

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Department News



The American Legion Family



2017-2018 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROBERT "BOB" HENDERSON

AUGUST 2017



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF

TOP 10 DISTRICT
AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District Commander

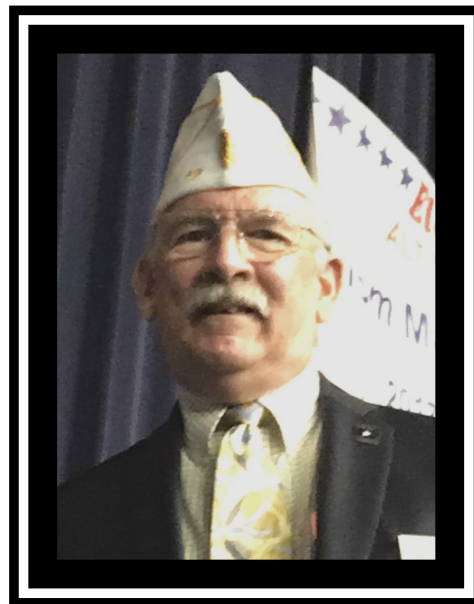
NO
MEMBERSHIP
RANKINGS
AT THIS
TIME.

Division Commander

2017 - 2018 Illinois American Legion Family Leadership



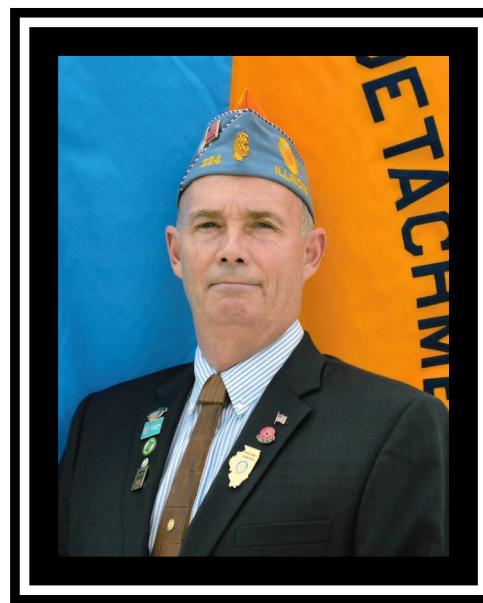
*American Legion
Department Commander
Robert "Bob" Henderson*



*American Legion Department
Sr Vice Commander
Micheal M. Carder*



*ALA Department President
Marsha Haag*



*SAL Detachment Commander
Paul A. Hayse*



From The Desk of Department Commander Bob Henderson



The 2017 Convention is over and it was a long and enjoyable convention. I was elected Commander on July 15, 2017. I want to thank everybody who gave me their vote. It was nice to see all the American Legion members attending the convention. I talked with many that said that it was their first convention. They said that they were learning a lot about the American Legion and enjoying themselves. We don't want to forget the Hospitality rooms, there was good food and drink to be had. The Commander and President dinner was very good with good food and comradery.

Now back home and working on 2018 membership and getting all the new officers installed.

We need to get all the Post members signed up for 2018. I want to see all the Posts at 100%-plus by June 22, 2018 putting the Department of Illinois at 100%. This year there is going to be a Membership Committee set up in each District with a membership coordinator. The coordinator will be working with the Officers of the District, hoping to bring in new and expired members for the Posts of each District. I only ask that you just do what you did last year...bring in more members. Thank you for what you did last year and what you are already doing this year. Getting our posts to 100% will help us with programs that the American Legion supports during the year. I will be pushing for more boys to Premier Boys State. We have to get more boys to attend. I will also be asking for more donations for the Gift to Yanks who Gave.

My August calendar is pretty busy starting with our State Golf Tournament on the 5th & 6th in Danville.

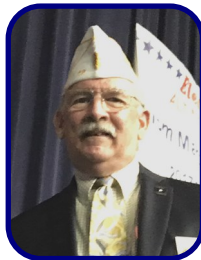
Then the 2.2 mile walk or run with veterans in Clinton, IL on the 12th.

The next day, August 13th we will be in Springfield for the State Fair Veterans and Gold Star Family Day followed by the Parade run by The American Legion. I hope to see you there.

Don't forget the 99th National Convention in Reno the 19th thru the 24th. After getting back from the National Convention on the 30th at Dept. Headquarters I will be meet with the Division Commanders for the Department Committee/Commission appointments.

Then for September on the 9th will be the DEC and *Commanders Homecoming held at the Elks Lodge in Savoy IL. Get your reservations in, if you need a room get your room by August 7, 2017 at the Best Western in Savoy, IL. *See pg. 13 for the form.

(Dept. Commander continued on page 5)



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Micheal Carder



My fellow Legionaries, this is my first article for the newsletter and this one it will be short.

First of all Thank You for your support at the Department Convention. I am honored to be your Department Sr. Vice Commander.

I hope each District Commander has ensured the posts in their district have certified their post officers so they can receive their membership cards and begin the work of getting all of our blue cappers back in the fold.

Commander Bob has a great idea for the 2018 membership year. He wants the districts to form membership

teams in each district to help get the members renewed. I trust this will be well received and very successful.

By the time this newsletter has been printed, I will have attended the National Membership Conference in Indianapolis and Commander Henderson and I will have obtained a lot of interesting ideas to bring to our Department.

This year is going to be great year for the Department of Illinois. I hope you to join me as I roll my sleeves up and get down in dirt to get the job done. I know we can do it.

This is all, for now. I hope to be around the state as much as possible to meet and work towards making Illinois a stronger department. See you soon.

DEPARTMENT SR. VICE COMMANDER CARDER'S BIO

Micheal "Mike" Carder was born September 9, 1945 in Davenport, Iowa. He was raised in Topeka, Kansas.

Mike graduated from Topeka West High School in 1963.

Mike attended Washburn University until 1967. He graduated from Labette Community College in 1975 in Parsons, Kansas with a degree in nursing.

Mike has worked in surgery, open heart ICU, trauma, medical surgery units and dialysis. For the past 35 years he has worked in renal dialysis

(Dept. SVC continued on page 8)



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Marsha Haag



Greetings from the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois! Time flies, last year at this point, I had been installed as the Dept. 1st Vice President. There have been lots of water under the bridge, plans to be made and make this year a most memorable year in the life of Marsha Haag.

