

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS Department News



The American Legion Family



2019–2020 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ROY WEBER

AUGUST 2019

PRESIDENT TRUMP SIGNS LEGION ACT



President Donald J. Trump signs S. 504, the Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service (LEGION) Act Tuesday, July 30, 2019, in the Oval Office of the White House. Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

AS OF
AUGUST 2019

TOP 10 DISTRICT AND DIVISION RANKINGS

District Commander

**No
MEMBERSHIP
RANKINGS
AT THIS
TIME.**

Division Commander

In a significant legislative victory for The American Legion, President Trump signed a bill July 30 that declares the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941.

The American Legion sought the declaration as a way to honor approximately 1,600 U.S. servicemembers who were killed or wounded during previously undeclared periods of war.

The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act) also opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

“Recognizing the service of these wartime veterans is the right thing to do and it is long overdue,” National Commander Brett Reistad said. “The families of those who were killed or wounded during these wartime acts should take pride in knowing that we recognize their sacrifice and service. Moreover, we are proud to welcome any of the six million living veterans from the previously unrecognized periods into our organization and call them

(LEGION Act continued on page 6)

From The Desk of Department Commander Roy Weber



Fellow Legionaries the Department Convention is over and it's time to roll up our sleeves again to make this year a great one. With our Veteran's CAN DO attitude we can definitely make it happen!

I want to thank all of you for your confidence in electing me for to Serve as your Department Commander. I had a terrific time at the 101st Convention, it was great to see my family there as well as all my friends throughout Illinois. There were several I spoke to who were first time convention attendees.

I encourage everyone to attend our Departments Convention.

The Department staff again did a super job to make the week go smoothly.

I congratulate Sr. Vice Commander Wayne Fischer, National Executive Committeeman Tom Marciciak and Alternate NEC Wayne Erickson as well as the newly elected Division & District officers for the 2019-2020 year.

Now it's time to get to work...I ask for you to make your Post certification a priority in order to receive your 2020 membership cards.

Congratulations to Post 641 Roberts, 702 Marine and 529 Big Rock for being 100% already!

Our valuable programs truly depend on our efforts to increase membership.

Now is the time to secure those Post's that usually get their members early to receive the \$1.00 per member payback. Refer to the Post Membership Awards book that will be mailed soon for all post awards/rewards.

Reminder we have membership Teams in each District, and our District

officers should already have a plan to visit each and every post in their area.

My August calendar is filling quickly with the Legacy Run and our National Convention. I hope you're planning to attend our 101st National Convention in Indianapolis, it's an easy drive for our Department this year.

Then on September 14th is the Fall DEC and Commanders' Homecoming which will be held in Effingham. Info for these events are published in this months newsletter. Hope to see many of you there.

I look forward to working with our ALA President Sue Coughlin, and SAL Commander Phil Stander, and the entire American Legion Family again this coming year. We can accomplish great things with numbers so let's make the world's Largest Veterans Service Organization ever larger! Remember Veterans Can Do!

From The Desk of Department Sr. Vice Commander Wayne L. Fischer



My fellow Legionnaires, it is truly an honor to be elected your Department Senior-Vice Commander for this 2019-2020 year. This job primarily entails "Membership" and spearheading the "Opportunity" to get the Department of Illinois back on the growth track. Last year we were 4,000 members down from 2018 in the Post ranks. We cannot allow this to continue to happen. I know that is easy to say, but it's up to "ALL" of our Legionnaires to step up and bring in new members. There are thousands of eligible Veterans here in the state of Illinois and they are in our local communities. Our job as Post; County; District; Division and

Department Leaders along with our fellow Blue Cap Legionnaires is to go out and find them. Sell them on the American Legion, and sign them up.

Yes, I did say "Sell them on the American Legion". We all are "Salespeople" and we can get better every day at that. Here are 3 simple steps to follow:

- (1) Know your product. i.e: our many benefits and valuable programs of The American Legion.
- (2) Find and get to know your prospects.
- (3) Invite them to join a great service organization that has their interest at heart. It works, try it!!!!

While doing this let's not forget about our older members either. Please get the "Buddy Check" Program moving ahead in your area of responsibility.

These Legionnaires are as important to our success as anyone can be. They were The American Legion salesmen to us and took the time to personally mentor and get us involved. So let's not let them disappear from sight.

UPDATE: With President Trump just signing the LEGION Act. This opens up a long list of veterans who are now eligible to join The American Legion. I encourage you to reach out to them, invite them to join, encourage them to be part of your/OUR team. Invite their families to join the Legion Family. And introduce to their children to our many youth programs and scholarship opportunities.

Welcome them with open arms to Worlds Largest and greatest Veterans Organization.



From The Desk of Department Auxiliary President Sue Cuniff Coughlin



Greetings to all of our American Legion Family. What a wonderful year we had celebrating the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion with the leadership of Commander Mike, President Deb and Commander Eugene. Our congratulations to them on a very successful year. We will have some big shoes to fill but I am sure Commander Roy, Commander Phil and I will give it our best efforts.

This year, the Auxiliary will be celebrating our 100th Anniversary. Being in existence for 100 years calls for a huge celebration. Our theme will be **"Celebrate Our Past and Awaken Our Future"**. We will be celebrating the accomplishments and themes of our Past Department Presidents and

remembering the good times we had with them as we worked our mission. While we are remembering all these wonderful years, we need to look for opportunities to awaken our future so that we can exist for the next 100 years.

I am proud to be a 23-year PUFL member. My eligibility is through my late father Robert Cuniff and my husband Al Coughlin. My career has been in Information Technology. I will be celebrating my 19th anniversary working at Walgreens as an Application Manager in their Corporate Headquarters in Deerfield Illinois. I really enjoy my job at Walgreens and they are very supportive of their veterans who have served and are still serving.

This year my special project will be to support our VA facilities and homes. At the end of the year, at convention, we will celebrate by giving them an additional gift of something from their wish lists.

Installation was only a few short weeks ago. I hope many of you were able to stop by the reception after the installations at convention. Our official duties have begun, and the month of August will be very busy as we have our Fall Board meeting in Chicago on August 2nd and my Homecoming in Morton Grove on August 3rd. We will be at Veteran's Day at the State Fair on August 11th. Of course then we will be off to the National Convention in Indianapolis.

We will continue to work together with our Legion Family. We are always stronger when we work together. It would be an honor to join in any of your projects whenever I can. Let me know if you would like me to attend an event or if there is something you would like me to know about. I look forward to working with everyone and I hope to visit with many of you this year during my travels.



From The Desk of Detachment Commander Phil Stander



Greetings American Legion Family.

On July 14th at this year's 56th annual Detachment Convention I was honored to be elected your Detachment Commander for the 2019/2020 membership year. I am a 12-year member of Squadron 911 Wauconda IL. I have been active in the Sons for all 12 years. Along the way I have held many positions within the Squadron, District, Division and Detachment levels.

My eligibility comes from my Grandfather Frank Stander who served in WWI. The Joseph M. Sesterhenn Post 166 in Glenview Illinois is named

after my great uncle, (my grandfather's brother-in-law who died in action on October 1, 1918), of which my grandfather served as Post Commander in 1938. My Grandmother Catherine Stander was a Member of the Auxiliary and I am told was a District President although I do not know what year/s. I am glad for the opportunity's membership in the Son's of the American Legion has provided and I am Proud to Honor the service of my Grandfather and all my family that has served and is currently serving this Great country.

As the American Legion moves forward into the next century, the Sons will continue to be there at your side with our sleeves rolled up ready to work. The Sons play a vital role in many successful posts across this state. Of the over 700 posts there are 277 squadrons. That tells me there is plenty

of room for expansion. If your post does not have a squadron, please reach out to me. If I can't make one of your meetings, I will see to it that someone does to explain the benefits of having a squadron in your post and to help you get one started. You won't be sorry you did.

My theme for the year is **"The Drive is Alive."**

Within the American Legion Family exists many destinations that members are interested in and passionate about or a place they feel they can make a difference. But how do you get there?

- First you need to pick your destination or goal that you wish to achieve.

(SAL Cmdr continued on page 9)

Meet our 2019-2020 American Legion Family LEADERSHIP



Roy Weber
Department Commander
Email: commander@illegion.org



Wayne L. Fischer
Department Sr. Vice Commander
Email: srvicemanager@illegion.org



Sue Cunniff Coughlin
Department ALA President
Email: cunniffsue@gmail.com



Thomas Marciciak
National Executive Committeeman
Email: vlmars@comcast.net



Phil Stander
Detachment Commander
Email: commander@il-sal.org



W. Wayne Erickson
Alternate National Executive Committeeman
Email: wwehaul@wexlinesinc.com



COMMANDER WEBER'S HOMECOMING

Saturday, September 14, 2019

D.E.C. Meeting

1:00 PM—Department Executive Committee Meeting
Effingham Event Center
1501 Fayette Ave., Effingham, IL
(Former K of C Hall)



Department Commander Roy Weber invites
the Legion Family to join him for dinner.

Effingham Event Center

1501 Fayette Ave., Effingham, IL

- * Social Hour at 6:00 p.m.
- * Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
- * Entertainment following
- * Business Casual Attire

Housing

Comfort Suites

1310 W. Fayette Rd.
Effingham, IL 62401

(217) 342-3151

Double Queens -or- King

\$91 plus tax each night,
includes hot breakfast

Cut off date for room block
is ...

August 31, 2019

Book Early!

Dinner Buffet Style Menu: Terriaki Chicken, Beef Brisket, Twice Baked
Potato Casserole, Green Beans, 7 Layer Salad and Patriotic Cupcakes.

- * Dinner: \$26 per person Make check payable to: Kate Weber
- * Dinner reservations should be sent to: Ann Flanagan
409 E. Oak St. New Baden, IL 62265
- * Dinner reservation deadline: August 31, 2019
- * Questions? Contact Dinner Chairman: Ann Flanagan
E: aflanaganaux@gmail.com C: (618) 304-4151

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone # _____ Division # _____ District # _____

‘Legionnaires.’”

Now that the legislation has been signed, The American Legion’s eligibility criteria immediately changes from seven war eras to two: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government. No other restrictions to American Legion membership are changed.

The law’s journey began on Feb. 14 when Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., introduced S. 504, along with Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C. A companion measure, H.R. 1641, was introduced in the House by Reps. Lou Correa, D-Calif., and Ben Cline, R-Va.

Reistad expressed gratitude to the bipartisan members of Congress for passing the legislation.

“We are grateful that President Trump fully acknowledges the importance of The American Legion by signing the

LEGION Act in the White House today – just one week after it passed the House of Representatives,” Reistad said. “In an era of partisan gridlock, Republicans and Democrats in Congress overwhelmingly recognized the importance of allowing thousands of honorable but previously ineligible veterans the right to join the largest and most influential veterans organization in the country.”

Reistad pointed out that existing American Legion membership applications are in the process of being updated but can still be used. “In the meantime, I recommend that prospective Legionnaires and recruiters write ‘LEGION Act’ in the eligibility date section of American Legion membership applications if they fall outside the previous war eras,” Reistad said. “The larger pool of veterans now eligible for The American Legion will also open their family members to eligibility in the Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary as well.”

TRAINING FOR INCOMING DISTRICT COMMANDERS TO BE HELD IN INDY

The Incoming District Commanders Training is Aug. 26 during the Legion's 101st national convention in Indianapolis

Every year, more than 750 Legionnaires across the nation are elected to serve as a district commander. Among the many duties of a district commander, they are the liaisons between posts and departments, responsible for relaying information through both levels. This ongoing communication ensures that The American Legion operates as a national entity.

The American Legion's Membership Division is hosting a training course for 2019-2020 incoming district commanders during the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis.

The Incoming District Commanders Training is Monday, Aug. 26, at 9 a.m. at the JW Marriott in the Grand Ballroom, Sections 8 and 9, Third Floor. The JW is located at 10 South West Street, Indianapolis.

Attendees will hear from national commander leading candidate Bill Oxford of North Carolina, as well as discuss the following topics:

- ★ **Post analysis**
- ★ **District revitalization**
- ★ **MyLegion.org overview**
- ★ **Buddy Check**
- ★ **Membership engagement plan at the post and district level**



Materials to reflect LEGION Act membership eligibility

More than 1,600 members of the U.S. Armed Forces were killed or wounded in periods of time not designated as war eras since the end of World War II. The newly signed Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act of 2019 – The LEGION Act – honors those veterans, their spouses and descendants, extending membership eligibility in The American Legion Family to hundreds of thousands who had previously been excluded.

The LEGION Act offers American Legion membership eligibility to any U.S. military veteran who served at least one day of active military duty since Dec. 7, 1941, and was honorably discharged or is serving now.

American Legion print and digital promotional materials are now being updated by National Headquarters. Downloadable membership brochures, officer manuals, scholarship applications and other documents can be found -

<https://www.legion.org/membership/246573/www.legion.org/LEGIONActmaterials> As new materials are ordered from posts, districts and departments, they will also include inserts to reflect the changes in membership eligibility.

11 things you need to know about the LEGION Act

With President Trump's **signature on the LEGION Act**, the extension of the ongoing declared period of war was extended back to Dec. 7, 1941. The congressionally approved act is a way to honor thousands of veterans who were killed or wounded on duty during periods not previously considered a time of war.

"Finally Congress has acknowledged the service and sacrifice of at least 1,600 veterans who died or were wounded in previously undeclared periods of war," said American Legion National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett. "This new law honors the memories of those veterans while allowing other veterans from those previously undeclared eras to receive all the American Legion benefits they have earned through their service."

The LEGION Act - Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act — also redefines The American Legion's membership eligibility dates. The eligibility now span from Dec. 7, 1941, until a time when the U.S. is no longer at war, as determined by Congress.

Here are answers to 11 key questions about the new law and what it means for The American Legion.

1. Question: How does this change the eligibility requirements for The American Legion?

Answer: The only change is that Congress has reduced the number of eligibility periods from seven to two. They are April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941, and continuing. No other restrictions are changed.

2. Question: What's the impact on veterans who previously were not eligible for American Legion membership?

Answer: Veterans who were honorably discharged but whose service did not fall into the previous defined war eras may now join The American Legion immediately. To do so, eligible members may sign up at www.legion.org/join.

3. Question: I am among the veterans who were not allowed to join previously, so why do you want me now?

Answer: The American Legion's founding fathers believed, "a veteran is a veteran," an axiom that has held true throughout the organization's more than century of service. Some veterans were ineligible to join because of the war eras that were defined by Congress. The recent bill passage and president's signature changed that.

4. Question: So how does this differentiate The American Legion from AMVETS?

Answer: The American Legion's eligibility criteria states that veterans must have served during "wartime." When Congress decides the U.S. is no longer in a state of war, the Legion's membership eligibility period will close, while AMVETS will still be open to those who served.

5. Question: How does this affect the Sons of The American Legion (SAL)?

Answer: The Sons' eligibility criteria will change along with that of The American Legion. Any son or grandson of a living American Legion member will be able to join the SAL program. (Sons and grandsons of deceased veterans are also eligible.) For example, a son of a veteran who served between 1985 and 1988 previously would not have been eligible. With the extension of the war period, that veteran would immediately be eligible for The American Legion and the son would be able to join the SAL.

6. Question: How does this affect the eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary?

Answer: This follows the same concept as the SAL, as noted previously. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is currently open to grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and adopted female descendants of eligible veterans.

7. Question: How does this affect membership for departments, districts and posts?

Answer: This change opens up American Legion membership to thousands more veterans who likely live in your communities. They may become members immediately.

8. Question: The current membership applications don't address the eligibility change. How do we process those members?

Answer: New membership materials will be developed and provided as quickly as possible. Until then, it is recommended that prospective members from a previously undocumented war era write "Other Conflicts" in the eligibility date section and send it in to their department with the appropriate dues.

9. Question: What steps should departments, districts and posts focus on?

Answer: A good first step would be to review all recruiting materials to look for eligibility dates. Information on electronic media (websites, social media channels, etc.) should be changed immediately. It is up to departments to decide on the best way to handle printed materials, while updated ones are being produced.

10. Question: How does this change the Paid Up For Life program?

Answer: There are no changes to the PUFL program, though the newly eligible members would be able to become PUFLs. To learn more about the program, visit <https://www.legion.org/PUFL>

11. Question: Who can I contact for more information about this change as it applies to membership and recruiting?

Answer: Contact the national Membership Division. Visit this web page to find the representative in your state. <https://www.legion.org/membership/contactus>

SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Drawing July 13, 2019

1st PLACE	\$10,000	Frank H. McGraw	Rockford	Legion
2nd PLACE	\$5,000	Robert C. Jensen	Worth	Legion
3rd PLACE	\$2,500	Duane Groch	Big Rock	SAL
4th PLACE	\$1,500	Delmer F. Strohecker	Freeport	Legion
5th PLACE	\$1,000	Maureen Greene	Vermont	Auxiliary
6th PLACE	\$1,000	Richard L. Martin	Machesney Park	Legion
7th PLACE	\$750	Anthony J. Arrigo	Pontiac	Legion
8th PLACE	\$750	James A. Franzen	Mesa	Legion
9th PLACE	\$500	Gerald W. Taylor	Sheridan	Legion
10th PLACE	\$500	David C. Copher	Lake in the Hills	Legion
11th PLACE	\$250	Daniel J. Ellis	Chicago	SAL
12th PLACE	\$250	William Lyon	Sugar Grove	Legion
13th PLACE	\$100	Mary Ann Stenger	Peoria	Auxiliary
14th PLACE	\$100	Patricia A. Patterson	Jacksonville, FL	Auxiliary
15th PLACE	\$100	John R. Savitz	Carbondale	Legion
16th PLACE	\$100	Thomas Harrell	Washington	Legion
17th PLACE	\$100	Phillip S. Williams, Jr	Dolton	Legion
18th PLACE	\$100	William Marquardt	Peoria	Legion
19th PLACE	\$100	Dorothy Brown	Swansea	Auxiliary
20th PLACE	\$100	Retha J. Jones	Chester	Auxiliary
21st PLACE	\$100	W. Kent Macklin	Decatur	Legion
22nd PLACE	\$100	Dorothy Hoehne	Fox Lake	Auxiliary

\$25,000

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ALA Fall Board Meeting
August 2nd--3rd
~ ~ ~

ALA Dept. President Homecoming
August 3rd
~ ~ ~

American Legion State
Golf Tournament
Danville, IL
August 3rd--4th
~ ~ ~

Baseball Regional Tournaments
August 6th--11th
~ ~ ~

Purple Heart Day
August 7th
~ ~ ~

National DSO &
Membership Workshop
Indianapolis, IN
August 8th--10th
~ ~ ~

Baseball World Series
Shelby, NC
August 15th--20th
~ ~ ~

Legacy Run
August 18th--22nd
~ ~ ~

101st National Convention
Indianapolis, IN
August 23rd--29th
~ ~ ~

LABOR DAY
DEPT. OFFICE CLOSED
SEPTEMBER 2nd
~ ~ ~

Department Appointments
Meeting with Division Cmdrs
@ Dept. HQ
September 4th
~ ~ ~

Division Officers Retreat
Carlinville, IL
September 7th--8th
#



Did You Know? By Ray Toczek O: 312-980-4266 E: Raymond.Toczek@va.gov

That our state convention has come and gone and I must say it was not only exciting but very informative! For those who have been to one before, most resolutions reported by the committee chairperson are rubber stamped after they are read to the assembly. This year, however, two were set aside for further debate and discussion. One was on posts within the 1st District being reassigned and the other one was on legal marijuana. It was great to see democracy in action. Many members approached the open mike and stated their opinion.

Regarding resolutions, the most were submitted for consideration by posts in the 1st Division. I hope our other Divisions will buckle down and encourage their posts to send in their own. You will be surprised what could happen. In the last ten years our Department, via the resolution process, was able to get 4 different laws put into place. Regarding this year's ideas the following were passed and will now go on to our national convention.

VA should have a variety of CPAP machines available for vets with sleep apnea.

Tinnitus should be rated at two levels, right now the only level is 10%.

Former POW's, Purple Heart and Medal of Honor veterans should get the highest VA hospital category.

Burial benefits should only be paid to who actually paid for the vet's funeral and burial.

Some childcare expenses for single parent vets needing to go to appointments.

It's never too early to start thinking about resolutions for next year.

There was a seminar at convention about the new computer update to MyLegion. Posts can now process dues payment online saving a lot of work for the adjutant. My adjutant (Post 18) has signed up for it and says it is very user friendly. As of this newsletter we have already processed 30 dues for 2020 online. Not only can you process renewals but you can also sign up new members AND transfer a 2910 member to you if they are paying their 2020 dues. Check it out.

Finally, the free \$1,000 accidental death insurance that comes with our membership is **NOT** automatic. The member must register with the American Legion insurance provider. You may call 1-800-235-6943 to confirm enrollment. The recording gives you options, press 6 # to speak to a representative. I thought I was enrolled but wasn't. Now I am. Also, if you should have an accident and die and were on Legion business the amount is \$5,000.

Looking forward to an exciting new year and working with our new service officers. Be sure to call our e-mail our office with any benefit questions or wishing to check out the latest rumor out there.

LET YOUR YES BE YES AND YOUR NO BE NO.

MATTHEW 5:37

(SAL Cmdr continued from page 3)

- Next plan your route. How are you going to get there and what side trips may be along the way?
- The third step is very important for the growth and participation within the family. Invite your friends. Take them along, show them the sites along the way and they too will develop their own route and destination.
- Then put yourself in the driver's seat and get going.

We are the start of the next century. Let's drive forward together. Promote what we do. Invite others to join us and see just how far we can get. I know this will be a great year Working alongside President Coughlin and Commander Weber. We'll see you on the route!



CONGRATULATIONS to Illinois American Legion Riders on their 1st Annual Illinois Legacy (North & South) Run. They raised 17,091.68 dollars for the Legacy Fund. A check was presented to Commander Mike Carder at the 101st Department Convention.

Pictured is Chairman Joe Lampert (L), Commander Mike Carder (M), Vice Chrm Roy Smith (R)

The American Legion 101st National Convention

Indianapolis, Indiana August 23 – 29, 2019

Illinois Hotel housing will be at the Omni Severin Indianapolis

Website: www.omnihotels.com/hotels/indianapolis-severin

National Convention Information can be found on the Legion Website at

www.legion.org/convention/resources

The National housing form can be found online at www.illegion.org/event/national-convention

Or contact Department Headquarters to have a form mailed.

**Download the National Convention Mobile App with the most up-to-date
schedule, floor agenda and more: www.legion.org/mobileapps**

NATIONAL CONVENTION TOUR OPPORTUNITIES

- | | |
|---|---|
| ★ INDIANAPOLIS CITY TOUR—Indy 101 | ★ EDINBURGH PREMIUM OUTLET MALL |
| ★ INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY | ★ CAMP ATTERBURY TOUR |
| ★ INDIANAPOLIS MONUMENTS &
MEMORIALS TOUR | ★ AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS TOUR |
| ★ ROLLS-ROYCE (Allison) AIRCRAFT ENGINE
MUSEUM | |

TOUR REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT:

- ◆ Check out what's being offered when via www.legion.org/convention/resources

Registration for tours will be available in a variety of ways:

⇒ Online (www.legion.org/convention/resources) click on TOUR OPPORTUNITIES

⇒ On-site at the Indianapolis Convention Center during the 101st National Convention.

- ◆ Register early to ensure your spot as some tours have capacity limits and/or earlier registration deadlines
- ◆ Payment for each tour will be the responsibility of the individual who books the tour and not of The American Legion.
- ◆ Per participant pricing varies on the tour selected and/or any customization included.
- ◆ Once a tour is purchased, all payments are non-refundable, except in the case of a tour registrant not being able to attend the Convention or participate in a registered tour due to sickness or death.



Illinois Party



Monday, August 26, 2019

\$35.00 per person

*Please Join us at the Illinois American Legion
Family Party while at the 101st Annual
National Convention in Indianapolis, IN.*

Indianapolis Post 500

(1926 Georgetown Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46224)

**Come Enjoy the
Food & Fun**

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

August 26, 2019





POST EVERLASTING



The American Legion
Department of Illinois
does mourn the passing
of our comrade

HENRY E. "HANK" ROBARDS

It is with great sadness that
we report the death of
Past Department Commander
Henry E. "Hank" Robards who has
transferred to Post Everlasting.

Hank passed away July 23, 2019
at his home in St. Jacob.
Visitation services were held on
July 26, 2019 at Richeson Funeral
Home in Troy, IL.

Hank was a member of Bussong-
Mersinger American Legion
Post 665 in St. Jacob, IL.

He served as Department
Commander in 2015.

Hank also served on various
National, Department and Adhock
Committees and Commissions.

The Interment will be private.

Hank will be greatly missed by
all who knew him.



June 23, 1940 — July 23, 2019

THREE BILLS PASS THE HOUSE TO DELIVER KEY WINS FOR VETERANS

*Bills Would Extend Transition Program for Women Veterans, Require
VA to Provide Materials in Spanish & Tagalog, and Improve SAH Grants*

JULY 23, 2019 WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the House of Representatives passed all three bills brought to the floor by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to deliver clear results for veterans by extending the Women's Health Transition Training program, requiring VA to provide materials in Spanish and Tagalog, and making key improvements to the specially adapted housing (SAH) grant program.

Full list of passed legislation:

1. [H.R. 2942](#), (Rep. Cisneros) To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out the Women's Health Transition Training pilot program through at least fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.
2. [H.R. 2943](#), (Rep. Cisneros) To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make all fact sheets of the Department of Veterans Affairs in English, Spanish, and Tagalog.
3. [H.R. 3504](#), (Rep. Bilirakis) Ryan Kules Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019

VETERANS & GOLD STAR FAMILIES DAY AT THE ILLINOIS STATE FAIR

Sunday, August 11, 2019

9:30am–4:00pm

Veterans & their
families are
admitted to the
grounds for **free**.

A veterans parade
and activities are
some of the high-
lights for the day.
Discounted ride
passes for families
of military veterans.



Veterans Day Activities

- @ 9:30 am Memorial Service @ Lincoln Stage
- @ 10:00 am Benefits Expo @ the Shed
- @ 10:30 am AmVet Kid's Corner @ Lincoln Stage
- @ 10:30 am JROTC Drill Team Competition @ Central Avenue
- @ 12:00 noon Veterans Day ~ Main Program @ Lincoln Stage
- @ 1:00 pm Free Veterans Lunch @ the Shed
- @ 1:30 pm JROTC Drill Teams @ Central Avenue
- @ 3:00 pm JROTC Drill Team Awards Ceremony @ Lincoln Stage
- @ 4:00 pm Veterans Day Parade

2019 Dept. Photo Contest Winners			2020 Calendar Winners			
1ST DIVISION			MONTH	NAME	DIV.	AWARD
1ST PLACE	COLINETTE MARSHALL	\$100				
2ND PLACE	COLINETTE MARSHALL	\$75	COVER	RICHARD YNDESTAD	2	\$75
3RD PLACE	COLINETTE MARSHALL	\$50				
4TH PLACE	COLINETTE MARSHALL	\$25	JANUARY	COLINETTE MARSHALL	1	\$75
2ND DIVISION						
1ST PLACE	RICHARD YNDESTAD	\$100	FEBRUARY	JOHN B. REECE	2	\$75
2ND PLACE	RICHARD YNDESTAD	\$75				
3RD PLACE	WAYNE MACEJAK	\$50	MARCH	PAUL GARRETT	4	\$75
4TH PLACE	RICHARD YNDESTAD	\$25				
3RD DIVISION			APRIL	JILL HENRY	4	\$75
1ST PLACE	DAVID A. SCOTT, SR.	\$100				
2ND PLACE	DAVID A. SCOTT, SR.	\$75	MAY	PHILIP H. METTE	5	\$75
3RD PLACE	DAVID A. SCOTT, SR.	\$50				
4TH PLACE	DAVID A. SCOTT, SR.	\$25	JUNE	PHILIP H. METTE	5	\$75
4TH DIVISION						
1ST PLACE	JILL HENRY	\$100	JULY	JEFFREY ROSCOW	4	\$75
2ND PLACE	JILL HENRY	\$75				
3RD PLACE	PAUL GARRETT	\$50	AUGUST	JILL HENRY	4	\$75
4TH PLACE	PAUL GARRETT	\$25				
5TH DIVISION			SEPTEMBER	RICHARD YNDESTAD	2	\$75
1ST PLACE	PHILIP H. METTE	\$100				
2ND PLACE	JEFFREY ROSCOW	\$75	OCTOBER	PAUL GARRETT	4	\$75
3RD PLACE	PHILIP H. METTE	\$50				
4TH PLACE	PHILIP H. METTE	\$25	NOVEMBER	RICHARD YNDESTAD	2	\$75
			DECEMBER	RICHARD YNDESTAD	2	\$75

GOLD STAR 500



ALWAYS REMEMBER,
NEVER FORGET!

On September 24, 2019

cyclists will begin a 500-mile journey through the state of Illinois, known as the Gold Star 500. This third annual event works to preserve the legacy and honor of those service men and service women from Illinois who have made the ultimate sacrifice in support of service to this great nation. This 5 day, 500-mile event will use proceeds to fund scholarships in the name of our Fallen Heroes, thus preserving their legacy forever. Come and join our mission.

- ★ September 24-28, 2019
- ★ 500-mile endurance cycling event
- ★ Registration opening soon
- ★ Providing scholarships to Honor the Fallen
- ★ Federally recognized 501(c)3



PLEASE LEND YOUR SUPPORT
DONATE OR GET INVOLVED AT
GOLDSTARMISSION.ORG



2019 GS 500 General Route:

Day 1: Marseilles to Pontiac
Day 2: Pontiac to Peoria
Day 3: Peoria to Quad Cities
Day 4: Quad Cities to Rockford
Day 5: Rockford to St Charles

For additional information contact:

ERIC MURRAY

GOLD STAR MISSION VOLUNTEER

GOLD STAR 500 RIDE DIRECTOR

*RETIRED U.S. ARMY/ILLINOIS
NATIONAL GUARD*

*20+ YR. LEGIONNAIRE OF
POST 905 IN KINKAID, IL*

C: (217) 494-4778

E: emurray63@comcast.net

GIFTS COME IN ALL YEAR LONG FOR THE GTTY PROGRAM

American Legion Lee Iten Post 439, Highland accepting donations for the Gifts to the Yanks program. Gary Jascur is presenting the \$2500.00 check from the Highland Masonic Lodge # 583 Rock-a-thon, to Commander Jim Hobbs and Sr. Vice Brett Leman. Also Sharon Young presented proceeds from the BBQ held by Highland Healthcare for this Veteran program that brings gifts at Christmas to the residents. Accepting Commander Hobbs, Sr. Vice Leman, & Gifts to the Yanks Coordinator, Mat Tebbe.



2019—2020 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
08/22/2019	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	BLUE ISLAND POST 50 @ EAGLES AERIE	BLUE ISLAND
09/18/2019	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	LINCOLNWOOD POST 1226	LINCOLNWOOD
09/20/2019	10TH DISTRICT	UNKNOWN	DEERFIELD POST 738	DEERFIELD
09/26/2019	8TH DISTRICT	8:00 PM	PARK FOREST POST 1198	CHICAGO HEIGHTS

**SEND YOUR DISTRICT & DIVISION MEETING DATES IN
TO LIST YOUR MEETINGS HERE**

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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).

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
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BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61702

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

Department Commander
ROY WEBER Department Editor
MARTY CONATSER

Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag

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15th of each month for it to be in the next month's issue.

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AUGUST TRIVIA

- How many years did Hyman Rickover, the man credited with propelling the Navy into the nuclear age, serve on active duty?
- Why was infantryman (and actor-to-be) James Arness picked to go first when the troops aboard his landing craft splashed ashore during the Allied attack at Anzio during World War II?
- Who was Andrea Doria--the person for whom the famous passenger ship was named?
- What was the last state to return to the Union after the Civil War?

1. Sixty--he was forced to retire at age 82 by President Ronald Regan.

2. At 6 feet 6, he was the tallest man in his outfit--and his commanding officer wanted to know just how deep the water was.

3. He was a sixteenth-century Genoese admiral who was known as the "Father of Peace" and the "Liberator of Genoa."

4. Georgia.

ANSWERS:



50 State Word Search

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

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|-------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Alabama | Indiana | Nebraska | South Carolina |
| Alaska | Iowa | Nevada | South Dakota |
| Arizona | Kansas | New Hampshire | Tennessee |
| Arkansas | Kentucky | New Jersey | Texas |
| California | Louisiana | New Mexico | Utah |
| Colorado | Maine | New York | Vermont |
| Connecticut | Maryland | North Carolina | Virginia |
| Delaware | Massachusetts | North Dakota | Washington |
| Florida | Michigan | Ohio | West Virginia |
| Georgia | Minnesota | Oklahoma | Wisconsin |
| Hawaii | Mississippi | Oregon | Wyoming |
| Idaho | Missouri | Pennsylvania | |
| Illinois | Montana | Rhode Island | |