

2017-2018 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROBERT "BOB" HENDERSON

DECEMBER 2017



AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



MEMBERSHIP CARAVAN

ILLINOIS LEGION FAMILY WELCOMES SPECIAL GUEST

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF
 DECEMBER 1, 2017

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District	Commander
1	Mittlestaedt
13	Kraut
7	Bickley
19	Coventry
17	Helsel
18	Torbet
16	Hinton
8	Cooper, Jr.
20	Flowers
22	Gindler

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



Past National Vice Commander
Paul Martel



Department Commander
Bob Henderson



Department Auxiliary President
Marsha Haag



SAL Detachment Commander
Paul Hayse

The Illinois American Legion Family is pleased to announce that Past National Vice Commander Paul Martel, will be our special guest during the 2018 Legion Family Membership Caravan.

Find a stop near you to hear his enthusiastic message for the Illinois American Legion Family.

The 2018 American Legion Family Membership Caravan will be coming to a town near you. Please make plans to meet the Caravan on the date, time & location listed on the caravan schedule inside on pg. 7. If not your town, feel free to come visit a post close to you, and bring ALL membership cards even if it's just one. We all look forward to seeing you!



From The Desk of Department Commander Bob Henderson



Country Inn & Suites put on by the 5th division. This a great event.

On November 22nd, I attended Gary Jenson's retirement party. Many friends stopped in to wish him well, thanking for his service to The Department of Illinois. We wish you a happy retirement.

Thanksgiving at my house was with family and friends eating turkey and ham along with all the trimmings. I hope everybody had a good Thanksgiving and all they could eat.

November 30th, we will be in the 19th District for a revitalization for three days, I expect it to go well.

December 3, 2017 I will attend the Pearl Harbor Celebration in Teutopolis, IL.

The SAL Winter D.E.C. will be held in Effingham at Post 120 on December 9, 2017. December 16, 2017 we'll be at Tuscola Post 27 for their meeting.

Through the month of December we want to be thinking about Boys State and how to get more boys to attend. We also need donations so we have

extra money for the boys that want to go but don't have the money. I would like to see any Post that doesn't have a boy going to Boys State to donate enough to send one boy.

The Gifts to Yanks presents that you ordered should have been picked up and distributed by now.

Winter is almost here, please remember to keep an eye on our home bound Yanks.

Now on to Membership, the big thing right now is getting membership in by the 85% target date, Dec. 31st. Also for Posts who have not received this award yet, the cut-off for the 2nd Post 100% Cash Awards incentive is Jan. 2nd. This award is for each post that becomes 100% before or by this date. The award amount is determined per Post size. (Post Size 15-99 receive \$75.00; Post Size 100-249 receive .75 per member; and Post size 250+ receive .75 per member) Don't miss out on this award.

(Dept. Commander continued on page 5)

We stood at the Ottawa vigil November 4th and met a lot of nice Veterans and Legionnaires. The next day at the Utica Parade there was a big crowd even though it rained that morning.

Veterans Day was a great day, we spent the morning in Paris, IL with lunch at the VFW and that evening for the Monticello "Night" Parade.

Then on Sunday at Rantoul Post for their Veterans Day celebration.

The Egyptian Past Commander's Jamboree was well attended, more than in years past. We had a great time. On Friday we visited the Marion VA hospital then a steak dinner at The Haven. On Saturday we had Dinner at the Knights of Columbus in Marion then visited the hospitality room at the



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Micheal Carder



Legion offers.

From now and until the June close of books date is important that contact with every member is made, whether it is via the phone or door knocking. Making personal contact works wonders. Sometimes they just want to hear that they are part of an important TEAM.

District commanders, at our meeting in October, Commander Bob directed each of you to form a Membership Committee which would help the Senior Vice in renewing membership. Last month several districts had not formed their committees yet, and hopefully this problem will be solved.

The program works. Many districts who put their committee in place are sitting in the Top Ten. Doing district revitalization is another method of gaining members, contact Chad Woodburn at department and he will provide you with a member listing or a district can ask for help from the department staff. We will help.

As previously mentioned, a revitalization was done for the 22nd district in October and was very successful. The first weekend of December the 19th District will have completed their revitalization.

I hope everyone had a joyful Thanksgiving and I wish a very Merry Christmas to all.

