



"Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage"

Colorado Sons Electronic Update March 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

Focusing on Quality of Life for Military Members

From www.legion.org By [Henry Howard](#)
FEB 27, 2024

A "large number of servicemembers and their family members" are on SNAP or other food assistance programs.

That was among the key takeaways from a presentation by Air Force veteran Patrick Flood, the senior national security policy adviser to Rep. Don Bacon. Flood discussed quality-of-life issues on military bases during the National Security Commission's meeting at The American Legion's annual Washington Conference on Feb. 26.

Flood illustrated how food insecurity plays a role in maintaining a strong national defense.

"If we lose that fight, if we lose that kitchen table conversation, where parents and guardians no longer recommend — or perhaps oppose — military service for our sons and daughters, this enterprise is in jeopardy," he warned. "And we are seeing evidence of that."

Flood, an American Legion member, said the House Armed Services Committee has been researching quality-of-life matters and expects to submit a report by the end of March. It's been roughly a year in the making.

The committee has also been looking at other issues such as pay and compensation, housing, health-care access, child care and spousal support. "These problems are going to require more work than just the Department of Defense," he said. "It's going to require a national commitment."

The American Legion is already playing a major role in the quality of life issue.

In 2022, The American Legion created its Base Assessment and Servicemember Experi-

ence (BASE) program to address quality-of-life matters that affect servicemembers and their families. It is modeled after the Legion's System Worth Saving visits to VA health-care facilities.

The first BASE visit was conducted at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma (Ariz.). The Yuma report, now in its final stage before release, is going through a process to take into account the interviews conducted and observations during the visit, as well as various military services, policies and procedures.

"I owe a tremendous amount of debt and gratitude to The American Legion," said Flood, an alum of American Legion Buckeye Boys State. "The Legion remains in this very vast, large nation of ours, the most important and also the most compelling voice in issues facing the nation. The work you do is so very important."

Commission members also learned about border security from a first-person perspective from retired Marine Chief Warrant Officer Gerard Brinkmann, a member of American Legion Post 24 in Tombstone, Ariz. Brinkmann, who also is a member of the National Security Council and department American Legion Riders chairman, has worked for the U.S. Border Patrol since 2014.

Brinkmann discussed the various ebbs and flows he has seen in illegal immigration, noting he has arrested the same person three times in one shift.

"The rhetoric is what drives illegal immigration," he said. "If you build it, they will come. If you make it seem like they are welcome, they will come. If you start prosecut-

ing, they start not coming in. We need consequences."

The solution is simple, Brinkmann said.

"We need to start enforcing the laws on the books and look at real border reform," he recommended.

Col. Matthew Coates, the vice chairman of the National Guard Counter Drug Program, outlined how the drug epidemic has changed. He discussed the rise in fentanyl, which is 50 times stronger than heroin.

Coates explained why cartels have pivoted toward the drug, saying it only takes \$800 to produce 415,000 fentanyl pills, which have a street value of about \$1.2 million. It's also easy to transport. Fentanyl representing the size of a sugar packet equates to about 1,700 doses.

More than 100,000 people have died annually due to fentanyl use.

The infusion of fentanyl into the United States can be linked back to China and Mexico, Coates explained. "There is complicity with the Chinese entities."

Coates discussed how his unit operates. "Our specific mission is to support the detention, interdiction, disruption and curtailment of drug trafficking and activities," he said, noting they have trained more than 700 agents at five different centers across the U.S.

Coates, a member of American Legion Post 250 in Middleburg, Fla., said his office is seeking assistance and support from Legion Family members.

"You are our tie-in to the community," he said. "Part of our prevention line of effort is to get the message out and that's where you can help."



Legion Names VA Healthcare Provider of the Year

From www.legion.org The American Legion
FEB 27, 2024

Kimberly Nutt, an echocardiography technician at the Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center in Philadelphia, was named the 2023 American Legion VA Healthcare Provider of the Year. Nutt accepted the award on stage at the Commander's Call on Monday during the



Legion's annual Washington Conference.

"I was extremely touched to hear that I was nominated for this prestigious award by one of my dearest patients," Nutt said. "I was even more overwhelmed to get the news that I would be receiving this award for Healthcare Provider of the Year. I truly am very humbled by this. I have the amazing good fortune to

(Continued on page 2)

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Commander's Message

By Commander Richard Humphrey

Good day Sons of The American Legion of Colorado. I just don't know where to start. You people are awesome. You have surpassed the February goal of 75% membership and you have passed the March goal of 80% in membership.



We are, however, a little behind in the renewal rate. There are only 3 months remaining for us to achieve the goal of over 3,000 in membership and a third Triple Nickel Award for the Detachment of Colorado.

There is still a lot of work to be done to get us over the 105% membership, 85% renewal rate and 3 more new squadrons. You are the ones who will get us above 105% and the 85% renewal. You did it last year and I know you can do it again this year. Squadron Commanders and Adjutants, please get with those individuals who have not renewed their membership, get that membership and get it sent in to Detachment. There are over 600 members out there that have not renewed their membership since last year. Gentlemen, we need to get those completed and into National immediately if not sooner. You can do this. I know a lot of you are really concerned about the online payments that we have not received from National. I was told that we should see a payment come in to the Department on the first of February so that you would have your money by at least mid-February. Well, here it is the end of February, and you still don't have

your money. I was in Washington D.C. for the Washington Conference this past weekend and tried to look into where your money was. The response was, "it's coming". The finance people claim to be overworked and can't get the checks written in a timely manner. I made a point of saying that that it was very unacceptable. The squadrons were NOT to be harmed in this action, but they are being hurt in the form of not receiving their money due "in a timely manner". I'm truly sorry for what is happening, and we are keeping it a high priority to get completed and checks issued to every squadron that is due money from online membership.

The Washington Conference Wreath Laying was a huge success. There were over 200 Sons from across the country in attendance. We followed the National Commander, J.R. Hall, from the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington Cemetery to the Vietnam Memorial, to the Korean Memorial, to the World War II Memorial. If you haven't seen the pictures on Facebook, look on the Sons National website. It was a lot of fun and enjoyable seeing friends from across the country. It was also very humbling to be at these sites of grandfathers and fathers who made the sacrifice for us to be here doing what we do. The Korean Memorial has been completely redone with a fountain, a wall and circled with the names of all those who died. This is new and awe inspiring. If you can ever get up to Washington, DC, you must visit these memorials. Gentlemen, one last thing. If you are planning on being a detachment officer for the

2024-2025 year, you MUST get your notice into the Detachment Adjutant.

That's about it for now. Hope to see you all at the CWF Banquet in Delta on April 6 and then in Ignacio for the Convention at the end of June. Until then have a great spring and get those memberships in. Remember, Shake the Trees, Go for Three

Richard Humphrey
Detachment Commander



Healthcare Provider cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

get up every day and do something that I truly love, and it's very meaningful to me." Nutt said that her job with patients as an echocardiographic technician is to do more than evaluate their heart. "To me it's to talk to the individual themselves as a whole," adding that you never know what someone may be going through or what kind of day they are having. "It doesn't take much to say 'hi', to compliment them, to ask them how they're doing and to take a moment to listen. It's not just about the job, it's not just about their heart. It's about them as a whole. "I am blessed to be working with and for all of you every day."



SONS OF THE
 **AMERICAN**
LEGION

**CHILDREN'S WELFARE FOUNDATION
BANQUET**

**HOSTED BY SONS OF THE AMERICAN
LEGION SQUADRON 65**

APRIL 6, 2024

DELTA ELKS LODGE

563 MAIN STREET

DELTA, CO 81416

BBQ DINNER

\$20.00 PER PERSON

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM

DINNER AT 6:00 PM

CASH BAR AVAILABLE

Squadron 65 has arranged for a shuttle van that will bring folks to and from the banquet venue to their hotel in Montrose, if you choose to use it. It is a bit of a distance (10-15 miles) and there is quite a bit of wildlife in the area that tend to cross the unlit highway between Delta and Montrose. Further details as far scheduling transportation will be provided prior to the event.

Please remember that this is a Detachment event and we need support from all of you to make it a great success, as we always do. We need items for silent auction and or raffle to make the event successful. Treat this as if it were your squadron's event and collect appropriate items as you can. If you have, or plan to collect items for the event but cannot attend, please contact Adjutant Mark so arrangement can be made to collect them and get them to the event.

The DEC meeting location may be changed to Post 65 post home. Details will be provided as they are refined.

Join and Participate on Our Detachment Facebook Page

By Vice Commander Rob Barry

As we have been traveling to squadrons around the state, we see all of the good things that are being done. The problem is that no one else knows about these great events! We have now created a Detachment information site on Facebook. The title is Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Colorado. This is for all sons members to have a place to post their events and information. We would like to see every member become aware of this site. The information should be statewide. As you are traveling, get on the site to see



what sons are doing in the area you are visiting. They could be having something great going on. We recently met a squadron that

runs their city fireworks on the 4th of July! Nobody knew... We have many golf tournaments that only the local sons know about. As we all know, enthusiasm is contagious. This site can also be used as a way for your squadron to generate ideas. Once you are a group member please post only SAL events and information. The site is monitored, and any unapproved items will be removed. Spread the word about the site. The more we share information, the more we can support one another. [Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Colorado | Facebook](#)



Save the Date

May 11 - 18, 2024



An **American Gold Star Mother** is a mom who's child was serving in the military at the time of their death, be it killed in action, combat related accident, illness, accident, or unfortunately, death by suicide.

Remembering Our Heroes FOREVER



We will be hosting the June 2024 **American Gold Star Mothers** National Convention here in Colorado. Our goal is to raise money to pay for the events at our convention, and to keep the National Convention fees low for all Gold Star Mothers who want to attend, they pay for their own transportation and lodging. Moms will be traveling from around the Country. We are seeking assistance, a monetary gift, any amount would be greatly appreciated.

We are also going to provide convention bags, and we want to do drawings at our Saturday evening banquet. If you have items for the bags and/or have something to contribute to the banquet drawings that would be wonderful too. You can call or email us and we can pick them up.

If you can help financially, please make check payable to: American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Please mail to: American Gold Star Mothers Department of Colorado, attn: Pam Schaffer, 1840 South Yates Street, Denver, CO 80219, 303-935-1101 or email at goldstarmomsevents@aol.com or call Misi Moser at 303-570-7959 or email at misirobinson7@comcast.net. We moms are all volunteers and a non-profit 501c(3)

The 2023/2024 theme is:
It's All About The Dash

"It isn't the date on either end that counts, but how they used their dash for that dash between the dates represents all the time they spent alive on earth and now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth."

Made with PosterMyWall.com

March 2024 Newsletter

St Patrick's Merchandise Auction March 16th

It is almost time for our annual St. Patrick's Day celebration. Janet and her Crew will be cooking up the traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner and the Auxiliary will once again be hosting the Merchandise Auction and 50/50 raffle.

We need your donations of NEW merchandise, cash or gift cards. Last year we had a Spa Basket, Golf Cooler Pack, BBQ Basket, Rockies Basket, including tickets to a Rockies Game and many more wonderful prizes.

The event will be held on Saturday, March 16th. Donations will be needed by Wednesday the 13th.

Please direct any questions and donations to Ava Barden (303-638-8512). Last year we raised over \$2,000 for our Auxiliary Charities. Let's see if we can top that!



St Patrick's Day Celebration



Saturday, March 16th

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

1pm to 8pm Or until the food runs out.

REMINDER

Drugs are not allowed on Legion property. Anyone caught with drugs, will be immediately dismissed and banned from Post 11-11.



ALA Department of Colorado Membership Committee

Colorado will reach 100% membership again in 2024!



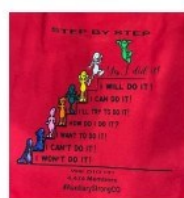
T-Shirt

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

Update on the Status of the Department

It is my sad duty to report to the members of The American Legion in Colorado that there will NOT be a recommendation made to the National Executive Committee at their spring meeting to begin the process of reinstating the charter of the Department of Colorado. This is a difficult decision, but one that is necessary.

One provision of the resolution that suspended the charter reads in part that

"Resolved, That the national commander be authorized to name and appoint a Colorado Reorganization Committee with the following authority, its actions, subject to the national commander's concurrence: . . .

4) to ensure that the department is properly audited and follows generally accepted accounting principles". Currently, it is not possible to meet that condition. Two problems

prevent being able to ensure that the department is properly audited. IRS Form 990s for the department have not been filed since 2021. Without the 2022 tax forms having been completed, we currently do not have an accurate picture of the department's finances. Secondly, questions have arisen regarding the mortgage on the headquarters building and the need to repay the funds drawn against the line of credit. We cannot ensure a proper audit without a stable footing and knowledge of the liabilities currently lodged against the department.

No one is happy that these decisions are necessary. Still, the reorganization committee must fulfill our obligations to the national organization as specified in the resolution and our commitment to the Legionnaires of

Colorado to return to a stable department. It appears that extra time will be necessary. The constitutional working group and constitutional convention are being delayed for the immediate future. Work will begin with those groups once a predictable timeline is established for reinstating the charter.

The Posts and Districts have done an excellent job in the past ten months working toward reinstatement of the department charter. We hope that this delay will not cause any discouragement in the Legionnaires.

Colorado is coming back; let no one doubt that. It is simply a matter of how soon.

Respectfully,

PNC David Rehbein
Chairman Reorganization Committee

Legislative Point Papers

From www.legion.org

Mental Health & Suicide Prevention

The suicide rate amongst veterans is nearly double that of their civilian counterparts with more than 6,000 veterans losing their lives to suicide annually. It is imperative that we simultaneously destigmatize asking for mental health assistance while increasing access to a variety of services along the mental health continuum.

VA Healthcare Modernization

The future of VA healthcare is a hybrid system consisting of inpatient and outpatient care, telehealth, and community care. Congress must ensure that VA has the most efficient technology and infrastructure needed to reach veterans no matter where they reside.

PACT Act: Implementation & Oversight

The passage of the SFC Heath Robinson PACT Act in the 117th Congress ensured millions of toxic exposed veterans will now have the access to healthcare and compensation they rightfully deserve. The American Legion urges congress to provide the necessary oversight and funding to ensure VA has the resources they need to properly implement this legislation.

Protect Veterans from Predatory Actors

America's veterans are being increasingly targeted by predatory actors that seek to profit from an array of benefits that have been rightfully earned by those who have served our nation. Congress must oppose legislation that seeks to elevate the standing of unaccredited

predatory claims companies by legitimizing practices that target veterans and impose a cap on legal services provided in association with the Camp Lejeune Justice Act.

Concurrent Receipt

Currently, 42,000 military retirees with combat-related injuries qualify for retirement pay for their service from DoD, and compensation for service-connected disabilities from VA. However, for retired veterans with a disability rating less than 50%, their VA compensation is deducted from their DoD retirement pay. The American Legion strongly supports ending this unfair policy of forcing many military retirees to forfeit their retired pay to receive equal amounts of disability compensation.

Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity

National Guard and Reserve servicemembers are increasingly called upon to confront unique challenges. Yet despite all we ask of them, they are too often denied a cornerstone benefit of service: the GI Bill. Congress must pass legislation that would expand GI Bill benefits to Army Reserve and National Guard servicemembers for every day served while activated under state orders.

GI Bill for Honorable Service

Currently, servicemembers with a "general under honorable conditions" discharge do not qualify for the GI bill. Congress must amend GI Bill eligibility under the U.S. Code to allow servicemembers who received a "general under honorable conditions discharge" access to benefits.

Support our Afghan Allies

For two decades, we fought shoulder-to-shoulder with brave Afghan allies who served with and protected American forces, fighting for the freedom of Afghanistan and its people. We must honor the promises we made as a nation and are duty-bound to fulfill. As we did after the Vietnam war, we must provide genuine and lasting protection to our Afghan allies who have made it safely to the U.S. and to those who have been left behind.

Military Quality of Life

The U.S. military's greatest resources are individual servicemembers and their families. The American Legion urges congress to pass legislation that would increase access to child-care for military families, increase appropriations to address matters involving servicemember food insecurity, and increase funding for renovating of military housing.

Pay the Coast Guard

While the US Coast Guard is no longer a part of the Department of Defense (DoD), its role in our domestic national security is vital. Congress must increase the Coast Guard budget annually and must protect pay and allowances for members of the Coast Guard during funding gaps.

Protect the American Flag

Congress should change the U.S. Flag Code to codify patriotic and common customs and practices related to the display of the U.S. flag.



6 Reasons Why the Battle of Iwo Jima Is So Important to Marines

Military.com | By [Blake Stilwell](#) Published February 19,

2021

No historical account of World War II would be complete without covering the Battle of Iwo Jima. At first glance, it seems similar to many other battles that happened late in the Pacific War: American troops fiercely fought their way through booby traps, Banzai charges and surprise attacks while stalwart dug-in Japanese defenders struggled against overwhelming U.S. power in the air, on land and by sea, or the United States [Marine Corps](#), however, the Battle of Iwo Jima was more than one more island in a string of battles in an island-hopping campaign. The Pacific War was one of the most brutal in the history of mankind, and nowhere was that more apparent than on Iwo Jima in February 1945. After three years of fighting, U.S. troops didn't know the end was near for the Japanese Empire. For them,



In this Feb. 23, 1945, photo, U.S. Marines of the 28th Regiment, 5th Division, raise an American flag atop Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima, Japan. (AP Photo/Joe Rosenthal, File)

every island was part of the preparation they needed to invade mainland Japan. The 36-day fight for Iwo Jima led Adm. Chester Nimitz to give the now-immortal praise, "Uncommon valor was a common virtue." Here are six reasons why the battle is so important to Marines:

1. It Was the First Invasion of the Japanese Home Islands

The Japanese Empire controlled many islands in the Pacific area. Saipan, Peleliu (pronounced peh-luh-loo) and other islands were either sold to Japan after World War I, or it was given control of them by the League of Nations. Then it started invading others.

Iwo Jima was different. Though technically far from the Japanese Home Islands, it is considered to be part of Tokyo and is administered as part of its subprefecture.

After three years of taking control of islands

(Continued on page 7)



**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**



Given the letter from PNC David Rehbein on page 5, regarding the current status of the Department of Colorado, I sent an email to Mr. Rehbein with a number of questions, specifically asking about the status of our Detachment Convention. That question was answered unequivocally that we will have a convention this year. That means the Detachment will conduct all business that is normal and usual for a convention. We hope to have a good turnout.

The Battle of Iwo Jima continued

(Continued from page 5)

previously captured by the Japanese, the Marines were finally taking part of the Japanese capital.

2. Iwo Jima Was Strategically Necessary for the United States' War Effort

Taking the island meant more than a symbolic capture of the Japanese homeland. It meant the U.S. could launch bombing runs from Iwo Jima's strategic airfields, as the tiny island was directly under the flight path of B-29 Superfortresses from Guam, Saipan and the Mariana Islands. Now, the Army Air Forces could make bombing runs without a Japanese garrison at Iwo Jima warning the mainland about the danger to come. It also meant American bombers could fly over Japan with fighter escorts.

3. It Was One of the Bloodiest Battles in Marine Corps History Iwo Jima is a small island, covering roughly eight square miles. It was defended by 20,000 Japanese soldiers who spent a year digging in, creating miles of tunnels beneath the volcanic rock and were ready to fight to the last man. When the battle was over, [6,800 Americans were dead](#) and a further 26,000 wounded or missing. This means

850 Americans died for every square mile of the island fortress. Only 216 Japanese troops were taken prisoner.

4. More Gallantry Was on Display at Iwo Jima Than Any Other Battle Before or Since

Iwo Jima saw more Medals of Honor awarded for actions there than any other single battle in American history. A total of 27 were awarded, 22 to Marines and five to [Navy](#) Corpsmen. In all of World War II, only 81 Marines and 57 sailors were awarded the medal. To put it in a statistical perspective, 20% of all WWII Navy and Marine Corps Medals of Honor were earned at Iwo Jima.

5. U.S. Marines Were Marines and Nothing Else on Iwo Jima The U.S. has seen significant problems with race relations in its history. And though the [armed forces](#) weren't fully integrated until 1948, the U.S. military has always been on the forefront of racial and gender integration. The Marines at Iwo Jima came from every background. While Blacks were still not allowed on frontline duty because of segregation, they piloted amphibious trucks full of White and Latino Marines to the beaches at Iwo Jima, moved ammunition and supplies to the front, buried the dead

and fought off surprise attacks from Japanese defenders. Navajo code talkers were instrumental in taking the island. They were all Marines.

6. The Iconic Flag Raising Became the Symbol for All Marines Who Died in Service

Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal's photo of Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi is perhaps one of the best-known war photos ever taken. Raising the American flag at the island's highest point sent a clear message to both the Marines below and the Japanese defenders. In the years that followed, the image took on a more important role.

It soon became the symbol of the Marine Corps itself. When the Marine Corps Memorial was dedicated in 1954, it was that image that became the symbol of the Corps' spirit, dedicated to every Marine who gave their life in service to the United States.

-- Blake Stilwell is a former airman who just did his best to honor the Marines who fought and died at Iwo Jima. He can be reached at blake.stilwell@military.com. He can also be found on Twitter [@blakestilwell](#) or on [Facebook](#).

VA Plans to Expand Agent Orange Disability Benefits to Cover Exposure in a Dozen New States

Military.com | By [Patricia Kime](#)

Published February 12, 2024 at 2:23pm ET

The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to expand eligibility for Agent Orange disability benefits to Vietnam-era veterans who served at 129 locations in the U.S. during specific time frames, as well as parts of Canada and India, officials announced Friday.

Ahead of a notice published Monday in the Federal Register, VA officials also said they plan to widen eligibility for veterans who were sickened by herbicides used after World War II in the Demilitarized Zone in Korea in the 1950s and in areas off the shores of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

VA Secretary Denis McDonough said the move will make it easier for veterans who were exposed to the toxic defoliant to get benefits and care for service-connected conditions.

"Our goal is to provide every veteran -- of every era -- with the VA health care and benefits they deserve, and this is another step in the right direction," McDonough said in a statement released Friday.

The proposal would allow the VA to automatically extend presumptive status to veterans who develop an Agent Orange-related health condition from assignment to a location named on the Defense Department's list of areas where tactical herbicides were tested, used or stored within specific dates.

It adds locations in 12 states within the U.S., as well as Kumbla, India, in 1945 and 1946, and Gagetown, New Brunswick, in Canada, in June 1966 and June 1967. It also creates broader timelines for other locations that include Cambodia, Thailand, Guam and Laos, based on the DoD's 2019 list, which was published by the VA in 2020.

The states include Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, New York, Tennessee, Texas and Utah, and dates that range from 1945 to 1977, depending on state and location.

The full list of the states and specific locations and times is available on the VA website, as is the list of overseas locations.

A presumption of exposure means that the VA automatically accepts a condition as tied

to military service, lowering the requirement for the veteran to prove that their illness or injury is military related and allowing for a more streamlined course to receive benefits.

"The purpose of this regulatory change is to ensure consistency across VA adjudications, in accord with the most up-to-date information garnered by DoD," VA officials wrote in the release.

The new rule codifies and defines some of the requirements on presumptive conditions listed in the Blue Water Navy Act and the PACT Act, both of which expanded benefits to veterans sickened by exposure to contaminants while deployed to combat operations.

It expands the territorial waters off Vietnam and other locations to include an island, Phu Quoc, that previously was omitted as automatically qualifying for benefits. It also would expand the dates of eligibility for veterans who served in the Korean Demilitarized Zone from April 1, 1968, to Aug. 31, 1971, to Sept. 1, 1967, through Aug. 31, 1971.

And it clarifies conditions that fall under the umbrella term of Parkinsonism, a health condition related to herbicide exposure, to include progressive supranuclear palsy, multiple system atrophy, corticobasal degeneration, vascular Parkinsonism and dementia with Lewy bodies.

According to the VA, the clarification is needed because claims processors may not understand that these conditions fall under the Parkinsonism condition.

As part of the Federal Register process, veterans, advocates and the general public have 60 days to comment on the proposal. VA officials said in the announcement that they welcome all input and all comments will be considered.

They acknowledged that they previously have received questions as to why the VA does not extend presumptive status to veterans who say that Agent Orange and other herbicides were used in locations not listed by the Defense Department, such as Panama and Okinawa.

But ultimately, VA officials said the depart-

ment decided it was the best "course of action" to restrict their presumptive conditions status to the DoD list, which they described as a "living document and therefore may evolve."

The Defense Department bases its list on criteria that includes the existence of official records such as government reports, forms, unit histories, shipping logs, contracts, scientific reports or photographs. The location must have been a DoD installation; land under control by the DoD; or a non-DoD location where service members were present during testing, application, transportation or storage.

"VA nevertheless welcomes all comments on this approach, or comments on Panama and Okinawa specifically, during the comment period for this rulemaking," officials wrote.

Veterans interested in filing an initial claim for a herbicide-related disability can visit the VA's website, or use VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits. They also are encouraged to contact a veterans service organization, such as the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, the VFW or others for help with the application process or contact their state or local veterans affairs offices.

Related: Millions of Vets Got Health Care and Benefits Under the PACT Act. Thousands Left Out Want the Same Chance.



"There is no price too high for an individual to pay that contributes to the preservation of this great nation"

Charles S Kettles
United States Army
Medal of Honor

Celebrate Americanism and The American Legion Family

By SAL National Commander Don "JR" Hall
FEB 12, 2024

Hello again, American Legion Family, February is Americanism month and time for all of us to get busy spreading the great works of our organizations in the Americanism pillar. We should all be taking time to celebrate being an American in our great country.



Let's start with the basics. Americanism isn't taught in the schools like it once was; we as members of the American Legion Family need to make sure that our youth know just what that flag stands for. We need to make sure they know the pride of being a patriot and caring about what our families have fought for. History cannot be left in the past; we must carry on the 100% Americanism banner. Let's join together to lift our flag and celebrate Americanism together as a Legion family. As the months are moving quickly, many pro-

grams are heading our way under Americanism. Oratorical, Junior Shooting, and Boys and Girls State all are great programs that are starting up and plans are being made for them. Find out what you can do to help these



A group portrait of the 2023 American Legion National Oratorical Contest Contestants on Sunday, April 23. Photo by Hilary Ott / The American Legion

programs; there is a part we can all do. It is when you witness these programs take place that you realize our future is better than the news portrays. So many young men and

women take part in these programs which lets us know we are doing the right thing by keeping these programs going strong. The American Legion Family has had so many success stories that have come from the youth who have taken part in our programs, so let us all be a part of more success stories of the future.

At the end of the month, many members of the American Legion Family will gather in Washington, D.C., to make sure that our voices are heard. I look forward to the opportunity to represent the Sons and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and other memorials. I hope that I will see many of you there taking part in our meetings and learning from each other.

Representing our departments, detachments and our family as the American Legion Family makes our voice so much stronger. "Representing More Than Me" isn't just my slogan; it truly is what we all are about.

"Representing More Than Me"
Don "JR" Hall
SAL National Commander



'Freezing for a Reason': To Help Homeless Veterans

The American Legion
FEB 19, 2024

Fortunately for those participating in the Freezing for a Reason event outside American Legion Trier-Puddy Post 75 in Fond du Lac, Wis., the weather on the evening of Feb. 10 wasn't as bad as it could have been.

But the 20-degree weather was a reminder of just how difficult it can be for homeless veterans who must sleep outside on a nightly basis. Freezing for a Reason "was carried out with the purpose of raising awareness of the veterans' homelessness crisis as well as raising funds to support homeless and at-risk veterans in our community," said Shawn McCrary, commander of SAL Squadron 75 and one of the event organizers.

Over 20 Legionnaires, Sons and Auxiliary



Photo from www.legion.org/sons

members, as well as members of other veterans groups, spent the night of Feb. 10 in cardboard boxes and tents. That was part of a weekend of events aimed at raising awareness and donations to the cause.

Also on Saturday night, the post served a spaghetti dinner before the Fond du Lac Bears amateur hockey game, where the post's honor guard presented the colors. That was followed Sunday morning by a pancake breakfast.

In addition to those braving the cold Saturday night, hundreds attended the weekend activities. Freezing for a Reason raised nearly \$11,000 to help homeless veterans; McCrary said more pledges were on the way.

Before the event, Mark Nesbitt, an Army veteran and one of the organizers, [told Spectrum News](#) this would be a way to help the homeless veterans in Wisconsin.

"We can't pay everything, but at least we can give them help that they need," Nesbitt said.

Editors note: The Commander of Squadron 75 mentioned in this article was the Colorado Detachment Commander for 2008-2009-10



A Generous Gesture From New York

By Carley Schutz, American Legion Auxiliary
FEB 28, 2024

In a heartwarming display of support for those who served our country, the American Legion Department of New York donated \$100,000 to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, dedicated to enhancing veterans' therapy programs. The generous contribution promises to make a significant impact on the lives of those who sacrificed so much for the wellbeing of our nation.

New York Department Adjutant Jim Casey said the department received a sizeable gift dedicated to disabled veterans and their families in 2006. Because of that gift, the American Legion Department of New York was able to establish a grant program to support organizations directly helping veterans at risk for suicide or homelessness. Casey said the department set aside \$1 million for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI) therapies and \$500,000 to support homeless veterans.

Since the granting program began, the department has funded several projects for PTSD and TBI therapies in New York and initiatives by other Legion Family organizations. Casey recalled a particularly emotional encounter at an equine therapy center in New York where he and several others from the Department of New York were receiving a tour. When the

guide announced the end of the tour, then American Legion National Commander Jim Triola said, "Ma'am, it's not the end of the tour — the Department of New York would like to give you \$100,000." The four women working at the equine therapy center began to cry. "It makes all of the tough days in the job worth it when we know we've helped someone," Casey said.

The substantial donation to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation comes at a critical time when the need for mental health services for veterans is more pressing than ever. The philanthropic gesture demonstrates a deep commitment to the wellbeing of those who have bravely defended our country. The funds are earmarked specifically for veterans' therapy programs, ensuring that individuals struggling with the invisible wounds of war receive the care and support they deserve. The ALA Foundation will allocate the funds to the Veterans Creative Arts Festival (VCAF) fund, which impacts creative art therapy programs.

Annually nationwide, veterans enrolled at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities compete in a local creative arts competition, which includes categories in the visual arts division that range from painting to leatherwork to sculpture. In addition, there are categories in writing, as well as the performing arts of dance, drama and music. The

ALA Foundation supports local creative arts festivals by awarding grants to ALA entities to fund veterans' creative arts programs in their community.

After hearing about the equine therapy donation, ALA Foundation Board of Directors President Cathe MacInnes reached out to the Department of New York to inquire about applying for a grant to allow the ALA Foundation to increase its support for the American Legion Auxiliary's co-presentership of NVCAF and local VCAF granting program. Notification of the award was announced at the Department of New York's 105th Mid-Winter Conference in Albany.

