



## BlueStar HonorCare Teams Up with American Legion Department of Illinois to Support Health and Safety for Veterans

*Medical Alert Systems and Safety Measures Enable Aging Seniors to  
Live Life with Dignity and Comfort*

**ROCKVILLE, Md. – (Jan. 26, 2016) –** BlueStar HonorCare, a veteran-owned-and-operated company committed to providing technology to assist senior veterans to live safe and independent lives at home, has teamed up with the American Legion Department of Illinois. The partnership will enable BlueStar HonorCare to reach Illinois' Legion of military service members and educate them on the options available to 'age in place' through the aid of medical alert systems.

"We're thrilled to work with the American Legion Department of Illinois to share how BlueStar HonorCare helps provide peace of mind to aging veterans and their families," said Rear Admiral Robert O. Wray, Jr. (ret.), CEO of BlueStar HonorCare. "Medical alert devices save lives and with nearly 350,000 Illinois veterans 65 years and older, it's our goal to serve them and their families as they've served our country."

BlueStar HonorCare provides medical alert systems and other health and safety monitoring services that range from a simple call button that works within the home to the company's newest product, Admiral Protect, a medical alert device with GPS technology and intuitive fall-detection capability. BlueStar HonorCare integrates hardware and software that's easy to operate and incorporate into any lifestyle. All of BlueStar's devices are monitored by a call center staffed with certified EMTs to assist seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

"It's a great opportunity for the American Legion Department of Illinois to join efforts with BlueStar HonorCare to share critical safety information with our members – whether they're in an aging senior category or they have a family member in that age-group, said Marty Conatser, Department Adjutant American Legion Department of Illinois.

*(BlueStar continued on page 6)*

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF FRIDAY  
JANUARY 29, 2016

### TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District	Commander
12	D. JOHNSON
17	HELSEL
9	PIZARRO
20	LAWSON
13	FUCHS
4	WHEET
11	REECE, JR.
14	DAVIS
8	SERRANO
10	R. JOHNSON

Division	Commander
2	FISCHER
3	GRANDBERG
1	CARDER
4	VOGLER, SR.
5	HARRIS



## From The Desk of Department Commander Paul W. Gardner



**ATTENTION ALL POST, COUNTY,  
DISTRICT & DIVISION COMMANDERS**  
**FEBRUARY 5TH IS THE NEXT**  
**MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE--95%**

**T**his is not the time to stop pushing for your membership goals. Think positive, reaching the 95% target now gives you a downhill run to meet the final goal, 105%. As of this writing 13 Districts are over 90% compared to 5 at this same time last year. What does this mean, it means we have some dedicated Commanders and Officers who have taken their jobs seriously, they have stepped up to the responsibility entrusted in them and they

are proving themselves as leaders.

If you are not the Commander or an Officer of one of the 13 Districts over 90%, WHY? Success, the feeling you have accomplished a goal and are continuing to do more should make any Officer more aware of his or her capabilities. I cannot imagine a District Officer giving a report at his or her Division meeting with no goal to do more, to move forward and if needed to ask for assistance. Further any Division Commander accepting anything other than an upbeat membership report and not following up on it is not doing their job.

Post Commanders should question your District commanders if they don't or won't help when and if help is needed. It's their Job. Many Posts work hard from the beginning of the Legion year to

the end of it and they achieve 100% or more in membership. The Department will honor all Posts that reach the 105% target at this year's Convention. District Commanders need to recognize Posts in their Districts that make 105% as well, 105% is a BIG accomplishment.

There shouldn't be any District Commander in this Department that cannot reach the membership targets. If you need help ask for it. Division Officers are there to help. There are past District and Division officers that have been through this, they should help. District Commanders you are not alone in your work to achieve 105%. Should you encounter a current or past Division/District Officer who doesn't want to assist you, please let me know.



## From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Sheri L. Stanton



**T**his month I have been on the Membership Caravan with National Vice Commander David Gough and the rest of the American Legion Family. WOW! What an experience meeting so many people and telling them about how to encourage membership by letting them know about our programs. Check out the percentage of membership that was brought in during the coldest part of the winter when you log on to [illegion.org](http://illegion.org). So many posts opened their doors and hosted the Caravan as well as fed us VERY WELL! Thank you for all the hospitality you gave the "Family."

I also want to thank all the district officers who traveled all over their districts to bring in cards for the posts who couldn't send a representative. I had two who went over 500 and 800 miles to pick up cards. Lots of one on one face time for those two...and it shows! I have found several who are finding that the

District Commanders job is busy, but fun, and the more people you meet, the better the contacts for next year.

Speaking about next year, when I meet with the Sr. and Jr. Vice Commanders for next year, I would like them to have some ideas about incentives we might offer for next year for membership. We have had several good years with membership and I want to keep the ball rolling. At this time on the comparison sheet for last year, (before the Caravan) Illinois American Legion is 2,000 plus, Auxiliary is 2,500 plus, and SAL is some 700 plus members ahead of what membership was last year. WAY TO GO EVERYBODY!!!

Don't forget to check out your local High School Speech class to see if they are interested in the Oratorical Contest and the monetary prizes we offer. Go to the Junior Class Sponsor or Counselor to see if he/she has anyone interested in Boy's State or Girl's State. Especially ask if they have anyone interested in the Military Academies because they all prefer graduates of Boy's State and Girl's

State to go. It's great to have on your resumes when applying for that special college you want as well as getting a job in the job market.

If you have any students interested in getting money for College or Trade School, we have scholarships available. **THE KEY TO GETTING ONE IS YOU HAVE TO FILL IT OUT AND SEND IT IN.** Not only do we have school scholarships, we have an essay contest due by FEB 5th to the local units, we also have poppy poster contests due shortly, and Eagle Scout Applications due. **THE MONEY IS THERE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF--YOU JUST HAVE TO FILL OUT THE INFORMATION AND SEND IT IN.**

If you would, mark April 30th on your calendars. Milan Post 569 in the Quad City Area is having an **Awareness Walk 22** for 3.2 miles to make public aware of everyday 22 Veteran's commit suicide. We will also walk talking American Legion programs and what the American Legion does for all our Communities. It will be a pledge situation

*(Dept. SVC continued on page 10)*



## From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Kathy Cisna



*H*ello Legionnaires! Do you know the mission of The American Legion Auxiliary? It is: "In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security." That's right the very first line of our mission statement is to support The American Legion. Our purpose is to support and

honor you, the Veterans. I think we do a pretty good job of this. I also think we could do better. How could we do better? We could have more members to support our programs and work our mission. That is why I am asking each of you for your help. For every Legionnaire there is so much potential for members of the American Legion Auxiliary. Your Mother, your Wife, your Sister, your Daughters and your Granddaughters are all eligible to join the Auxiliary. Do you know someone who is eligible and is not a member? Please think about signing them up today. Our membership has been going really good so far this year. We are consistently in the top 10 in the Nation and our comparison shows we are up from this time last year. However we have reached that time where tradition-

ally membership slows down. That is why I am coming to you to ask you to please help us help you! Please contact myself or the Auxiliary Office if you have any questions. Thank You so much!

