



The American Legion Family



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2018

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District	Commander
8	Lange
7	Hoffman
16	Rice
13	Kraut
17	McCulley
11	Reece, Jr.
15	Johnson
9	Horn
22	Mueth
20	Flowers, Jr.

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



As The American Legion celebrates its 100 Years of Service, the Department of Illinois needs your assistance. We are asking members and Posts to support four very important programs of The American Legion, *Special Olympics, *Boys State, *Gifts to the Yanks and the *Oratorical Contest. These programs are dedicated to our youth and hospitalized veterans.

A special 100 Years of Service - 4 Pillars Pin has been designed by the Department of Illinois. This pin will be sold for \$100 with 100% distributed evenly to the 4 programs. All administrative costs will be covered by the Department of Illinois. Each pin purchased will show that you or your Post proudly support these programs. Additionally, a special certificate will accompany the 100 Years of Service - 4 Pillars pin.

Order Today! The order form is located on pg. 7 of this issue or available on our website at www.illegion.org



From The Desk of Department Commander Micheal M. Carder



Wow, October is gone. I hope that everyone survived all of the Halloween Spooks and Goblins and are enjoying all of that “non-fattening” candy that was left over.

October was a busy month for me, the old silver bullet flew through the countryside as the month began with the second half of Fall Meetings here at Headquarters. Each committee gathered at the Headquarters to plan out our 100th year. I encouraged every committee member to double down and have each committee excel in meeting their objectives. It was great to meet each committee and become familiar with their goals.

The following weekend back at Department HQ for the Membership Workshop meetings both Saturday & Sunday. We met with Division and District officers. The training focused on

going back to the basics with legion members, to hearing from Department Staff who provided finance and membership information. This was followed by discussion of obtaining membership. In the afternoon the District Officers met with their respective Division Officers to further formulate their plan for renewing membership within their areas.

Then it was on to Indianapolis to become familiar with the various Departments at National Headquarters and hear National Commander Reistad’s “TEAM 100” plan. Very informative and motivating.

Also, this month the Chicago Office members from the Jesse Brown VA Office and several Department Headquarters Staff ushered Wayne Macejak into his retirement and service of The American Legion. For the past 12 years Wayne and the office served many Illinois veterans. Wayne will be missed. Though Wayne is leaving, the office will be in good hands with the leadership of Carolina Contreras. I ask that everyone

give her their respect as she begins her journey as the VA & R Director.

Legionnaires, as you already know that The American Legion is well into the Second Century. What we do this year will set the example of excellence for those who follow us to follow. How do we do this? It is simple, we are “Team 100”. We begin by setting the foundation for “our house” to grow. Continue to make our organization know, share information about our many programs, most of all strive to work hard on building our membership. We cannot do this alone, we are TEAM. As always it is Bloody Knuckle Time, knock on doors as we all reach out to our blue cap members.

To my fellow veterans as we pay respect to the past and honor the present this Veterans Day...I want to say Thank you for Serving.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Marion at The Haven for the Egyptian Commanders Jamboree.



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Roy Weber



Fellow Legionnaires, membership is the priority for this time of the year. Department is off to a good start with several 100% Posts. We need to personally contact the renewal members as well as prospective new members. Commander Carder has asked that Post Chaplains make a wellness call to our members that do not regularly attend meetings.

The Division and District membership Seminars went well and were well attended on the 13th and 14th of October. As always our department staff presented valuable information and I

expect all officers will pass it along at DIV, District, and Post meetings.

From a Conference Call recently with National Vice Commander Wallace, our Department is in second place within the Central States Region. To date our Department Membership is at 64.89% and National average is at 64.88%. Keep up the good work Legionnaires!!

We have completed the schedule of post visits for our Caravan in January. Most have confirmed and Membership Director Woodburn is working to finalize the locations and route. This will be a great opportunity for Post members to attend and hear from PNC Rohan and our Legion family. I expect many membership cards will be turned in at all stops.

