American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad is calling on posts, districts, counties and departments to coordinate a team and call Legionnaires and former members simply to see how they are doing.

“Ask if there is anything The American Legion can do for them,” Reistad said in a letter to post leaders around the world. “Perhaps they have been sick, lost a spouse or just need to know someone cares. Perhaps they simply forgot to renew their membership because no one called.”

Reistad said that more important than membership renewal—or retrieval of Legionnaires whose memberships have expired—is the personal contact to see how local veterans are doing and act accordingly if they need help.

“This is not a membership campaign,” he said. “It’s a comradeship campaign.”

He added that week leading up to the Legion’s 100th birthday, March 11-16, is a perfect time to make the calls, but posts that have made other plans to celebrate the centennial at that time can choose another week in the centennial month if necessary.

A Buddy Check toolkit, including scripts for Legionnaires to use when making personal contact, is available online at www.legion.org/membership.buddycheck.
What a trip! As I am writing this article the 2019 Membership Caravan has just been completed. The Department of Illinois American Legion Family had traveled for 10 days visiting American Legion Posts throughout the state. We visited many wonderful posts whose membership met us with open arms and great food. It was through their wonderful hospitality that we all gained an understanding on what the American Legion Family is all about as well as who we represent—YOU—The American Legion Family leadership bonded together and brought the word of the American Legion Family to our fellow legionnaires.

We were so very blessed to have with us for 10 days Past National Commander Denise Rohan. She joined with us in the travel, meeting legion family members and joining in with us as we had our daily after action reports and relaxed from the days events. Commander Rohan brought with her through speeches the message of the American Legion, she made us think about what it means to be a legionnaire, she made us chuckle at times, and even brought tears to eyes with her experiences within the legion.

The message of the caravan was MEMBERSHIP and each leader of the family stressed in their words what is needed in the Department of Illinois to continue for the next 100 years. Yes, MEMBERSHIP was stressed because MEMBERSHIP builds the foundation of the Illinois American Legion. That foundation provides all the programs for veterans, their families, children and the betterment of our country. Auxiliary President Deb stressed the need to brag about what we do and SAL Commander Eugene discussed connecting or building bridges to others to promote our programs.

American Legion Family...what is done within the next few months until the close of books will determine the strength of the Illinois American Legion Family and our great organization. Just because a post, unit, or squadron is 100% does not mean that you quit reaching out to people to join our family. What you do today will build the legacy of our department for the next 100 years!

I hope to see many of you at the Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield, February 11 - 12 to celebrate the birthday of Abraham Lincoln our 16th President. Come and celebrate with us and meet new friends and connect with old friends.

As I close do not forget The Haven your donations help keep the gem of the Illinois American Legion going and helping our fellow veterans. This is what we are about.

Finally, again I must thank Immediate Past Commander Rohan for taking the time to be with the Department of Illinois. Thank You.

This article is being written while on our Caravan. We just finished the Northern half of Department driving on some snow covered and slippery roads, but had a great time at each stop.

Every stop had a turnout from the entire Legion family. Past National Commander Denise Rohan had an inspirational presentation at every Post. Many cards were turned in by the entire Legion family and I anticipate the same during the remaining stops.

UPDATE: The caravan is now complete and the numbers are in. I am baffled at how much of a difference there was between our 24 Districts. It seems that our leadership could have put more effort in getting out to secure more membership cards in several Districts. To go from well over 100 cards in one area to down to 30's and 40's in the next tells me we have failed in our efforts. We as Leadership need to put our heads together and remedy this in the future.

At last report the Department is just barely above our National average, so let’s get out there and exceed the AVERAGE. I know our Legion family has the “CAN DO” attitude and will make Illinois shine. We are still a long way from our 100% goal. Many thanks to those Districts and Post officers for their membership efforts!

Remember February 11th and 12th is our Lincoln Pilgrimage. I hope to see a great turnout for that event. National Commander Brett Reistadt will be in attendance. Get your reservations in now for the breakfast and lunch.

