



2017–2018 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROBERT “BOB” HENDERSON

NOVEMBER 2017



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF  
NOVEMBER 3, 2017

### TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District	Commander
7	Bickley
13	Kraut
8	Cooper, Jr.
16	Hinton
18	Torbet
17	Hesel
22	Gindler
10	Hellquist
1	Mittelsteadt
19	Coventry

Division	Commander
3	AARON
4	HOFFMAN
2	ABDELNOUR
1	SICILIANO
5	ROSCOW

# NOVEMBER IS... MEMBERSHIP RETENTION MONTH

**Working and volunteering** in communities, states and around the world, The American Legion has been dedicated to veterans, troops, national security, youth and patriotism since its founding nearly century ago.

More than 2.1 million wartime veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces are members of The American Legion. Joining them are nearly 1 million members of the American Legion Auxiliary, the nation’s largest patriotic women’s association, and more than 360,000 Sons of The American Legion, male descendants of U.S. wartime veterans. They work as one great American Legion Family of shared values, at more than 13,500 local posts worldwide, in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America and Asia.

As a federally chartered organization, The American Legion upholds a sacred duty to provide free expert assistance for all who have served our country in the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as their families.

The American Legion is at work today in rural towns, urban neighborhoods, military installations and college campuses everywhere.

Each local post has its own unique identity, but they are all connected by common core values. A post in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, for instance, provides care for children with cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome and other serious diseases. The American Legion in Wyoming coordinates the state high school rodeo championships.

An American Legion post in central California operates a multi-county ambu-

lance service. Another, in Alabama, offers after-school mentorship for students seeking direction. A post in Connecticut built, owns and operates a housing facility to help homeless veterans restart their lives.

Local examples of The American Legion’s highest values are found worldwide, where differences are made daily for individuals, communities, states and the nation.

The Legion’s fastest-growing membership segment is the post-9/11 generation. More than 100,000 strong and increasing, these young veterans help lead the organization in every way, alongside those who served in Desert Storm/Desert Shield, Grenada, Panama, Lebanon, Vietnam, Korea and World War II. No matter the war era, our members are indelibly connected through love of country, hope for the future, remembrance of the fallen and duty before self.

***The Constitution.***

***Law and order.***

***Americanism.***

***Memories of the Great Wars.***

***Individual obligation.***

***Peace, good will, prosperity, justice, freedom and devotion to mutual helpfulness.***

Such values are embedded in the language of the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution. Generation after generation, one century to the next, the words have come to define a purpose as meaningful today as ever before.

*(Continued on page 9)*



## From The Desk of Department Commander Bob Henderson



Membership is going well, however we are behind last year so we need to pick it up a little more. I want to thank everybody for what they have done this year.

National's Fall Committee & Commission meetings are history so now we are moving on. The Division & District Workshop for Division & District Commanders & Sr. Vice's were a success. I hope YOU use what YOU learned at the workshop. Most of the Districts are using their Membership Committees with great success. If you need any help please feel free to call me. (217)714-5131

November is pretty busy with everybody out getting membership. There are some Caravans going on around the State which will bring in Membership.

The Utica Parade is on November 5, 2017. We don't want to forget Veterans

Day on November 11. There will be a lot of Parades and Post home dinners for all Veterans across the State.

The 1st Post 100% Cash Award and Gold Pin Cut off is November 14, 2017 at 1:00 PM. Get those members renewed. The National Commander wants all the renewals in by December 31, 2017 if at all possible.

The Egyptian Past Commanders Jamboree on November 17-19 at The HAVEN in Carbondale. Get your reservations in for the Jamboree.

The Gift to Yanks presents should have been ordered by November 1, 2017. If you didn't get them ordered get your post to have a benefit for presents for Veterans for Christmas. Then take the gifts to your nursing homes. Don't forget to sit down and talk with the Veterans they need someone to talk too. If you don't have Veterans in your area just donate to the Gift to Yanks Who Gave, this will help all veterans in the state.

Now is the time to be working on getting BOYS signed up for BOYS STATE.

We need more boys in Premier Boys State. They are out there just go out to your schools, churches, & communities and sign them up, they don't have to be "A" students or athletes. "B" & "C" students and non-athletes benefit from this program as well. If you can't find a Boy in your area to go, DONATE to PREMIER BOYS STATE.

I am asking that all Officers in the state to take the training course on the legion web site. All you have to do is go to legion.org/training. When you do this it will come up Training/American Legion click on this and the next page will be a picture under that picture will be the words take basic training. Click on take basic training, that will bring you to the next page. You will click on Register, then follow the directions and you are in, just do what they tell you.

I wish you a Blessed Thanksgiving and WANT TO THANK ALL OUR LEGIONNAIRES FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION, EVERYBODY IS DOING A GOOD JOB!



## From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Micheal Carder



I hope everyone had a great Halloween and went easy on the apple cider and donuts.

As of October 20, 2017 the membership for the department was at 66% which is good for this time of the year and the department has been ranking between 5th and 12th place nationally. However, all is not good in membership because as a whole compared to last year the department is down by 3,000 renewals.

The weekend of October 21-22 a

Officers Workshop was held at Department Headquarters. Commander Bob, Chad Woodburn and myself discussed membership and many other subjects with the Division and District Commanders, Senior and Junior Vice Commanders. I feel that all are on the right path towards our goal of 100% membership.

Division and District Officers were challenged to reach out to their posts and to see where they are having problems. If a post is having problems help them fix the problems. They were also reminded that if they had a post whose membership below 15, they should merge that post with another post in their district. The commanders were asked if they were communi-

cating with their post commanders to check to see if they are communicating with their members. Now is the time to start phone calls, knock on doors make a personal contact. If you need recruiting material, or door hangers when door knocking contact the Department Print shop they will get you what you need.

**REVITALIZATIONS**—Are there any posts in districts that honestly need a revitalization? As of October there was one revitalization requested and that was the 22d District. At this time last year there were approximately 3-4 revitalizations planned and as of this writing the 19th District has just requested a revitalization. That's a

*(Dept. SVC continued on page 4)*



## From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Marsha Haag



**G**reetings from the American Legion Auxiliary!!!

Our members are off and running gathering renewals, seeking new members and working the programs of the ALA. It is very impressive to hear their success stories. On our Fall Forum stops, they have shared what all they have been doing and how their plans are taking shape for holiday parties for kids, holiday gift shops, blood drives, clothing drives, collecting school supplies and so much more. They are "Striving For Gold For Our Veterans".

Many good things are happening. On Oct, 30<sup>th</sup> there was a groundbreaking for a new monument. Iwojima Medal of Honor recipient Woody Williams Foundation has been instrumental in constructing this to honoring the Gold Families. What a wonderful tribute!

Plans are underway for the National membership caravan January 11-20, 2018. Our membership chairman, Janet, has made one of our awards to be given to a Unit who brings the most participants to the Fall Forums as well

as to the caravan. So PLEASE, encourage your Unit members to attend, bring membership, hear our speaker from National, and enjoy fellowship with us. Watch an upcoming publication for dates and times. Our membership theme, "Working Together We Will Build A Strong Team", encourages unity. We can do this if we work together cordially and remember why we joined. We are here to serve the mission of the ALA. For Service, not Self. See You Soon.

Special projects this year are 2-fold. One I have chosen 1Pet1Vet which is a service based in Lemont and the training facility is near Manteno. It puts a service dog with a Veteran with PTSD or TBI. These animals and vets are matched, go through training and successful completion, graduate. From birth til graduation, the dogs are owned by 1Pet1Vet and of course, like any pet, have expenses. Donations can be made to them monetarily or physically. Examples include: leashes, leads, beds, blankets, collars, food, treats, shampoo and such. They have a website with a lot of information regarding their organization. Yes, they are a 501 C3. I have had the opportunity to visit and watch a training session. It is intense but fun.

Our ALA Illini Girls State committee is busy organizing for this year's session. If you have young ladies interested, contact your Units to see what they need to do to apply. We have room for approx., 500 citizens and we'd like to fill all the space. Please consider helping by sponsoring a citizen if your Unit needs help. It is a wonderful week. I know the girls have a great time and so does the staff.

Ladies and Gentleman, I hope you have the opportunity to celebrate Veteran's Day. Most Post and Units have a commemoration in your honor. Thank you for your service.

Hope to see many of you at the Egyptian Jamboree toward the end of the month.

## Happy Thanksgiving!



## From The Desk of Detachment Commander Paul A. Hayse



**W**hen I was young, I remember I would go with my Father once a week to take medicine out to the White County Nursing Home in Carmi, IL. It was a facility mostly for World War I Veterans. We would stay and talk and listen to some of the stories of the veterans there. My sister and my mother

would visit on Saturdays.

It is etched in my mind, the people living out their last days there.

These veterans and the veterans of today gave without knowing where or sometimes why they were fighting in a foreign country. It is only through their service that we are living the life we are today.

I am proud to be a member of The Sons of the American Legion and proud to be part of the Legion Family.

Let us always remember the heritage of our forefathers, the sacrifice of their youth, and their service to community, state and nation.

With Veterans Day coming up we all should take time to thank a veteran for what they have given us.



# Did You Know?

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

That I have been a veterans' advocate for over 43 years and from my first year working for the Veterans Administration I heard rumors. My claimants would say they heard from a friend of a friend, scuttlebutt, barracks lawyers and the "know it all" vets. These rumors ranged from the unbelievable to some with a grain of truth. So to continue my tradition, here are some more rumors from the RUMOR MILL.

I have been rated 10% for tinnitus over twenty years ago and it's worse. I was told to file for an increase. SORRY, 10% is the maximum allowed for tinnitus. But do you have a Bilateral Hearing Loss which you never filed for? They are two distinct medical conditions.

My current Power of Attorney is the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and they are working on my appeal. I want to file an entirely different claim and was told the American Legion could help. SORRY AGAIN, the VA only allows one veterans group at a time to represent you on ALL claims. However once the appeal is over we could assist you.

I have a service-connected skin condition and I use medication for that. It stains my clothes. I was told I could apply for an annual clothing allowance. TRUE, you should apply and if eligible the one-time yearly payment is currently over \$700.

I have been rated 100% for over 17 years. I was advised that if I was rated 100% over 15 years my surviving spouse would automatically qualify for benefits no matter what the cause of death. WRONG, it's only 10 years.

My buddy said I could use my VA home loan to buy a nice vacation home up north. I currently spend most of my time in Chicago but if I had a cabin in Wisconsin I would spend at least 2 months a year there. SORRY, for the home loan program you must live in the property over 50% of the time.

My husband married before and had a messy divorce. So he never put me on the title to his home but left it to me in his will. Now that he passed away I was told I can't get the property tax exemption for service-connected disabled vets that he qualified for while alive. CORRECT, the spouses name must be on the title at time of death for the exemption to pass to the surviving spouse. (The American Legion is trying to get that state law changed).

Well that's all for now. Keep your cards and letters coming, and of course your e-mails and telephone calls. Remember the only dumb question is the one that was never asked.

**THIS THANKSGIVING LET US NOT ONLY THANK GOD FOR ALL OUR BLESSINGS BUT ALSO OUR VETERANS FOR ALL OUR FREEDOMS**

(Dept. SVC continued from page 2)  
start. In looking at the membership report I see there are other districts that need the help of a revitalization. Districts— you can also do your own revitalization without Department, just contact Chad Woodburn and he will get you the required membership lists.

REMINDER—Veterans Day is the first cutoff day for membership rewards and that goal is 75% membership. All posts who have reached 100% or higher will receive a cash reward. THAT DATE IS NOVEMBER 14, 2017.





*From The Desk of American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State  
Chairman Christopher Benigno*

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

**G**reetings to all. American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State has been writing monthly articles in the department newsletters for several years. Our hopes are that those of you that receive this will share it with others. Please read it at your respective post, county, district and division meetings. The new brochures and applications are available from our department print shop and can be ordered when needed. We hope that every post has visited their high schools at this point and have built or renewed those relationships. When speaking to the high school representatives remember that in addition to the guidance counselors it is beneficial to contact the government, political science, social studies, debate and speech teachers. We would also suggest reaching out to those involved in their student governments. Last year we declined in attendance and would like to see our efforts reach over 500 boys this year, but we need every post to be involved. We would like to thank all of you in advance for your support and your assistance in preserving our program as the premier boys state program in the nation.

## The 2018 American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State application and brochure are BOTH now available.



(ABOVE) Legion family attending the Gold Star Memorial ground breaking ceremony in Springfield. (RIGHT) Chad with Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams.

### New Oak Ridge Cemetery monument will honor Gold Star Families

(OCT. 30, 2017) Ground was broken Monday on a monument in Oak Ridge Cemetery that will honor the families of service men and women killed in the line of duty. The Gold Star Families Memorial Monument will be built on a knoll overlooking the veterans memorials at the Springfield cemetery. The monument will stand 6 feet tall at its peak, about 14 feet wide and include a silhouette of Hershel "Woody" Williams, a World War II veteran and Medal of Honor recipient who has spearheaded the erection of similar monuments in 26 states. The monument will read: **"A tribute to Gold Star Families and relatives who sacrificed a loved one for our freedom."**

Williams, 94, who attended Monday's ceremony at Oak Ridge, was born on a dairy farm in 1923 in Quiet Dell, West Virginia. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served in the Battle of Iwo Jima with the 21st Marines, 3rd Marine Division. Covered by four riflemen, Williams fought desperately for four hours under enemy small-arms fire and repeatedly returned to his own lines to prepare demolition charges and obtain serviced flamethrowers, his biography says. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his "aggressive fighting spirit and valiant devotion to duty." On Monday, Williams said his goal with the monuments is to honor families of service men and women and perhaps aid in the healing process. "This is isn't about me. This is about them," Williams said referring to Gold Star families. A number of Gold Star families attended the event.

Jerry Young said the ceremony was emotional for him, and he was grateful for the effort to construct a monument for Gold Star families. His son, James "Chad" Young, a 25-year-old Glenwood High School graduate, was fatally wounded when insurgents attacked his vehicle with an improvised explosive device in Kandahar province in southern Afghanistan in 2010.

"Their names must be seen, their names must be spoken and their names must be heard," Young said about soldiers killed in the line of duty.

Legion Family in attendance was Department Commander Bob Henderson, Department President Marsha Hagg, Past National Commander/ Department Adjutant Marty Conatser, Commander's Aide Larry Workman, Department Membership Director Chad Woodburn, Department Senior Vice Commander Michael Carder, NEC Bernie Stegmueller and Department Historian Paul Garrett.



(LEFT) Chad Woodburn with Medal of Honor recipient Lt. Col. Hal Fritz.  
(RIGHT) Visiting with PNC Marty Conatser who was the MC at the Gold Star Memorial.

## Gary Jenson Set to Retire



After 8 years working devotedly as Department Assistant Adjutant for The American Legion Department of Illinois, Gary Jenson is set to retire on November 30, 2017.

Gary joined the Department Headquarters staff November 16, 2009 after having served at Post, District and Division levels. Since then, he has meticulously worked assisting the Department Adjutant and Department Staff, as well as the many of The American Legion programs.

Gary joined the Navy in 1966 and served through 1970, being based in Pearl Harbor. While serving his tour, he was everywhere from Hawaii to up and down the DMZ coast of Viet Nam. His ship was an Auxiliary Rescue and Salvage ship—ARS22.

After his military service he went to work for a few large hotels around O'Hare Airport. He then went to United Airlines where he worked his way up from cook (in the flight kitchens) to a Sous Chef, then as a senior buyer before retiring after 9-11 with 25 years of service.

Gary is a 36 continuous year member of The American Legion, currently a member of Lake In The Hills American Legion Post 1231.

Gary, a resident of Algonquin for over 38 years and Bloomington for the past 8, has been married to Gloria for the past 43 years. They have 2 daughters, Christine and Jessica and 6 grandchildren.

A Retirement Reception will be held on November 22nd at Department Headquarters. All well-wishers are welcome to call or send cards Congratulating his Retirement and thanking him for his service.



## The American Legion Reaffirms Position for “Strong America”



INDIANAPOLIS – In response to recent headlines about a divided country, The American Legion’s board of directors unanimously passed a national resolution titled “Reaffirmation for a strong America.”

In a meeting today in Indianapolis, the organization’s National Executive Committee passed the statement which reaffirms the Legion’s “unwavering support for the American way of life” under the U.S. Constitution, and “urges Americans and freedom-loving peoples everywhere to stand united in their respect” for each other, for military troops and law enforcement officials. It states that law enforcement officials “have the duty and responsibility of providing an orderly process to our way of life.”

“It’s time we spoke up and have our voice heard as we stand up for this country and for the principles upon which The American Legion was founded,” said Americanism Commission Chairman Rich Anderson, adding that the resolution calls for unity and respect. “It cannot be disputed that we are a nation of diverse people having diverse perspectives, but I am confident that coming together as Legionnaires and especially as proud Americans alike, that

a 100 percent Americanism will persevere.”

A complete text of the resolution can be found on [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) . With a current membership of 2 million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 13,000 posts across the nation.

# The American Legion Three Position Air Rifle Tournament

The American Legion Americanism Division annually presents its Junior Three Position Air Rifle

Tournament. This world class competition provides American Legion Affiliated youth competitors an opportunity to test their marksmanship ability in competition with other junior competitors throughout the nation.

The competition begins on **November 1, 2017** with a Postal Match; a match in which competitor's fire on their home ranges using targets that have been marked for identification. The fired targets are then returned to the American Legion for scoring and ranking for awards. Annually more than 1,300 individuals and 200 teams participate.

The tournament is divided into three rounds of exciting competition.

The First Round team tournament is a "paper" match and will be comprised of the top four athletes' individual tournament scores. A club with at least four individuals enters on team; at least eight individuals enters two teams; and so on.

The First Round and Second Round of the Individual Tournament are postal matches, whereas the Third Round is



the Individual National Championship and a shoulder-to-shoulder competition.

The American Legion Individual Three Position Air Rifle National Championships is held in July at the USA Shooting range facility located at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The winners in both the Precision and Sporter category will each receive a **\$5,000.00** college scholarship provided in part by The American Legion and The Sons of the American Legion. The two winners are also honored as part of the Youth Champions Delegation during the American Legion National Convention.

Additionally, a **\$1,000.00** college scholarship will be awarded to the second place finishers in both the Sporter and Precision categories. This scholarship is being generously provided by The American Legion Auxiliary.

To join our Postal Competition please visit [www.legion.org/shooting/postal-match](http://www.legion.org/shooting/postal-match) for details.



## Grunt Fest 6

By Gary Jenson, Department  
Assistant Adjutant

The Illinois American Legion Dept. HQ was approached by Grunt Fest to be a part of an upcoming event that was held October 21st. They called the event Grunt Fest 6 Windy City Wild Card that was held at the Kane County Cougars grounds. They wanted The American Legion to be a part of their event in order to meet our Post 9-11 veterans and we would be the only veterans organization there.

For an October event the weather was beautiful temperatures in the low 70's. The American Legion tent was maned by the Department Assistant Adjutant Gary Jenson, and members of the Tattler post 973 Roberto Heredia, Richard Richardson, James Kapp, Michael Mlekowski, (and their spouses), Scott Miller and David Baughman from National Headquarters.

There were over a thousand 9-11 veterans in attendance. We spoke with a good majority of them, and let them know what The American Legion is all about. There were a lot of different activities going on and seemed to be a fun day for everyone. It was a pleasure to attend this event that gave The American Legion a little added exposure to the young veterans.



**Flu Season is here! Veterans protect yourselves and get a NO COST flu shot!**

The cold and flu season is upon us and the Department of Veterans Affairs has once again teamed up with Walgreens Pharmacies nationwide to allow all veterans who are currently enrolled in the VA healthcare system to be able walk into any of the over 8000 Walgreens nationally (and the Duane Reade pharmacies in the New York metropolitan area) to receive a vaccination **at no cost**. Vaccinations will be available through March 31, 2018.

Veterans wishing to receive the no cost vaccination simply need to present a Veterans Identification Card and a photo ID, at any participating Walgreens to receive the vaccination. The Group ID is: **VAFU**

In addition, after the Walgreens pharmacist administers the vaccine Walgreens will transmit that information securely to VA where it becomes part of the patient's electronic medical record.

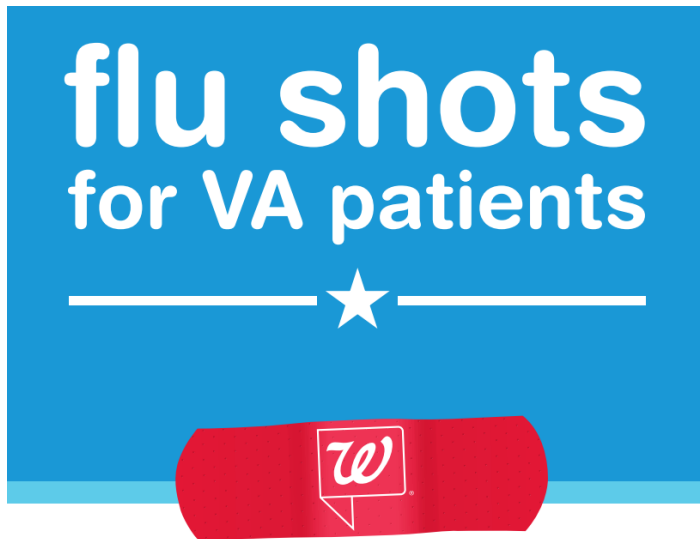
VA is committed to keeping Veteran patients healthy, and during this flu season, vaccination is the best way to prevent the spread of flu. No matter where you live, visit your local VA clinic or Walgreens to get a no cost flu shot.

To find your local VA, visit [va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp](http://va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp).

To locate a Walgreens store near you, call 800-WALGREENS (800-925-4733), or go to [com/findastore](http://com/findastore).

To learn more about the partnership, call 1-877-771-8537 or visit <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/immunization.asp>.

To get more information on flu and flu vaccine, visit [publichealth.va.gov/flu](http://publichealth.va.gov/flu) or [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu).



No cost to you\* | Records updated with VA  
Just walk into your local Walgreens

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**



National Legion College  
Indianapolis, IN  
October 29th--November 3rd  
~ ~ ~

**Veterans Day**  
**November 11th**  
~ ~ ~

75 % Target Date  
November 13th  
~ ~ ~

1st 100% Post Cash Award  
1:00 PM Cut-off  
& Gold Pin 1:00 PM Cut-off  
November 14th  
~ ~ ~

Egyptian Past Commander's  
Jamboree  
(THE HAVEN--CARBONDALE)  
November 17th--19th  
~ ~ ~

**Thanksgiving Day**  
**DEPT OFFICE CLOSED**  
**November 23rd--24th**  
~ ~ ~

SAL Winter D.E.C  
Edgewood Post 1168  
December 9th  
~ ~ ~

**Christmas Day**  
**DEPT OFFICE CLOSED**  
**December 25th--26th**  
~ ~ ~

85% Target Date  
December 31st  
~ ~ ~

New Year's Eve  
December 31st  
~ ~ ~

**New Year's Day**  
**DEPT OFFICE CLOSED**  
**January 1st**  
# # #



## SERVICES THAT MAKE DIFFERENCES

- ★ **Representing at no cost** more than 700,000 veterans and their families seeking VA disability and medical benefits every day.
- ★ **Participating in more than 1,000 job fairs** and other career events for veterans and their families every year nationwide.
- ★ **Fighting for fair conversion** of military experience into credit hours for civilian careers in specialized fields such as emergency medicine, commercial driving, civil engineering and hazardous materials handling.
- ★ **Providing comfort items** for hospitalized military personnel recovering from wounds and illnesses.
- ★ **Supporting and helping** homeless veterans.
- ★ **Spending millions of volunteer hours** at VA medical facilities at an estimated annual value of \$20 million.
- ★ **Supporting veterans** suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.
- ★ **Addressing and lobbying Congress** and the White House to provide timely VA health care, efficient benefits processing, effective GI Bill education provisions, a decent quality of life for active-duty military personnel and other issues important to Americans.
- ★ **Assisting during natural disasters**, from converting local posts into clinics after hurricanes and tornadoes, to providing food, relief items and other needs to displaced citizens.
- ★ **Providing financial assistance** to needy military and veteran families with young children at home. **Awarding grants to organizations** that provide support for children in need.
- ★ **Awarding college scholarships** to children of U.S. servicemembers killed while on active duty since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.
- ★ **Mentoring youth through** American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation,

as well as local, state and national American Legion Oratorical Contests.

- ★ **Running hundreds of youth programs**, including more than 3,000 Scouting units, nearly 4,000 American Legion Baseball teams, dozens of Junior Shooting Sports clubs, Junior ROTC and Junior Law Cadet programs.
- ★ **Providing citizenship and naturalization** education and support for legal immigrants seeking to become Americans.
- ★ **Serving as the nation's foremost authority** on U.S. flag respect, procedures and code.
- ★ **Educating school children** on such topics as flag respect, military service, history and patriotism.
- ★ **Providing and distributing U.S. flags** for the graves of American military personnel laid to rest at overseas cemeteries.
- ★ **Demanding full accounting and repatriation**, when possible, of all U.S. military personnel listed as prisoners of war or missing in action.
- ★ **Participating at thousands of patriotic observances** and events around the world each year at the local, state, national and international levels.
- ★ **Handling honor guard services and memorial tributes** for fallen military personnel and veterans, from individual funerals to memorial dedications

## Making positive differences in America and beyond, one century to the next. Legacy & Vision: 1919-2019

VETERANS.  
YOUTH.  
DEFENSE.  
AMERICANISM.  
COMMUNITIES.

### FOR VETERANS

- ☆ Free assistance for veterans and families applying for VA benefits
- ☆ Relentless advocacy for a strong

VA health-care system

- ☆ Free representation for veterans appealing claims decisions
- ☆ More than 1,000 job fairs and career events
- ☆ Support and assistance for homeless veterans

### FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH

- ☆ American Legion Baseball Scholarships
- ☆ Flag education programs
- ☆ Oratorical competitions
- ☆ American Legion Junior Shooting Sports
- ☆ Youth Cadet Law Enforcement program
- ☆ Boys State and Boys Nation
- ☆ Junior ROTC
- ☆ Scouting

### DEFENSE

- ☆ Cash grants for military families who have temporary financial needs
- ☆ Comfort items for hospitalized military personnel
- ☆ Advocacy for fair military retirement benefits
- ☆ Family Support Network of volunteers to help military families
- ☆ Representation in Washington to support proper DoD funding
- ☆ Assistance in cases before military discharge review boards

### AMERICANISM

- ☆ National leadership in U.S. flag protection and respect
- ☆ Services to help legal immigrants become U.S. citizens
- ☆ Support for public expression of the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem

### COMMUNITY

- ☆ Honor and remembrance of those who served and sacrificed
- ☆ Emergency relief in times of natural disaster
- ☆ Leadership at patriotic ceremonies and special events
- ☆ Connections with local schools and home-school students
- ☆ Numerous local programs and initiatives, tailored to each community's needs

###

# WILLS FOR HEROES - Chicago Bar Association

The Wills for Heroes Foundation provides essential estate planning documents free of charge to our nation's veterans and first responders. The Chicago Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section and Exelon have partnered with the national Wills for Heroes Foundation to offer this service in Chicago. At our events, volunteer attorneys, who need no experience, prepare basic Wills and powers of attorney for first responders and veterans and their spouses or partners. They will be hosting another one on November 18th. Here is the link, to the information page

[http://www.chicagobar.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Wills for Heroes.](http://www.chicagobar.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Wills%20for%20Heroes)

## Legacy Run for The Haven

The 2nd Annual Haven Run kicked off October 7th with a roar of motorcycles from Louisville Post 914 working its way through posts at Effingham, arriving at New Baden for lunch, then on to Prairie du Rocher. The run culminated with its final stop at Marion Post 147. Participants there enjoyed dinner entertainment and dancing. This event included observation of the post's annual Punch Bowl Ceremony, 50/50 drawings and silent auctions. The proceeds of all these activities plus donations by the Marion Post 147 Women's Auxiliary were presented at the Haven on Sunday morning, October 8th in the amount of \$3,216.51. A special donation of paper goods and plastic ware was also provided at that time by Post 914. We were encouraged by riders who participated outside the 5th Division area. Dave Johnson 12th District Commander joined us on his bike along with Chad Woodburn, Department Membership Director. We look forward to more riders from across the state joining The Haven Run next year.



(L - R) Jeff Trout, SAL 5th Division Commander, Bill Slider, Haven POA, Roy Smith, Haven Board Vice President, and Maribeth Whitsel, President 5th Division Women's Auxiliary

## Bad weather not an obstacle for Legion Riders

Temperatures around American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis dipped to the 30s in late October. The first major snowstorm of the year blanketed Minnesota, and parts of Michigan and Wisconsin around the same.

While some states are still enjoying early fall weather, others already are bracing for the cold winter months. And despite freezing temperatures and occasional winter precipitation, American Legion Riders in those states will continue with business as usual.

Weather often doesn't get in the way of Legion Riders' efforts in assisting those in their communities and honoring the fallen. While some Riders chapters may adjust what they do, the mission remains the same: helping and/or honoring others.

When it comes to the latter, the Department of Wisconsin Legion Riders have excelled. Since 2012, they've raised money to participate in a [Wreaths Across America](#) event in their state in December. The Wisconsin Legion Riders have raised funds for thousands on wreaths to be placed on the Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Waupaca.

That's just one story. Below are just a few of what Legion Riders shared on the ALR National [Facebook page](#) about what they do when the temps drop and the snow begins.

☆ *Danville, Ill., Chapter 210. John Pigg said the chapter does a Christmas program for children at the local homeless veteran and family house, where nine families and 53 other homeless veterans reside. The chapter also volunteers at the local Department of Veterans Affairs facility and is active with Wreaths Across America at Danville National Cemetery. "We help a local church feed veterans for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and provide food baskets for needy veterans in the area," Pigg said. "We stay very busy even though some days we can't ride."*

For other stories go to:

<https://www.legion.org/riders/239783/bad-weather-not-obstacle-legion-riders>



## 20 Youth nationwide receive Samsung American Legion Scholarship

# SAMSUNG



Out of more than 5,300 applicants, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship for 2017 was awarded to 20 youth with a scholarship of up to \$10,000 for undergraduate study. And 79 department finalists each received \$1,250.

The recipients earned the award based on several criteria, including participation in American Legion Boys State or Auxiliary Girl State and being a direct descendant of a wartime veteran eligible for American Legion membership.

The recipients were announced during the Legion's annual Fall Meetings in Indianapolis on Oct. 11th.

### The 20 Samsung Scholars are:

Jack Gardner of California

Michael Zendejas of Washington

Heather Stout of Utah

Trevor Goldsmith of Nevada

Grayson Stinger of Kentucky

Nathaniel Boerner of Ohio

Claire Seibel of Virginia

Jerry Lacy of West Virginia

Connor Wagaman of Delaware

Cormac Mahoney of New Hampshire

Krista Flinkstrom of Massachusetts

Jennifer Magnoli of Connecticut

Daniel O'Hara of Iowa

Lauren Gateley of Missouri

Margaret Kleiman of Minnesota

Ryan Albrecht of Minnesota

Nathan Alvarez of Louisiana

Alexa Lowman of Florida

Lindsay Fincher of Alabama

Luke Long of Arkansas

Since Samsung bestowed an endowment to the Legion in 1995 for the establishment of a scholarship fund for family members of U.S. citizens who are war veterans, more than \$5.7 million has been awarded. The gesture was inspired by the support of the U.S. troops that came to the aid of South Korea while defending themselves against opposing Chinese and North Korean forces.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is available for high school juniors who participate in the current session of Boys State or Girls State and are direct descendants (or legally adopted children) of wartime veterans eligible for American Legion membership. The Samsung scholarship awards up to \$20,000 for undergraduate studies (e.g., room and board, tuition and books), and each applicant is selected according to his or her involvement in school and community activities, academic record and financial need.



## TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RULES CHANGE

There is a dramatic change in the rules on the American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance program effective November 1, 2017. The first BIG change is that the applicant must be active military or A Legion member in good standing. The most money that one client can apply for is \$1,500.00. So no more applications from veterans who are not active duty or a Legion member not in good standing.

# 2017 Veterans Day Free Meals, Discounts, Sales and Deals

## by MilitaryBenefits

2017 Veterans Day discounts, free meals, deals and sales. Veterans Day 2017 will be on Saturday, November 11th, 2017 and designated as a Federal Holiday on Friday, November 10th, 2017.

**Reminder: presentation of military ID is required for most offers.**

For information on National Retail and Services Offered or Local Veterans Day Offers, visit...

<https://militarybenefits.info/veterans-day-discounts-sales-deals-free-meals/>

### Most offers are Veterans Day only

- ☆ BJ's Restaurant
- ☆ Firebirds Wood Fired Grill
- ☆ Applebee's
- ☆ Arooga's Grille House & Sports Bar
- ☆ Back Yard Burgers
- ☆ Bob Evans
- ☆ Bonanza Steakhouse
- ☆ Bruegger's Bagels
- ☆ Cattlemens Steakhouse
- ☆ Cicis Pizza
- ☆ Cotton Patch Café
- ☆ Cracker Barrel Old Country Store
- ☆ Friendly's
- ☆ Hickory Tavern
- ☆ Hy-Vee Free Breakfast
- ☆ K&W Cafeteria
- ☆ Little Caesars Pizza
- ☆ Lucille's Smokehouse Bar-B-Que
- ☆ Mimi's Café
- ☆ Mission BBQ
- ☆ On The Border
- ☆ Ponderosa Steakhouses
- ☆ Ruby's Diner
- ☆ Shari's Café
- ☆ Shoney's
- ☆ Sizzler
- ☆ Texas Roadhouse
- ☆ TGI Fridays
- ☆ Centraarchy Restaurants
- ☆ Golden Corral
- ☆ Last Year's Offers – Many of these offers will be back you will want to check with the business to see if the Veterans Day offer is still available.
- ☆ Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza
- ☆ Baker's Square Free Breakfast
- ☆ Bandana's Bar-B-Q
- ☆ Bar Louie
- ☆ Billy Sims Barbecue

- ☆ Black Angus Steakhouse
- ☆ Bonefish Grill
- ☆ Boston Market
- ☆ Bricktown Brewery
- ☆ Buffalo Wild Wings Free Wings
- ☆ California Pizza Kitchen
- ☆ Cantina Loreda
- ☆ Carlo's Bakery
- ☆ Carrows
- ☆ Charlie Brown's Steakhouse
- ☆ Chili's
- ☆ Chipotle
- ☆ Cheeseburger in Paradise
- ☆ Chevys Fresh Mex
- ☆ City Barbeque
- ☆ Coco's Bakery
- ☆ Coffee Beanery
- ☆ Country Cookin
- ☆ CraftWorks Restaurants
- ☆ ChopHouse & Brewery
- ☆ Denny's
- ☆ Dickey's Barbecue Pit
- ☆ Don Pablo's Free Appetizer
- ☆ Einstein Bros.
- ☆ Famous Dave's
- ☆ Farmer Boys
- ☆ FATZ Café
- ☆ Fazoli's
- ☆ Figaro's Free Pizza
- ☆ Granite City Food & Brewery
- ☆ Hometown Buffet
- ☆ Hooters Free Meal
- ☆ Houlihan's
- ☆ Hurricane Grill & Wings
- ☆ IHOP
- ☆ Ikea
- ☆ Krispy Kreme
- ☆ Logan's Roadhouse
- ☆ Marco's Pizza
- ☆ Max & Erma's
- ☆ Menchie's
- ☆ O'Charley's
- ☆ Old Country Buffet
- ☆ Old Chicago Pizza & Taproom
- ☆ Olive Garden
- ☆ Outback Steakhouse
- ☆ Panera Bread
- ☆ Perkins Restaurant & Bakery
- ☆ Red Lobster
- ☆ Red Robin
- ☆ Rock & Brews
- ☆ Ruby Tuesday

- ☆ Ryan's
- ☆ Sagebrush Steakhouse
- ☆ Sheetz
- ☆ Starbucks
- ☆ TA Stopping Centers
- ☆ Tahoe Joe's
- ☆ Texas De Brazil
- ☆ Texas Steakhouse & Saloon
- ☆ Tijuana Flats
- ☆ Tucanos Brazilian Grill
- ☆ Turkey Hill
- ☆ White Castle
- ☆ Wienerschnitzel
- ☆ Wild Wing Café
- ☆ World of Beer
- ☆ Yard House

### Tips Before Heading Out—

Review the official site information and rules before heading out. Many websites are listing previous years promotions that are no longer valid. We link to the official information.

Be sure to bring proof of military service, uniform photo or be in uniform. Proof of military service varies by company. See the list of states now offering a Veterans designation on a driver's license.

Pay attention to the dates on the Veterans Day offer as some offers are for days to other than Veterans Day or extended over several days.

Most of the restaurant free meals are for dine in only.

Verify that you're eligible for the offer.

You should tip your server. They're working hard to serve you and depend on the income. We recommend tipping on the actual cost of the meal.

Many of these promotions include small print that says participating locations only. Unfortunately individual franchisees may choose not to participate. Fortunately, some franchisee's participate even if the corporate company does not.

Call ahead if you're unsure about anything.

**Thank you for your service!**





CALL DEPT. HQ  
TO APPLY TODAY

**NOW  
HIRING!**  
JOIN OUR TEAM TODAY!



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

DEPARTMENT  
OF ILLINOIS

## Veterans offered free dental care in statewide initiative

About 1,350 veterans statewide will get free dental care from 300 dentists next week through a first-time program that a Normal dentist has helped to organize.

**Illinois Dentists Salute** — sponsored by the Illinois State Dental Society in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs — is an effort by 300 dentists throughout Illinois to provide 1,350 veterans with one hour each of free dental care on Nov. 10 or 11.

Nov. 11 is Veterans Day. "Veterans have served our country and protected our freedoms," said Dr. Brad Barnes of Barnes Dental Associates in Normal. Barnes is co-chair of Illinois Dentists Salute with Dr. Loren Feldner, an Orland Park dentist.

But many veterans need better access to dental care, Barnes said. According to the state dental society, veterans don't qualify for government coverage of dental services unless they are disabled, were a prisoner of war or have service-related dental issues.

"We want to honor our veterans for their service to our country," Barnes said. "If they have a dental need, we want to meet it before it affects their health in an adverse way."

Over the years, some dentists such as Barnes provided free dental care for a limited number of veterans on or around Veterans Day. But frequently those efforts were low key and the number of veterans served was small. Barnes and his dental

society colleagues decided to serve more veterans this year and developed a website ([www.illinoisdentistssalute.org](http://www.illinoisdentistssalute.org)) for dentists to offer time slots that they would be available to serve veterans without charge on Nov. 10 or 11.

Three hundred dentists, including five in McLean County, volunteered 1,350 one-hour time slots. Then the website was opened to veterans. Veterans can go to the website and put in their ZIP code to find dentists who have open time slots to see veterans on Nov. 10 or 11. Veterans make their appointment on the website and then go to that dentist's office at that time. "We didn't want our veterans to stand in line waiting," Barnes said. As of Tuesday, 250 time slots remained open.

Veterans elect to have a free dental cleaning, extraction or filling. Barnes hopes that veterans would then identify that office as their dental home and return for future dental work.

"Dentists who are participating in the Illinois Dentists Salute initiative are putting their money where their mouths are by providing critically needed dental services to our Illinois heroes," said Erica Jeffries, director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. "We are proud to partner with the Illinois State Dental Society for this special initiative and we thank them for providing this free dental service to our Illinois veterans." Jeffries encouraged veterans to register for the service. Barnes hopes the initiative becomes an annual event.



(LEFT) Commander Henderson laying wreath during the Eisenhower Pilgrimage. (RIGHT) Commander with PNC Jimmie Foster

## LODA AMERICAN LEGION Fish Fry

Loda American Legion is having a fish/chicken fry on November 10, 2017 from 4:30--7:00pm at the Loda Legion Hall located at 107 E. Adams St, Loda, IL.

Meal includes: Fish (Pollack), chicken, livers, gizzards, French fries, baked beans, green beans, potato salad, and cole slaw.

The price is **\$8.00** all you can eat but for members of the Legion Family and headquarters staff the price is **\$6.00**. Carry-outs available.

This is a one time thing to honor the veterans of this great country.

You are invited to join American Legion Edison Park Post 541 as we Honor Our Veterans on Veteran's Day November 11th, 2017.

Location: Monument Park, 6670 N. Avondale, Chicago, Illinois, 50530  
Ceremony will Start at 11 A.M. Sharp



## UIUC VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY 2017

**WHEN**  
Thursday,  
November 9, 2017

**Where**  
Gregory Hall 112

**What**  
Join the Fighting Illini Army ROTC Battalion and Air Force ROTC Det. 190 to commemorate those who served the United States in war and peace as members of the Armed Forces. The ceremony will include talks by two combat veterans who served with distinction in Vietnam and Iraq.

**Timeline**  
5:00-6:00 Ceremony and guest speakers (open to all)  
6:00-7:00 Social hour (all cadets, veterans, and families are welcome)

The Social Hour has been brought to you by Buffalo Wild Wings, Moe's Southwest Grill, Jimmy John's, and Pepsi



### GUEST SPEAKERS

**PHILIP E. SMITH**  
COLONEL, USAF (RET.)  
COL. SMITH IS A VETERAN OF THE VIETNAM WAR WHERE HE SERVED AS A FIGHTER PILOT. DURING THE WAR HE SERVED AS A PRISONER OF WAR IN CHINA FOR 7 YEARS. HIS DECORATIONS INCLUDE THE SILVER STAR, LEGION OF MERIT, BRONZE STAR, AND PURPLE HEART.

**GARRETT T. ANDERSON**  
SGT, US ARMY (RET.)  
SGT ANDERSON IS AN IRAQ WAR VETERAN AND FORMER INFANTRYMAN. HE IS A PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT AND CURRENT GRADUATE STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.



# 2017—2018 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST./ DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
11/04/2017	3RD DISTRICT	11:30 AM	CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY	CHICAGO
11/05/2017	23RD DISTRICT	1:00 PM	MT. VERNON POST 141	MT. VERNON
11/15/2017	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
11/16/2017	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	GLENN-MAKER POST 1160	CHICAGO RIDGE
11/17/2017	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	GURNEE POST 771 (TURKEY RAFFLE)	GURNEE
12/02/2017	3RD DISTRICT	11:30 AM	CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY	CHICAGO
12/02/2017	8TH DISTRICT	UNKNOWN	EVERGREEN PARK POST 854 (HOLIDAY HOP)	EVERGREEN PARK
01/07/2018	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	EDWARDSVILLE POST 199	EDWARDSVILLE
01/08/2018	23RD DISTRICT	1:00 PM	TEUTOPOLIS POST 924	TEUTOPOLIS
01/14/2018	24TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CARMI POST 224	CARMI
01/14/2018	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	THE HAVEN	CARBONDALE
01/17/2018	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
01/19/2018	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	SHARVIN POST 397	NORTH CHICAGO
01/21/2018	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	BREESE POST 252	BREESE
01/21/2018	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	OTIS B. DUNCAN POST 809	SPRINGFIELD

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](mailto: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



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**NOVEMBER TRIVIA?**

- Who signed Major Clark Gable's army discharge papers in 1944?
- How did the army of Persian kin Xerxes I cross the Hellespont--the strait between Europe and Asia--in 480 B.C.?
- Who was the youngest U.S. Army officer ever to be promoted to general?
- How many stars were on the American flag during the Spanish-American war in 1899?
- For what did General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing win a Pulitzer Prize in 1932?

**ANSWERS:**



1. President-to-be Ronald Reagan, then a cap-tain.
2. On two bridges of boats. Alexander the Great duplicated the feat 146 years later.
3. George Custer, a graduate of West Point, who became a general at age 23--14 years before this infamous battle.
4. Fort-five.
5. History, for his book. My Experience in the World War

★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★

**VETERANS DAY**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

"The soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war." - Douglas MacArthur

*The American Legion American Legion Auxiliary*

N S T I Z V J H W I E K W A R  
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H S P O P P Y R T P K G M P S

MEMORIAL	CELEBRATE	WAR	PATRIOT	ARMISTICE
PEACE	PARADE	SOLDIERS	BRAVE	HEROES
MEDALS	VETERANS	POPPY	REMEMBER	WORLD
HONOR	PRIDE	HOLIDAY	NOVEMBER	MILITARY