I am a PUFL member of Skinner Trost #122 in Cullom, 17th District, 4th Division. We are rural Midwest and thoroughly enjoy the lifestyle. Many of you are from metropolitan areas and I will enjoy visits there as well.

My theme is: "Striving for GOLD for our Veterans". Each President chooses a theme, as does your Commander. This year, we are athletes of either a

winter or summer event that you would see at the Olympics. It should be fun and my membership chairman and I look forward to our challenge with Commander Henderson. He and I served as President and Commander together a few years back, nice to meet up again under the circumstances.

Since installation a few weeks back, I've been travelling to a couple Division installations. It is always fun to meet new people and rekindle friendships.

Coming up soon will be our Fall Board meeting, State Fair Veterans Day and soon after that, heading to Reno for the National Convention. Come out to the fair and join us in the parade. There are always a couple vehicles if you're not able to walk the route.

Illinois will be reaching to our members differently this fall. We are holding "Fall Forum". These will be at 5 locations in the state. I hope you can encourage your Auxiliary members to

join us. We be collecting membership, having discussions on several of the programs, brain-storming and other things. Juniors are welcome to attend as there will be activities for them also. They can learn more about this in our newsletter, ALA Today. Information will be on our website, too.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Commander Henderson's Homecoming event September 9th in Savoy, IL. Please introduce yourself.

With all facets of the American Legion Family working together, we will build a strong team to aid veterans, the children and our communities.

Membership is vital to our organization, let's all make it a priority. We should inquire when we get new members if there are others in the family who are eligible. It can help the Auxiliary, SAL, Legion and if they are interested, Legion Riders. We Can Do It!!



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Paul A. Hayse



Hello, my name is Paul A. Hayse, and I was elected as the Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander at the 54th Annual Detachment Convention, held in DeLand, Illinois, June 23-25, 2017. In my service, in some small way, I hope to honor the traditions and volunteerism taught to me by my parents and The American Legion Family!

My membership spans over 25 years of continuous service. My eligibility is through my deceased father, Paul D. Hayse, a Korean war veteran. I am an employee of a seventy-year old family owned company, Tri-State Butane

Company, Inc. of Carmi, IL and married to Linda K. Hayse, the president of the company and an American Legion Auxiliary member. We have one son Paul Isaac, who is 23 years old and a 24 year SAL member.

My involvement with the Sons of the American Legion started with fund raisers and road blocks. I started into the District and Division levels with the guidance of dual members Bill Spaulding and Fred Hickem. I have held many posts in Squadron, District, and Division levels including District Commander and Division Commander five times.

I stepped back for a few years to raise our son, but with him out of college I am eager to get back into the family of The American Legion. My interest and enthusiasm still grows with many new and dear friends I meet at every American Legion function.

I feel that with every new destination I arrive at, I have family waiting on me. I have just completed my first year of the Sons of the American Legion National Management Institute and hope to graduate the course in 2019.

My focus on the support of American Legion Programs will be on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. We hope to continue the mission of putting together plans and programs on direct assistance, outreach and support for veterans and their families with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims and benefits, health care, memorial affairs and women veteran's programs to ensure that they receive the highest quality of care from VA for their injuries and illnesses incurred from their military service.

(SAL Detachment Cmdr. continued on page 12)



Did You Know?

Office: 312-980-4266 Email: Raymond.Toczec@va.gov

That as Chairman of the 1st Division VA&R committee I am required to make a report each year to that Division. I thought it would be informative to our members who live outside the 1st Division to see what we have accomplished up north. Part one was in the June newsletter, here is part two.

Our 1st Division website is a good place to find current information affecting veterans benefits and programs. Check it out at <http://www.ilfirstdivision.org/>. We have finally added a "tab" entitled Posts to Rent. You can get a drop down menu listing all the Posts and point-of-contacts for those who rent their halls.

Our Division hosted several District revitalization projects. They were very successful and helped our Division get many new transferred in members. We had a Service Officer at each one and as veterans had questions on their Veterans Administration benefits we assisted them. Several new claims were filed.

On March 11th 2017 we held our annual Service Officer Training class. We had over 100 attend and lots of valuable information was given out. Guest speakers included both the new Hines Hospital Director and the Chicago Regional Office Director. Three social workers from Hines also attended and gave us an inside view on what a Social Worker does. This information was well received.

By now most service-connected disabled veterans are aware of the great property tax reduction/exemption but if not here is what they receive:

Vets rated 30-40% \$2,500 reduction in assessed value

Vets rated 50-60% \$5,000 reduction in assessed value

Vets rate 70% or more NO PROPERTY TAXES!

If you were not aware of this you can contact your property tax office and ask for an amendment to your tax bill. This benefit in most respects passes on to the surviving spouse. As a current Veterans Administration letter will be needed each year veterans are encouraged to sign up for an eBenefits account so they can print out these letters right from home.

There were several major changes in Veterans Administration benefit laws. The first was regarding contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. Several types of cancer and Parkinson's disease can now be considered service-connected in most cases. There was a change in the Bronze Medallion for veterans who purchased headstones for private cemeteries. Veterans who died all the way back to World War I can now have their families order the Medallion. And finally veterans can now get official pre-authorization to be buried in a Veterans Administration National Cemetery.

I continue to push our comrades to take advantage of both the eBenefits and the My healthvet websites. There are very useful tools and one can check their claims and appeals or e-mail questions to their doctor. The veterans scratch off lotto tickets are still being sold by the State of Illinois and your Department benefits in part from their sales.

I attended several town hall meetings at the VA Regional Office and Jesse Brown hospital. I made our presence known by wearing my cover and asked several pointed questions from the floor. I will continue to attend these events and ask others to come out and wear your blue hats.

The Cook County Recorder of Deeds has come out with a veterans discount card. This can be obtained at the downtown office of the Recorder or one of four suburban locations. This card entitles veterans to special discounts in participating businesses in Cook Co.

The Veterans Administration will be issuing a universal veteran ID card early next year (or so they say). Details will follow as they are made available.