Fellow Legionnaires, as of November 17, 2017 the department membership was **74.61%**, this is good. However, by the time you are reading this article it will be December and the Legion year will soon be ending and there are many blue caps who have not renewed their membership. Remember that if they do not renew their membership by December 31, they will not be eligible for the support programs that The American



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Marsha Haag



Greetings from the American Legion Auxiliary!!

Our Auxiliary ladies (elves) are busy with Christmas Gift Wraps at the VA facilities. Each location has different things going on and our ladies know what works best for the facility where they volunteer. I will have the opportunity to attend and help wrap at a couple near my hometown.

Our Centennial Strategic Plan has anticipated our membership to be 1 Million members when we turn 100 years old in 2019. We are working hard to maintain our members and look to find more ladies and girls who are eligible. The American Legion can help us reach our goal. Do you have a female spouse, daughter, granddaughter, sister, mother? Are they current members? If not, why not? Do you know active military females? We offer the same membership opportunity, first

year is free. What a good deal!! When we work together to strengthen our numbers, we have the opportunity to accomplish great things for our communities, the military families and the children whom we support. Please help us, refer them to your Unit membership chairman or the Unit President and we will be happy to get them enrolled.

On our Fall Forum route, we stressed kindness. It starts at the Units and we need our Legion Family to work together cordially. There are 4 branches in our Family; when we work together, with kindness, we can accomplish great things. We also encouraged them to keep track of hours and money for our impact numbers. Sample reporting forms were handed out so members can have an idea of what Department is needing for the Impact numbers at year end. We have some members who didn't realize what affect the things they do in the Units, really matters.

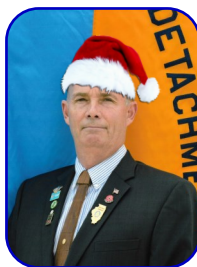
Congratulations to Gary Jenson on his retirement from the Legion Headquarters Office as Assistant Adjutant. Happy trails, Gary.

As we enter the Christmas season, let us be mindful of others who need our help. The shelters are looking for volunteers and physical donations as well as nursing homes, children's homes, caring trees, toy drives, just to name a few. Our American Legion Family could make the holiday a bit more comfortable with our assistance.

The Legion Family Caravan will be coming to a town near you. Please encourage your Unit members to attend with you. Our membership chairman, Janet Bacon, has challenged the Auxiliary. She is putting Units in a drawing for \$100 for the Unit for the greatest attendance at the Fall Forum and the Winter Caravan. If you're coming, may as well bring a car full.

Looking back on the 2017, we, meaning all of us, have seen changes. Some are good, some not so good. I hope for all our members in the American Legion Family that 2018 will be happy, healthy and prosperous. See you at a Winter Caravan stop near you.

MERRY CHRISTMAS,
HAPPY HANNAKKUH,
and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Paul A. Hayse



The Holiday Season is upon us. It is a time we need to stop and remember our homeless veterans in need of support. There are many organizations in the country that attend to unsheltered veterans and a small donation of money or time this season would be a nice gesture to show the American Legion family cares. Check your local food banks, Senior Citizen Center or Salvation Army to see where the need is.

Winter D.E.C. will be held on December 9th in Edgewood, right off of Interstate 57. We urge all to attend. The Commissions and committees do a great deal of good toward bettering The Sons of the American Legion. The education, new ideas, new friends and new ways of getting things accomplished through these meetings is always worth the time it takes to attend. With December closing, all membership unpaid for 2017-2018 will be delinquent. Please try to have all squadrons certified and officers payed up. Benefits are lost with delinquent membership dues.

The Egyptian Past Commanders Club 81st Haven Jamboree has come and

gone. There was good attendance. The operation of The Haven is no small undertaking. It is maintained solely on donations. With your help, the E.P.C.C. has been able to maintain The Haven since 1950. We toured the Marion Veterans Administrative Medical Center, which is always a good time to visit with our veterans and have any questions answered.

In closing, we would like to wish all seasons greetings, good health, and safe travels through the holidays, and that the new year brings happiness and good fortune to all.



Did You Know?

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

That almost all of my articles over the years have dealt with what veterans should do. This month we will take a 180 degree turn and delve into what veterans and their survivors should **NOT** do. There are always two sides to a coin.

If you are sent a flyer stating you can have a free meal if you just will listen to lawyers talk about the Veterans Administration Non-Service Connected pension benefit with aid and attendance be careful. They can't charge you for filing a claim for that benefit but they usually will talk you into setting up various trusts and wills which will cost your money. **DON'T** sign anything unless you know exactly what you are doing. If need be bring a son or daughter along.

If you get a telephone call from someone claiming they are from the Veterans Administration hospital prescription department and they just need to confirm your Social Security number **DON'T** give it to them. That's a big scam to steal your identity.

When you get that call from a person asking for donations to help needy veterans **DON'T** make a contribution over the telephone unless you are 100% sure the group is on the up and up. If concerned, simply ask them to send you a request in the mail. Then when you get that info check them out at one of the many websites like www.givewell.org or www.charitywatch.org.

If you are on the VA non-service connected pension program and someone asks you to collect their winnings for a lotto ticket or gambling casino-**DON'T**. Regardless of their excuse (lost wallet, left driver's license at home, etc.) by collecting the winnings for them, the IRS will be notified under your Social Security number and name. Later when the VA and IRS computers run their cross matches you will end up with a large debt.

If you decide to appeal your Veterans Administration claim and hire a lawyer **DON'T** just accept any fee agreement. The lawyer must get their fees approved by the VA.

If you have forgotten to take your medications and have a lot of pills left over **DON'T** give them to someone who has the same illness e.g. hypertension. Everybody is different and what is a valid dose for you could kill someone else or at the very least make them very sick.

If you're like me and have dozens of passwords for various online accounts **DON'T** use the same password. If a hacker gets your password, they can have a field day with your other accounts.

DON'T just notify the VA hospital or clinic when you move. You must also notify the VA benefits side, especially if you have a claim or appeal pending. These two large VA computer systems don't yet talk to each other. So if you don't notify both parts of the VA you may get your medicine and appointment info at the new address but important information on your appeal may be returned by the Post Office as undeliverable.

PS The Post Office will still forward mail for at least six months and perhaps even up to a year.

Safe deposit boxes are nice places to keep important documents but **DON'T** keep your only copy of your military discharge papers in it. Have another copy somewhere at home so that when you pass away your next-of-kin will have access to it. Most bank vaults are not open on weekends, nights and holidays. In most cases the Funeral Home only needs a clear, readable copy, not the original.

Finally if you have been dating several months or having been living with someone for a while **DON'T** add them to your checking or savings account if your VA checks are on direct deposit. If you have a falling out or a lovers tiff that person can clean out your account and you have no recourse with the VA.

That was fun! And I'll leave you with one final tip; **DON'T** forget to read my article in next month's newsletter.

Those who have fought hard for their country and their families know what it is to value special times at home with loved ones. Wishing you lots of joy this Christmas and plenty of happy times with your friends and family.



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

www.illinoisboysstate.org

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday season on behalf of your American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State staff. As you take time to enjoy your family and friends remember that if you have high school age children around you, make sure to introduce them to our program. Not only for their growth, but for the growth of our nation. ***Our brochure makes a great stocking stuffer!*** Next year's session will have more speakers and our legion members involvement is growing every year! Our staff of volunteers are honored every year to be able to bring this program to our youth but without the continued support from our local posts throughout the state our program will be a thing of the past. So, during this holiday season, as you count your blessings please count on increasing the number of young men you send to the American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State. By the way, did I mention that ***our brochure makes a great stocking stuffer.***

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

Romeoville SAL Presentation



American Legion Post 52 and the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 52 members were involved in a charitable cook out at the Romeoville Sam's Club on October 28th where they helped raise money for the Children's Miracle Network Hospital to the sum of \$370.00. To add to the total, Squadron 52 presented a check for \$250.00 which brought the total raised to \$620.00.

Squadron 52 members pictured are: Commander Christopher H. Benigno, Junior Vice Commander George Nigro, Adjutant Thomas Rednour, Service Officer Steven Daley and member Peter Jones.

(Dept. Commander continued from page 2)

National Commander Denise H. Rohan would like for all Posts to get all of their renewals in by December 31, 2017.

We also want to be thinking about the 2018 Illinois American Legion Family Membership Caravan in January. The route has been drawn and flyers will be sent out to all the districts. We look forward to having Past National Vice Commander Paul Martel travel with us. He is an enthusiastic speaker you won't want to miss. Check the schedule (pg. 7. in this issue) and attend a Caravan stop near you.

I want to thank everybody for the work that they have put in this year. I also want to thank all the District Membership committees for the job they are doing. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. THANK YOU.

