for helping build such a great program, Chuck!

Anyone interested in learning more about how you can volunteer, send a Message here or email jwhaas.al209@gmail.com. No experience is necessary, just a desire to learn and help.

On Saturday, May 13th, Squadron 1985 will be performing a worn Flag Retirement Ceremony. The event will take place between 11:00am and 1:00 pm at the Firestone Fire District training facility located at 7301 Eagle Blvd, Firestone CO.

Squadron 75 is working on developing a Jr Shooting program. Gary Dausch, the Squadron Adjutant picked up our mobile shooting range from American-



ism Chairman Ron Noakes and hauled it over the Great Divide to set it up in Cortez. The portable and inflatable range, which is transported in a Detachment owned trailer, is available for any Squadron to use. Contact Jr Vice-commander Ron Noakes.

Squadron 11-11 in Broomfield reported donations of \$4,000 to CWF, \$3,000 to Tunnels to Towers, \$4,000 to Combat Soldiers Recovery Fund and \$4,000 to the Fisher House Foundation. Great Job guys!!!

What's your Squadron up to? Share your events and inspire others.



Submitted by Randy Forsythe

On April 1, 2023 the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 65 assisted Great Beginning pre school and daycare. The squadron built shelves in a new storage shed that was donated by a business. The shed holds the curriculum for Christian based learning. The SAL had three members worked 8 hours building and installing custom shelves in the new shed.



Submitted by Jackie Bowen (via Facebook)
Edited for space

Centennial Post 209 Young Guns Shooting Sports
The Spring 2023 session has come to a close

Five Things to Know

The American Legion
APR 17, 2023

1. [The United States, South Korea and Japan rehearsed their seaborne missile defense in international waters on Monday](#), four days after North Korea launched another ballistic missile. The guided-missile destroyers Yulgok Yi I, the USS Benfold and the JS Atago trained together in the Sea of Japan, or the East Sea, South Korea's Ministry of National Defense said in a news release Monday. All three are equipped with the Aegis Combat System, shown capable in tests of intercepting ballistic missiles.
2. [A unilateral strike by U.S. troops in northern Syria that targeted an Islamic State senior leader killed at least two people, U.S. Central Command said in a statement Monday](#). A helicopter raid by American forces resulted in the deaths of two people who were armed in addition to the "probable death" of a senior ISIS leader responsible for planning attacks in the Middle East and Europe, the command said.
3. [Top diplomats from the Group of Seven wealthy democracies are vowing a tough stance on China's increasing threats to Taiwan and on North Korea's unchecked tests of long-range missiles](#), while building momentum on ways to boost support for Ukraine and punish Russia for its invasion. Russia's war in

Ukraine will consume much of the agenda Monday as the envoys gather in this Japanese hot spring resort town for Day Two of talks meant to pave the way for action by G-7 leaders when they meet next month in Hiroshima.

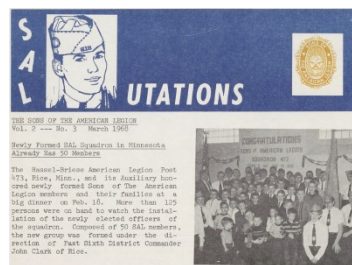
4. [The death toll from Russian missile strikes on eastern Ukraine's city of Sloviansk rose to 11 Saturday](#) as rescue crews tried to reach people trapped in the rubble of an apartment building, Ukrainian authorities said. Ukraine's air force said the country would soon have weapons with which to try to prevent attacks like the one on Friday. The delivery of the Patriot air defense system promised by the U.S. was expected in Ukraine sometime after Easter, Ukrainian air force spokesperson Yuriy Ihnat said.

5. [Congress returns to Capitol Hill from a two-week break with a rush of posture hearings ahead of expected budget proposals from the House and Senate at the start of the summer](#). The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have more than 20 budget hearings scheduled this week, with nine of them focused on military operations and funding issues. The Senate and House Armed Services Committees have 14 additional hearings scheduled, including testimony from the Army and Navy secretaries.