In closing, I wish to thank outgoing Commander Whyte for letting me serve on this committee and as one of the Division Service Officers. If you should have any comments or concerns regarding this report or a question on any VA benefit program please call me at 312-980-4264. I have 24/7 voice mail. Or e-mail me: Raymond.Toczec@va.gov.



From The Desk of the Membership Director Chad J. Woodburn



Membership year 2016-2017 is in the books and the Department Convention is done. No time to rest as 2017-2018 is starting to spin up. After finishing in 13th place for the Nation we can't fall back, let's get in the top 10 and stay there this year!

As of this writing we are ahead of where we were last year with post's that have certified, but we still have many that are not. All District and Division Commanders have been provided a list of those post's that have not yet certified.

I'd like to thank Commander Stanton and everyone that made last year a great membership year. I'm looking forward to working with Commander Henderson and

everyone again this year to keep Illinois where we should be, at the top.

Do not hesitate to call the membership section if you have any questions.

Have you liked our department Facebook page? If not, please do, The American Legion Department of Illinois is the page address. The Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Illinois now has its own page as well. Check it out and give it a like also!

***"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."**— Phil Jackson*

(Dept. Commander continued from page 2)

Again, THANKS for getting started on the way to what looks like a wonderful year!



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER HENDERSON'S BIO

I was born May 23, 1942 at Block Station, IL. I attended the schools in Homer, Illinois for 12 years, graduating in 1960.

January 1961, I joined the Navy on the buddy system with two of my friends. We went to boot camp in San Diego, Ca. After boot camp I was sent to Jacksonville, FL where I went to Electricians school. After graduating I was sent to Kodiak, AK where I was stationed for 13 months. After completing my tour there I was sent to Moffett Field at Mountain View, CA. While stationed there I was sent to Patuxent River, MD. I was sent to the Hawaiian Islands many times, and spent 21 days in Australia before being shipped off to Japan. The last base I was on before getting discharged was in Okinawa, Japan where I was honorably discharged in January, 1965.

After my discharge I continued working as an Electrician. I married my wife Dona in July of 1965. We have been married for 51 years. We have three children, one daughter, Tamera, and two sons, Daryl and Bruys.

I joined the American Legion in 1967 at Homer Post #290. In 1977 I held the title of Post Commander.

In 1998 I transferred to Urbana American Legion Post #71 and became the Adjutant and Finance Officer in 2001, and to date I still hold the title of both Adjutant and Finance Officer.

I retired in 2005 which was when I decided to get really involved in the American Legion.

In 2006-2007 I was the 19th District Historian.

In 2007-2008 I was appointed the Department Historian. In 2008-2009 I was appointed Dept. Asst. Historian, and then appointed again as Department Historian from 2012-2013.

I was elected 19th District Commander in 2010-2011. Held the office of Champaign County Commander from 2011-2012. Then from 2013-2014, I was elected 4th Division Commander. From 2014-2015, I was appointed as the Department Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms.

At the District level, in 2016, I held the title of Chairman for both the State Fair Veteran's Day Committee and Gifts To The Yanks Committee. And I am currently a member on the Department Finance Commission representing the 4th Division.

On July 15, 2017, at the State Convention held in Springfield, IL I was elected to the high office of Department Commander for 2017-2018.

Veterans & Gold Star Family Day at the Illinois State Fair August 13, 2017

**VETERANS & GOLD STAR
FAMILY DAY AT THE
ILLINOIS STATE FAIR**

Sunday, August 13, 2017
9:00 am – 4:00 pm



Veterans & their families are admitted to the grounds for free. A veterans parade and activities are some of the highlights for the day. Opening Veterans Day Ceremony is held on Lincoln Stage.

Benefits Expo and Job Fair 10 am – 4 pm

***Memorial Service for the Gold Star Families ★ Veterans Day Program ★
Veteran of the Year announcement ★ Business Veteran Appreciation of
the Year announcement ★ Veterans Day Parade at 4:30 pm***

The American Legion Conference For Women

Hosted by The American Legion Women & Minority Veteran Outreach

Reno Sparks Convention Center | Monday, August 21, 2017
SESSION 1: 9:00 AM—12:00 or SESSION 2: 1:00 PM—4:00 PM



**The
Conference
for Women**

The American Legion will hold its 99th Annual National Convention in Reno, Nevada, August 2017. The American Legion Conference For Women is an opportunity to participate in discussions, led by women who have discovered the keys to success. This comprehensive half-day program is designed to inspire and invigorate you. Meet women from around the world who face the same challenges and levels of success that you experience. Exchange thoughts and ideas as you learn from the premier provider of corporate strategies on subjects like career coaching/mentorship, financial literacy, and professional growth and development.

Please join us for this Free Event!

Your attendance to The Conference for Women includes:

The Conference for Women workbook; Certificate of completion; The American Legion tote bag.

Register in Advance—Seating is limited!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-american-legion-conference-for-women-tickets-35545731239>

We look forward to seeing you there!

When REGISTERING, please note the following: *Lunch will be served at 12Noon for both SESSIONS*

**NOTE: The same information will be covered during both sessions; the only difference is the time.*

99th National American Legion Convention

AUGUST 18-24, 2017



Reno, NV

SILVER LEGACY RESORT & CASINO



Website: silverlegacyreno.com

American Legion Family Night

Monday, August 21, 2017

7:05PM



Reno Aces vs. Fresno Grizzlies

Greater Nevada Field

Please click on the link below to order your tickets

https://renoaces.formstack.com/forms/american_legion

Discounted tickets only available for pre-sale and upon availability.

Regardless of order date, credit cards will not be charged until two weeks prior to game day.

Please contact Brian Moss with the Reno Aces at (775) 334-7018 for any questions and/or cancellations.



Illinois Hotel
housing will
be at the
**Silver Legacy
Resort & Casino**

407 N. Virginia St.,
Reno, NV 89501

National Convention Information can be
found on the Illinois Legion Website at
www.legion.org/convention/resources

The National housing form can be found online at
www.illegion.org/event/national-convention
Or contact Department Headquarters to
have a form mailed.