**Wishing everyone  
a PURRRRRECT  
Valentine's Day**



## From The Desk of Detachment Commander William Geary



*G*reetings from the Detachment of Illinois. Sr. Vice Commander Shipley and I just completed a 10 day adventure traveling the state. Along with National Vice Commander David Gough, Dept. Commander Paul Gardner, Dept. President Kathy Cisna and several other Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons member, we traveled to 19 American Legion Posts in all five Divisions. Except for being away from home and all the driving, it was a great time. We met some great members of the American Legion Family throughout the state. This was the annual membership caravan and it was a success. We were able to pick up over 700 SAL membership cards and helped improve our Detachment membership status on the National level. A big thanks to all those Squadrons that were able to drop off or send cards to your local caravan stop. Our next opportunity to meet many of you will be at our

next Detachment Executive Committee Meeting. At the "DEC" reports are given on all of our programs. In fact, in the morning, there are Committee and Commission meetings that everyone can attend and learn everything you ever wanted to know about our American Legion and SAL programs. Please attend the next DEX meeting on Saturday, March 12th at the Mt. Vernon Post. Please put it on your calendar. You can make your hotel reservations now if you will stay overnight on the 11th. Just call the Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn at 618-244-7100. Only \$60 + tax.

**MEMBERSHIP.** You can check the current status of your Squadron and District by going online to our Detachment website, [www.il-sal.org](http://www.il-sal.org). The Detachment met and exceeded the January 20th National goal of 60%, and as of this writing, we have already exceeded the February 10th goal of 75%. Congratulations to all those Squadrons and Districts that have done so well as to exceed and excel in the membership goals. Unfortunately, nearly 25% of our members are delinquent and out of benefits and in

most cases, it's not their fault. The Squadron and District leaders are at fault for not contacting their members and encouraging their renewal. There are over 30 Squadrons under 10 members and are in danger of having their Charters canceled. Division Officers, District Officers, Legionnaires, please check your Squadrons that are under 10 members and wake them up. Also we still have five Districts (2, 3, 15, 20, 22) and 6 Squadrons with no certified Officers. One of the big embarrassments for all of us is that four of the non-certified Districts are in the top 10 on the membership report. That means the Squadrons are doing a good job, but no one has organized the Districts. Please check it out and get these Districts certified. Legionnaires, please help your Squadrons and Districts get back on track. A special note to the 5th District: I'm sorry but your membership is terrible, 25%. You have four of your six Squadrons in danger of cancellation. Someone, please check this out.

*(SAL Detachment Cmdr. continued on page 10)*





# Did You Know?

*From The Desk of Department Service Officer Raymond P. Toczek*

*Office: 312-980-4266    Email: [Raymond.Toczek@va.gov](mailto:Raymond.Toczek@va.gov)*

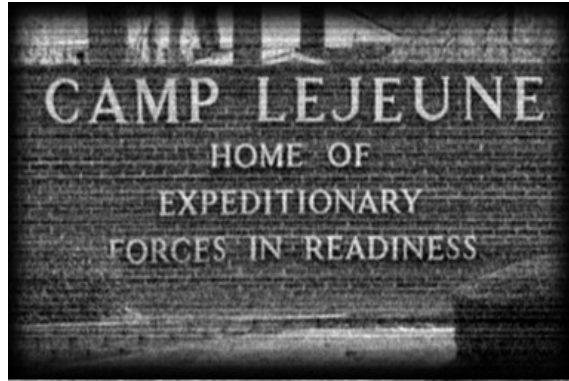
That the most commented upon articles I have written has been on the various Veterans Administration rumors. The first time this subject appeared in my monthly column was back in 2008 and since then there have been many updates, revisions and additions. I have dusted off the archives and edited that old article and here it is again. It is in two parts and the next one will be in the March newsletter. Enjoy!

1. **I can only get a pair of eyeglasses if my eyes were hurt in the service.** Incorrect. Besides those veterans who actually received an eye injury in service, any veteran rated 10% or more for any condition can receive a pair of eyeglasses, hearing aids or any other prosthetic device the VA doctor deems necessary. So the veteran getting 10% or more for diabetes, loss of their big toe, shell fragment wound to the buttocks, PTSD or any other condition can get a pair of glasses. And in some cases even if you are not service-connected disabled but your hearing or vision loss interferes with your health care service you may qualify. For additional information contact the prosthetic chief at your Veterans Administration hospital.
2. **Only veterans can be buried in a National Cemetery.** Wrong. The deceased spouses and eligible deceased dependent children can also be buried there. And it doesn't even have to be in the same cemetery. Example. Mr. Joe Q. Veteran's wife dies in 2001. He has her buried in Abe Lincoln National Cemetery in Illinois. Ten years later he relocates to Florida and dies there. He can be buried in that state. And there is no limit to the number of spouses that can be buried. The record we are aware of is a veteran who lives in the Danville Illinois area. He is on his fourth marriage and his first three wives are interred in the VA cemetery down there.
3. **The military talked me into taking a lump-sum severance payment and that prevents me from getting VA compensation.** Entirely false. Any veteran who elected a lump-sum severance payment can and should file for VA compensation. The VA will make its own determination on the percent of disability and in many cases it is more than what the military medical board decided. The only stipulation is that before the VA actually issues money they have to recoup the severance payment. For instance, a veteran gets \$10,000 from the Army as severance. The VA awards \$1,000 a month in compensation. The veteran would not get a check for the first ten months;  $\$1,000 \times 10 \text{ months} = \$10,000$ . After that they would get a payment for the rest of their life! But a VA claim has to be filed for this to take effect. And if the disability was incurred in a combat zone or combat-related operations there is NO recoupment at all.
4. **I was denied my claim over a year ago so my appeal rights have expired. I am out of luck and can't do anything further.** Wrong again. Although that VA decision became final after the one year appeal period ended, the veteran or claimant can always reopen a claim with new and material evidence. Let's say Joe Veteran was denied his claim because his service records were burnt in the St. Louis fire of 1973. He fell off a deuce and a half, broke his leg and had a cast for six weeks. But there was no proof. Eight years later Joe Veteran finds out his old Army unit is having a reunion and he meets two soldiers that remember him and his broken leg. They give affidavits as witnesses to the incident. This is new and material evidence and the VA will reopen the claim. If won the effective date of benefits would be the date the veteran reopened his claim with the affidavits.
5. **I am drawing service-related compensation at the 100% rate and heard that I can't draw any Social Security benefits.** Absolutely wrong. These are two entirely different government benefit programs; they are like apples and oranges and are completely separate. Veterans can and should draw both if they have enough Social Security work credits to qualify. The only exceptions are the VA's non-service connected pension program, which is income sensitive, and the SSI program. With those programs income is a factor. Talk to a Legion Service Officer for guidance.
6. **I am receiving compensation at the 100% rate; if I return to work they will reduce my benefits.** Partially true. There are two types of 100% ratings; straight ratings and those based on individual unemployability. If you receive a straight 100% rating e.g. severe lung cancer, COPD, diabetes, etc. and you still wish to try work, there would be no reduction. But if your 100% rating is based on the fact that your conditions keep you from working and you return to work, you could be reduced. (This can be somewhat technical so if you are in this situation contact our office for advice).