February 16th is the DIV. and DIST. Sr. and Jr. Vice Commander’s planning session at Department HQ. It starts at 10:00AM so plan ahead for any weather conditions. I expect to see you all there with ideas about incentives we can use to gain membership for next year. I look forward to sharing ideas and planning next year.

Also around the corner is our Department Oratorical Contest, it is set to happen in Springfield on Saturday, March 2nd. If you have never attended this competition it’s highly impressive and a must see.

I hope by now many of you have taken the time to speak to High School administrators and/or counselors about
Greetings,

We have just finished our annual American Legion Family Membership Caravan; a sincere thank you to everyone who made the caravan possible. Whether you hosted a stop, came out to the program, or brought membership from a neighboring post you made a difference and we are grateful for your efforts. Traveling throughout the state, meeting new members and reconnecting with old friends was truly wonderful! Seeing the history displayed at each post was a great reminder of where we came from and why we must continue to serve.

February should be a month to rest up a little in preparation for the Legion Birthday Celebrations and Patriotic conference. But, don’t let the cold weather stop you from planning and preparing for the programs coming up. We hope to see you at Lincoln’s Pilgrimage in Springfield on February 11th-12th. It is a great time to honor the contributions of our 16th President and his legacy on our society. February 11th there is a reception and all our National guests will have time to visit with attendees. It is a great opportunity to meet our National leadership on a more personal level.

In closing this month, I leave you with one of my favorite Lincoln quotes; “I hold that while man exists, it is his duty to improve not only his own condition, but to assist in ameliorating mankind.” This is what we are doing every time we serve members, veterans, and our communities, improving our condition and the condition of those around us. It is by giving and serving we are able to make a profound impact on our world through small acts that ripple together and create large waves of change.

Hello Legionnaires- We just finished the 2019 Family Membership Caravan; a sincere thank you to everyone who made the caravan possible. Whether you hosted a stop, came out to the program, or brought membership from a neighboring post you made a difference and we are grateful for your efforts. Traveling throughout the state, meeting new members and reconnecting with old friends was truly wonderful! Seeing the history displayed at each post was a great reminder of where we came from and why we must continue to serve.

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The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program
“An Oratorical Speech Contest”
When: March 2, 2019
Where: Crowne Plaza - Springfield
Time: Semi-Finals @ 9:00 AM
Finals @ 2:30 PM

The American Legion Family is invited to come out and support this program. In doing so you’ll witness an amazing group of high school students speak on our Constitution of The United States.
Did You Know?

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

That in the 44 years I have been a service officer I have run across so many situations that I think to myself that is a “No Brainer.” But then I think about it further and realize many veterans are not aware of certain simply things which they should be doing. So, with that said here are some of my “No Brainers.”

1. If you are the spouse, partner or a relative who may find themselves taking a veteran to the ER for a medical emergency be sure you have a good and current list of their medications and dosages. Often times the veteran is in great pain, confused or unconscious at the time of their visit. Current info helps the staff avoid confusion and possible overdose.

2. If not taking the vet to the VA ER then also be sure you have a copy of their NEW Medicare card with the new number. Also copies of private insurance cards.

3. Relatives and partners may have a close relationship to the veteran but they can’t make medical decisions if the veteran is unable. Have a current properly executed Power-of-Attorney for health care.

4. Many veterans will experiment with living together with their partners. Before you know it they have gotten accustomed to this arrangement and years go by. I often hear when the vet dies that they were going to get married but kept putting it off. Illinois is not a common-law state so there would be no benefits for their partner. And even if the vet realizes their death is near and tie the knot, a couple has to be usually married for at least a year later to get benefits. I just had one case exactly like that and the vet died 11 months after their marriage. Sorry, no VA survivors benefits.

5. Children often times could care less about the veterans medals and don’t want to hold on to them. Discuss this with your kids and if they don’t want them do what my uncle did; he had them placed into the casket with him.

6. As much as you feel your spouse has been honest to you if he or she says they have been married before and just don’t want to talk about it, get at least the date and place of the divorce. Otherwise you may be in for a surprise when the first spouse pops up and there was NO divorce.

7. And my perennial comment, exactly where is the vet’s DD 214 if it’s needed. Having it in a safe place is no good if no one knows where that safe place is!

These are just a few of the “No Brainers” I have run across. If you have a favorite let me know via my e-mail address shown above. Maybe I’ll include it in my next article.

(Dept. SVC continued from page 2)

our Boys and Girls State, as well as the Youth Police School programs. We have plenty of brochures to distribute, but I ask that you just don’t drop them off and expect a call. Go back and ask if they have shared the brochures? Do they have anyone interested? And can you speak at a school assembly about these worthwhile programs. Don’t forget to share that each program even offers scholarship(s).

During the last week of February I will be attending our DC Conference. I look forward to talking to OUR Washington legislators about the Legions’ priorities.

February is a month to place special emphasis on our American heritage and Patriotism as we observe Americanism Month.
2019 AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP CARAVAN TOTALS

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<th>District</th>
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<td>2568</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>2605</td>
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1st Div. 13512 11334 123 11457 84.79% 0.91%

10       3123 2470 29 2499 80.02% 0.93%
11       8763 7566 130 7696 87.82% 1.48%
12       5796 4904 17 4921 84.90% 0.29%
13       2725 2344 1 2345 86.06% 0.04%

2nd Div. 20407 17284 177 17461 85.56% 0.86%

14       2544 2090 55 2145 84.32% 2.17%
15       3075 2595 44 2639 85.82% 1.43%
16       3856 3348 47 3395 88.04% 1.21%
20       2188 1930 12 1942 88.76% 0.55%

3rd Div. 11663 9963 158 10121 86.78% 1.36%

17       3729 3304 20 3324 89.14% 0.54%
18       3875 3345 25 3370 86.97% 0.65%
19       5251 4410 82 4492 85.55% 1.57%
21       3185 2681 62 2743 86.12% 1.94%

4th Div. 16040 13740 189 13929 86.84% 1.18%

22       4518 3774 57 3831 84.79% 1.28%
23       4514 3837 118 3955 87.62% 2.62%
24       1907 1531 44 1575 82.59% 2.31%
25       3022 2406 79 2485 82.23% 2.61%

5th Div. 13961 11548 298 11846 84.85% 2.13%

2910     2829 2488 2488 87.95% 0.00%

State    78412 66357 945 67302 85.83% 1.20%

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM OUR DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

The 2019 American Legion Family Membership Caravan is complete. The Caravan gave many of our family members a chance to meet and ask questions of the Leadership of The American Legion Family. Allowing them to understand the issues that are important and how they can assist other veterans and their communities.

On this page you will see a breakdown by District and Division of the cards turned in for The American Legion. I want to “Thank” the District and Division officers that worked to make this event a success. The numbers clearly show the Districts that worked to get membership turned in at this event.

The results also clearly show the District that did not do what was needed to make this event completely successful. We ALL need to focus on the important job of membership! Every Post was given a list of expired members to contact. Over 23,000 names in Illinois. These are members that have not renewed in 2014, 2015 and 2016. A special program to reward Posts that reinstate these members is in effect until May 8, 2019. As of this writing only 34 of the 23,000 have been renewed to The American Legion.

I would hope that every Post is contacting these past members NOW. District Officers must do their part to help these Posts. Again, the results will show the District Officers who care and are working and the ones that are not doing their job. The Department will print monthly updates in the Department Newsletter to show our progress.

We can’t delay we must make progress now!

In Service,

MICHEAL M. CARDER
Department Commander
The 85th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln will be held in Springfield, Illinois, on
Tuesday, February 12, 2019. Springfield Post #32, Auxiliary Unit #32 and Sons of The American Legion Squadron #32 extend a most
cordial invitation to you to attend and participate.

National Commander Brett Reistad, National President Kathy Dungan, SAL National Commander Greg Gibbs, our Illinois
Department Commander Micheal Carder our Department President Debra Lewis and our Detachment Commander
Eugene Gort, will be attending and participating in the activities. Additionally, many other Legion, Auxiliary, S.A.L., and state
and local dignitaries will be in attendance to honor President Abraham Lincoln on this very special day.

The Commemoration begins on Monday evening, February 11, 2019, with The American Legion Family Leadership Reception, 4:30 – 6 p.m.
at the Wyndham Hotel. From 5 p.m. – 1 a.m. everyone will journey to an Open House at Springfield Post #32, 1120 Sangamon Avenue,
Springfield. A FREE shuttle will run continuously between the Wyndham and Post 32 from 5 p.m. – 12 a.m. A delicious Buffet Dinner
service will be available at the Mess Hall Restaurant located inside Post 32, from 4:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Reservations are recommended.
An “FREE open juke box” will play your favorites from 8 p.m. until 11:00. To place Monday evening dinner reservations phone
217/523-3415 to reach the Mess Hall Restaurant. We will have plenty of fun, refreshments and a chance to renew old acquaintances
and make new ones. The National and Department Officers will be at the Open House to greet everyone. A special 85th Anniversary Lincoln Day
Pilgrimage Commemorative PIN will be available for purchase.

The headquarters hotel is the Wyndham City Centre, 700 East Adams Street, in downtown Springfield. Room rates are $105.00 per
night, single or double occupancy, and the rate includes free parking. Reservations can be made by telephone at 217-789-1530 (press 1 when
prompted) Remember to tell the clerk that you are reserving a room for the American Legion Lincoln Pilgrimage to receive this
special rate. All hotel reservations must be received by January 19, 2019.

The following program has been planned for February 12, 2019:

8:00 a.m. American Legion Family Breakfast with our National Commander Brett Reistad, and our key note speaker for
the breakfast event will be the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary Kathy Dungan, Wyndham,
Springfield.

10:00 a.m. Pilgrimage departs Wyndham Hotel for journey to Abraham Lincoln’s Tomb.

10:30 a.m. Ceremonies and wreath placing from inside Mr. Lincoln’s Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois.

12:30 p.m. Lincoln Commemoration Luncheon with Distinguished Guests and National Commander Brett Reistad as the
keynote speaker. Wyndham Ballroom.

Breakfast tickets are $25.00 each, and luncheon tickets are $35.00 each with tax and tip included. Luncheon tables of eight (8)
will be assigned and may be reserved by sending your check for $280.00 to the below listed address, all other seating is “open
seating”. If you are from Illinois, please indicate your Illinois District number on all luncheon reservations. Checks should be
made out to Springfield Post #32, The American Legion. Tickets, reservations and further information please write to:
American Legion Lincoln Day Pilgrimage, ATTN: Barb Lush, Ticket Chairman, 1120 Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, Illinois
62702-1853. Phone 217/523-3415. Post 32 e-mail is spfldpost32@outlook.com SPECIAL NOTICE: All meal checks and/or
reservations must be received or canceled by February 4, 2019. No refunds can be made after that date. Please make your
plans and reservations early, as we may not be able to seat you if you do not order your meal tickets early.

We sincerely hope that you will be able to be with us to honor our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, on his birthday in his
“Hometown”, and that you make time to visit the beautiful Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library, which is only
three short blocks from the Wyndham - Springfield. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum will be offering their Group Rate
to our attendees by merely showing your membership card on Feb 10, 11, 12, 2019.

Tony Libri
General Chairman
$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)
Remember the heroic acts of four Army chaplains on Feb. 3rd

Feb. 3 will mark the 76th anniversary of the sinking of the United States Army Transport Dorchester and the selfless acts of four Army chaplains who were aboard. American Legion posts nationwide are encouraged to commemorate the anniversary each February and honor Four Chaplains Day.

The Dorchester tragically sunk on Feb. 3, 1943, while crossing the North Atlantic, transporting troops to an American base in Greenland. A German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck the Dorchester, killing 672 of the 902 officers and enlisted men, merchant seamen and civilian workers aboard. Many of those survivors owe their lives to the courage and leadership exhibited by four chaplains of different faiths, who, in sacrificing their lives, created a unique legacy of brotherhood.

