

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS Department News



The American Legion Family



2018–2019 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER MICHEAL M. CARDER

OCTOBER 2018



THE CENTENNIAL COMMANDER



American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad has worked in law enforcement for nearly 40 years.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF
SEPTEMBER 28, 2018

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District	Commander
8	Lange
7	Hoffman
16	Rice
13	Kraut
11	Reece, Jr
12	Gerkitz
9	Horn
18	Rowe
14	Schomer, Jr
1	Mittelstaedt

Division	Commander
2	BENIGNO
1	LAMPERT
3	DAVIS, III
4	NARGELENAS
5	MADSEN

National Commander Brett Reistad appreciates what it means to be part of a legacy. When he completed infantry school in 1974, the Army sent Reistad to historic Fort Myer, Va., to serve with the Presidential Salute Battery of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment – the Old Guard, the Army’s oldest active-duty infantry unit. He enjoyed the mission: firing cannon volleys for ceremonies and special events at Arlington National Cemetery and throughout the Washington, D.C., area. But it was only later, after he’d embarked on a career in law enforcement and become involved in The American Legion, that Reistad began to fully appreciate those four years in the military.

“To be involved with a unit that prestigious is an honor,” he says. “It’s something I will forever cherish.”

There’s a pride in belonging to something bigger than yourself, something with a rich history. That’s Reistad’s message for Legionnaires as he leads the organization into its centennial year. Elected national commander at the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis on Aug. 30, he wants each and every member to consider themselves part of his Team 100, building a strong membership and spreading the word about the Legion’s unequaled record of veterans advocacy.

“This is a great year to celebrate The American Legion, and we’re all stakeholders,” Reistad says. “We all have a responsibility to ensure the Legion survives and thrives into the next century.”

‘SELDOM SEEN BUT ALWAYS HEARD’ The military life chose Reistad as much as he chose it. His grandfather served in World War I. Three uncles served in World War II. His father met his mother at West Point, where he was a military policeman and she was a civilian employee.

As a boy, Reistad spent a lot of weekends at his grandmother’s home in Highland Falls, N.Y., a stone’s throw from the front gate of the U.S. Military Academy, watching cadet sports, drills and

(Centennial Commander continued on page 6)



From The Desk of Department Commander Micheal M. Carder



Well, September is gone and October is here and the fall colors will dot the country side and the silver bullet will be blowing leaves in the wind as we travel through the state. The past month began with the annual Division Officers Retreat in Carlinville. It was good to see all of the Division officers and discuss the needs of the Department of Illinois, and do a little problem solving. On the second day the officers from each division presented their plan for retention and recruitment of members into and back into their respective divisions. All of the plans were sound and well thought out.

Following that event it was off to Salem, IL for the SAL DEC. It was well attended and the meeting was well controlled by Commander Gort.

Finally, the Fall DEC and my Homecoming was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Burr Ridge, IL. The Homecoming dinner was great fun, plenty of fellowship, drink and food. Entertainment was provided by the Evanston Post Bluegrass group. If you missed this event you missed fantastic entertainment (*must have been good, folks south of 64 were grinning*). I wish to thank everyone who attended making this an evening to remember.

By the time this newsletter has been delivered it should be noted that the Department Fall Meetings will have been held and each commission and committee will have formulated their plans for the year.

This legion year will be exciting with the visits of Legion National Officers. The Caravan will be joined by PNC Denise Rohan and for the week of Armed Forces celebration we will be joined by National Commander Brett Reistad. Be on the look out for further details.

If the word has not reached everyone yet my special project for this year is The Haven. This is the hidden gem of the Department of IL, The Haven is a great example to all on "This is What We Do". However, The Haven needs our support to maintain it's structure and purpose. With your support we can continue the great work this gem provides. I ask for your help!!!

Legionaries, this is the start of our second century and this year it is up to us build the foundation of the Department of Illinois to grow into the second century. If the foundation is strong we will serve, if it is weak we will disappear along with the programs which do so much good for our communities. How do we build this foundation? It is simple...**Bring back all of your blue caps. Get bloody knuckles, and make personal contact.** I ask you to join me in rolling up our sleeves and get to work.



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Roy Weber



The past month has gone by quickly. Our National Convention in Minneapolis went well and our newly elected National Commander Brett Reinstad has challenged us to increase program participation and membership. Weather conditions prohibited the parade in the streets; however, it convened inside the convention center and turned out great. The Joliet band did not win their competition but placed well.

There were many Labor Day celebrations and of course the Legion Posts around the state provided the color guards. Community involvement like

this enhances our organization and helps our veterans interact with their community.

Our Commanders homecoming is this month on the 21st, along with the DEC and I anticipate seeing many of our Legionnaires there.

September also starts our District and Division meetings so please plan to attend when possible. Many new ideas and pertinent information are discussed at these meetings and therefore it is important to attend.