Then last but not least I want to wish you ALL a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

December 31st

85%

TARGET DATE

2018 American Legion Legacy Scholarship application now online



Portrait of Chelsea Briggs, holding the boots of her father, Staff Sgt. Raymond Briggs, in Wahiawa, Hawaii on Friday, Dec. 9, 2016. Briggs, whose father passed when she was 12, is a recipient of The American Legion's Legacy Scholarship. Photo by Lucas Carter/The American Legion.

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship application for 2018 is now online for new and returning applicants to fill out. The Legacy Scholarship is available for children whose parents lost their lives while honorably serving on active duty on or after 9/11, as well as for children of post-9/11 veterans with a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher.

The renewable scholarship will award up to \$20,000 for the expense of graduate or post-graduate tuition, books, room and board, meal plans, transportation and other supplies needed to achieve a higher education.

The application deadline is March 1st.

Apply online at www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy.

The Legacy Scholarship is a needs-based one. The grant amount each scholarship recipient will receive will be based on his or her financial need after all federal and state aid is exhausted. Recipients will have a year to use the grant and may reapply to the scholarship up to six times. The number of scholarships awarded and the amount of financial aid granted to each awardee (this includes returning applicants) will be determined on donations to the scholarship fund and one's financial needs.

Scholarship recipients are selected by The American Legion's Committee on Youth Education during the organization's annual Spring Meetings in May. All applicants, whether recipients of the Legacy Scholarship or not, will be notified immediately thereafter.



VA Announces Rollout and Application Process for New Veterans ID Card

WASHINGTON — Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that the application process for the national Veterans Identification Card (VIC) is now available for Veterans — yet another action honoring their service.

This has been mandated through legislation since 2015 to honor Veterans, and today's rollout of the ID card fulfills that overdue promise.

Only those Veterans with honorable service will be able to apply for the ID card, which will provide proof of military service, and may be accepted by retailers in lieu of the standard DD-214 form to obtain promotional discounts and other services where offered to Veterans.

“The new Veterans Identification Card provides a safer and more convenient and efficient way for most Veterans to show proof of service,” said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. “With the card, Veterans with honorable service to our nation will no longer need to carry around their paper DD-214s to obtain Veteran discounts and other services.”

The VIC provides a more portable and secure alternative for those who served the minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold. Veterans who served in the armed forces, including the reserve components, and who have a discharge of honorable or general (under honorable conditions) can request a VIC.

To request a VIC, Veterans must visit vets.gov, click on “[Apply for Printed Veteran ID Card](#)” on the bottom left of the page and sign in or create an account.

Veterans who apply for a card should receive it within 60 days and can check delivery status of their cards at vets.gov. A digital version of the VIC will be available online by mid-December.

2018 ILLINOIS AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY MEMBERSHIP CARAVAN SCHEDULE

JANUARY 11 - 20, 2018

January	Div#	Dist#	Post #	City	Program Start
JANUARY 11	2	10	281	HOMER DAHRINGER	6:00 PM
JANUARY 12	2	12	337	GENOA	8:30 AM
JANUARY 12	2	13	296	STERLING	11:30 AM
JANUARY 12	3	14	1166	REYNOLDS	6:00 PM
JANUARY 13	3	15	381	ABINGDON	8:30 AM
JANUARY 13	3	16	323	HENRY	11:30 AM
JANUARY 13	2	11	312	MAPLE PARK	6:00 PM
JANUARY 14	1	9	973	TATTLER	8:30 AM
JANUARY 14	1	5	256	COMMODORE BARRY	12:00 PM
JANUARY 14	1	8	697	EDWARD SCHULTZ	6:00 PM
JANUARY 15	4	17	174	FORREST	12:00 PM
JANUARY 16	CARAVAN OFF				
JANUARY 17	5	22	485	DUPO	6:00 PM
JANUARY 18	5	24	224	FAIRFIELD	12:00 PM
JANUARY 18	5	25	1961	ORIENT	6:00 PM
JANUARY 19	5	23	120	EFFINGHAM	8:00 AM
JANUARY 19	4	19	71	URBANA	12:00 PM
JANUARY 19	4	18	210	DANVILLE	6:00 PM
JANUARY 20	4	21	1922	STATE POLICE	12:00 PM
JANUARY 20	3	20	129	MENARD COUNTY	6:00 PM



PLEASE NOTE: The Caravan Schedule is tentative until the pre-drive is complete (Dec. 14th). Please keep an eye on our website for any changes.