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

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

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

American Legion posts nationwide remember Four Chaplains Day with memorial services that pay tribute to the courageous chaplains and the brave young men who lost their lives on that fateful night. This year, Four Chaplains Sunday is Feb. 3rd.

Posts interested in conducting a Four Chaplains memorial service can learn how to through the Legion’s Chaplain’s Manual. (https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/chaplains_manual.pdf)

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

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<th>DIV.</th>
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<tr>
<td>1ST</td>
<td>Joe Lampert</td>
<td>Georgiann Callaway</td>
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<td>Christopher Benigno</td>
<td>Ray Powroznik</td>
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<tr>
<td>3RD</td>
<td>John Davis, III</td>
<td>John Gosney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4TH</td>
<td>Limey Nargelenas</td>
<td>Ron Shapland</td>
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<tr>
<td>5TH</td>
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<td>7TH</td>
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<td>John Wowk</td>
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<td>8TH</td>
<td>Donald Lange</td>
<td>Rickie Mitchell</td>
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<td>9TH</td>
<td>George “Doc” Horn</td>
<td>Dale Tippett</td>
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<td>Layton Pennington</td>
<td>Robert Bucher</td>
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<td>John Reece, Jr</td>
<td>Kevin Leonard</td>
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<td>Annette Rowe</td>
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<td>Zula Summers</td>
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<td>25TH</td>
<td>David Wright</td>
<td>Chris Hatcher</td>
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American Legion TFA applications will resume normal process

Now that President Trump has signed a bill to reopen the federal government until at least Feb. 15, the U.S. Coast Guard will receive its back pay and a regular paycheck next week. As a result, the processing of expedited American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) applications for active duty Coast Guard members with minor children in the home has been discontinued at this time.

The American Legion is returning to the normal application and processing procedures for those seeking TFA support, which is available for the minor children of active duty servicemembers or current members of The American Legion. Those seeking support should contact their local American Legion post or department headquarters to apply for a TFA grant. For more information on how to apply, please visit www.legion.org/financialassistance.

The American Legion National Headquarters extends an appreciation to Legion departments and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance for working with the national organization to assist the children of active duty Coast Guard members during their recent financial crisis from the government shutdown.

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Legion to public: Our turn to Rescue Coast Guard—article published 23 JAN 19:

“Members of the Coast Guard were last paid on Jan. 1. This is completely outrageous,” American Legion National Commander Brett P. Reistad said. “There are many things the American public can do. First, demand Congress immediately pass and the president sign a clean version of the Pay Our Coast Guard Act, H.R. 367. Second, help The American Legion support Coast Guard families in need by donating to The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation. The American Legion has already awarded almost $700,000 in nonrepayable grants to junior ranking Coast Guard families in need. There are hundreds of additional requests already in the pipeline which The American Legion is trying to grant, but we have a very limited budget. So any amount that you can give would be most appreciated.”

“As a nonprofit, The American Legion is not capable of funding the entire Coast Guard payroll,” Reistad said. “But we are hoping that Americans immediately demand that Congress and the White House pay the Coast Guard. Any donations that people wish to make to the foundation will be especially appreciated at a time like this.”

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U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew S. Masaschi.
The American Legion leaders of Illinois are again preparing to demonstrate their personal support of the “Leading Candidate” for National Commander of the American Legion. A contribution on your part would indicate yours and the Illinois team’s belief in the need for good and effective leadership, such as has been shown by the leading candidate.

Our goal is to raise $5000 as we have done in the past. We ask that you please consider a donation.

The dates of the Washington Conference are February 24-27, 2019 where we will present our check from Illinois to the leading candidate. Please return your contributions at your very earliest convenience to the headquarters office.