I attended the National fall meetings at Indianapolis this past week. Interaction with other Department Leadership was invaluable as we brain stormed ideas on improving our Legion programs and membership. We heard from all of the National Commission Chairman on any changes of policy, resolutions, etc. Speaking of programs I believe our new 4 Pillars pin promotion will be a success and bring a “shot in the arm” financially to those programs listed. Please promote this pin at ALL meetings.

As PDC Hank Robard’s slogan: “Each One Teach One” and PDC Kirby’s “Just Ask” indicate, I challenge all of our Division & District leadership to do just that as they hold their

(Dept. SVC continued on page 12)

From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Debra Lewis



Happy Veterans Day Legionnaires! It's hard to believe November is already here. This month we take a moment to come together and honor the service each servicemember has given to our country. I look forward to seeing many of you at the various remembrances across our great state. As American Legion Auxiliary members we are able to understand the importance of your service in a way many in our communities cannot. We thank you for answering the call to arms, for giving so much of yourselves both while in service to the armed forces and in our communities upon your return, and for our eligibility in this great organization.

During this month I plan on joining projects to assist Veterans and their families; take some time to assist us; serve a meal and visit with Veterans at

your local soup kitchen, help make buddy baskets for you VA Medical Center Homelessness team, or sponsor an afternoon of relaxation for disabled veterans and their caregivers; all of these activities would be very welcomed.

The Illinois Department of Veterans affairs recently had their Commanders and Presidents meeting. I was able to participate via teleconference. It was very informational and interesting. They are making progress on addressing needs in the Illinois Veterans Homes and planning many outreach and service opportunities to commemorate Veterans Day. The Auxiliary is planning how we can better help them in their many efforts for Illinois Veterans. They also announced the recipients of the Honor 200 campaign. It was so wonderful to see so many names of wonderful Legionnaires on that list-we sincerely congratulate you.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and enter the holiday season, remember to reach out to your neighbors who may

not have anyone to be with during these festivities. The holiday season can be a source of sadness and stress for many. Your small act of kindness may have a significant impact on a friend who is struggling. In the words of John F. Kennedy; "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."



*Thanks for making the stars
shine so bright in our flag.*

Enjoy your Veterans Day!



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Eugene Gort

Greetings, On behalf of the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Illinois, I would like to thank all Veterans for your service to our country.

With Veteran's Day approaching, I'm sure many of your Posts / Squadrons / Units will be involved in activities to honor American's Veterans. Remember to publicize what you are doing, and try to get the community involved. This is a great time to let the community know about all the great programs offered by the American

Legion Family, and an opportunity to meet prospective members.

Together as a Family we can keep the American Legion strong for the next century.

The Sons are off to a great start this year. We are continuing to look

for opportunities to open up new squadrons. If you don't have a squadron at your post, please reach out to me at eugenegort@yahoo.com or our Sr. Vice Phil Stander at pstander@att.net and we will gladly help you get one started at your post.

Keeping with our theme of "Building Bridges for Success" we recently signed up for email marketing as a way for us to better communicate with our members. Please encourage your Sons members to email me their squadron email list so they can be added to our newsletter.

Have a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving.





Did You Know?

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

That our 100th Annual National Convention is now history. This year there were over 300 resolutions submitted from our various Departments. I am proud to report that of those 29 were from the Department of Illinois. Yes, we were number one in that area and I am also pleased to say only two were rejected, the rest were approved. Kudos to our current chairman of the Illinois VA&R Commission, Rodger Bennett, for his leadership. Resolutions are the way our organization develops an idea from the Post level on how our veteran's benefits can be improved. These ideas are fine-tuned at the District and Division levels and then go on to our State and National Conventions for approval. If approved at that level they become part of our National Legislative Agenda. Then if we get enough support in Congress we may eventually get a law changed. We did that exact thing last year when one of our resolutions on the Care Giver Act was approved. As you can see this process is one way our "blue cap" legionnaires can have their voices heard and sometimes even see their ideas become law. Here are just some of the topics that were approved for possible law changes:

CHANGES TO THE DIC PROGRAM...CREMATION PLAQUE FOR URNS...HOME LOAN BENEFIT PASS TO WIDOW/ER...WAIVERS UNDER \$300...BACK INTEREST ON APPEAL DECISIONS...10% FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE IF ON MEDS...ENGLISH AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE...CHARITABLE MILEAGE RATE CHANGE...INCREASE IN RH LIFE INSURANCE...BLUE WATER NAVY VETS AND AGENT ORANGE...MEANS TEST FOR MARRIED VETERANS...SMC K INCREASE.

These are just some of the many that were passed. If you wish to see the actual resolution you may go to our National website www.legion.org where they will soon be posted. And as the year progresses if any of these resolutions become either a house or senate bill I will keep you informed.

Now that our Illinois Posts are back from their summer hiatus it would be a great time to start discussing ideas and topics for some new resolutions. As my old mentor Paul H Kralman (former Chairman of VA&R) once said: "The only bad resolution is the one that was not submitted".



Department Sr Vice Commander Roy Weber and Department Commander at National Fall meeting held recently in Indy.

flu shots
for VA patients

— ★ —

Walgreens logo

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



Hi, my name is **Tina Abdelnour** and I am the new Finance Secretary for the Department of Illinois.

I have been married to my husband, Terry Abdelnour, for over 33 years. We have two children, Christiana and Richard along with two granddaughters, Hayden and Riley.

I am a member of the American Legion Auxiliary

where I am currently serving as the 2nd Division President. My eligibility is through my Dad, Richard Van Cleave (Ret. Navy), my Husband, Terry (Ret. Navy) and my son, Richard (active Navy).

I have had over 20 years of experience in bookkeeping. At my last job of 17 years, I held the positions of Human Resources (Payroll), Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable and Sales Desk Manager.

I am looking forward to a long working relationship with this wonderful organization, The American Legion Department of Illinois.



Hi my name is **Carolina Contreras**. I was born and raised in Chicago. My two brothers and I served in the Navy.

I served from 2004—2010 and was stationed in San Diego on the USS Boxer LHD-4 and NMCS Balboa.

I received my bachelor's in Public Health from National University in 2015.

As a VSO, my experience as a Navy Corpsman and experience as a Veterans Service Representative with the VA, I assist Veterans and their dependents with VA benefits. I am fluent in Spanish and one of my specialties is handling military sexual trauma (MST) cases.

As Department Service Officer, I look forward to fulfilling the position of VA & R Director for the Department of Illinois which will allow me to continue the opportunity to be able to do what I can to help more Veterans.

Please welcome our new and newly promoted Department of Illinois Staff



Hi, my name is **Carolyn Beal**.

I was hired August 20th to fill to position of SAL/ Membership Secretary for Department.

I was born in Bloomington and graduated from Woodruff High School Peoria, IL.

My husbands name is Matt.

I have one daughter, Amanda who is a Critical Nurse at OSF in Peoria. She is currently going to grad school.

I am a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 979 in Bartonville. My eligibility is through my brother who served the Army.

I have a boarder collie/lab mix named Max , he is very enjoyable and full of energy!



Hi my name is, **Jason Girard**. I am a Navy Veteran. I am a Plank Owner of the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72), where I served during Operation Desert Storm and Operation Fiery Vigil. I ran the officer's mess aboard the Lincoln and spent 20+ years as an executive chef, after my enlistment.

I authored and wrote “The Blues Highways Cookbook” (with a forward by Grammy Award winning guitarist Buddy Guy). My specialties are Cajun, Creole and Soul Food cuisines.

My Navy roots go back to the Spanish-American War.

I am looking forward to serving fellow veterans as VSO in the Chicago VA & R Office.

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Illinois Bicentennial Office announce 'Honor 200' Recipients

On Wednesday, October 23, 2018 the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Illinois Bicentennial Office announced the recipients of **Bicentennial HONOR 200** today, honoring the work of 200 veterans who continue to make extraordinary contributions to the people of Illinois.

"America is the greatest nation on earth because of the sacrifice of our veterans," said Governor Bruce Rauner. "We are proud to honor these 200 men and women as part of our Bicentennial celebration. Their service didn't stop when they took off their uniforms. They continue to be heroes among us by going above and beyond the call of duty to take care of the people in their communities."