Destination Tahoe Meetings & Events will be providing tours for The American Legion's 99th National Convention in Reno, Nevada. Should you wish to take advantage of any tours, please keep in mind you are responsible for registering and paying for any and all charges associated with each tour.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| ★ HISTORIC VIRGINIA CITY TOUR | ★ RENO CITY TOUR HISTORY ON TAP |
| ★ HISTORIC DONNER-TRUCKEE TOUR | ★ PADDLEWHEEL CRUISE WITH LUNCH |
| ★ SHOPPING SHUTTLE | ★ LAKE TAHOE EXCURSION WITH SCENIC GONDOLA |
| ★ PADDLEWHEEL DINNER DANCE CRUISE | |

Tour Registration Options are as follows:

Online Reservations: Please click on the link or copy and paste into your browser:

<http://www.prestoregister.com/cgi-bin/order.pl?ref=dtmetours&fm=11>

Fax/Email/Mail Reservations: Please mail (address below), fax (775.586.6228) or email (contact@Destination-Tahoe.com) the enclosed Order Form to Destination Tahoe Meetings & Events with your payment. Mail in registrations must be received by August 2, 2017 and online must be received by August 6, 2017. Online and onsite registration will have limited availability after August 6, 2017.

Credit Cards (American Express, MasterCard or Visa) or checks are accepted.

Please make checks payable to Destination Tahoe Meetings & Events can be sent to the following address:

Destination Tahoe Meetings & Events

Re: Legion Tours P.O. Box 7172324 Stateline, NV 89449

being responsible for the training and care of home dialysis patients. He has written articles that have been published in medical journals. He has given numerous presentations at professional conferences. Mike is currently a Home Therapies Registered Nurse for Highland Park Fresenius Kidney Care, Highland Park, IL.

Mike enlisted in April 1967 for basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, as medical corpsman. He had further training at Phoenixville General Hospital, Phoenixville, PA – Clinical Specialist School. In 1968 he was assigned to the 44th Medical Brigade Long Binh, Vietnam and then to 8th Field Hospital Nha Trang South Vietnam. Duties served as documents courier, medic and occasional personnel specialist. In 1969 reassigned to Ft. Knox, KY to the Adjutant Generals office. He was discharged from active duty in April 1969 and entered active reserves in the 410th Evac Hospital in Topeka, KS. Where he served as Wardmaster. In 1978 he transferred to a reserved hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan where he served as Assistant Chief Wardmaster. In 1978 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Army Nurse Corps where he served as assistant to Chief Nurse. In 1980, he was transferred to the 80st General Hospital in Chicago, IL. He served as a Trauma Nurse, Dialysis Head Nurse, Head Nurse ICU, OIC Combat Medic School and as OIC S/2, S/3, and unit Mobilization Officer. He retired in 1997 as a Major (P). His highest enlisted rank in SPC E-7.

Mike is a 26 year member with The American Legion. He is Past Commander for Evanston Post 42, Past 7th District Commander, Past 1st Division Commander, Past 1st Division Adjutant, Past 1st Division Sgt-At-Arms, Past 7th District Historian, Past Chef de Gare, Voiture 220, and Society of 40/8. He is currently Evanston Post 42 Historian, serving as Americanism Chairman for Post 42, 7th District and the 1st Division. He is also serving as Vice-Chairman of the Department of Illinois Americanism Commission and has served on the Commission for approximately 10 years. He is a member of the National Americanism council and National Legislative Council, 7th District Past Commanders Club (selected as Legionnaire of the year), 1st Division Past Commanders Club, ANAVICUS and Egyptian Past Commanders Club. He has completed The American Legion Extension Course.

Mike has one sister, Kathy Schmidt and 2 nephews. Both of his parents are deceased. Mike married Nancy Lee Trevena McGowan on November 21, 1990. Nancy passed away on August 20, 2015.

SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Drawing July 15, 2017

1st PLACE	\$10,000	Frank L. Sanusky
2nd PLACE	\$5,000	John D. Lamar
3rd PLACE	\$2,500	Andrea Hickman
4th PLACE	\$1,500	Ernest W. Waggoner
5th PLACE	\$1,000	Joseph L. Gleason Jr.
6th PLACE	\$1,000	John E. DeWolf
7th PLACE	\$750	David H. Westberg
8th PLACE	\$750	Bernard A. Stegmuller
9th PLACE	\$500	Peter D. Kinnamon
10th PLACE	\$500	Thomas J. Zybko
11th PLACE	\$250	Douglas R. Street
12th PLACE	\$250	Dorothy Farrell
13th PLACE	\$100	James D. Paris
14th PLACE	\$100	Kirk D. Buckner
15th PLACE	\$100	Robert J. Anton
16th PLACE	\$100	Kimberly Bartel
17th PLACE	\$100	Nancy Johnson
18th PLACE	\$100	Henry A. Maier
19th PLACE	\$100	William H. Saathoff Jr.
20th PLACE	\$100	Thomas Cleary
	\$24,800	

2017 Dept. Photo Contest Winners		
1ST DIVISION		
1ST PLACE	JOHN BROGAN	\$100
2ND PLACE	ROBERT FUGGITI	\$75
3RD PLACE	ROBERT FUGGITI	\$50
4TH PLACE	NO WINNER	\$25
2ND DIVISION		
1ST PLACE	JOHN REECE	\$100
2ND PLACE	RICHARD YNDESTAD	\$75
3RD PLACE	ROGER GERCKEN	\$50
4TH PLACE	JOHN REECE	\$25
3RD DIVISION		
1ST PLACE	BOB FEIL	\$100
2ND PLACE	BOB FEIL	\$75
3RD PLACE	DAVID A. SCOTT SR.	\$50
4TH PLACE	DAVID A. SCOTT SR.	\$25
4TH DIVISION		
1ST PLACE	PAUL GARRETT	\$100
2ND PLACE	PAUL GARRETT	\$75
3RD PLACE	PAUL GARRETT	\$50
4TH PLACE	PAUL GARRETT	\$25
5TH DIVISION		
1ST PLACE	JEFFREY ROSCOW	\$100
2ND PLACE	PHILIP H. METTE	\$75
3RD PLACE	ROBERT MEIER	\$50
4TH PLACE	PHILIP H. METTE	\$25

2018 Calendar Winners			
MONTH	NAME	DIV.	AWARD
COVER	PAUL GARRETT	4TH	\$75
JANUARY	JOHN REECE	2ND	\$75
FEBRUARY	JOHN REECE	2ND	\$75
MARCH	JOHN REECE	2ND	\$75
APRIL	ROY PURA	2ND	\$75
MAY	RICHARD YNDESTAD	2ND	\$75
JUNE	DAVID A. SCOTT SR	3RD	\$75
JULY	DAVID A. SCOTT SR	3RD	\$75
AUGUST	PAUL GARRETT	4TH	\$75
SEPTEMBER	PHILIP H. METTE	5TH	\$75
OCTOBER	JOHN REECE	2ND	\$75
NOVEMBER	JOHN REECE	2ND	\$75
DECEMBER	JEFFREY ROSCOW	5TH	\$75

The American Legion Coin Bill

An Honor Worth Coining

Take Action!

The American Legion has a golden opportunity. Well, silver and gold actually. With your help, we can encourage Congress to mark The American Legion's 2019 Centennial with limited edition, exquisitely crafted commemorative coins. Not only will these coins raise public awareness about the greatest veterans organization in the country, proceeds from their sale will raise funds for our outstanding programs.

A bipartisan group in Congress is now gathering support for [The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act](#). This legislation, if passed, would honor the Legion for its 100 years of service to our nation's heroes by directing the U.S. Mint to issue a variety of special limited edition commemorative coins available for purchase during 2019. Congress only authorizes two coins per year and one has already been awarded for 2019, so there's only one left.

But the Legion has strong competition and we need your help to get this done!

Please ask your representative and senators to join Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind., Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., and Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn., as cosponsors of this important legislation by sending the prepared message below. The House bill is [H.R. 2519](#) and the Senate bill is [S. 1182](#).

[The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act](#) provides Congress with a valuable way to thank the Legion for its service to our nation, and to invest in our shared values.

We cannot afford to miss this vital opportunity for Congress to recognize the great work of The American Legion! Please contact your Members of Congress now.

Veterans Complaint Line

The new White House Veterans Complaint Line went live on June 1st.

What will it do?

The phone line **855-948-2311** is designed to collect, process and respond to the complaints of individual Veterans in a responsive, timely and accountable manner according to Department of Veterans Affairs officials.

VA Secretary David Shulkin described the initial roll out of the line as a soft launch, with "live answer agents" receiving and processing some of the calls. Currently the hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, Monday thru Friday. He promised that by August 15th, the hotline will have continuous coverage from a live operator 24 hours a day, every day of the week.

If you have problems with the VA and feel it is not being handled through normal channels such as the Patient Advocate at Hines, Jesse Brown, Danville, Marion or the VA facility in the area you live call the hotline number and express your concerns or complaints.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



ALA--Fall Board Meeting

August 4th--5th

~ ~ ~

Legion Family State Golf Tournament

Danville, IL

August 5th--6th

~ ~ ~

American Legion Baseball

World Series

Shelby, NC

August 10th--15th

~ ~ ~

Veterans Day @ State Fair

Springfield, IL

August 13th

~ ~ ~

National Convention

Reno, NV

August 19th--24th

~ ~ ~

Dept. Commanders

Committee/Commission

Appointments Meetings

w/ Division Commanders

@ Dept. HQ

August 30th

~ ~ ~

Labor Day

DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED

September 4th

~ ~ ~

Fall D.E.C. @ 1:00 pm &

Dept. Cmdrs. Homecoming

Champaign/Savoy, IL

September 9th

~ ~ ~

Gold Pin Cut-Off

12 Noon

September 9th

~ ~ ~

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

September 15th

###

2017 American Legion Family State Golf Tournament

**COME
EARLY &
ENJOY**



American Legion State Golf Tournament

Danville, IL

August 5 & 6, 2017

Entry Deadline: July 14th

(Late entries accepted if availability)



Harrison Park
Golf Course

Opening Ceremonies

Saturday, August 5
8:00 AM

Harrison Park Golf Course
1300 W. Voorhees St.

American Legion Riders, Presentation of Colors,
Fly-Over, National Anthem, Marine Corps League,
First Responders & Post Honor Guard

**All Golfers need to register/check-in
at Harrison Park Golf Course**



Entry Fee: \$125 per player

Includes: Sat & Sun rounds, cart fees, golf shirt, Saturday
Dinner and Prize money
Dinner for Significant Other is \$12 each

Format: 4-person scramble

(1 of 4 must be American Legion, SAL, Legion Riders
or Auxiliary member in good standing)

Starting Times: Tee times begin at 9:00 AM (Sat & Sun, both courses)
Tee times will be arranged by preference and geographic distance

Days Hotel & Conference Center
77 N. Gilbert Street
Danville, IL 61832
(217) 443-6600

Tournament Rate: \$72.50 per night

Sleep Inn & Suites
361 Lynch Drive
Danville, IL 61832
(217) 442-6600

Tournament Rate: \$79.49 per night

American Legion State Golf
100 W. Main St, Suite 146
Danville, IL 61832

Email: ALStateGolf@gmail.com



Tournament Director:

Gregg Alpers
(217) 274-3763

Golf Practice Round Discount

\$20 - 18 holes with a cart,
call in advance to schedule
tee times!

* Harrison Park Golf Course

(217) 431-2266

* Turtle Run Golf Club

(217) 442-8876

Putting Contest

Free 3-hole Putting Contest
at Turtle Run Golf Club

* Friday, August 4th

10AM-3 PM

* Prize: \$100 Visa Card and
\$100 cash to Legion of choice

Pontoon Boat Ride

Lake Vermilion Bald Eagle
Sightseeing Tour!

Enjoy a scenic pontoon
boat ride on beautiful Lake
Vermilion. Available 12-6 PM,
approximately 1 hour and is
Free to all American Legion
State Golf Tournament
participants and their
spouses. Beer and soft
drinks will be available.
Contact **Greg Barrett**
217/304-0636 to reserve
your space today!

Downtown Danville

Visit our **"Everything but
Ordinary"** Shops and local
attractions in Downtown,
Danville, IL.

American Legion Dinner

American Legion Post #210
201 Prospect Place
Drink & Dinner specials
starting at 5:30 PM

Danville Dans Game

6:30 PM Danville Dans vs.
Quincy Gems
Historic Danville Stadium
401 Highland Blvd
Free admission - just

**For the American Legion Family State Golf Tournament
Registration Form go to: www.illegion.org/latest-news/
- or - contact Department Headquarters at 309-663-0361**

Scholarships for veterans and military servicemembers

AffordableCollege.com

There are currently over one million student veterans and two million students who are the children of veterans or active duty servicemembers. All of these American's deserve all the financial support they can get to fund their higher education.

To support their search for financial aid, **we created a scholarship resource for anyone with connections to the military.**

This resource includes:

- Scholarships for members of every branch of the military
- Scholarships for veterans
- Scholarships for families and spouses
- www.affordablecolleges.com/resources/scholarships-for-military

AffordableCollege.com's mission is to help you earn your degree without taking on thousands of dollars in debt. Our site is a free resource designed to help everyone address the costs of college while pursuing their goals.

(SAL Detachment Cmdr. continued from page 3)

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic Veterans organization. Focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities, I hope to do just that with my theme of **"Retain, Recruit, Remember"**.

Retain old members: Because their knowledge is what guides us. Without their hand to show us the ways of conduct, leadership, and discipline we would be lost.

Recruit new members: Without new members there will be no growth, no new ideas, and no inspiration for different ways of getting things done. New members are the way we survive. Bright shining eyes wanting to learn all about the Sons of the American Legion.

Remember: Remember our prisoners of war and our missing in action. Remember our fallen comrades that gave all, so that we can live our lives the way we choose. Remember our veterans, that came back sick or injured, needing care, comfort, or just a helping hand. Remember our obligation to our country must remain a main objective of the sons of the American Legion.

In closing, I would like to thank the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion for all the support and guidance I have received throughout the years. And I promise, with all my heart that I will, to the best of my ability, serve honorably as your commander, and make you all proud.





Commander Henderson's Homecoming

Saturday, September 9, 2017

D. E. C.

- ♦ 1:00 PM—Department Executive Committee Meeting at Elks Lodge
(905 N. Dunlap Ave. Savoy, IL 61874)

Dinner with Commander

- ♦ Elks Lodge—905 N. Dunlap Ave. Savoy, IL 61874
- ♦ Cocktails begin at 6:00 p.m. & Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
- ♦ Entertainment following
- ♦ Business Casual Attire



Dinner Menu: Grilled Chicken, Roast Beef, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls and Butter, Tossed Salad w/dressings, and Cake.

Dinner: \$28 per person

Make check payable to: **Sharon Conatser**

Dinner reservations should be sent to: **Sharon Conatser, 709 Richards Lane
Champaign, IL 61820**

Deadline: **August 28, 2017**

Questions? Contact Dinner Chairman: **Sharon Conatser, 217-369-6211**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone # _____ Division # _____ District # _____

(For Group Seating: Please List Names for table of 8)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

REMINDER: All Dinner Reservations should be sent to:
Sharon Conatser, 709 Richards Lane, Champaign, IL 61820

Housing

Best Western

709 N. Dunlap Ave,
Savoy, IL 61874
217-356-1824, 800-528-1234

Double Queens—\$150.95 plus tax
King—\$135.41 plus tax
Single Queen—\$125.05 plus tax

Use your military ID, AAA card or
other cards and get a discount off
of the stated costs.

**Cut off date for
room block is
August 7, 2017**

Book Early!

Legion witnesses signing of VA accountability bill into law

American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt, along with other National Headquarters staff, witnessed President Donald Trump sign **S. 1094**, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017, into law on June 23 during a special ceremony at the White House.

“The overwhelming majority of VA workers are truly dedicated to serving veterans in a professional manner. However, we know that this isn’t always the case,” Schmidt said. “All of us who served in the military understand accountability and that’s what this new law is intended to deliver. The American Legion believes that you cannot fire your way to excellence, but the VA Secretary must have the ability to remove poor performers who are harming an otherwise excellent veterans health care system. We appreciate the Trump administration’s support in not just bringing accountability to the system but in protecting whistleblowers who shed light on areas that need to be fixed.”

The bipartisan legislation, which the House passed on June 13 following a 368-55 vote, will enhance accountability at the VA and provide the department with the tools it needs to improve the care veterans receive. It is designed to:

- Increase VA’s authority to remove employees at all levels of the department;
- Shorten the removal process and ensure an individual removed from the VA is not kept on the VA’s payroll while appealing that decision; and also
- Make it easier for VA to remove poor performing senior executives and replace them with qualified candidates.

In addition, any appeals by senior VA executives would no longer be brought before the Merit Systems Protection Board, but instead would be handled directly by the VA secretary under an expedited timeline, according to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee’s (SVAC) website.

“This is one of the largest reforms to the VA in its history,” Trump said. “VA accountability is essential to making sure that our veterans are treated with the respect they have so richly earned through their blood, sweat and tears. This law will finally give the VA secretary ... the authority to remove federal employees who fail and endanger our veterans — and to do so quickly and effectively.”

As SVAC noted, **S. 1094** also includes a number of other provisions to hold employees accountable as it:

Requires VA to evaluate supervisors based on the protection of whistleblowers;

Incentivizes managers to address poor performance and misconduct among employees by requiring the VA secretary to include this as part of the annual performance plan;

Prohibits bonuses for employees who have been found guilty of wrongdoing; and

Prohibits relocation expenses to employees who abuse the system.



“At the same time, this bill protects whistleblowers who do the right thing. We want to reward, cherish and promote the many dedicated employees at the VA,” Trump said.

“This legislation also gives the VA secretary the authority to appoint new medical directors at VA hospitals — something which was almost impossible to do in the past.”

Trump said this is only the beginning and his administration will not rest until the job is 100 percent complete. This new legislation is about striving to better support and serve incredible veterans every single day, he said.

“We won’t be able to accomplish any of the reforms that we need to have in the VA if we don’t get the right people in place,” said VA Secretary David Shulkin. “Veterans deserve a VA that they can trust and take pride in. VA is a national resource that must be protected in order to serve veterans and their families for generations to come.”

American Legion Training

Published in The American Legion Training Newsletter

Basic Training: American Legion Style



By National Commander
Charles E. Schmidt

Leadership by example is an ethos instilled in every veteran the first day of basic training. Those on the drill field are the cream of the crop. The best instructors

don't merely intimidate recruits, but inspire trainees with their knowledge.

Commander Schmidt was elected as the 98th national commander of The American Legion in August 2016. He is a U.S. Air Force veteran and retiree. He is a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Officer Training School.

Knowledge is an essential ingredient to any recipe for success. If you were an uncertain customer, would you buy a car from a salesperson who had no idea what type of engine was beneath the hood? Likewise, would you be impressed by an "experienced" American Legion leader who did not know any of the words to the Preamble of our Constitution?

The military has long recognized that knowledgeable recruiters are worth their weight in gold. That's why I'm so excited about the evolution of The American Legion Extension Institute, our online training course which is being rebranded as "American Legion Basic Training." And coming this fall, the informative and interesting curricula will be **free** to all members of the American

Legion Family. I truly believe this course will enhance the recruiting and retention of members.

Also in development is the American Legion Education Institute, a series of online training modules designed to educate our members and increase involvement and retention.

The American Legion has 98 years of fascinating history. It has four pillars upon which it was founded and many distinct programs, each

with unique features and missions that support those pillars. Veterans do not automatically become familiar with the nuances and procedures of our programs on their first day of Legion membership. They don't often wish to study every provision of our National Constitution and Bylaws nor do they want to memorize the *Post Officers Guide*. Much of what they need to know can come with experience but it usually takes an effort and a willingness to learn.

Our numbers continually prove the more involved a Legionnaire is in our organization, the more likely he or she will be to renew membership. "American Legion Basic Training," will go a long way to baiting the hook and building brand loyalty for those with the desire to lead, participate in and

manage our programs, advocacy and daily activities.

We are not asking that every Legionnaire be a full-fledged scholar and graduate-level historian. But we are hoping they learn the basics. And "American Legion Basic Training" is a great way to start.



USS American Legion attack transport – (APA – 17) - Built October 1919 and decommissioned March 1946

This volume covers best practices, ideas and training that every Legionnaire needs to know, from the official uniform of The American Legion to copyright laws covering the emblem.

This periodic, Legionnaire-driven newsletter, produced by the Internal Affairs Division, highlights training that other departments and individuals are conducting throughout The American Legion.

Are you a trainer? Can you write? We need your submissions. Send your training ideas to **train@legion.org**.

Submissions should focus on stimulating training and what your department and posts are doing.

All contributions will be credited to the author.

Legion Training continued on pg. 16

WEARING OF THE AMERICAN LEGION CAP

According to Resolution No. 46, passed in spring 1965 by the National Executive Committee:

"A LEGIONNAIRE IS CONSIDERED TO BE IN UNIFORM IF WEARING AN OFFICIAL AMERICAN LEGION CAP."

The following text is from *The American Legion Officer's Guide & Manual of Ceremonies, 2017*, available for download at www.legion.org/publications

1. The Legion cap, uniform, or regalia should be worn by its members only when in attendance at official Legion meetings or ceremonies, as official guests at patriotic or other civil functions, or by individuals when officially representing The American Legion on public occasions. For

all ceremonies, the uniforms adopted by a department are recommended. However, an official American Legion cap, dark blue or black civilian coat, dark trousers, white shirt, black four-in-hand tie, black shoes and socks make an attractive uniform. A Legionnaire is considered to be in



uniform if wearing an official American Legion cap. Therefore, it is not proper to wear a Legion cap while eating a meal at an official American Legion or civic luncheon or dinner.

2. The cap should be worn in a place of worship only by the guard of honor, color guard and commander of the same while in marching order or standing guard. When one is seated, the cap should be removed.

3. Posts marching in formation into a place of worship should uncover at the door, hold the cap with the right hand over the heart until arriving in the pews and commanded to take seats, and remain uncovered during the entire service. At the close of the service, upon command, the post shall rise, hold the cap with right hand over the hearts, march out of the place of worship, and recover after marching through the door. **Note:** The cap should be held over the heart as one approaches the casket, and is not at any time worn in a place of worship except by the guard of honor, color guard or commander of same while in marching order or standing guard.

4. Legionnaires not in formation will uncover upon entering the place of worship, remain uncovered during the entire

service and re-cover after leaving the place of worship.

5. At the graveside, the cap should be held in the right hand over the heart during the entire service. In cold and inclement weather, the cap should not be doffed.

6. In meetings, the cap should be worn except during the Pledge of Allegiance, prayer and while standing in silent reverence in memory of departed comrades, when it should be held with the right hand over the heart.

7. A Legionnaire wearing a cap should behave in proper accordance as to salutes, etc., the same as if wearing a military uniform. If not wearing a cap, observe ordinary rules of etiquette for civilian dress.

8. Female Legionnaires should wear their caps in the manner prescribed for women in the armed forces. This is suitable for most situations, but taste and common sense should prevail. By American Legion tradition, a female Legionnaire may leave her cap on during the Pledge of Allegiance, the national anthem, prayer and meals.



9. Legionnaires wishing to attach decorations and/or other official insignia to their caps are advised of NEC Resolution No. 58, adopted April 30-May 1, 1964.

For a video covering The American Legion cap etiquette, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26ZIW07V3ow&feature=youtu.be>



Protecting the American Legion Emblems

The following text is from "Name and Emblem Use and Protection Guide" available for download at www.legion.org/publications

In order to abide by federal trademark protection law and protect the most precious symbols of The American Legion — our more than 40 trademarked images and emblems — there are long-standing rules that apply to posts, post committees, post activities and sponsored programs including American Legion Baseball teams, American Legion Amateur Radio clubs, Sons of The American Legion squadrons and American Legion Riders chapters.



Background Years ago, a subsidiary corporation of a department attempted to gain control of an emblem of The American Legion through a state court action. The state court judge granted a temporary restraining order. Immediately upon issuance of the order and well before it expired, The American Legion filed a case in federal court, with the cooperation of the department, and put an end to the matter. The subsidiary was dissolved. This was all done in accordance with Resolution No. 11, adopted by the NEC on May 4-5, 2005.

Result Trademark law requires that The American Legion be certain that its name and emblem are used exclusively for those purposes determined by The American Legion. The American Legion has no choice or room to maneuver in this area of the law. However, we do know that once a court rules on a trademark matter, it's too late. One of the tests to show exclusive use and to protect the emblem is "constant and continuous control."



In this context, departments and posts may have subsidiary corporations or groups such as a trust or foundation if they so desire. The department, or post, needs to request the national adjutant's permission for the group to use the name and/or emblem of The American Legion. Moreover, because of the requirements of the trademark law, such subsidiary programs, trusts or foundations — including Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Riders — must meet the following requirements:

1. All officers, directors, trustees, etc. must be named by the post (usually nominated by the membership but ultimately named and installed by the post). Sons squadrons, Riders chapters and similar activities are often granted the courtesy of holding elections for

program officers. These elections serve only as nominations. The officers must be named or installed by the post commander or general membership.

2. All vacancies in subsidiary programs must be filled (named) by the post. The post will name the replacement for any program chairman or officer unable to complete the term of appointment.

3. The subsidiary program officers must report to the post on program activities no less frequently than monthly.

These reports must include financial reports. In months without activity, a "Nothing to Report" will serve.

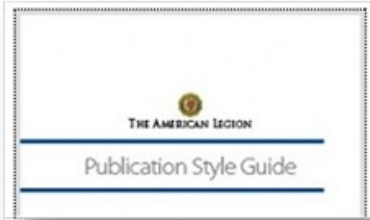


4. The post treasurer or finance officer must be signatory on all accounts. These officers are responsible for annual tax reporting and other requirements and must have access to all accounts at all times.

5. All amendments to program articles of incorporation or by-laws must be approved by the post. SAL constitutions and bylaws, and ALR constitutions and bylaws — or "standing rules" — are not valid until approved by the sponsoring post.

NATIONAL TRAINING

New American Legion Publication Style Guide available



This style guide has been developed to assist American Legion staff and volunteers to be as consistent as possible in all written communications. The ultimate goal is for articles, press releases, social media posts, brochures, booklets and other published material to have a uniform style. This

booklet does not replace rules and regulations adopted at local posts or individual departments; however, it is designed to offer guidance as to established norms, and is highly recommended for use at every level of the organization.

Sections include quick tips; the use of abbreviations, acronyms and capitalization; titles; and military terms and ranks. The style guide can be downloaded at: www.legion.org/publications.

Leadership, Education And Training

The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) 2 hour training module



Is your post ready to support your community in times of crisis? Are your members able to provide real-time support to local first responders and fellow Legion Family members?

Learn about TALARC – The American Legion Amateur Radio Club - and the opportunities for membership growth under this new and dynamic program. Students will learn how to incorporate “ham” radio as a new post program supporting disaster preparedness and emergency response, Boy Scouts, STEM courses in local schools, National Emergency Fund (NEF), or simply as a new and fun activity for post membership.

LEAD offers more than 30 different training classes, usually two hours in length, presented by national staff who are subject matter experts. A new cap/lapel pin will be presented to each participant who completes, at the minimum, eight hours of LEAD training.

For specific information regarding each individual training module, or LEAD in general, contact your department headquarters.

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

★ Under Construction ★

The progress of Department Headquarters parking lot. The lower half is now complete. In a couple weeks construction will begin on the upper half.

Replacement was necessary with the rapid deterioration of the 30 plus year old asphalt.



2017—2018 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
08/06/2017	3RD DIVISION	1:00 PM	MILAN POST 569 (ORGANIZATIONAL)	MILAN
08/06/2017	4TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	FARMER CITY POST 55 (ORGANIZATIONAL)	FARMER CITY
08/24/2017	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	BLUE ISLAND POST 50	BLUE ISLAND
09/15/2017	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	DEERFIELD POST 738	DEERFIELD
09/20/2017	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	LINCOLNWOOD POST 1226	LINCOLNWOOD
09/28/2017	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	PARK FOREST POST 1198	CHICAGO HEIGHTS
10/01/2017	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	EDWIN CORPIN POST 905	KINCAID
10/08/2017	24TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	WEST SALEM POST 658	WEST SALEM
10/15/2017	3RD DIVISION	1:00 PM	ABINGDON POST 381	ABINGDON
10/18/2017	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	GEO. W. BENJAMIN POST 791	NORTHBROOK
10/20/2017	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	MCKINLOCK POST 264	LAKE FOREST
10/26/2017	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	CHICAGO HEIGHTS POST 131	S CHICAGO HEIGHTS
10/29/2017	4TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	RUEL-NEAL POST 79	LEROY
11/05/2017	23RD DISTRICT	1:00 PM	MT. VERNON POST 141	MT. VERNON

It's that time of year again. If your District or Division would like your scheduled meeting dates, time and location posted in the Department News please submit them to:
American Legion, Dept. of IL ~ P.O. Box 2910 Bloomington, IL 61702 ~ ATTN: JOY WILSON
 If you have internet access you may email your schedule to: joywilson@illegion.org

NOTE: Please remember if any changes or updates regarding said posted meetings occur submit them as soon as possible to Joy Wilson in writing (or Email).

YOUTH PROGRAM DATES TO REMEMBER

★ Oratorical Contest--March 3, 2018*

(*new location—Crowne Plaza Springfield)

★ Boys State--June 9th-15th, 2018

★ Illini Girls State--June 17th-23rd, 2018

★ Youth Police---June 24th-29th, 2018



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 Web: www.illegion.org

Department Commander Department Editor
ROBERT "Bob" HENDERSON 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 months issue.

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

AUGUST TRIVIA DID YOU KNOW?

- Who distanced herself from politics by changing her last name to Davis at 22?
- Who piloted the first airplane to suffer a passenger fatality, in 1908?
- What river was Hernando De Soto the first white man to see and be buried in?
- Who was known as "Tanya" after a 1974 San Francisco bank robbery?
- What seventh king of Israel shares his name with a Herman Melville literary character?

Visit our website!
Scan Here



Veterans & Gold Star Family Day
at the Illinois State Fair



August 13, 2017

ANSWERS:

- Patti Reagan.
- Orville Wright.
- The Mississippi River.
- Patti Hearst.
- Ahab.

