

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS Department News



The American Legion Family



2018–2019 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER MICHEAL M. CARDER

SEPTEMBER 2018



The American Legion Celebrating 100 Years



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF
AUGUST 29, 2018

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District Commander

- 8 Lange
- 1 Mittelstaedt
- 12 Gerkitz
- 13 Kraut
- 4 Pryzbulinski
- 16 Rice
- 21 Kulavic
- 20 Flowers, Jr
- 11 Reece, Jr
- 14 Schomer, Jr

Division Commander

- 2 **BENIGNO**
- 3 **DAVIS, III**
- 4 **NARGELENAS**
- 1 **LAMPERT**
- 5 **MADSEN**



From The Desk of Department Commander Micheal M. Carder



to be. All teams present were excellent young men and I wish to commend Alton Post, Alton High School and SIU Edwardsville for their assistance, without them all would not be possible.

Senior Vice Roy and Membership Director Chad Woodburn and myself joined 5th Division Commander Wayne Madsen in Grayville, IL to try to save their post and I think we are on the right track. I just recently installed the officers of Hazel Crest Post, of which all the officers have never served in any position before and are eager to learn. They have been trained and are being trained by the 8th District Officers and that post has formed an SAL Squadron and an Auxiliary Unit. This is what I have been talking about...post members who really care

about their post and feel they are worth saving. It is time for division, district officers and post officers and the department in general to get off our laurels, roll up our sleeves, get down in the dirt and make Illinois the best. It can be done just look at the 8th District and the First Division if you need inspiration, as well as the 5th Division, who are trying to bring a post out of the ashes and turn it into a beautiful example of what can be done if we just try.

By the time this newsletter is published the National Convention will have been held and then it will be time for Homecoming, I hope you have made dinner reservations. The dress code will be coat and tie. See you at the D.E.C.

Holy cow! My first month has gone by quickly, a lot has been going on. I have traveled a lot and the Silver Bullet is gaining miles. I was honored to spend time with Auxiliary President Deb Lewis at her Homecoming, it was a great event and I know with working with Deb we can make the Legion grow and become stronger. Prior to that event I traveled down to Alton for the Department Baseball Tournament. I threw out the first pitch and I must say my old pitching arm is not what it used



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Roy Weber



So far only two requests for revitalizations have been received and scheduled. Keep this option in mind if you experience membership issues in your area. Contact our membership Director Chad Woodburn and get some dates scheduled for your Districts and Posts. Our membership year will go by quickly and EARLY is BETTER to get your membership drive going.

Department training seminars are being offered and I strongly encourage Division, District and Post Officers to attend as these will give you the necessary tools to maintain your Post activities properly.

I had the pleasure of attending the Auxiliary's Fall Board meeting in Champaign and President Lewis's homecoming in Cisco earlier this month and had a great time. Our ALA works very hard to provide support for our Veterans and has some interesting project themes. It is a great feeling to have the Legion Family working together as we can learn from each other to enhance our many programs.

Division and District Officers please ensure that Posts submit their Consolidat-

ed Post Reports. These reports ensure that our voices are heard in Washington and the MORE reports sent in, the LOUDER is our voice to ensure our Veteran's concerns are addressed.

Our trip to Indianapolis for the National membership training workshop was last weekend. After remarks from our National Commander and leading candidate, the national staff facilitated some very informative classes. Networking with other Department leadership about retention, recruiting and new ideas involving promotions through the media was very enlightening.

At present the Department Membership is at 51.16%. The Navy Seabee motto is: **CAN DO...**lets get out there with this attitude and meet our goal by the Sept. 21st DEC deadline.

Commander Mike says, let's roll up those sleeves and get out there to make our Legion programs stronger by recruiting and retaining Veterans into the greatest Veteran service organization in the world!

I just returned from Veteran's Day at the State Fair. After a somber memorial service I enjoyed watching all the cadet groups strut their stuff competing for trophies. They really put all the practice to use and demonstrated precision marching maneuvers.

Food for over 500 Veterans was prepared and many of us volunteered to serve the meal in true military fashion with people lined up in long rows. Good food and great company! Later we enjoyed being in the parade of Veterans through the fairgrounds.

We still have many Posts that are not certified as of this issue. District Commanders you must contact those Posts as soon as possible and get them certified and so then can get their new cards. Thanks to those posts that are certified.

I was honored to attend several installations of Post Officers recently.

