



"Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage"

Colorado Sons Electronic Update January 2024

Supporting the Principles of The American Legion Since 1932

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Colorado

A 2X Triple Nickle Detachment

Home to Past National Commander Michael Moss

Richard Humphrey, Commander



www.salcolorado.org

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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: Shake The Trees, Lets Go For Three

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

Month of the Four Chaplains

From www.legion.org

The story Early on Feb. 3, 1943, an enemy torpedo struck the Army transport Dorchester as it carried 902 officers and enlisted men, Navy armed guard, merchant seamen and civilian workers in the North Atlantic. The Coast Guard cutter escorts Comanche and Escanaba rescued 230 men. As Dorchester took on water, four Army chaplains – Lt. George L. Fox (Methodist), Lt. Alexander D. Goode (Jewish), Lt. John P. Washington (Roman Catholic), and Lt. Clark V. Poling (Dutch Reformed) – calmed frightened soldiers, aided the wounded and guided the disoriented toward safety. On deck, they opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. When there were no more available, the chaplains removed their life jackets and gave them to four young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven," said John Ladd, a survivor. As the ship went down, men in rafts saw the four chaplains, arms linked and braced against the slanting deck, singing hymns and praying. Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor on the chaplains but was prevented by strict requirements of heroism under fire. It authorized a one-time posthumous Special Medal for Heroism, awarded by President Eisenhower in 1961; it was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

Lt. George L. Fox As a medical corps assistant during World War I, Fox was highly decorated for bravery and awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart and the French Croix de Guerre.

Fox studied at Moody Institute, Illinois Wesleyan and Boston University School of Theology. He and his wife, Isadore, had two children. While serving as a pastor in Gilman, Vt., he joined Walter G. Moore American Legion Post 41. He also served as the Legion's state chaplain and historian. Fox went on active duty Aug. 8, 1942, the same day his son Wyatt enlisted in the Marine



Corps. He was assigned to the Chaplains School at Harvard and reported to the 411th Coast Artillery Battalion at Camp Davis in Holly Ridge, N.C.

Lt. Alexander D. Goode Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1911, Goode became a rabbi like his father. He applied to become a Navy chaplain in early 1941, but was not accepted. After Pearl Harbor, he tried again, this time with the Army, and received an appointment on July 21, 1942. He went on active duty on Aug. 9, 1942, and was selected for the Chaplains School at Harvard. He was assigned to the 333rd Airbase Squadron in Goldsboro, N.C. In October 1942, he was transferred to

Camp Myles Standish in Taunton, Mass. He and his wife, Theresa, had one daughter.

Lt. Clark V. Poling Clark attended high school in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where he was student body president and a football halfback. He was ordained in the Reformed Church in America and served as pastor of First Reformed Church in Schenectady, N.Y. He and his wife, Betty, had a son, Clark Jr. When America entered World War II, he decided to become a chaplain. Talking with his father, who served as a chaplain in World War I, he learned that chaplains in that war had the highest mortality rate of all military personnel. On June 10, 1942, Poling was appointed a chaplain with the 131st Quartermaster Truck Regiment and reported to Camp Shelby in Mississippi. Two months after Dorchester's sinking, Betty gave birth to their daughter.

Lt. John P. Washington Born into a poor immigrant family, Washington took a newspaper route to help support his family. He loved music and sang in the church choir. In seventh grade, he sensed a call to the priesthood. Washington attended Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington, N.J., where he was ordained a priest in 1935. Shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack, he received his appointment as an Army chaplain. In June 1942, he was assigned to the 76th Infantry Division at Fort Meade, Md. In November 1942, he reported to Camp Myles Standish in Taunton, Mass., where he was reunited with Fox, Goode and Poling – his classmates at Chaplains School at Harvard

In honor of Black History Month, we're giving you stories about two great American Veterans. One about Joe Louis, better known for his boxing career rather than his service in the U.S. Army. The other about a much lesser known hero who many have never heard of, but one who's story should not be forgotten.

The Brown Bomber

From www.legion.org By Kali Martin Schick
FEB 02, 2024

More than 16 million men and women raised their right hands and swore an oath of enlistment into the U.S. military during World War II. Only one was the world heavyweight boxing champion: Joe Louis. Like many Americans, he was drafted into the Ar-

my, enlisting under his legal name, Joe Louis Barrow, on Jan. 14, 1942. A champion fighter in the boxing ring, he was ready to fight for the United States.

Born in Alabama in 1914, Louis was one of eight children born to Munroe and Lillie Barrow. His mother later married a widower, who added his six children to the household. When he was about 12, his family moved to

Detroit, where work opportunities were better for African Americans. Louis had been slow to develop, walking and talking later than many children. He did not excel in school and by 15 quit, working instead to support his family. In his late teenage years, Louis began boxing with a friend and found he had a particular talent for the sport. By 1934, he had won 50 of

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Commander's Message

By Commander Richard Humphrey

Good day Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Colorado. First, I need to apologize for disrupting the meeting at Mid-year. I'm glad everything still got accomplished and you, that were there, learned something. Second, I need to give a big thank you to Rob, Mark, Mike, Evelyn, and everyone else who assisted and gave prayers for me. Thank you all so much. Luckily, it turned out to be nothing, or at least, they found nothing wrong. I'm doing fine now and will be back on the road shortly. There is still a lot of work ahead of us to accomplish before the end of May for you to be able to receive that 3rd Triple Nickel Award for the great work you are doing for Colorado, in spite of our Legion.

Now we really need to get down to business. We have 11 Squadrons that are currently at or over 100% in membership as of January 17 report. There are nine Squadrons that are 80-90%; eight Squadrons 70-80%; which leaves 37 Squadrons that are below 60% in membership and 10 of those are at 10% or below. Gentlemen, that is NOT a good place to be at this time of the membership year. The new year is here, the membership should be above 70% for all Squadrons with at least 50% renewal. I know there was a lot of membership turned in at the Mid-Year Conference bringing several Squadrons up in membership. But

those of you who have zero (0) membership turned in for the last seven months really need to start making phone calls and getting your members to renew so that they can get back into the job of supporting your post, your community, and your squadron. I know all those members are not dual members who can get into the post on their Legion card, so please start making those phone calls. If you need assistance, let us know and your Detachment officers will be glad to come and help.

We have two new squadrons to report as of mid-year, Squadron 78, Rifle and Squadron 138, Stratton. Adjutant Mark and I have been invited to several other Posts to talk about starting squadron with them in the next few months. Gentlemen, we will finish out this membership year in a great place. There will be 10 new squadrons in the past 2 years, over 3,000 in membership for Colorado and something very few Detachments in the country can boast, three time Triple Nickel. So, gentlemen, it is up to you. Adjutant Mark and I will work on the new Squadrons, but it is up to you to get the membership up over the 3,000 mark and get the renewal rate above the 85% ranking. I know you can do it; you have done it in the past and I know you can do it again.

YOU ARE THE BEST DETACHMENT IN THE WEST. SO.....
SHAKE THE TREES, AND GO FOR THREE
 Richard Humphrey
 Detachment Commander



V4VH

By Nick Arceo, ANEC

Volunteers for Hospitalized Veterans Inc. (V4HV) is a 501-C3 nonprofit organization and is honored to have served veterans of the Colorado VA since 1997. Popcorn, popcorn! On Wednesdays at the Rocky Mountain Regional Medical center, you can't help but smell



the fresh popcorn being popped at the south entrance of the hospital. This wonderful smell infiltrates the entire hospital. Veterans have told me they make their

appointments on Wednesday so they can stop by our set up. I'm the chairman of this organization and have six board members. We set up our fundraising event every Wednesday at the south entrance of the hospital. We are open from 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Our tables offer many veteran related items, including military caps, coasters, challenge coins, bumper stickers, patches, plaques, lanyards, lapel pins, and other items. We are all volunteers, 100% of our profits stay right in the hospital for veterans. We work very closely with the VAVS office and entertain requests on behalf of veterans in the hospital and the surrounding area. Our primary charitable activities are supplying clothing for the inpatient mental health unit to benefit homeless veterans, host special events and support recreational therapy programs and finance specific needs of veterans facing hardships as identified and requested by VA staff. Here are a few examples of our help recently. We purchased an I-Pad for the Music Heals program at the hospital, we assisted a veteran

(Continued on page 3)

V4VH *continued**(Continued from page 2)*

in need when her veteran husband quickly passed away, we help with rent when a veteran is facing eviction, we have housed a veteran family as they are passing through Colorado after being discharged from the VA. This is just a sampling of the assistance we give to our veterans in need. Our organization is part of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. We are honored to give the 50th anniversary lapel pins to Vietnam Veterans that visit our stand. This is a very special lapel pin, presented only for those veterans that served in Vietnam. When a veteran comes by our tables and is identified as a Vietnam Vet, I have the honor of speaking to that Vet and holding a small ceremony to present the pin to them. At the end of the ceremony most veterans have tears in their eyes. I also present them with an informational sheet that speaks about the importance of the pin along with a Presidential proclamation signed by the president of the United States thanking them for their service in Vietnam. My board members consist of various VSO's including The Sons of The American Legion, The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, The Marine Corp League, The Marine Corp League Auxiliary and VA volunteers. We are so fortunate to be allowed to conduct fundraising at the hospital. We rely on this and the generous donations from organizations and individuals that believe in our efforts. Last year 2023, our organization gave back to veterans in need over \$30,000.! That's a lot of popcorn! Please visit our website, V4HV.org, there is a donate link on this page. Please stop by our stand, I'll make sure you get a box of our fresh popped corn!

**Black History Month** *continued**(Continued from page 1)*

54 amateur fights and had his sights set on going pro. Louis fought his first professional match on July 4, 1934, and won with a knockout in the first round. Louis' success quickly made him a hero to Black Americans. Unlike his predecessor, heavyweight champion Jack Johnson, Louis was naturally reserved, a trait his managers urged him not to lose. His quiet demeanor served him well. When he spoke, people listened. Louis spoke loudest with his fists. In 1937, he defeated heavyweight champion James J. Braddock, earning the title for himself. The next year, Louis faced German boxer Max Schmeling in a rematch that carried the weight of two ideologies: a Black American boxer squaring off with Nazi Germany's prized fighter. Their first match, in 1936, was a loss for Louis. This time, he knocked Schmeling out in the first round. With this victory, Louis' popularity grew with Black and white Americans. When he donned an Army uniform in 1942, he still held the heavyweight title. Prior to Louis' enlistment, the Army's Bureau of Public Relations was discussing what to do with the famous boxer. Although numerous celebrities joined the military during World War II and were given (or allowed to have) combat assignments, Louis' opportunities in a segregated Army were few. It was determined



he would serve Uncle Sam doing what he did best: boxing. Louis attended boot camp; he had to learn how to be a soldier even if he would not fight. In March 1942, he was allowed to defend his title; he beat Abe Simon and raised money for the Army Emergency Relief Fund.

A poster of Louis, dressed in combat gear and wielding a rifle with a fixed bayonet, became a wildly popular war-bond advertisement. Quoting a speech Louis gave at a fundraiser, the poster exclaimed, "We're going to do our part ... and we'll win because we're on God's side." Louis did his part, assigned to a traveling group of Black boxers and entertainers. The troupe was an enormous success, drawing huge crowds of GIs across the United States and eventually throughout Europe.

Louis did a lot to lift the morale of GIs. Getting to see your hero box in person was something thousands of young men must have written home about. One story recounted a young GI willing to risk his already damaged eyesight just for a glimpse of America's "Brown Bomber." If Louis had any problems with his ambassador role, he never told anyone. There was just one known rule: he refused to box in front of segregated audiences. The military was willing to bend its rules for few, but it did for Louis.

In addition to supporting millions of GIs through his appearances and shows, Louis

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Suicide Prevention, Safeguarding Veterans Benefits Among Legion's 2024 Legislative Agenda

The American Legion
FEB 02, 2024

Ahead of The American Legion's Washington Conference, taking place Feb. 25-28, the Legion has released its legislative agenda for the second session of the 118th Congress. The trifold highlights just some of the priorities of The American Legion, which will strongly advocate for additional legislation to improve the lives of veterans, servicemembers and their families. Among the priorities listed on the agenda:

Suicide prevention and mental health.

Suicide remains a top issue in the veteran community. The suicide rate among veterans is nearly double that of civilian counterparts. It is imperative that we simultaneously destigmatize mental health assistance, while increasing access. The American Legion encourages Congress to robustly fund VA's suicide prevention outreach budget and peer support programs. We encourage all Americans to "Be the One" who is willing, ready and able to have a difficult conversation about suicide and other mental health issues. Legislation supported by The American Legion include PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program (H.R. 2768) and VA Zero Suicide Demonstration Act (H.R. 1639).

Alternative treatments. Data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) shows that in 2021, approximately 2.8 million veterans experienced an illicit drug or alcohol use disorder, with 92.4 percent not receiving treatment. More must be done to ensure veterans have access to the effective treatments they desire. This includes expanding research and access into alternative treatments and emerging therapies. Legislation supported by The American Legion includes TBI and

PTSD Treatment Act (H.R. 105).

VA healthcare modernization. The biggest issue in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Healthcare Modernization is the implementation of the new electronic health record modernization program (EHRM). VA has experienced difficulties as the EHRM rollout has progressed. Some issues identified were the differences in the training software compared to end-user software, along with inexperienced instructors providing the training to VA staff. VA made improvements on these identified issues. As the EHRM rollout is set to resume in 2024, The American Legion continues to call on Congress to provide oversight and to hold VA and other relevant parties accountable for the implementation and functioning of the EHR system. Legislation supported by The American Legion includes The Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization Improvement Act (H.R. 592).

PACT Act implementation and oversight. Since the implementation of Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, VA has screened more than 5 million veterans for toxic exposure. The average time to complete a PACT Act-related claim is 157 days. It is imperative that VA fully leverage the resources made available in the PACT Act to assist in the continued modernization of Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) information technology systems as well as the hiring of additional employees to ensure claims are adjudicated in a timely manner. The American Legion urges Congress to provide the necessary oversight and funding to ensure VA has the resources to properly implement this legislation.

Safeguard veterans benefits. Veterans are

facing a growing threat from exploitative entities aiming to capitalize on the benefits rightfully earned through military service. These predatory actors range from claims companies charging exorbitant fees to lawyers seeking sizable portions of VA disability benefit payments. The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation to restore criminal penalties for persons or companies that represent or charge veterans fees to file; prepare or prosecute initial VA claims without VA accreditation; and to oppose any legislation that would allow unaccredited parties to become legal representatives without completing the accreditation process. The American Legion's advocacy role remains focused on safeguarding the well-deserved benefits of those who have served. Legislation supported by The American Legion includes Veterans Benefits Improvement Act (H.R. 1530).

Other legislative priorities include concurrent receipt, the GI Bill, military quality of life and more.

Download the complete legislative agenda [here](#). For more details on the Washington Conference, click [here](#).

Support and resources

[Information for Family Members and Dependents – Community Care \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov)

[Locating a Provider – Community Care \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov)

[Camp Lejeune Family Member Program – Community Care \(va.gov\) va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/pubs/forms.asp](https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/pubs/forms.asp)



Black History Month *continued*

(Continued from page 3)

stepped in to help friends when needed. When officer candidate (and future baseball star) Jackie Robinson knocked out a white officer's teeth over racist remarks, Louis made some phone calls. He not only managed to keep Robinson from being court-martialed or worse, but he carried enough clout out of the ring to help keep him in officer candidate school. Traveling across the country, Louis could gather information and use his status to make changes, and he is credited with helping to desegregate Army buses.

Like the millions with whom he served, Louis had to adjust to life outside the Army after the war. He joined The American Legion as a

member of Peter Salem Post 45 in Louisville, Ky. He continued to box, though years of exhibitions had taken a toll on him. He defended his heavyweight title until his retirement in 1949, when it had become apparent he was no longer in peak form. In 1950, Louis came out of retirement, necessitated by debts and trouble with the IRS. His last match was Oct. 26, 1951, against fellow Army veteran and then-heavyweight contender Rocky Marciano. Marciano won and apologized to Louis; even his opponent hated to see the heavyweight great fall short.

Upon Louis' death, President Ronald Reagan waived the stringent requirements for internment at Arlington National Cemetery, and America's hero was buried there with full

military honors April 21, 1981.

Despite winning millions over his career, it is estimated Louis personally earned less than \$1 million. He never shook his troubles with the IRS, though he was able to live comfortably. Louis pursued other passions, especially golf. Among the many strides he made for civil rights, directly or indirectly, it was his desire to play in the 1952 San Diego Open that resulted in the removal of the bylaw excluding Black golfers from the Professional Golfers' Association of America (today's PGA Tour). Whether it was in the boxing ring, on the fairways or in an Army uniform, Louis set himself apart as a fighter, advocate, friend and veteran.

Kali Martin Schick is senior historian at the National Medal of Honor Museum.



Charles Jackson French: The Human Tugboat

24 February 2022

From www.navy.mil From Chief Mass Communication Specialist Xander Gamble

Charles Jackson French was a Navy Mess Specialist 1st Class Petty Officer the night the USS *Gregory* (APD 3) was sunk by Japanese destroyers during the Battle of Guadalcanal. French saved the lives of more than a dozen Sailors by swimming through the night, dragging a raft full of injured shipmates through shark-infested waters.

"Abandon ship!" The crew of high-speed transport USS *Gregory* (APD 3) were returning from transferring a Marine Raider Battalion to Savo Island on the night of Sept. 4, 1942. The night was black as ink and a haze was obscuring any landmarks, so the crews of *Gregory* and her sister ship USS *Little* (APD 4) were patrolling the area between Savo Island and Guadalcanal. Three Japanese destroyers – *Yūdachi*, *Hatsuyuki*, and *Murakumo* – came into the Slot undetected to bombard American positions ashore. Just before 1 a.m. on the morning of Sept. 5, the two ships saw flashes of gunfire.

While the crews of *Gregory* and *Little* debated whether to engage the Japanese destroyers or depart quietly, a Navy pilot also spotted the flashes of fire. Thinking the flashes came from Japanese submarines, the pilot dropped a line of five flares in the water. These flares became a backdrop for the silhouettes of *Gregory* and *Little* who now became the targets of the Japanese destroyers and a

Japanese cruiser that had joined them. At 1 a.m., the Japanese opened fire. Outgunned, *Gregory* only lasted three minutes from the time the flares were dropped to the time she began to sink. Her boilers had burst and her mess decks were

afire. Mess Attendant 1st Class Charles Jackson French, known only at the time by his last name, was on *Gregory* that night. French was a black man born in Foreman, Arkansas, Sept. 25, 1919. After his parents died, he moved to Omaha, Nebraska, to live with his sister. A few months after his



18th birthday, French joined the Navy as a Mess Attendant – one of the only positions open to black men at the time. He served his four years in the Navy working the mess decks of Hawaii-based heavy cruiser USS *Houston* (CA-30) and returned

home to Nebraska in 1941. Four days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, French reenlisted into the Navy and was assigned to *Gregory* in March 1942. Little did he know that three weeks before his 23rd birthday, French would become a Navy hero. This was during a period of American history when segregation was active, which means black men and white men were not permitted to swim together, even during Navy swim calls in the ocean. However, at 1:23 a.m. on Sept. 5, 1942, French was one of a few uninjured

Sailors that found themselves floating on makeshift rafts when the Japanese ships turned their guns from the crippled ships to the crew floating in the water.

French was an unassuming 5'8" and 195 pounds when Navy Ensign Robert Adrian, with injuries in his legs and blast fragments in his eyes, regained consciousness and saw French swimming around and gathering injured shipmates to pile onto a raft. With Adrian amongst the rescued Sailors on board the raft, French started to tie a rope around his waist. Adrian attempted to talk French into getting out of the shark-infested waters, but French responded that he was more afraid of the Japanese than he was of the sharks. "Just tell me if I'm going the right way," French said as he began to tow the raft full of injured Sailors, according to a 1942 radio dramatization introducing Adrian to tell French's story. Swimming until sunrise, French and the 15 Sailors on the raft he was towing were spotted by a scout aircraft. The pilot dispatched a Marine landing craft to pick them up. French was one of six Sailors who swam through the night and up to eight hours, rescuing all but 11 members of *Gregory*'s crew. For his actions, French received a letter of commendation from the commander of the Southern Pacific Fleet, Adm. William F. "Bull" Halsey. The Navy plans to dedicate a rescue swimming training pool in May 2022 at Naval Base San Diego to French in honor of his heroic actions during the Battle of Guadalcanal.



Things You Should Know

SAL: Share your Snapshots of Service

The American Legion

MAR 13, 2019

Sons of The American Legion squadrons are encouraged to enter the annual Snapshots of Service photo contest to promote the Sons' programs. Submitted photos must represent one of the Four Pillars: Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, or Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Members must be wearing SAL caps or apparel, and the photo must be in JPG or TIFF format. Submission forms are available

at <https://www.legion.org/sons/publications>. Squadrons and detachments are also encouraged to share what they're doing through online platforms including Legiontown, the

Sons' [Facebook](#) page, and the Sons' [website](#).

SAL recruiter award forms available

online *The American Legion*

NOV 28, 2020

The Individual Recruitment Award and the Blue Brigade Award submission forms have been posted to the Sons of The American Legion website. The National Membership Committee offers the Individual Recruitment Award for those members recruiting five new members into the Sons of The American Legion within a membership year. This pin is suitable to wear upon your cover or lapel. A new member is defined as any eligible Son joining for the 2021 membership year who was not a member of the Sons of The American Legion during the 2020 membership year. Transfers or renewals do not count as new members. The submission form for the

Individual Recruitment Award is available by clicking [here](#). The Blue Brigade Recruiter Award recognizes SAL members who enroll 30 or more new members in a membership year; reactivated members do not count. The submission form for the Blue Brigade Recruiter Award is available by clicking [here](#).

From the Detachment Constitution: Article IX Amendments. SECTION 1: This Constitution may be amended at any Detachment Convention by a vote of two thirds (2/3) of the total authorized representation represented in person provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted by resolution. All Resolutions, originating from a Squadron shall be submitted in proper form at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Convention to the Detachment Adjutant.



Words From The Chaplain

By James Bird, Detachment Chaplain

Gentlemen, allow me to introduce myself. I am Chaplain James Bird and am a licensed Chaplain and ordained Christian minister. I began serving the American Legion as Chaplain for the ALR Post 209 a little over two years ago, serve as the assistant Chaplain at Post 209, serve presently as Chaplain for SAL Squadron 209 (and will probably run for Squadron 209 Adjutant) and was appointed as



the Colorado Detachment Chaplain in November. I am also the Deputy Commander for the Pikes Peak Chaplains Corps in Colorado Springs and I consider myself to be "a minister in the community". My primary commitment is helping believers who have either let their faith wane or have completely walked away from their faith to recover from their loss and return to the faith of truth. As a licensed Chaplain, I am also committed to the work of continuing my education, assisting individuals in loss and grief, and serving all peoples of all denominations, and all

faiths. I truly believe that our detachment is poised for explosive growth this coming year and that we are fortunate to have talented leaders in our detachment and squadrons. My challenge to each and every one of you is to listen to that inner voice that spurs you to step up and wholeheartedly devote yourself to the task at hand, both in the Legion and in your personal lives. Please do not hesitate to approach me with any concerns you deem that I may be able to assist you with or just for you and I to get better acquainted. Until then, Seek the joy of our God.



SAL



SAFETY INITIATIVE

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 209 will replace and install smoke detector batteries at no cost for veterans in financial need or with physical limitations

Contact SQ 209:
 Rob Barry
 719-930-5725
 colo.rsb@yahoo.com





**DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO
AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION
JUNE 20 - 22, 2024
SKYUTE CASINO/HOTEL**

**14324 HIGHWAY 172 NORTH,
IGNACIO, COLORADO
RESERVATIONS - 1-800-876-7017**

BLOCK OF ROOMS UNDER:

**DEPARTMENT OF COLOARDO AMERICAN LEGION
THE BLOCK IS AVAILABLE FROM JUNE 16TH - JUNE 25TH
TO OFFER ALLOW MEMBERS TO INCLUDE A SHORT
VACATION WITH THEIR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION PLANS**

**\$145.00 PER NIGHT ROOMS
\$50.00 NIGHT FOR RV**

**INFORMATION ON CONVENTION REGISTRATION WILL
COME OUT AT DEPARTMENT MID-YEAR.
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION PLEASE FEEL FREE TO
CONTACT HEADQUARTERS AT 303-366-5796**



Join Your Friends For Great Food and Prices at SAL Sunday Breakfasts



Sunday Breakfast Menu

Basic Breakfast (2 eggs, hash browns, toast, and bacon, sausage, or ham)	\$7
Cheese Omelette (3 eggs with choice of onion, peppers, mushrooms, sausage, bacon, ham and toast).....	\$9
French Toast (3 slices of Texas toast)	\$5
French Toast with bacon, sausage, or ham.....	\$7
Steak and 2 Eggs with hash browns and toast.....	\$15

Once-A-Month Specials

Chili Rellenos (2) with green chili, 2 eggs, hash browns, and toast	\$8
Breakfast Burrito with green chili	\$8
Biscuits and Gravy with hash browns and bacon, sausage, or ham	\$8
Chicken Fried Steak with 2 eggs, hash browns, and toast.....	\$8
Eggs Benedict (2) on English muffins with hash browns.....	\$8
Huevos Rancheros (2 eggs on top of crisp tortilla, frijoles, hash browns, and green chili	\$7

Lounge Beverages

Bloody Mary, Screwdriver, Mixed Drinks	\$3.75 to \$4.75
Beer on Tap or Bottled.....	\$2.75 to \$4.50
Coffee	Tip the Bartender if dining, otherwise \$1.50



Your Voice Matters

By Sarah Tobin, District 7 Commander

I know at the post level we tend to focus more on membership than legislation, but I want to take a moment to tell you why it matters. First off, it keeps The American Legion's Legislative Priorities current and relevant to our elected officials. It also addresses items of importance to veterans and their families that are in a current House or Senate Bill. Each time you click on one of the Action Center's topics, an approved email from TAL will be sent to your 2 Senators and Representative. You will receive a confirmation email. After each one, you can further post on X that will tag your Representative automatically. If that doesn't convince you, think about the PACT ACT. It is changing lives and saving lives. It wouldn't exist with-

out The American Legion advocating for its inception. Legislators are bombarded with lobbyist in DC, but when they hear directly from their constituents that elect them, I believe that can have a greater impact on their decision making. IF we make our voices heard. You can send as many emails as you want, all day, every day. I would ask that you encourage all your members to check out the Action Center and send the emails once a week. Once you get passed initial sign up with address and family association, the emails take merely a minute or two to send all of them, all the work is done for you by National. Speaking of National, they actually track our activity on this site. The CDR receives a report on how active each Department is doing on advocating for

these grassroots efforts. If there was ever a time to make Colorado shine, now is the time! We are still under close scrutiny from National and it is not guaranteed that we will get our Charter back. We are doing great in membership, 17th in the Nation. Our SAL has 2 new Squadrons, ALR donated \$6K more during Legacy Run than ever before, we are kicking butt on all fronts, but we are still not in the clear. This is just another opportunity to excel while doing the right thing for our veterans and their families. I am pledging to do this on a daily basis for TAL, please join me in sending as often as you can and ensuring your members are aware of this opportunity to stay informed on important issues affecting their benefits.

[Action Center \(votervoicenet.com\)](https://www.votervoicenet.com)



Senior Enlisted Leaders Urge Lawmakers to Improve Pay and Housing for Troops

The American Legion By Svetlana Shkolnikova/S
FEB 01, 2024

The military's top enlisted leaders called on lawmakers Wednesday to focus on improving pay and housing for service members, describing them as the most pressing quality-of-life concerns for troops.

Troops have received blanket pay raises for the last several years but Congress has not approved targeted raises for specific ranks since 2007. Poor housing conditions, particularly in barracks for the youngest service members, were the subject of a scathing government watchdog report last year.

"A couple of these problems are so big that if we don't start taking immediate action on them now, we're going to miss the curve in the future," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy James Honea. "We must start today." Honea and the other leaders offered their testimony to the House Armed Services Committee's special quality-of-life panel as it finalizes efforts to provide service members with better pay and compensation, housing, child care, spouse support programs and access to health care.

The legislative proposals will be part of the drafting of the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act, an annual bill that sets policies for the Pentagon.

Military compensation and housing emerged as top issues across the service branches as the panel met with military families, military officials and advocates during the past year. Senior enlisted leaders acknowledged Wednesday that they damage troop morale and could hurt recruitment. Lawmakers have indicated they will seek pay increases next year, specifically for junior enlisted personnel and troops with specialized skills. House Republicans advanced legislation last year that would have set a \$31,000 minimum salary for the lowest-ranking service members but it was scrapped amid an ongoing review of military compensation.

"Adequacy of pay and benefits for our most junior service members continues to be in question," said Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., the panel's chairman. "It is crucial these men and women are fairly compensated for their dedication, sacrifice and service they provide to our nation."

Housing is also under congressional scrutiny following a Government Accountability Office investigation that found junior enlisted troops living in barracks with mold, missing kitchenettes, sewage overflow, water-quality issues, rodent infestations, broken air conditioning and other unsafe conditions.

Rep. Nancy Mace, R-S.C., said she hears

complaints about housing at the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort, S.C., almost every week. Of the 1,140 units available to the 12,000-member military community, about 960 units are occupied and the rest are "in disrepair or completely unlivable," she said.

"We have housing that soldiers can't even live in," she said. "We have to do better."

Senior enlisted leaders said room for improvement is limited due to aging, chronically underfunded housing. Most infrastructure was built in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s and is "like antiques," said Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Joanne Bass.

"We have various pockets where our barracks — they're old and we need to knock them down and I'll get on a tram and knock them down myself if we have to," said Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Carlos Ruiz.

Bacon said the quality-of-life panel will work with congressional appropriators to come up with a strategy to tackle each issue. Progress might take years, he warned, but lawmakers will continue to chip away at it "to get this right."

"Nobody should be on food stamps, nobody should have to go to a food bank, period, while serving in our military. Nobody should live in decrepit barracks or dorms," he said. "No one."



On Ike's Staff in France and Germany

From www.legion.org By Stephen Woolverton VA Public Affairs October 9, 2023

WWII Veteran Miriam Woolever, 101, is a parent and a grandparent who has memories and stories to tell. Her trip to Europe wasn't filled with things she wanted to see and do. It was what she felt she needed to do.

She was about to turn 20 when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. She watched as her friends signed up for the draft. In May 1942, Congress approved the creation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). When the first WAAC training center was located in her hometown, she knew she needed to do her part.

Woolever received training to serve as a clerk typist. Then, Congress approved the formation of the Women's Army Corps, making her and all the other members of the WAAC the first enlisted women to officially serve in the Army.

Miriam Woolever on Eisenhower's staff "Our country was at war on two continents at the same time for the first time in history. The men

were sent off to do the fighting. They needed help, so I joined the WAAC," she said.

Woolever was assigned to Supreme Headquarters in England. She and others boarded the RMS Queen Mary for the voyage across the Atlantic. She recalled that, at times, the



seas got very rough and she got motion sickness.

As part of Gen. Eisenhower's staff, working with a group of secretaries, she would regularly see him walking through the office but very rarely directly interacted with him.

She did enjoy the camaraderie that she had with her fellow soldiers. Some of the women she worked with would get transferred out and new ones would come in. "You get really good at what you do then all of the sudden they ship you off to do something different. I made good friends, but sometimes it was hard and we worked long hours," she recalled.

As the war came to a close, she looked forward to returning home to her family. "It is very sad to think of the thousands of young men who fought and died to preserve our freedom. I was grateful when the war in Europe was over and I was able to go back home, but I was also grateful that I was able to do a small part in the big effort," she said.

After the war, she married her sweetheart

(Continued on page 9)

On Ike's Staff *continued*

(Continued from page 8)

Russell Woolever, a Navy officer during the war. Many years later, after their children were grown, Russell's hearing began to fail. "They didn't even think of going to VA," her daughter Wendy recalled. "He was getting his hearing aids from some other place, and the hearing aids were always beeping and ringing and making noise. It was not a good situation, and it didn't dawn on me that he should be going to VA."

After Russell died, Miriam's hearing started to

go, too, so her daughter took her to VA. "I've been very impressed with them. They are right on it with taking care of those hearing aids," Miriam said.

Miriam received hearing aids from [Carl T. Hayden VA](#) in Phoenix. However, the distance Wendy had to drive her mother for each audiology appointment was becoming a strain. So, Miriam's doctor referred her to another clinic where she now receives teleaudiology services.

"These appointments are wonderful. The

doctor there on the screen is very helpful, and the two technicians are in the room fitting her and working with the doctor," she said.

"She always has a great demeanor and has been a successful hearing aid user," said Dr. Cara Mack, Woolever's audiologist. "I'm currently seeing her through our teleaudiology service. She is a great patient and I am amazed at her stamina at 101."

"The service has been really good in the audiology department," added Wendy. "They have really kept her in touch with life."



ALA Department of Colorado Membership Committee

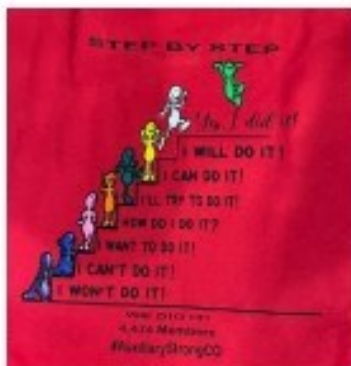
Colorado will reach 100% membership again in 2024!



T-Shirt

Fundraiser

*****PRICE \$20 *****



The Deadline for all sales is April 15, 2024, with shirts delivered to Units in June 2024

Contact Shelley McLatchie at shelley.m.mclatchie@gmail.com or text (816) 591-2086

ALL FUNDS TO BENEFIT THE HONOR BELL FOUNDATION

New Squadron Commander Award

From www.legion.org/sons

Resolution #4 adopted at the fall NEC Meeting on October 2nd, 2021 approved the creation the Squadron Commander of the Year Award tom be awarded at the annual National Conven tion of the Sons of The American Legion. The resolved clause reads as follows:

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 2-3, 2021, That the Sons of The American Legion hereby creates the "Squadron Commander of the Year Award," and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the Membership Committee shall judge the nominees annually at the Spring National Executive Committee Meeting; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the presentation of this

award shall begin with the 2022 National Convention; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the recipient of this award be presented with an official Sons of The American Legion uniform cap embroidered with "Squadron Commander of the Year" and the designated year; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That each national nominee will receive a signed certificate of appreciation.

Nominees for the Sons of The American Legion "Squadron Commander of the Year" Award must meet the following criteria:

- Be a member in good standing (current membership year dues paid)
- Hold only the office of Squadron Commander at the time of nomination at any level within the Sons of The American Legion

Demonstrate leadership through action and involvement in squadron activities that benefit his community

Must obtain 100% squadron membership or better by March 15th (American Legion Birthday)

Nominations must be submitted by the Detachment Adjutant and received at National Headquarters by the opening of the Spring National Executive Committee Meeting

A Detachment may submit only one nomination for consideration

To get the nomination form click the link here

[SAL Res 4B - Fall 2021 - MBSP - Squadron Commander of the Year Form.pdf \(legion.org\)](#)

Or go to www.legion.org/sons select meetings then resolutions and find it on the list .



Sons of The American Legion Squadron Commander of the Year Nomination Form

Nominee _____

Membership ID# _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Squadron Name _____

Squadron Number _____ Detachment _____

Contribution Details

How many events _____

Total volunteer hours _____

Total monies raised / donated \$ _____

Description details (who, what, when, where), including picture(s), if possible

Detachment Adjutant Name _____

Signature _____

Email to: sal@legion.org (Subject: Squadron Commander of the Year Nomination)

or USPS to: Squadron Commander of the Year Nomination
c/o National S.A.L. Liaison
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055

Forms must be received by March 15th

Member Online Renewal Available to SAL members!

IDENTIFY ONLINE PAYMENTS THROUGH MYLEGION.ORG

Members of The American Legion and Sons of the American Legion can renew their membership online. As members renew, they can print a membership card signed by the National Adjutant. Many members expect to receive their membership card from the post/squadron as well. Post/Squadron Adjutants and Commanders can view members renewing online through MyLegion.org.

Post and Squadron leadership should use this report to identify members that renew online, send them their membership card, and thank them for their renewal.

1. From your My Account page, enter My Groups to access Group Profile
2. Go to "Reports/Labels" from the left MY VIEWS menu.
3. Select Member Online Renewal.
4. Set parameters. First select group, next set the date range using the calendar icons and "View Report"
5. Names display one column. From the export pulldown menu export to a PDF.
6. Print labels from PDF document.

MyLegion squadron officer membership management tools:

- Online roster and reports
- Membership management
- Print a current membership card for a member
- Assign group permission
- Add a photo and emergency contact information to a member's record
- Process membership and transmittal history
- Consolidated Squadron Report
- Officer materials, brochures, and speeches

REGISTER AN ACCOUNT TODAY!

Registration for a MyLegion account is achieved using the email address on your membership record. The email address must be present on your membership record to access post and squadron membership information. Go to [MyLegion.org](https://mylegion.org) and register today!

NEED HELP? VISIT MYLEGION RESOURCES

Online help is available at MyLegion.org in Resources. Step-by-step instructions and videos can help with registering an account, creating rosters and reports, membership processing, membership management, and other administrative tools.

Contact your MyLegion support team at mylegion@legion.org

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION

Online Renewal QR Code



Just A note about online renewals, If your Squadron has not submitted a Squadron Data Report, the national organization does not know what your Squadron dues are. This means if one of your members renews online, he will only pay detachment and national dues, and will be able to print a membership card. The Squadron will not receive their per-capita from national or detachment. You'll have to collect directly from the member.

Recognizing Presidents Day

February 19th is President's Day and in recognition of the day, here is a bit of history on significant events that occurred during their tenure and some lesser-known tidbits of information about our 46 Commanders-in-Chief.

George Washington (April 30, 1789 to March 3, 1797) Believing that shaking hands was beneath a president, Washington bowed to his visitors. Washington had one remaining tooth at the time of his inauguration. During his lifetime he wore dentures made of human (some his own), cow, or hippopotamus teeth, ivory, or lead, but he never wore wooden teeth. The nation's capital was located in Philadelphia during Washington's administration making him the only president who didn't live in Washington, D.C. during his presidency. Washington's second inaugural address was the shortest ever delivered - it took less than two minutes to recite the 135 words.

"To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace."

John Adams (March 4, 1797 to March 3, 1801) The Adams' were the first residents of the White House. They moved in in November 1800 while the paint was still wet. Adams was one of three presidents not to attend the inauguration of his successor. The only presidents to sign the Declaration of Independence Adams and **Jefferson** both died on its 50th anniversary, July 4, 1826. Adams' dying words were "Thomas Jefferson survives". Jefferson, however, had passed on a few hours earlier.

"The happiness of society is the end of government."

Thomas Jefferson (March 4, 1801 to March 3, 1809) Jefferson was the first president to be inaugurated in Washington, D.C. Jefferson was the first President to shake hands instead of bow to people. The only presidents to sign the Declaration of Independence, **Adams** and Jefferson both died on its 50th anniversary, July 4, 1826. Adams' dying words were "Thomas Jefferson survives". Jefferson, however, had passed on a few hours earlier. Jefferson is credited with several inventions, including the swivel chair, *"That government is best which governs the least, because its people discipline themselves."*

James Madison (March 4, 1809 to March 3, 1817) During the [War of 1812](#) Madison was under enemy fire. He was the first president to be in that situation. At 5 feet, 4 inches and less than 100 pounds, he was the [shortest](#) and [lightest](#) president.

Madison was the first president to ask Congress for a Declaration of War. Madison was the first president to have his Vice President die in Office. The Vice President for his second term also died in office. *"The truth is that all men having power ought to be mistrusted."*

James Monroe (March 4, 1817 to March 3, 1825) Monroe was the first president to ride on a steamboat. He was the first president to have been a U.S. senator. In the election of

1820 [Monroe received every electoral vote except one](#). A New Hampshire delegate's vote against Monroe ensured [Washington](#) would be the only president elected unanimously. The U.S. Marine Band played at Monroe's 1821 inauguration and at every inauguration since. Even as president, Monroe preferred to be called "Colonel Monroe." Monrovia, Liberia is the only non-U.S. capital named after a U.S. president. *"National honor is the national property of the highest value"*

John Quincy Adams (March 4, 1825 to March 3, 1829) President Adams regularly swam nude in the Potomac River. Anne Royall, the first American professional journalist, knew of Adams' 5 A.M. swims. After being refused inter-

views with the president time after time, she went to the river, gathered his clothes and sat on them until she had her interview. Before this, no female had interviewed a president. Adams was the first to be elected president without receiving either the most popular votes or the most votes of the electoral college. Adams was the first president to be photographed. Adams was the first son of a president elected president in his own right. Adams is the only president to be elected to the House after his presidency. *"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."*

Andrew Jackson (March 4, 1829 to March 3, 1837) Jackson was the only president who served in both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Jackson was the only president to have been a prisoner of war. He was thirteen when he joined the South Carolina militia to fight in the Revolutionary War. After his capture, he was ordered to clean the boots of a British officer. Jackson refused. The officer then drew his sword and slashed Jackson across the forehead, leaving a scar. Jackson was involved in many duels. A duel on May 30, 1806 against Charles Dickinson was over some unflattering remarks made about Jackson's wife. In this duel Jackson was wounded. The bullet that wounded Jackson was lodged near his heart and could not be safely removed. He carried that bullet in his chest for the rest of his days. Jackson survived the first attempt to kill a sitting president when the assassin's two guns both misfire. Jackson was the first president to have a Vice President resign. *"I know what I am fit for. I can command a body of men in a rough way; but I am not fit to be President."*

Martin Van Buren (March 4, 1837 to March 3, 1841) Van Buren was the first president born in the United States. All previous presidents were born before the United States became country, although all were born in places that would later be a part of the United States. His autobiography does not mention his wife once. The term "O.K." was popularized because of Van Buren. Van Buren was from Kinderhook, New York, sometimes referred to as Old Kinderhook in speeches and print. O.K. Clubs soon formed to support Van Buren's campaign. Van Buren made three unsuccessful bids for reelection. *"The less government interferes with private pursuits, the better for general prosperity."*

William Henry Harrison (March 4, 1841 to April 4, 1841) At 31 days, Harrison had the shortest presidency. He was the first president to die in office. Harrison was the only president who studied to become a doctor. At 68 years old, Harrison was the oldest person to be president until Reagan was inaugurated 140 years later. Harrison and his vice president Tyler are the only president and vice president born in the same county. Harrison was the only president to have never issued an executive order. He also never issued a pardon. Harrison was the first president to have his picture taken while in office. Unfortunately that photo has been lost. His widow received a \$25,000 pension after her husband's death. *"A decent and manly examination of the acts of the Government should be not only tolerated, but encouraged."*

John Tyler (April 6, 1841 to March 3, 1845) Nicknames: "Accidental President"; "His Accident" Tyler was the first vice-president to assume the presidency after the death of the president. Tyler was expelled from his party

by Congressional Whigs for vetoing a national bank bill for the second time. Tyler was the first president subjected to impeachment proceedings. Tyler was the first president whose wife died while he was in office. Five years after leaving office, Tyler was so poor he was unable to pay a bill for \$1.25

until he had sold his corn crop. The tradition of playing "Hail to the Chief" whenever a president appears at state functions was started by Tyler's second wife, Julia. In 1861, after leaving office, Tyler was elected to the Confederate House of Representatives. He was the only president to serve in the Confederacy. *"I can never consent to being dictated to."*

James K. Polk (March 4, 1845 to March 4, 1849) Gaslights were installed in the White House while Polk was a resident. Polk survived a bladder stone operation at age 17 without anesthesia or antiseptics. Those medical practices were not used at the time. The first annual White House Thanksgiving dinner was hosted by Sarah Polk. Sarah Polk was a devout Presbyterian. She banned dancing, card-playing and alcoholic beverages in the White House. News of Polk's nomination was widely disseminated using the telegraph. The first time this had been done. *"With me it is exceptionally true that the Presidency is no bed of roses."*

Zachary Taylor (March 4, 1849 to July 9, 1850) Taylor was the first president who had no prior elected office experience. Taylor is the only person to win the Congressional Gold Medal more than twice. Taylor refused all postage due correspondences. Because of this, he didn't receive notification of his nomination for president until several days later. As a soldier always moving from location to location, Taylor never established an official place of residence and never registered to vote. November 7, 1848 was the first time a presidential election was held on the same day in every state. Visitors to the White House would take souvenir horse hairs from Whitey, Taylor's old Army horse that he kept on the White House lawn. Taylor's remains were exhumed in 1991 to determine if he had been the victim of arsenic poisoning. Tests concluded he had not been poisoned with arsenic. *"The idea that I should become President seems to me too visionary to require a serious answer. It has never entered my head, nor is it likely to enter the head of any other person."*

Millard Fillmore (July 9, 1850 to March 3, 1853) After Fillmore's term, he became the chancellor of the University of Buffalo. Fillmore was the first president to have a step-mother. Fillmore was the first president to have a father live through his entire presidential term. Fillmore was the first president to remarry after leaving office. The White House's first library, bathtub and kitchen stove were installed by the Fillmores. Fillmore refused an honorary degree from Oxford University because he felt he had "neither literary nor scientific attainment." *"An honorable defeat is better than a dishonorable victory."*

Franklin Pierce (March 4, 1853 to March 3, 1857) Pierce was arrested while in office for running over an old woman with his horse, but his case was dropped due to insufficient evidence in 1853. He defeated his old commanding officer from the Mexican War, Winfield Scott, when he was elected president. Pierce was wounded during the Mexican War. Because of religious considerations

(Continued on page 13)

Presidents Day (continued)

(Continued from page 12)

Pierce affirmed rather than swore the Presidential oath of office. Pierce gave his 3,319-word inaugural address from memory, without the aid of notes. Pierce was the only President to have no turnover in his cabinet. Pierce was the only elected President who sought but did not win his party's nomination for a second term. Franklin Pierce was the first President to have a Christmas tree in the White House. He installed the first central-heating system and the first bathroom with hot and cold water in the White House *"Frequently the more trifling the subject, the more animated and protracted the discussion."*

James Buchanan (March 4, 1857 to March 3, 1861) In his inaugural address, Buchanan committed to serving only one term. Buchanan is the only president to have never married. James K. Polk offered his Secretary of State, Buchanan, a seat on the Supreme Court. Buchanan declined. Buchanan bought and freed slaves - sort of. Buchanan was nearsighted in one eye and farsighted in the other. To compensate for his poor vision he tilted his head to the left and closed one eye. Buchanan never had to shave. *"I like the noise of democracy."*

Abraham Lincoln (March 4, 1861 to April 15, 1865) Lincoln was the first president to die by assassination. The contents of his pockets on the night of his assassination weren't revealed until February 12, 1976. At 6 foot, 4 inches, Lincoln was the tallest president. Mrs. Lincoln's brother, half-brothers, and brothers-in-law fought in the Confederate Army. Lincoln was the only president to receive a patent, for a device for lifting boats over shoals. He was the first president to be photographed at his inauguration. John Wilkes Booth (his assassin) can be seen standing close to Lincoln in the picture. Lincoln and his wife held seances in the White House. His son, Robert, who was in Washington when his father was killed, was also on the scene when Garfield was shot in 1881 and McKinley was assassinated in 1901. Abraham Lincoln was the first president to be born outside of the original thirteen colonies. *"Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally."*

Andrew Johnson (April 15, 1865 to March 3, 1869) Johnson was the first president impeached by the House of Representatives. Johnson never attended school. He taught himself to read. Johnson was the only former president to serve in the U.S. Senate. *"If you always support the correct principles then you will never get the wrong results!"*

Ulysses S. Grant (March 4, 1869 to March 3, 1877) Grant regretted not accepting Lincoln's offer to attend the theater the night of April 14, 1865. He was convinced he could have protected the President. Grant was the first president to publish his memoirs. Mark Twain helped get them published. Grant prevented Robert E. Lee from being charged with treason after the Civil War. Grant could not stand the sight of blood. His steaks were cooked very well done. Grant and his wife, Julia, are buried in the largest mausoleum in North America. As president, Grant received a [speeding ticket](#) for driving his horse-drawn carriage too fast through the streets of Washington. *"I know only two tunes: one of them is 'Yankee Doodle', and the other isn't."*

Rutherford B. Hayes (March 4, 1877 to March 3, 1881) Of the five presidents who served in the Civil War, Hayes was the only one to be wounded. Arriving in San Francis-

co on September 8, 1880, Hayes became the first president to visit the West Coast while in office. Hayes was the first president to graduate from law school. He won the presidency by only [one electoral vote](#). He was also the first president to win the presidency while losing the popular vote. He signed the act that permitted women to plead before the Supreme Court. The first White House telephone was installed, by Alexander Graham Bell himself, during the Hayes administration. The first Easter egg roll on the White House lawn was conducted by Hayes and his wife. *"Every expert was once a beginner."*

James A. Garfield (March 4, 1881 to September 19, 1881) Garfield was the first left-handed president of the United States. James Garfield could write Latin with one hand and Greek with the other, at the same time. He was the first president to campaign in two languages -- English and German. On election day, November 2, 1880, he was at the same time a member of the House, Senator-elect and President-elect. His mother was the first president's mother to attend her son's inauguration. After Garfield's shooting, repeated probing for the bullet with non-sterile instruments resulted in blood poisoning which eventually killed him. *"Man cannot live by bread alone; he must have peanut butter."*

Chester A. Arthur (September 19, 1881 to March 3, 1885) A 24-year-old Arthur, then a junior partner at Culver, Parker and Arthur law firm, successfully represented Lizzie Jennings, who was forcibly removed from a streetcar in 1854 because of her skin color. Arthur was diagnosed with Bright's Disease not long after he became president. Arthur hired Louis Comfort Tiffany to redecorate and furnish the White House. Arthur owned at least 80 pairs of pants. Arthur installed the first elevator in the White House. Days before he died, Arthur burned all of his personal and official papers. *"If it were not for the reporters, I would tell you the truth."*

Grover Cleveland (March 4, 1885 to March 3, 1889 and March 4, 1893 to March 3, 1897) Cleveland is the only president to serve two nonconsecutive terms. Cleveland discovered a cancerous growth on the roof of his mouth in the middle of the economic crisis of 1893.

So that his illness would not cause a greater panic, he and several doctors snuck aboard a pleasure boat and removed the growth. The public thought he was on a fishing trip and never knew the truth until 1917. While sheriff of Erie County,

New York, Cleveland was also the public executioner and personally hanged two murderers. Cleveland vetoed 414 bills in his first term, more than double the 204 vetoes cast by all previous presidents. Cleveland used his veto powers 584 times during his two terms. He was the only president married in the White House. According to the Curtiss Candy Company (and now Nestle®), the Baby Ruth candy bar was named after Cleveland's baby daughter, Ruth. *"A man is known by the company he keeps, and also by the company from which he is kept out."*

Benjamin Harrison (March 4, 1889 to March 3, 1893) Harrison was the first grandson of a president to become president. Harrison was the first president to use electricity in the White House, installed by Edison General Electric Company. However, he and his wife would not touch the light switches for fear of being electrocuted and

often went to bed with the lights left on. Harrison was the first president to have his voice recorded. More states joined the Union during Harrison's presidency than during any other president's term - six. During Harrison's administration, Congress appropriated \$1 billion in annual spending for the first time. *"We Americans have no commission from God to police the world."*

Grover Cleveland (March 4, 1885 to March 3, 1889 and March 4, 1893 to March 3, 1897) On November 25, 1885, Vice President Thomas Hendricks died in office. On January 19, 1886, Cleveland signed the Presidential Succession Act. On May 8, 1886, Cleveland vetoes the first of several bills granting military pensions to Civil War Union veterans. Hundreds of these claims were bogus and had already been rejected by the Pensions Bureau. On October 28, Cleveland dedicated the Statue of Liberty. On March 3, 1887 the Tenure of Office Act repealed. On May 4, 1893 the National Cordage Company and the Philadelphia and Reading railroads declared bankruptcy leading to the Panic of 1893. On July 1, Cleveland underwent oral surgery to remove a cancerous growth. This was performed in secret aboard a yacht in New York's East River. On July 3, 1894 Cleveland sent federal troops to Chicago to break up the two-month old Pullman railroad strike. On August 8, the U.S. government recognized the Republic of Hawaii. In 1895, Cleveland intervened in the boundary dispute between Venezuela and the United Kingdom citing the Monroe Doctrine as his justification. *"It is the responsibility of the citizens to support their government. It is not the responsibility of the government to support its citizens."*

William McKinley (March 4, 1897 to September 14, 1901) In June 1897 news of gold discovered in Alaska started to reach the rest of the country. On February 15, 1898 the battleship *Maine* exploded in Havana harbor killing 266 Americans and leading to the Spanish-American War. On July 7, McKinley signed a joint congressional resolution annexing Hawaii. On December 10, U.S. and Spain signed the Treaty of Paris ending the Spanish American War. On February 4, 1899 fighting erupted between the U.S. and the Philippine Republic leading to the Philippine-American War. On September 6, 1899 Secretary of State John Hay sends Open Door Notes to the major European powers to keep China open to trade on an equal basis. On September 6, 1901 McKinley shot by Leon Czolgosz at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, NY. McKinley died eight days later. McKinley was the first president to ride in an automobile. In 1899, he rode with Freelan Stanley of the Stanley Motor Carriage Company in his steam car. He also rode in an electric ambulance that carried him to the hospital after he was shot. McKinley was the first president to have his inauguration filmed. McKinley was the last Civil War veteran to become president. First Lady Ida McKinley didn't like the color yellow. She disliked it so much she had everything yellow removed from the White House. McKinley had a pet parrot named "Washington Post." *"In the time of darkest defeat, victory may be nearest."*

Theodore Roosevelt (September 14, 1901 to March 3, 1909) On October 16, 1901 Booker T. Washington was the first African American invited to dine at the White House. Roosevelt appointed the Panama Canal Commission to oversee the construction of the Panama Canal. Roosevelt was

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Presidents Day (continued)

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the youngest president. Roosevelt's mother and first wife passed away on the same day - Valentine's day of 1884. Roosevelt was the first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1906 Roosevelt sailed to the Panama Canal to inspect the construction progress making him the first sitting president to leave the country. A boxing accident left Roosevelt almost completely blind in his left eye. On June 8, 1906 Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act allowing the president to proclaim national monuments. The teddy bear was named after Roosevelt. Roosevelt was the first president to ride in an airplane and a submarine. Roosevelt was the first president to earn the Medal of Honor. It was awarded in 2001 by President [Bill Clinton](#). *"Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care."*

William H. Taft (March 4, 1909 to March 3, 1913) On April 14, 1910, Taft was the first president to throw out the first pitch of the baseball season. Taft was the first president to own a car. Taft was the last president to keep a cow at the White House for fresh milk. At over 340 pounds, Taft was the heaviest president. Rumor has it he got stuck in the White House bath tub and required six aides to pull him free. It turns out the rumor is false. Taft was the only president to serve as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. As Chief Justice, Taft administered the presidential oath to Coolidge in 1925 and Hoover in 1929.

"The world is not going to be saved by legislation."

Woodrow Wilson (March 4, 1913 to March 3, 1921) On December 23, 1913 Wilson signed the Federal Reserve Act creating a central banking system in the U.S. On June 28, 1914 Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated contributing to the start of World War I. Wilson was the first president to visit Europe while in office. Wilson had a series of strokes in 1919 which left him partially paralyzed and almost blind. His wife, Edith, managed his affairs. Wilson is the only president buried in Washington, D.C. Wilson was the first president to have a Ph.D. Wilson was the first president to meet the Pope while in office. Wilson was the first president to speak before Congress since Thomas Jefferson.

"If you want to make enemies, try to change something."

Warren G. Harding (March 4, 1921 to August 2, 1923) On May 19, 1921 Harding signed the Emergency Quota Act limiting the number of immigrants allowed to enter the U.S. and placing quotas by country of origin. He was the first newspaper publisher to be elected president. Harding was the first president to ride to his inauguration in an automobile. He was the first president to own



a radio and the first to speak over the radio airwaves. Harding was the first president to visit Canada and Alaska. While president, Harding played golf, poker twice a week, followed baseball and boxing, and sneaked off to burlesque shows. His advisors were known as the "Poker Cabinet" because they all played poker together. Harding wore size fourteen shoes. He had the largest feet of the presidents. *"America's present need is not heroics but healing; not nostrums but normalcy; not revolution but restoration."*

Calvin Coolidge (August 3, 1923 to March 3, 1929) On May 10, 1924, Coolidge appointed J. Edgar Hoover Director of the Bureau of Investigation. Snyder Act passed granting U.S. citizenship to all Native Americans.

The Johnson-Reed Act passed limiting the number of immigrants allowed into the U.S.



through a quota based on country of origin. Coolidge is the only president sworn in by a family member. His father was a notary public. Coolidge is the only president born on Independence Day. Coolidge's address to congress on December 6, 1923, was the first presidential speech broadcast over the radio. A woman at a party once told Coolidge that she bet a friend she could get him to say three words. He replied, "You lose." A man of few words until the end, Coolidge's last will and testament was only 23 words long. Coolidge was the first president to appear in a movie with sound.

"Collecting more taxes than is absolutely necessary is legalized robbery."

Herbert Hoover (March 4, 1929 to March 3, 1933) At the end of October, 1929 the New York Stock Exchange lost \$30 billion in value signaling the start of the Great Depression. Starting in September, 1930 through the end of the year over 1,300 banks failed, including the Bank of the United States. On March 3, 1931 the "Star Spangled Banner" became

the national anthem. Hoover was the first president born west of the Mississippi River. Hoover became an orphan at age 9. Hoover and his wife, Lou, spoke Chinese when they wanted a private conversation. Hoover was the first president to win election with a Native American vice president, Charles Curtis

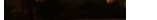
"Blessed are the young for they shall inherit the national debt."

Franklin D. Roosevelt (March 4, 1933 to April 12, 1945) In May, 1934 a significant wind storm blew top soil from Oklahoma and Texas to the East Coast, beginning the Dust



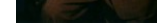
Bowl. On August 14, 1935 Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act guaranteeing pensions to all Americans over the age of 65. On August 31, 1935 Roosevelt signed the Neutrality Act which prohibits the shipment of weapons to countries during a state of war. On December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor, Hawaii attacked by Japan. War declared on Japan the next day. On December 11, war declared on Germany and Italy. On February 19, 1942 Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, paving the way the way for 110,000 Japanese-Americans to be incarcerated in internment camps. On June 6, 1944 referred to as D-Day, the Allied invasion of Normandy began. Roosevelt's wife, Eleanor, was his fifth cousin once removed. Eleanor's uncle, Theodore Roosevelt, walked her down the aisle. Roosevelt appointed the first woman, Frances Perkins, to a cabinet position. Roosevelt held office for over twelve years, longer than any other president. Unless the 22nd amendment is repealed no one will serve longer. Roosevelt was the first president to fly in an airplane while in office. Roosevelt was the first president to appear on television. Roosevelt was the first president to establish a presidential library. Roosevelt vetoed more legislation than any other president - 635. Nine of those were overridden. Roosevelt suffered from polio in 1921, losing the use of his legs. *"When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on."*

Harry S. Truman (April 12, 1945 to January 20, 1953) On May 8, 1945 Germany surrendered, ending World War II in Europe. On August 6, 1945 the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. On August 9, 1945 the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan. On August 14,



1945 Japan surrendered, ending World War II in Asia. On July 26, 1947 the National Security Act passed Congress creating the Department of Defense, the National Security Council, and the Central Intelligence Agency. On May 14, 1948 the U.S. recognized the state of Israel. On June 24, 1948 the Soviet Union began the Berlin Blockade. On July 26, 1948 Truman signed Executive Order 9981 which desegregated the Armed Forces. On June 25, 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea starting the Korean War. Truman sent troops to the region five days later. On November 1, 1950 two Puerto Rican pro-independence activists attempted to assassinate Truman at Blair House. White House Police officer Leslie Coffelt died in the gunfight - the only Secret Service member to die protecting the president. Truman was the first president assigned a Secret Service code name - General. Truman was the first president to have a television set installed in the White House. Truman's 1949 inauguration was the first televised. Truman was the first president to address the nation on television. In 1965, Truman was the first person issued a Medicare card. *"You can not stop the spread of an idea by passing a law against it."*

Dwight D. Eisenhower (January 20, 1953 to January 20, 1961) The Rosenbergs are executed on June 19, 1953. On July 27, 1953 the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed ending hostilities of the Korean War. On June 29, 1956 Eisenhower signed the Federal Highway Act to construct an interstate highway system. Eisenhower signed the Civil Rights Act of 1957. July 29, 1958 Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act that created NASA.



Eisenhower's grandson David is the namesake of Camp David, Eisenhower was the only president to serve in World War I and World War II. During Eisenhower's long and illustrious military career he never saw active combat. Eisenhower painted more than 200 paintings. Eisenhower was the first president to ride in a helicopter. He started the tradition of the president taking helicopters from the White House lawn. During his presidency, Eisenhower spent almost two months in the hospital after a heart attack. In 1955, Eisenhower was the first president to give a televised news conference. Eisenhower is the only president to win an Emmy Award. *"The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity."*

John F. Kennedy (January 20, 1961 to November 22, 1963) On April 17, 1961 the U.S. sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba failed. On May 5, 1961 Alan Shepard Jr. became the first American in space. On



August 13, 1961 East Germany began building the Berlin Wall. On February 20, John Glenn orbited the Earth. On October 16, Kennedy informed about the existence of missiles in Cuba On October 22, Kennedy informed the American people and announced the subsequent naval quarantine. On October 28, the Cuban Missile Crisis ended. On August 28, 1963 250,000 demonstrators march on Washington. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. Kennedy was the first Catholic president. On September 26, 1960, Kennedy participated in the first televised presidential debate along with Richard Nixon. Kennedy was the first president to be inaugurated with a living grandparent. Kennedy won the Pulitzer Prize for Biography in 1957 for *Profiles in Courage*. Kennedy was the first president to have served in the Navy. He was also the first to be awarded the Purple Heart. Kennedy was the only president to have a sibling serve in his cabinet.

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Presidents Day (continued)

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George W. Bush (January 20, 2001 to January 20, 2009) On September 11, 2001 terrorists flew hijacked airplanes into both towers of the World Trade Center and into the Pentagon. A fourth hijacked plane crashed in Pennsylvania. On October 7, 2001 Bush announced the beginning of military action in Afghanistan. On February 1, 2003 the Space Shuttle *Columbia* exploded during re-entry. On March 19, 2003 the U.S. declared war on Iraq. On September 15, 2008 Lehman Brothers investment bank collapsed signaling the start of a global financial crisis. Bush was one of two managing general partners of the Texas Rangers baseball club from 1989-1994. Of the 6 million votes cast in Florida in the 2000 election, Bush won the state's 25 electoral votes by 537 votes. Bush is the only president to have a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree. Bush's 2002 State of the Union address was the first broadcast live on the Internet. Bush was the first president to serve in the Air National Guard. Bush was the first president to attend an Olympic Games in a foreign country. He attended the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. In 1993, Bush ran the Houston Marathon finishing in 3 hours 44 minutes. He is the only president to have ever completed a marathon at some point in their life. *"Long before history is written in books, it is written in courage."*

Barack Obama (January 20, 2009 to January 20, 2017) In an effort to rejuvenate the struggling U.S. economy, on February 4, 2009 Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which allocated money for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization. On March 23, 2010



Obama signed the Affordable Care Act. On May 1, 2011 Obama announced the death of terrorist leader Osama bin Laden. On May 9, 2012 Obama announced his support of same-sex marriage. On June 26, 2015 the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that the Constitution guarantees a right to same-sex marriage. The name Barack means "one who is blessed" in Swahili. Obama was the first African-American U.S. president. Obama was the first president born outside of the contiguous United States. Obama was the eighth left-handed president of the United States. Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009. Obama was the first president to appoint a former First Lady to his cabinet - Hillary Clinton became Secretary of State. *"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."*

Donald J. Trump (January 20, 2017 to January 20, 2021) On January 27, 2017 Trump issued the first of his executive orders restricting refugee entry into the U.S. On June 11, 2018 for the first time the sitting U.S. president and the North Korean leader met in person. On December 18, 2019 the House of Representatives approved two articles of impeachment against Trump, one for abuse of power and the other for obstruction of Congress. On February 5, 2020 the Senate acquitted Trump of both articles if impeachment Amid a world-wide pandemic, Trump tested positive for COVID-19 on October 2, 2020. On January 6, 2021 pro-Trump protestors stormed the Capitol building disrupting the count of Electoral College votes. On January 13, 2021 the House of Representatives approved one article of impeachment against Trump for incite-



ment of insurrection. He was acquitted by the Senate on February 13. Trump was the first billionaire president. Trump was the first president elected without any political or military background. Trump was the first president to have multiple divorces. Trump's First Lady, Melania, became the first First Lady to become a U.S. citizen by naturalization instead of by birth or descent. Trump was the first president twice impeached by the House of Representatives. Trump was the first president since Andrew Johnson to skip his successor's inauguration. Trump was the first billionaire president. Trump was the first president elected without any political or military background. Trump's First Lady, Melania, became the first First Lady to become a U.S. citizen by naturalization instead of by birth or descent. Trump was the first president twice impeached by the House of Representatives. Trump was the first president since Andrew Johnson to skip his successor's inauguration. *"No dream is too big. No challenge is too great. Nothing we want for our future is beyond our reach."*

Joe Biden (January 20, 2021 to Present) Biden was the first president to win election with a female, Black, or Asian vice president. Biden had more Senate experience than any other president - 36 years. Biden was the oldest sitting president. He was 78 years, two months old on inauguration day. Biden was the first president elected without an Ivy League degree since Ronald Reagan in 1980. Biden nominated the first Black woman to the Supreme Court - Ketanji Brown Jackson. *"Politics doesn't have to be a raging fire, destroying everything in its path. Every disagreement doesn't have to be a cause for total war."*

Well. This brings us up to date on our nations 46 presidents. I hope you enjoyed reading it and you may have some knowledge to win a trivia contest.



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