Also leadership training has been scheduled, with the first in Vandalia, on September 15th (5th Division). I attended the training with a good number of posts represented. The presenters did a super job as usual and post reps asked many questions and offered their comments as well. Thanks to Post 95 for

hosting and feeding those in attendance! On September 29th and October 6th, at Department, we will have our fall committee and Commission meeting. Again, very important for the members to attend, as it is mandatory they be there.

We also have the Division & District Commander Membership workshops on October 13th and 14th. Our National Caravan is fast approaching and the first meeting for preparation is October 1st at Department HQ.

Currently our membership is at 55.78%, just above our national average. We have over 25 posts above 90%, and several of these are 100% or above. Congratulations to those putting in the extra effort!!!

(Dept. SVC continued on page 8)

From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Debra Lewis



Happy Fall Legionnaires!

September has been busy for the Department Auxiliary Fall Forum team; we presented six fall forums in 4 weekends! Special thanks to the Units and their Legion Family helpers in Havana, Collinsville, Mattoon, Lockport, Franklin Park, and Lena for hosting the meetings. We greatly appreciate all of your efforts.

October has several fantastic opportunities to help serve Veterans and our communities. There is a Stand Down planned October 6th in Peoria. This is a joint function of the VA and the local Goodwill. It is a great way for us to join and provide assistance. We also have Make a Difference Day on

October 27th and the beginning of the Christmas Gift Shops at the VA Hospitals and Illinois Veteran's Homes. We would greatly appreciate assistance for Legionnaires and Sons at the Christmas Gift Shops; if you are interested in helping at one we will gladly connect with our local Facility Representatives.

Department Commander Mike's homecoming was a wonderful evening spent celebrating with our entire Legion Family. He had an amazing Bluegrass band as entertainment. It was a nice relaxing time visiting with friends, new and old. Mike, Eugene and I are really looking forward to supporting our Legion Family together. We are coming into some busy months for our Auxiliary work. Veteran's Day festivities, Christmas Gift Shops, Gifts to Yanks and several Unit visits are already planned. I hope to get to see many of you

during my travels this year.

I leave you with this thought; "Autumn is the season to find contentment at home by paying attention to what we already have". I wish you and yours a crisp and cozy autumn; I hope you can take a minute to pay attention to your blessings.

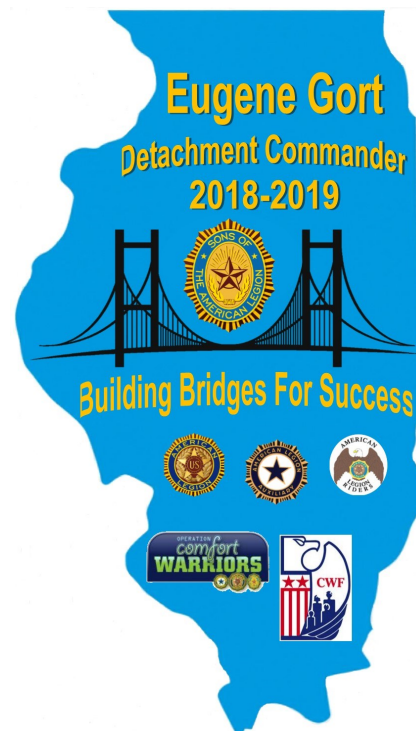


From The Desk of Detachment Commander Eugene Gort

As we are in another hurricane season, again our country is dealing with the devastating power of Mother Nature. Please keep all those affected by hurricane Florence in your thoughts and prayers. California has also continued to suffer from wildfires. Please consider having your squadron donate money to the **National Emergency Fund (NEF)**. These funds are available to Legion and Sons members in the event of a natural disaster. The affected member is eligible to receive up to \$3,000 to help them. A few years ago when Illinois was hit by tornadoes quite a few of our members

were able to receive this assistance. It's important for us to continue to donate to this fund so that we have money available for when the need arises.

On a positive note, we have started 5 new squadrons so far in Illinois. We also have a few more that are in the process of getting going. I'd like to thank the American Legion for helping to make this a possibility. We can't start new squadrons without your help. And we would love to get a squadron in every post. Together as a family we make the American Legion stronger. If you are at a post that doesn't have an S.A.L., I would hope you would consider starting one. Please reach out and we will help you with anything you need.





Did You Know?

Office: 312-980-4266 Email: Raymond.Toczec@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 contracts 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 the last twelve months I want to highlight some of the more interesting and successful claims or situations we handled.

1. A veteran had been denied enrollment into the Veterans Administration hospital. She didn't have any service-connected disabilities, a purple heart, recent combat theater, etc. Her combined income including her spouses put her over the means test threshold. I explored any loop holes with her and was able to determine she had 45 days of TDY at Camp Lejeune! Due to the drinking water problem there we got her into Hines hospital.
2. Another veteran wanted to get hearing aids at the Veterans Administration but he too didn't qualify for enrollment under the various categories. Turns out his job during the Cold War was intercepting and translating Russian fighter pilots conversations. The job entailed wearing earphones most of the time. Got him service-connected disabled compensation for th resulting tinnitus and he got his hearing aids.
3. A routine call from a veteran resulted in a favorable claim for HIV. He was infected by an unfaithful spouse and didn't realize he could get service-connected disabled compensation. After all it wasn't his fault she cheated.
4. A grandson was trying to obtain a free government headstone for his grandfather. Seems when the vet died money was tight and no one in the immediate family could afford to by one. The grave went unmarked for 45 years. The grandson did some research on the internet and was able to locate a death certificate. With that we were able to get a copy of the vet's DD 214 and two months later the headstone was shipped to the cemetery.
5. And my favorite recent case; a veteran called up requesting an increase in her service-connected compensation. Her condition had worsened since she last applied three years ago. I reviewed her records and found that they had granted her an increase back them but never processed the check. She got three years of back pay.

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 as long as I can.

Hope to have the results of our state resolutions that were submitted to the national convention in next month's article.

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



Division Officers Retreat

"I look forward to working with this group of officers as they prepare all of us for an exciting year. They all have some really great ideas.", Commander Micheal Carder.



82nd Anniversary Haven Jamboree

Sponsored by the:



EGYPTIAN PAST COMMANDERS

AND

PAST PRESIDENTS CLUBS

November 16-18, 2018

The E.P.C.C.'s has as its main responsibility, the support and maintenance of THE HAVEN which is located on Crab Orchard Lake, off Route #13, Carbondale, Illinois. THE HAVEN is an important part of the rehabilitation work in the 5th Division. Our main sources of income are: Donations, Annual Dues, Annual Post Per Capita Assessment, Annual Jamboree Raffle, Special Projects and Poppy Money. *There is no income from any government entity at any level. We are on our own. That is why your support is so important.*

JAMBOREE RAFFLE AND DONATIONS

The operation of THE HAVEN is no small undertaking. With your help, the E.P.C.C. has been able to maintain THE HAVEN since 1950. Participation in the Annual Jamboree Raffle will help support THE HAVEN for another year. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase at the Jamboree. If you would like to purchase tickets in advance contact: William J. Flanagan/Treasurer, 409 E. Oak St., New Baden, IL 62265.

JAMBOREE HOUSING FOR 2018

We will again enjoy accommodations at the Country Inn and Suites, 1306 Halfway Road, Marion, IL, 62959. Please make your own reservations by calling 1-618-997-2444. Be sure to mention The American Legion block of rooms when making your reservations coded HAVEN JAMBOREE for the weekend of 11/16 through 11/18. Your reservations must be received by October 31, 2018. The rate for the rooms will be \$85.00 plus tax.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16:

- 1:00 PM Tour of the Marion Veterans Administration Medical Center.(Tour may be cancelled due to conflict with visit from "System Worth Saving" Committee from the Nation American Legion.)
- 5:00 PM—8:00 PM Evening Steak Fry at The Haven—Cost \$15.00 per person. Reservations needed.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17:

- 11:00 A.M. – Sons of the American Legion meeting at The Haven
- 1:00 PM—3:00 PM Open house at The Haven at The Haven 2:00 P.M. Plaque dedication
- 5:00 PM—6:30 PM Cocktail Hour (*Courtesy of the 5th Division American Legion*) Country Inn & Suites
- 7:00 PM Buffet Style Banquet at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1601 W. White St., Marion.
Cost \$25.00 per person. Reservations are required.

The menu will be: Roasted Pork Loin, Chicken Au Vin (wine sauce), Mashed Potatoes, Caesar Salad, Vegetable Medley, rolls w/butter, dessert, coffee, tea, water.

Directions to the Knights of Columbus Hall will be available at Hotel. Cash bar available.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18:

- 9:00 AM Egyptian Past Presidents Club—Board Meeting at Country Inn and Suites
- 9:30 AM Egyptian Past Presidents Meeting at Country Inn and Suites
- 10:00 AM Annual Meeting of The Egyptian Past Commanders' Club at The Haven

**Send all Reservations to
William Flanagan 409 East Oak St., New Baden, IL 62265**

(Centennial Commander continued from page 1)

parades. He even attended the New York Military Academy, President Trump's alma mater, for a short time.

"My parents were going through a divorce and felt it was the best environment for me," he says. "That one year influenced the rest of my life just in terms of learning discipline, taking responsibility for oneself, doing your best."

During high school, Reistad was active in the Civil Air Patrol, but there was no question he'd join the Army after graduation. He originally enlisted for the 82nd Airborne, but while at infantry training at Fort Polk, La., Reistad wrote a letter requesting consideration for the Old Guard. "I was excited about the idea of serving there," he says. "Eventually I was given the opportunity."

As an 11 Charlie, or infantry mortarman, Reistad supported the regiment's 1st Battalion in tactical training exercises, and fired World War II-era M5 3-inch anti-tank guns for hundreds of ceremonies. His unit often worked in secluded parts of Arlington – its unofficial motto was "seldom seen but always heard" – but Reistad always loved public performances, including the "1812 Overture" with the U.S. Army Band.

While at Fort Myer, Reistad took an EMT course – a seemingly small decision that changed the course of his life. "Our instructors were paramedics from Arlington County, and they encouraged us to take what we learned and use it," he says. "Two of my roommates were volunteer firemen at Bailey's Crossroads VFD, so I came on board and got to use my skills as an EMT. What fascinated me most, though, were the police officers coming into the fire station to use the phone. They'd have stories about the calls they were on, and I thought, 'That's what I want to do.'"

Unable to change his MOS, Reistad left the Army to pursue a career in law enforcement. In 1978, he joined the Fairfax County Police Department, working first as a patrolman and then a patrol supervisor. He went on to oversee three different investigative squads and serve as director of a regional automated fingerprint identification system center. Reistad retired from the department in 2003, but not from law enforcement entirely.

He's currently a law-enforcement coordinator for the Regional Organized Crime Information Center (ROCIC) of the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) program, funded by Congress through the Justice Department. His focus is to provide information sharing, intelligence sharing and investigative assistance to federal, state and local law enforcement, as well as prosecutors.

"I'm an emissary," Reistad says. "I promote the program, bring new agencies aboard and do training. It's a great job for me because I can use everything I learned during my 26-year career to help other law-enforcement agencies."

Lt. Col. Ted Arnn, deputy chief of police for the Fairfax County Police Department, has known Reistad for nearly 20 years. He believes he's wired for service to others, and an ideal choice to lead the nation's largest veterans organization.

"When he talks about The American Legion, you really get a sense of how much it means to him," Arnn says. "I always tell folks that while our military keeps us safe at home and abroad, our police and public safety officials keep us safe in our communities. For Brett to do that for a quarter of a century and continue in this field after retiring is incredible. Who else do you want but

somebody with that sort of dedication?"

'SIGN HERE' Reistad has a vivid memory of the day he joined the Legion, 37 years ago. He was managing traffic at a community parade and met four Legionnaires from McLean Post 270. Two carried M1 rifles and two carried flags. Curious about the differences between an M1 and the M14 he'd used in the Army, Reistad asked if he could take a look. One of the veterans handed him his rifle, and Reistad performed the manual of arms, explaining where and when he'd served. Wide-eyed and smiling, the veteran told him he was eligible for membership in The American Legion.

"He put an application down on the hood of my police car, gave me a pen, and said, 'Sign here and give me \$25,'" Reistad recalls. "I was then invited to a post meeting, where I was warmly received by what was mostly a group of World War II veterans. The next year, I was marching down the street as part of that color guard."

Soon Reistad was elected commander of Post 270, and appointed chairman of its membership and fundraising committees. He also took over the post newsletter, earning award after award.

As he rose in the Legion's ranks – district commander, department historian, department commander and other offices – Reistad became an avid student of the organization's history. He has his own library of Legion books dating to 1919, as well as a collection of Legion memorabilia.

When he began receiving national appointments – the National Public Relations Committee, vice chairman of the National Distinguished Guests Committee, chairman of the National Legislative Commission and member of the Citizens Flag Alliance, among others – Reistad's wife, Jessica, told him he'd be national commander one day.

"I'm his biggest fan," she says. "He's kind, he's honest, he's hardworking, and he gets things done. The word 'no,' when it comes to the Legion, is not in his vocabulary."

To Reistad, there's no better year to hold the Legion's highest office. As the organization turns 100, he's eager to talk about all it's accomplished for veterans – and why The American Legion is as vital today as it was in 1919.

He acknowledges that veterans service organizations, including the Legion, face challenges in recruiting and retaining members. He also thinks those challenges aren't insurmountable.

"Everything isn't as it appears," Reistad says. "It's not that we don't have appeal. It's not that we're not viable anymore. It's more that we're losing a generation of some of the most staunch supporters of our organization, as older veterans pass away. We're passing the torch, but it doesn't happen overnight."

That said, it's time to encourage younger veterans to take their place in the Legion's expanding legacy, he adds. He'd like to see 100 posts chartered during the centennial, full of new members who are inspired by the founders' original vision.

"What sells the organization more than anything else is Legionnaires having fun and enjoying the camaraderie and service they perform," he says. "It's contagious."

THE HAVEN

A Project for Veteran's Rehabilitation

The Haven is a day lodge for Relaxation and Rehabilitation for the Veterans in the Marion Veteran's Administration Center, as well as Veterans and their families. It is located on beautiful Crab Orchard Lake between Carbondale and Marion. Since its inception in the 1940s it has served as a substantial way to carry out the first of the four pillars of The American Legion-Veterans Rehabilitation. Since its ground was secured in 1947 on Crab Orchard Lake and the buildings dedication in 1950, The Haven has been an important part of the rehabilitation of veterans in southern Illinois.

The Haven is under the direction of the Egyptian Past Commanders Club of The American Legion. The Haven operates solely on donations from individuals and private entities. Primary sources of income come from the entire Legion Family of the Fifth Division. The facility is also supported as a venue for weddings, birthdays, and family reunions for a modest fee. Yearly income is usually proportionate to expenditures.