50 Years of Sons of The American Legion Newsletters Now Available

The American Legion
MAR 09, 2023

More than 1,400 pages of [Sons of The American Legion newsletters](#) are now available through the American Legion Digital Archive. Digitization of this material was made possible



by the Sons organization to support their upcoming centennial. The newly available newsletters focus on national SAL activities, particularly national

meetings. For the first time, early activities of squadrons and detachments can be explored in the *Legion Heir* newsletter. Sons of The American Legion newsletters include:

- [The Legion Heir](#), 1938-1941
- [SALuations](#), 1967-1985
- [National Update](#), 1986-2018

Visit the [Digital Archive](#) and discover something new about the Sons of The American Legion.



"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

Free Lifetime National Parks Passes Are Here for Veterans and Gold Star Families

From Military.com

All U.S. veterans and Gold Star family members can get a free lifetime entrance pass for federal parks and recreation sites nationwide starting Nov. 11, 2022.

The pass, an expansion on the annual free pass for currently serving troops and their families, grants free access to about 2,000 parks and lands managed by the National Park Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Forest



Service; Bureau of Land Management; Bureau of Reclamation; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, according to an announcement on the park service website. It also gives discounted amenity fees in some locations.

While not every park or visitor area requires an entrance fee, many do. For example, Yosemite National Park in California charges a \$35 entrance fee per vehicle, while Craters of the Moon National Monument charges \$20. Other locations charge for entering museum or curation areas in the visitor center. For instance, the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center in the Chugach National Forest, Alaska, charges \$5 per adult to access a film and exhibits.

Those fees are waived for holders of the new lifetime pass, as well as those with the free active-duty America the Beautiful military pass or other passes sold or awarded by the agencies. The new pass covers the holder and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle at sites that charge per car, or the pass owners and up to three adults age 16 and over at sites that charge per person. The new lifetime pass program does not exclude veterans with so-called "bad paper" discharges. To get the pass, veterans must submit one of the following:

- Unexpired Department of Defense Identification Card (DD Form 2, DD Form 2765, or Next Generation USID replacement)
- Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)
- Veteran ID Card

Veteran designation on a state-issued U.S. driver's license or identification card To receive a pass visit a National Parks or parks and land agency store or staffed fee kiosk, or order via the [U.S. Geological Survey store](#). Passes ordered online carry a \$10 processing and shipping fee. Passes received in-person are free.

Gold Star family members can receive the pass by presenting a self-verification form certifying they are the next of kin to a military member killed during service overseas. The form includes a signature block and confirmation that the user is an "eligible next of kin (NOK) of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in qualifying situation.

"No other identification or proof is required for Gold Star family members who want to get a lifetime pass.



Indiana Post Delivers \$5,000 to NEF

The American Legion

APR 19, 2023

The 2023 storm season already has been an active one, with tornadoes reported in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

And American Legion posts already have stepped up to help, [providing food and other donations](#) to those impacted. And another way one Indiana post has helped out is through a donation to the Legion's [National Emergency Fund \(NEF\)](#), which provides financial assistance to Legionnaires, posts and Sons of The American Legion impacted by natural disasters.

In mid-April, Atkins Saw American Legion Post 355 on the south side of Indianapolis made a \$5,000 donation to the NEF. Post 355 Commander Duane Sloan, Post Adjutant Guy Clemons and executive board member Donald McCoy traveled to American Legion National Headquarters and presented the check to National Treasurer Shawn Long, who in turned presented the group with a thank-you letter, a certificate of appreciation and a signed photo of American Legion National Commander James Troiola.

The donation was spearheaded by Post 355 member Matthew Longshore, a U.S. Navy veteran. "We've been looking for some different organizations to donate to, and I started looking at the (NEF)," said the 42-year-old Longshore. "I had no idea how much the fund did - \$3,000 a member, \$10,000 for a post for after a storm. We thought that was a pretty good deal. And it helps our brothers and sisters."

