

The Insider

American Legion Department of Illinois News
APRIL 2023

Medal of Honor recipient
Sgt. Henry H. Taylor
bronze memorial bust to
be unveiled in Galena
this month! Pg. 10

104 *never looked
so GOOD!*



Legion Families all over the state
joined to celebrate The American
Legion's 104th Birthday.

Lomac Payton



Hello Everyone,

Well March is at an end and April is here! We will start moving and shaking to achieve our membership goal for 2023 by Department Close of Books. I know you all probably feel like all you're hearing from us is "membership, membership, membership." As we all know, without membership, there would be no American Legion. So let's put our pride in the closet on a shelf and start doing those buddy checks, phone calls....whatever it takes. We need your help now more than ever to achieve our goal. Let's make things happen.

Department Auxiliary held its Patriotic Conference in Springfield on March 17-18. The weather was cold, but not too bad. The National President and Past National Commander both attended the conference as guest speakers. The attendance was great as well. Sons of American Legion State Commander Kevin O'Connell and I were fortunate to attend as well. I look forward to Kevin's homecoming in Tinley Park on April 1.

I also attended the 15th and 16th District meetings and the 3rd Division meeting that was held in Peoria. We had our Department Convention meeting at Post 32 in Springfield on March 25. Convention will be here before you know it!

Let's not forget to rally with our Senior Vice Commander and our Membership Director and support them however we can. We are a Legion Family. Let's prove that by helping each other achieve our department goal for 2023.

Please, let's keep each other in our prayers. May God bless and keep you safe.

Your Department Commander,
Lomac A. Payton

Delmar Buske



To Our American Legion Family—

Here it is time for another newsletter. Time sure flies when you are having fun—and I sure am having fun!

Oratorical Contest this year was very interesting. We didn't have as many contestants this year as we have had in the past, but they sure seem to get better each year. This is a good time to be thinking about trying to get more people involved next year. This is one of MANY of the Legion's good programs that are out there. We are also looking forward to Special Olympics, Boys State, Girls State and Youth Police School. They all need your help and these programs are too good to not get involved in.

The Washington Legislative Conference took place right after our Oratorical Contest. Our National Commander Vincent J. 'Jim' Troiola testified before Congress. When the American Legion testifies before Congress, our strong membership is important. We are the largest Veterans Service Organization in the world and Congress listens to us. That's one of the many reasons that membership is so important.

The Patriotic Conference took place in Springfield. I have always enjoyed attending this conference. There's a lot to be gained by listening to their good speakers and their committee reports. I especially appreciated listening to National President Vickie Koutz's speech. We got to listen to her husband and Past National Commander Jim Koutz speak as well. He told us about his trip to Vietnam looking for remains of US Service Members and his passion for the Operation Comfort Warrior program (yet another example of our good programs).

I am looking forward to Spring meetings in Indianapolis in May and the Armed Forces week, where we will have our National Commander in Illinois all week. Check when we will be in your Division that week and try to attend!

Until our next newsletter, be safe.

Janet Bacon



My Legion Family,

Happy Spring! Let's hope Mother Nature will be kind to all of us. We should be going out and collecting those last membership renewals. We know that these are the hardest ones to get. Do not give up!

Our Patriotic Conference was a huge success. Our speakers were fantastic. We heard from Mario Marquez from the American Legion National Security Division in Washington, D.C., and Kate Haislar Broadhurst who shared her experiences as being a female veteran. We also heard from my special guest Past National Commander Jim Koutz. He spoke about his efforts in helping to find remains of our POW/MIA's. He wears a bracelet with the name of a missing POW/MIA and will not remove it until this serviceman has been found and brought back to his final resting place. We also heard from our ALAIGS State Senator Yasmine "Yazie" Khalaf and her wonderful time at Girls Nation. Our final speaker of the day was National President Vickie Koutz. She talked about her special project. It is always a great honor to have the National President make our Patriotic Conference her official visit to the state of Illinois.

I would like to thank all of the Legion Family that were able to attend Patriotic Conference. I hope you enjoyed our speakers, the food and just being together. Hope you will come again next year.

March 25th was our first of three Junior Conferences which was held in Fairfield. Our next two will be April 22nd in Arlington Heights and on April 29th held in Washington. Please remember that these Junior Conferences are also for the younger SAL members. A good time is always had by all that attend.

It is time to start getting into our schools and discuss Boys State as well as Illini Girls State. Let us try and send as many to each program as we possibly can. Afterall, these could be possible future members to our Legion Family.

(Continued on page 5)

Kevin O'Connell



Greetings from the Detachment of Illinois,

Our Preamble starts with "Possessors of a Priceless Heritage". With Memorial Day right around the corner it reminds me of my Father and his Legion Post Members planning the Memorial Day event. They spent months organizing, lining up guest speakers, building a stage, and Honor Guard practice of course. But most of all, I remember the comradeship, the laughter, the hard work, and the spirit that anything was possible. Afterall, these were mostly World War 2 Veterans, truly the Greatest Generation. As a young boy I enjoyed helping and hanging around the Legion. It made me proud of my Dads service and gave me a better appreciation of who he was as a Man, and not just a great Father.

Several years after my Dads passing, I was asked to start a Sons of the American Legion Squadron at American Legion Post 36 in Des Plaines where I now reside. As a Police Officer in Des Plaines I always enjoyed helping them out when I could. So, this was an easy decision. To my amazement although this was a different Legion Post then the one my Dad was from, I found that feeling from these Veterans was exactly the same. These Veterans were mostly Vietnam Era, but the Brotherhood was the same. The spirit of "anything is possible" was also there. I have found that feeling of helping Veteran causes, and working side by side with the Legion Family extremely rewarding.

So now I'm following in my Fathers footsteps in helping Veterans and fighting for Veteran causes. It's truly been a rewarding experience and keeps my Fathers memories alive. I am a "Possessor of a Priceless Heritage"

For any Legion Post that does not have a Sons Of The American Legion Squadron, We would be more than happy to assist you. We can explain how beneficial they can be, and how easy it is to start one.

For God and Country
Kevin O'Connell
Detachment Commander Illinois

(Continued from page 3)

The Membership Challenge has come to an end. Everyone came up a winner. I did settle my bet with Commander Lomac by giving him \$50.00 to go towards his Special Project. Thanks to the SAL and the Legion for being such good sports and participating in this fun little wager.

Until next time, be safe and stay healthy.

For God and Country

Janet Bacon, Department President



APRIL

Mark
YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL 7: GOOD FRIDAY (DEPT. CLOSED)

APRIL 9: **HAPPY EASTER!**

APRIL 15: **SPRING D.E.C. (NORMAL, IL)**

MAY 7: **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

MAY 8-11: **SPRING MEETINGS (INDY)**

MAY 20: **ARMED FORCES DAY DINNER
(2ND DIV)**

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Top 10 District &
Division Rankings
As of 03/24/2023

District	Commander
----------	-----------

13	Gibbs
22	Swaim
3	Fitch
21	Baumann
18	Morris
14	Page
9	Fiorentino
8	Petersen
23	Nollman
11	Oikion

Division	Commander
----------	-----------

5	Maden
2	Kraut
4	Garrett
3	Seward Jr.
1	Thompson III



THE ARMY RESERVE MINUTEMAN SCHOLARSHIP

2023 - 2024 CAMPAIGN

The Minuteman Campaign is a US Cadet Command initiative to offer Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) Scholarships to candidates that self-select for service in a Reserve Component.

SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

- The Minuteman campaign awards 2-, 2.5-, 3-, 3.5-, 4-year scholarships.
- Public, Non-resident or private institution rates authorized.
- They must be academically aligned to start and end the scholarship by graduation date and commission.
- Graduate degrees eligible.
- All scholarships are based on available funding.

How to Apply:

- Meet all scholarship qualifications
- Seek a nomination and interview from one of the following resources:
 - Army Reserve Ambassadors - <https://www.usar.army.mil/FindanAmbassador/>
 - USAR Major Subordinate Command Commander
 - Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) <https://www.army.mil/casa#org-find-a-casa>

BENEFITS

- Covers full tuition and fees OR room and board (\$10,000 per year)
- Monthly \$420 Cadet stipend (freshmen-senior year)
- Annual \$1,200 book stipend
- Earn E-5 drill pay upon contracting
- Guaranteed commission in the Army Reserve with an eight-year service obligation

REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum test scores: SAT = 850 or ACT = 19 or GT = 110
- 2.5 Cumulative GPA
- Official college/university acceptance letter
- Currently Enlisted or eligible to enlist
- Must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. National
- Meet physical fitness requirements
- Between age of 17-28
- GRFD MM scholarship recipients cannot compete for active duty
- Eligible to participate in the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) with an Army Reserve unit

APPLICATION DEADLINE

4 August 2023



More information at www.usar.army.mil/MinutemanCampaign
Questions? usarmy.knox.usacc.list.army-reserve-rotc-scholarships@army.mil

WE'LL KEEP YOU POSTED

What your local Posts, Districts, Divisions and Dept. Leadership have been up to



(1) The Morrison IL American Legion Post 328 celebrated Legionnaire Bob Brand's 93rd birthday and The American Legion's 104th birthday. Post Commander Larry Zuidema (left) presented a cake to Bob (right) to commemorate both birthdays. Even at 93, Bob is very active in the Post to include performing at funerals, parades, flag placements (just to mention a few) regardless of the weather.



(2) American Legion Post 139 Freeport has been using the Freeport Public Library meeting rooms for their monthly meetings. The Post is moving to a new location combining with Pearl City Post 1014. Post 139 Post Commander David Stott is shown giving a "Thank you!" donation to the Library. Pictured left to right are Legionnaires Jason Carter, Paul Jacobs, Commander David Stott and Dianne Ludwig, Adult Services Manager.



(3) The Fickbohm-Hissem Post 193 Galena celebrated the American Legion's 104th birthday at a post meeting on March 21. Post members were joined by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 193 members in the group photograph.

(4) Post 1148 celebrated the Legion's birthday with a party at the Bertolet Memorial Library. Front row: Mickey Badertscher, commander; Paul Detmer, adjutant

Back row: Tommy Bicksler, member; J. Scott Bicksler, Historian; Ronald Kuntzelman, Sgt-at-Arms; Ronald Bocker, Chaplain

(5) WWII Veteran, Harlan "POP" Bottles, 98, honored Monday night at Ruel Neal, Post 79. Pop Bottles retired after serving 76 years on the Post 79 Honor and Color Guard. Family, Friends and fellow post members attended. Past National Commander & Dept. of Illinois Adjutant Marty Conaster, and 4th Division Commander, Paul Garrett, presented Pop Bottles a plaque for his 77 years of membership and 76 years of service to the American Legion and Post 79. HOTO: L-R; 4th Division Commander Paul Garrett, WWII Veteran Harlan "POP" Bottles, & Past National Commander Marty Conaster (2007-2008)





(6) Department Leadership was thrilled to present leading candidate for National Commander with a check at Washington Conference. Pictured (from left to right) are Past National Commander Marty Conatser, Past National President Sharon Conatser, Wisconsin's 2024 national leading candidate Daniel Seehafer, National Executive Committeeman Wayne Erickson, 12th District Commander Celeste Latham, Department Historian Terry Abdelnour, National Children & Youth Chairwoman Pam Ray, Past Department President Ann Flanagan and Past National Vice Commander Bill Flanagan.

(7) On Tuesday, March 14, 2023 Post 193 Commander Jerry Howard was the guest speaker for the Galena Kiwanis Club. He updated the club about post membership and activities and the upcoming Illinois Medal of Honor Highway 20 program. Pictured is Commander Jerry Howard and Galena Kiwanis Club President Stacy Bouldoukian. The Kiwanis gave a \$100.00 donation to Post 193.



(8) ALA Unit 193 had a "Spread the Love" cookie drop through the whole month of February. They baked, wrapped and delivered goodies to local police officers, firefighters, sheriff, ems and transit services. They were recently featured in their local newspaper. Pictured are (from left to right) Maureen Knipschild, Pat Halstead, Kimberly Howard, Rita Wohlers, Bev Mellskog. These are only a few of the women who contributed.



(9) Round Lake Post 1170 Commander Steven Risley greeting Chester Mazurek.
(10) Chester Mazurek with his certificate commemorating 67 years of continuous service to The American Legion.





9TH ANNUAL AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY HAVEN RUN

(ALL VEHICLES WELCOME—2, 3
OR 4 WHEELS)

APRIL 29, 2023

START AT MARSHALL POST #90

REGISTRATION @ 8:30 AM / LEAVE @ 9:00 AM

Stops Include:

Robinson American Legion Post 69

Lawrenceville American Legion Post 28

Albion American Legion Post 590 (Lunch Stop)

Ridgeway American Legion Post 596

Carrier Mills American Legion Post 364

The Haven (BBQ & End of Run)

Cost to Participate: \$25/person

(to be paid the morning of the run or when you join the run at any stop)

Friday Night—Super 8 & Lincoln Suites hotels in Marshall (ROOM BLOCK UNAVAILABLE)

For those that wish to stay in Marion Saturday Night:

Rooms blocked at Country Inn & Suites, Marion, IL—(618)997-2444

(Make reservations by April 1st—Code: American Legion Haven Run 2023—\$98 plus tax)

YOU CAN JOIN THE RUN AT ANY STOP!

IF YOU WISH TO DONATE TOWARDS THE HAVEN, MEET US AT ANY STOP

CALL WAYNE MADSON WITH ANY QUESTIONS

(618)806-1408

madsonwsr@gmail.com

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE HAVEN



2023 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 American's Veteran's
- ____ 3. We Proudly Stand Behind
The American Legion

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

- Medal of Honor (full page--7-1/2 x 10 in.)
- Silver Star (half page--7-1/2 x 5 in.)
- Bronze Star (quarter page--3-3/4 x 5 in.)
- Purple Heart (3-3/4 x 3-3/8 in. "Business card")
- Commander Salute (3-3/4 -1-11/16 in.)
- Flag Page (1-3/4 - 1 in.)

Black & White Ad

Color Ad

\$230.00 _____	\$250.00 _____
\$120.00 _____	\$125.00 _____
\$90.00 _____	\$95.00 _____
\$75.00 _____	\$80.00 _____
\$60.00 _____	\$65.00 _____
\$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

2022—2023 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

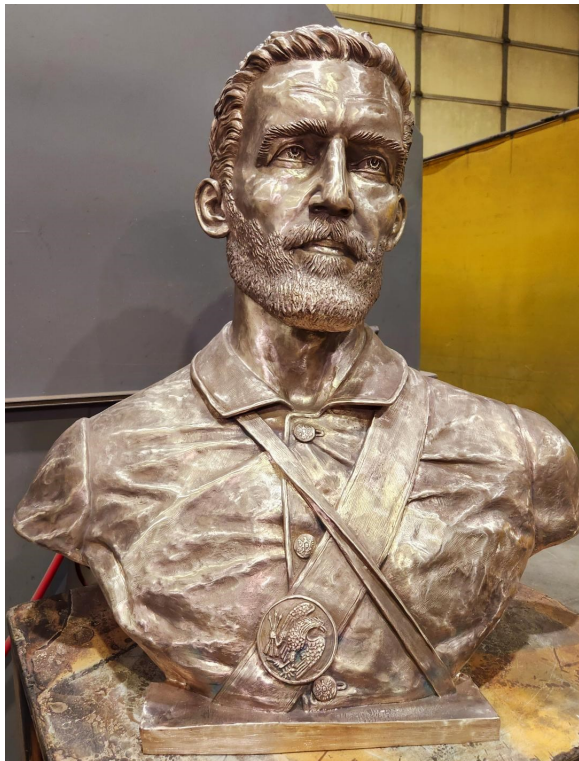
DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	POST	CITY
04/02/2023	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	NASHVILLE POST 110	NASHVILLE
04/02/2023	25TH DISTRICT	TBD	CHESTER POST 487	CHESTER
04/05/2023	1ST DIVISION	7:30 PM	TATTLER POST 973 (DEC @ 7:00)	CHICAGO
04/19/2023	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	EVANSTON POST 42	EVANSTON
04/27/2023	8TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	TINLEY PARK POST 615	TINLEY PARK
05/17/2023	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MORTON GROVE POST 134	MORTON GROVE
05/19/2023	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	LAKE REGION POST 703	FOX LAKE
05/20/2023	13TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CONVENTION @ STERLING POST 296	STERLING
05/20/2023	14TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	BIGGSVILLE MEMORIAL POST 1176	BIGGSVILLE
05/20/2023	19TH DISTRICT	6:30 PM	PAST DIST CMDR DINNER @ POST 24	CHAMPAIGN
05/21/2023	18TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	GEORGETOWN POST 203	GEORGETOWN
05/21/2023	19TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CHAMPAIGN POST 24 / LUNCH @ 11:30	CHAMPAIGN
05/21/2023	21ST DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CONVENTION @ SPRINGFIELD POST 32	SPRINGFIELD
05/21/2023	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CONVENTION @ COLLINSVILLE POST 365	COLLINSVILLE
05/21/2022	23RD DISTRICT	1:00 PM	CENTRALIA POST 446	CENTRALIA
05/21/2023	25TH DISTRICT	TBD	CONVENTION @ BENTON POST 280	BENTON
05/25/2023	8TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	POST EVERLASTING & DIS ELECTION EVERGREEN PARK POST 854	EVERGREEN PARK
06/03/2023	1ST DIVISION	9:00 AM	EVERGREEN PARK POST 854 (DOORS OPEN @ 8:00)	EVERGREEN PARK
06/04/2023	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	CONVENTION @ BREESE POST 252	BREESE
06/04/2023	15TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	COLONA POST 1233	COLONA
06/04/2023	16TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	MORTON POST 318	MORTON



'From Sea to Shining Sea'

Medal of Honor Recipient Sgt. Henry H. Taylor to be Honored in Galena in Coordination with the 2023 US Grant Pilgrimage

U.S. Highway 20, the longest highway in America, honors our Nation's Veterans from coast to coast. Many American Legion members played a huge part in initiating legislation to make this happen, including our very own Department of Illinois Adjutant and Past National Commander Marty Conatser. In July of last year, a special caravan passed through Galena to celebrate the Illinois Medal of Honor Highway and commemorate the new highway signs. Now, almost one year later, a dedication of the new bronze bust/memorial for Civil War Hero Sgt. Henry H. Taylor will take place. If you are able to attend, please consider visiting Grant Park in Galena, IL on Saturday, April 29, 2023 for a most momentous occasion. The memorial will be coordinated with the 2023 US Grant Pilgrimage, Blackhawk Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. The community is invited to a brief ceremony. The American Legion Department of Illinois Fickbohms-Hissem Post 193 is coordinating the event. Jerry Howard, Commander, may be contacted at 815-990-4641 or jerryhow2014@gmail.com with any questions.



Some participating organizations at this time: The Boy Scouts, The VFW/American Legion Color Guard, The 45th Illinois Voluntary Infantry Regiment (Company C), The VFW Drum and Bugle Corp. (East Dubuque, IL), The Americana Band, The American Legion Department of Illinois delegation, Representatives of Galena and area government, The Galena Generals.

About Sgt. Henry H. Taylor MOH (Civil War)

Unit/Command: Company C, 45th Illinois Infantry

Branch of Service: U.S. Army

Medal of Honor Action Date: June 25, 1863

Medal of Honor Action Place: Vicksburg, Mississippi, USA

Citation: Was the first to plant the union colors upon the enemy's works.

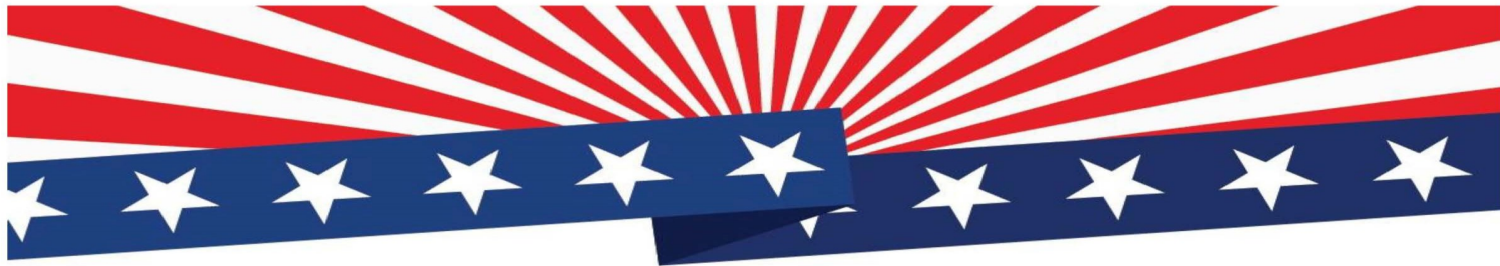
Born: July 4, 1841, near Galena, Jo Daviess County, IL, United States.

Died: May 3, 1909 Leavenworth, KS, United States.

Buried: Greenwood Cemetery (MH) (8-16-7), Clay Center, KS, United States.

Photos (from top left, clockwise): (1) Bronze bust of Sgt. Henry H. Taylor, side angle view, (2) Historic Route 20 map from historicroute20.org, (3) Marty Conatser, Jerry Howard, Lee Kraut, Iowa Past Commander, David Seagraves, Wayne Fischer, commemorating the Illinois Medal of Honor Highway, (4) front view of Sgt. Henry H. Taylor bronze bust, created by David Seagraves.

Article by Shandi Green



The Illinois American Legion Second Division is Proud to Host

Armed Forces Day Dinner

Saturday, May 20, 2023

To be held at the Lockport American Legion Post 18

15052 S. Archer Ave, Lockport, Illinois

One mile south of I355 on Archer Ave.

Key Note Speaker:

National Commander

Vincent J. (Jim) Troiola

Social Hour Starts at 5:00 pm, Dinner at 6:00 pm \$35.00 per person

Dinner will be a buffet with 3 entree choices, and multiple sides.

Reservation

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Post #: _____ District #: _____

Amount enclosed: \$_____ Table of 8: Yes or NO

Please provide names on reverse side if a table of 8

Make checks payable to: American Legion 2nd Division

Mail to: Tom Lynch, 5808 S Washington St, Hinsdale, IL 60521

Questions, call or email Tom Lynch (708) 473-1317 or smoketcjl@yahoo.com

RSVP by May 5, 2023



American Legion Department of Illinois, Office of VA&R

Veterans Benefits and Resources from Other Federal Agencies :

The American Legion and Bergmann & Moore have entered into a memorandum of understanding for Camp Lejeune issues. The dedicated website –

www.camplejeunelitigationteam.com/al/ – provides a secure online form for Legionnaires and their family members to explain their circumstances. The firm also has a 24-hour phone number – 800-898-9450 – for those who do not wish to use the web platform.

Bergmann & Moore, according to the MOU, “will work in concert with a mass tort law firm as co-counsel to advocate on the claimant’s behalf” once eligibility under the CLJA is determined.

The stated purpose of the MOU has four prongs:

- Create, implement and execute a service project for veterans interested in participating in the PACT Act/CLJA litigation

- Protect Legion members and their families through comprehensive education, advocacy and assistance in determining whether a claim under the CLJA would be beneficial to them when compared with filing for and receiving benefits from programs administered by VA

- Ensure Legion members receive the maximum benefits allowed under the law while protecting against predatory and/or unscrupulous actors

- Prevent Legion members from accepting/receiving a one-time benefit under the CLJA to the detriment of greater, future VA program eligibility and entitlement

Multiple forms of cancer are among no fewer than 15 health conditions or medical events that may have been caused by contamination. Claimants may be veterans, their families, civilian contractors or estates of those who were harmed.

Note: Write your questions down on paper before contacting either a VSO and/or the law firm. Do your research, if possible. This will assist you in preparing your list of concerns. Make notes when speaking to them so that you are not repeating the same question more than once.

AMERICAN LEGION SEMI-ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Chadwick & Milledgeville

APRIL 15, 2023

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM @ Milledgeville Fire Station

Lunch includes: Pork chop sandwich, potato salad, baked beans, cookies & water.

FREE WILL OFFERING

Proceeds benefit American Legion Programs, including Boys & Girls State

Carry outs-Limited seating available

For deliveries in Chadwick or Milledgeville only

Call 815-225-7643

VETERANS CORNER

Submitted by

Jerry Vogler

VIETNAM WAR VETERANS RECOGNITION EVENT

Officially, March 8, 1965, marked the arrival of the first U.S. combat troops in Vietnam. March 29, 1973, is the day U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam was disestablished and the day the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam. March 29, 2023 is designated as National Vietnam War Veterans Day, a time to pay special tribute to the 9 million Veterans who served during the Vietnam War era. A Vietnam War Veterans recognition event will be held at the McLean County Historical Museum in downtown Bloomington (Old McLean County Courthouse) on March 29, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. A short program will be followed by military recognition of the branches of military, three-shot volley by rifles, TAPS, bagpiper and a tribute flyover if the weather permits. Come join us at this event and show these Veterans how much we appreciate their service in the Country's first and hopefully last "unpopular war!"

QUOTE OF THE DAY

As we take the time to reflect on the Vietnam War on this auspicious anniversary, let us not forget or minimize the difference between those who served and those who protested. The signs of the Vietnam War protestors said, "Make love not War!"
It didn't seem to me that they were capable of either.'

Ronald Reagan

NEW VA MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced an updated version of its 1959 mission statement. The new mission statement reads "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors". The VA currently serves more than 9 million Veterans of which 600,000 are women Veterans, 50,000 Veteran caregivers, and more than 600,000 Veteran survivors. This new mission statement primarily changes references to male Veterans, in Lincoln's original quote to be more inclusive of the current Veteran population and recognizes that survivors, dependents and caregivers now have some access to some VA benefits based on their relationship to the Veteran.

VETERANS FAIR 2023

Central Illinois Veteran - Warriors organization will host a Veterans Fair on May 23, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Interstate Center, 1106 Interstate Drive Bloomington, Illinois. There will be many organizations with resources to answer questions and provide resources for Veterans. The event is open to the public. More information will be provided as we get closer to the date of the event. For more information about Central Illinois Veteran – Warriors visit info@civw.org.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We are happy to include your District/Division Meeting Dates, Happenings at your local post/community, announcements, etc.

Please submit any changes or updates to previous submissions to Shandi Green as soon as possible.

Email sgreen@illegion.org OR send by mail to:
American Legion, Dept. of IL
P.O. Box 2910 Bloomington, IL 61702
ATTN: SHANDI GREEN

NOTE: WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO INCLUDE YOUR SUBMISSIONS BUT CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT THEY WILL BE. IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE, PLEASE SUBMIT BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR

Did You Know?.....

Ulysses S. Grant was actually born as Hiram Ulysses Grant on April 27, 1822. According to historians, there was a mistake on Grant's application to the United States Military Academy (West Point) that could not be corrected. His middle name "Ulysses" and his mother's maiden name "Simpson" were used, therefore he became known as U.S. Grant. Still, others speculate that Grant simply didn't want the initials "H.U.G." to be embroidered on his uniform!

Submitted by Douglas Haberkamp



COURTESY OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 1247

John Taylor of American Legion Post 1247, left, presents a check to Scott Keenan of the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

HOLOCAUST

What was the Holocaust?
What do you know about the Holocaust?
Do you want to know more?



There will be a **Holocaust** presentation Sunday April 16

In the Bertolet Memorial building. Doors open at 1:00



With presentation beginning at 1:30.

Come and listen to Susan Schinleber talk about the Holocaust. She has studied and presented facts of the Holocaust for many years. You will find her presentation heart-breaking, yet full of factual information.

There will be several pictures on hand for you to look at with time before and after the presentation. She will answer questions after her presentation. Admission is free however there will be a donation canister. This program is being brought to Leaf River by the Leaf River Lions Club.



Sunday April 16

Bertolet Memorial building

103 W. Second Street

Leaf River, Illinois

Doors open at 1:00

Presentation at 1:30

Admission is FREE



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LOMAC PAYTON

Department Editor
SHANDI GREEN

Now Is The Time To Stand Together For Our Flag

* One year Subscription to the Department News
\$20.00 for 11 issues

Newsletter articles must be at Department Headquarters by the
15th of each month for it to be in the next month's issue.

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



**Visit our website!
Scan Here**

"The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war."

- General Douglas MacArthur

"The Lord prefers common-looking people: that is the reason he makes so many of them."

- Abraham Lincoln

April quotes submitted by Doug Haberkamp