**Hope you found these rumors and the real truth enlightening.**

**If you have any questions contact our office at the above telephone number or e-mail address. Or if you have heard another rumor and want it checked out let me know. To be continued in next issue.-**

# Did you serve at Camp Lejeune sometime between 1953-1987?



WATER SOURCES AT THE BASE WERE CONTAMINATED WITH INDUSTRIAL SOLVENTS THAT ARE LINKED WITH CERTAIN HEALTH CONDITIONS. BASED ON THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION REVIEW OF CURRENT MEDICAL SCIENCE FINDINGS, VA SECRETARY McDONALD INTENDS TO PROPOSE CREATION OF A PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE CONNECTION FOR THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

Kidney Cancer      Liver Cancer      Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma  
Leukemia      Multiple Myeloma      Scleroderma  
Parkinson's Disease      OR  
Aplastic Anemia / Myelodysplastic Syndromes

ALTHOUGH THE REGULATIONS WILL TAKE MANY MONTHS TO BE WRITTEN AND PUBLISHED THE **AMERICAN LEGION** IS URGING ALL VETERANS WHO HAVE OR HAD ONE OF THE ABOVE CONDITIONS AND CERTAIN SURVIVING SPOUSES WHOSE SPOUSE MAY HAVE DIED FROM ONE OF THE ABOVE CONDITIONS TO FILE THEIR CLAIMS NOW!

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICE NOW TO GET THE PROCESS STARTED. THE **AMERICAN LEGION** WOULD BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU IN THAT PROCESS. OUR NEW OFFICE WALK IN HOURS ARE MONDAY THRU THURSDAY FROM 9:00 TO 12:00 AND 1:00 TO 3:00 WE ARE LOCATED AT THE **Veterans Administration Regional Office**  
**2122 W. Taylor St. Room 106**  
**Chicago, IL. 60612**  
**Or call us at 312-980-4266**

(BlueStar continued from page 1)

BlueStar HonorCare was founded by Robert Wray in 2013 who comes from a family of veterans. In fact, his parents are a retired Air Force couple in their 80s that live on their own. “My dad says he’s only leaving their house feet-first,” said Wray with a smile. “My goal in starting BlueStar HonorCare was to make sure veterans and their spouses – like he and my mother – enjoy healthy and safe retirement years.”

### About BlueStar HonorCare

Founded in 2013, BlueStar HonorCare is dedicated to helping America’s aging veterans and their family members maintain health, safety, and independence. The company offers a combination of aging-in-place technology products and services to monitor well-being and connect older vets with medical professionals, family members and veteran resources. BlueStar provides services to veterans, their families, and those who support them. The company is veteran-owned and is a certified Service-Disabled-Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB). BlueStar is committed to hiring veterans, including disabled and wounded soldiers, and it sets aside a percentage of profits to donate to veteran-related causes. For more information, visit [bluestarhonorcare.com](http://bluestarhonorcare.com), follow on Twitter at [@bluestarhc](https://twitter.com/bluestarhc) and Facebook at [facebook.com/bluestarhonorcare](https://facebook.com/bluestarhonorcare).

For media inquiries, please contact Beth Dillon, MARCH Marketing at [beth.dillon@marchcorp.com](mailto:beth.dillon@marchcorp.com) or 773-294-5356.



APPROVED BY YOUR DEPARTMENT  
OF ILLINOIS AMERICAN LEGION



- ★ Owned by vets, and led by a two-star admiral
- ★ Services vets, their families and patriots
- ★ Hires veterans to provide those services
- ★ Donates to veteran causes



## Medical Alert Systems

- ➔ NO UPFRONT COSTS
- ➔ NO LONG TERM CONTRACTS
- ➔ MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE
- ➔ LOWEST PRICES IN INDUSTRY

PRICES AS LOW AS  
**\$23.95/MONTH**

Call Toll Free:  
**1-800-590-8751**

We look forward to answering your questions

**WWW.BLUESTARHONORCARE.COM/LEGION**



AMERICAN LEGION  
MEMBERS GET  
**15% OFF**  
MONTHLY MONITORING



**“If you’ve EVER thought about a medical alert for your family, we’re here to help...”**

Robert Wray, Rear Admiral, US Navy (ret) CEO



## 82nd Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln February 11 & 12, 2016

The 82nd Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln will be held in Springfield, Illinois, on **Friday, February 12, 2016**. Springfield Post #32, Auxiliary Unit #32 and Sons of The American Legion Squadron #32 extend a most cordial invitation to you to attend and participate.

