



AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

Department Headquarters
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www.vtlegion.org

AUGUST 2025

Bulletin

Messages from the Department Commander, Senior Vice Commander,
District Commanders, and County Commanders

Department Commanders Message – William “Bill” Brothers

District & County Cmdrs. Messages -

Dept. Commanders Projects -

National Commander to Visit Vermont!

Photos of Miscellaneous Event throughout Vermont

Department Commander

William “Bill” Brothers

Greetings Legionnaires,

Another month has gone by, and we are in the Fair Season in Vermont, we have had our pop-up Legion Family tent set up at three events so far with our membership team. We attended Lamoille County Field Days, which I attended and had a great time, we obtained 11 memberships. We then were at Addison County Field Days and again it was successful this year with getting some 15 new members out of Addison, most were for SAL and auxiliary, but that's fine, we are Legion family after all.



We also were at the Rutland State Fair and had hopes of more membership, Rutland didn't produce what we thought it could or would, but that's ok, the team tried. I want to say thank you to Sr. Vice Commander Fred Wilson for all his hard work during these events and thank you to everyone that stepped up and volunteered to work them, it means a lot to me that you show your dedication to the American Legion mission.

I was invited to our National Vice Commander – Chuck Robbin's Northeast Homecoming celebration in Falls River, New Jersey. I did attend and it was quite an experience. I presented him with some special Vermont made products in which he was very pleased.

Sr. Vice Commander - Fred Wilson and I attended the Membership Training in Indianapolis, and it was very informative. Mylegion.org will be releasing some new things in the coming months and they are trying to make it more user-friendly for everyone. Your quotas have been set and that info should be in the next membership report from HQ's. We worked very hard setting them and trying to be fair to all the Posts.

The Department delegates to National Convention are getting ready to go to Tampa, I believe we are all looking forward to this and enthusiastic about what we can bring back to share with you all. I do have the privilege of representing Vermont as an Assistant Sargent of Arms at the Convention. This should be interesting to say the least.

I want to say thank you to you all for what you do for this great organization and our communities. Let's keep up the drive to get membership in and I know Fred's team can beat our last year's goals! Let's not forget to do buddy checks on our fellow Veterans and to see how they are doing and to see if there is anything we can do to help them.

The Fall Conference is coming right up, mark your calendars for that, October 25th Colchester 91 and Monday the 27th The Newly elected National Commander - Dan Wiley will visit Vermont! The banquet is set, and we are working on a schedule of visits for him. That information will be out soon.

Remember if you have any events at your Posts coming up, get them to Melodie at HQ's so we can put it on our Legion Facebook page. In closing I do want to thank our Executive Administrator Melodie for the great job she does for our Legion Family, she goes above and beyond for us, so thank you Mel for what you do. Also, Kudos to Corrinna Colson, Executive Secretary for Auxiliary Department for all she has done to encourage, promote and help Legion Family.

For God and Country,

William "Bill" Brothers
Commander, Dept. of VT



Senior Vice Commander – Fred Wilson

As summer winds down, we continue our mission of service, unity, and leadership. It has been a hectic stretch since the last bulletin. Almost exactly a month ago, National Commander James LaCoursiere announced the USA 250 Challenge to kick off The American Legion's celebration of our nation's 250th birthday.

The challenge is a major part of how The American Legion will celebrate the historic occasion, now through July 4, 2026.



Participants complete 250 hours of wellness activities such as yoga, meditation, and other forms of mindfulness.

Fitness activities: Participants may choose to walk, bicycle, or cover 250 miles (or hours) any way they choose.

Community service: Participants achieve 250 hours of community service or reach the 250 bar of a community service project.

Participated in the following Fairs to promote membership: Lamoille County Field Days – Held in Johnson, Vermont, this is a classic agricultural fair with a full weekend of family-friendly fun. Friday, July 18 – Sunday, July 20, 2025. Addison County Fair & Field Days – Vermont's Largest Agricultural Fair, 1790 Field Days Road, New Haven, VT. Tuesday, July 29 – Saturday, August 2, 2025, and Vermont State Fair – Rutland County, August 12–16, 2025 in Rutland, VT. Highlights that included DNA Motorsports Demolition Derby and Pond Hill Pro Rodeo.

I also attended the 2025 National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis, Indiana on 8-9 August 2025 with the following theme: "Be the One. Be the Difference."

Workshop Highlights are: Emphasized veteran suicide prevention through personal connection and community support. Shared proven strategies for recruiting younger veterans and engaging long-time members. Introduced digital tools and ceremonial onboarding practices to boost retention. Promoted visibility through community service, partnerships, and updated branding. Review current priorities including VA reform, benefits expansion, and military family support. Urged members to engage with lawmakers and promote Legion-backed legislation. Highlighted the importance of welcoming all branches of the Legion family. Suggested ceremonial touches—flags, welcome packets, personalized greetings—to elevate events.

This week I am attending the 106th American Legion National Convention in Tampa, Florida from Friday, August 22 through August 28th, 2025. The American Legion's theme "Be The One" initiative is committed to reducing the rate of veteran suicide by fostering connection, compassion, and courage. We are actively working to lessen the stigma surrounding mental health by encouraging open conversations, promoting access to resources, and empowering veterans to seek help without fear or shame.

We believe that one act, one conversation, one moment of support can save a life. Every Legionnaire, every community member, has the power to Be The One—to listen, to reach out, and to stand beside those who have served. Together, we honor their service not only in ceremony, but in action. Lessen the stigma surrounding mental health.

For God and Country.

Fred E. Wilson, Jr.

2fredwilson@gmail.com

917-763-0354

Senior Vice Commander



Northern Area Commander – Roy McKinnon

Greetings Comrades,

First, I would like to thank all the well-wishers when my wife Shori was in the hospital. She seems to be getting better every day.

I recently made a visit to Johnson Post 46 along with Southern Area Commander Bill Charron and Dept. Adjutant Brian Markwell. I also spent time at the Rutland Fair with the membership team. Myself and officers of Northland Post 47 and Auxiliary will be at the Moose Festival in Canaan, Vt on August 23. I will also be at the Caledonia Fair in Lyndonville on August 24.

I would like to remind all District Commanders that Post evaluations need to be completed and turned into Department before Midwinter Convention.

Keep membership coming in and if you need to get in contact with me, please feel free to do so.

For God and Country,
Roy (Buzz) McKinnon
Northern Area Commander
1-603-331-5000
buzzmckinnon5000@gmail.com



Southern Area Commander – William Charron

Hello everyone,

Southern Vermont has been buzzing this last month! I know our County Commanders and District Commanders will be letting you know of more activities happening in their respective areas, I just wanted to give a few small updates. As I said last month, Post 84 hosted our Legion Baseball tournament (Congratulations Saint Johnsbury) With great success.