The “Leading Candidate for National Commander” for the 2019-2020 year is Bill Oxford of Lenoir, NC. He has served the Legion at many Post, District, Division and National levels for 32 years, having earned his eligibility in the American Legion through his honorable service in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War Era.

Make your check or money order payable to “THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA”. Mail them to Attn: Bernard Stegmueller, National Executive Committeeman. The American Legion, Department of Illinois, 2720 E. Lincoln St., Bloomington, IL 61704.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

Sincerely,
Bernard Stegmueller
National Executive Committeeman

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**American Legion 2019 State Convention Book Application for Ad placement**

**BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION:**

**CONTACT NAME:**

Address: ____________________________  City: ____________________________  State: _____  Zip: __________

Phone Number: ____________________________  Email Address: ____________________________

[Post use only] American Legion Post name: ____________________________  Post No. ________

**Slogan Choices: (three choices—choose one)**

_____ 1. We Are Proud To Be Part of
   The American Legion Family

_____ 2. Helping The American Legion
   Help America’s Veteran’s

_____ 3. We Proudly Stand Behind
   The American Legion

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slogan</th>
<th>Ad Choice</th>
<th>Black &amp; White</th>
<th>Color Ad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medal of Honor (full page--7-1/2 x 10 in.)</td>
<td>$230.00</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Star (half page--7-1/2 x 5 in.)</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze Star (quarter page--3-3/4 x 5 in.)</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
<td>$95.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Heart (3-3/4 x 3-3/8 in. “Business card”)</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commander Salute (3-3/4 -11/16 in.)</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flag Page (1-3/4 - 1 in.)</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Method of Payment (please check one)**

All credit information will be kept confidential

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

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

_____ Credit Card

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

Card type: / MC / Visa / AmEx / Disc
Craig Warner, adjutant of Vernon American Legion Post 1247 of Buffalo Grove, Ill., reports on how the post has honored the Legion centennial by getting a World War II state history marker placed:

Post 1247 recently dedicated an Illinois historical marker as part of a project to celebrate the 100th anniversary of The American Legion. The post wanted to create a unique project that not only celebrated the Legion’s anniversary, but also respected the past sacrifices of veterans in war and let our community know its part in a unique story of our nation’s history. More importantly, Post 1247 wanted to bring this story to the young students of Vernon Hills so they would have a better appreciation of the sacrifices made on their behalf by Americans who came before them. The post chose a little-known historical event – namely, a Navy airfield located at Vernon Hills High School’s athletic fields that trained Navy pilots for aircraft-carrier qualification landings during World War II. The Illinois State Historical Society certified the project. Additionally, the school administration of Vernon Hills High School and students warmly supported our efforts. The Village of Vernon Hills did the physical installation of the marker, which is 4 by 5 feet. It was a great project funded by our post, and was well-received by our community. Shortly after the dedication, the post color guard presented the colors for the national anthem at the Vernon Hills High School varsity football game.

As mentioned, our project highlights a little known piece of World War II history regarding the training of Naval aviators to qualify to land on aircraft carriers. The training program on Lake Michigan included two aircraft carriers, USS Wolverine and USS Sable. These ships were car ferries that were converted to aircraft carriers. The headquarters was as NAS Glenview and the main auxiliary field was at Vernon Hills. When the high school was built in the late ’90s, the runways were torn up and state-of-the-art athletic fields took their place. This training program resulted in 17,820 pilots becoming aircraft-carrier qualified, and its graduates played a significant role in our victory over the Axis powers. Many a famous pilot trained, here including the time the youngest pilot in the Navy, 18-year-old George H.W. Bush, future president of the United States. The ground on which this airfield once stood now trains young Americans to become citizens of our nation, whereas 76 years ago it trained young Americans for war.

The actual dedication ceremony took place on Sept. 7, 2018. The speakers included, Todd Renihan our post commander, the superintendent of High School District 128, the Illinois State Historical Society, the Navy chaplain from Naval Station Great Lakes, the mayor of Vernon Hills, and a member of Post 1247. The ceremony took place just outside the school’s football field, which is the site of the marker. The Illinois State Historical Society claims this was the largest crowd to have ever attended such a dedication ceremony. It was dedicated on a Friday night just before the varsity football game. At the unveiling of the marker the high school band played, “Anchors Aweigh,” a song they learned just for the occasion. All in all, from concept to the actual dedication, this project was a great success.