Operating 365 days a year, The Haven has live-in caretakers who provide services to the veterans as well as special

events. Once a week veterans are brought from the Marion VA Medical Center to enjoy lunch and socialize with each other and the caretakers. They can enjoy fishing on the banks of the lake, sitting on the sunporch, or on a cold day sitting by the fireplace. At times patients are also brought from Anna Veteran's Home. The facility has found more use in recent years by outpatient groups from the VA, that meet regularly at The Haven.

The facility has received many important upgrades in the last few years, to include a new central air and heating system, new windows and doors. As with an aging building there are continual maintenance and repair issues that need attention. Your contribution to Department Commander Carder's special project will be applied to the expense of replacing rafters and roof on the sunporch estimated to be \$6000 and updating the modest caretakers quarters at \$2000.

**CONTRIBUTIONS ARE
TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

Department Commander's Special Project Contribution Form

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL OR POST: _____

POST #: _____ DIV #: _____ DIST. #: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

ZIP CODE: _____ PHONE NO.: _____

AMOUNT \$ _____

Payment Type: _____ Check -or- _____ Credit Card

Please Charge \$ _____ on my Credit Card



Card No.: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

(Required)

☆ Please make checks payable to the
Department of Illinois and earmarked
"Donation for The Haven"

☆ Send contributions to:
The American Legion—Dept. of Ill
2720 E. Lincoln St.
Bloomington, IL 61704



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



The Department of Illinois is excited to announce that our special guest speaker for the 2019 American Legion Family Membership Caravan will be Immediate Past National Commander Denise Rohan.

2019 Membership Caravan begins January 17 and runs through the state of Illinois ending January 26, 2019.

Posts to host the Caravan have yet to be determined.

100 YEARS OF VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA
American Legion Department of Illinois
Centennial Coin
NOW AVAILABLE
Order one today!

Coin number not Guaranteed

Coin number 001 - 500

(309)663-0361

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

(Dept. SVC continued from page 2)

I was honored to be able to on a Legion endorsed tour of WWI and WWII battlefields, memorials and burial sites around Normandy recently. What a sacrifice our military gave to maintain our freedoms!!

The saying "Just ask" works everywhere, as I was able to sign up some new members for other states, on the tour. They all indicated that no one had asked them to join, during their many years of eligibility. So "Just ask".

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1st Caravan Meeting

@ 10:00 AM

DEPT HQ.

October 1st

~ ~ ~

Dep. Committee & Commission

Fall Meetings

@ **DEPT HQ**

October 6th

~ ~ ~

District & Division Membership

Workshop Div. & Dist. Cmdrs.

Division 1 & 2

@ **DEPT HQ**

October 13th

~ ~ ~

District & Division Membership

Workshop Div. & Dist. Cmdrs.

Division 3, 4 & 5

@ **DEPT HQ**

October 14th

~ ~ ~

National Fall Committee & Commission Meetings

Indianapolis, IN

October 15th--18th

~ ~ ~

Legion College

October 28th--November 2nd

~ ~ ~

Halloween

October 31st

~ ~ ~

Election Day

November 6th

~ ~ ~

Veterans Day

November 11th

~ ~ ~

Veterans Day Observed

DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED

NOVEMBER 12TH

~ ~ ~

1st 100% Post Cash Award

Cut-Off @ 1:00 PM

November 13th

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2018-2019 DISTRICT & DIVISION COMMANDER'S & SR. VICE COMMANDER'S		
DIV.	COMMANDER	SR VICE CMDR
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
DIST.	COMMANDER	SR VICE CMDR
1ST	Michael Mittelstaedt	David Frederick
2ND	Clemente Rodriguez	Lawrence Hippert
3RD	Frank Thompson	Harold Toney
4TH	Robert Przybylinski	Rodolfo Acevedo
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



To All Illinois American Legion Posts/AL Auxiliaries/ Sons of the AL/ AL Riders, and Members,

The Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation is working on establishing a **Gold Star Families** Memorial Monument (GSFMM) in Springfield Illinois. Woody is the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient of the Battle for Iwo Jima. It is the dream of Woody Williams to have at least one monument in every state in the next few years. Woody personally designed the GSFMM to honor the families of those that have sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

They are now in our fundraising phase of the project. Our estimated cost is \$200,000 plus or minus, depending on in kind donations. We are asking all Posts/Ladies Auxiliaries/SAL Squadrons/Rider Chapters and Legionnaires to consider making a donation. Any donation will be greatly appreciated.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held October 30 2017, at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield. The resting place of our 16th President Abraham Lincoln is the second most visited cemetery in the United States next to Washington, D.C.'s Arlington National Cemetery. This Memorial will be adjacent to Memorials commemorating: World War Two, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

To donate to the Springfield, Illinois Memorial by check: please write **SPRINGFIELD, IL** on the memo line so your donation will be put into the Springfield, IL account, and not the general fund. Please make the check out to: HWWMOHF and mail the check to: HWWMOHF, 12123 Shelbyville Road, Ste. 100, Louisville, KY 40243.