While noting that the fund can assist those impacted by such events as a tornado that struck nearby Martinsville, Ind., Longshore said he also appreciates that the NEF is a nationwide program.

"I'm originally from California, and I know of a lot of areas there that have been burned out," he said. "No matter where you are in the country, it's coming. We've got severe weather coming here this time of year. The fire season's coming on the West Coast. And the National Emergency Fund goes everywhere. We're thinking about making this a recurring donation."

The American Legion's National Emergency Fund provides up to \$3,000 for qualified Legionnaires or Sons of The American Legion, and up to \$10,000 for qualified American Legion posts which have been affected by [declared natural disasters](#).

To be eligible for an individual grant, the Legionnaire or Son:

1. Must have been displaced from their primary residence due to damage sustained during a declared natural disaster.
2. Must provide copies of receipts of items required to meet immediate needs, such as housing, food, water, clothing, etc., during the period immediately following the disaster.
3. Must be an active member at the time of the disaster and the time of application.

To apply for an NEF grant, click [here](#). To donate to the NEF, click [here](#).



OCW Promotes Gaming at Fort Irwin

(Continued from page 8)

ing," he said. "And he now sees that gaming is a huge thing that brings a lot of soldiers in". When Lopez found out the game for the tournament was going to be "Madden", he didn't think many people would show up. But he was surprised by the turnout.

Spec. Miguel Sandoval of Fort Irwin's 211th Gun-Slingers had a good attitude about losing his first match. "Video games are a hobby of mine and I like to test my metal against other players," he said. "It's just today, unfortunately, I met a better match. He's been clearly playing the game longer than I have, and if it were a different game it could have turned out differently. But I had fun the entire time."

Fortunately, Sandoval's past experience with football gave him something to draw upon when playing this game. He also noted the benefit having a place like the Warrior Zone at Fort Irwin. "It helps unwind soldiers throughout the day," he said. "Video games are nothing but a release, a place away from work, just something to enjoy to pass the time."

His competitor in the match was Pvt. Dylan Deedrick of Dragon Team-Ops Group, who had a much different history playing "Madden". "I've been playing video games ever since I was 6 years old," he said. "I started playing 'Madden', it was just me, my dad, my little brother and sisters. We would have fun tournaments with each other. I would always win."

Deedrick said that while he's enjoyer other games over the years, "Madden just been the game I just stuck around ever since I was 6." And when he found out the tournament was going to be "Madden", he was ready for the

competition. "It was my leadership who said we're going to have a Warrior Week and they said the game is going to be "Madden". I said, 'time to test my skills, see how far I get.'"

After dropping off the copies of "Madden" for the tournament, Machuga set up an additional PC in a small private room that provided a direct link to Stack Up's suicide-prevention Overwatch team. "We have an online presence through Stack Up called Overwatch, which is our 24/7 suicide-prevention team online through a program called Discord," he said. "It's for people who don't have anyone to talk to if they need someone outside of the chain-of-command that they want to talk with."

Spec. Casey Auman of Vulture Team-Ops Group spoke of the need for an option like the dedicated PC at the Warrior Zone. "I think it's very valuable," he said. "Some people aren't very good at talking to people in person, so that gives them another way to talk about their problems or feeling through the Internet. Some people get sheltered and they are not used to this environment. People come from all over the country and join the Army, so it's just a different environment for people."

Marshall also spoke about the dedicated PC. "We find all the time that there are soldiers and officers that need some just someone to talk to and they don't want to go through their chaplain or chain-of-command for whatever reason," she said. "This allows them the opportunity to get what they need and want while staying within the confines of who they can talk to."

The Chairman for Colorado Boys State and the President of Auxiliary Unit 209 were recently interviewed by Colorado Spring sTV Channel Fox 21. click the link to see the entire interview.

["A week that can shape a lifetime" | FOX21 News Colorado](#)

Museum

World War II, Vietnam and the War on Terrorism

Over 2,500 World War I and World War II posters – more information about our poster collection is available at www.legion.org/posters

The original handwritten draft for the 1944 GI Bill of Rights – more information about the GI Bill is available at www.legion.org/education/thelegionrole

Fine Art Gallery

Original paintings, sculptures, prints and photographs

Featured artists: Howard Chandler Christy, Joe Rosenthal, Wayman Adams, Leon Reni-Mel and many more

Pieces include portraits of presidents and prominent military leaders, images of heroism and patriotic works

The American Legion Library

From legion.org

The American Legion Library was established in 1923 and is located on the north end of the fourth floor of National Headquarters in Indianapolis. While the organization and building are not public, the library staff welcomes and strives to help Legionnaires, veterans and non-veterans alike.

Researchers, students and others who want



access to the library should first inquire about their subjects through a telephone call, mail or email.

The library houses approximately 12,000 books covering the subjects of military and U.S. history, veterans affairs and literature. This wealth of historical information and knowledge is available to the public. Our military unit histories are just one of many collections considered by many to be a major resource.

The library also maintains the archives and current correspondence filing. The minutes of every national meeting and convention have been recorded. The library staff compiles digests for the national meetings, and copies of recent digests can be found in the [Digital Archive](#).

Publications such as booklets, brochures and pamphlets from divisions, commissions and committees are kept indefinitely. Department publications such as newspapers and minutes of meetings are available, but these holdings are not complete. No material can be loaned out of the building.

Contact Information

Library and Museum Director: Howard Trace
Phone: (317) 630-1366



Predatory Law Firms Scam for Benefits

Have you recently been aggressively contacted by a company or law firm regarding legal representation to file your PACT Act or Camp Lejeune presumptive VA claims? Dishonest attorneys are messaging Veterans with offers of assistance but charge inflated fees. VA will help gather the necessary evidence to support it. There are no costs or hidden fees to apply. [Apply directly to VA securely online or in person](#) at any regional office.

OCW grant benefits suicide-prevention event in Indianapolis

By [Steven B. Brooks](#)

APR 04, 2023

The [Irreverent Warriors'](#) Silkies Hike on April 1 in downtown Indianapolis was sponsored by The American Legion via an [Operation Comfort Warriors \(OCW\)](#) grant. The \$3,750 grant covered the cost of food for those 240 or so hikers – some who came from as far away as San Diego, as well as supplies needed for registration prior to the walk.

But for Douglas Chace, The American Legion's OCW coordinator, the Saturday event was as much about another Legion program as it was about OCW.

"The mission of Irreverent Warriors kind of mirrors our ['Be the One'](#) program in that it's focused on that personal contact to prevent veteran suicides," Chace said. "They use these walks and that dark military humor to recreate that camaraderie from the military and help work through whatever issues they may be having."

"With one of our primary focuses being preventing veteran suicides, our Operation Comfort Warriors is able to step in directly with this event and provide things to support this event and allow things to move forward so we can keep more veterans on our rolls."

Irreverent Warriors is a non-profit with local communities in 37 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, Guam and Europe. The organization works with other veteran service organizations to provide services such as job placement and housing, as well providing a support network through events such as its Silkies Hikes.

Two previous Irreverent Warriors' hikes in Indianapolis also have received OCW sponsorship, as have similar hikes in Atlanta and Birmingham. Future hikes also will receive American Legion support.

"It's just really easy to come alongside and work with them to achieve the goal of the reduction of veteran suicides," said Chace.

Jason Black, Irreverent Warriors' Indianapolis coordinator, said American Legion support for such hikes "is extremely important. Operation Comfort Warriors' support has been absolutely crucial to what we do. (The American Legion) is always the first organization I mention when I talk to others about the sup-

port we get. It's programs like OCW that lets us do what we do."

Black, a U.S. Army veteran with a deployment to Iraq, said he became involved with Irreverent Warriors when he was "dragged to my first hike. Somebody asked me at the last minute, and my wife told me to go. I found out it was exactly what I needed. And I didn't realize how much I needed it or how much I was missing the military camaraderie. It actually set me on the path that I'm on now, extremely involved in the veteran community here in Indiana."

Black also noted a parallel between his organization's mission and that of the "Be the One" initiative. "We bring veterans together using humor and camaraderie to improve mental health and prevent veteran suicides," he said. "We do it through our Silkies Hikes and through our other smaller events. It's working. And it's like the Legion's suicide-prevention program. If I can just reach one person a day ... that's all I ask for every single day I wake up."

Chace has taken part in three Indianapolis Irreverent Warriors' hikes and one in Atlanta and is planning to attend two others this year. "What I've found is the camaraderie renewed really raises your spirits," he said. "In the last week, we lost three veterans in (nearby) Greenwood. We lost a couple very highly decorated Navy SEALs, all to the suicide. That really emphasizes and highlights the need for an event like this. Thankfully, Irreverent Warriors has them all over the place."

American Legion Past National Commander James Koutz made raising funds for OCW his national commander's project when he was elected in 2012. Support for the program has stayed strong since, including [a March donation of more than \\$111,000](#) from the American Legion Family at Kenneth N Dowden Wayne Post 64 in Indianapolis.

"Post 64 is exceptional. From its inception, Operation Comfort Warriors has received almost \$1 million from that post," Chace said. "The fact that different posts and districts and departments at all levels have continued to support the program does nothing but validate the importance of the program."



Posts prioritizing Be the One initiative

The American Legion

APR 13, 2023

American Legion posts are rallying around the organization's initiative to [Be the One](#) to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. Take, for example, American Legion Post 532 in Hayesville, N.C. The post will host a [Challenge 2.2 Walk](#) later this month to raise awareness and eliminate the stigma related to mental health treatment.

Some other recent examples:

- In Maryland, American Legion Post 2 is [creating a support group](#) for survivors of Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs). Members are partnering with VA to offer services to local veterans as a way to address the Be the One campaign.

- In Simsbury, Conn., [American Legion Tomalonis-Hall Post 84](#) will be at the New England Air Museum on May 20, raising awareness about Be the One.

There are many resources available for American Legion Family members to use in

support of Be the One. [This video is a great tutorial](#) of how a Legionnaire in Arizona used Be the One promotional materials at his post's successful event. Among other materials that can be found at [the resources web page](#):

- **A set of brochures available for download:** One brochure is a PDF that can be used to educate agencies with mental health services, community partners, local government leaders and others about Be the One. The other brochure is a Word document that can be downloaded and customized for posts to use at suicide awareness events.



Photo by Jeric Wilhelmsen

The entire back page of the trifold is intentionally left blank (other than directions, which can be deleted) so that posts can fill it with local resources.

- **Branding materials:** A variety of approved American Legion Be the One promotional materials that posts can use to promote the initiative.


- **Banner stand:** This is a print-ready file to send to a local or online vendor for a two-foot by six-foot banner that is vinyl or fabric pop-



OPERATION A.L.F.



Detachment of Colorado
Sgt-at-Arms
Teddy Kuntz
A.L.F. Fundraiser



American Legion Family, A.L.F., Dog will provide comfort to children whenever and wherever they need him. Teddy is asking for donations to purchase A.L.F. Dogs to give to children in the hospital, to police and fire stations, children of the deployed, etc.

The adorable puppy is sporting a RED T-Shirt with the American Legion Family Logo's.

Suggested donation \$10/per dog.

SQUADRON/POST/UNIT NAME & NUMBER _____

CONTACT NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____ PHONE _____

DONATION AMOUNT _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: SAL Make sure to put in the memo line: ALF Dogs

SEND TO:
Detachment Adjutant - Mark Kilstrom, 1870 River Dr. Fountain, CO 80817

You may also bring donations to Mid-Year.

Come Support Your Local Veterans!
100% of the Proceeds go to George Beach Post #4

9TH ANNUAL

Pre-Registration is always appreciated

American Legion CAR SHOW



Registration: 9am-10am
Showtime: 10am-2pm

\$20 Donation
Trophies: Top 3, People's Choice, and Special Trophies
Door Prizes

50/50 Raffle
Purchase tickets at American Legion (Do NOT Need to Present to Win!)

Raffle Tickets Available (Must Be Present to Win!)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5TH, 2023
GEORGE BEACH POST #4
2124 WEST COUNTY ROAD 54G
FORT COLLINS, CO 80524
QUESTIONS? CALL DENNY: (970)227-2070

Breakfast Burritos
Bloody Mary's
Hot Dogs w/ Chips
Brats w/ Chips
Water and Ice Tea

Made with PosterMyWall.com



15th Annual

SAL Golf Tournament



Friday, June 16, 2023
Applewood Golf Course
14001 W. 32nd Ave, Golden

Player / Team Sign-in at 6:30 a.m. Shotgun Start at 7:30 a.m.

\$90 per Player / \$360 per Foursome

(Includes 18 holes, of golf, cart, and range balls)

Entry Deadline June 5 (NO EXCEPTIONS)

Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/yx7y3tra>

Prizes and Awards

- Team Awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place
- Awards for Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, and Longest Putt
- 1st Drink, Lunch, and Door Prizes at Post 178, 1655 Simms Street, Lakewood

Tournament Sponsorship Opportunities


Contact Brad Hall 720-471-9383 (leave a message)

Hole Sponsor \$150 Prize Hole Sponsor \$200

(Includes sign placed on tee box, recognition at lunch and in Post newsletter)


Sponsors' Deadline June 6

Proceeds go to Sons of The American Legion Charities



SAL Golf Tournament

15th Annual



Friday, June 16, 2023
 Applewood Golf Course
 14001 W. 32nd Ave., Golden

Player / Team Sign-in at 6:30 a.m.
 Shotgun Start at 7:30 a.m.

- 18 Holes of Golf, Cart, Range Balls
- Team Awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place
- Awards for Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, and Longest Putt
- 1st Drink, Lunch, and Door Prizes at Post 178, 1655 Simms Street, Lakewood

REGISTRATION

\$90 per Player / \$360 per Foursome

Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/yx7y3tra> (cut and paste)

Mail entries to: Lakewood American Legion, 1655 Simms St., Lakewood, CO 80215

Make checks payable to: "SAL Golf"

(Register as a single or group. Specify which group players you're paying for.)

Entry Deadline June 5 (NO EXCEPTIONS)

Team Captain

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Player #2 Name: _____

Player #3 Name: _____

Player #4 Name: _____

I cannot participate but would like to make a contribution

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Direct inquiries to:
 Brad Hall
 720-471-9383
 (leave a message)

Proceeds from the Golf Tournament benefit Sons of The American Legion Charities

What is your Squadron/Post family up to? We all have events and activities that we do year round. Share your story with the rest of us. If you get this newsletter, you have a computer or other so called smart device that you can send and receive information. We are all about sharing information. Get your event publicized to help make it a bigger success.

Be The One

up display

- **Posters:** These can be downloaded and printed individually or as the front and back of a sign board for an event.
- **Wallet cards:** Business-card sized printables



with Be The One branding and QR codes. Can be used as single-sided cards, combined for double-sided cards, or added to the back side of a personal business card.

- **Video links:** Vimeo playlist includes videos that can be downloaded and played while offline. They can be shared on social media, posted to the web and played at post events.
- **A QR Code:** This can be used to direct others to the web page to find information and resources related to the campaign.



SAL Videos, Snapshots of Service Contests Open to Entry

Entry forms for the Sons of The American Legion's Snapshots of Service and Videos of Service are now available online.

The new Videos of Service contest was adopted by the SAL National Executive Committee at the 2022 Fall Meetings. The intent of Videos of Service is "to facilitate public relations, brand awareness and promotion of the Sons of The American Legion on social media platforms."

Videos of Service is open to all SAL members. Videos must include SAL members with their covers or identifiable clothing on during the activity or event; be under five minutes and published to an approved social media platform — Facebook, YouTube, Instagram or any emerging platform deemed appropriate by a vote of the SAL's Public Relations & Media Commission — with a link emailed to the commission using the downloaded fillable PDF; and fall into one of three categories.

Those categories are program support, which highlights, promotes, encourages or displays participation in Legion programs; membership and recruitment, which encourages new members and renewals; and community engagement, which shows detachments or squadrons involved in work in their communities.

The Public Relations & Media Commission will judge entries on video quality, content and branding.

Snapshots of Service continues to call for photos of SAL members engaged in activities that represent one of the Four Pillars: Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Members must be wearing SAL caps or apparel, and photos must be in JPG or TIFF format. More details and entry forms for both contests are available at [Legion.org/sons/publications](https://legion.org/sons/publications).



Protect Your Benefits from Poaching Scams

Pension Poaching is a financial scam that targets Veterans, service members, and their families with the goal of profiting from [VA Pension benefits](#). Scammers approach Veterans who meet the age, disability, or income requirements to receive monthly pension payments. Protect yourself and your family by learning to [identify and avoid fraudulent practices](#).

American Legion program provides \$20,000 to assist South Dakota chapter of fly-fishing nonprofit

The American Legion
APR 19, 2023

The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) was established to provide military personnel recovering in Department of Defense (DoD) medical facilities with items not provided by the federal government: fitness equipment, video games, iPods and other items to help pass the time while they heal.

OCW's mission has since been expanded to delivering similar items to veterans in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities, as well as individuals who were wounded while in service but have since left the military.

Also receiving OCW assistance are multiple nonprofits to also provide therapeutic and leisure activities to both active-duty military and veterans. In 2022 alone, [more than \\$44,000 was provided in OCW grants](#) to three nonprofits that use activities such as video gaming and whitewater rafting to assist veterans.

And, most recently, OCW was able to provide a local chapter of [Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing \(PHWFF\)](#) with \$20,000, which will allow the chapter to take a trip to Sibley Lake in Wyoming's Bighorn National Forest.

Project Healing Waters provides military personnel recovering in DoD hospitals and Warrior Transition Units, and veterans receiving care from VA medical centers and clinics with therapeutic outdoor recreation through the sport of fly fishing.

The beneficiary of the grant was the Rapid City chapter of PHWFF, which is headed up by Program Lead Josh Osterbur. Legionnaire Courtney Steffen – a member of Arthur T. Peterson Post 136 in Chester, S.D., and a service officer in the Brookings County Veterans Service Office – met Osterbur through Facebook and was advised by mutual friends to look into the work he was doing through PHWFF. She eventually began recommend-

ing veterans to Osterbur to go through his program.

Osterbur later reached out to Steffen when he was doing a fundraising auction and asked if she could help publicize the event. She did, which caught the eye of Doug Chace, the OCW coordinator at American Legion National Headquarters. Chace suggested to Steffen to apply for an OCW grant on behalf of Project Healing Waters, which required little coaxing on his part.

"I love the Operation Comfort Warriors program," Steffen said. "And getting veterans outdoors is therapeutic in and of itself. And then having your battle buddies around you, I would think it cathartic. The Black Hills area, where Josh is located, is quite possibly the most beautiful part of South Dakota. Getting veterans connected to that ... forming a community, it's really impactful in that regard. "I put Josh in contact with Doug. And there laid the idea. It was cool to watch it happen." Osterbur, a U.S. Air Force combat veteran who was medically retired in 2014, said his VA therapist directed him to Project Healing Waters initially in 2021; when the program lead



for the Rapid City chapter left, Osterbur took over the position.

"It allows me to give back to my brothers and sisters," Osterbur said of the work he does. "It's just good to see people smile and get out of their heads for a while."

The \$20,000 check was presented March 30 dur-

ing the Rapid City Rush hockey game, where Osterbur was the Hero of the Game. American Legion Department of South Dakota Commander Doug Feltman was on hand to present the check to Osterbur, who said the donation provided him with a sigh of relief.