As a result of the post’s efforts, we have witnessed an increase in participation and esprit de corps. New members have joined and we have gone on to plan other projects. Our standing in the community is well-respected, and the Legion is held in the highest regard. We encourage other posts to celebrate the 100th Anniversary in a way that will benefit the post, the Legion and their community.
**The American Legion Department of Illinois**

**101st Annual Department Convention July 8–13, 2019**

-Springfield, Illinois (Mr. Lincoln’s Hometown)-

**Housing Reservation Form**

All reservations **MUST** be made directly with the **hotel** housing your Division/S.A.L. on or before **June 18, 2019**. You may make your reservation by completing and mailing in this form along with your credit card information or first nights deposit including tax or by following the instructions for your assigned hotel, which are listed below. **NOTE:** ALL cancellations must be made 24 hours prior to arrival date. Failure to cancel by that date will result in billing of one night’s room rate.

**Parking is included in the rate at both hotels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Division/S.A.L.</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wyndham Springfield</td>
<td>1st, 2nd, 3rd &amp; 5th Divisions</td>
<td>$109.00 plus tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Centre</td>
<td>and Sons of the American Legion</td>
<td>($123.17 per night with tax)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700 E. Adams</td>
<td>Springfield, IL 62701 217/789-1530</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reservation - Mail this form to the Wyndham Springfield or via internet and linking up to [www.wyndhamhotels.com/groups/hr/2019-american-legion-state-convention](http://www.wyndhamhotels.com/groups/hr/2019-american-legion-state-convention) or you may also call 217/789-1530 and select the RESERVATIONS OPTION and advise the reservationist of Group Code **07097027ALC** and/or the group name “American Legion 2019”

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**President Abraham Lincoln Springfield**

(A Doubletree by Hilton) 4th Division & Auxiliary $109.00 plus tax

701 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701 217/544-8800 ($123.17 per night with tax)


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

**Also, the cut-off date for ALL RESERVATIONS is Tuesday, June 18, 2019.**

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

**Please Print or Type all information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Legion/SAL Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Type of room (circle)</th>
<th>Disabled Access</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Bed</td>
<td>Please note: All Hotel Rooms in Springfield are Non-Smoking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Beds</td>
<td>(Please note room types are a request and are not guaranteed. The hotels will attempt to accommodate.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Special Requests

**Name**

Address ________________  City ________________

State __________ Zip Code __________ Phone ___________ Cell ___________

E-Mail __________________ Fax __________________

Name(s) of additional people in room: __________________________

Arrival Date ___________ Departure Date ___________

Credit Card # _______ Expiration Date ___________

**Freedom Fest, Friday, July 12th - Commander’s and President’s Dinner, Saturday, July 13th**
Everyday Veterans Discounts and Services
Discounts for Military (Active, Reserves, Guard Members), Retirees, Veterans and Dependents

Qualifying proof in most case will be one of the following documents. Active Duty ID card, Reserves/Guardsman ID card, Military Retiree ID card, Veterans Affairs ID card, Veterans Affairs ID card stamped under picture service corrected, and State Driver’s License over stamped “VETERAN”.

Not every establishment offers a discount, but it never hurts to ask, when in doubt ask the manager. Go to link below for complete listing.