For additional information on this Memorial and to donate on-line: please go to – HWWMOHF.ORG Click on Monuments, click on Monument Projects. Then scroll down to and click on Springfield, IL. Then click on the "Support This Project" button. Your donation will then automatically be placed in the Springfield, IL account.

To read about Woody's Medal of Honor action which took place on February 23, 1945, the same day five Marines and one Navy Hospital Corpsman raised the flag on Mt. Suribachi on another area of the island, please go to, the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation web-site: HWWMOHF.org

If you know of Gold Star Families in your area, please let them know about our project. Feel free to share this with your families and friends.

**Thank you for helping to
"Honor Our Illinois Gold Star Families".**

Commander of Post 771 is a Finalist in the Ms. Veteran America



Terry Waddell-Moenter the Post Commander of the Gurnee American Legion was recently selected as one of the 25 finalists for Ms. Veteran America (MVA) 2018 Competition!

Waddell-Moenter served 6 years active duty in the USAF after being commissioned upon completion of ROTC at University of Connecticut! Commander Waddell-Moenter found out about MVA after doing some research on the number of women Post Commanders in the nation and found Final Salute Inc, that is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization with its mission being to help find viable and safe housing for homeless women veterans with children.

Did you know there are over 50,000 homeless women veterans with children in this country? Well, Final Salute Inc was founded in 2010 by Jas Boothe as a result of her own personal experience of not being able to find any services to assist her in a time of need. Ms Boothe had served 16 years in the US Army after losing everything she had in Hurricane Katrina and being diagnosed a month later with cancer she eventually found herself homeless and a single mom of a son. As a direct result of her experience Ms Boothe made it her personal mission to “never leave a fallen comrade behind!”

Ms Veteran America is not a beauty pageant but a platform to bring awareness of the rapid growing numbers of homelessness amongst women veterans with children. The competition is based not on appearance but IS based on the character of the contestants along with poise, confidence and advocacy. There are hundreds of military women from all branches of the military that are veterans, active duty, reservist or retired who apply to compete in this competition that is now in it's 8th year! After the Regional competition it is then narrowed down to 25 finalists out of hundreds that have applied and the finalists head to the finals in early fall.

The Regionals this year were held in Las Vegas and in Arlington VA. The women gathered to be a part of the interview process before 6 judges and also were judged on talent. At the regionals the contestants are given points for their interviews where they each are asked 5 questions with each question worth 5 points. They have one minute or less to answer each question. The talent portion is also 5 points! Once the contestant scores are tabulated they are ranked and the top 20 contestants will make the finals and the 5 contestants who raise the most money in their advocacy campaigns by the time they announce the finalists will automatically advance to the finals.

While taking care of the business at hand as Commander of Post 771, Waddell-Moenter's main focus as Commander is to increase membership and retention as well as ensure the Gurnee American Legion remains viable and sustainable while also not only serving veterans but involving the community while always keeping in mind the Four Pillars of the American Legion.

Waddell-Moenter holds dual Master's Degrees – One in Human Resources and the other in Organizational Management. Waddell Moenter is an author, entrepreneur, she likes to cook, travel and spend quality family time with her husband John.

The MVA finals will take place October 5th through October 7th at the Hollywood American Legion Post 43 in Hollywood, CA. The top 10 will be announced and a live show will take place to crown the 2018 Ms Veteran America on Sunday, October 7th! Let's wish Commander Waddell-Moenter the best of luck!!! For more information and to follow her journey with Ms Veteran America, please visit her Facebook page -- Search for “TerryW4MVA2018” !! Don't forget to “Like” her page when you visit.



Terry Waddell-Moenter, Post Commander of the Gurnee American Legion Post 771

No-cost flu shots for VA-enrolled veterans



For veterans enrolled in the VA health care system, getting a flu shot at Walgreens or Duane Reade is easy

1. Fill out the flu vaccination form below.
2. Bring the completed form, your VA ID card and a photo ID to your neighborhood Walgreens or Duane Reade location.
3. Walgreens or Duane Reade will automatically update your VA electronic health record in the VA health care system.

No-cost flu shots are for quadrivalent flu vaccine only; high-dosage flu vaccines are only available at no cost through a VA medical facility.

Information below must be completed prior to receiving your shot.

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____ ZIP code: _____

Plan ID: VAFLU

Recipient # (Social Security number): _____

Patients will also be asked to complete a vaccine consent form at time of service.

Walgreens pharmacist:

- Only veterans enrolled in the VA health care system are eligible. Family members and Tricare members are NOT eligible.
- Verify information by checking VA ID card and a photo ID.
- Use the Social Security number in the Recipient # field.
- This voucher is for quadrivalent vaccine only.