"The Bicentennial HONOR 200 campaign is one of the most important commemorations of the yearlong Bicentennial Celebration," said Stuart Layne, Executive Director of the Bicentennial Commission. "These 200 Illinois veterans truly make us Illinois Proud."

All the Honor 200 recipients have been invited to attend the state's official 200th birthday celebration at the United Center in Chicago on December 3, 2018.

"Honor 200 provides us with an opportunity to showcase our veterans and the values they have when it comes to serving our communities," said IDVA Director Stephen Curda, Ph.D.

The recipients represent more than 50 counties across the state of Illinois. Nominees were evaluated based on their achievements, and on the extent to which their contributions have aided, benefited and provided inspiration to their community at large. In addition, nominees must have received an honorable discharge from the U.S. military and reside in Illinois.

The IDVA and the Illinois Bicentennial Office are thankful for the support of Boeing, Walgreens, Peoples Gas and ComED, who are helping honor the 200 veterans at the Bicentennial birthday party.

The American Legion Department of Illinois is proud to announce of the 200 there were 112 legionnaires on the list, with 3 being Past Department Commanders. Listed are all 112 Legionnaires. Congratulations to all of the "Honor 200" recipients.



For the full list of honorees go to: https://www2.illinois.gov/ISNews/19272-Honor_200_Illinois_Veterans_Press_Release.pdf

FIRST	LAST	POST
Robert M	Adams	556
James A	Balcer	1976
Stanley D	Banash	541
Barry	Baron	766
William R.	Beiersdorf	208
Terrence J.	Benshoof	3
Rex K.	Berry	32
AC Homer Lee	Bizzle, III	414
Stoy	Bliss	660
Ethan	Blumhorst	635
John	Borling	2910
Patrick Walker	Brannan	279
Bill	Browne	1139
Sharon	Buchanan	236
David "Scott"	Buennemeyer	253
Delmar	Buske	1922
Josue E.	Cordova	50
Rochelle	Crump	800
Thomas J.	Day	488
John Henry "Dutch"	DeGroot	525
Daren S.	Dietmeier	121
Charlie	Dukes	203
Patrick John	Dunham	703
Gary	Eisenhower, Sr.	1255
John	Espinoza	902
Craig A.	Essick	57
Edward M.	Farmer	758
Rodney J.	Fink	6
Beverly A.	Fitch	478
Steven	Fixler	76
Jorge	Fonseca	1288
Thomas	Ford	423
Candy	Gann	138
Joan H.	Garvert	32
Michael P.	Graffis	271
Ernest	Gregory	516
William	Haine	199
Thomas	Harness	347
Michael M.	Hartman	379
James	Harvey	57
Robert M	Healy	1983
Paul Joseph	Hettich	748
Eugene L.	Hollaway	487
Michael	Holub	1941
Joshua	Huey	217
Dale H.	Hunter	32
William T	Jackson	2008
Donald Lee	Jennings	262
Arleigh	Jones	27
Gregory	Kelm	77
John	Kowalski	141
Michael Edward	Lake	36
Frank Robert	Langenhorst	325
Jimmie D.	Lansford	217
Clifford	Lauderdale	1080
Matthew Lee	Lawson	442

Honor 200 list cont. on pg. 11

100 YEARS OF SERVICE

American Legion Department of Illinois

4 Pillars Pin



\$100 each

100% of the money will be distributed evenly to four American Legion Department of Illinois programs.

- ★ Special Olympics
- ★ Boys State
- ★ Gifts to the Yanks
- ★ Oratorical Contest

A certificate of program support will be included with each purchase.

(This stylish pin will be a 1.5" inch dual plated gold & silver 3D pin with gold and blue stones inserted in each pillar)

100 Years of Service ~ Department of Illinois ~ 4 Pillars Pin

Please complete this form and mail with payment to:

American Legion Department of Illinois, 2720 E. Lincoln Street, Bloomington, IL 61704

Post Number _____ Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Total Cost \$ _____ Payment type: VISA MC Discover Check number _____

Credit Card Number _____ CVC _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Signature _____

Congratulations to Wayne Macejak

who is set to retire October 31st.

Wayne began working for The American Legion in Chicago as the VA & R Director 12 years ago. He and his wife, Grace, (pictured on the right) quickly became big part of the entire legion family.

Wayne is a 36 continuous year member of American Legion Bolingbrook Post 1288.

A retirement luncheon was held at the Pompei restaurant in Chicago October 25th.

Wayne told several heartfelt stories, and spoke about how much of an honor it has been serving with all of the volunteers and VSO's as they all assisted, even changed many Illinois veterans/spouses/family's lives over the years. We sincerely thank Wayne for his service!

Well-wishers are welcome to send cards congratulating Wayne on his Retirement and thank him for his dedicated service. Send mail to: **VA & R Office c/o: Wayne Macejak 2122 W. Taylor St. -Room 106 Chicago, IL 60612.**

In addition please join the Department of Illinois in welcoming Carolina Contreras as the new VA & R Director.



VA & R Staff l-r: Jason Girard, Carolina Contreras, Marlene Kuhl, Wayne Macejak, Toy Jenkarnchang and Ray Toczek.



l-r: Dept. Sr. Vice Roy Weber, Dept. Adjutant Marty Conatser, Wayne Macejak and Dept. Commander Mike Carder

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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
~ ~ ~

Egyptian Past Commander's
Jamboree
THE HAVEN--CARBONDALE
November 16th--18th
~ ~ ~

Thanksgiving
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
NOVEMBER 22ND--23RD
~ ~ ~

SAL D.E.C.
Yorkville, IL
December 1st
~ ~ ~

Christmas
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
DECEMBER 24TH--26TH
~ ~ ~

85% Target Date
December 31st
~ ~ ~

2nd 100% Post Cash Award
December 31st
~ ~ ~

New Year's Eve
December 31st
~ ~ ~

New Year's Day
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
JANUARY 1ST
#

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

“TEAM 100”

A Letter from National Commander

To my fellow Legionnaires in Illinois,

During my travels, I am frequently asked about our “Team 100” centennial theme. ‘What is this team and how can I join?’ Friends, if you are a member of The American Legion Family, you are already a member of Team 100. If not, please join us.



Team 100 refers to the long tradition of American Legionnaires serving their country and communities by advocating for the needs of veterans, a strong national defense, patriotic youth programs and Americanism. By virtue of your membership, you have had a part in our century of success and a stake in our future.

Much attention has been rightfully given to our role in creating the original GI Bill of Rights, the current Department of Veterans Affairs and other life-changing legislation passed in Washington. But it is you, in the communities, that really make a difference.

Last year, Legionnaires from our 55 departments donated more than 3.9 million hours of service to their communities, including more than 765,000 hours as volunteers for the Department of Veterans Affairs. You donated more than 74,000 pints of blood, making The American Legion the nation’s single largest blood donor. Post service officers throughout The American Legion handled more than 170,000 cases for veterans trying to obtain their earned benefits and you have contributed nearly \$40 million to programs benefiting children. You have already left a legacy worth celebrating!

I am asking for your continued support as our American Legion Family members rely on the National Emergency Fund in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence. Natural disasters can happen at any time and in any place but what occurred in the Carolinas this year has been particularly brutal.

In 2019 our centennial will be official, but even at 100 years-old The American Legion remains an energetic force. The best is yet to come! Have a great conference.

Team 100!

Brett P. Reistad

National Commander

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: _____

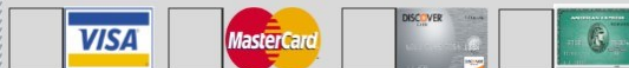
CITY: _____

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



Honor 200' cont.

FIRST	LAST	POST	FIRST	LAST	POST
Art	Leach	254	John	Schwan	758
Col. Anthony P.	Libri, Jr.	32	Roger	Schwengel	37
Vincent R	Long	263	Delbert Leon	Seaton	1084
Herschel L.	Luckinbill	84	Ronald	Singer	75
Allen	Lynch	771	Lt. Col. Sarah D.	Smith	199
Gerald L.	Mahr	73	Vincent J	Speranza	277
Marie	Marcotte	1115	J.D. "Butch"	Spindler	69
James R.	Marshall	138	Cheri L.	Stanton	136
Victor	Martinka	13	Robert	Statam	236
John L.	McCorkle	279	Dennis	Thompson	474
Philip H.	Mette	924	Eugene Kenneth	Thompson	235
John Albert	Metzger	280	Aaron P	Thorpe	6
Maryna	Misiewicz	357	Dennis	Tipword	1115
James H	Mukoyama, Jr.	1183	Raymond E.	Torres	296
Louis	Myers, Jr.	6	Angela Denise	Tyler	478
Virginia A.	Narsete	758	Richard J.	Van Pelt	755
William J	Nissen	758	Bruce David	Voges	634
Greg	Padovani	208	Michael E.	Walton	32
Ralph	Pechanio	187	Rodney	Wangelin	179
Kathie	Powless	105	Craig	Warner	1247
Jennifer	Pritzker	758	Dawn Renee	Whitcomb	37
Sam	Rice	416	Earl M.	White	128
Ernest	Rinella	147	Thomas P	Wilczak	52
Wilbert	Rolves	1026	Eli	Williamson	740
Thomas F.	Root	125	Derrick	Winding	915
Alan W.	Rowe	33	Chad T.	Woodburn	1922
Lawrence J.	Sassorossi	145	Frank	Wozniak	18
Joseph S.	Schaler	263	Roy E.	Ziegler	73



2018 Veterans Day Free Meals, Discounts, Sales and Deals by MilitaryBenefits

2018 Veterans Day discounts, free meals, deals and sales. Veterans Day 2018 will be on Sunday, November 11th, 2017, with Monday, November 12, 2018 designated as a Federal Holiday.

For a complete list of National Retail and Services Offered or Local Veterans Day Offers, visit...

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

Tips Before Heading Out—

Review the official site information and rules before heading out. Many websites are listing previous years promotions that are no longer valid. Be sure to bring proof of military service, uniform photo or be in uniform. Proof of military service varies by company. See the list of states now offering a Veterans designation on a driver's license.

Pay attention to the dates on the Veterans Day offer as some offers are for days to other than Veterans Day or extended over several days. Most of the restaurant free meals are for dine in only. Verify that you're eligible for the offer. You should tip your server. They're working hard to serve you and depend on the income. We recommend tipping on the actual cost of the meal.

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

Call ahead if you're unsure about anything. Reminder: presentation of military ID is required for most offers.

Thank you for your service!

“Across Two Wars”

By Kate & Dept. Sr. Vice Roy Weber



How does one summarize experiencing the travels over the battlegrounds of both WWI and WWII in a short article? One word “Humbling” does not gather it all. Roy and I had the privilege to participate in the National WWII Museum tour “Across Two Wars”, endorsed by the American Legion, this past September 3-10. After missing our first day in Paris, due to cancellation of flight from Chicago, we joined 18 other tourists, most with a military background or family of former military, from across the United States, led by our Tour Manager Richard Briggs and Tour Guide Tim Prichard-Barrett, (Both Brits, with Tim being a Retired Major of the British Army.)

We began our trip with travelling the area of WWI at the Battlefields of Soissons, Compiègne Armistice Museum, of where the armistices of WWI on 11 November 1918 and WWII on 22 June 1940 were both signed. Cemeteries of American, British, Muslim, French and German soldiers dotted France near major fields of battle or in a central location to several. All of the cemeteries were pristine, so as to honor the soldiers laid there, even in death.

Our travels took us up to Reims in the heart of Champagne Country, and then on to Bayeux, to conclude WWI and begin the WWII era. The battlefields of Belleau Wood (WWI), Utah and Omaha beaches (WWII) and many others of both eras are still imprinted with the divots of bomb drops. It was and is too costly to level out the ground.

As we see Historical Markers along our highways, France has Monuments, all very noticeable and well maintained. Even large concrete color coded markers, along the roads to depict supply routes of the various brigades and regiments of Patton are still maintained.

From Bayeux we visited Sainte Mere Eglise, Utah, Omaha beaches, La Fiere Bridge, Pointe du Hoc, as well as many other strategic battlefields. At each site, we were instructed as to the seemingly unsurmountable task of attacks. What worked and what did not and who led them. Tim was extremely knowledgeable and could argue with the best of the group on both Wars.

Roy had the honor of laying a wreath at both Suresnes American Cemetery, outside of Paris, with 1541 burials of WWI and 24 remains of unknown soldiers from WWII, and at the Normandy American Cemetery with the remains of 9,387, most of who were killed in the invasion of Normandy. At the Normandy Cemetery we were all given a white rose to lay at a marker of a soldier of our choosing. We chose a burial site of an unknown soldier and that of a soldier from Illinois. *(pictured)*

We cannot say enough of the tour, a lot of history learned, beautiful countryside, excellent meals and of course great wine and champagne. If you ever get a chance to experience a trip such as this, take it. You will not regret it.

(Dept. SVC continues from page 2)

meetings and visit all the Posts in their area. Bring a new member with you and ask questions on what you don't understand. Ensure that those giving a report, Have One to Give. A “no report” comment won't work; as there is always information others haven't heard about in/of our programs. Look at the Department website and updates from National **before** you attend your meetings.

A reminder the Egyptian Jamboree at the Haven will be November 16-18 so plan to attend and help keep this jewel of a program going and serving our Veterans. Remember steak supped Friday evening and the banquet on Saturday evening. Veteran Day will be here soon. Post members, be sure to get involved in your community and attend. Let's keep the public aware of our veterans and our Programs.

Below are the tentative 2019 Membership Caravan stops.

Times and stops will not be **official** until December.

2019 American Legion Family Caravan

January	Division	District	Post	Post Location	Meal
Thurs 17 Jan.	3	16	1236	Tremont	Dinner
Friday 18 Jan.	3	15	644	Fairview	Breakfast
	3	14	569	Milan	Lunch
	2	13	497	Franklin Grove	Dinner
Sat 19 Jan.	2	12	181	Sandwich	Breakfast
	2	10	911	Wauconda	Lunch
	2	11	57	Elgin	Dinner
Sun 20 Jan.	1	7	42	Evanston	Breakfast
	1	2	923	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Snack
	1	3	220	Illiana	Lunch
Mon 21 Jan.	★ CARAVAN OFF ★				
Tues 22 Jan.	5	24	585	Shawneetown	Dinner
Wed 23 Jan.	5	25	487	Chester	Dinner
Thur 24 Jan.	5	22	110	Nashville	Breakfast
	5	23	252	Breese	Lunch
	4	21	554	Carlinville	Dinner
Fri 25 Jan.	3	20	152	Pittsfield	Lunch
Sat 26 Jan.	4	19	102	DeLand	Breakfast
	4	18	503	Loda	Lunch
	4	17	79	LeRoy	Dinner

2018—2019 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
11/03/2018	17TH DISTRICT	11:00 AM	BLOOMINGTON POST 56	BLOOMINGTON
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
11/15/2018	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	GLENN MAKER POST 1160	CHICAGO RIDGE
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
12/09/2018	24TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	LOUISVILLE POST 914	LOUISVILLE
12/19/2018	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	IWASZUK-CETWINSKI POST 943	CHICAGO
01/06/2019	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	VENICE-MADISON POST 307	GRANITE CITY
01/13/2019	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	DUPO POST 485	DUPO
01/16/2019	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
01/20/2019	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	THE HAVEN	CARBONDALE
01/23/2019	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	PALATINE POST 690	PALATINE
02/03/2019	23RD DISTRICT	10:00 AM	BLUFORD POST 1193	BLUFORD
02/17/2019	12TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	SYCAMORE POST 99	SYCAMORE
02/17/2019	13TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	BYRON POST 209	BYRON

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)

A Soldier's Story

Written by Butch and Sherry Ekstam

A Soldier's Stay and A Sidecar. This is a story of a soldier, an artist, a motorcycle, and a new custom sidecar. Sgt. Joseph M. Ekstam, US Army 12 year veteran, showed his artistic talents art a young age. While in high school, Joe decided that he would be a soldier. In 1988 he enlisted, went to basic training and was assigned to the First Cavalry Infantry Mech Unit and specialized on the Bradley Assault Vehicle. Joe was a proud soldier and attained the rank of SGT serving in Germany, Korea, Bosnia and several bases in the United States. He was married and became a father in 1995 and a grandpa in 2015. He received the Army Achievement Medal for Meritorious service while in Bosnia and was featured in the Nov. 6, 1997 issue of USA TODAY as a result of a United Press interview while on Patrol. While stationed at Ft. Benning, Ga. On October 25, 2000 Joe was killed when a trucker with several driving citations pulled in front of him. The crash was fatal. Sgt. Lamont Washington brought Joe home to us. We are to this day in touch with Sgt. Washington eighteen years later. Thank God for the escorts that bring our soldiers home. Joe's sister Dawn, living in Georgia at that time, attended Joe's memorial service at Ft. Benning and arranged to have the sportster to be sent home with his personal items. The motorcycle was totaled. Sherry (Joe's Mom) and I had the motorcycle rebuilt and titled. We had it painted olive drab and black, with a military theme. Had a sidecar built and are proud to display it as a remembrance to not only our son, but to all soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines past and present. They will not be forgotten.

The drawing seen on the sidecar is a self portrait of Joe. You will also see the invasion star on top of the sidecar. It is in memory of my uncle PFC Francis Moews KIA Germany 1945. The project is also in remembrance of and honoring my Father, Carl H. Ekstam WW!!, Grandfather Carl H. Ekstam Sr. WW!, my granddaughter SSgt Brittanee Hunt, US Marine Corps active duty and 12 year vet but most of all Sgt. Joseph M. Ekstam for whom this story is written. I am a proud member of the American Legion Honor Guard Post 635 Normal, IL. SALUTE!!!



Thank You!

I wish to express a heartfelt THANK YOU to my American Legion Family.

I fell ill at National Convention in Minneapolis, MN and was hospitalized.

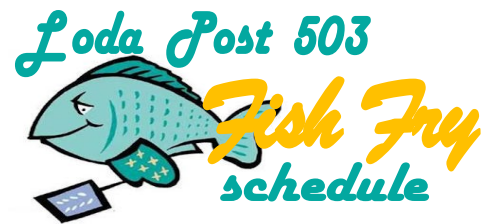
My "Family" circled the wagons and set out to help Kathy and I through a very trying time, so far from home.

Thank You for the cards and letters of support that started coming in along with monetary help. I wish to personally thank the member or members that helped extend Kat's stay at the hotel, it was something that worried me from the beginning.

Thank you to all those that came to see me in the hospital, it meant the world to me.

I am doing well and back to work now.

**Thank You,
Tommie Cisa**



107 N. 600 East Rd., Loda, Illinois

**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.

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

Department Commander MICHEAL M. CARDER Department Editor MARTY CONATSER

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NOVEMBER TRIVIA?

1. After German flying ace Manfred von Richthofen was killed in action in World War I, who became commander of his "Flying circus" fighter squadron?
2. As a young naval officer serving in World War II, what famous American set up the only hamburger stand in the South Pacific?
3. On what side did British-born newspaperman-explorer Henry Morton Stanley (of "Dr. Livingston, I presume" fame) fight in the American Civil War?

ANSWERS:



1. Hermann Goering, who went on to become one of Adolf Hitler's closest associates.
2. President-to-be Richard M. Nixon, who was a Navy lieutenant at the time. At Nixon's Snack Shack, he served free hamburgers and Australian beer to flight crews.
3. Bot. He first joined the Confederate Army, but after being captured at Shiloh, he enlisted in the Union Navy to avoid imprisonment.

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