https://www.legion.org/veteransbenefits/military-veteran-discounts
### 2018—2019 Division & District Meeting Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>Dist./Div.</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Post</th>
<th>City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/03/2019</td>
<td>23RD DISTRICT</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>BLUFORD POST 1193</td>
<td>BLUFORD</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/17/2019</td>
<td>12TH DISTRICT</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Sycamore Post 99</td>
<td>Sycamore</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/20/2019</td>
<td>13TH DISTRICT</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Byron Post 209</td>
<td>Byron</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/24/2019</td>
<td>7TH DISTRICT</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Evanston Post 42</td>
<td>Evanston</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/27/2019</td>
<td>11TH DISTRICT</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Huntley Post 673</td>
<td>Huntley</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/28/2019</td>
<td>9TH DISTRICT</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Franklin Park Post 974 (Americanism)</td>
<td>Franklin Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/03/2019</td>
<td>8TH DISTRICT</td>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Evergreen Park Post 854</td>
<td>Evergreen Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/03/2019</td>
<td>17TH DISTRICT</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Mt. Pulaski Post 447</td>
<td>Mt. Pulaski</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/03/2019</td>
<td>18TH DISTRICT</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Chebanse Post 408</td>
<td>Chebanse</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/10/2019</td>
<td>16TH DISTRICT</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Bradford Post 445</td>
<td>Bradford</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/10/2019</td>
<td>21ST DISTRICT</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Kincaid Post 905</td>
<td>Kincaid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/10/2019</td>
<td>22ND DISTRICT</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Highland Post 439</td>
<td>Highland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/10/2019</td>
<td>24TH DISTRICT</td>
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<td>Albion Post 590</td>
<td>Albion</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/15/2019</td>
<td>10TH DISTRICT</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Libertyville Post 329</td>
<td>Libertyville</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/17/2019</td>
<td>5TH DIVISION</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Steeleville</td>
<td>Steeleville</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/17/2019</td>
<td>19TH DISTRICT</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Mattoon Post 88</td>
<td>Mattoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/20/2019</td>
<td>7TH DISTRICT</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Morton Grove Post 134</td>
<td>Morton Grove</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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).

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**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)  
  **CHANGE in LOCATION**—2019 session will be held at the NATIONAL GUARD FACILITY (same as 2018).
5TH DIV. TO HOST AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY HAVEN RUN

The 5th Division will be hosting an American Legion Family Haven Run and Membership Drive on May 4th & 5th. All vehicles are welcome. We will start May 4th at the American Legion Post 95 in Vandalia at 9am. Our final stop will be at Post 147 in Marion.

The full run schedule will be announced soon. Cost will be $25 per person which includes a T-shirt.

Lodging is at Country Inns & Suites phone (618) 997-2444 mention American Legion Haven Run for $85 for King or Queen room.

Come have a great time while raising money for the Haven and collecting membership.

Any Questions please contact 5th Division Commander Wayne Madson at (618) 806-1408.

2019 AWARD PROGRAM DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING

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

The American Legion has many awards available to posts and individuals. Each year, less and less submissions are sent in. There are nearly 800 posts. Each program has an outline and criteria to meet for each award. Details and submission instructions are available online www.illegion.org. Be sure to check the deadline for all award submissions some are approaching fast. **Don’t miss the opportunity for your post to be recognized.** All winning Posts will be notified and receive recognition at the Department Convention this July in Springfield.

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

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

USAA is Proud to Serve The American Legion

Discover what a FREE USAA membership can do for you www.usaa.com/legion or call 877-699-2654 to learn more.

We’ve joined forces with The American Legion to help support their mission and programs. When you join USAA, you become part of an extended, military-based family that can be passed down from generation to generation.
FEBRUARY TRIVIA?

1. What was the first U.S. Navy ship named in honor of a black person?
2. Soldiers of what nation do not have to salute officers and are paid overtime for KP and other undesirable assignments?
3. What bathtub-bathing edict did England’s King George VI issue for Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle to cut down on the use of fuel during World War II?
4. Who signed Major Clark Gable’s army discharge papers in 1944?

ANSWERS:

1. The U.S.S. Harmon, named after Leonard Roy Harmon, a mess attendant who was killed at Guadalcanal on July 25, 1943.
2. The Netherlands, whose army was fully unionized in the 1960s.
3. He decreed that tubs could be filled with no more than five inches of water—and had lines painted at the five-inch level to make the depth of the commitment clear.
4. President to-be Ronald Reagan, then a captain.