To find a location near you, call 800-WALGREENS (800-925-4733)
or visit Walgreens.com/FindAStore

Walgreens

DUANEreade[®]

For questions or more information about the program, call 866-964-1812 or go to
www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/immunization.asp

*This wellness benefit is only for veterans enrolled in the VA health care system. Family members and Tricare members are not eligible. No-cost flu shot option is for quadrivalent vaccine only, available now through March 31, 2019. Vaccines subject to availability. State-, age- and health-related restrictions may apply. Vaccine may be in limited supply after March 1, 2019. This does not constitute an endorsement of Walgreens or Walgreens products. Patients will also be asked to complete a vaccine consent form at time of service.

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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Embodiment of Military, civil service

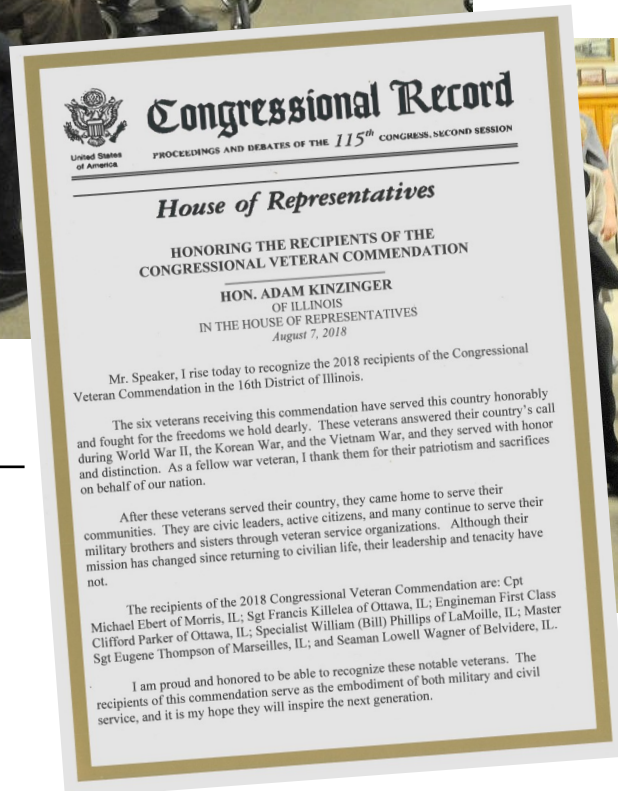
6 veterans honored by congressman



U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Channahon, shakes hands Thursday after the Veterans Commendation ceremony.



U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Channahon, shakes hands with Eugene Thompson.



August 8, 2018—Congressman Adam Kinzinger honored six veterans who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Their service didn't end there.

These six men also set up a food station for flood victims, served as a volunteer firefighter, influenced legislation to help other veterans, fought to keep drugs off the streets and ran successful businesses, respectively.

Eugene Thompson, of Marseilles; William Phillips, of LaMoille; Clifford Parker, of Ottawa; Francis Killelea, of Ottawa; Michael Ebert, of Morris; and Lowell Wagner, who was not present Thursday, were given Congressional commendation from Kinzinger on Thursday at Ottawa City Hall."

The six veterans have served this country honorably and fought for the freedoms we hold dearly. These men answered their country's call during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War," said Kinzinger to a crowd of dozens of the veterans' family and friends. "They served with honor and distinction."

"After these veterans served their country, they came home to serve their communities," the congressman said. "They're civic leaders, they're active citizens, and many continue to serve their military brothers and sisters in veteran service organizations. Although their mission has changed since returning to civilian life, their leadership and tenacity have not."

Eugene Thompson

He enlisted in the Army National Guard prior to the Korean War. He was activated in 1951 and served in the infantry division until the armistice was signed in 1953. He rejoined with the National Guard, retiring with the rank of master sergeant. He joined the Marseilles American Legion Post 235, in which his father, a World War I veteran, was a charter member. He served as post commander and he was elected state American Legion commander in 2006. During the 2013 flood that devastated Marseilles, he and his wife set up a food preparation station that served thousands of meals to victims and first responders. The Marseilles post was named into the American Legion Hall of Fame thanks to his work.

Article & photos provided by The Times—Ottawa, IL

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
10/07/2018	16TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	TOLUCA POST 440	TOLUCA
10/07/2018	18TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	PARIS POST 211	PARIS
10/07/2018	19TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CLINTON POST 103	CLINTON
10/07/2018	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CARLINVILLE POST 554	CARLINVILLE
10/17/2018	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	GEORGE W. BENJAMIN POST 791	NORTHBROOK
10/21/2018	3RD DIVISION	1:00 PM	MT. STERLING POST 374	MT. STERLING
10/21/2018	4TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	WESTVILLE POST 51	WESTVILLE
10/21/2018	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	FAIRFIELD POST 176	FAIRFIELD
10/21/2018	12TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	MORRIS POST 294	MORRIS
10/24/2018	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN PARK POST 974	FRANKLIN PARK
10/25/2018	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	CHICAGO HEIGHTS POST 131	SOUTH CHICAGO HTS.
10/28/2018	15TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	LEWISTOWN POST 1	LEWISTOWN
11/04/2018	14TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	MACOMB POST 6	MACOMB
11/04/2018	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	MURPHYSBORO POST 127	MURPHYSBORO
11/14/2018	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
11/16/2018	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	GURNEE POST 771	GURNEE
11/28/2018	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	DES PLAINES POST 36	DES PLAINES