**National Commander Dale Barnett, National President Sharon Conatser, SAL National Commander Kevin Collier, our Illinois Department Commander Paul Gardner, our Department President Kathy Cisna and our Detachment Commander Bill Geary**, will be attending and participating in the activities. Additionally, many other Legion, Auxiliary, S.A.L., and state and local dignitaries will be in attendance to honor President Abraham Lincoln on this very special day.

The Commemoration begins on Thursday evening, February 11, 2016, from 5 p.m. – 1 a.m. with an Open House at Springfield Post #32, 1120 Sangamon Avenue, Springfield. A **FREE shuttle** will run continuously between the **Hilton Hotel (Soon to change to the Wyndham Hotel)** and Post 32 from 5 p.m. – 1 a.m. Dinner service will be available at the Mess Hall Restaurant located inside Post 32, from 4:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Reservations are recommended. To place Thursday evening dinner reservations phone 217/523-3415 to reach the Mess Hall Restaurant. We will have plenty of fun, refreshments and a chance to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. The National and Department Officers will be at the Open House to greet everyone.

The headquarters hotel is usually the Hilton Springfield, 700 East Adams Street, in downtown Springfield. However, as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, the Hilton will change hotel names to the **WYNDHAM HOTEL** – same hotel just a name change. Room rates are \$98.00 per night, single or double occupancy, and the rate includes free parking. **Because of this hotel name change, reservations cannot be made over the internet and will have to be made over the telephone at 217-789-1530 (press 0 when prompted).** Remember to tell the clerk that you are reserving a room for the American Legion Lincoln Day Pilgrimage to receive this special rate. **All hotel reservations must be received by January 19, 2016.**

The following program has been planned for Friday, February 12, 2016:

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>8:00 a.m.</b>  | <b>American Legion Auxiliary breakfast honoring our National President, Capitol Room, Wyndham, Springfield.</b>                               |
| <b>8:30 a.m.</b>  | <b>American Legion breakfast honoring our National Commander, Prairie Room Wyndham, Springfield.</b>  |
| <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Pilgrimage departs Wyndham Hotel for journey to Abraham Lincoln's Tomb.</b>  |
| <b>10:30 a.m.</b> | <b>Ceremonies and wreath placing from inside Mr. Lincoln's Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois.</b>                               |
| <b>12:30 p.m.</b> | <b>Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon with Distinguished Guests and National Commander Dale Barnett as the keynote speaker. Wyndham Ballroom.</b> |

Breakfast tickets are \$20.00 each, and luncheon tickets are \$30.00 each with tax and tip included. Please specify when ordering breakfast tickets if they are for the Legion or Auxiliary breakfast. Luncheon tables of eight (8) will be assigned and may be reserved by sending your check for \$240.00 to the below listed address. If you are from Illinois, please indicate your Illinois District number on all luncheon reservations. Checks should be made out to **Springfield Post #32, The American Legion**. Tickets, reservations and further information please write to: American Legion Lincoln Day Pilgrimage, ATTN: Phil Drum, Ticket Chairman, 1120 Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1853. Phone 217/523-3415. Post 32 e-mail is [spfldpost32@sbcglobal.net](mailto:spfldpost32@sbcglobal.net) **SPECIAL NOTICE: All meal checks and/or reservations must be received or canceled by February 4, 2016. No refunds can be made after that date. Please make your plans and reservations early, as we may not be able to seat you if you do not order your meal tickets early.**

We sincerely hope that you will be able to be with us to honor our 16<sup>th</sup> President, Abraham Lincoln, on his birthday in his "Hometown", and that you make time to visit the beautiful **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library**, which is only three short blocks from the Hilton Springfield. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum will be offering their Group Rate to our attendees by merely showing your membership card on Feb 10, 11, 12, 2016.

---

## Commissioning the USS Illinois

The Commissioning Committee for the USS ILLINOIS appreciates the support it has received from Posts and members of the American Legion, Department of Illinois. The USS ILLINOIS SSN-786, is scheduled to be commissioned in July of this year. It will be the first US Navy vessel to bear the name Illinois in over a century.

She will be the newest Virginia class, advanced stealth multi-mission nuclear submarine. It was developed for deep ocean, anti-submarine warfare and littoral (shallow water) operations.

We hope the American Legion will join us in celebrating this exciting event. Posts can live stream the ceremonies. More information regarding the commissioning and other events can be found on the website: [www.USSILLINOIS.org](http://www.USSILLINOIS.org)

We are still in need of more funds to support the crew and properly recognize the birth of the Navy's newest submarine. In addition to being able to donate on line or our website, members can also choose to donate when they file their Illinois Income Tax for 2015. This can be done using schedule G.

Any additional Post or member assistance would be greatly appreciated. Thank You!



## NO LEGION CAPS WORN AT POLITICAL EVENTS

### NO LEGION CAPS WORN



### AT POLITICAL EVENTS!

Use of The American Legion's caps and/or emblem for a political endorsement is totally prohibited and can involve both the individuals involved and the department in serious legal and tax issues. This means that The American Legion does not endorse candidates. Article II, Section 2 means checking your Legion cap at the door of any political rallies, fundraisers, or conventions.

## The Legion's role in the voting process

Among the freedoms many Americans enjoy is the right to vote for our elected officials. This year, of course, is generating intense interest because a new president will be elected. Additionally, voters will elect every single member of the U.S. House of Representatives and one-third of the U.S. Senate.

Right now we are entering a critical and exciting juncture as the two major political parties begin to hold primaries and caucuses to determine the front-runner for their nominations. Strong opinions can be found everywhere. Unfortunately, so too can some mis-truths. Many political groups were created specifically to spin facts, distort reality and twist words to propel their candidates into office. The American Legion, as a nonpartisan organization, assumes a role of neutrality amid the storm of political rhetoric and images.

As individuals, we are free like anyone to vote as we wish and support the candidates we think best.

But as Legionnaires, we have **a duty to participate in the election process** and encourage others to exercise one of the most important freedoms we, and those who served in uniform before us, fought to protect: the freedom to vote.

On the local level, an American Legion post can take on a greater role in its community by organizing and hosting a political forum or debate among candidates. Remember that any such event must be open to all who are running for a particular office, and the Legion cannot promote any one candidate. When posts are using their facilities for such events, they should remove the emblem and Legion flag to avoid the impression of endorsement for any candidate. (Note that renting out hall space to a political campaign is still fair game, as long as it is not presented as an American Legion sponsored event.)

Here are some reminders from the Legion's **Get Out the Vote brochure**:

1. When hosting a voter registration drive, information and applications must be offered and available to all eligible voters.
2. Legionnaires may express partisan views, but they must do so when they are not wearing the Legion cap or other Legion attire, and without a direct connection to an American Legion post.
3. American Legion posts may coordinate forums or debates. However, posts cannot endorse or oppose a candidate, or coordinate activities with a candidate without giving his/her opponent the same opportunity.

Following these guidelines will keep the Legion above the fray without sacrificing any member's right to participate in the democratic process. It is my hope that each of you do participate in the election process individually, and posts take the lead in their communities by arranging fair debates or "meet the candidates" forums to help all of our citizens fulfill a right too often taken for granted.

Duty. Honor. Country.

Dale Barnett

National Commander

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Lincoln Pilgrimage  
February 11th—12th  
Springfield  
~ ~ ~

Department Office Closed  
President's Day  
February 15th  
~ ~ ~

Division & District  
Jr. Vice & Sr. Vice Training  
10 AM—3PM  
February 20th  
~ ~ ~

Washington Conference  
February 21st—24th  
Washington, D.C.  
~ ~ ~

Department Oratorical  
Semi Finals and Final Contest  
March 5th  
Peoria Civic Center—Peoria  
~ ~ ~

SAL Spring DEC  
March 12th  
~ ~ ~

American Legion Birthday  
March 15th  
~ ~ ~

Department Office Closed  
Good Friday  
March 25th  
~ ~ ~  
Easter  
March 27th  
~ ~ ~

Spring D.E.C  
April 9th  
Bloomington  
~ ~ ~

National Spring Committee &  
Commission Meetings  
May 2nd--4th  
Indianapolis  
# # #



**WE'RE  
HIRING!**

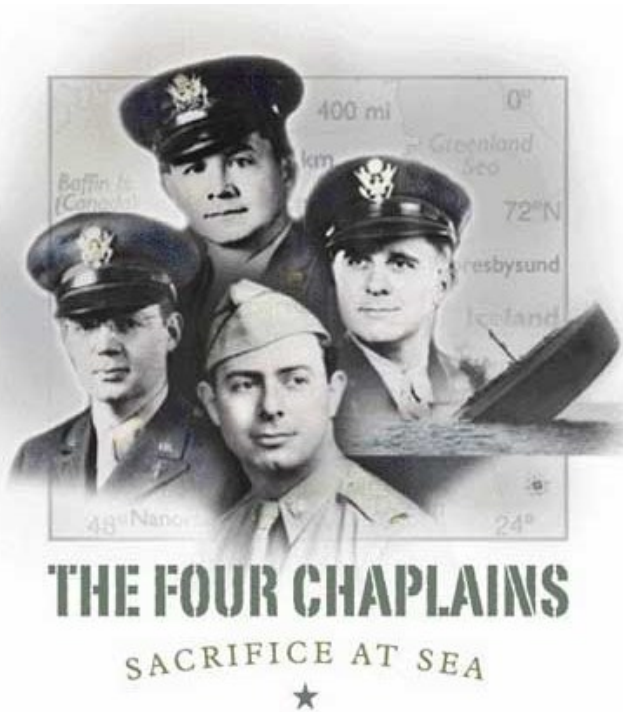
## Employment Opportunities

American Legion Department Headquarter Positions available:

- ★ **Finance Secretary**
- ★ **Membership Director**

Please contact Marty Conatser, Department Adjutant for an employment application or for more information.

## REMEMBERING THE FOUR CHAPLAINS



To The American Legion Family,

Feb. 3, 2016, marks the 73rd anniversary of the sinking of the USAT Dorchester and a very special display of bravery. On that day in 1943, a torpedo struck the ship reducing its time afloat on the surface of the Atlantic to only an additional 20 minutes. What happened during those few minutes is the reason we remember this day and the acts of courage and sacrifice that took place on her deck every year since.

Four first lieutenants gave the supreme sacrifice that day; each one an Army chaplain. They included Methodist minister, The Reverend George L. Fox, Reform-Rabbi Alexander D. Goode (Ph.D), Roman Catholic priest the Reverend John P. Washington, and Reformed Church in America minister, The Reverend Clark V. Poling. Their backgrounds, personalities and faiths were different. They had met at Army Chaplains School at Harvard University where they became friends as they prepared for service in the European theater, all sailing on board USAT Dorchester to report to their new assignments. All having one God as their father.

The torpedo knocked out the Dorchester's electrical system, leaving the ship dark. Panic set in among the men on board, many of them trapped below decks. The chaplains sought to calm the men and organize an orderly evacuation of the ship and helped guide wounded men to safety. As

life jackets were passed out to the men, the supply ran out before each man had one. The chaplains removed their own life jackets and gave them to others. They helped as many men as they could into lifeboats and then linked arms and, saying prayers and singing hymns, went down with the ship.

"As I swam away from the ship, I looked back. The flares had lighted everything. The bow came up high and she slid under. The last thing I saw, the Four Chaplains were up there praying for the safety of the men. They had done everything they could. I did not see them again. They themselves did not have a chance without their life jackets." — Grady Clark, survivor

As national chaplain of the Sons of The American Legion, I encourage all squadron, district and detachment chaplains to commemorate the anniversary on the first Sunday in February, Four Chaplains Sunday.

In these ceremonies, we honor the Four Chaplains and ensure their legacy of brotherhood and selfless service. May they be remembered for generations to come.

For God and Country,  
Harl "Butch" Ray, Past National Chaplain  
Sons of The American Legion



*From The Desk of  
American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State*

[www.illinoisboysstate.org](http://www.illinoisboysstate.org)

The 2016 session of Premier Boys State is just around the corner. The dates for the session are June 11th--17th at Eastern Illinois University. Families are starting to plan summer vacations. Therefore you need to contact the school or schools in your area to set up appointments to talk to male Junior students and recruit them for the 2016 session. The students have many opportunities so you need to explain the program. It is a hands on opportunity to see how our state government works. There are scholarships available. There are a variety of activities available. It is NOT just a session on government. The young men do not have to be in the top 10 of their class or the straight A student. Some of the best attendees at our sessions have been average students given an opportunity to be part of the hands on work at Boys State.