Past National Vice Commander Paul Martel will be our special guest during the 2018 Illinois American Legion Family Caravan.

Please take time to come to one of the caravan stops nearest you and if you plan on attending the meal you will want to R.S.V.P. to the post.



Bring any membership cards with you that need to be turned in...even if it's just ONE.

176th Cyber Protection Team Activates in Bloomington



SPRINGFIELD, IL (11/05/2017) The 176th Cyber Protection Team was honored in a ceremony recognizing the group's official activation at the Illinois National Guard's Armory in Bloomington, Illinois on Nov. 5. Maj. Gen. Richard J. Hayes, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard, presided over the ceremony that included nearly 20 military members, as well as Congressman Darin Lahood and State Representative Dan Brady. During the ceremony, Hayes said this unit was challenged during preparation for activating this unit and would be even more in the future. "This unit comes at a time when they are needed the most," said Hayes. "Cyber Protection becomes more vital all the time and the Illinois National Guard looks to lead the way in battling cyber-attacks." Lahood said cyber security of our national institutions, our businesses and corporations and our personal data continues to be one of the biggest challenges that the federal government faces. "What we are doing here today by activating this unit is we are taking the next step by putting young men and women that are committed to fighting on the cyber security front into action," said Lahood. "I commend Major General Hayes and the Illinois National Guard for stepping up to put this unit in place and we have to continue to be vigilant." Brady said this unit exemplifies what the state of Illinois is trying to do. "We are trying to be pro-active instead of reactive against cyber-attacks," said Brady. The Illinois National Guard works hand-in-hand with multiple state and federal agencies as well as nongovernmental entities in domestic emergency operations and has participated in cyber protection exercises at the state, regional and national level. Partners within Illinois slated to support cyber operations include DuPaul University, Illinois State University, the University of Illinois at Champaign, the University of Illinois at Springfield, Lincoln Land Community College, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, the Illinois State Police, and the DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. As part of ongoing growth of cyber forces throughout the Department of Defense, the National Guard announced plans to activate 13 additional cyber units spread throughout 23 states by the end of fiscal year 2019. The current roll out of Guard cyber units is part of laying out a larger foundation for future cyber forces scheduled for activation.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Important
DATE!*

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
~ ~ ~

2nd 100% Post Cash Award
Cut-off 1:00 pm
January 2nd
~ ~ ~

American Legion Family
Membership Caravan
January 11th--20th
~ ~ ~

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
DEPT OFFICE CLOSED
January 15th
~ ~ ~

90 % Target Date
Gold Pin Cut-off 1:00 pm
January 31st
~ ~ ~

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

Lincoln's Birthday
February 12th
~ ~ ~

Valentine's Day
February 14th
#



*The American Legion
Department Staff
and VA&R Staff
wish you all a very
Merry Christmas*

Department Commander Bob Henderson

Department Pr. Vice Commander Mike Carder

Marty Conalser

Chad Woodburn

Christy Rich

Dee Dalton

Terry Lynn Gaddis

Cheryl Hutson

Marsha Nalley

Toni Hernan

Joy Wilson

David Scott Jr.

Dorothy Wagner

Wayne Macejak

Ray Toczek

Joy Jenkarnchang

Marlene Kuhl

Carolina Contreras

Bill Plider

100 YEARS OF VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

American Legion Department of Illinois

Centennial Coin



Coins are numbered
001 - 500



Coin number not Guaranteed

**NOW
AVAILABLE**

Order one today!

(309)663-0361

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



During the Cold Temperatures



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



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



The 81st Annual Haven Jamboree Egyptian Past Commanders Club

was held the weekend of November 17-19, 2017. There was a big turnout for the visit at the Veterans Hospital in Marion, the Friday night Steak fry and the Banquet dinner held Saturday Night. Pictured below are a few snapshots taken during the Annual Jamboree. National Vice Commander Bill Flanagan (IL) was among the special guests.



Retiring after 8 years of Service to Department!
Thank you Gary!

State of Illinois
Department of Veterans' Affairs

This certificate is presented to:
Gary R. Jensen
 American Legion
 Department of Illinois
 November 22, 2017

For your tremendous efforts on behalf of Illinois' Veterans and their families, and in recognition of your 8 years of service to the American Legion and the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. Congratulations!

