The Insider

American Legion Department of Illinois News

February 2026



SCAN QR CODE TO VISIT THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE www.illegion.org

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Mark your calendar!

FEBRUARY

FEB 11-12 : **LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE (SPRINGFIELD)**

FEB 14 : **JR/SR VICE COMMANDERS PLANNING SESSION (DEPT HQ)**

FEB 16 : **PRESIDENTS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)**

FEB 28-MAR 1 : **WASHINGTON CONFERENCE**

MARCH

FEB 28-MAR 1 : **WASHINGTON CONFERENCE**

MAR 7 : **DEPT ORATORICAL CONTEST (BLOOMINGTON)**

MAR 7 : **SAL DART TOURNAMENT (SPRINGFIELD)**

MAR 20: **PATRIOTIC CONFERENCE (SPRINGFIELD)**

MAR 20-21: **ALA BOARD MEETING**

MAR 29 : **SAL COMMANDER'S HOMECOMING**

APRIL

APR 3: **GOOD FRIDAY (OFFICE CLOSED)**

APR 5: **EASTER SUNDAY**

APR 10 : **DEC CUTOFF (NOON)**

APR 11 : **SPRING DEC (BLOOMINGTON)**

APR 18: **ALA JR CONFERENCE (MONTICELLO)**

APR 25: **ANNUAL HAVEN RUN**

2025—2026 DIVISION & DISTRICT MEETING DATES

DATE	DIST. / DIV.	TIME	DETAILS & LOCATION
02/18/2026	7TH DISTRICT	TBD	HELLENIC POST 343 MEETING @ MORTON GROVE POST 134
02/26/2026	8TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	ELECTION CALL @ GLEN MAKER POST 1160
03/08/2026	16TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ BARTONVILLE POST 979
03/08/2026	23RD DISTRICT	TBD	DISTRICT MEETING @ GERMANTOWN POST 325
03/08/2025	25TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ MURPHYSBORO POST 127
03/15/2026	4TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	POPPY MEETING @ STONINGTON POST 257
03/15/2026	5TH DIVISION	1:00 PM	DIVISION MEETING @ DUQUOIN POST 647
03/15/2026	15TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ ONEIDA POST 727
03/18/2026	7TH DISTRICT	TBD	JOSEPH M. SESTERHENN POST 166 MEETING @ MORTON GROVE POST 134
03/22/2026	22ND DISTRICT	1:00 PM	DISTRICT MEETING @ NASHVILLE POST 110
03/26/2026	8TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	ELECTION CALL @ TINLEY PARK POST 615
APRIL—TBD	4TH DIVISION	TBD	BUDDY CHECKS
04/15/2026	7TH DISTRICT	TBD	DISTRICT MEETING @ EVANSTON POST 42
04/23/2026	8TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	ELECTION CALL @ HAZEL CREST POST 398
05/03/2026	23RD DISTRICT	TBD	DISTRICT MEETING @ NEWTON POST 20
05/17/2026	15TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	DISTRICT CONVENTION MEETING @ FAIRVIEW POST 644
05/17/2026	16TH DISTRICT	1:00 PM	DISTRICT CONVENTION MEETING @ DEER CREEK POST 1276
05/20/2026	7TH DISTRICT	TBD	DISTRICT MEETING MORTON GROVE POST 134
05/23/2026	8TH DISTRICT	7:00 PM	POST EVERLASTING ELECTION @ EVERGREEN PARK POST 854



Department Commander,

ROY SMITH

Greetings from the Dept of Illinois

It's time to get back out and start thinking about our American Legion Family. The challenge is to get out and work our programs, and of course our membership. I was reminded of this on New Years Day while my wife Tena and I were at the Post and she broke out the check book and paid our children and grand children dues, our children seem to forget or maybe they have their mother trained to keep them caught up, once again we are a 100% family. I also saw a few other folks come in and pay their dues for the year.

We just finished up The American Legion Family Caravan, that time of year when the Caravan comes to a Post near you. A lot of folks have ask why do we do that in January. I asked the same question years ago. I know why now; folks tend to get so involved in the Holiday Season that we forget about the Legion Family. This event serves as a winter kick starter. Some Departments have what they call a mid winter conference where they bring everyone into one location for a couple of days and have a type of winter meeting. In Illinois we bring the meeting to each District. I thoroughly enjoyed going places I have not been and meeting new people and seeing old friends—and having fun along the way.

Lincoln Pilgrimage is right around the corner. This is an event that has grown into a National Legion Family Event. Springfield Post 32 sponsors the Pilgrimage. The National Leadership attends along with the Leadership of Several Departments to celebrate our 16th President's Birthday. As an Illinois resident as well as a member of the American Legion Family,

(Continued on page 8)



Department Sr. Vice Commander,

CELESTE LATHAM

Greetings, Department of Illinois Family!

Once again, we had a very successful American Legion Family Caravan in January. Lincoln Pilgrimage is right around the corner and I look forward to celebrating President Lincoln's birthday and his legacy with Legionnaires from all over the Nation! It truly is a memorble event for all who attend.

Our mission at the American Legion shines brightly, offering countless opportunities to embody our values of Veterans Strengthening America. By focusing on membership renewals and Buddy Checks, we strengthen our connections.

It's time for American Legion Family members to strategize about the second round of Buddy Checks, an initiative calling on posts to re-connect with veterans in their communities. The National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18 during Spring Meetings in May 2019, which calls for the twice-annual Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion's birthday and Veterans Day.

Buddy Check week is program vital. A simple phone call, text, or visit can create a profound impact. During this season, let's take the opportunity to reach out to members we haven't seen in a while and extend our hands to local veterans who may still be looking for a post. A few kind words can remind them they are not alone.

Let's also take a moment to prioritize our members. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization, empowering us to advocate for veterans' benefits, support military families, and serve our communities

(Continued on page 8)



Department President,

JILL LAYTON

The 2025 Christmas season has come to an end …. so let's start preparing for Christmas in July!!!

I so enjoyed seeing all of your smiles during the American Legion Family Membership Caravan! This was a wonderful opportunity to make contact with the Department leadership. Commander Roy, Commander Wayne and I had a great time traveling together throughout the Department, visiting with old friends and making new ones. Remind the members who had not paid their dues by December 31st that they are now delinquent in their membership. And we do not want them to lose any of their Auxiliary-member benefits. If you didn't have the chance to bring your Sweepstake tickets to turn in at your local caravan stop, make sure to get them in to Department ASAP!

Please do not forget to turn in under Community Service, Children & Youth, and VA&R the hours in which you volunteered and the money spent for these programs during the winter and Christmas season.

Lincoln Pilgrimage is fast approaching and I am looking forward to participating. And please join us at the Patriotic Conference in March. Americanism Chairman Rosemary Mulligan and National Security Chairman Tina Abdelnour will have wonderful speakers for us to enjoy. And don't forget that there will be an initiation ceremony for any member, a new member or a 50-plus year member, who has not gone through the initiation ceremony.

Do you have a daughter or granddaughter, or niece that is a Junior member? What about a young Sons member? Please join us for the Department Junior and Young Sons Conference. Last year Junior

(Continued on page 8)



Detachment Commander,

WAYNE MADSON

Hello everyone!

Hope you all enjoyed the holidays with family and friends. We came back last month ready to hit the ground running, continuing our work of supporting our Veterans and our communities. This past month the Detachment held our DEC in Morton Grove. We had a young Sons member , Zachary Anderson in attendance wearing a sash proudly showing his patches that he earned so far from the Auxiliary patch program. Zach is a member of Squadron 690 in Palatine. Please help us promote this great program of the Auxiliary with young Sons participation. We had a great turnout during the American Legion Family Membership Caravan. I hope you all were able to make it to the Caravan stop in your District. I had been looking forward to the caravan since July. It's a great opportunity to meet and visit with everyone. Things aren't slowing down anytime soon! We ended January in Indianapolis for some training with the Legion family.

It's already February - why slow down now? First Sunday, there are 4 Chaplain's services being held. Then off to Springfield for Lincoln's Pilgrimage to recognize our top District and Division Commanders for their hard work. I end the month in Washington D.C. where I have the privilege as Detachment Commander to lay a wreath at the WW2 memorial in honor of my grandfather. Please keep up the great work you all do for this great organization. Don't ever forget the reason we do this, for the veteran that gave us our eligibility to serve.

CELEBRATE OUR 107TH BIRTHDAY WITH YOUR **BUDDIES!**

107 years ago, dispirited members of The United States Armed Forces gathered in Paris, France in March of 1919 for what they called a "morale conference." High attendance wasn't expected. In fact, 463 troops registered and only 300 were anticipated. It is estimated that more than 1,000 troops came and went, whether on orders or not. This meeting launched the beginning of what we proudly know now as THE AMERICAN LEGION.

During the 2019 Spring Meetings, The National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18—calling for twice-annual Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion's birthday—March 15 and Veterans Day. National has made an online kit available to help guide posts on Buddy Checks. It contains information on Buddy Checks, tips, answers to FAQs and downloadable resources such as flyers, scripts and more.

Our legacy began in Paris and it continues wherever there is someone who is willing to BE THE ONE TO SAVE ONE. Pick up the phone, type up an email, knock on a door. Check on your battle buddies.

Cut this out for the next time you go door knocking!

Visit www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/buddy-check for materials for your next buddy check.

AMERICAN LEGION

Buddy Check



Your friends from The American Legion Family dropped by to say hello and see how you are doing.

If you need any help, supplies, transportation or just someone to talk to, let us know. We are here for you.

Contact:	
Post No.	
Address:	
Phone number:	
Email:	

Reach out to us anytime!

BMEM0823 Buddy Check Door Hanger.indd 1 9/26/23 1:07 P

Adopt a Soldier: Supporting Our Heroes from the Very Beginning

Founded in 2012 by Sue Wackerlin, a military mom of four, Adopt a Soldier (AAS) aims to create a comprehensive support network for military families. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by both soldiers and their families, Sue was motivated to provide resources and build connections that would empower them. By 2016, AAS achieved 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, further solidifying its mission to support those who serve our country.

Family and hero support begins the moment a young person enlists in the military. To celebrate the return of these young soldiers home from training, AAS hosts welcoming celebrations for families and friends. During these events, the newest members of the military are presented with a challenge coin from a veteran, symbolizing the start of a vital support system.

Sue's journey took a personal turn when her oldest son completed two deployments to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Upon his return, signs of PTSD had invaded their family dynamic, exposing the lack of knowledge and resources available to support veterans and their families. This experience highlighted a crucial insight for Sue: the best help for a soldier battling PTSD often comes from someone who has been through similar experiences—a fellow veteran.

Recognizing the need for comprehensive family support, AAS initiated programs that involve other military families, allowing them to connect and share their experiences. As a response to the alarming statistic of over 22 veterans and active-duty personnel taking their own lives each day—a number that tragically increased to around 35 in 2024—AAS is dedicated to filling the void left when loved ones are deployed. We understand the urgency of providing support that has been absent for far too long.

AAS fosters a circle of support that begins by adopting families and their heroes from the start of their military journey. By working closely with veterans while their loved ones are serving, AAS creates strong bonds that enable these young soldiers to transition back into civilian life more smoothly. Through mentorship from veterans who have experienced similar challenges, these servicemen and women gain invaluable insights and encouragement.

However, not all families are embraced or honored as they should be—these are casualties of a battle fought here on the Homefront against an invisible enemy: PTSD. In light of this ongoing struggle, the Teal Star was born—a symbol representing families whose heroes have lost their battle with PTSD. This emblem embodies our commitment to ensuring these families receive the love and respect they deserve while providing a platform to share their stories, thus educating us all about the realities of this hidden enemy.

Over the past 13 years, with the help of our awesome volunteers, the generosity of our donors, and last but not least, our veterans, AAS has moved forward in its mission to support America's three pillars of freedom: the American troops, veterans, and military families

Change requires action, and Adopt a Soldier provides the opportunity to take action and make a difference. At AAS, we invite you to learn more about how you can be part of this mission—whether through volunteering, donating, or simply sharing our story.

To connect with us and find out more about our missions and programs, please visit adoptasoldier.org.

The American Legion Springfield Post 32
Home of & Originator of the
National American Legion Pilgrimage
to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM **American Legion Family Leadership Reception**

All the National and Department Leadership are participating in this complimentary meet and greet reception that is open to our entire American Legion Family. Reception will be in the President Abraham Lincoln Doubletree Hotel Salon CD of the Ballroom. National Commander **Bill Clancy** of The Sons of The American Legion is the Keynote Speaker.

4:30 PM – 1:00 AM **Free Shuttle Service between Headquarters Hotel and Post 32**

5:00 PM – 1:00 AM **Open House at Springfield Post 32, The American Legion.**

Open House at Springfield Post 32, The American Legion,1120 Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, Illinois. Join us for music, refreshments, and fun.

4:00 PM – 9:00 PM **Dinner at The Mess Hall Restaurant located at Post 32 – Costs Vary**

Order from The Special Menu.

Hosts:

Post 32, Auxiliary Unit 32, Sons of The American Legion Squadron 32, Post 32 American Legion Riders, Salon 225, 8 & 40, Voiture 344, 40 & 8, La Femmes Cabane 344, and Juniors Unit 32.

Thursday, February 12, 2026

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM **American Legion Family Breakfast**

Honoring National President **Pam Ray** The American Legion Auxiliary (Keynote Speaker), and Guests of Honor National Commander **Dan Wiley,** The American Legion, and National Commander **Bill Clancy**, The Sons of The American Legion.

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM **Staging for The Pilgrimage**

Cars and busses assemble for Distinguished Guests and others on Adams Street entrance to President Abraham Lincoln Springfield Hotel.

10:00 AM **Pilgrimage departs hotel enroute to President Lincoln's Tomb.**

10:30 – 11:30 AM **Ceremony at President Abraham Lincoln's Tomb**,

Wreath Placing Ceremony; Songs performed by Post 32 Legionnaire **Deanna Cagley**.
Color Guard: 114th Infantry Regiment, Illinois Volunteers (Reactivated).

April 13, 2026 8:20 am-3:00 pm
Central Time

Illinois Veterans Benefits and Resource Fair: Empowering Illinois Veterans

University of Chicago David Rubenstein Forum
1201 E 60th St.
Chicago, Illinois



(Department Commander, Continued from page 3)

we should all try to attend at least once. I warn you if you come once you will probably come again! It's truly a memorable experience for all who come.

On February 25th, we have Veteran Lobby Day in Springfield. All of the Veterans Service Organizations get together and meet with the members of the Illinois Congress.

As you can see our Legion Family gets back to work quickly after the Holiday Season. I look forward to seeing all of you this winter. May God Bless You, This Country and our American Legion Family.

As always it is an honor to serve as your Department Commander Roy E Smith
Just ONE More

(Department Sr. Vice Commander, Continued from page 3)

effectively. If you haven't renewed your 2026 membership yet, seize the moment to do so today. Encourage fellow veterans to join or rejoin—sometimes all it takes is a personal invitation to reignite camaraderie.

This season, let's embody the spirit of The American Legion, which is rooted in service, fellowship, and gratitude. Your time, compassion, and dedication truly make a difference.

For God, Country, and Family,
Celeste Latham
Department Senior Vice Commander
American Legion, Department of Illinois

(Auxiliary President, Continued from page 4)

Chairman Angie Mulligan built a flag pole inside the hotel to teach the Juniors and young Sons about the flag. I am sure this year will be filled with wonderful and fun learning activities.

As always, thank you for your kind hospitality, your friendship, your prayers, and your constant kindness. I hope you are as proud to be an American Legion Family member as I am.

GLO Bingo

Not Your Grandma's Bingo!

BL-53131

VETERANS DAY AT THE IL STATE FAIR

Saturday, April 11, 2026

Doors @ 6pm Bingo @ 7pm

Springfield VFW Post 755

2211 Old Jacksonville Rd, Springfield, IL

OVER $1000 IN CASH PRIZES!

TICKETS AVAILABLE:
GLO-BINGO.COM/EVENTS
($2/TICKET NON-REFUNDABLE FEE)
OR CRYSTAL 217-299-8333

$25 In Advance/$30 At The Door

MUST BE 18 OR OLDER TO ATTEND

Includes 6 bingo cards for 10 games
Also includes Glow hat & Dauber
($5 per additional 6 cards)

CASH BAR - BYO SNACKS - FOOD FOR PURCHASE
50/50

NO OUTSIDE DRINKS ALLOWED



12TH ANNUAL AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY HAVEN RUN

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

APRIL 25, 2026

START AT MOUNT VERNON POST #141

REGISTRATION @ 8:00 AM / DEPART @ 9:00 AM

Stops include:

McLeansboro American Legion Post 106
Carmi American Legion Post 224
Ridgeway American Legion Post 596 (Lunch Stop)
Metropolis American Legion Post 306
Marion American Legion Post 147 (End of Run & Supper)
(Not ending at the Haven this year due to road construction)

To participate, cost is $25/person

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

Lunch at Ridgeway will be an extra cost/person based on food ordered – we will have menus available

For Those Who Wish to Stay in Mount Vernon Friday Night (4/24/26):
Rooms Blocked at Comfort Suites, Mount Vernon, IL – (618) 244-2700
(Make Reservations by March 23rd – Code "American Legion" – $125.00 plus tax)

For Those Who Wish to Stay in Marion Saturday Night 4/25/26):
Rooms Blocked at Country Inn & Suites, Marion, IL – (618) 997-2444
(Make Reservations by March 23rd – Code "American Legion Run 2026" - $128.00 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

Did You Know….?

By Ray Toczek,



That it has been over four years since I published a list of various rumors that were going around the Veteran's community. At that time, I asked our readers to contact me with any new ones they heard and I would check them out. Well, here are several more rumors, with the correct answers.

1) **I have both diabetes and prostate cancer which are presumptive conditions for Agent Orange benefits but I never served a full tour in Vietnam so I don't qualify for compensation.** False. The VA only requires that you set foot in Vietnam, even if for just a day or so. You didn't have to do a full tour. For instance, you took your R&R there or left your ship to pick up the mail and had to set foot on land. Or you were TDY for a few weeks to help out at Da Nang Air Force Base. Or your plane landed in Vietnam, on its way to Thailand and you spent the night there due to bad weather. There are even places outside Vietnam, for instance near the DMZ in Korea and certain bases in Thailand where Agent Orange was sprayed.

2) **I have been rated 100% service-connected disabled, I can't get any more VA compensation.** This is generally true, 100% is usually the most you can get. But there are exceptions and they fall under a unique benefit called Special Monthly Compensation or SMC. This is a fixed amount added on to your 100% rate based on special medical conditions. For instance, due to a stroke you lost your voice, or the use of your left hand or leg. Or your diabetic and you now suffer from erectile dysfunction. Or you are housebound and need someone to clean and bathe, dress and feed you. These are just some examples and the additional payment can range anywhere from $96 a month more to over five hundred dollars.

3) **I am rated service-connected disabled for blindness, obviously I can't get the VA car grant.** False. As long as you are blind due to service you do qualify for the special car grant which can be up to $26,400+. You'll just have to have someone else drive the car.

4) **My father (or mother) died in Vietnam and after ten years they remarried. When that happened they lost their survivor's benefits and were no longer eligible.** True, unless the second spouse dies or they get divorced. If either one of those events occurs, they can then again become eligible for survivor's benefits based on their first spouse's service. It's called becoming a "reconstituted" widow(er). But wait, there's more. If a widow(er) remarries on or after 12/16/03 and is 57 or older, they can keep their DIC benefit. And a further law change allows then to keep their DIC if they remarry on or after 1/5/21 and they are 55 or older. Talk to you Post and Auxiliary members and see if any of them fall into this category.

5) **In my hurry to get discharged I didn't notice that some of my awarded medals were omitted from my DD 214. Now it's too late to do anything about it.** False. Any medals that you earned but were omitted from your discharge can still be awarded. Just file a DD 149, Board for Correction of Military Records, and if eligible the Department of Defense will issue you a DD 215 with the medals listed AND you will be sent your missing decorations

.

Hope you found these five new rumors enlightening. I will continue to look out for more from our Posts, Districts and Divisions. And remember, your VA&R staff in our Chicago office is ready to assist you with any VA benefit questions and help you file your claims or appeals. Just contact them at 312-980-4266 at the above telephone number.



America250 Chair Rosie Rios says energy is building to celebrate the nation's semiquincentennial in July, and beyond.

If you're unfamiliar with Rosie Rios, look in your wallet. Her signature appears on $1.2 trillion in U.S. currency. The 43rd United States treasurer, who served in that capacity between 2009 and 2016, now chairs the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission. She remembers the nation's bicentennial of 1976 and the impression it made on her as a young child. Her goal now is to see the nation's 250th anniversary inspire a similar revival of patriotic enthusiasm, national pride and unity.

Last spring, the American Legion National Executive Committee passed a resolution urging posts and departments to work closely with America250 in their states and U.S. territories, to celebrate the milestone, from the smallest towns to the biggest cities, offering opportunities for all ages, and a renewal of the same kind of spirit Rosie Rios felt 50 years ago. The whole interview can be read in the January 2026 issue of *The American Legion Magazine*.

The American Legion Department of Illinois encourages our Posts to bring the Mission 250 initiative into their communities. For ideas of what you can do to help celebrate, visit https://america250.org/

** excerpt from 'Something for every American' | The American Legion*

2026 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AWARD PROGRAM DEADLINES

The American Legion has many awards available to posts and individuals. Each year, **less and less** submissions are sent in. There are nearly 800 posts. Each program has an outline and criteria to meet for each award. **Details and submission instructions are available online www.illegion.org.** ***DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR POST TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR EFFORTS.*** All winning Posts will be notified and receive recognition at the Department Convention this July in Springfield.

- **Legionnaire of the Year Award—June 15**
- **Firefighter of the Year - May 31**
- **Law Officer of the Year - May 31**
- **TLW Legion Rider of the Year Award - March 31**
- **Chaplains Cross/Star of David Award - June 6**
- **Community Service Award - April 30**

Hall of Fame Award - April 30

Public Relations Award - June 1

2026 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--8x10.3 in.)

Silver Star (half page-5.25x8)

Bronze Star (quarter page--4 x 5 in.)

Purple Heart (4 x 2.25 in.)

Commander Salute (4x1.75in.)

Flag Page (4 x 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

KENTUCKY DERBY



AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS PARTY

The Illinois party will be held on Sunday, August 30, 2026 at Churchill Downs, Louisville, KY from 5-9pm. The cost will be $65 per person to attend. Buses will be loading and leaving The Galt House Hotel promptly at 5pm.

Southern Chef Plate

Mixed Field greens, Crisp Cabbage Cole Slaw

Three Cheese Mac and Cheese, Vegetable Medley

Pulled Pork

(served with House Bourbon, Arkansas BBQ and Carolina Mustard)

Churchill Fried Chicken

Dessert will be Traditional Pound Cake

(Woodford Reserve Mint Julep macerated strawberries, whipped cream)

Cash Bar

RSVP To guarantee your reservation, mail check and this form no later than August 1, 2026.

Make checks payable to "The American Legion Dept. of Illinois" and mail directly to Dee Dalton.

Name(s): _____ Amount Enclosed: $ _____

Attn: Dee Dalton, Executive Secretary
The American Legion
Department of Illinois
Bloomington, IL 61704

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Top 10

DISTRICT & DIVISION RANKINGS

UPDATED 01/30/2026

Division	Commander
2	LATHAM
4	TINCHER
3	BENNETT
5	OWENS
1	MCNELLIS

District	Commander
13	Howard
17	Elzy
18	McNamara
15	Seward, Jr.
14	Arbuckle
12	Brubach
23	Funneman
19	Smith
11	Miller
22	Scheyer

Scan here to visit the Dept. website.

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

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** One year Subscription to the Department News $20.00*

Newsletter articles must be at Department Headquarters by the

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PO BOX 2910 Bloomington, IL 61702
Phone: 309-663-0361
Fax: 309-663-5783
Email: hdq@illegion.org
Web: www.illegion.org

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