"It's gratifying to know that the Department of New York American Legion is so supportive of this effort," MacInnes said. "With 131 of the VA medical centers nationwide participating in the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, this donation will make a significant impact on suicide prevention among those suffering with PTSD. I cannot thank them enough."

In announcing the grant award to the media following New York's Mid-Winter Conference, Department Commander Timothy Collmer began a briefing by noting that the focus of The American Legion is prevention of veteran suicide.

"We have people who are willing to listen to

(Continued on page 11)

The American Legion Legislative Agenda for the 118th Congress, 2nd Session

From www.legion.org

The American Legion is the voice of U.S. military veterans and servicemembers. A resolution-based organization, The American Legion's positions represent the views of its nearly 1.6 million members and shape the organization's legislative priorities for the 118th Congress:

Suicide Prevention & 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 conversations about suicide and other mental health issues.

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.

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.

PACT Act: Implementation & 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 Veteran 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.

Concurrent Receipt

There are currently 42,000 military retirees with combat-related injuries who are eligible for retirement pay from the Department of Defense (DOD) and compensation for service-connected disabilities from the VA. However, retired veterans with a disability rating below 50-percent have their VA compensation deducted from their DOD retirement pay. The American Legion strongly supports ending this inequitable policy, where many military retirees must forfeit their retired pay to receive equal amounts of disability compensation.

Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity

National Guard and Reserve servicemembers are being deprived of education benefits that active-duty servicemembers enjoy, despite completing the same duties. According to current law, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers only accrue GI Bill entitlement when called to active duty under federal orders. When Guard and Reserve servicemembers are activated under state orders, they do not accrue eligibility for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits like their active-duty counterparts do. The American Legion believes that every day in uniform counts and urges Congress to recognize the service of Guard and Reserve servicemembers as eligible for the GI Bill.

GI Bill for Honorable Service

To receive most VA benefits, a veteran's character of discharge or service must be "under honorable conditions." However, GI Bill education assistance benefits have a requirement that servicemembers receive an "honorable discharge." If the character of service is "general under honorable conditions," this benefit remains out of reach for these veterans. The American Legion urges Congress to correct this statutory incongruity by amending U.S. Code to allow access to VA educational assistance to veterans with general under honorable conditions discharges.

Military Quality of Life

The U.S. military's greatest resources are servicemembers and their families. Without highly qualified and committed men and women, even the most sophisticated weaponry will not provide the deterrence necessary to defend our nation. Factors contributing to quality of life include proper compensation, appropriate housing, quality healthcare, reasonably priced commissaries, and access to childcare services. The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation to expand access to affordable childcare, increase appropriations for military construction projects (including barracks and family housing), and ensuring timely access to men-

tal healthcare.

Pay the Coast Guard

U.S. Coast Guard personnel carry out vital national security missions. Still, because the Coast Guard is under the Department of Homeland Security instead of DOD, its members are more likely to experience pay interruptions during prolonged government shutdowns. The common threat of shutdowns brings severe and unnecessary hardship on these men, women, and their families. The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that would guarantee that Coast Guard personnel are paid in case of a shutdown.

Access to healthcare for overseas military and families

Military personnel stationed overseas in support of U.S. interests and our alliances provide a key role in deterring adversaries from a myriad of actions. However, even after the realignment of medical services in overseas and remote locations under the Defense Health Agency (DHA), major issues involving access to various types of healthcare continue. Additionally, the lack of access to certain types of care limits overseas assignments and contributes to military families being separated for extended periods of time.

Improving the military TAP

The American Legion urges Congress to direct the modernization of Transition Assistance Program (TAP) delivery using technology and performance data to ensure the DOD delivers a successful program. The creation of a mobile application, providing servicemembers with an extensive toolkit of on-demand transition-related content would improve participation and increase the benefit of transition resources available. Delivering effective transition assistance will ensure a veteran's proper reintegration from active duty to civilian life and reduce negative experiences. Improved TAP instruction will support our servicemembers in finding education, employment, and entrepreneurship opportunities and send successful citizens back to our communities.

Protect the American Flag

The American Legion urges Congress to approve an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. flag. Additionally, The American Legion urges Congress to pass the Flag Code Modernization Act of 2021 to amend the U.S. Flag Code to codify common patriotic customs and practices as described in The American Legion Resolution No. 19: Flag Code Amendment.

To download a PDF of The American Legion Legislative Agenda for the 118th Congress brochure [click here](#).



"Service doesn't come without sacrifice, but both are worth the freedom gained"

Jose Rodela

United States Army

Medal of Honor

Chuck Mawhinney, the Deadliest Sniper in Marine Corps History, Dies at 75

From Military.com

It wasn't until 1991 that the world learned of [Marine Corps](#) veteran Charles Benjamin "Chuck" Mawhinney's 103 confirmed kills during his time deployed to Vietnam in the late 1960s. That count made him not only the deadliest sniper of the Vietnam War, but also the deadliest sniper ever to serve in the Marine Corps. But Mawhinney never mentioned his exploits or record to friends or family; it only came out because [a fellow sniper wrote a book](#) giving him the title.

Like so many such claims do, Mawhinney's purported record caused a bit of an uproar in the Vietnam veteran and sniper communities. But it turned out that not only was the book accurate, it might have underreported his accomplishments. It was an even more incredible feat, given his young life and that he almost never joined the Marine Corps in the first place. It wasn't until March 2023 that the legendary veteran [told his full life story](#), and not a moment too soon. Mawhinney died on Feb. 12, 2024, at his home in Baker City, Oregon. He was 75 years old.

Born in 1949, Mawhinney grew up as what some might call a troubled youth in Lakeview, Oregon. His teen years were [filled](#) with cars, motorcycles, shooting guns and chasing ladies. A skilled shot with a rifle from a young age, he also enjoyed picking off rabbits and deer from behind the stick of small aircraft. When his behavior got him into hot water at home, the Marines offered him a way out. He joined the Corps and was sent to Vietnam while still a teenager, on a 16-

month tour that spanned from 1967 to 1969.

Joseph T. Ward served in Vietnam as a spotter alongside Mawhinney at the tail end of the latter's tour. It was his 1991



With 103 confirmed kills and 216 probable's in Vietnam, Chuck Mawhinney was 'just doing my job' as the deadliest sniper in Marine Corps history. (Courtesy of Chuck Mawhinney)

book, "[Dear Mom: A Sniper's Vietnam](#)" that listed Mawhinney's sniper record. Mawhinney didn't even know his old spotter had written a book. Author Peter Senich read Ward's book, and then went back into the Marine Corps archives to check on the claim. Sure enough, Ward was right.

For the longest time, the world believed the record belonged to another Marine Corps legend, [Carlos Hathcock](#), and his 93 kills. During Chuck Mawhinney's tour in Vietnam, he racked up a confirmed kill count of 103, with 216 more probables. Senich wrote an article about Mawhinney's tour and his kill record for the December 1996 issue of Precision Shooting Magazine, [an interview that changed Mawhinney's life](#).

Mawhinney had left the Marine Corps

in 1970; by the time the interview came out he'd retired from the U.S. Forest Service after 27 years and was living in his hometown of Lakeview. Friends and family were aware that he'd fought in Vietnam, but no one in his life knew he was a living legend with a Bronze Star Medal with Combat Valor, [Navy Achievement Medal](#), Navy Commendation Medal with Combat Valor and two [Purple Hearts](#).

The Precision Shooting interview, [he told local newspaper](#) the Bay City Herald, was the reason he finally opened up more about his service.

"It's an opportunity for me to get some recognition for a lot of the Vietnam vets that didn't receive any recognition," he said. "We were all there together. If I have to take recognition for it, that's OK, because every time I talk to someone, I can talk about the vets. It gives me an opportunity to talk about what a great job they did."

