

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS Department News



The American Legion Family



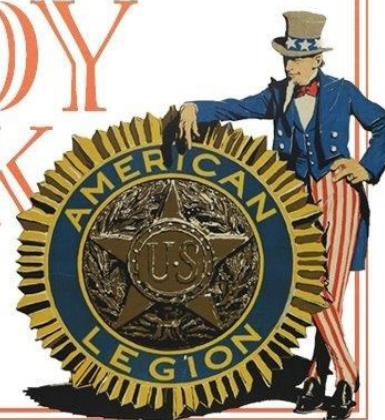
2018–2019 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER MICHEAL M. CARDER

FEBRUARY 2019



Commander calls on members to make 'BUDDY CHECKS'

BUDDY CHECK
A NATIONAL WEEK OF CALLING



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF JANUARY 31, 2019

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District Commander

7	Hoffman
8	Lange
17	McCulley
20	Flowers, Jr.
16	Rice
23	Devore
11	Reece, Jr.
9	Horn
18	Rowe
15	Johnson

Division Commander

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

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.

#TEAM 100
WWW.LEGION.ORG/MEMBERSHIP



From The Desk of Department Commander Micheal M. Carder



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.



From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Roy Weber



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

(Dept. SVC continued on page 4)



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Debra Lewis



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.

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 service 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.



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Eugene Gort



Greetings,

We have just finished our annual American Legion Family Membership Caravan. It was a ton of fun hanging out with PNC Denise Rohan along with our Department of Illinois leadership. I hope you were able to make it out to

one of the stops, so you could join in on the fun. As the saying goes, membership is the life blood of our organization, and as Commander Mike puts it, we need to build our foundation for the next 100 years.

With the recent government shutdown, the American Legion was able to prove why they are still relevant today, and why they will always be relevant. Through the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA), the American Legion was

able to donate over one million dollars to members of the Coast Guard who were affected by the shutdown. Amazing things like this are not possible without continuing to have a strong membership. Thank you so much for your membership in our organization, and let's work together to make sure the American Legion Family is a strong organization for the next 100 years.

The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program "A Constitutional Speech Contest"

When: March 2, 2019

Where: Crowne Plaza - Springfield

Time: Semi-Finals @ 9:00 AM

Finals @ 2:30 PM

February is Americanism Month



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.Toczec@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**.

100 YEARS OF VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA
American Legion Department of Illinois
Centennial Coin
STILL AVAILABLE
Order one today!
 Coins are numbered 001 - 500
 Coin number not Guaranteed
 (309)663-0361

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

2019 AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP CARAVAN TOTALS

District	2018 COB	Pre-Caravan Total	Cards Received	Post-Caravan Total	%	Gain
1	401	315	27	342	85.29%	6.74%
2	917	632	1	633	69.03%	0.11%
3	1217	965	14	979	80.44%	1.15%
4	1400	1052	15	1067	76.21%	1.07%
5	1415	1134	3	1137	80.35%	0.21%
7	2148	1961	22	1983	92.32%	1.03%
8	3008	2707	4	2711	90.13%	0.14%
9	3006	2568	37	2605	86.66%	1.23%
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 break down 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,

Michael M. Carder
MICHEAL M. CARDER
Department Commander

Springfield Post #32, The American Legion

1120 Sangamon Avenue - Springfield, Illinois 62702-1853
www.springfieldamericanlegion.com spfldpost32@outlook.com

85th Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage **to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln** **February 11 & 12, 2019**

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 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 _____

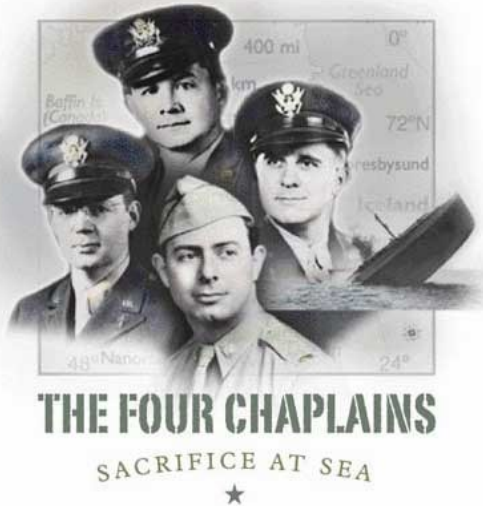
Phone _____ Email _____

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

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

Signature _____

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.

2018-2019 DISTRICT & DIVISION COMMANDER'S & SR. VICE COMMANDER'S		
DIV.	COMMANDER	SR VICE CMDR
1ST	Joe Lampert	Georgiann Callaway
2ND	Christopher Benigno	Ray Powrozniak
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	Keith Nichols
14TH	Rick Schomer, Jr	George Howard
15TH	Jon Johnson	Steve Schlieper
16TH	Sam Rice	Deanne Nighsonger
17TH	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	Chris Hatcher

American Legion TFA applications will resume normal process



U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew S. Masaschi.

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."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Lincoln's Birthday
February 12th
~ ~ ~

Valentine's Day
February 14th
~ ~ ~

Division & District
Sr & Jr Vice Cmdrs
Planning Session
10:00 AM--3:00 PM
@ Dept. HQ
February 16th
~ ~ ~

**President's Day
DEPT OFFICE CLOSED
FEBRUARY 18TH**
~ ~ ~

Washington Conference
WASHINGTON, DC
February 24th--27th
~ ~ ~

Dept. Oratorical Contest
Semi-Finals @ 9:30 AM
Finals @ 2:30 PM
Crowne Plaza--Springfield
March 2nd
~ ~ ~

**THE AMERICAN LEGION'S
100TH BIRTHDAY
MARCH 15TH**
~ ~ ~

St. Patrick's Day
March 17th
~ ~ ~

ALA Patriotic Conference
March 22nd
~ ~ ~

ALA Board Meeting
March 22nd
~ ~ ~

SAL DEC
@ Franklin Park
March 30th
###



NEC Stegmuller asks for your consideration to help "Leading Candidate" for National Commander

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.

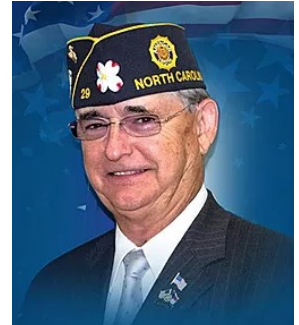
Our goal is to raise \$5000 as we have done in the past. We ask that you please consider a donation.

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 Stegmuller, National Executive Committeeman. The American Legion, Department of Illinois, 2720 E. Lincoln St., Bloomington, IL 61704.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.



Bill Oxford, "Leading Candidate for National Commander"

Sincerely,
Bernard Stegmuller
National Executive Committeeman

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)	Ad Choice: (please choose black & white or color)	<u>Black & White Ad</u>	<u>Color Ad</u>
____ 1. We Are Proud To Be Part of The American Legion Family	Medal of Honor (full page--7-1/2 x 10 in.)	\$230.00 _____	\$250.00 _____
____ 2. Helping The American Legion Help American's Veteran's	Silver Star (half page--7-1/2 x 5 in.)	\$120.00 _____	\$125.00 _____
____ 3. We Proudly Stand Behind The American Legion	Bronze Star (quarter page--3-3/4 x 5 in.)	\$90.00 _____	\$95.00 _____
	Purple Heart (3-3/4 x 3-3/8 in. "Business card")	\$75.00 _____	\$80.00 _____
	Commander Salute (3-3/4 -1-11/16 in.)	\$60.00 _____	\$65.00 _____
	Flag Page (1-3/4 - 1 in.)	\$25.00 _____	\$25.00 _____

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

FIELD OF HONOR



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 a 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 at 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 at the time the youngest pilot in the Navy, 18 -year-old George H.W. Bush, future president of the United States. The ground on where 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 with 3 columns: HOTEL, DIVISION/S.A.L., RATE. Row 1: WYNDHAM SPRINGFIELD, 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th Divisions and Sons of The American Legion, \$109.00 plus tax (\$123.17 per night with tax). Row 2: City Centre, 700 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701 217/789-1530

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 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"

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPRINGFIELD

Table with 3 columns: HOTEL, DIVISION/S.A.L., RATE. Row 1: (A Doubletree by Hilton), 4th Division & Auxiliary, \$109.00 plus tax (\$123.17 per night with tax). Row 2: 701 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701 217/544-8800

Reservation- Mail this form to the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield or via internet by visiting the Department of Illinois website and linking up to:

http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/S/SPIASDT-ALM-20190709/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG and using the Group Code of "ALM". You may also phone the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield directly at 1/866-788-1860 or 217/544-8800.

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

Division _____ District _____ Legion/SAL Title _____

Hotel _____ Type of room (circle) 1 Bed 2 Beds

Disabled Access _____ Please note: All Hotel Rooms in Springfield are Non-Smoking. (Please note room types are a request and are not guaranteed. The hotels will attempt to accommodate.)

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

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



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



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>

The American Legion Membership Application

 (Name) (Phone)

 (Mailing Address) (Date)

 (City) (State) (Zip) (Post #)

 (Membership ID# former member) (Email Address) (Dues)

Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below

- Aug 2, 1990 – cessation of hostilities as determined by U.S. Government
- Dec. 20, 1989 – Jan. 31, 1990
- Aug. 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984
- Feb. 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975
- June 25, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955
- Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946
- April 6, 1917 – Nov 11, 1918
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Navy
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Marines
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Merchant Marines 12/7/41 – 12/31/46 (only eligibility)



I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

 Signature of applicant

 Name of recruiter

30-009 (2012)

Receipt of Dues (Please Print)



From _____ for 20____ Post # _____
 \$ _____
 Recruiter's Name _____
 Recruiter's Signature _____
 Recruiter's Phone # _____

JOIN
 TEAM
 100
 TODAY

2018—2019 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
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
02/20/2019	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	EVANSTON POST 42	EVANSTON
02/24/2019	11TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	HUNTLEY POST 673	HUNTLEY
02/27/2019	9TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	FRANKLIN PARK POST 974 (AMERICANISM)	FRANKLIN PARK
02/28/2019	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	EVERGREEN PARK POST 854	EVERGREEN PARK
03/03/2019	17TH DISTRICT	11:00 AM	MT. PULASKI POST 447	MT. PULASKI
03/03/2019	18TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CHEBANSE POST 408	CHEBANSE
03/10/2019	16TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	BRADFORD POST 445	BRADFORD
03/10/2019	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	KINCAID POST 905	KINCAID
03/10/2019	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	HIGHLAND POST 439	HIGHLAND
03/10/2019	24TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	ALBION POST 590	ALBION
03/15/2019	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	LIBERTYVILLE POST 329	LIBERTYVILLE
03/17/2019	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	STEELEVILLE	STEELEVILLE
03/17/2019	19TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	MATTOON POST 88	MATTOON
03/20/2019	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE

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) *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 announce 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

I SERVED FOR *the open road*

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

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Department Editor MARTY CONATSER

Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag

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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?

1. The U.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 his commitment clear.
4. President-to-be Ronald Reagan, then a captain.

ANSWERS:



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

Civil War	General Robert E. Lee	John Wilkes Booth
Emancipation Proclamation	Log Cabin	Abraham Lincoln
Honest Abe	Ford's Theater	Gettysburg Address