From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Debra Lewis



“Preventing Extinction One Member at a Time”

is the Department Membership theme chosen for this year. Our Divisions are different types of environments found on Earth and the Districts are animals native to those environments. Much like the wild animals of our planet, our organizations are threatened by changes to the climate of our society. Members have many more opportunities to engage in meaningful activities than were available fifty or even twenty years ago. We must improve our membership experience if we want younger members to join and be active. There are many ways we can adjust our perceptions and expectations as an organization that will be more welcoming to all members. The goal this year is to strengthen our plan to address these challenges to sustain or organization long term. Ultimately, every member is an irreplaceable piece of our biome with unique talents and functions.

At the ALA Fall board meeting August

3rd and 4th, First Vice President Sue, Membership Chairman Angie, and I pledged to recruit for The American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion in conjunction with our membership efforts this year. We challenged Commander Mike, Commander Eugene and Senior Vice Commander Roy to do the same and gifted them with applications for all three organizations. We challenge each Legionnaire in the Department of Illinois to do likewise. Are your female descendants members of the

American Legion Auxiliary? If we intend to support and care for the service members from the post-9/11 era we need more Auxiliary members committed to our mission. Please sign them up for your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit today and make sure they understand how important their membership and contributions are to you and your comrades.

Veteran's Day at the State Fair was August 12th, I attended the ceremonies

(ALA President continued on page 4)



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Eugene Gort



Something the Sons will be pushing for this year is the creation of new squadrons. I'm happy to say that we have already delivered our first new charter, and have four more in the process of receiving one. With over 700 posts in the state of Illinois, we have only 264 squadrons. This gives us a lot of room to grow.

The Sons of the American Legion are an integral part of the American Legion Family. First formed in 1932 we are Male descendants of veterans of the great wars. We support the four pillars of the American Legion and all Legion programs. If you ask a Legionnaire that has a squadron at their post, they will tell you how much we contribute. It is also a great way to bring your sons and grandsons into the American Legion Family.

I first started going to the American Legion when I was 9 years old. After my father passed away, my mother became very active within our post.

I remember helping deliver food baskets to needy families, helping with blind bingo for the veterans, and assisting around the post. My mother's dedication to the American Legion helped inspire my own dedication to the Sons. So please get your Sons and grandsons involved, to help build the bridge to our future leaders.

If your post is interested in starting a squadron, please reach out to me and I will help make it happen.



Did You Know?

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

That each year our Legion Service Officers from all of our State Departments meet in Indianapolis, Indiana for training? For three days they are furnished with a wealth of information from the law firm of Bergmann & Moore and the Department of Veterans Affairs. This training is sponsored by the American Legion VA&R Washington office. Here are some of the highlights:

- Veterans Administration debt letters should not be ignored. If a veteran doesn't pay the debt, request a waiver or agree to a payment plan that debt will be turned over to a collection agency. The fees associated with that are 28%! And it will cause a drop in your credit score of up to 150 points. DON'T IGNORE THOSE LETTERS, ACT IMMEDIATELY.
- Regarding debts, the Veterans Administration can also take up to 15% of a veteran's Social Security check.
- The VA is now making 1.4 million claim decisions a year and the average processing time is 99 days.
- Pain alone, if there is no known cause of it, can be considered a disability if it causes some functional impairment and there was some incident in service.
- If a vet uses the CHOICE program those records are NOT automatically sent to their VA hospital or clinic. So if a vet files a request for an increase they should alert the VA that they were treated under CHOICE.
- There are 460,000 appeals currently pending and if a vet requests a personal or video hearing that adds 2 years to the process. The new RAMP program should help reduce this immensely but as of now some appeals are taking 7 years!
- If a vet filed a claim in the 70's and the VA got it but never acted on it the vet could get back pay all the way to the original date they filed.
- Of the 3.5 million exams ordered for VA claims, 1.7 million were contracted out to private sources.
- As of February of 2019 there will be no more travel board appeal hearings, only videos.
- Back conditions can lead to bowel and bladder problems which can be considered secondary service-connection.
- Soldiers who were involved in production of uranium at Paducah, NY Oak Ridge, TN and Portsmouth, OH might now get service-connected compensation for some cancers.
- Of those veterans who file claims for a mental condition 60% have PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and 12% have major depression.
- If a vet uses alcohol to numb the effects of their PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) they might now be able to get 2nd service-connection for the alcohol abuse.
- The top three conditions that are granted for service-connection are Bilateral Hearing Loss, Tinnitus and a mental condition.
- The VA's Debt Management Center collected 1.6 Billion dollars in overpayment last year. Their telephone system is now open M_F from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm CST.

That's all for now, hope to be able to report next month on our state convention resolutions that were sent to the national convention.

Until next month stay safe, sound and happy.

(ALA President continued from page 3)

of the day. The memorial service honoring the Gold Star Families was incredibly moving. We also witnessed the signing of 6 legislative bills intended to improve services for Illinois Veterans and watched a historical reenactment of Veterans' contributions in the 200-year history of Illinois. Seeing the replica uniforms and hearing the impact service members from Illinois have made on our nation's history was very informative. We ended the day marching in the parade with the rest of the Legion Family and many other Veterans Service Organizations.

I am looking forward to leaving shortly to attend the National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It looks to be a wonderful time observing the 100th National Convention of the American Legion. We look forward to celebrating this special year with The American Legion, you are our eligibility and we

honor your service and contributions for the last hundred years with our commitment to serve for the next hundred years and beyond.

When we return from National Convention we will dive head first into our Auxiliary work with Fall Forums. We have six Fall Forums planned over the weekends in September. These Forums will work to educate Auxiliary members on the programs for the year and focus on helping Divisions, Districts and Units examine and look for solutions to the challenges they are facing. Dates and locations are available at www.ilala.org, please help us spread the word in your area. We would love to have a record-breaking turnout at each Fall Forum stop.

As warm summer days fade into crisp Autumn nights, it is time for us to kick into high-gear for our programs. We look forward to helping you in all your efforts.

Commander Carder's Homecoming

Saturday, September 22, 2018

D. E. C.

- ◆ 1:00 PM--Department Executive Committee Meeting
CROWNE PLAZA—Chicago SW Burr Ridge
300 S Frontage Rd, Burr Ridge IL 60527

Dinner with Commander

- ◆ CROWNE PLAZA—Chicago SW Burr Ridge Grand Ballroom
- ◆ Social Hour 6:00 PM & Dinner 7:00 PM
- ◆ Entertainment following
- ◆ Business Casual Attire



Dinner Menu: *Choice of: Chicken Breast w/ lemon sauce -or- 8oz London Broil, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Garden Salad w/dressings, and Cookie tray.*

Dinner: \$35 per person

Make check payable to: **Evanston Post #42**

Dinner reservations should be sent to: **Dan Fleming ~5007 Dobson St. Skokie, IL 60077**

Dinner reservation deadline: **Sept. 10, 2018**

Questions? Contact Dinner Chairman: **Dan Fleming (847) 769-5242**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone # _____ Division # _____ District # _____

Dinner Selection: _____ *Chicken Breast* (or) _____ *London Broil*

(For Group Seating: Please List Names for table of 8 **Include dinner selection*)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Hoousing

CROWNE PLAZA

Chicago SW Burr Ridge
300 S Frontage Road
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
(630) 325-2900

www.cpchicagosw.com

Double Queens -or- King
\$109 plus tax each night
(includes breakfast)

Cut off date for
room block is
August 21, 2018

Book Early!

REMINDER: All Dinner Reservations should be sent to:
Dan Fleming ~ 5007 Dobson St. Skokie, IL 60077

2018-2019 DISTRICT & DIVISION COMMANDER'S & SR. VICE COMMANDER'S		
DIVISION	COMMANDER	SR VICE COMMANDER
1ST	Joe Lampert	Georgiann Callaway
2ND	Christopher Benigno	Ray Powroznik
3RD	John Davis, III	John Gosney
4TH	Limey Nargelenas	Ron Shapland
5TH	Wayne Madson	Ben Picou
DISTRICT	COMMANDER	SR VICE COMMANDER
1ST	Michael Mittelstaedt	David Frederick
2ND	Clemente Rodriguez	Lawrence Hippert
3RD	Frank Thompson	Harold Toney
4TH	Robert Przybylinski	David Verran
5TH	Detrall Dearbone	Richard Baker
7TH	Shawn Hoffman	John Wowk
8TH	Donald Lange	Rickie Mitchell
9TH	George "Doc" Horn	Dale Tippet
10TH	Layton Pennington	Robert Bucher
11TH	John Reece, Jr	Kevin Leonard
12TH	Raymond Gerkitz	Ascension Hernandez
13TH	Leon Kraut	VACANT
14TH	Richard "Rick" Schomer, Jr	George Howard
15TH	Jon Johnson	Steve Schlieper
16TH	Sam Rice	Deanne Nighsonger
17TH	Arthur "Art" McCulley	Nancy Elder
18TH	Annette Rowe	Layton Warsler
19TH	Cheryl Walker	Gregg Roberts
20TH	Norman Flowers, Jr	Barry Struse
21ST	Mary Kulavic	Richard Rump
22ND	Charles Mueth	Donald Scheyer
23RD	Tracy Devore	Stephen Owens
24TH	Carole Sandusky	Zula Summers
25TH	David Wright	VACANT



Alert

In the McLean County area, there are organizations that contact veterans with promises of "free" money from the VA. These organizations claim they will file the necessary applications to acquire a VA pension and/or aid and attendance benefits at no charge.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan recently filed suit against the Association for Wartime Veterans and Atlantis Marketing Solutions for steering veterans and their families into costly insurance products or expensive "irrevocable trusts" that, in effect, hide the true assets of the veteran so the veteran will appear to be low-income and thus qualify for the pension benefit. Check out claims with the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Office or the Illinois Attorney General's Office.



Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

KEEP DON'T WAIT. COMMUNICATE.
SAFE MAKE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TODAY.

• EACH OTHER •

SEPTEMBER is National Disaster Preparedness Month



- What can I do to survive during a disaster?
- How can I keep my pets safe in an emergency?
- What should I put in my emergency stockpile?
- How can I protect my kids from infectious disease?



Housing Our People Everywhere

We at H.O.P.E. (Housing Our People Everywhere) want to thank you for your endorsement in the State of Illinois for wanting to help us take this to a national level. Your support in our goal to offer all of this nations veterans the opportunity to not only have a home when they return from there service, but also to offer a home to every veteran that has ever served their country--Past, Present, and Future.

Your support is crucial at the national level to get this word spread to all of our veterans. Our goals of building communities that will provide the opportunity to build their home and give them a trade, the comradery of fellow soldiers, self esteem and dignity. For our veterans that cannot work and struggle to support themselves a place to call home. A home that is theirs and no one will be able to take that away.

We also want to work with local youth programs and schools to give our youth a chance to learn a trade and to help them stay on a straight and narrow path, as well as, build their community. For our citizens that have not stayed the straight and narrow a hand up. To give everyone in every walk of life the chance to stand tall and proud of themselves, their community, and a trade that they can support themselves and their families.

Local business are joining our cause every day. They have pledged a portion of their profits to support H.O.P.E. If you see our sticker in a window of a business you mention our name and you will be helping us make a difference for families everywhere.

Veterans now have H.O.P.E. in their Future

What is Happening Now

1. House Bill 4319 Hanna City Air Force Station with the support of Senator Dave Koehler, State Rep. Mike Unes, and State Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth sponsored the legislation to spur economic growth. Turning over 42 acres in Peoria County to the private sector for development. Congressman Darin Lahood and Senator Jason Barickman are working to put this in the hands of H.O.P.E., for the development of a community to support our nations veterans and those needing a hand up.
2. Alter Steel for their continued support and their Fill the Train Campaign to help reduce the cost of the steel to provide the most affordable housing possible.
3. An appreciation dinner for all of our current supporters and businesses.

Look who's making a difference H.O.P.E. supports @ www.ProjectHope.global

Volunteer for community outreach project in Minneapolis

The American Legion once again conducted a community outreach project during the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis.

The American Legion and Rebuild Together-Twin Cities worked at the East 7th Neighborhood Garden at Cambric Senior Apartments in St. Paul, Minn., on Friday, Aug. 24, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. The garden allows residents to grow their own food and flowers, be outside and socialize with their neighbors. Volunteers helped build raised garden beds, a storage shed and a compost bin. This year was a bit soggy but the rain didn't keep dozens of the Legion Family members from donating their time and energy to make Minnesota a little better than the way they found it.

Department of Illinois volunteers: (l-r) LaVera Davis, Kathy Cisna, Patti Williamson.



Land of Lincoln Honor Flight

The mission of Land of Lincoln Honor Flight is to show gratitude for our World War II, Korean era and Vietnam era Veterans by taking them--free of charge--to Washington DC to visit the memorials dedicated to their service.

We offer one-day flights departing from Abraham Lincoln Capitol Airport (Springfield) to Reagan National Airport in Washington DC. Venues visited include the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam Wall, the Lincoln Memorial, the US Marine Corps Memorial (Iwo Jima), the US Air Force Memorial, the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Virginia and Arlington National Cemetery for the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight serves a territory of approximately 25,000 square miles. Included in this area are the key central and southern Illinois cities of Bloomington-Normal, Urbana-Champaign, Decatur, Alton, Carlinville, Clinton, Danville, Effingham, Havana, Jerseyville, Lincoln, Litchfield, Mattoon, Rantoul and Springfield as well as the surround areas.

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight was established in 2009 as part of the National Honor Flight Network. As of June 2018, Land of Lincoln Honor Flight has served 3,856 Veterans on 50 flights.

This day of honor and gratitude is completely free for our Veterans. They have paid enough with their service; it is our turn to pay them back. Funding for these flights comes from the generous donations of individuals, merchandise sales and proceeds from fund-raisers held by local patriotic organizations and citizens in the community who want to demonstrate their gratitude for the sacrifices made by these Veterans who secured our freedom.

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and receives no federal, state or local government funds. The organization is run by an all-volunteer team that is committed to serving Veterans. A seven-member volunteer Board of Directors provides direction. There is no paid staff, office/utilities costs, etc, which keeps our administrative costs to under 1%, so virtually every dollar raised supports flight costs.

Veterans are offered flights in priority based upon their service. World War II Veterans are given top priority followed by Korean era Vets, then Vietnam Veterans. At present, there is virtually no waiting list for World War II or Korean era Veterans; new applicants will be offered the next available flight. The current wait time for Vietnam Veterans is a minimum of 2 years. Priority is also given to a Veteran who has a terminal illness or medical condition that would impeded his/her ability to participate in and enjoy the experience.

Help us carry out our mission of giving our Veterans "one more tour with honor" by recruiting World War II, Korean era, and Vietnam era Veterans who have not yet participated on an Honor Flight. Applications can be downloaded from landoflincolnhonorflight.org. Volunteers to serve as Guardians on a future flight are always needed. Guardians ensure our Veterans are comfortable and safely enjoy the day. In addition, Guardians have the honor of spending the day with true American heroes. Help us raise funds for future flights by sponsoring a fund-raiser or collecting donations. Representatives are available to share our mission, passion, and history with your social group, civic organization, business, school, etc. Finally, the public is invited to our Welcome Home events (August 21, September 25 and October 30) to give these Veterans the welcome home they never got but so richly deserve.

Contact us:

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight; 57 Country Place; Springfield, IL 62703

jmb4604@aol.com or smwelr_lhlf@aol.com

Phone: 217-585-1219, 217-652-4719 or 217-473-2540

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Department Appointments
Meetings with Division Cmdrs

@ DEPT HQ

September 5th

~ ~ ~

Division Officers Retreat

September 8th--9th

~ ~ ~

ALA 3rd Div Fall Forum

TBA @ 8:30 AM

September 8th

~ ~ ~

ALA Forum @ 8:30 am

Collinsville, IL

September 9th

~ ~ ~

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
DEPT. COMMANDER CARDER
September 9th**

~ ~ ~

Patriots Day

September 11th

~ ~ ~

SAL DEC—Salem

September 15th

~ ~ ~

ALA Forum 4th Division @ 8:30 AM

Mattoon, IL

September 15th

~ ~ ~

American Legion Birthday

September 16th

~ ~ ~

POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 21st

~ ~ ~

Fall DEC @ 1:00 PM

& Dept. Cmdrs. Homecoming

At Crowne Plaza Burr Ridge, IL

September 22nd

~ ~ ~

Gold Pin Cut-Off @ 12:00 pm

September 22nd

~ ~ ~

ALA Forum @ 8:30 AM

Lockport, IL

September 22nd

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The 7 Ways You Can Mentor a fellow Veteran

As you leave the military, you're likely being encouraged to find a mentor--someone who can guide you, advise you, and provide information and introductions for you as you enter the civilian workforce. Since 80 percent of new jobs come through a personal connection, networking and mentoring are critical for today's job seeker.

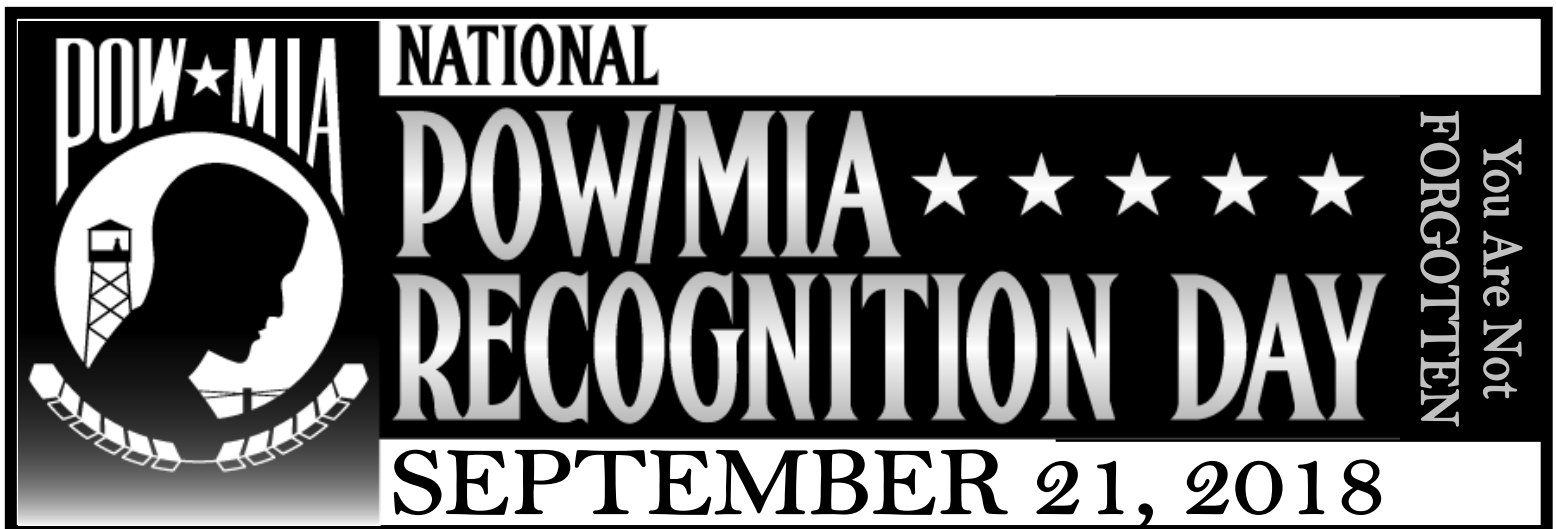
Have you considered, however, how you could help a servicemember separating or retiring by mentoring them? As someone who is on the path to a successful transition, you have skills, insights, information and other resources to share.

Here are 7 ways you can mentor a veteran (as a veteran):

1. **Tell them what worked/didn't work for you.** You've made the transition and (hopefully) are doing well. What did you do that you're glad you did. What do you regret? What was the best or worst advice you received? Share this insight with a veteran embarking on their transition.
2. **Help expand their network.** Coming out of the military, it's likely that the veteran knows other servicemembers, veterans and military workers. If you've started to form your own network of professional contacts, consider making some introductions for the veteran to people who would be good influencers. These people can help that veteran jump-start the development of their own personal network on contacts..
3. **Check in with them often.** Even if you don't have anything specific to review or discuss, drop your veteran mentee a quick email or phone call to check in. See if they are doing ok: Are they getting out? Have they had any meetings? Is there anything you can do to help? You know, as a veteran, that asking for help is challenging. Provide the opening by initiating the call.

4. **Meet them for coffee, lunch or breakfast.** If it's at all possible, try to meet with your mentee in person. Even a quick coffee meeting in the middle of the day can help someone who is struggling to stay connected to their community. For many veterans, the transition can feel isolating. Physically check in with them if you can.
5. **Invite them to events and gatherings and go with them.** You likely resisted the idea of networking with strangers when you first transitioned out of the military. Invite your mentee to go with you to a job fair, networking event, or social gathering. Having someone with them eases the tension and makes the situation more tolerable.
6. **Cheer them up.** If you come across a funny joke email (one that isn't potentially offensive,) send it to your mentee. Your email might arrive at just the moment they were feeling down or lost.
7. **Keep their perspective in check.** Think back to those first days, weeks and months of your own transition: The fear, anxiety, hope, and excitement you felt as you left the comforts and familiarity of the military to enter the next chapter of your life. Every feeling you had is likely going through the mind of the veteran you are mentoring. Use that information to help them keep perspective of the ups and downs of the transition.

Sharing what you know with someone coming up behind you is an inherent aspect of military service, and one you can leverage in the civilian sector. Finding a servicemember or veteran who seeks guidance, support and information, and mentoring them to success, is a rewarding way to serve those who've served.



100th National Convention—Minneapolis, MN



100th National Convention—Joliet Band Champions



100th National Convention—Junior Color Guard Champions



100th National Convention Parade Department of Illinois Leadership



100th National Convention Parade Illinois Delegation

Auxiliary Presidents



2018 Legacy Run Donations Sky Rockets at the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis, MN



After more than 1,000 miles traversed from Hutchinson, Kan., to Anoka, Minn., The American Legion Riders had helped raise more than \$600,000 for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. But they weren't close to being done.

Five days after the 13th annual American Legion Legacy Run ended, Legion Riders gathered on the 100th annual American Legion National Convention stage to present donations to the Legacy Fund. By the time the donations were finished, a record \$1,256,930 had been raised – the fifth-straight year the ride has raised more than \$1 million.

“It is difficult for those of you who are not involved with The American Legion Riders to understand the passion that the men and women in The American Legion Family have for our fellow veterans, their families, the community and to the memory of our fallen comrades,” said Legionnaire Bob Sussan, chairman of the National American Legion Riders Advisory Committee and the chief road captain for the Legacy Run.