Brochures and registration forms are available from Department. Contact Joy Wilson if you need any information. The cost remains at \$250.00 which it has for several years. We need your help if we are to continue expand the program. Let's get Boys State attendance back to where it used to be. Remember "It is a week that shapes a lifetime".

## New Real Estate Tax law for Veterans who have a Disability Rating

A new law in Illinois is increasing relief of property tax for disabled Illinois military veterans. The law expands eligibility for the Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption for United States Department of Veterans Affairs certified service-connected disabilities of 30 percent or more. Under the new law, veterans with disabilities between 30 to 49 percent will be entitled to a \$2,500 annual exemption; those with disabilities between 50 and 69 percent will be eligible for a \$5,000 annual exemption; and those who are 70 percent disabled or more will be exempt from paying property taxes. Disabled veterans will see these savings when they pay their property taxes in 2016.

In a nutshell

- Veterans rated 30% or 40% get a \$2,500 reduction in their assessed value of their property.
- 50% or 60% get a \$5,000 reduction in their assessed value of their property.
- 70% or more will not pay any property tax.

Yes, I said those 70% or more will pay no property taxes.

This becomes effective with the first payment in 2016.

*(SAL Detachment Cmdr. continued from page 3)*

By now you know this year's slogan for the Detachment: **OUR PILLARS-OUR PURPOSE.** "Remembering Our Commitment - Keeping it Every Day" **R O C K E D.** This is National SAL Commander Kevin Collier's slogan this year. As I said on the caravan we are "Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage". As members of the American Legion Family we have a commitment to carry on the programs and activities of our forefathers. That is part of our heritage. We have a purpose and a commitment to that purpose. Veterans, Defense, Americanism, and Youth. All of our American Legion programs fall under those pillars and it is our duty to raise funds and work volunteer hours to support our programs. Keep track within your Squadrons, of all that you donate and all the volunteer hours worked by your members. In April, Squadrons will receive the Consolidated Squadron Report. Legion Posts will receive the Consolidated Post Report. We need every Squadron and every Post to complete and return the report to Department. The Leadership of the American Legion Family needs those numbers to show Congress and the Administration how important we are to our Veterans, our Youth, and our Communities. I hope to see many of you at the Lincoln Pilgrimage coming up. God Bless the American Legion & God Bless the USA.

*(Dept. SVC continued from page 2)*

raising money for our state to help Veteran's. I just wanted you to lock the date in for now--more to come in the next Department News.

# Illinois Legion family members deliver gifts to 9,000 Veterans



Nearly 9,000 Illinois veterans who are either homebound, in VA hospitals or nursing homes have been receiving a special gift and visit this holiday season from local American Legion family members.

The American Legion Department of Illinois' annual Gifts to the Yanks program has made it possible for Legion family members to act like Santa's elves for the past 71 years and hand deliver fleece blankets and cardigans, sweat suits and gift bags filled with everyday necessities to the veterans.

"When I give a gift to a veteran, it's a good feeling," said Ron Umdenstock, chairman of the Gifts to the Yanks program and a member of Post 1115 in Spring Bay, Ill. "Then when I get thank you letters in the mail, I get tears in my eyes. You can't believe how many veterans out there don't have anybody visit them or receive a gift."

The program originated in 1942 when Chicago resident Blanch Osborn wrote a newspaper article called "Friends of the Yanks," in which she solicited funds for gifts to disabled veterans. Two years later, she contacted the Department of Illinois to take over the program and Gifts to the Yanks was born. Umdenstock, who has been involved with the program for 27 years, said the program wouldn't happen without the many Legion family members who raise funds, wrap the gifts and deliver them. Illinois Legion posts raise more than \$150,000 every year for the program, which goes directly toward purchasing gifts the following holiday season for the veterans. Umdenstock said about \$170,000 will be spent on gifts this year.

And there's a competition amongst the post to raise the most in monetary donations. Legion Post 1084 in Roselle has been the top fundraiser for the past decade, raising more than \$10,000 yearly. Post 1084 chaplain Gene Mikulecky raised \$1,000 for the cause this year in only three days.

The 84-year-old Army veteran stood outside a Jewel-Osco store for two days and collected \$720.25 for the cause. Wanting to reach \$1,000, Mikulecky braved the cold weather on Veterans Day and stood outside a Walgreens for five hours, hoping to collect \$280. He had his donations counted at a local bank and discovered he raised \$279.69. Only 31 cents short, Mikulecky reached into his pocket and pulled out the correct change to make it an even \$280.

"I was so pleased and proud of myself for sticking it out in that cold weather," he said. "It's a good feeling to support our veterans. We start up a conversation and try to make them feel good that someone is thinking about them."

Students of Lake Park High School in Roselle also support Gifts to the Yanks by collecting donations at train stations. Post 1084 provides the students with vests that indicate they are volunteers and a Legionnaire always accompanies them to let possible donors know what Gifts to the Yanks is about. This year, the students raised \$3,000.

"It really gets emotional sometimes when you see what you're doing is well worth it." Umdenstock said of the visits to veterans in nursing homes and VA hospitals.

---

## Tricare Pharmacy Co-Pays to Increase Feb. 1



A set of prescription drug price increases will hit [Tricare](#) users Feb. 1 as fee changes passed by Congress last year take effect.

Currently, a 30-day supply of a generic drug at an in-network retail pharmacy costs \$8, while brand-name drugs cost \$20. Brand-name drugs received through the Tricare mail-order pharmacy currently cost \$16 for an up to 90-day supply.

Under the new fee structure, however, a 30-day supply of generic drugs at an in-network retail pharmacy will increase by \$2 to \$10, while the same supply of a brand-name drug will increase to \$24. The price for an up to 90-day supply of a brand-name drug by mail will increase by \$4 to \$20.

Prescriptions filled at military pharmacies and generic drugs received by mail will continue to be free.

The co-pay increases were included in the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act. The increase size was [a major sticking point](#) in passing the legislation, which included funding guidance for all Defense Department programs.

The price increases comes on the heels of an Oct. 1 [rule change](#) that requires Tricare users to fill brand-name medications used to treat chronic conditions by mail or through a military pharmacy -- or pay for them out of pocket.