Senich was going to write a book about Mawhinney's life, but the author died in 2004 without finishing a manuscript. Mawhinney's old friend, Jim Lindsay, eventually did it himself. Lindsay met Mawhinney in 1980 and, despite many hours spent together, only discovered his good friend's record while watching a documentary about snipers. Lindsay's book, "[The Sniper: The Untold Story of the Marine Corps' Greatest Marksman of All Time](#)," was published in March 2023 to Mawhinney's great satisfaction.

Aside from a legacy of service to the United States, the Marine Corps and the Forest Service, Chuck Mawhinney leaves behind a wife and three children.



'An Absolute Tragedy'

The American Legion
JAN 29, 2024

Three U.S. servicemembers were killed — and at least 30 wounded — in an aerial drone attack Sunday night in northeast Jordan near the Syria border. This marks the first time U.S. troops were killed by enemy fire in the Mideast since the start of the Gaza War. American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer condemned the attack, which is believed to have been carried out by Iran-backed militant groups operating in Syria and Iraq. "We are in mourning for these American heroes, three servicemembers who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country," Seehafer said. "It is an absolute tragedy, and we grieve with their families. We call upon Congress and the Department of Defense to do more to ensure that our deployed troops are equipped appropriately to protect them from future attacks." Jordan is a key ally of the United States and has played a vital role in cooperating with the U.S. military. For example, American troops have trained Jordanian soldiers and partnered with them on various exercises and operations. "This act of aggression should not deter our resolve to protect U.S. interests at home and abroad," Seehafer said. "In fact, it should embolden us to honor the memories of the servicemembers we lost. We must remain steadfast to bring about peace in the Mideast through any means necessary."

VA Secretary: Department Taking Several Steps to Deter Claim Sharks

The American Legion
FEB 27, 2024

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough used The American Legion's Washington Conference to issue a stern warning to individuals or companies that attempt to file VA benefits claims on behalf of veterans but don't have VA accreditation. Speaking during the Legion's Commander's Call on Feb. 26, McDonough noted that while unaccredited predatory claims companies are not bound by VA regulations and cannot be penalized by the Office of General Counsel,

there are still steps VA can take to thwart their efforts.

"When we see predatory companies, bad actors, including non-accredited actors taking advantage of veterans, we're doing everything we can under the current law," McDonough said. "You know that the criminal penalties associated with the statute have been removed. But we can still name and shame. So, when we see a bad actor, we communicate with them to cease and desist. And then we publish that actor's name, so as to deter veterans from going to those actors. "We have now stood up a full interagency team within the administration, using all of

the enforcement authority that we have at places like the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Treasury, the Consumer Finance Protection Corporation, to make sure that we are using all of those enforcement authorities to name and shame, but to also protect vets whose assets may have been attached or to bring additional regulatory action against the bad actors."

But McDonough said that VA also has to "get better and more timely about providing claims answers. "Because when veterans feel like they're getting a fair shake, they won't like

(Continued on page 11)

Claim Sharks cont'd

(Continued from page 10)

they need to go somewhere else.”

McDonough said VA urges veterans to go to its partners like The American Legion, which has a network of accredited service officers who file claims free of charge.

During his address, McDonough shared the following numbers regarding VA's effort in 2023, when veterans submitted 2.4 million claims, an all-time record and 39 percent more than 2022, and nearly 2.3 million intents to file, another record.

- VA processed a record nearly 2 million claims.

- VA delivered a record \$163 billion in earned benefits to more than 1.5 million veterans and survivors.

- Veterans had 116 million health-care appointments, another record.

- The Board of Veteran Appeals processed more than 103,000 appeals, another record.

- More than 46,500 homeless veterans were permanently housed, surpassing the goal of 38,000.

- 4.1 million veterans now are interred in National Cemeteries.

“All of those accomplishments, those are yours, and each of you should be rightly proud of them,” McDonough said. “You play a critical role, a key enabler of the VA's mission in keeping our promises to veterans. We have no better partner than The American Legion. And this year, going forward, we're not letting up.

“Together, we're going to bring new vets to VA. We're going to expand access to VA, and we're going to help vets thrive. We're going to bring as many veterans as possible into our care, because VA is proven to be the best, most affordable health care in America for vets.”

McDonough said VA already was on the way to expanding care, noting that beginning March 5, any veteran who was exposed to tox-

ins and other hazards during their military service, whether overseas or abroad, will be eligible for VA health care.

“This is the biggest expansion of VA care in generations, and we want vets to apply as soon as possible,” McDonough said. “It's quick and easy to enroll. They don't need to be sick, they don't need to file a claim before they enroll.

“Even if they don't think they need this care today, they might need it tomorrow, or the next day, or 30 years from now. All they have to do is enroll, and then they have access for life.” On the benefits side, McDonough said that starting April 20, all recipients of VA payments to veterans or family members will no longer be able to have those payments deposited into multiple bank accounts.

“We're making this change to help protect veterans and families from fraud, and to ensure that we're able to pay veterans on time, every time, without error,” he said. “This will require all veterans and beneficiaries who receive GI Bill payments and other benefits payments across multiple accounts to select one of those accounts by April 20.” McDonough was asked about VA's Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM), which was paused in September 2023 after reports of veteran harm and deaths in Spokane, Wash., and elsewhere. It carries a price tag of \$16 billion.

“I continue to believe, VA continues to believe, that a modernized electronic health record is pivotal, is vital to the future for two very simple reasons, both of which are the reasons we started,” McDonough said. “One, to get access into a full record of a veteran's service, so we could more promptly and more accurately make sure we're making service connections. Second, it is the best, most prompt way to ensure access

to care.”

McDonough said a decision would be made in the next two weeks whether or not to deploy the EHRM system in the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago that VA shares with the Department of the Navy.

“We think that we need to proceed there so that we are good partners with DoD, and so that we can reap the benefit of that partnership with the Navy for a complete look into veterans records, starting from when they first enlisted, through their entire relationship at DoD and then when they joined VA,” McDonough said, noting the EHRM system also is deployed at two sites in Oregon, one in Washington and one in Ohio. “We are operating those in reset mode. We are updating the system, and we want to deploy it further from those five sites, but we will not until we prove it will work in those five sites.

“I cannot give you a timeline as to when we'll know. But we are making very good progress right now.”

McDonough reminded those inside the Washington Hilton's International Ballroom that he continues to view VA's relationship with organizations like The American Legion as symbiotic.

“VA can't, and doesn't, keep this nation's solid obligation and promise to vets alone,” he said. “Partnerships like the VA partnership with the Legion help us tackle the most pressing priorities on preventing veteran suicide, ending veteran homelessness, improving health-care access and more. We cannot keep our promise to vets without you, your candor, because vets trust the Legion.

“Vets talk to you when something isn't working the way it should. Your work helps us better understand what veterans experienced in uniform, what they're going through here at home, and how we can better help



Generous Gesture cont'd

(Continued from page 8)

veterans who are struggling and get them the help they need,” Collmer said about The American Legion's Be the One mission. He added that the Department of New York also works with partners to provide direct support and assistance to veterans suffering from PTSD.

The \$100,000 donation enables the integration of innovative therapeutic approaches that have shown promise in addressing the unique challenges faced by veterans. This may include programs incorporating art and music therapy practices, offering alternative avenues for healing beyond traditional counseling

methods. The goal is to tailor therapy options to the diverse needs and preferences of veterans, fostering a holistic approach to mental health care.

The donation dedicated to veterans' therapy programs represents more than a monetary contribution — it symbolizes a profound commitment the Legion Family has to the wellbeing of those who have selflessly served our nation.

“Be the One, and Be the One as big as you can,” Casey said.

About the ALA Foundation

The ALA Foundation has awarded 38 local VCAF grants totaling \$76,448. Local creative arts competition top winning entries advance

to a national judging process, and first, second, and third place entries are determined at the national level. First place winning veterans are invited to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) hosted by a different VA facility each year.

Since 2000, the ALA has co-presented NVCAF, alongside the VA. Carrying out the Auxiliary's legacy of *Service Not Self*, members, units, and departments support the local competitions, the Festival, and make generous monetary donations to help carry out the event. Since 2014, the ALA Foundation has granted over \$456,000 to support the ALA and VA in this endeavor.



Washington Conference

By ANEC Nick Arceo

What a great time I had in D.C. Every year The American Legion along with the Sons of The American Legion and the Auxiliary meet in Washington D.C. for a conference. I Attended this conference this year. Each year the highlight is the Commander of The Sons placing a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier. This year was exceptional. What a privilege it was to witness this great event, followed by the very moving ceremony, the changing of the guard. I have witnessed this many times, never getting tired of seeing this



event. The detachment of Colorado also placed a wreath at the Vietnam memorial wall. Wow, what a moving experience that

was. As in years past, I was blessed to be a part of this wreath laying. I also attended the American legion VA&R commission meeting

along with members of The Sons VA&R Commission. Some very important information was shared. After that meeting the SAL VA&R Commission had a joint meeting with the



VE&E Commission. Items were discussed and plans were made moving forward. Overall, this was a very productive conference. Emphasis placed on important topics such as the buddy check, Be The One, veteran suicide and TAL legislative agenda. I would encourage anyone that has not attended this conference to plan on attending in the future. The Detachment of Colorado was well represented, and all had a great time. Here are some pictures of events that took place.



16th Annual

Tournament

Friday, June 14, 2024

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

Entry Deadline June 6 (NO EXCEPTIONS)

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

Tournament Sponsorship Opportunities

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

Hole Sponsor \$150
Prize Hole Sponsor \$200

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

Sponsors' Deadline June 1

Proceeds go to SAL Charities

Register online or scan QR Code

https://tinyurl.com/yx7y3tra

7th ANNUAL 'BLARNEY BINGO' SATURDAY MARCH 16th

AT 1:00PM



CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE
SERVED WITH ALL THE FIXIN'S
FROM FIELD KITCHEN 111
KITCHEN OPENS AT NOON
\$15.00 per plate

RAFFLE PRIZES & 50/50 RAFFLE



Post 178 is located at 1655 Simms St. just north of West Colfax between Wadsworth and Kipling

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, frioles, 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

Changes Coming For Just Like Dad's Beef Jerky Program

"Just Like Dad's" Beef Jerky to Deployed Troops is looking for long-term volunteers to carry on this amazing program at Post 178. The Jerky Couple, Randy and Lori Kipp, will be moving out

We'd love to see this incredibly successful program continue at Post 178, but in order to do so four more regular volunteers are needed to join Denny and Terry.

The Kipps plan to take Just Like Dad's to the local Post wherever they land. Wouldn't it be great to have two programs in operation!

Thank you, Post 178, for the tremendous support over the past year and a half! Over 1,300 bags of beef jerky and 14 "Hearts of Love" Care Packages have been sent to deployed troops... not to mention all the jerky made available for Post 178.

Contact Just Like Dad's or Pushkva Of's on Facebook for more information if you are willing to volunteer and be a part of this mission.

Beef Jerky makers Terry Osterhaus (l.) and Denny Bendt (r.) with Randy and Lori Kipp.

Beef Jerky Program Founder Lee Kipp (09/30/1933—02/18/2024)

Lee Kipp has passed away at the age of 90. The U.S. Navy Veteran began the program of making and sending beef jerky to deployed troops that is now carried out by his son, Randy, and a group of Post 178 volunteers under the name, "Just Like Dad's Beef Jerky" in his honor.

Since rekindling the program just over a year and a half ago, over 1,300 bags of beef jerky and 14 "Hearts of Love" Care Packages have been sent to deployed troops, and an ample supply of jerky made available to Post 178 members.

The successful program is currently in need of a few volunteers to continue this important mission. Contact Just Like Dad's or Pushkva Of's on Facebook for more information and to volunteer.

United States Navy Seaman Lee Kip (l.).
A teaching moment; father and son making beef jerky.

CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS?

A WHOLE PAGE OF EVENTS FROM ONE POST FAMILY!!

WE CAN GIVE YOU A WHOLE PAGE TOO! BUT WE HAVE TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR EVENTS!!

Annual Stand Down Continue to Provide Support for Iowa Veterans

The American Legion
FEB 26, 2024

For at least 10 years, American Legion Post 26's Legion Family in Davenport, Iowa, has hosted an annual veterans stand down to bring valuable services and assistance to the homeless and at-need veterans in its community.

The most recent such event took place Feb. 15, when Post 26 collaborated with Bridging the Gap, a Davenport-based nonprofit that puts such veterans in contact with agencies and organizations that can provide them support. Around 30 veterans attended the event this year.


Post 26 Commander Ed Hildebrand said it's important to provide such an event because some veterans who leave the military have no idea what is available to them – and some of those then fall into the cracks and end up homeless.

"There's non-communication when some of these guys come out of the service," Hildebrand said. "They're not told where to go, and before you know it they're homeless. We're trying to prevent that. That's the whole thing." The stand down brings multiple government entities and other services, including the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and VA Vet Centers reps, the Social Security Administration, the Red Cross and Salvation Army, housing and employment assistance, and legal aid.

"We want to be able to get them work so they can get themselves an apartment," Hildebrand said. "The American Legion (and other veterans service organizations) are here to do one thing: that's serve the veterans, especially homeless veterans. Serve these guys and show the veterans that someone out there cares. That someone out there is trying to bring a better life to them. That's what it is."

Veterans who attended also were given food and a clothing bag that included coats, shirts, underwear and socks. Auxiliary Unit 26 served the food during the event.

And this year, two homeless veterans who attended were able to get housing through VA, while another veteran was able to get a service connection and now will be receiving a monthly VA benefits payment.

"We're showing we're here to help veterans. We're here to help the families of veterans," Hildebrand said. "We do this because that's what we do. The whole thing is showing these veterans that someone cares. Help those homeless vets so they have a place of their own or can share a house with somebody. That's what this is all about. We tell them, 'You've got a friend here.'" 

SAL Recruiter Award Forms Available Online

The American Legion

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 mem-

(Continued on page 14)

Klobuchar Presented Legion's Distinguished Public Service Award

From www.legion.org By [Steven B. Brooks](#)
FEB 27, 2024

After receiving The American Legion Distinguished Public Service Award on Feb. 26 during the Legion's annual Washington Conference in the nation's capital, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar mentioned someone who might be watching the presentation. "It is such an honor to receive this award," Klobuchar said. "My dad served during the Korean War, and I know he's up looking down with pride right now."

The Minnesota senator was presented the award for being "a champion of important legislation that The American Legion has prioritized year after year, and she has tirelessly worked to improve our national security."

She also was cited for dedicating "countless hours to bolstering our national security, improving military quality of life, and caring for our country's veterans. Your vigilant efforts to protect our United States Armed Forces and our allies across the globe have been critical to ensuring that the honor of the United States military is upheld."

Klobuchar said whenever she meets with U.S. military personnel, she's reminded that, "When we send them overseas, we make a promise. A promise of how we're going to treat them when they're there, with the equipment, with what they need. But also, how we're going to treat them when they come back."

That's why, she said, passage of the PACT

Act was so important. "It wasn't just, as you know, about recent conflicts," she said. "It was also about those exposed to Agent Orange. It very important to us that those vets got covered, because that promise way back when wasn't kept. And it was our duty to continue that work and to make sure it was kept."




Photo by Hillary Ott/The American Legion

Klobuchar also spoke on the importance of working to ensure those Afghans who served as allies to U.S. troops during the war in Afghanistan aren't forgotten.

"They put their lives on the line. Many of them lost their lives," she said. "Their families' lives are still on the line if they're still over there in Afghanistan. We

must keep our covenant with our heroes. They bled Afghanistan. They live in limbo in the U.S. now. They live here, literally, with a trap door underneath of them. They have to apply and reapply just to stay here, without any clear path to citizenship.

"They deserve that permanent residency, followed by what is called the gold standard of vetting. I've so appreciated The American Legion leadership (on this issue). I cannot tell you how critical it's been with my colleagues."

Klobuchar closed her remarks by remembering her final visit with Sen. John McCain before he passed away in 2018. "He opened one of his books, and he pointed to this line," she said. "And this was the last thing he basically said to me by pointing to the line: 'Nothing is more liberating than to fight for a cause larger than yourself.' That, to me, is what service to our country is all about. And it is embodied by all of you." 

S.A.L. Resolution 4 - Fall, 2019

Title: National Officer, NEC Representative and Chairman Certification of Membership Eligibility Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

If you intend to seek an elected office or appointed office at the detachment level, it is required that you provide the Detachment Adjutant a copy of your membership eligibility documents


RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 12-13, 2019, That it is required that before the induction into office, every National Officer, National Executive Committeeman, Alternate National Executive Committeeman, and National Chairman of the Sons of The American Legion provide satisfactory evidence of eligibility for membership in the Sons of The American Legion as follows:

a) Eligibility for Sons of The American Legion membership of National Officers, National Executive Committeemen, Alternate National Executive Committeemen, Commission and Committee Chairmen, after initial review by the National Judge Advocate, will be certified by the National Adjutant and reported to the Post-Convention NEC Meeting of the Sons of The American Legion; and

b) Eligibility for Sons of The American Legion membership of detachment officers will be certified by the detachment adjutant, with notification to the respective department adjutant and National Adjutant of the Sons of

The American Legion within 30 days of election, but no later than September 30 of each year, using the detachment officer report document provided by National Headquarters; and

c) Acceptable eligibility verification will include copies of descendant's Veteran's current American Legion membership card, DD-214 or to include other acceptable forms (if deceased) and must comply with the period of times established for American Legion membership; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any member with aspirations of future national leadership in the Sons of The American Legion may, at any time, submit one's proof of eligibility for Sons of The American Legion membership to the office of the National Judge Advocate; and, be it finally **RESOLVED**, That all submissions be electronically transmitted to the National Judge Advocate, with copy to the National Sons of The American Legion Liaison, and that the aforementioned requirements take effect with the 2020-2021 administrative year and occurs annually thereafter 

Use your King Soopers Loyalty Cards to Earn Funds for the Auxiliary

From Post 11-11 Newsletter

Use your King Soopers loyalty cards to earn funds for the Auxiliary. Here's how it works: Enroll your King Soopers Loyalty Cards online at the secure website www.kingsoopers.com 1. Log into your King Soopers account.* 2. Under "My Account" select King Soopers Community Rewards 3. Search for "American Legion Post 11-11" & select. *If you do not have a King Soopers Loyalty Card, create an Account & follow the above steps Each time an enrolled member of our group shops at King Soopers using their King Soopers Loyalty Card, the Ladies Auxiliary will earn rewards. Invite your friends to enroll! In addition, once a household member enrolls their card, all linked King Soopers Loyalty Cards within that household will begin earning funds for our organization. . Thank you for your support!  American Legion Auxiliary Post 11-11


FREE KNITTING LESSONS

From Post 11-11 Newsletter
by Jan KNITTERS AND KNOTTERS

Join this group on Sundays from 2 to 4. SCOPE: Veterans who are undergoing chemotherapy need our help. Please join our group for creating veterans caps., limb huggers, PICC line covers and crutch covers. Whether you are a beginner, intermediate or advanced knitter or knotter (crochet) or even a wannabe knitter, all are welcome. I am an experienced knitter and will be available to teach and demonstrate basics for knitting if you are interested. Though I am not much of a crocheter, I do know some basic stitches and can help there also. This group is open to women and men alike. KOL (Knots of Love) <https://www.knotsoflove.org/events/veterans-capdrive>. Contact Jan Murray at 303-880-7301 or email msjan777@comcast.net for more information 

SAL Recruiter Award Forms Available cont'd


(Continued from page 13)

bership 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](#). 

Legion's Advocacy Efforts 'Proof that Our Democracy Works'

The American Legion
FEB 27, 2024

In front of hundreds of American Legion leaders from across the country, Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, applauded The American Legion for its efforts in getting the PACT Act signed into law. "These laws help pay the cost of war. It is an understatement to say that we could have got that done without you," said Tester at the Commander's Call on Monday during the Legion's annual Washington Conference. "When it came to getting the PACT Act signed into law, it was the veterans, it was the VSOs, who put pressure on Washington and Congress to do the right thing for our toxic exposed veterans. I saw it work; I saw it flip votes. And I want to thank you for that work. Your efforts are proof that our democracy works." The PACT Act is changing the lives of veterans and their families, a statement Tester can attest to. While on travel to Missoula, Mont., he met a veteran who had six months to live. The veteran told Tester, "Without the PACT Act, my family would be living in poverty. With the PACT Act, my family is going to be fine." This is exactly why we fought like hell to pass the PACT Act. "I'm glad the VA has been working around the clock to deliver real results for our veterans who need the support now," Tester added. "And with you as partners, we will keep

holding the VA accountable in rolling out the PACT Act and ensuring the veterans in this room and across the country get the quality of support they have earned." Tester's work toward honoring America's servicemembers and veterans continues with two pieces of Legion-backed legislation – the Major Richard Star Act and the GUARD Act. The Major Richard Star Act would ensure full retired pay for medically retired combat veterans, regardless of the amount of any VA disability check. And the GUARD Act would reinstate criminal penalties for unaccredited claim representatives who charge unauthorized fees while assisting veterans with filing a VA disability claim. "We need to give the VA all its tools to stop these crooks from stealing benefits from our veterans," Tester said. Tester thanked The American Legion for its partnership and efforts to do "what's right for our nation's heroes. I learned from a young age that America's veterans are the fabric that make our nation the greatest country that's ever existed in the world," said Tester, the 2022 American Legion Distinguished Public Service award recipient. "I want to thank you again for your partnership and the great that you do, The American Legion does, for our veterans and their families. Together, we are going to continue to do right by America's veterans and their families." 

Celebrate Americanism and the American Legion Family

By SAL National Commander J. R. Hall

Hello again, American Legion Family, February is Americanism month and time for all of us to get busy spreading the great works of our organizations in the Americanism pillar. We should all be taking time to celebrate being an American in our great country.



Let's start with the basics.

Americanism isn't taught in the schools like it once was; we as members of the American Legion Family need to make sure that our youth know just what that flag stands for. We need to make sure they know the pride of being a patriot and caring about what our families have fought for. History cannot be left in the past; we must carry on the 100% Americanism banner. Let's join together to lift our flag and celebrate Americanism together as a Legion family.

As the months are moving quickly, many programs are heading our way under Americanism. Oratorical, Junior Shooting, and Boys and Girls State all are great programs that are starting up and plans are being made for them. Find out what you can do to help these programs; there is a part we can all do. It is when you witness these programs take place that you realize our future is better than the news portrays. So many young men and women take part in these programs which lets us know we are doing the right thing by keeping these

programs going strong. The American Legion Family has had so many success stories that have come from the youth who have taken part in our programs, so let us all be a part of more success stories of the future. At the end of the month, many members of the American Legion Family will gather in Washington, D.C., to make sure that our voices are heard. I look forward to the opportunity to represent the Sons and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and other memorials. I hope that I will see many of you there taking part in our meetings and learning



A group portrait of the 2023 American Legion National Oratorical Contest Contestants on Sunday, April 23. Photo by Hilary Ott / The American Legion

from each other. Representing our departments, detachments and our family as the American Legion Family makes our voice so much stronger. "Representing More Than Me" isn't just my slogan; it truly is what we all are about.

"Representing More Than Me"
Don "JR" Hall
SAL National Commander 



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



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** 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.