The American Legion Department of Minnesota led the way, donating \$251,000 on the national convention floor -- \$51,000 more than the department delivered a year ago. Other top department donations on Tuesday were the departments of Missouri (\$93,324), South Carolina (\$65,204), Florida (\$57,005), Wisconsin (\$45,439), and Kansas (\$27,717). And Stevens-Christian Post 557 in Wintersville, Ohio, contributed \$15,000.

The five-day Legacy Run left Kansas and traveled through Missouri, Iowa and Wisconsin before finishing outside of Minneapolis. More than 200 motorcycles completed the ride.

The Legacy Fund provides college money for the children of U.S. military personnel killed on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, as well as children of post-9/11 veterans with a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher.

-National Headlines: August 28, 2018



GIFTS TO THE YANKS WHO GAVE 2018 CHRISTMAS DELIVERIES



The Commission is working on 2018 Christmas for the veterans. You should have gotten order forms in the AUGUST mailing from Department. *** Please noted items have changed, see page 13 in the September issue of the Department News for update.**

Order forms will be on line this year and you will be able to see what is in the gifts bags and other items being offered. There will be **NO sweaters this year**, a jacket will take its place. **BE SURE TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTION ON LINE www.giftstotheyanks.org. You can put orders in starting October 1st and must be in by November 1st.**

The Commission is asking for your support again this year in helping raise the funds needed to continue giving good quality gifts to the veterans. Remember that the Poppy Funds may be donated for the GTTY program. Contact your local nursing homes now, get to know your veterans, then you will be able to find out their needs as to a Christmas gift. It takes the Legion Family working together to make this program a success.

Gifts will be delivered to the Division Chairmen and they will notify you where you can pick up the orders in your Division. This has been a big help the last few years and saves the program lots of money on not having to ship the orders. Be sure to complete the order form, we need a contact person, name and phone number and address from Legion, Auxiliary, or SAL, don't forget your membership ID number on order form.

Looking forward to Christmas 2018 for our veterans, get in the Christmas Spirit, donate and volunteer to help. We need members to gather the orders in your area, send them in, help fill orders, pick up orders, wrap the gifts in Christmas wrap, insert the Christmas card included with the orders, and then deliver the gifts to the veterans, plan to spend a little time visiting with the veterans. YOU maybe the only visitor he/she has had in along time and the only gift they may receive.

Let the veterans know that The American Legion Family has not forgotten them and thank them for serving our Country.

Thanks for supporting the Gifts To The Yanks Program.

REMEMBER NOVEMBER IS GIFTS TO THE YANKS WHO GAVE MONTH

Good time to have your fundraisers and send your contributions into the Department office ear marked for the GTTY program on the GTTY form. Don't forget to support THE LEGION RIDERS on their rides for Gifts to the yanks program.



Gifts To The Yanks Who Gave Fund

Send Donations To: Gifts To The Yanks Who Gave
Department of Illinois
2720 E. Lincoln St.
Bloomington, IL 61704

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

POST# _____ DISTRICT# _____ DIVISION# _____

Information on web site
www.giftstotheyanks.org
(click on order information)
Print for your use.

**“Remembering our
Comrades at Christmas”**



**THANKS FOR SUPPORTING
THE GIFTS TO THE YANKS
PROGRAM**

AMERICAN LEGION
GIFTS TO YANKS
WHO GAVE
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS



Adult Robe



Fleece Blanket



Gift Bag

ATTENTION
 Please note
 the GTTY
 items to
 choose from
 have changed!

GIFT LIST (ONE GIFT PER VETERAN)
 (Please note, these are the only sizes available.)

Items	Quantity Each Size				
	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XXX-Large
Robe					
Blanket					
Males Gift Bag					
Female Gift Bag					

A Gift Bag Gift, for a veteran where size may be a problem: Male _____ Female _____

ONE GIFT PER VETERAN

TOTAL GIFTS NEEDED _____

Gift to Yanks 2018 Christmas Gifts Worksheet

Please complete this form and go to <http://www.giftstotheyanks.org> to order. ALL orders must be sent before November 1, 2018.

V.A. Hospital or Nursing Home Name _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Activity Director or Person in charge _____

Facility Telephone number (include area code) _____

American Legion Representative responsible for delivering gifts _____

Post # _____ Phone # (include area code) _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Facility is located in _____ District of the _____ Division of the Department of Illinois American Legion.

Total number of VETERAN patients in your facility? Male _____ Female _____

I certify these figures are accurate as of today's date _____.

Superintendent or Administrator _____

2018—2019 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
09/09/2018	12TH DISTRICT	11:30 AM	OTTAWA POST 33 (JOINT INSTALLATION)	OTTAWA
09/16/2018	24TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	HARRISBURG POST 167	HARRISBURG
09/19/2018	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	LINCOLNWOOD POST 1226	LINCOLNWOOD
09/21/2018	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	DEERFIELD POST 738	DEERFIELD
09/26/2018	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	BILLY CALDWELL POST 806	CHICAGO
09/27/2018	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	PARK FOREST POST 1198	CHICAGO HEIGHTS
09/30/2018	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	DUPO POST 485	DUPO
09/30/2018	23RD DISTRICT	10:00 AM	LAWRENCEVILLE POST 28	LAWRENCEVILLE
10/07/2018	16TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	TOLUCA POST 440	TOLUCA
10/07/2018	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CARLINVILLE POST 554	CARLINVILLE

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).

100 YEARS OF VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

American Legion Department of Illinois

Centennial Coin

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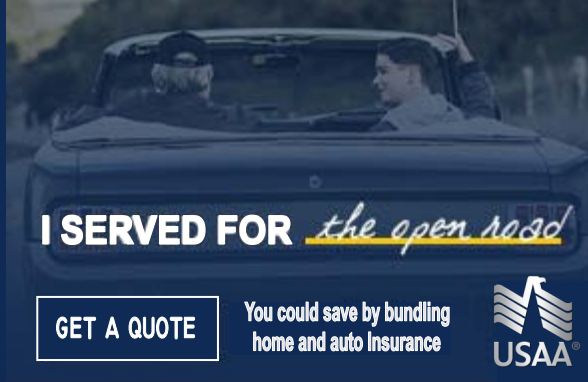


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AMERICAN LEGION POST 1115
500 LEGION LN., SPRING BAY, ILLINOIS
(309)822-8741

2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY FESTIVAL AND HOG ROAST



SEPTEMBER 15, 2018
3:00 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M.

(FOOD SERVED FROM 4:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.)

**FOOD, FUN & MUSIC
FOR ALL AGES & ALL PEOPLE**

KIDS MEAL: BURGER OR HOT DOG & CHIPS

**ADULTS: \$10 IN ADVANCE
\$12 DAY OF THE EVENT
KIDS 12 & UNDER: \$5**

> CASH BAR <

BILLY VANCIL BAND (8-11 PM)
WHISKEY BENT (5-8 PM)
ART & MONTE (3-5 PM)

!COME ONE & ALL!

GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE AT THE LEGION

**THE AMERICAN LEGION, SERVING VETERANS,
THEIR FAMILIES & THEIR COMMUNITIES.**

Loda Post 503



107 N. 600 East Rd., Loda, Illinois

September 7

**15—Saturday (in Danville at
Post 210) 5:00pm to 7:00 pm**

28

October 12

19

**27 Saturday (at Post 210) This event
is to recognize the persons who participated in the
opening ceremonies at the 2018 American Legion
State Golf Outing, but is open to the public. 5:00 pm
to 7:00pm.**

The menu for all of these events will basically be the same unless mentioned otherwise, the serving times will be from 4:30 to 7:30pm on Friday evenings.

The menu includes Fish (pollack), chicken, livers, gizzards, French fries, baked beans, green beans (with potatoes, bacon, and onions,) coleslaw, and potato salad.

Price (at the Loda location) is **\$8.00** all you can eat children under 8 years old are free.

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DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
P.O. BOX 2910
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61702

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Department Commander MICHEAL M. CARDER Department Editor MARTY CONATSER

Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag

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SEPTEMBER TRIVIA?

- In a military contract, what item is referred to as a "portable, handheld communications inscriber"?
- What was the first war in which soldiers wore machine-made uniforms?
- Who was the youngest U.S. Army officer ever to be promoted to general?
- In the military world, what is EGADS?
- During the cold war what kind of curtain was said to divide east and west?

ANSWERS:

1. A Pencil.
2. The American Civil War.
3. George Custer, a graduate of West Point, who became a general at age 23--14 years before his infamous battle of Little Big Horn.
4. The signal used when it's necessary to destroy a missile in flight. EGADS is an acronym for Electronic Ground Automatic Destruct System.
5. Iron curtain.



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

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

Created by Sue Lindlauf
Grand Forks Herald 2012

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. LABOR | 5. WORK | 9. SUMMER | 13. AMERICAN |
| 2. DAY | 6. LONG | 10. NATIONAL | 14. MONDAY |
| 3. HOLIDAY | 7. WEEKEND | 11. USA | 15. DAY |
| 4. SEPTEMBER | 8. ENDING | 12. TRAVEL | 16. OFF |