## DRIVERS ARE ON THEIR OWN...

## NO MORE PAPER LICENSE RENEWAL REMINDERS ARE BEING MAILED OUT...

## RENEWING YOUR PLATES ONLINE FAQ'S

### License Plates Renewal FAQ:

#### ★ **My license plates expires tomorrow, at the end of the month. Can I still renew online?**

This close to your expiration, we suggest you visit your local [Secretary of State facility](#) to ensure that you receive a renewal sticker before your expiration date. While you are not restricted from using CyberService:

- The Secretary of State's office is not responsible for your receipt of plates or stickers later than your expiration date if you use the license plates renewal too close to your expiration date.
- We suggest you renew as soon after receiving the renewal notice

#### **How do I renew my license plates online?**

It's as easy as Four Simple Steps.

1. Type in your Registration ID and PIN found on your renewal notice or your current registration card. If you do not have a renewal notice or a current registration card, please call the Public Inquiry Division at 800-252-8980 to obtain your Registration ID and PIN number.
2. Follow directions on screen and verify your information.
3. Use a VISA, MasterCard, Discover Card or American Express for payment.
4. Print out your receipt. Your plate or sticker has been ordered and will be delivered to your mailing address. If you are not replating, you should receive your renewal sticker in five to ten business days. If you are replating and asked to keep your current plate number on your new plates, you will receive a Temporary Renewal Sticker in five to ten business days. The Temporary Renewal Sticker is applied to your current plate until your new plates are manufactured and delivered to your mailing address. If you are replating and asked for random-number plates, you should receive your new plates in two to four weeks.

#### ★ **Where do I get Registration ID/PIN?**

Your Registration ID and PIN numbers are located on the Renewal Notice you received in the mail or your current registration card. If you do not have a renewal notice, please call the Public Inquiry Division at 800-252-8980 to obtain your Registration ID and PIN number.

#### ★ **Can I renew if I do not have a renewal notice?**

You cannot use CyberDriveIllinois.com to renew without a Registration ID and PIN found on your renewal notice or your current registration card. If you do not have a renewal notice or a current registration card, please call the Public Inquiry Division at 800-252-8980 to obtain your Registration ID and PIN number. You may also renew by visiting your nearest [Secretary of State facility](#). While at a facility, be sure to verify the mailing address on record; incorrect mailing addresses are the primary reason people do not receive their renewal notices. Also, you will not receive your license plates if your address is not correct in the customer database.

PLATE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration ID: 1256 7258 PIN: 4485

▼ If paying by mail, return the portion below with your payment ▼

Vehicle Year 2012	Vehicle Make FORD	VIN [REDACTED]
Weight or CC's [REDACTED]	Body Style 4 DOOR	Application Type PASSENGER
Axis [REDACTED]	Leased/Rental [REDACTED]	Unit Number [REDACTED]
Driver's License Number(s) [REDACTED]	File Number [REDACTED]	County 022
Expiration Date 08/31/2012		DUPLICATE [REDACTED]
Renewal Fee		\$99.00

JOHN Q PUBLIC  
JANE Q PUBLIC  
1234 SOUTH  
ANYCITY, IL 99999

TEAR HERE  
I tear off this grey stub & bring portion with payment

#### ★ **Why do I have to pay a payment processor fee?**

The Secretary of State's office pays a small fee per transaction to credit card providers. License plates renewal fees are set by state statute and the office is, by law, unable to absorb the cost of the additional provider fee.

#### ★ **Why can't I purchase new military plates online?**

There are various plates that require affidavits on other forms of authorization prior to the release of plates. Some plates are not yet available for sale online. For a complete list of plates eligible for Cyberdrive renewal, check out the [License Plate Guide](#).

#### ★ **What is the difference between vanity and personalized plates?**

Personalized plates have letters followed by numbers. Vanity plates have up to three numbers only or up to seven letters only. There are added fees for personalized plates and vanity plates. For more information, please see the [brochure](#) or visit the [License Plate Guide](#).

#### ★ **What is the difference between a "retention plate" and a "mine run plate"?**

Illinois law requires that currently registered citizens have the right to retain their current license plates number during a replating. If you choose to keep your current license plates number for your new plates, you are choosing "retention plates". If you do not care what alphanumeric combination is on your new plates, you may select "mine-run plates", also known as random-number plates. The fastest way to get mine-run plates at time of renewal is over the counter at your local [Secretary of State facility](#).

#### ★ **Who should I contact if something happens to my order before I print out the receipt page?**

Call the Secretary of State's Department of Information Technology Help Desk at 217-558-6060. The hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. After hours, an operator will take your message and Secretary of State personnel will follow up the next workday.

#### ★ **How can I be assured the information I provide is safe and will not be shared or sold?**

Under no circumstances will personally identifiable information, such as name, address, driver's license number, Social Security number, telephone number, and medical or disability information, be sold for commercial solicitation purposes. Personally identifiable information may be used only for purposes authorized by law. Read more in our [privacy policy](#).

#### ★ **I am eligible for a Benefit Access Program discount. Can I use CyberService?**

Not at this time. The Secretary of State's office requires proof of participation in the [Benefit Access Program](#), so you should visit your nearest [Secretary of State facility](#). For more information about Benefit Access Program, visit the [Illinois Department on Aging Benefit Access Program](#).



# **2016** **American Legion Family** **MEMBERSHIP CARAVAN** **"Another Successful Year"**

The 2016 American Legion Family Membership Caravan took place January 7-16, traveling through the state of Illinois. Special guest National Vice Commander Dave Gough traveled with the Illinois Family, sending a message from National Commander, encouraging membership, and visiting with the members of posts from each district.