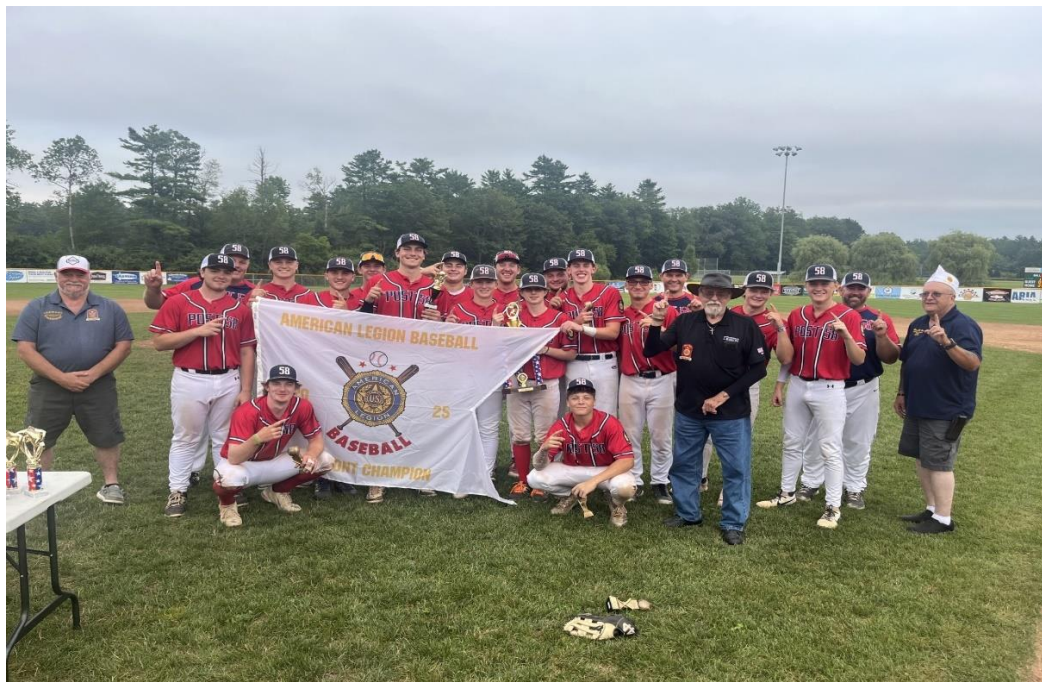


I was in Brattleboro for a retirement presentation for Air Force Colonel Timothy (T-Max) Maxwell. An amazing gentleman with a great family. It was my honor to be there.

As summer is coming to a close, County Fairs are in full swing. We just completed the Vermont State Fair in Rutland, giving out a lot of applications to various Post's and meeting many people. As we all know, this is the first indicators of Summer leaving and Fall approaching. A lot of our Posts are teaming with Auxiliaries to get back to school provisions to students, such a great way to show our young people how much we care about them.

In closing, I just want to say thank you to everyone who has helped make these events possible, you represent what is good about the American Legion.

For God and Country
Bill Charron
Southern Area Commander

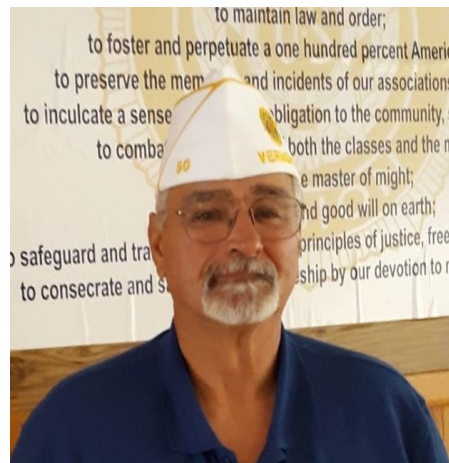


Dept. Chaplain – Stephen Frost

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL, et al!

Throughout my brief years in this FANTASTIC organization, I have grown to love each of you, as I meet you and witness the good works you accomplish and your tireless dedication in service to each other, our Veterans and our communities.

Occasionally, and thankfully, rarely, I find the bitter acid of someone's disdain, for another. The "history" of particular events, and so on, which, sadly, seems to invite comments of a negative nature, testifying against a fellow member. This has the potential to erode trust among us, can cause irreparable harm against a brother or sister, and continue to have a lasting and detrimental effect upon our benevolent organization. It doesn't contribute to meeting our mission and serves NO good purpose.



I wish to guard ALL of us, myself included, against losing our footing, and sliding down the slippery slope, from which we will struggle to climb up, from. I will remind our membership, that we are founded, "For God and Country ". In Ephesians 4:29, we learn that we should build up, rather than tear down our neighbors. It is as follows...." *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen* ".

I will ask each of you to guard me against participating in any opportunity to share in gossip or negative comments involving another member. Let's not visit this upon each other, but, instead, exalt and hold in the HIGHEST esteem, that which highlights another's qualities and contributions to our honorable society. THIS is pleasing to God! It is righteous and in keeping with the foundations of our organization.

Cindy and I are DELIGHTED to head to Tampa as Delegates to the National Convention. She will represent the Auxiliary, and I will represent the Legion and the SAL. We hope to gain updated information and philosophies of the "Be The One" program and are anxious to return and share what we have learned with each of you, soon.

Cindy and I are grateful to have been welcomed by you. Each of you has given something to us, which is vital, welcomed and BEAUTIFUL in our lives. You are TRULY God's people, and we walk in His Grace, as we interact with each of you! God Bless and keep you well, our friends, and we look forward to seeing you upon our return.

Dept. Historian – Carl King

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires

We are in the season of fairs and festivals. I plan on attending Caledonia Fair and help support the membership tent there.

I am asking for members to provide pictures and stories relevant to the Legion family. Please submit your Post events and activities as well. These are crucial to disseminating information to others as to visit and enjoy our Vermont Posts.



We cannot be successful unless you tell us what your Posts are doing!

carlk394@gmail.com is the temporary site to post pictures, videos, information.

Please use!!! Attached are Legion Baseball photos, submitted by So. Area Commander Bill Charron, thanks Bill and enjoy.

Carl P. King
Department of Vermont
HISTORIAN



1st District Commander – Victor Stone

Although it's been several weeks since the 107th Annual State Convention, I would be remiss in not recounting some of the notable proceedings pertaining to District 1:



Ø Phil Pearo, Franklin County Commander, was recognized as the 2024 County Commander of the Year. Congratulations Phil and many thanks to Crellor Landon Post 60 for sharing Phil with the other Posts of Franklin County and the Islands. Notably, this is the second such award for Phil.

Ø Joe Gilmond, a member of Colchester Post 91, and a Past Department Commander of Vermont's Veterans of Foreign Wars, was elected Addison/Chittenden County Commander. Welcome to the District 1 leadership team, Joe!

Ø Final membership results have been tallied and the Posts of District 1 collectively achieved 92.7% of the goal. This produced 2297 members, which represent 29% of the Department's statewide headcount.

Ø Kudos to Colchester Post 91. During the convention they were recognized with a Children and Youth Citation, Department of Vermont Maynard-Pietryka 2024 Color Guard Award, the PDC James Brouillette Post Home of the 2024 District Commander of the Year Award, and the PDC N. Henry Press Award for highest membership 45 days prior to the convention.

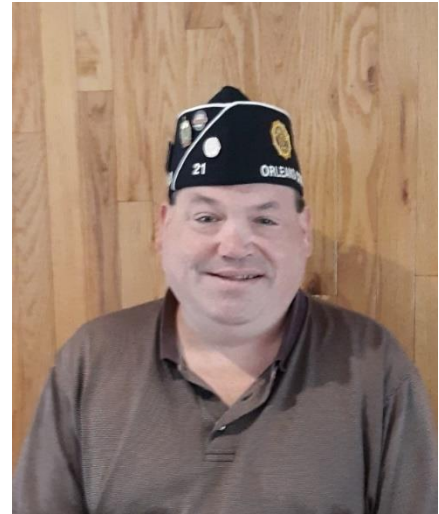
Ø Although the Boys State session at Norwich University occurred just a few days after the State Convention, I was delighted to note that six District 1 Posts were prominent supporters of this year's program: Green Mountain Post 1, Richford Post 12, Vergennes Post 14, Bristol Post 19, Middlebury Post 27 and Colchester Post 91.

With all the above said, we can now focus on the year in front of us for the good of the American Legion. And to this last point there was Legion presence at the Addison County Fair and there will be a membership focused presence at the upcoming Champlain County Exposition.

2nd District Commander – Carl King

Events in the Northeast Kingdom are kicking up and the start is the Caledonia Fair beginning this week! I plan on attending and helping do what we do in the Legion Family Tent. Orleans County Fair will be right after, and I have heard a team of Legion Family is coming up this way for that event.

2026 membership is out, and the renewal notices are coming in with membership fast and furious. My hope is 2nd District will stay on it and if you need assistance from me let me know and I can come to your Post to help.



Don't forget to do buddy checks, with Fall on the horizon and holidays coming right up soon Veterans get lonely and depressed, check in on your members, it's the least we can do. Enjoy the rest of your Summer, it will be gone way to soon.

For God and Country
Carl King
Commander District 2
Dept. Historian

3rd District Commander – Christopher Wood

Hello from the District Three communities of Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties. We are in the days of the National Convention, membership quotas for 2026, and cramming in summer activities as we approach Labor Day.

I have enjoyed visiting posts for installations as a mix of long standing and a few new officers prepare for the new year. Heath Doyle Post 61 in Chelsea always puts on a fine barbecue, and Randolph Post 9 showcased their Law Order Cadets participating in that fine program. Some posts are struggling though. I am hoping that the great effort to make a presence at every fair and field day in Vermont pays dividends in getting some new and excited members into our Posts to help put new faces and ideas into our ranks. Let's welcome these new members with open arms!



No rest for the weary. September 11 is the first target date for membership, and we are expected to have half our membership renewed for next year by this date. This is made a little easier through Honorary Lifetime and Paid up for Life members getting renewed first, and there are always those few people that renew the second they receive that first renewal notice. Then the real work starts as we convince people that they have to pay their dues BEFORE the end of 2025.

I would like to take a second to spotlight Norwich Post 1819 for the phenomenal job they did last year in getting 113% for membership and bringing in 15 new members. They were the champs of District 3. They are a reminder that many younger folks live in a digital community more so than belonging to a physical community. Reach out to people you know in other states and countries and see if they are interested in joining your posts. Make digital options available to them. Bring them in!



American Legion Riders – Legacy Ride to HQ's

4th District Commander – Joe Bump

Hello, District 4,

Hard to believe that the Summer is almost over. School starts in a couple of weeks and then the next season will be upon us. There are a lot of fun things happening in the District with Fairs and celebrations.

Once again Walmart in Bennington is hosting the 911 Remembrance. It will kick off at 0800 with a gathering and speakers, followed by a quiet reflection and then refreshments. All Legion members and guests are welcome to attend.

Membership should ever be on your mind. Fall Conference is October 25th, make plans to attend. It won't be long and Mid-Winter will be upon us. Try to enjoy the rest of the Summer. If I can assist you in any way, feel free to reach out.

Joe Bump,
District 4 Commander



5th District Commander – Lewis Graham

Greetings, Legionnaires:

The Legion Baseball program has concluded with the St. Johnsbury team winning the state championship. Congratulations to them and thanks to all the teams who made the season such fun even though some of the days were hot enough to require occasional delays or postponement.

I attended several of the games both north and south and talked with the players, parents and umpires alike. It is an enjoyable pastime. I was surprised and pleased to be awarded the Joe Pattison Faithful Service award. I highly recommend that parents and friends continue to support our young players at all of their sporting events in and out of school. Our conversations highlighted how much it means to them. Our Baseball commissioner, Scott Stevens, is going to attend the World Series for American Legion Baseball in South Carolina.



I attended the Lamoille County and Rutland fairs with the rest of the Legion Family volunteers to promote the Family and gain membership. It will be interesting to see which group gets the most - new members. We were all giving it our best shot and the Champlain Valley Fair is yet to come.

Hope to see you at the Fall Conference again in Colchester in October. Dates and agenda will be out soon.

As always, please give me a call at 802-279-0441 if you have questions or suggestions on your mind.

Have a good Fall. Hopefully the foliage will be spectacular and increase our tourist season.

For God and Country

Lew Graham
District 5 Commander



Bennington County Commander – Dolores Krawczyk



benningtonbanner.com

Veterans' Home received national award

BENNINGTON -- The Vermont Veterans' Home (VVH) has been recognized as a 2025 Silver Achievement in Quality Award recipient by the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL).

Lamoille County Commander – Charles Burham

“Lamoille County American Legion seeking members!”

This is the headline for our post in our local and surrounding towns in our Lamoille County. FRONT PORCH FORUM. The text is as follows:

*“By now you have had an opportunity to see the fields of American flags in almost every cemetery in Vermont. The Vermont Department of the **American Legion** promotes this patriotic display every year. In Lamoille County there are four Posts located in Morrisville, Stowe, Cambridge and Johnson Each is looking to add*

additional veterans to join them at their monthly meetings. If you have eligible Veterans in your family, household or community please encourage them to join our ranks. Membership is only \$45.00 per year. The Legion supports youth activities, scholarships, veterans support, Auxiliary and many other areas that support the community.

Contact me if you need help locating a Post near you.”

Charlie Burnham, Lamoille County Commander

Post Commanders and County Commanders please feel free to use this sample in your local FRONT PORCH FORUM in as many Vermont communities as possible. I'll report back next month to let you know how we are making out!

Also, a big shoutout and welcome to our new DC Bill Brothers. He has been to visit us in Lamoille County!

Orleans County Commander – Robert Messier

Jay Peak Post 28 has pool on Tuesdays and Sundays where a group of players gather to compete at games of pool. They will be starting Bingo around October 21st on a trial basis until December 21st, at which time it will be determined if it will be worthwhile to continue.

They will hold other events, if possible, when requested.

Their hours of operation for the lounge are Tuesday 5 to 10, Friday 5 to 10, Saturday 3 to 10 and Sunday 12 to 6. They do have horseshoe pits. Contact Post 28 in regard to that. Saturdays are usually fairly quiet so if you are in the area, please stop in and give them some support.

Newport Post 21 has something happening almost every day, be it live entertainment, karaoke, horseshoes and so on. Contact Post 21 directly for information.

Whatever you do out there, have fun, but be careful and be safe. Always use a designated driver. Thank you all for everything you do.

--

Robert B. Messier

(802) 487-5118

Member of American Legion Post 23

Orleans County Commander



Rutland County Commander – Richard Baptie

Greetings.

I'm sure you're all enjoying the cool weather. It will get better. I had the pleasure to be at Addison County Fair and the Rutland State Fair and met a lot of Vets and talk to them, some were prior Legion members and had let their membership lapse. We were able to get them to rejoin.

While at the Rutland State Fair I met two young ladies that were staff members at Vermont Veterans Home. These ladies are very dedicated to Vets. They make the Veterans feel like they are at home and having them know the staff cares.

For God and Country,
Richard (Rich) Baptie
Rutland County Commander



Washington County Commander – Wayne Goulet

Legionnaires,

I hope you were able to celebrate the long weekend and reflect on the Battle of Bennington. I believe that not only is it important to remember our military veterans, but also the significant events that contributed to the freedoms that we all enjoy. One of these events was the Battle of Bennington. As a non-native Vermonter, I was unfamiliar with the Battle of Bennington. The Revolutionary War certainly has more famous battles such as Bunker Hill and Yorktown. However, in terms of significance, the Battle of Bennington played a crucial role in the war. According to Google Artificial Intelligence:

The Battle of Bennington, a key Revolutionary War clash, occurred on August 16, 1777, near present-day Bennington, Vermont. American forces, primarily composed of New Hampshire militia led by General John Stark, decisively defeated a detachment of British and Hessian troops. This victory was crucial for the American cause, disrupting British plans and boosting Patriot morale

American Victory: The American forces, including militia from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Vermont, inflicted heavy losses on the British and their German allies (Hessians).

Disruption of British Strategy: The British, under General John Burgoyne, were aiming to seize supplies at Bennington as part of a larger campaign to isolate New England. The defeat hindered their progress and weakened their overall northern offensive.

Significance: The Battle of Bennington is considered a turning point in the Revolutionary War. It boosted American morale, weakened the British forces, and contributed to the eventual American victory at the Battles of Saratoga, a major turning point in the war.

Wayne Goulet
Washington County Commander

DISTRICT & COUNTY COMMANDERS 2025 - 2026

1ST DISTRICT – Victor Stone, victor.stone2@myfairpoint.net

Addison/Chittenden County - Joe Gilmond, navydkesws@gmail.com

Franklin County – Phil Pearo, logcabinstables05440@yahoo.com

2ND DISTRICT – Carl King, carlking73@yahoo.com

Caledonia County – Angela Marshall, james3girlz@gmail.com

Essex County – Scott Leigh, sleigh1992@yahoo.com

Orleans County - Robert Messier, robert.of.newport@gmail.com

3RD DISTRICT – Christopher Wood, chriswood0869@gmail.com

Lamoille County – Charles Burnham, cbsto@me.com

Orange County – Larry Hart, larryhart64@gmail.com

Washington Cty – Wayne Goulet, waynegoulet@gmail.com

4TH DISTRICT – Joe Bump, makc57@comcast.net

Bennington County – Dolores Krawczyk, doloreskrawczyk57@gmail.com

Rutland County – Richard Baptie, rbaptie24@gmail.com

5TH DISTRICT – Lewis Graham, vermonter@charter.net

Windham County – Steve Martin, stemar647@gmail.com

Windsor County – Fred Stebbins, stebbinsf1@gmail.com

William Brothers

2025 - 2026

“Department Commanders Project”



Special Olympics Vermont serves the entire state of Vermont, providing athletic opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities. We currently serve over 2,000 athletes and offer 13 Olympic-style sports and 9 statewide competitions, including four state-wide Games.

WHO WE ARE

Special Olympics Vermont is a small, highly collaborative organization serving athletes with intellectual disabilities statewide

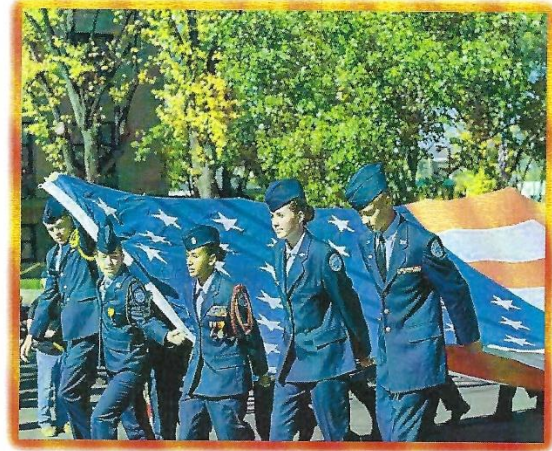
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*Please consider donating to my Commanders Project. Checks may be sent to
Department Headquarters, P.O. Box 396, Montpelier, VT 05601-0396*

Please write “Special Olympics” in the memo line

Thank you. Bill Brothers, Dept. of Vermont Commander

American Legion
Department Commander
William Brothers
2025 - 2026
“**Outstanding ROTC**”
Award



Award Amount: \$2,000

Award Qualifications:

- **Outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership ability.**
- **Outstanding qualities of military leadership, discipline, character, and citizenship.**
- **Accomplishments in both military and academic endeavors, and reflects the ideals of patriotism.**
- **A Cadet who has demonstrated academic excellence by being in the top 25% of his/her academic class.**
- **"For maintaining the highest school academic grades.**

The Cadet must be selected and recommended by an academic staff person; this information must be sent to the Department for review. Selection will take place with a panel of (5) Past Department Commanders appointed by the Department Commander. The winner will be announced in May and invited to the Department Annual State Convention in June to receive the Award. Information will be sent to ROTC Programs in Vermont only.

To support this Project, make checks payable to: Dept. HQ's, PO Box 396, Montpelier, VT 05601-0396
Memo Line: ROTC Award



Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

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County Fairs – Legion Family Membership Team
See you at the Fairs!
Caledonia, Champlain Valley, Orleans, Tunbridge!

American Legion - National Convention -Tampa Florida
August 21st – August 29th

Fall Conference – Legion Family
Colchester Post 91
October 25, 2025 – 9 AM (Agenda Soon!)

National Commander Dan Wiley Visits Vermont
October 27th - 30th (Information Coming!)
Banquet Flyer Attached

Department Directory is being worked on!

Post Everlasting *Gone, but Never Forgotten...*

Adams, Frank ... 05
Havreluk, sr., Carrol ... 17
Wisell, William ... 14
Emilo, Jr., James ... 14
Fuller, George ... 19
Provencher, Lucius ... 21
Urie, Davis ... 21
Bradway, Arthur ... 25
Hussey, Robert ... 25

Bradway, Arthur ... 25
Roberts, Jon ... 39
Mayhew, Peter ... 55
Compton, Robert ... 76
Boardman, John ... 91
Babits, Sr., Kenneth ... 91



American Legion
National Commander - Dan Wiley
"Visits Vermont"

Banquet

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

5:30 P.M. Social – Dinner 6:00 P.M.

Montpelier Post 3, 21 Main St., Montpelier, VT



**Menu: Chicken & Biscuit - W/Peas & Carrots,
Tossed Salad, Butternut Squash and Apple Crisp for Dessert**

\$15 Per Person

**Mail your checks to: Department HQ's, PO Box 396, Montpelier, VT
05601-0396 – Memo Line: Banquet**

Deadline: Oct 15th