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 1-2, 2019 (Springfield, IL)

Boys State--June 8-14, 2019 (Charleston, IL)

Illini Girls State--June 16-22, 2019 (Charleston, IL)

Youth Police---June 23-28, 2019 (Springfield, IL)



Information Seminar on Veterans' Benefits

The 20 most often heard rumors, are they True or False?

Tuesday, October 23, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.
Franklin Park American Legion Post #974
9757 Pacific Avenue, Franklin Park, IL 60131

Are you an honorably discharged veteran? Are you the spouse, widow, widower or relative of someone who has served in the Armed Forces? Are you just interested in learning about the various benefit programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs?

If so, please join us for a Veterans Benefits presentation by Raymond P. Toczek, current Commander of the American Legion Portage Park Post #183.

Drafted in 1970, Mr. Toczek served as a military policeman for two years in West Berlin. After discharge from the service, he worked for 33 years with the Veterans Administration as a benefits counselor. Now retired, he works part-time as an accredited representative for the American Legion and has been with them for 11 years.

Mr. Toczek will go over the most often heard rumors floating around regarding Veterans Administration benefits. Among the topics that will be covered in Mr. Toczek's presentation are: Service-connected compensation, Agent Orange, VA home loans, VA hospital eligibility, burial benefits, survivors' benefits, educational benefits, and VA pension benefits. Handouts will be available and there will be a question and answer period.

LEROY AMERICAN LEGION POST 79 FUNDRAISER

AMERICAN LEGION FUNDRAISER



Join us at the Princess Theatre to honor the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI. Your donation gets you a free movie, small popcorn and small drink. All donations go to the Le Roy Post #79.

Sat., Nov. 10th - 3:00 p.m.
Open to all ages

Loda Post 503



107 N. 600 East Rd., Loda, Illinois

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.

November 2
16

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.

UTICA VETERANS DAY PARADE

Utica Parade will be held on Sunday, November 4th

If you would like to be part of the parade, please let Gene or Marian Thompson know so they can put you in the program for the parade. Contact Marian @ 815-795-6950. Also let us know if you plan to stay over the night before and would like to join the group of us go to dinner. We join in with The Utica American Legion (at our own expense) and they have to make our reservations.

Special Note: we have changed locations. Overnight will be at The Best Western in Oglesby, Saturday, November 3rd for those who want to stay. Room rate is \$89.99 plus tax...menton Gene Thompson...Hospitality room will be in the Thompson's room #200.

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OCTOBER TRIVIA?

1. The 7th Earl of Cardigan led the charge of the Light Brigade during the Crimean War. What was the name of the British commander who ordered the ill-fated attack?
2. In what war was the color khaki first used for uniforms?
3. At the Battle of the Marne in 1914, how were French reinforcements rushed from Paris to the front in order to help fend off the advancing Germans?

ANSWERS:



1. Lord Raglan. Both men are better remembered for fashions they introduced during the war--Cardigan for the woolen jacket he designed for his troops, and Raglan for the unique sleeves on the coat he wore.
2. The Afghan War in 1880--the color was considered good camouflage.
3. In Commandeered Renault taxis. Each cabbie was paid a 27-percent tip on top of his metered fare.



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

Happy Fall Ya'll

OCTOBER REMINDERS —

- Oct 1st—Caravan planning meeting @ Dept. HQ
- Oct 6th—Fall Meetings cont. @ Dept. HQ
- Oct 13-14—District & Division Officers Workshop @ Dept. HQ
- Oct 15-18—National Fall Meetings @ National HQ
- Oct 28—Nov 2—Legion College in Indy

HALLOWEEN WORD SEARCH

Halloween		Y W I T C H D Y R A C S J W K
October		W J A C K O L A N T E R N C D
Spooky		L H E G G H O S T H S K A R E
Scary		N R E T S N O M A P K L O E I
Ghost		O O S U E D R L I R B J P B B
Vampire		T O U V M R L D P S E Z V O M
Werewolf		E B O Z V O E G B G H C A T O
Witch		L A H L W R I E N A W F M C Z
Zombie		E T D E Y A R A Y E Y J P O S
Skeleton		K S E T A E R T R O K C I R T
Monster		S N T K K O Q E Y I O T R J O
Black		I Y N X L U W D P X O Z E O Q
Orange		K M U E S O N T I N P S K F B
Candy		M N A U L A L V C M S X K C P
Trick or Treat		J E H F C T F J K T G B N N B
Haunted House		
Jack O' Lantern		
Boo		
Spider		
Bats		

Chicken Scratch NY