"Honestly, for me, it took a lot of pressure off of me trying to come up with different fundraisers and things like that," he said. "It means a lot, because a lot of these (PHWFF) participants haven't left this local area in a very long time. They get to do something that they normally wouldn't get a chance to do."



About OCW

As the war in Afghanistan winds down, U.S. military personnel are coming home where they join other recent veterans who served in Iraq. Many of these servicemembers have left the battlefield only to be faced with a new fight: a struggle to overcome the mental and physical wounds suffered during deployment. Those with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are returning home in unprecedented numbers. In fact, the Army has said that up to 20 percent of the men and women who served in Afghanistan or Iraq have suffered TBI.

Even as the wars conclude, those in the military still face inherent dangers while fighting the global war on terrorism, during training exercises and while performing other dangerous duties.

While the care at many military hospitals and warrior transition units is extraordinary, The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program was created to provide "nonessentials" - items that help wounded warriors' recovery but don't usually

show up as a budget line on government spreadsheets.

How You Can Help

Most military medical centers are not equipped to store large quantities of care packages. The Legion strongly prefers monetary donations so that it can expedite the purchase and delivery of items to troops .

How to donate


[Click here to contribute a donation electronically.](#)

Checks may be mailed to:
Operation Comfort Warriors
The American Legion
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216.


A fundraiser such as a motorcycle run or a fish fry can be a great way to gather donations. A local Legion post, auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron, Legion Riders chapter, church group or other charitable organization could assist in holding a fundraiser. Proceeds from a fundraising event can be donated to the Legion via the website or mailing address listed above.



ABATE OF COLORADO DISTRICT 13



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 1985



Food and Drinks Available For Purchase
50/50 drawing

October 7th 2023
11am to 5pm
registration begins at 10:00am
at
High Country Harley Davidson
3761 Monarch St Frederick Co
80516

MOTORCYCLE RODEO

Rodeo participants \$15.00 entry - passenger free open to the public free to watch

For more Info Contact
Bear 303-642-7118
dcbear1985@aol.com
or
Nathan 303-591-7141
nathanbrounce@bwcreationsinc.com

HELPING HORSES AND HEROES




We keep horses out of the slaughter pipeline. Our rescues are rehabilitated and trained to ready them for adoption or so they can serve as therapy and support animals.

- ★ Adoption
- ★ Sponsorships
- ★ Veteran Programs
- ★ Clinics
- ★ Support for families of veterans
- ★ Volunteering

We offer a safe place for healing, developing a sense of purpose, and establishing meaningful connections between horses and humans.




ALLEGIANCE RANCH AND EQUINE RESCUE

AllegianceRanch.org | 720.301.2533

American Legion Post 1985 Firestone, CO

Flag Retirement Ceremony

Saturday May 13th, 2023
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Town of Frederick Public Works/Frederick Firestone
Fire Protection District Training Facility
7301 Eagle Blvd Frederick, CO 80504

(Please park on Eagle Blvd. or Carbide St. and not inside the facility grounds)

"We thank Thee for our Country and its Flag, and for the liberty for which it stands. To clean and purging flame we commit these Flags, worn out in worthy service."

Chili/Chili Dog Feed at the American Legion Post 1985 located at 870 1st Street Firestone, CO to follow the ceremony. All are invited.

Contact: Kirk Will at willis.color@gmail.com for more information


PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING

Open fly tying night!

Have you ever wanted to learn to tie your own flies? Want to learn new techniques or improve your game? Or maybe you just want to hang out with other fishermen and fellow vets. Perhaps you'd like to volunteer?

Project Healing Waters will be holding open fly tying nights the first 3 Tuesdays of every month starting Nov. 1st. All equipment and materials will be provided. We will need participants and volunteers, so all are welcome.

Sessions will be held from 6:00-8:00 PM at:
American Legion Post 2
701 W. 9th St.
Pueblo, CO 81003



Point of contact:
Ken Willard
(719)231-5606
peakspeakerrepair@gmail.com

Our Mission:
Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings.

Sponsored By:

