

The Insider

American Legion Department of Illinois News
MEMORIAL DAY ISSUE: 2023



INAUGURAL



— HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED —

2nd Infantry Division Reenactors will be on hand all day portraying the US Army and German Army Infantry. Period vehicles as well as tent ha-ok thanks! encampments with period WWII artifacts will be on display.

Weapons featuring the basic rifle of the US and German Army along with Machine guns will be demonstrated.

In addition, there will be a talk about the cause of the Second World War and basic life during the late 1930's thru the 1940's.

10:30am: The Golden Knights Army Parachuters will land on the first Fairway of the North Golf Course.

The above events are FREE and open to the public, however, a donation is suggested which benefits the Honor Flight of Dubuque and the Tri-states.

Proceeds Benefit
Honor Flight of Dubuque
and the Tri-States

JULY 3RD, 2023

Public: \$100 per person/\$400 per foursome

GTA Property Owner:
\$75 per person/\$300 per foursome

Eagle Ridge Golf Member:
\$50 per person/\$200 per foursome

Not A Golfer? You can still donate to:

Honor Flight of Dubuque and the Tri-states
and can mail to PO Box 659 Dubuque IA 52004



of Dubuque and the Tri-States

11am Registration and Lunch

12:00 Noon Shotgun • North Course

5pm Awards

- Lunch included
- 18 holes of golf
- Prizes

Registration:

Kay Offenheiser: Tournament Director
koffenheiser@eagleridge.com
815.776.5228

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Lomac Payton



Greetings Everyone,

Time is winding down: we only have two months left in The American Legion 2023 year. It has been very exciting and rewarding to serve as State Commander this past year. I've enjoyed every minute of the time spent serving veterans throughout Illinois. I am so grateful that I was chosen as Department of Illinois Commander. I hope I've lived up to your expectations. Everyone has been so helpful during this past year and that makes me very proud. The months of June and July will be very busy for all from Department, Division, District and Post levels. With everyone working together, we can achieve our goal we set for our department.

Armed Forces Week was great. We started in Marion, IL and ended the week in Bolingbrook, IL on Saturday evening (May 20, 2023). It was not only great, but very exciting to have National Commander Jim Troiola and his aid Gary Scharcher with us. We were also joined by Department Adjutant and Past National Commander Marty Conatser and National Executive Committeeman Wayne Erickson with us for the week. Our Department Membership Director Jim Talaska arranged the entire program.

The next function will be the state convention taking place in Springfield, IL in July. My term as State Commander will end at that time, but I plan to stay active in The American Legion; doing whatever I can to help wherever I can help support Legion programs. I plan to attend Boys State, Girls State and the Youth Police Academy. I'm starting to get requests to install post officers. I'm looking forward to performing that duty for the different posts.

It has truly been my pleasure and honor to be your Department Commander for the 2022-2023 year. I have enjoyed working side by side with President Bacon and

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Delmar Buske



To Our American Legion Family—

It is that time of year to get the remaining members that have not renewed their membership. There are so many Posts out there that need less than five members to be 100%. Let's go out and get those remaining members. Our members support our programs and without membership our programs suffer. Speaking about programs, the Boys State, Girls state, and the Youth Police school are coming up and they need all of us to get involved lets get out and talk to our schools and let them know how important these programs are. Lets keep up the effort to get more applicants. Now that I've talked about membership and programs I can get off my soap box. Thanks for allowing me to rant. It was a honor to attend SAL Commander Kevin's homecoming. Fun time had by all. Great year Kevin! In May we have the Spring meetings in Indianapolis. It is always exciting to see what is happening at National. We have our own Pam Ray running for national President. It is great that we can support her. The week after that is Armed Forces week. It will be exciting having our National Commander here in Illinois all week. Be sure to go to the function in our area to support him.

The Department Convention will be here before we now it. If you have not been there before come and see what it is all about. While there stop in at Emblem Sales to see what they have to offer. First timers be sure to put in for your First Timer pin.

It has been an honor serving as your Sr. Vice Commander and I look very forward to what this next year has in store. Thank you to Commander Payton, President Bacon and Commander O'Connell for a great year!

Till next time.

Delmar Buske, Sr. Vice Commander

Janet Bacon



My Legion Family,
Hello American Legion Family,

It is hard for me to believe that this is my final article for this year. Seems like only yesterday the Commanders and I were installed and standing in our reception line. Then came time for me to write my first article. We have come full circle.

By the time you read this article, we will have completed our 82nd session of American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State. The girls will carry away with them fond memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. I will have been a “beary” kind and gracious Hostess.

Our Department State Convention will be held in Springfield July 13-15. I am hoping to see many of you at Freedom Fest on Friday night. You might even get to see the Department President ride in on the back of a motorcycle. The State Convention is a great time to see dear friends and make new friends. It is a time to reflect on what was accomplished during the year.

The National Convention will be held in Charlotte NC, August 25-31. If you have never been to a National Convention, why not make this your first one. I can tell you from experience that you learn a lot and see what other states are doing. It is a fun time! Hope to see you there.

I have enjoyed serving with Commander Lomac and Commander Kevin. We worked together as a family, The Legion Family. I would have to say that we encouraged each other. Thank you again Commanders for an eventful year.

For God and Country

Janet Bacon, Department President

Kevin O'Connell



Greetings from the Detachment of Illinois,

On April 1st I had my Homecoming at American Legion Post 615 in Tinley Park follow a day of meeting at our D.E.C.. I was humbled that 120 quest showed up. P.D.C. Jimmy Hunter and the members of Post 615 went all out to make sure the event went well. We were entertained by the Pipes and Drums of the Emerald Society of the Chicago Police Department, also a great D.J. My Daughter made a special video presentation. I received presentations by Auxiliary President Janet Bacon, also Sqd. #36, P.N.C. Marty Conaster, and I was roasted by P.D.C. Jeff Trout. I was in awe of representation from the Illinois Legion Family. I want to give a special thanks to my better half, Tammy Girten who organized everything. Thanks to everyone for making the night special.

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 than the one my Dad was from, I

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Commander O'Connell and look forward to continuing to work with them and their organizations in the future. I also look forward to seeing what this new year has in store.

Please keep each other in your prayers for this coming year. And please support our incoming Commander, Delmar Buske. I'm sure he will do a great job and will be a great State Commander. May GOD bless.

Your Department Commander,

Lomac A. Payton

(SAL Commander, Continued from page 4)

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. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Detachment Commander. I have enjoyed continuing this mission alongside Commander Lomac and President Janet.

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"

Commander Kevin O'Connell

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Top 10 District & Division Rankings As of 05/19/2023

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

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

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

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

JUNE 9-10: **SPECIAL OLYMPICS
SUMMER GAMES**

JUNE 10-16: **BOYS STATE**

JUNE 18-24: **GIRLS STATE**

JUNE 18-23: **YOUTH POLICE SCHOOL**

JULY 4: **HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!**
(DEPT OFFICE CLOSED)
100% ALA TARGET DATE

JULY 12-15: **ANNUAL DEPT. CONVENTION**
(AMERICAN LEGION & AUXILIARY)

JULY 20: **102% ALA TARGET DATE**



To all Posts & members:

Especially those posts that have not filed their CPR and Certification of Officers report—these reports need to be filed with department in order to receive 2024 membership cards. Post adjutants, it is your responsibility to file those reports, not the post commander's. You are doing a disservice to your members that have paid their dues by not doing your job and that's not fair to them.

We are The American Legion Family. The fortitude we gain through life's journey should not only make us better people, but inspire others to do the same. As leadership, we must lead by example. We have talented people in our organization; let's encourage them to show their leadership abilities at all levels. Soon, Posts, Districts and Divisions will be having their conventions to elect officers. So far, no one has shown an interest in becoming Jr. Vice, Sr. Vice, or Commander at the Post, District or Division levels. This not only concerns me as your State Commander, but also as a fellow member of The American Legion.

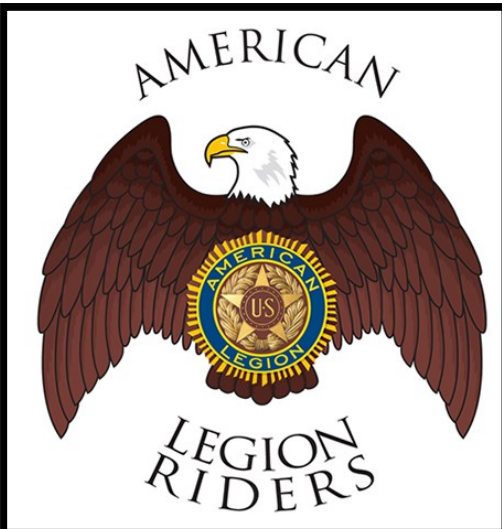
The most important question I can ask all of you is this: What does this organization mean to you? Are you a member because of what the Legion can do for you, or because of what **you** can do for IT? If it is the former, you might consider joining a different organization. While this may sound harsh, I mean it wholeheartedly. As I've said before, we are a FAMILY and we should be looking at how we can care for our fellow Veterans and their loved ones. The beauty of The American Legion is the work we do for others. We are made up of individuals of all walks of life and from all branches of our great militia.

Change is coming, so engage the clutch and get ready to switch gears! Modern technology is our friend and we must adapt to current times if we are to stay relevant. We have multiple means of communication at our fingertips, It's time to utilize them! Shoot a text, send a quick email, engage on social media. Letters and phone calls are still good, but it is time to leave the past in the past and continue moving forward in growth.

Live for what today has to offer, not what yesterday has taken away. Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift from God, which is why we call it the present. We must embrace today and do the best we can to achieve the goals we set. May God bless you all as we continue to keep one another in each other's prayers.

Your Department Commander,

Lomac A. Payton



3rd Division Legion Riders Present: 2023 In State Legacy Ride For Legion Charities

June 10, 2023

Sign up begins 9:00 AM at Abingdon Post #381

\$20 for Riders

\$10 for Passengers

Stops: Colona #1233, Galva #45, Kewanee #31, Ottawa #33,
Springbay #1115, Bartonville #979 (last stop)

All vehicles must be at last stop no later than 5:00 PM

Helmets are Required for All Riders and Passengers

50/50 Drawing

From the Membership Desk

Greetings from the Membership Department. First off, I would like to thank all of the members, Posts, District and Division members who worked hard all year on membership. As of this writing I think we will close the year with a net loss. I hope everyone gives 1 final push to get as many renewals as possible before close of books to help us finish as best we can.

As we look to the end of this year and the quickly approaching start of the new card year there will be some new changes which I hope will make us a stronger Department and an easier membership year for all.

The theme for the new year is “Get em early, send them often”

Get em early referring to getting the membership in right out of the box when the posts receive the new cards. We can accomplish this by making sure that all Posts are Certified and have completed their Certification of Officers forms and their Consolidated Post reports (which were mailed to each Post Commander) before close of books June 23rd, 2023. This will ensure that we are not chasing Posts to get certified when the cards arrive and give us the best start to the new year. Every post knows their membership and those members who do not renew until very late in the card year. So, we want to target those members early in the year to get them done and then work the normal membership and hopefully close it out at 100% by December 31st.

“Send them often”, this refers to getting the membership cards in to Department every week an example would be every Friday sending cards in even if there is only 1. This will form the habit of doing this and not holding cards until you have a bunch. I would also encourage you to utilize mylegion.org as much as possible to make the process faster and easier to do. If you need help to get signed up or on there are videos on Legion.org under training to aid with this and the My Legion support number which is 1-833-253-9995.

Every post does something, from donating the post for a celebration of Life or a monetary donation to a school or program all of which is reportable on the Consolidated Post Report. Remember that the CPR is due in to Department by June 1st.

Again thank you for a good year and all the hard work done for Membership.

I look forward to working with you all in the upcoming card year, and if you need anything from the Membership Department please don't hesitate to reach out.

With warmest regards,



Jim Talaska

Membership Director



Special Olympics Illinois

Summer Games June 9-10, 2023

Each year Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games are held at ISU in Normal, IL. For those of you who can't attend, there is still a lot of preparation for the American Legion and Auxiliary Hospitality Tent. We feed over 4,000 athletes and their families each year. Posts donate lots of items to help out each year. See how you can help!

Legion:	Sons:	Auxiliary:	Legion Riders:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water bottles - Plastic 30 gal trash bags - Plastic grocery bags - Napkins - 3 oz Dip Cups & Lids - Lg. sandwich boats (available @ Sams) - 14 oz. plastic cups - Individual peanut butter - Fruit grain bars - Pirates Booty - Snack cakes (Hostess, Little Debbie, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water bottles - Country Time lemonade - Family size tea bags - Fruit grain bars - Squeeze pouch applesauce (individual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Storebought regular and sugar free cookies - Goldfish crackers - Black/Green olives - Strawberries - Seedless grapes - Cheese Balls - Animal Crackers - Veggie Straw crackers - Cheese/peanut butter crackers - Veggies (carrots, celery, cherry tomatoes, sweet peppers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monetary donations appreciated! - Riders needed for Saturday June 10. * Park south side Hancock Stadium. Will be handing out stuffed bears to athletes

For monetary donations: Money donations are used for renting the tent (\$900 alone),

Make checks payable to American Legion Dept. of IL so Department can cash it, then earmark in the memo section "Special Olympics" so C&Y gets the donation.

Notify your C&Y Division Chairmen of donations, so we will have an idea of supplies and money.
Send or take donations to Department HQ by the first week in June.

In addition, helpers are needed to set-up and take down additional tents used, as well as load and unload supplies from the trailer and trucks. With the entire Legion family involved (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL & Riders) we can make it a true Legion Family Hospitality Tent!

WE'LL KEEP YOU POSTED

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



1) (from left to right) Immediate Past Detachment Commander Jeff Trout, Detachment Commander Kevin O'Connell and Terri Trout at Commander O'Connell's Homecoming.



2) Kevin O'Connell and Jeff Trout showing everyone their impeccable style at Kevin's homecoming.

3) Tammy Girten and Kevin O'Connell share a moment on the dance floor.

4) Just a few of those in attendance at SAL Commander O'Connell's homecoming on April 1, 2023.

5/6) On April 19, 2023, a group of 53 Legionnaires attended a special briefing conducted by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) from Joint Base Pearl Harbor. Hosted by Franklin Park Post 974. A world-wide update of operations was presented and an explanation of the latest advances they use to identify our service members that are POW/MIA. A special thanks to the Commander and all that attended.

7) Department Leadership was thrilled to support Pam Ray at the ALA Ward/Ray reception. Pictured (from left to right) top row: Past Department President Luella Buske, Past National Commander J.R. Stillwell, Jim Bacon, Bruno Williamson, National Treasurer Marybeth Revoir, Detachment Parliamentarian Tommie Cisna, Past Department Commander Cheri Stanton, Past Department President Kathy Cisna, Past National President Sharon Conatser, Department Vice President Angie Mulligan, Past National Commander Marty Conatser. Bottom row: Department Sr. Vice Commander Delmar Buske, Past Department President Patti Williamson, Department President Janet Bacon, National Children & Youth Chairwoman Pam Ray, Detachment National Executive Committeeman Butch Ray, Detachment Commander Kevin O'Connell.



8) (from left to right) Department Sr. Vice Commander Delmar Buske, 22nd





7

District Commander Ronald Swaim, 22nd District Sr. Vice Commander Al Mahan and Department Commander Lomac Payton during Armed Forces Week. Ron and Al received multiple membership awards. They previously earned the 100% gold pin at the Spring D.E.C. for being the first district in the state to achieve 100% membership as of April 15.

9) 4th Division Sr. Vice Commander Ronald Dudley receiving an award during Armed Forces Week. (from left to right) National Commander Vincent James "Jim" Troiola, Department Commander Lomac Patyon, 4th Division Sr. Vice Commander Ronald Dudley, Department Sr. Vice Commander Delmar Buske.

10) We're pretty sure National Commander Troiola wasn't the only one raving about this amazing cake made by Tonya Clements of Clements Creations in Tremont, IL.

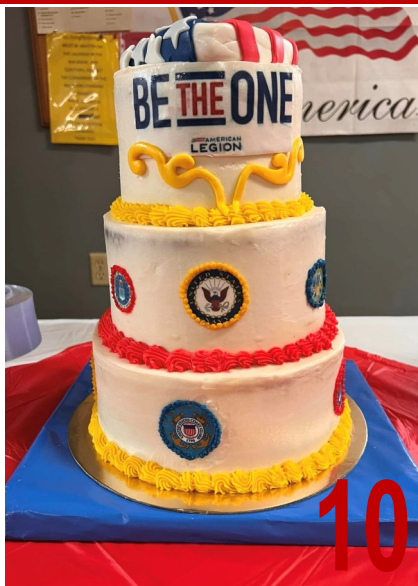
11) National Commander Vincent James "Jim" Troiola and National Executive Committeeman Wayne Erickson outside Roy Miller American Legion Post 644



8



11



10



9

COMMUNAL MILITARY RITES TO BE PERFORMED AT SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY EVENT



A special Memorial Day recognition service will be held at Evergreen Cemetery on May 29, 2023 at noon. This service will honor Veterans of all military service and branches and a modified Communal Military Rites will be offered for those families of Veterans from WWII to the present who have NOT had military rites performed. This event will be held at Evergreen Cemetery in Bloomington, IL at the Mausoleum inside the entrance to the cemetery. Starting at noon, a bagpiper will lead a column of flags to the entrance of the Mausoleum. This column will be followed by the Rifle Team and then the Flag Folding Team. The Chaplain will then offer the Invocation at 12:05 (weather permitting), followed by a Flyover and a guest speaker. The Bugler and an Honor Guard member will then conduct a salute and bugle call for each of the branches of service flags. There will be a moment of silence in front of the POW/MIA Flag. Following the service branch salute, the Flag Folding Team will fold the American Flag and make a presentation (s) of the Flag(s) to the families. The names of those Veterans for whom these military rites are performed will be read and the seven-rifle team will fire three volleys (21-gun salute). The Bugler will play Taps and the Bagpiper will perform "Amazing Grace" with the traditional "fading" march away.

Anyone interested in being part of these communal military rites should contact Butch Ekstam at 309-825-2703 no later than May 20, 2023 to register and for more information on what to bring to the ceremony. A limit of 12 families selected on a first come, first serve basis can be honored at this ceremony. The families will need to supply a burial flag and a copy of our honored Veteran's obituary.



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
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
06/11/2023	3RD DIVISION	10:00 AM	CONVENTION-FAIRVIEW POST 644	FAIRVIEW
06/15/2023	10TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	WAUCONDA POST 911	WAUCONDA
06/21/2023	7TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	LINCOLNWOOD POST 1226	LINCOLNWOOD
06/22/2023	8TH DISTRICT	7:30 PM	MARRS-MEYER POST 991	WORTH
07/22/2023	13TH DISTRICT	10:00 AM	ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING @ 10:00 AM INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS @ 1:00PM @WARREN POST 464	WARREN

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

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

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

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

Consolidated Post Reports (CPR)

Consolidated Post Reports reflect on all the activities posts complete in a fiscal year. The Children & Youth Commission compose a final report for all posts in the department. The report from all departments is used by the National Commander when testifying to Congress. There are too many reports turned in with only an Adjutant signature. Please review the form and enter your activities. Reports are due on **June 1st**.

Report Options:

1. Fill the form out on hard copy. Forward to department. Keep on copy for post.

Fill the form out on mylegion.org, print two copies. Hit send. Keep one copy and send one to department. One copy has been sent to National.

Dave Johnson
 Children & Youth Chairman

Naperville dedicates their Herschel “Woody Williams” Gold Star Family Memorial

The Naperville Community will be dedicating the first “Woody Williams” Gold Star Family Memorial here in Illinois. This dedication will be held on Saturday, May 27th starting at 2pm at our Veterans Park on 303 E. Gartner Rd. Parking will be available across Gartner Rd. @ Grace Methodist Church. Naperville lost 114 in Service to our Country. Their ultimate sacrifice enables all of us to enjoy all our Freedoms we have today. This Memorial is already setup and will be unveiled during the Dedication Ceremony

Funding for this very special addition to our Naperville Memorials have come in across our community, including our American Legion Post 43 and our Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873. Judd Kendall was lost in WW I and Post 3873 was named in his honor.

I also want to mention that our Post 43 Riders raised \$16,000 by selling R. E. D. (***Remember-Everyone-Deployed***) T-shirts at many community events and locations. Fundraising is never easy, but many responded in a very positive way to remember both our “**Fallen**” and our “**Active-Duty Service Members**”.

I also have included a partial picture of our Memorial as you will see our Flags flying everyday at our Veterans Park. We look forward to having many join us for this very special event as part of our Naperville Memorial Day Week ***Honoring Our Fallen!!!***

Semper Fi, (Always Faithful)

Submitted by Immediate Past Department Commander Wayne Fischer



Veterans' Day

Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL
Sunday, August 13, 2023 ★ Lincoln Stage

Please join the State of Illinois on this special day
honoring the men and women who have
courageously served our Nations' Armed Forces.

Events at the Lincoln Stage

10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.	Benefits Expo
12:00p.m. – 1:00p.m.	Veterans' Day Program
1:30p.m. – 2:30p.m.	Entertainment
10:00a.m. – 2:30p.m.	JROTC Competition
3:00p.m. – 3:30p.m.	JROTC Awards
4:00p.m.	Veterans Day Parade (Grandstand Avenue)





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

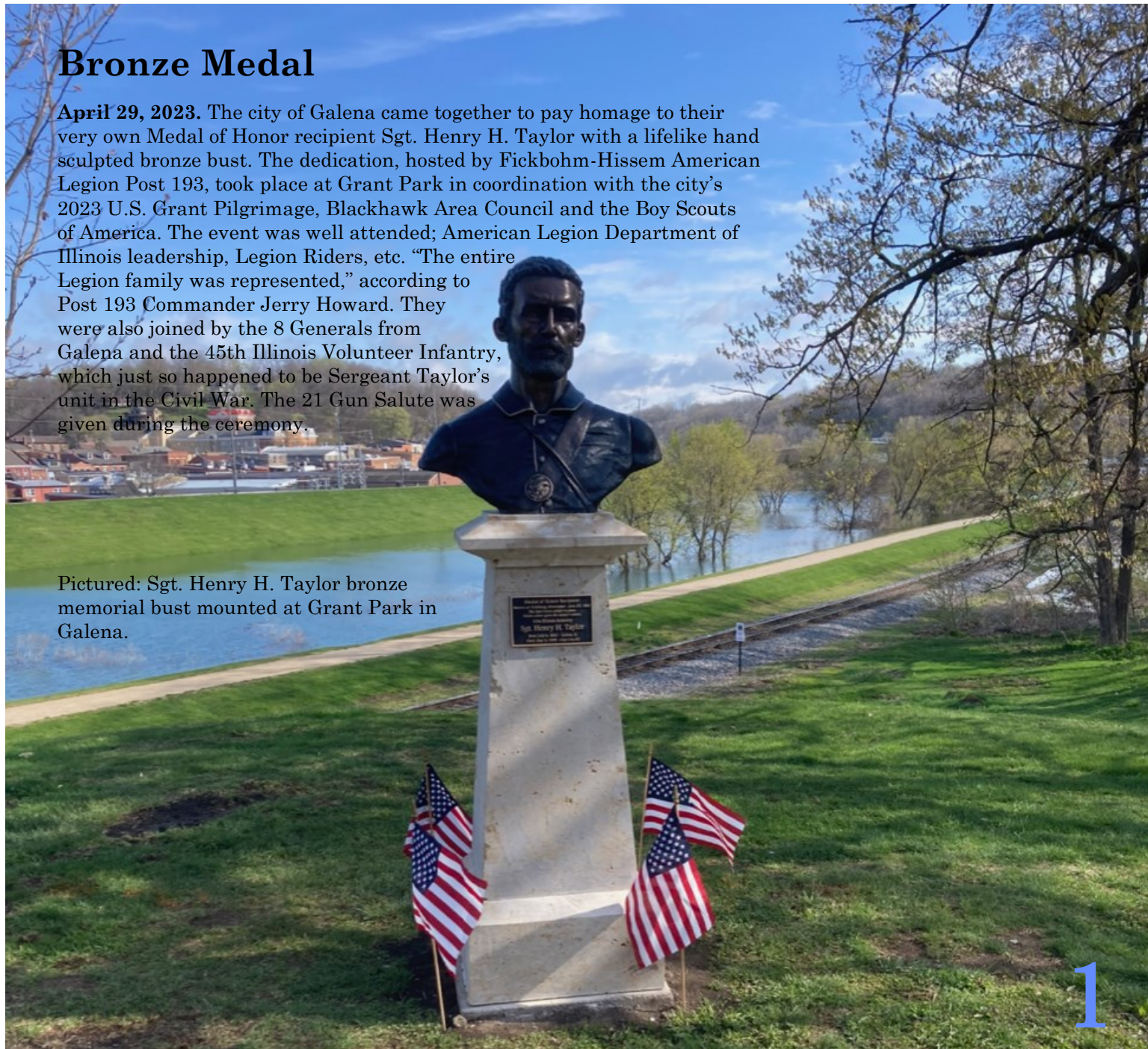


More information at www.usar.army.mil/MinutemanCampaign
Questions? usarmy.knox.usacc.list.army-reserve-rotc-scholarships@army.mil

Bronze Medal

April 29, 2023. The city of Galena came together to pay homage to their very own Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Henry H. Taylor with a lifelike hand sculpted bronze bust. The dedication, hosted by Fickbohm-Hissem American Legion Post 193, took place at Grant Park in coordination with the city's 2023 U.S. Grant Pilgrimage, Blackhawk Area Council and the Boy Scouts of America. The event was well attended; American Legion Department of Illinois leadership, Legion Riders, etc. "The entire Legion family was represented," according to Post 193 Commander Jerry Howard. They were also joined by the 8 Generals from Galena and the 45th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which just so happened to be Sergeant Taylor's unit in the Civil War. The 21 Gun Salute was given during the ceremony.

Pictured: Sgt. Henry H. Taylor bronze memorial bust mounted at Grant Park in Galena.



Medal of Honor Recipient, Sgt. Henry H. Taylor Honored at 2023 U.S. Grant Pilgrimage



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

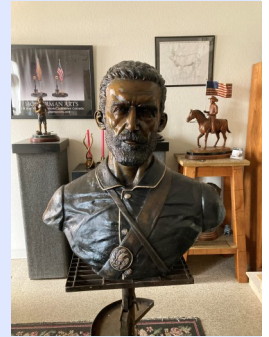
Medal of Honor Action Place: Vicksburg, Mississippi, USA

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 (by number): 1) Henry H. Taylor bronze memorial bust mounted at Grant Park in Galena, 2) 8 Generals from Galena and the 45th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, 3) Dept. of IL Adjutant Marty Conatser, 4th Division Commander Paul Garrett and Dept of IL Sr. Vice Commander Delmar Buske, 4) 8 Generals from Galena and the 45th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, 5) 13th District Sr. Vice Commander/American Legion Fickbohm-Hissem American Legion Post 193 Commander Jerry Howard with the owners of Rocky Mountain Bronze Shop in Colorado; Amy & Carey Hosterman. 6) David Seagraves (sculptor of Sgt. Taylor bronze bust), Sgt. Taylor bronze memorial bust and 13th District Sr. Vice Commander/American Legion Fickbohm-Hissem American Legion Post 193 Commander Jerry Howard, 7) 13th District Sr. Vice Commander/American Legion Fickbohm-Hissem American Legion Post 193 Commander Jerry Howard and 22nd District Commander/American Legion Edwardsville Post 199 Sr. Vice Commander Ronald Swaim, 8) Jerry Howard and Kimberly Howard, 9) Ronald Swaim and Joy Swaim Article by Shandi Green



Party In Honor of 2022-2023



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
LOMAC A. PAYTON

Thank Commander for his dedicated year of Service!

Thursday, July 13, 2023

6:00 PM – 1:00AM

The Mess Hall Restaurant—Springfield Post 32

1120 Sangamon Avenue

217/523-3415

The Mess Hall Restaurant is now open for lunch M-F from 11:00 am—2:00 pm

Dinner M-S from 4:00—8:00 pm

Complete Bar Service at Post 32 Everyday Open at 10:30 a.m.

VIDEO GAMING AVAILABLE

FREE CONTINUOUS SHUTTLE

THURS/FRI from 10:00 AM – 1:00 AM (between the hotels, Post 32 and Post 809)



AMERICAN **Department of** **LEGION ILLINOIS** **CONVENTION** **HOUSING FORM**

104th Annual Department Convention July 12 –15, 2023

All reservations MUST be made directly with the hotel housing your Division/S.A.L. on or before June 27, 2023. You may make your reservation by mailing in this form with your credit card information or first nights deposit including tax. 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

	<u>DIVISION/S.A.L.</u>	<u>RATE</u>
<u>WYNDHAM SPRINGFIELD</u>	1 st , 3 rd , 4 th & 5 th Divisions	\$117.00 plus tax
<u>CITY CENTRE</u>	and Sons of The American Legion	(\$133.38 total)
700 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701 217/789-1530		

Reservation- Mail this form to the Wyndham Springfield or phone 217/789-1530, extension 0. When making reservation by phone, provide **group code: 07117027ALC**

	<u>DIVISION/S.A.L.</u>	<u>RATE</u>
<u>PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN</u>	2 nd Division & Auxiliary	\$117.00 plus tax
<u>HOTEL SPRINGFIELD</u> <i>(Doubletree by Hilton)</i>		(\$133.38 total)
701 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62701 217/544-8800		

Reservation- Mail this form to the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield or make your reservation online by visiting: www.my-event.hilton.com/americanlegionstateconvention/
 You may also call at 1/866-788-1860 or 217/544-8800. *Please use the Group Code of "AIC" for the Legion and "ALL" for the Auxiliary.*

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. Cut-off date for ALL RESERVATIONS is Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

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 _____
 (Room type requests not guaranteed; hotels will do their best to accommodate. *All hotel rooms are non-smoking.*)

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 _____

The American Legion Department of Illinois Family
cordially invites you to the annual

COMMANDERS & PRESIDENT

Dinner

honoring



*Department Commander
Lomac A. Payton*



*Department President
Janet Bacon*



*Detachment Commander
Kevin O'Connell*

Saturday, July 15, 2023

Cocktails at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Main Ballroom of the Wyndham Springfield

Name: _____ Division# _____

Address: _____ District# _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone# _____

No. of Person(s) _____ or Table(s) _____ (For tables of eight (8), please send a list of names with this form)

(New York Strip @ \$60 x _____) - (Chicken Provencal @ \$45 x _____) - (Whiskey Glazed Salmon @ \$45 x _____)

All dinners are served with bacon & chive mashed potatoes, garlic & herb roasted vegetables, tossed salad, rolls & butter and dessert.

Check Total \$ _____ Make checks payable to: The American Legion Department of Illinois

To guarantee your reservation, mail check & reservation form DIRECTLY to Sharon Conatser
2305 Rebecca Dr. Champaign, IL 61821 no later than June 26, 2023.

For questions or special dietary needs: Sharon Conatser (C)217/369-6211; or email: sconatser44@live.com

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Department Commander
LOMAC PAYTON

Department Editor
SHANDI GREEN

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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

SAVE THE DATE!

2023 Hines Caregiver & Family Resource Fair

LIVE IN PERSON! At the Hines Winter Garden



Wednesday June 14th, 2023

from 9:30am– Noon

More details to come soon

**You're there to support your Veteran.
We're here to support you.**

www.caregiver.va.gov



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs