



Lincoln’s promises, and ours

By National Commander Denise H. Rohan



Fourscore and three years ago, The American Legion began a solemn tradition of honoring Abraham Lincoln. On Feb. 12, I will have the privilege of visiting Springfield, IL, and placing a wreath at the tomb of our 16th president during observances of his birthday.

The observances coincide with the 84th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln, a tradition started in 1935 by Post 32 in Illinois’ capital city.

Remarkably, the pilgrimage has had only four chairmen: World War I veteran Herbert Tragethon; World War II veteran Noel “Whitey” Moore; Vietnam War veteran Michael Walton, who coordinated the event for 35 years, until 2012; and current chairman Tony Libri, a veteran of Bosnia, Panama and Afghanistan.

Libri believes the pilgrimage is the longest-running celebration of Lincoln’s birthday in the nation. “We do this to bring attention to one of America’s greatest presidents, and since it’s his hometown, we want to honor his birth,” he says.

Though Lincoln died a half-century before the founding of The American Legion, his second inaugural address anticipated the need for such an organization. “To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan” is not just a promise to those who fought the Civil War. It is a pillar of The American Legion.

We know that the men and women in today’s armed forces fight for the country they love. Like the soldiers of Lincoln’s day, they bravely go into harm’s way knowing they might sacrifice life or limb in its defense.

It’s why The American Legion provides scholarships to the children of the fallen and severely wounded. It’s why Operation Comfort Warriors strives to meet the needs of wounded, injured or ill military personnel by providing items or recreational experiences not usually supplied by the government. It’s why the Legion has more than 3,000 accredited service officers, dedicated to helping veterans receive the benefits they have earned, free of charge and regardless of Legion membership.

As inspirational as his promise to veterans and their families remains today, another pledge Lincoln made at Gettysburg resonates, too: that “government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.” The American Legion Family understands all too well the sacrifices necessary for the survival of representative democracy.

(Lincoln’s Promise continued on page 9)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF
 JANUARY 31, 2018

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District	Commander
7	Hoffman
20	Flowers, Jr.
1	Mittelstaedt
13	Kraut
19	Coventry
22	Gindler
18	Torbet
15	Erickson, Sr.
16	Hinton
23	Huelsmann

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



From The Desk of Department Commander Bob Henderson



We are into February after a long month of trying to get members to renew or join. The Caravan was great, meeting new legionnaires and talking to everybody that showed up at each stop. I hope you got motivated by Paul Martel, he is a fantastic motivational speaker. I personally love to hear him speak, He does not use the same speech twice, they are all unbelievable. There were a lot of cards brought to each stop and hopefully Illinois moves back up in the top ten. It was great to see what Districts worked the hardest to get more cards turned in. The Posts were out there working in their Districts trying to get more members back into the fold by January 31, the 90% cut-off date for the # 1 gold pin. We can't forget to do membership just because the Caravan is over, keep going after those members that haven't paid. Think about having your own mini Caravan in each district about March 15th on The American Legion Birthday. Talk that up with the

Membership Committees and see what they think can be done. Like the Sr. Vice, Mike Carder said on the Caravan, It is Bloody knuckle time. In other words it is time to go out and knock on doors. I want to thank you for what you are doing and what you have done for membership and the American Legion. You are doing a fantastic job. Go out there and get that last 20% that hasn't paid or renewed

In the first week of February there is going to be a revitalization in the 9th District at Franklin Post # 974. There are still some openings left to get a revitalization set up in your District, call Chad Woodburn and get one set up.

Lincoln Pilgrimage is coming up pretty fast, it will be held on February 11 & 12 in Springfield IL. You need to get your Hotel reservation in at the Wyndham and reservations in for the breakfast & the luncheon on the 12th. After the breakfast we will be departing for the tomb where there will be a Ceremonies and wreath laying. Then return to the hotel for the Commemoration luncheon.

It does not stop there, on February 17, 2018 there will be a Division and District

Jr. & Sr. Vice Commanders training. This is a mandatory meeting, we want to get those attending, the information they are going to need next year to help them do their job. Then on February 25th thru the 28th there is the Washington Conference. We are going to meet with all the Senators and Representatives to see where they stand on Veterans issues.

There should be work already in progress on the Department Oratorical. It will be held in Springfield, IL at the Crown Plaza Hotel and Conference Center on March the 2nd & 3rd.

If you haven't taken the National training course on line, please do. Go to Americanlegion.org/training, the next page will say on left side take basic training hit that and you are on your way. It is free to all Legionnaires. I know you will learn something you didn't know.

I WANT TO THANK YOU AGAIN FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION AND WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR MEMBERSHIP, THANK YOU.



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Micheal Carder



Legionnaire's, Wow, the Membership Caravan is over and what an exciting time it was for all of us. It was fantastic to visit every post and to meet everyone from the Illinois Legion Family and I am deeply honored to meet such dedicated family members.

We traveled with Past National Vice Commander Paul Martel who gave wonderful heartfelt speeches and if you were not inspired by his words, you should be. I know I was recharged every day.

Through your efforts nearly 950 membership cards were turned in for the Department, which raised our renewal percentage to 85%, as of last week and as of January 26, 2018 the Department is now at 86%. This is fantastic!

However, a lot of work remains to be done and we are now in the BLOODY KNUCKLE ZONE for the next 5 months. I urge every blue cap, every Past Department Commander, Past Division, Past District, Past Post commander to go out and put band aids on your knuckles and knock on those doors. I'm fixing up a load of 2x4's for those stubborn members who are not yet renewed.

Team Illinois, we are on the verge of

something great for the Department of Illinois and that is reaching 100% membership. We must keep working to remain strong so that we may advocate for our fellow veterans, communities, nation and always for the children of this nation. Even if you are a 100% post keep trucking, help other posts in your district, every member is golden. Just think that if every district turned in 100 renewals monthly what could be accomplished.

To quote Commander Martel, "**Now is the time to quit resting on our laurels.**"



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Marsha Haag



My goodness, time flies. I had been looking forward to the Legion Family Caravan and now they are complete. It was a whirlwind 10 days with the Past National Commander Martel and his wife, Mary and all the other participants. Thank you to all who attended and better yet, turned in membership. We may have fallen short of our expectations, however, this year isn't over.

Commander and I have encouraged participation at all the upcoming events. I hope to see many of the Legion Family at the Lincoln Pilgrimage on the 12th. This gives our members a chance to visit with guests from National and pay homage to the greatest President in history. Not far in the future is Oratorical Finals. The young adults really shine so even if you are not a volunteer that day, come down and listen to the finalists.

You won't be disappointed.

As I stated during caravan, Auxiliary hosts the Patriotic Conference on March 23rd at the Marriott in downtown Normal. All Legion Family is welcome. Check our website for luncheon reservations. We have exciting speakers and the Junior Activities committee will hold their fundraising for their conference in Mid-April. Their conference is completely self-funded so please come support the Juniors or a monetary donation is always welcome!!

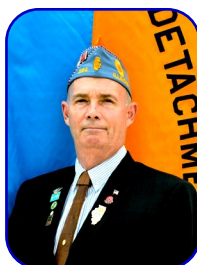
I am pleased to announce, if you haven't seen on Facebook, Neoga, Illinois has charted a new Unit. WELCOME!!! We have a couple more Posts that have inquired about starting a Unit at their locations. We strongly encourage this. It will help immensely with your community involvement as well as assistance in supporting the programs of the American Legion Family. More information is available through our Department office at 309-663-9366.

Information about ALA Illini Girls State has been sent to all Units. If your Post

feels generous, please consider a donation or help your Unit with a donation. Our cost remains the same this year \$250 per citizen. They have a wonderful time and is a real asset on their resume, college applications and a whole lot more.

As we traveled on the caravan, I have been fortunate to gather items for my special project. If anyone has a desire to donate, there is a list of physical things 1Pet1Vet is asking for. This is a facility outside Manteno that raises and trains service dogs for veterans suffering from PTSD or Traumatic Brain Injury. Items can be dropped off at the Patriotic Conference, Jr Conference or Department Convention. There is a listing in the ALA Today or on the handout at caravan.

Remember my theme, "Striving For Gold For Our Veterans". The Legion Family works together as a team and there is no "I" in team. Our mission statement says, "For Service, not Self"



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Paul A. Hayse



The caravan went well with numbers well over ten thousand in membership.

The Lincoln's Pilgrimage, visit to Saint John's Hospital and the Children's Miracle Network is coming up in February. We hop all who are able can attend.

I know membership is my senior vice's focus this year, but I want to stress the importance of having a paid up membership card.

My sister was passing on a story

about a man wanting to come to America. He saved up his money, packed up all of his belongings, gathered some food, and bought a ticket on a steamship to America. He was down in the hold for weeks and his food was running out. One day he was up on deck and looked in the grand Hall at the buffet longing for something to eat. Just then a porter walked by and said, "Why don't you go in and eat?" The man said "I don't have any money." The porter responded "It is all included with the ticket". Your American Legion card is your ticket to many benefits. Free insurance, National Emergency fund for disasters, discount on hotel and car rentals, credit cards, vacation discounts, just to name some.

All you need is to have your current membership dues paid. With that card you are a part of a large nationwide family. Everywhere I go I feel I will always be welcomed with open arms at every post. I am proud to be a part of the American Legion family and proud to serve my community, state, and Nation.

Hoping all are well through this winter weather and looking forward to seeing all at spring D. E. C. at Calumet City in March.



Did You Know?

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

Did You Know?

(By: Raymond P. Toczek Legion Service Officer)

312-980-4266 or raymond.toczek@va.gov

That the American Legion VA&R Chicago office helps veterans and their dependents through many different means. We have walk-in hours, interviews by appointment; receive daily e-mails, telephone calls and regular mail. We also attend outreach events. Some of our contacts are routine e.g. follow up on claims, submitting new evidence or updating addresses or banking information. Other contacts involve much more and often times end up with our office filing a new or reopened claim. While we try our best to help all we serve we realize that we can't assist everyone. In those cases at least we will steer them in the right direction. Looking back at 2017 I want to highlight some of the more interesting and successful claims or situations we handled.

1. A veteran asked us to help him with a claim that he had been fighting for ten years. He had filed for PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) but when the Veterans Administration ordered an exam he was in jail and couldn't make it. That claim was denied for failure to report for the exam. Being recently released from jail he was homeless and no permanent address. He got him registered in the Veterans Health Administration system and he started treatment for his mental health condition. We also located a relative who agreed to accept his mail and alert him when any VA letters arrived. We had the exam for the claim reschedule, he reported and now is receiving 70% service-connected disabled compensation. We also got him over one year of retroactive payments. He is no longer homeless and has returned to school under the Vocational Rehabilitation program for disabled vets.
2. We were asked to participate in an open house for veterans sponsored by a local hospital. We were one group of about twenty that were there and we manned a table with American Legion pamphlets. We also had one of our Service Officers present to answer questions and possibly take claims. A widow who worked at that hospital was just passing and saw our table. A brief conversation occurred and it turns out her husband served in Viet Nam, was exposed to Agent Orange and died eleven months ago from lung cancer. We immediately started a claim for Survivors benefits and she was later granted over \$1,200 a month. She is now also eligible for VA sponsored health care under CHAMPVA. And since the claim was filed within one year of his death she received a nice retroactive check.
3. A female veteran had multiple service-connected disabled conditions but when the VA added them up using their combined rating table she ended up at 64% disabled. Rounded down to 60% she got that level of pay. We went through her file and noticed that she had extensive surgery which left several scars. Asked if these were tender or icky to the touch she said "oh yeah". If my kids accidentally touch one of them she feels pain. We put in for a tender scar, she got 10% for that and again using the VA's combined rating table she now added up to 66% and that was rounded up to the 70% pay level. Not only does she get more money but now her property taxes in Illinois will be waived entirely.
4. A daughter wrote our office. She very much wanted to join the American Legion auxiliary but was unable to locate her deceased father's DD 214. She was borne out of wedlock during the Korean War and didn't even know who her natural father was until her mother died and she was going through some family papers. All she had was a name, no date of birth or date of death. Luckily it was an unusual last name. We located four vets with that name but only one of those served during the Korean War. We located his records in a National Archives, had them transferred to Chicago and got the necessary discharge paper. The daughter is now a member of our Auxiliary. She was also very happy to learn that her father received a Bronze Star and Purple Heart awards for his service.

Finally a veteran had his case on appeal for over three years. He was being denied benefits for a back injury which occurred while in the Michigan National Guard during summer camp. Although his leg injury happened during that time and he was granted benefits for the leg, he couldn't locate proof of the back injury. We guided him to local papers in the area of his old National Guard unit. He ran several classified ads seeking any veteran who was in his unit during that summer camp. Several responded who remembered both him and his complaints of his back pain. Affidavits were obtained, submitted to the Board of Veterans Appeals and he won!

People are always asking me why I am still working part-time as an American Legion Service Officer. Didn't I have enough of the job with 33 years at the Veterans Administration? I simple reply that as long as I can continue to help my fellow veterans and have successful outcomes like the ones above I will continue to work and long as I can.

Our Service Officers will be heading off to D.C. soon for our semi-annual Service Officer Training School. Hope to learn some new things to pass on to you all. And with a New Year starting we all are getting a little older so just remember

Old age is not so bad when you consider the alternatives.

Springfield Post #32, The American Legion
1120 Sangamon Avenue - Springfield, Illinois 62702-1853

www.springfieldamericanlegion.com spfldpost32@outlook.com

84th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage **to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln** **February 11 & 12, 2018**

The 84th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln will be held in Springfield, Illinois, **February 11 & 12, 2018**. Springfield Post #32, Auxiliary Unit #32 and Sons of The American Legion Squadron #32 extend a most cordial invitation to you to attend and participate.

National Commander Denise Rohan, National President Diane Duscheck, SAL National Commander Danny Smith, our Illinois Department Commander Bob Henderson, our Department President Marsha Haag and our Detachment Commander Paul Hayse, will be attending and participating in the activities. Additionally, many other Legion, Auxiliary, S.A.L., and state and local dignitaries will be in attendance to honor President Abraham Lincoln on this very special day.

The Commemoration begins Sunday, February 11, 2018:

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY LEADERSHIP RECEPTION--4:30PM--6:00PM Wyndham Springfield Ballroom. All of the National and Department Leadership are participating in this complimentary meet and greet reception that is open to our entire American Legion Family. **OPEN HOUSE at Springfield Post # 32--5:00PM--1:00AM** located at 1120 Sangamon Ave., Springfield. A **FREE shuttle** will run continuously between the **Wyndham Springfield City Centre** and Post 32 from 5:00PM--1:00AM. Dinner service will be available at the Mess Hall Restaurant located inside Post 32, from 4:00PM. -- 8:30PM. Reservations are not required however they are recommended. To place dinner reservations phone 217/523-3415 to reach the Mess Hall Restaurant. We will have a **DJ**, plenty of fun, refreshments and a chance to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. The National and Department Officers will be at the Open House to greet everyone.

Room rates for the Wyndham Springfield City Centre are \$101.00 per night, single or double occupancy, and the rate includes free parking. **The preferred way to reserve your room is by calling for reservations at (217) 789-1530 (press 1 for reservations—for reduced rate mention you're with The American Legion Lincoln Pilgrimage group)**

The following program has been planned for February 12, 2018:

- 8:00 a.m.** **American Legion Family breakfast honoring our National Commander and National President, with National President Diane Duscheck as the keynote speaker, at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre mezzanine.**
- 10:00 a.m.** **Pilgrimage departs Wyndham Hotel for journey to Abraham Lincoln's Tomb.**
- 10:30 a.m.** **Ceremonies and wreath placing from inside Mr. Lincoln's Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois.**
- 12:30 p.m.** **Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon with National Commander Denise Rohan as the keynote speaker, at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre Mezzanine.**
- 4:30-6:30 p.m.** **American Legion Family Leadership Reception, all are welcome at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre.**

Breakfast tickets are \$20.00 each, and luncheon tickets are \$30.00 each with tax and tip included. Please specify when ordering breakfast tickets if they are for the Legion or Auxiliary breakfast. Luncheon tables of eight (8) will be assigned and may be reserved by sending your check for \$240.00 to the below listed address. If you are from Illinois, please indicate your Illinois District number on all luncheon reservations. Checks should be made out to **Springfield Post #32, The American Legion**. Tickets, reservations and further information please write to: American Legion Lincoln Pilgrimage, ATTN: Phil Drum, Ticket Chairman, 1120 Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1853. Phone 217/523-3415. Post 32 e-mail is spfldpost32@outlook.com **SPECIAL NOTICE: All meal checks and/or reservations must be received or canceled by February 2, 2018. No refunds can be made after that date. Please make your plans and reservations early, as we may not be able to seat you if you do not order your meal tickets early.**

We sincerely hope that you will be able to be with us to honor our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, on his birthday in his "Hometown", and that you make time to visit the beautiful **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library**, which is only three short blocks from the Wyndham City Centre. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum will be offering their Group Rate to our attendees by merely showing your membership card on Feb 10, 11, 12, 2018.

100 YEARS OF VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

American Legion Department of Illinois

Centennial Coin

**NOW
AVAILABLE**

Order one today!



Coins are
numbered
001 - 500



Coin number not Guaranteed

(309)663-0361

Call Department Headquarters today to order this one of a kind collectable coin!

American Legion 2018 State Convention Book Application for Ad placement

BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

[Post use only] American Legion Post name: _____ Post No. _____

Slogan Choices: (three choices—choose one)

- ____ 1. We Are Proud To Be Part of
The American Legion Family
- ____ 2. Helping The American Legion
Help American's Veteran's
- ____ 3. We Proudly Stand Behind
The American Legion

Ad Choice: (please choose black & white or color)

- Medal of Honor (full page--7-1/2 x 10 in.)
- Silver Star (half page--7-1/2 x 5 in.)
- Bronze Star (quarter page--3-3/4 x 5 in.)
- Purple Heart (3-3/4 x 3-3/8 in. "Business card")
- Commander Salute (3-3/4 - 1-11/16 in.)
- Flag Page (1-3/4 - 1 in.)

Black & White Ad

Color Ad

\$230.00 _____	\$250.00 _____
\$120.00 _____	\$125.00 _____
\$90.00 _____	\$95.00 _____
\$75.00 _____	\$80.00 _____
\$60.00 _____	\$65.00 _____
\$25.00 _____	\$25.00 _____

Method of Payment (please check one) All credit information will be kept confidential

____ Check (Make Check payable to: AMERICAN LEGION DEPT. OF IL)

Send Check to: American Legion, Dept. of IL 2720 E. Lincoln St. Bloomington, IL 61704

____ Credit Card _____

EXP Date: ____ / ____ / ____ Security Code #: ____

Card type: / MC / Visa / AmEx / Disc

The American Legion Department of Illinois

100th ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION JULY 10-15, 2018

-SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS (Mr. Lincoln's Hometown)-

HOUSING RESERVATION FORM

All reservations MUST be made directly with the hotel housing your Division/S.A.L. on or before June 19, 2018. You may make your reservation by completing and mailing in this form along with your credit card information or first nights deposit including tax or by following the instructions for your assigned hotel, which are listed below. NOTE: ALL cancellations must be made 24 hours prior to arrival date. Failure to cancel by that date will result in billing of one night's room rate.

PARKING IS INCLUDED IN THE RATE AT BOTH HOTELS

Table with 3 columns: HOTEL, DIVISION/S.A.L., RATE. Row 1: WYNDHAM SPRINGFIELD, 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th and S.A.L., \$107.00 plus tax (currently 13%). Row 2: City Centre, (\$120.91 per night with tax), 700 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701 217/789-1530

Reservation- Mail this form to the Wyndham Springfield or via internet and linking up to www.wyndhamhotels.com/groups/american-legion-2018 or you may also call 217/789-1530 and select the RESERVATIONS OPTION and advise the reservationist of Group Code 07097027AL and/or the group name "American Legion 2018"

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPRINGFIELD

Table with 3 columns: (A Doubletree by Hilton), 3rd Division & Auxiliary, \$107.00 plus tax (currently 13%). Row 2: 701 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701 217/544-8800, (\$120.91 per night with tax)

Reservation- Mail this form to the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield or via internet by visiting the Department of Illinois website and linking up to:

http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/S/SPIASDT-ALS-20180710/index.ihtml?WT.mc_id=POG and using the Group Code of "ALS". You may also phone the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield directly at 1/866-788-1860 or 217/544-8800.

Special Notes: All rooms are subject to the applicable sales tax. All reservations must be made with credit card or advanced deposit. Remember, if reserving the room with a personal check, be sure and include the rate including tax as listed above.

Also, the cut-off date for ALL RESERVATIONS is Tuesday, June 19, 2018.

If you select a hotel that your Division is not housed in, you may be moved to your Division assigned hotel.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION

Division _____ District _____ Legion/SAL Title _____

Hotel _____ Type of room (circle) 1 Bed 2 Beds

Disabled Access _____ Please note: All Hotel Rooms in Springfield are Non-Smoking. (Please note room types are a request and are not guaranteed. The hotels will attempt to accommodate.)

Other Special Requests _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

E-Mail _____ Fax _____

Name(s) of additional people in room: _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

FREEDOM FEST, FRIDAY, JULY 13TH - COMMANDER'S AND PRESIDENT'S DINNER, SATURDAY, JULY 14TH

Remember the heroic acts of four Army chaplains on Feb. 4



Feb. 3 will mark the 75th anniversary of the sinking of the United States Army Transport Dorchester and the selfless acts of four Army chaplains who were aboard. American Legion posts nationwide are encouraged to commemorate the anniversary each February and honor Four Chaplains Day.

The Dorchester tragically sunk on Feb. 3, 1943, while crossing the North Atlantic, transporting troops to an American base in Greenland. A German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck the Dorchester, killing 672 of the 902 officers and enlisted men, merchant seamen and civilian workers aboard.

Many of those survivors owe their lives to the courage and leadership exhibited by four chaplains of different faiths, who, in sacrificing their lives, created a unique legacy of brotherhood.

As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic) comforted the wounded and directed others to safety. One survivor watched the chaplains distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men.

As the Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.

Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington were posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart. And in 1948, Congress declared Feb. 3 to be Four Chaplains Day.

American Legion posts nationwide remember Four Chaplains Day with memorial services that pay tribute to the courageous chaplains and the brave young men who lost their lives on that fateful night. This year, Four Chaplains Sunday is Feb. 4.

Posts interested in conducting a Four Chaplains memorial service can learn how to through the Legion's Chaplain's Manual.

(https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/chaplains_manual.pdf)

The manual provides biographies of the four chaplains, music ideas, a suggested format for the service and more.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Lincoln Pilgrimage
Springfield, IL
February 11th--12th
~ ~ ~

Lincoln's Birthday
February 12th
~ ~ ~

Valentine's Day
February 14th
~ ~ ~

Div. & Dist. Jr & Sr. Vice
Cmdr. Training
10:00AM--3:00PM
@ Dept. HQ
February 17th
~ ~ ~

President's Day
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
February 19th
~ ~ ~

Washington Conference / DSO
Washington DC
February 25th--28th
~ ~ ~

Department Oratorical
Semi-Finals & Finals
@ Crowne Plaza
Springfield @ 9:00 AM
March 3rd
~ ~ ~

99th American Legion Birthday
March 15th
~ ~ ~

SAL Spring DEC
Calumet City Post 330
March 17th
~ ~ ~

ALA--Patriotic Conference
March 23rd--24th
~ ~ ~

Gold Pin Cut-Off
@ 1:00 PM
March 29th
~ ~ ~

Good Friday
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
March 30th
#

The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

“A Constitutional Speech Contest”

When: March 3, 2018

Where: Crowne Plaza - Springfield

Time: Semi-Finals @ 9:00 AM

Finals @ 2:00 PM

Come see an amazing group of high school students speak on the Constitution of The United States.

February is Americanism Month



Two Legion Baseball alums elected into 2018 Hall of Fame class

Two former American Legion Baseball players, Chipper Jones and Jim Thome, were announced as members of the much-anticipated 2018 National Baseball Hall of Fame class.

Jeff Idelson, president of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y., announced the results on MLB Network on Wednesday night. Both Thome and Jones were first-ballot Hall of Famers.

Jones and Thome will be the 75th and 76th Legion alums in the Hall of Fame, with 13 former Legion players inducted in the last five years. They will be enshrined on July 29 and will be joined by fellow [Legion alums Jack Morris and Alan Trammell](#), both of whom were elected to this class through the Modern Era Committee in December.

Jones played American Legion Baseball for Post 6 in Deland, Fla., from 1986-1989 with his stellar play earning him the top pick in the 1990 MLB draft.

Jones's 19-year career with the Atlanta Braves featured eight All-Star Game appearances, a National League Most Valuable Player award in 1999 and a World Series title in 1995.

The third baseman was named the 2000 American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year.

Thome played Legion Baseball for Bartonville Limestone Post 979 in Illinois and became a fan favorite over his lengthy professional career. He played for six different teams, including the Cleveland Indians, Chicago White Sox and Philadelphia Phillies.

He was a five-time All-Star and earned the Roberto Clemente Award, given to the player "best exemplifies the game of baseball, sportsmanship, community involvement and the individual's contribution to his team."

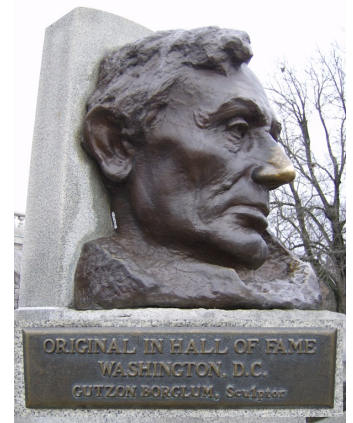
Joining Jones, Thome, Morris and Trammell in this class are Vladimir Guerrero and Trevor Hoffman.

(Lincoln's Promise continued from page 1)

We take Lincoln's words seriously. We always have.

And so the pilgrimage to his tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery is far more than a wreath-laying ceremony. It's a celebration of the life of the "Great Emancipator." Legion Family members can receive discounted tickets to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield on Feb. 11 and 12. Other activities include an open house at Post 32, and an official breakfast and luncheon in downtown Springfield.

American Legion Auxiliary National President Diane Duscheck, Sons of The American Legion National Commander Danny Smith and I would be honored if you would join us in celebrating Lincoln's legacy. To purchase meal tickets or obtain a schedule of events, go to www.springfieldamericanlegion.com or call (217) 523-3415.



"FIGHTING ON BOTH FRONTS" HISTORY OF THE 370TH INFANTRY

HONORING THE SOLDIERS OF THE 370th INFANTRY

SPRINGFIELD, IL - In honor of Black History Month the Illinois State Military Museum will host a public viewing and discussion of the documentary film *Fighting on Both Fronts: the Story of the 370th Infantry*. There will also be living historian representing members of the 370th Infantry. Military Museum displaying the 370th Regimental Flag.

- WHO:**
- Illinois State Military Museum
 - Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum
 - Illinois Department of Natural Resources
 - World War One living historians

WHAT: In honor of Black History Month the Illinois State Military Museum will host a public viewing and discussion of the documentary film *Fighting on Both Fronts: the Story of the 370th Infantry*. There will also be living historian representing members of the 370th Infantry. Military Museum displaying the 370th Regimental Flag.

WHEN: Saturday February 10, 2018 at 02:00PM Central Time (US & Canada)

WHERE: Illinois State Military Museum
1301 N. MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, Illinois 62702

PRESIDENT WORD SEARCH

How many of the presidents listed below can you find in the puzzle?

1. WASHINGTON
2. JEFFERSON
3. MADISON
4. JACKSON
5. LINCOLN
6. GRANT
7. ROOSEVELT
8. KENNEDY
9. JOHNSON
10. OBAMA

Granted, Mr. president ... they are very lifelike, but I'm not sure beaver teeth are the way to go.

Contrary to popular belief, George Washington's dentures were not made of wood, but bone and hippopotamus ivory were used!

The King of Siam (Thailand) offered Abraham Lincoln a herd of battle elephants for the Civil War, Lincoln declined.

I don't think I have enough peanuts ... but I know a president who does.

Word Search Grid:

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H Y
G E
J I T Y
Q N G H
S A O K O Z
S Y S E L Y
Y D Y T P E C M U K N O T G N I H S A W
U T B B H N T W X C N P B O C M O J A D
Z E G J M O A N A E D Y O J A B Q S
O B A M A S S J D E T Z O D U K
P L G I R R L Y L E C H I S
Y R J T T E E A B M N S
G P Q Q I N V F T U P S O D
X K L Z O E A R F G F O N G
T T Y E C S J M R T E A N C B Y
L I N C O L N G W J P P V W
N J S X O O G X N H C V T Y
K N X R Y W G V I W
D I K B Q C O Z
X G Z J
    
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‘You have to ask people seven to 12 times to join’

Retired Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, vice president of membership and meetings for the Association of the United States Army, spoke to members of The American Legion's Membership & Post Activities Committee in Indianapolis on Jan. 12. Photo by Jeff Stoffer



Though not affiliated, the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) relied on the Army for membership recruitment. However, a few years ago the Army stopped recruiting for AUSA due to various reasons and with no recruitment plan in

place, AUSA began to see a rapid decline in membership.

In 2017, with 62,000 members, AUSA put forth a challenge to its 121 chapters nationwide to reach 100,000 members by yearend. Today, AUSA stands at 116,000 members.

AUSA is a nonprofit military service organization that supports America's Army (active, National Guard, reserve, civilians and family members) through training, scholarships, being a voice and more. Retired Lt. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston, vice president of membership and meetings for AUSA and a member of American Legion Post 251 in Georgia, spoke to members of the Legion's Membership & Post Activities Committee on Jan. 12 about ways the association exceeded its membership goal.

“We understand service to nation. We understand volunteerism. We understand that our association has a lot in common with The American Legion,” McQuiston said. “And we know through research that sometimes you have to ask people seven to 12 times to join. That's one of the hardest things our volunteer leaders do ... asking somebody to join.”

Membership recruitment and retention is the fifth tactic on the Legion's strategic membership plan. With 16 million veterans eligible for Legion membership, McQuiston said if someone says no to joining the first time you ask, it's not a rejection of you or The American Legion. “So don't be afraid to go after them seven to 12 times,” she said.

Besides just asking potential members to join AUSA, other recruitment efforts that the association adopted included:

- Started a “Get One More” campaign and made it easy for new members to join online (<https://www.ausa.org/>). With this they used every event they were at as a membership recruitment opportunity. “I take it as a personal mission everywhere I go to get at least one person to sign up,” McQuiston said.

- Revamped membership fees. McQuiston said about 32 percent of the new recruits were of the younger generation

of veterans and servicemembers. So AUSA created a special discount of a \$10 membership fee for an Army E4 rank, Army civilians and ROTC cadets. They too created a two-year membership fee of \$40 or five-year for \$75 as a way to make retention easier.

- Connected with like-minded organizations. AUSA currently has relationship with six other associations, such as the Warrant Officers Association, as a way to not only attract new members but to gain a better understanding of the needs and issues of those servicemembers and to be a voice for them as well.

Past National Commander Dave Rehbein reflected on how the Legion can team up with like-minded organizations, such as Team Red, White and Blue, Team Rubicon, Summit for Soldiers or Student Veterans of America. “This new generation of veterans want to do things. They don't want to sit in a meeting and hear about what's being done. They want to be part of what's being done,” Rehbein said. “So if we can use some of these organizations to bring in new members, I think we gain more than just new members – we gain active members.”

- Created a membership benefits pamphlet. The pamphlet makes it easy for volunteers to answer the question, “Why should I join AUSA?” It lists membership benefits, such as a subscription to ARMY Magazine that AUSA publishes, and features an infographic on the three reasons to join: give, get, save. “Give your time, talent and expertise; get representation with Congress and on Capitol Hill, access to professional development and education offerings, and scholarship opportunities; and save on exclusive AUSA benefits.”

McQuiston also shared that more than 85 percent of those who serve today entered the service after 9/11. This generation of veterans, she said, want to make a positive difference in their communities. “Young veterans today have families and jobs, but they are looking for ways to engage on their own terms. So when you ask a veteran or servicemember to join, get them involved at some level, make them feel a part of the organization,” McQuiston said.

“We have to be voices for our service people and their families so that more American's understand not just the sacrifices but just the commitment of these people to serve our nation.”

More than 133,000 vets may qualify for this tax refund windfall

More than 133,000 veterans may qualify for a refund of federal taxes they paid on disability severance pay dating back to 1991 — taxes that shouldn't have been collected in the first place.

Within the next month, Defense Department officials will send notification letters to veterans that they may be eligible for the refund, said Army Lt. Col. David Dulaney, executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council.

Eligible veterans will have a year after they receive the notice to file a claim for the refund.

These refunds, [which are the result of a law passed in 2016](#), apply to veterans who received this pay dating back to Jan. 17, 1991, with taxes withheld, and who also qualified for disability from the Veterans Affairs Department.

The 2016 Combat Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act went into effect in 2017. The law requires DoD to identify the veterans whose benefits were previously improperly taxed; and the notification letter will include information about the amount of disability severance payments that were improperly taxed, and instructions for filing an amended tax return to receive the refund.

Of the 300,000 veterans who received the disability severance payment, DoD has identified 133,000 who may qualify for refunds, Dulaney said.

College becomes attainable with Legion Legacy Scholarship



*2017 American Legion Legacy Scholarship recipient Jacob Mussi attends Boston University.
Photo by Lucas Carter/The American Legion*



Jacob Mussi knew college was in his future. What he didn't know was how to pay for it.

While searching for opportunities to make college attainable, Mussi came across The American Legion's Legacy Scholarship. Mussi's father, a disabled post-9/11 veteran, made him eligible to apply.

Last May, Mussi received an email that announced he was a 2017 American Legion Legacy Scholarship recipient. Upon seeing the email, Mussi and his father "went nuts. It blew my mind," Mussi said. "I went from thinking I was going to have \$200,000 in student loans to thinking that...this is going to work out. I can invest in my future.

"My father (Charles) can't afford to fund my college so he was overwhelmed with joy. A potential burden has been swept out of the way."

The scholarship is allowing Mussi, a physics student at Boston University, to focus on his academics rather than "focusing on financing them," he said. "Having that steady stream of support is fundamental to making the college experience work. Because of help from The American Legion Legacy Scholarship and other scholarships, I have a lot of freedom that people in my age group don't typically have because of restraint of finances."

The Legacy Scholarship is available for children of veterans who died on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001, or have a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher. Recipients of the renewable needs based scholarship can receive up to \$20,000 each year. The application deadline for the 2018-2019 school year is April 9.

Apply online <https://www.legion.org/legacy-scholarship-application>

To learn more about the scholarship, visit www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy/about.

2018

AWARD PROGRAM DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING

All forms are available online at www.illegion.org/awards

The American Legion has many awards available to posts and individuals. Each year, less and less submissions are sent in. There are nearly 800 posts.

Each program has an outline and criteria to meet for each award. Details and submission instructions are available online www.illegion.org.

Be sure to check the deadline for all award submissions some are approaching fast.

Don't miss the opportunity for your post to be recognized. All winning Posts will be notified and receive recognition at the Department Convention this July in Springfield.

Need Forms? Contact the Department Print Shop for a hard copy at 309-663-0361 or email: printshop@illegion.org



- ★ Legionnaire of the Year Award
- ★ Firefighter of the Year
- ★ Law Officer of the Year
- ★ TLW Legion Rider of the Year Award
- ★ Chaplains Cross/Star of David Award
- ★ Community Service Award
- ★ Hall of Fame Award
- ★ Commander's Award
- ★ Public Relations Award
- ★ Photo Contest & Calendar Contest


During the Cold Temperatures


PLEASE don't forget to check on our comrades who are alone or can not get out!



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



Fish Fry Fridays



Calumet Memorial American Legion Post 330

950 Legion Drive Calumet City, IL 60409 708-862-8685

Starting **January 5th** and Every Friday
through **Good Friday, March 30th, 2018**

Dinners served from **4:00 pm - 7:00pm**

OPEN to the PUBLIC

Fish Fry Menu

Cod Dinner	\$ 10.00
Lake Perch Dinner	\$ 12.00
Shrimp Dinner	\$ 12.00
Fisherman Platter	\$ 17.00
<small>(Cod - 4 oz, Shrimp - 4 oz & Perch - 4 oz ea)</small>	
Chicken Tenders	\$ 9.00

All Dinners include:

Entrée, Cole Slaw, French Fries, Roll & Butter
Coffee - \$ 0.50 Dessert - \$ 0.50

Carry outs Additional \$ 1.00

* Individual Entrees are 8 ounce portions before cooking

**Give Mom a Night
Off from Cooking**

**Enjoy an evening
out with Friends**

**Bring Family &
Friends along**

Best Deal in Town

25th Annual Canoe Float

On the Mackinaw River

Hosted by the Deer Creek American Legion

SAL Squadron #1276

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2018

Sign up from 9:00 AM—12 NOON

pre-registration from 1:00 PM—5:00 PM at

Deer Creek Post #1276

\$25.00 per person, includes commemorative shirt and food after the float.

Participants are responsible for providing their own canoe and paddles, plus floatation devices for each person in accordance with State Law.

Primitive camping is available on site.

All proceeds go to St. Jude Midwest Affiliate

Tickets are available to win an Old Town "Saranac" canoe, complete with paddles and 2 floatation devices.

For more information contact the Legion at
309-447-6776

**Get a Partner and We will See you
On the River!**

LODA AMERICAN LEGION

Fish Fry (schedule)

January 12th & 23rd. February 9th & 23rd. March 2nd, 16th & 30th Good Friday. April 13th and 27th.

WHERE: Loda Legion Hall located at 107 E. Adams St, Loda, IL.

TIME: 4:30--7:00pm at the

Meal includes: Fish (Pollack), chicken, livers, gizzards, french fries, baked beans, green beans, coleslaw, potato salad, coffee, lemonade, water, and pop.

The price is **\$8.00** all you can eat, Children under 8 eat free. Carry-outs available.

2017—2018 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST./ DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
02/03/2018	3RD DISTRICT	11:30 AM	CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY	CHICAGO
02/04/2018	19TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	LOVINGTON POST 429	LOVINGTON
02/16/2018	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	LAKE ZURICH POST 964	LAKE ZURICH
02/18/2018	12TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	GENOA POST 337	GENOA
02/18/2018	13TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	LEAF RIVER POST 1148	LEAF RIVER
02/18/2018	18TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CISSNA PARK POST 527	CISSNA PARK
02/21/2018	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	EVANSTON POST 42	EVANSTON
02/22/2018	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	VILLAGE OF EAST HAZEL CREST	HAZEL CREST
02/28/2018	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN PARK POST 974 (AMERICANISM PROGRAM)	FRANKLIN PARK
03/03/2018	3RD DISTRICT	11:30 AM	CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY	CHICAGO
03/04/2018	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	PARTRIDGE POST 578	BUNKER HILL
03/11/2018	16TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	WASHINGTON POST 100	WASHINGTON
03/16/2018	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	ROUND LAKE POST 1170	ROUND LAKE PARK
03/18/2018	3RD DIVISION	1:00 PM	PITTSFIELD POST 152	PITTSFIELD
03/18/2018	24TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	RIDGWAY POST 596	RIDGWAY

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

(*new location--Camp Lincoln-Springfield)



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Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag

* 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.

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Scan Here

FEBRUARY TRIVIA?

1. Antarctica and Australia are two continents that have never experienced a what?
2. During the cold war what kind of curtain was said to divide east and west?
3. The federal government first printed paper money the same year as what war broke out?
4. In which war did one jet plane shoot down another one?
5. The Revolutionary War was the first war the U.S. took part in that was partially financed with what?

ANSWERS:



1. A major military conflict.
2. Iron curtain.
3. The Civil War.
4. The Korean War.
5. Lottery dollars.

PRESIDENTS' DAY WORD SEARCH

Q	O	H	Q	O	N	Q	L	A	R	E	D	E	F	S
A	R	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	P	O	H	P	Q	R
S	P	P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T	Y	I	W	F
E	W	J	E	W	T	O	P	U	O	P	N	O	A	V
E	S	M	D	S	A	L	C	J	L	W	L	L	S	O
Y	L	K	A	D	T	Q	O	M	Q	S	O	Q	H	T
R	E	E	E	E	E	A	U	K	A	D	C	A	I	E
A	C	I	C	C	S	S	N	L	S	E	N	S	N	N
U	V	O	K	T	I	Q	T	I	Q	C	I	Q	G	N
R	F	U	L	A	C	I	R	E	M	A	L	W	T	M
B	R	P	J	R	U	E	Y	U	E	F	U	E	O	J
E	T	U	O	T	P	I	R	P	I	R	P	I	N	U
F	G	E	O	R	G	E	T	U	P	T	U	P	N	A
I	U	N	I	T	E	D	G	Y	L	G	Y	L	B	I
Y	N	Q	R	E	D	A	E	L	K	B	T	E	W	P

See how many of these words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. George | 5. President | 9. February | 13. Vote |
| 2. Washington | 6. United | 10. Leader | 14. Holiday |
| 3. Abe | 7. States | 11. Federal | 15. Country |
| 4. Lincoln | 8. America | 12. Elect | |

Created by
Ken Lindstedt
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