*Dept. Adjutant Marty Conatser, Dept. Alt. NEC Bernie Stegmueller, 2nd Div. JVC Terry Abdelnour, JR Stillwell, Dept. NEC Wayne Wagner, National Vice Commander Dave Gough, Dept. Commander Paul Gardner, Dept. Auxiliary President Kathy Cisna, Detachment Commander Bill Geary, Aux. Membership Chrm. Pam Ray, Dept. Sr. Vice Commander Cheri Stanton, Department Lead Membership Secretary Dee Dalton and SAL Det. Alt. NEC Jimmy Hunter at American Legion Jefferson-Horton Post 340.*



*During the Caravan stop in Olney Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Bill Geary and Detachment Sr. Vice Commander Phil Shipley proudly signed up this handsome little guy as a new member of the SAL.*



*Caravan stop in 5th Division. Dept. Sr. Vice Commander Cheri Stanton, 23rd District Commander Wayne Madson, National Sr. Vice Commander Dave Gough, Department Commander Paul Gardner, Post 30 Commander Lisa Ault, David Harris 5th Division Commander, and Post 30 Adjutant Romania Benhke.*



## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION 1st Division

Present

Hockey Night with the Chicago Wolves  
Chicago Wolves vs. Milwaukee Admirals

March 20th @ 3:00 pm

Proceeds benefit the



\$30.00 Donation includes game ticket

Optional--Discounted food coupons available for purchase (\$6.00)

Additional giveaways based on ticket sales

**Please RSVP by March 1st**

Cash Payment or make checks payable to Detachment of Illinois

For more information contact Sergio Senese at  
(773) 909-3072 or [sergiosenese@hotmail.com](mailto:sergiosenese@hotmail.com)

## SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION 1st Division

Present

Baseball with the Chicago White Sox  
Chicago White Sox vs. Atlanta Braves

July 10th @ 1:10 pm

Proceeds benefit



\$55.00 Donation includes game ticket

**Two Hour Patio Party--All-You-Can-Eat Buffet**

The delicious menu features BBQ ribs, Cajun chicken, fried chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, coleslaw, potato, macaroni, and pasta salads, soft drinks, wine, and Miller products.

Additional giveaways based on ticket sales

**Please RSVP by June 30th**

Cash payment or make checks payable to Detachment of  
Illinois

For more information contact Sergio Senese at  
(773) 909-3072 or [sergiosenese@hotmail.com](mailto:sergiosenese@hotmail.com)

**During the Cold Temperatures  
PLEASE don't forget to check on our  
comarades who are alone or can not get out!**



**Take a few minutes  
to make sure they are  
warm and have food**





# 2015 – 2016 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST./ DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
2/7/2016	12TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	MARSEILLES POST 235	MARSEILLES
2/17/2016	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	EVANSTON POST 42	EVANSTON
2/18/2016	5TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	CICERO POST 96	CICERO
2/19/2016	10TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	LAKE ZURICH POST 964	LAKE ZURICH
2/21/2016	16TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	ELMWOOD POST 638	ELMWOOD
2/24/2016	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN PARK POST 974	FRANKLIN PARK
2/25/2016	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	HAZEL CREST POST 398	HAZEL CREST
3/6/2016	2ND DIVISION	1:00 PM	PEARL CITY POST 1014 (POPPY SEMINAR @10AM)	PEARL CITY
3/6/2016	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	CARMI POST 224 (POPPY SEMINAR 11:30 AM)	CARMI
3/6/2016	18TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	TOLEDO POST 764	TOLEDO
3/6/2016	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CHATHAM POST 759	CHATHAM
3/9/2016	2ND DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT POST 923	CHICAGO
3/13/2016	3RD DIVISION	1:00 PM	LIMESTONE POST 979 (POPPY SEMINAR @11AM)	BARTONVILLE
3/13/2016	17TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CHATSWORTH POST 613	CHATSWORTH
3/13/2016	19TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	SULLIVAN POST 68	SULLIVAN
3/13/2016	4TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	CLINTON POST 103 (POPPY SEMINAR @10:30AM)	CLINTON
3/13/2016	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	HERRIN POST 645	HERRIN
3/16/2016	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
3/18/2016	10TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	ROUND LAKE POST 1170	ROUND LAKE
3/19/2016	14TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	ALEDO POST 121	ALEDO
3/20/2016	15TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	FAIRVIEW POST 644	FAIRVIEW
3/20/2016	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	GEORGE E HILGARD POST 58	BELLEVILLE
3/23/2016	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	PALATINE POST 690	PALATINE
3/24/2016	5TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	ROBERT E COULTER JR POST 1941	LAGRANGE
3/24/2016	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	EDWARD SCHULTZ POST 697	LANSING
4/13/2016	2ND DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT POST 923	CHICAGO
4/15/2016	10TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	LIBERTYVILLE POST 329	LIBERTYVILLE
4/20/2016	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	EVANSTON POST 42	EVANSTON
4/21/2016	5TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FOREST PARK POST 414	FOREST PARK
4/27/2016	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	SCHILLER PARK POST 104	SCHILLER PARK
4/28/2016	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	TINLEY PARK POST 615	TINLEY PARK
5/1/2016	18TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	THAWVILLE POST 700	THAWVILLE
5/13/2016	2ND DISTRICT	6:00 PM	KLAS RESTAURANT	CICERO
5/14/2016	14TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	MONMOUTH POST 136	MONMOUTH

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS  
P.O. BOX 2910  
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61702

PUBLISHED MONTHLY \*

Phone: 309-663-0361 Fax: 309-663-5783  
Email: [hdqs@illegion.org](mailto:hdqs@illegion.org) Web: [www.illegion.org](http://www.illegion.org)

Department Commander Department Editor  
PAUL W. GARDNER MARTY CONATSER

*Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
US POSTAGE PAID  
BLOOMINGTON, IL  
PERMIT No. 18

\* One year Subscription to the Department News  
\$10.00 for 11 issues

Newsletter articles must be at Department Headquarters by the  
15th of each month for it to be in the next month's issue.

Department of Illinois ~ Official Member of The National American Legion Press Association

## FEBURARY DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know these actors were in the military?

1. Lt. Alan Alda, US Army Reserve--It's possible to think of Alan Alda without thinking of M.A.S.H. After a decade of being a show that produced the single largest viewing audience of all time, it's easy to see why he was a bit typecast. However, he joined the cast of the show with a bit of his own real life experience serving as a gunnery officer in Korea after the Korean War.
2. Col. Frank Capra, US Army--Before making It's a Wonderful Life, Capra joined the Army and taught during WWI. He would go on to start building an unbelievable career in film which included You Can't Take it With You, It Happened One Night, and Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, and even after massive success, he would return for WWII. He used his expertise to create educational films for the War Department (including what some believe is a masterpiece of propaganda filmmaking) with the next entry on the list.
3. Humphrey Bogart, US Navy--Not only was Bogart in the Navy, he may owe his entire career to it. The stories are not exactly clear, but several different accounts tell of how the actor was injured doing his duty in such a way that left him with a scar you might recognize and a lisp that developed. Of course, like most things with Bogart, that could all be tall tales, but his military service isn't.



Visit our website!  
Scan Here