*Erica L. Jeffries, Director
 Department of Veterans' Affairs*

*Bruce Rauner, Governor
 State of Illinois*

Doors officially open for new Kankakee-based Army National Guard Facility

The Illinois Army National Guard cut the ribbon and officially opened its new Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF) and readiness center in Kankakee, Illinois, on Nov. 4.

"We are always working to be better prepared for the war fight and domestic response the next time we have to answer the call for duty," said Maj. Gen. Richard Hayes, the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard. "This facility moves that training into the 21st century and gives us room to grow in the future."

The \$64.6 million, 185,200-square-foot aviation facility is among the largest projects undertaken by the Illinois National Guard. The building includes an approximately 112,150-square-foot Army Aviation Support Facility, including maintenance hangers, shops, flight facilities, fuel distribution, state-of-the-art fire suppression systems and a cold storage hanger. It also includes an approximately 73,050-square-foot readiness center, including classrooms, offices, ground equipment maintenance, a weapons simulator and flight simulators, vaults and a medical clinic.

Brig. Gen. Mark Jackson, Assistant Adjutant General – Army, Illinois National Guard, who officiated the ceremony, said the project was a true joint effort.

"This project was paid for with funds from the state of Illinois and the federal government," said Jackson. "But we couldn't have completed this project without a strong partnership with the city of Kankakee and the Kankakee Airport Authority."

Illinois' Lieutenant Governor, Evelyn Sanguinetti, thanked the Soldiers in attendance for their service and praised the new facility and said projects like this were essential to the economic growth of Illinois before cutting the ceremonial ribbon with Jackson.

"It's our responsibility to provide the best training and facilities

to our Soldiers," said Sanguinetti. "This facility will ensure that we have the best trained and ready Soldiers in the state and in the Army National Guard."

Construction was started in September 2014 and was completed in October 2017. The Illinois Army National Guard will move three units and assets from Chicago Midway Armory to the facility in Kankakee. That includes more than 200 traditional Army National Guard Soldiers, approximately 40 full-time employees and ten UH-60 Blackhawks.

"The functional layout and infrastructure support of this new facility is truly remarkable and it will be a privilege and honor to conduct aviation operations from the Kankakee AASF," said Illinois Army National Guard State Aviation Officer, Lt. Col. Jason Osberg of Champaign, Illinois. "The Kankakee flight facility will allow Illinois Army National Guard aviation to continue our mission more efficiently and enhance our aviation readiness for decades to follow."

Sen. Tammy Duckworth, a former Illinois Army National Guard Blackhawk Pilot with the 106th Aviation, said she was honored to be a part of the ceremony.

"It's an honor to be here at such a great facility for these Soldiers," said Duckworth. "This facility will ensure that the Soldiers here have all they need to defend this nation and serve our people so we don't have to worry about living our lives."

The project was funded with \$52.7 million of federal funding and \$11.9 million of state funding.

"We have had a great relationship with the city of Kankakee," Hayes said. "We look forward to strengthening that relationship along with relationships in neighboring communities like Bradley and Bourbonnais."

VETERANS DAY SWEEPSTAKES Gun Raffle Winners

With Veterans Day on a Saturday, we had our Gun Raffle Drawing on Monday, November 13th for the Veterans Day Sweepstakes. Congratulations to the following winners:

1st Place Winner-----**Michael Southard**

2nd Place Winner-----**Gervase E. Diekemper**

3rd Place Winner-----**Herman J. Demick**

STARTING OR GROWING A VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESS

Sign up for Boots to Business Reboot, an entrepreneurship training program for veterans and their spouses.

OWNING A VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS

Veterans have the character, discipline and skills needed to succeed as small business owners and entrepreneurs. Wondering what it takes and how you can prepare? Enroll in Boots to Business Reboot.

ABOUT BOOTS TO BUSINESS REBOOT

Boots to Business Reboot is a two-step training program that provides participants an overview of business ownership as a career vocation, an outline and knowledge on the components of a business plan, a practical exercise in opportunity recognition, and an introduction to available public and private sector resources.

Step one is the Introduction to Entrepreneurship course eligible to Veterans of all eras, service members (including members of the National Guard and Reserve) and their spouses. This course is instructed by SBA and its partners, who are skilled business advisors.

Step two is one of the online follow-on courses instructed by a consortium of professors and skilled business advisors from the SBA Network. Please email the team at boot-to-business@sba.gov if you've already attended an in-person Boots to Business class, and wish to sign-up for an online course.

Note: All SBA programs and services are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis. Reasonable arrangements for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Contact: the Boots to Business team at 202-205-8381 or email boots-to-business@sba.gov.

December 8, 2017

8:30 am – 4:00 pm

**American Legion Post 137
109 North Penn Street
O'Fallon, IL 62269**

***No fee for veterans and their
spouses***

For More Information:

Email: stephanie.spengler@sba.gov

Call: (217) 793-5020, 114

To **register** for this Reboot class:

<https://sbavets.force.com/>

To join the B2B community:

<https://sbavets.force.com/s/login/SelfRegister>

The Boots to Business Reboot program is provided through the coordinated efforts of the SBA and the following valued partners:



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY

LEARN MORE AT
WWW.SBA.GOV/BOOTSTOBUSINESSREBOOT

AND FOLLOW US AT
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BOOTS2BUSINESS

AND ON
TWITTER.COM/BOOTS2BUSINESS

Utica Parade

The day started off rainy and foggy but it stopped raining just before the parade was to start at 1:00. Bystanders were prepared for the weather, dressed in rain gear and warm coats. Kids had their plastic bags ready for the candy that was thrown. As the parade ended the Labor Local 393 brought the flag back down Main Street and the Emerald Society Bagpipers came to stand in front of the reviewing stand. The Emerald Society played the National Anthem and Taps with a bugler echoing the taps. The tribute then ended with a 21 gun salute.

Listed below are the winners of the Utica parade:

- Best Color Guard--Marseilles American Legion Post 235
- Hometown Award--Cub Scouts/Girls Scouts (Utica, Oglesby, All others)
- Most Patriotic Unit--USS VI USS Chicago Base Sub Veterans, Elwood, IL
- Best Restored Vehicle--Quad City Preservation Group--Brad Nelson
- Best Float--40 and 8 Voiture 433 of Annawan, IL (locomotive)
- Mayor's Award--Tunes of Glory
- Honorable Mention--ZomNyet Webster who sang the National Anthem
- Honorable Mention--Chicago Police Bag Pipe & Drum Band, Emerald Society
- Honorable Mention--Labor Local #393 carrying 60' by 30' American

24 hour vigil in Ottawa on November 4th



Monticello Veterans Day "Night" Parade



LODA AMERICAN LEGION Fish Fry

Loda American Legion is having a fish/chicken fry on December 8, 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, 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
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
12/20/2017	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	IWASZUK-CETWINSKI POST 943	CHICAGO
01/06/2018	3RD DISTRICT	11:30 AM	CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY	CHICAGO
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
01/24/2018	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	HOWARD H. RHODE POST 888	NORTHLAKE
01/25/2018	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	REHFELDT-MEYER POST 474	MATTESON
02/03/2018	3RD DISTRICT	11:30 AM	CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY	CHICAGO

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

PUBLISHED MONTHLY *

Phone: 309-663-0361 Fax: 309-663-5783
Email: hdqs@illegion.org Web: www.illegion.org

Department Commander Department Editor
ROBERT "Bob" HENDERSON MARTY CONATSER

Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag

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

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

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



Visit our website!
Scan Here

DECEMBER TRIVIA?

1. What military firsts were achieved by Benjamin O. Davis Sr. and Benjamin O. Davis Jr?
2. What actor has attained the highest U.S. Military rank in history for an entertainer?
3. Before the U.S. Navy adopted the standard 21-gun salute in 1841, how many blasts did its warships fire when they sailed into foreign ports?
4. What was a tenth-century Chinese alchemist trying to discover when he accidentally produced gun powder?
5. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, what song was the Navy band playing?

ANSWERS:

1. In 1940, Davis Sr. became the first black general in U.S. Army history; in 1954, his son Davis Jr. became the first black general in U.S. Air Force history.
2. James Stewart, who rose to the rank of a brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.
3. One of each state in the union serve.
4. A formula for immortality.
5. The Star-Spangled Banner.



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

BELLS	RUDOLPH	ELVES	JOY
CANDLES	SANTA	FROSTY	MERRY
CANDY CANE	SEASON	GIFT	MISTLETOE
CARDS	SLEIGH	GIVING	NOEL
CELEBRATE	STOCKING	GREETINGS	NORTH POLE
CHIMNEY	TREE	HOLIDAY	REINDEER
CHRISTMAS	WREATH	JOLLY	