



AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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August 2024 Bulletin

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

Officer Contact Info – Dept. HQs

Bennington Post 13 Events – Dolores Krawczyk

Upcoming Events! The National Commander is attending Fall Conference

Addison County Field Days Recap – Karlene DeVine

2024 – 2025 Department Officers

COMMANDER	Joseph Zickmund (Post 10)	joezickmund@gmail.com
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ALT. NEC	PDC Catherine Tester (Post 50)	ctester2663@gmail.com
HISTORIAN	Carl King (Post 21)	carlking73@yahoo.com
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** For Phone numbers reach out to Dept HQs

DISTRICT & COUNTY COMMANDERS 2024 - 2025

1ST DISTRICT – Victor Stone victor.stone2@mtfairpoint.net

Addison/Chittenden County – Jessica Blanchard-Patenaude

jessblanchard64@gmail.com

Franklin County – Phil Pearo logcabinstables05440@yahoo.com

2ND DISTRICT – Roy “Buzz” McKinnon – buzzmckinnon5000@gmail.com

Caledonia County – Jay Matthews jaymatthewsvt@hotmail.com

Essex County – Scott Leigh sleigh1992@yahoo.com

Orleans County – Carl King carlking73@yahoo.com

3RD DISTRICT – Christopher Wood chriswood0869@gmail.com

Lamoille County – Charles Burnham cbsto@me.com

Orange County – Vacant

Washington County – Wayne Goulet waynegoulet@gmail.com

4TH DISTRICT – William “Bill” Charron coach.charron@gmail.com

Bennington County – James Mason armyman931@yahoo.com

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5TH DISTRICT – Lewis Graham vermonter@charter.net

Windham County – Steve Martin stemar647@gmail.com

Windsor County – Vacant

** For phone numbers reach out to Dept. HQ's

Department Commander

Joseph Zickmund



Recently the Department offered Commander & Adjutant training. For those that attended, thank you for wanting to be better informed. For those that missed it, you really missed a great event full of useful information and conversation. The sharing of ideas amongst the attendees was especially valuable. Thank you to Adjutant Markwell and Melodie Ashford-McGrath for spending part of your weekend educating our Post Officers.

The Department has been attending fairs to create greater awareness of who we are, why we do what we do and of course, enlisting new members. This work is being done to the benefit of each Post. My time at the Addison County fair was well spent and I look forward to attending more in the future. Thank you to those that organized it and of course donated time to be involved. Community is a big part of what we do, and this is a wonderful way to get our message out.

A major focus for the past several years is the wellbeing of our at-risk veterans. The National organization has many resources and information about how we can all BE THE ONE. Having recently attended a class on it, the emphasis was on Buddy Checks – which is to say staying in contact with veterans to see how they are doing. Showing that we care and that we are willing to help. We alone cannot assess or fix issues, but we can help to identify those that need help and then assist them in getting it. Buddy Checks are a vital step in assessing the overall and mental health of our comrades.

Recently, the subject of flag etiquette became topical at my home post. After some discussion, it was clear that a refresher and a call to action regarding our National Colors might be in order. We are the American Legion, and we should lead the way in everything Americanism and certainly with showing respect for the American Flag.

In 1923, the U.S. National Flag Code was created and distributed nationwide. The code became Public Law in 1942 and became the U.S. Flag Code we know today. The U.S. Flag Code lays out the ways to display and respect the flag of the United States.

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

- The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
- The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.
- The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
- The flag should never be used as apparel, bedding, or drapery. It should never be festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free.
- The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.
- The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
- The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.
- No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firefighters, police officers, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
- The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

For more information, the U.S. Flag code can be found online. Emblem sales also has a 32-page booklet with helpful information on proper American Flag protocol. We all served. We should all care about how Old Glory is treated.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

For God, Country and the American Veteran,

Joe Zickmund, Commander, Dept. of VT

Senior Vice Commander – William Brothers

Hello Everyone

Well, here we go again working on our goals for the year. We did have a great Membership zoom meeting and would like to thank everyone who attended the meeting, we did discuss ways to work on membership and ways to get more Post Commanders and Adjutants helping us with retention of members, this is another area we need to work on, retention is very important to our success as a Legion Family.



We also discussed Round Tables for each District, and the dates are as follows: District #4 will be September 21st at Post 49, 12 to 2 pm., District #5 will be at Post 36. We will get the District Commander to let us know what time will work October 13th. District #3 will be at Post 10 in Barre on October 26th the District Commander will give the time. District #2 will be at Hardwick Post 7 on November 7th 12 to 2 pm. District #1 will be at Post 27 in Middlebury on November 23rd. The time will be posted by the District Commander. So, with these dates we will meet the deadline for our membership workshops that National recommend to us in a timely manner. Thank you to all the District Commander and County Commanders for the help getting these going.

On another note, several volunteers and I worked membership at two fairs this season. We attended Addison County Field Days where we did get some new members and handed out a lot of information to potential prospects. I want to thank everyone that volunteered for this, especially Karlene DeVine. We then hit the Rutland State Fair, it too was also quite a success. We did get some new membership applications and more prospects as well. We had a lot of compliments on the Legion Family being there and talking with folks on different subjects they asked about, such as benefits for being a Legion member and what was expected of them once they did join a local Post. Remember it's not about the canteen, it's about us supporting Veterans and families and our community. People were very pleased when I explained what we do and how we support our communities and Veterans in need. We all started as a new member once, just let them get their feet wet before you try to get them involved. Invite them to some events and show them what we do, once they see how active our Posts are, most will step up and get involved with the programs. Remember we are here to support them.

Department Commander Zickmund and I attended the Membership Workshop in Indianapolis. It was informative and interesting. I reported to the National team what my membership plan is for the year ahead and they liked my Round Table/Meeting ideas. It was a pleasure attending the workshop and I learned a vast amount of information to use.



(Dept. Commander J. Zickmund & Sr. Vice Cmdr. B. Brothers)

If your District has any events coming up let me know so we can put it in the bulletin, and if you need any help reach out to your Country and District Commanders or myself. As most of you know we had a lot of flooding all over the State this year again. The Northeast area was especially hit hard, and they have held events to help raise funds to support the communities there. I would like to thank the Legion Family for stepping up during this trying time and all that you do for your communities and Posts.

In closing just like say I am very proud of what our Legion Family has accomplished and done so far this year.

For God and County,

William "Bill" Brothers, Sr. Vice commander



NEC Representative

Tom Scanlon

Summer is winding down and the National Convention in New Orleans is on the near horizon. We will be having our final barbecues, boating excursions, as well as getting our children and grandchildren ready for the start of the new school year. So quickly summer has gone by. I can't say that my summer was uneventful. Three times in the hospital, however, I am still vertical.



When I received my Explanation of Benefits (EOB) from my insurance company I had sticker shock in that my doctors and hospitalization was over \$300,000.00. I was grateful for the insurance coverage I have. Keeping the above in mind I want to once again remind everyone about the Legionnaires Insurance Trust (LIT), and urge everyone to take advantage of this program. This is the benefit program that provides accidental death insurance to all members of the Legion Family, yes including the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion, of \$1,000 and \$5,000 if travelling on Legion business. THIS COVERAGE IS FREE TO ALL OUR MEMBERS, and we must tell them about it and get all signed up.

In addition to this free insurance there is a variety of other discounted insurance coverages available through the LIT. Included is the Hospital HELP Plan, Cancer Care, Emergency Assistance Plus, Medicare Supplemental Insurance, Health Insurance, Dental Insurance, Long Term Care Assistance, Medical Alert Service, ID Theft Insurance and coming soon discounted hearing aids. The LIT has paid benefits to Legionnaires and their families of over \$1 billion dollars, as well as providing financial support of nearly \$95 million dollars to support state department activities and VA&R efforts, not to mention providing financial recognition for departments and their innovative membership development efforts. At a recent meeting, the Departments of Michigan, Colorado, and Maine received \$10,000, \$5,000, and \$3,000 respectively for signing up members and reporting how they did it. We are missing something here. The word is not getting out about this important benefit.

Another freebie I wanted to remind everyone about is the Green Mountain Passport. This is a lifetime pass for Vermont residents 62 yrs. or older, or honorably discharged veterans. Good for lifetime free day entry into our beautiful state parks. Cost \$2 and available only from your local Town Clerk's office. Vermont has wonderful and beautiful state parks so get your passport and enjoy them.

Lastly, please take care and enjoy what little time is left of warm weather. Look out for your friends and neighbors and particularly our veterans.... Buddy Checks.... And remember, Kindness Matters. People don't always remember what you say or what you do, but they do most often remember how you made them feel.



Northern Area Commander – Robert Pearl

Greetings,

To all American Legion Posts who accept walkers and other items to aid disabled people, I greatly commend them for their service to assistance those in need. It is also a nice feeling for those who make donations, to know their donation of such equipment will continue to assist others.



However, a problem can develop with having a place to store them, when the incoming items exceed those already received and the storage area is full. Such is the present case with Post 91 Colchester. A solution is to offer this excess of equipment to any Post of organization who would be interested in helping to distribute these items. If you can assist, let me know and I will personally deliver the items to your location.

I can be reached at email bobp48@aol.com or phone 802-372-5882.

Respectfully,

Robert Pearl, No. Area Commander

Southern Area Commander – Fred Wilson

Hello Legionnaires,

Attending the 105th American Legion Nation Convention in New Orleans, LA from 23 to 29 August.

Will provide information when I return.

BE THE ONE. Each day, at least 17 veterans die by suicide. That is more than 6,000 each year. The rate of suicide for veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults. Ask a Veteran how are you are doing? Listen when a Veteran needs to talk. Reach out to a Veteran that is or may be struggling. VETERANS CRISIS LINE: Dial 988 then press 1, Text 838255.



Membership is our blood flow. Attended the American Legion booth at the Vermont State Fair to inform people of the Four Pillars of American Legion.

One veteran who we met was once turned down for membership and did not know that the membership requirements had been changed to include his active and honorable military service. Membership in The American Legion will be open to the following war periods: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941, to the date of cessation of armed hostilities as determined by the U.S. government. Ask just to be safe!

UP TO \$5,000.00 no cost to your accidental death insurance coverage. As a member of the Legion Family, you are now eligible for Legion Care. This coverage is an important coverage extended to valued Members – compliments of Your Department of The American Legion. You cannot be turned down, no matter how dangerous your job is or how often you travel. Plus, it pays benefits regardless of any other coverage you have. But it is not automatic – you must activate it. DO YOU DRIVE TO YOUR POST MEETINGS?

Every time you step into your car to go to your monthly Post meeting, you can rest assured your Legion Care coverage is on duty. That is because once you enroll in Legion Care, you are covered for \$5,000.00 in Accidental Death Protection while you are traveling to or from or participating in any covered event conducted for Legion business. And this is true if you travel for any covered Legion function – Department meetings, fundraisers, softball events, or any event conducted for Legion business. You are also covered for \$1,000.00 in protection for all other fatal covered accidents, all at NO COST to you.

Your beneficiary will collect cash benefits REGARDLESS of any other insurance and you cannot be singled out for a premium increase. Most important of all, this accident protection is issued through The Legionnaire Insurance Trust and endorsed by Your Department of The American Legion. When it comes to protecting your family's security, you should consider the insurance program that was carefully examined and endorsed by Your Department. Sign up today for the protection especially designed to help protect your family in case of your covered accidental death. Please click on <https://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare> to sign up.

Fred Wilson, Southern Area Commander

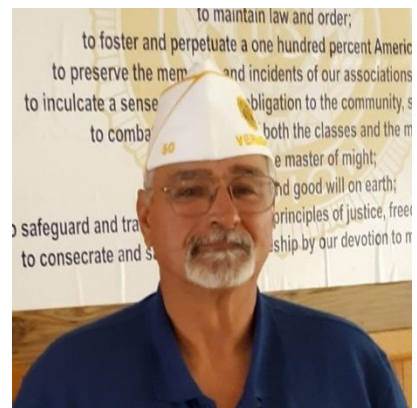
917-763-0354 or fredwilson2016@hotmail.com

Dept. Chaplain – Stephen Frost

Greetings fellow Legionnaires!

I am moved to take pause and reflect in the cusp of the Fall Season, on the previous successes of the year, thus far.

It has become ritual, for me, as God sees to my preparation for Winter, in a scurry of activity, I call, (euphemistically), packing my cheeks, much as a squirrel does in their naturally gifted preparation of the cold season.



As I mowed, recently, opening new pasture on our Howlin' Hound Farm, in Castleton, I became enamored of our first viable crop of heirloom apples! I uttered thanks, to God, for the PERFECT gift of sustenance, for my household and the numerous wild animals, who will undoubtedly enjoy these succulent morsels, as they fatten up, and hunker down, for their hibernation.

All around me, I found exciting gifts in nature, this season, to include many more songbird nests of varied species. The regeneration of a recently fallow wildflower meadow. A newly opened habitat which invited numerous deer and smaller species, who seem to be enjoying a robust rebound on the land. A wide variety of berries and exceptional wood growth, as well as VERY healthy crops of feedstocks, for pollinators, which seem to have blossomed late and extended our honeybee season, abound! We, (my wife, Cindy and I), are particularly pleased with this development.

My point is this.... Many of my friends and neighbors have found it easy to complain, of this year's weather. It became apparent, once again, through the suffering of man, God has provided. EACH of these "tiny" triumphs, have evinced a realization, that God's hand, holds us, near and dear. All of these improvements, speak to abundance for mankind, in the synergistic relationship, between Man and his/her environment. THIS is a cause for gratitude and celebration! Bread has, again, been cast upon our waters, and we have netted abundance in the measure of our need...Let us recognize, in each of our own circumstances, and micro-environments, the signs, before us, that we may REJOICE and be GLAD, for His Ever-Loving Hand, in our lives!

I encourage each of us to meditate and reflect on the TRUE impact of our trials. Focus on our hardest days and consider the ultimate outcome of our survival through loss, whether it be, our schedules were upset, or we lost real property, from flooding, or wind damage. Watch our landscape repair, in Natures imminent way of healing itself, by Gods Grand Design. He is our Eternal Creator! After some devastation and regrowth, He shows us our OWN strength to repair and regroup. He leads us to help each other, though, and surprises us, with something MUCH greater than our losses.

He restores our faith in each other, He leads us to Him, and He KNOWS our REAL need, and, for the price of asking, through prayer, there is NOTHING that we actually need, that He won't provide! I pray for ALL of you, my brothers and sisters, that we will continue to love each other and worship and TRUST our Divine Creator. God Bless you, All!

I will leave you with this prayer.

Eternal God and Creator, you are The Loving Provider, for ALL mankind. May we continue to ask for your help in guiding us with your Light and showing us the way to your Sacred Ways toward Salvation. We are grateful for your guiding hand, and your Loving embrace, as you carry us through the torrent of life on Earth. May we be worthy of your Selfless Love and spread your Gospel among ALL peoples of the world, Father. We pray this in your Holy Name, Amen.

Stephen Frost, Dept. Chaplain

Dept. Historian – Carl King

Hello legionnaires!

What a great time at the Addison County Field Days!

The Department of Vermont set up our booth/tent to distribute pamphlets, and other reference materials, also to recruit membership and get the word out about our organization and what we do for our veterans, their families, and our communities.



Those who attended are the Department Commander Joe Zickmund, Department Sr. Vice Commander Bill Brothers, Department Historian/Orleans County Commander/Adjutant Post 21 Carl P. King, Detachment Commander S.A.L. Brian Massey, Jr., Karlene DeVine, Oratorical Chair, Charith Zickmund wife of Commander Joe Zickmund, Department Adjutant Brian Markwell. If I have missed anyone I apologize.

All volunteers were very informative, engaging, and really took the time to interact and listen as well. They talked about services, youth, Americanism, baseball, Boys State, oratorical, etc. Many veteran families were not aware that they can also honor their grandfather or fathers service, by becoming a member of the Sons of the American Legion and many joined because we got the information out to them! That is the key. "The more you know, the more you grow".



L to R Karlene DeVine, Charith Zickmund, Dept. Commander J. Zickmund & Detachment Commander B. Massey, Jr.

Commander Zickmund also took the time to visit our armed forces who were set up at the event outside in their respective tents/displays. He met with Vermont Air Guard recruitment personnel and discussed ways of gaining more soldiers to the Legion and how to keep them. Each shared many nuggets the Commander could take away and start implementing. He next met with the Vermont National Guard personnel who also shared stories and ways to help garner Legion recruitment.



L to R: Karlene DeVine, Dept. Commander J. Zickmund & Charith Zickmund

They also had physical activities and contests too. Lastly known, but not confirmed, Department Historian/Orleans County Commander/Adjutant Post21 Carl King was the record holder for pull-ups!



Historian Carl King & Dept. Cmdr. Zickmund



Carl King, Miss Vermont Meara Seery, Karlene DeVine

Congratulations on representing the Department of Vermont and ALL legionnaires! The day and night went well. And the festivities were capped off by a fireworks display.

Department of Vermont Adjutant Brian Markwell and the office Administrator Melodie Ashford-McGrath were kind enough to present a Post Adjutant Training course at Montpelier Post 3 on Saturday, August 17th 10 am-1pm. There was very useful information provided both orally, in print, and video that is crucial to the efficient operation of a Post. Adjutant Battle Books were provided to the Post Adjutants in attendance. The Adjutant is the most important position at a Post. And is much like the first sergeant. It was well attended; a wonderful lunch was provided and the information provided was exceptional.



Dept. Commander J. Zickmund, Ron Schoolcraft Post 9, Arne Phillips Post 14 attend training



Attendees from Post 33, Post 10, Post 28, Post 13, Post 91, Post 39, Post 88 in Adjutants Training

Let's wish Commander Zickmund and Sr. Vice Commander Bill Brothers, their wives and the Vermont Delegation attending National Convention in New Orleans safe travel, good times and safe return. We salute...

Carl P. King, Department Historian, Orleans Cty. Cmdr., & Post 21 Adjutant

3rd District Commander – Christopher Wood

Hello from District Three. Our communities in Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties are experiencing Groundhog Day as we once again deal with the effects of heavy rainfall and flooding. We have all had to beef up our buddy checks as we ensure everyone is safe, and we look to make sure our neighbors don't need our help due to flooded homes and belongings.



The start of the membership year means resetting quotas, dealing with dues increases, and wrapping our heads around multiyear renewals. As the Assistant Director of the Vermont Legion Riders, we are in the middle of riding season, and it has been exciting for me to participate in the first annual Vermont Legacy Ride and work with my home chapter to raise funds for local students and The Veterans Home in Northfield. The summer goes by fast and is filled with lots of activity. Try to enjoy it!

In the past I have written about how each county is doing on membership and then highlighted what the American Legion does for you, and this time I want to combine the two and talk about doing something that gives prospective members a reason to join us. We do a really good job doing things that support the four pillars by raising funds to support Veterans, Children, Americanism, and National Security as we give our members rides to the VA, send our members' kids to Conservation Camp, put out flags, and do POW/MIA ceremonies.

We can tell Veterans about all this work to highlight our activities, but the cliché is that talk is cheap. Reach out to these prospective members and offer to help them even though they are not members of our organization. Offer to help them get enrolled in VA, sign up their kids to go to camp, buy them a flag to fly at their home, or invite them to be a part of your ceremonies. Maybe a focus on including a non-member in your activities will lead to them becoming a member.



5th District Commander – Lew Graham

Greetings to District 5

I am glad to report that I am off to the National Convention tomorrow. It is always uplifting to see what this great organization does in a year and celebrate with friends.

Recently I have spoken with our VA representative, and we would like to renew the barbeque the Legion put on each fall for veterans and staff at the VA in White River Junction. Legion Family members volunteer to provide the grills and do the cooking. It was always a fun time and greatly appreciated by all. If you think this would be a good idea, or would like to volunteer, please drop me a note or call. I will be reporting on the proposal at Fall Conference. The funding for the food is supplied from the Vermont Veterans Assistance fund and donations.

If there are any forms or other material you would like me to pick up for you at National, please give me a call. 802-279-0441.

The Southern Area Commander and I would like to improve communications and training. District meetings will be coming up, please suggest a topic of interest or let us know any questions. We are also available to stop by a Post meeting or schedule one-on-one.

This cool weather surely means fall is coming with great opportunities to promote the Legion at community events. Membership is everyone's responsibility. There are some good challenges out there. I hope to see you all at the Fall Conference.

For God and Country,

Lew Graham
District 5 Commander



Essex County Commander – Scott Leigh

Greetings Legionnaires,
I hope everyone has recovered from floods that we had this past month. As we enter into this new year, once again memberships are going to be a challenge.

We are all recruiters for our Posts. Please tell our stories of what we do and services we perform. If we all work together, we can hit our goals. Please contact me at 603-331-2485 if you have issues, problems or events you would like me to attend. Have a good remainder of your summer.

For God and Country
Bless our Troops and Veterans
Essex County Commander
Scott Leigh



Bennington Post 13 – Dolores Krawczyk

9/11/24 "Remembrance Ceremony" at the local Walmart (Bennington). Parking will be directed by security. Seating will be available and Refreshments available to the public.

Department Service Officer Larry Thompson will be at the American Legion Post 13 on September 13th. 10 am till Do you have questions for him, stop in.

Bennington Post 13 "Clam Bake" 9/14/24 \$50 per person or \$25 if they are having Burgers and/or hot dogs. There will be a live Band "Ransom Note " for your entertainment.

Dolores Krawczyk
2nd Vice Commander
Post 13



Mark Your Calendars - Upcoming Events

Your Post Directory! Is in the works!

National Convention, New Orleans, LA August 21 – 29, 2024

September mylegion.org Training

Ballard Hobart Post 36

Date TBD

The National Commander is coming to Vermont!!! He will be attending our Fall Conference

Fall Conference “Back to the Basics”

October 19th, 2024 – 9 am to 3 pm

Vergennes Post 14

October 18th National Commander Jim LaCoursiere Banquet (Middlebury 27)

Information will be forth coming!

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

Bushey, Donald.....01	Hubbard, John42
Honsinger, Frederick01	Raymond, Larry ... 42
Baisley, Royal13	Smith, Richard 52
Reed, Dan13	Christopher, Edward ... 60
Snow, Jr., Frank13	Gamboa, Robert ... 63
Nickerson, George....13	Worth, Thomas 80
Lasher, William 14	Collins, Russell ... 87
Palmer, Wayne 14	Brown, Fred 91
Meader, Bruce ... 14	Demers, Andre 91
Hunnewell, Charles ... 26	Baker, Harold 100
Manning, Donald ... 33	Brouillard, Gerard ... 100
Disorda, Maurice 39	
Crann, Geoffrey ... 42	



Membership event at 2024 Addison County Fair & Field Days

Thank you to all Legion Family that volunteered including the DSO, Larry Thompson and Rick Daigle, Vermont Veterans Outreach.

Lessons learned from last year were applied to this year and more lessons from this year were noted. Caught more kids with the spinning wheel of numbers; kids like to spin the wheel for a prize. But it gave the parents time to talk to one of our volunteers and sign membership applications. Not so many Vietnam Vets stopped by this year.

We took completed membership applications this year and rewarded the applicant with their choice from a selection of challenge coins and pins. We retained the applications and coin/pin. These will be delivered to the receiving American Legion Post. When the applicant arrives to pay the dues, they will receive the coin/pin that they selected. Thank you all that contributed to this collection of challenge coins and pins.



(Dept. Commander Zickmund & wife Charith)

The volunteers that worked at the booth are premier examples of committed Legion Family—enthusiastic and knowledgeable of Legion activities. When a new member arrives at your post, please greet them with the enthusiasm and interest they experienced at the county fair. The first impression many get when visiting a Post is the backs of everyone sitting at the bar. Please do not let this be the first impression that your new members get. Even consider a special event where all new members come at one time to be greeted by the Post Commander, Unit President and SAL Commander. Provide them with a current calendar of Post activities and a list of annual events like the Birthday Dinner. Give them social time to become an integrated member of your post. How about a mentor?

Many applications were handed out. Please let Bill Brothers know if you receive any applications from other than me or Bill. Those most likely came from the 2 fairs we did or Post 91 at the Champlain Valley Fair. Final tally:

Auxiliary	8 completed applications (27, 55, 10,19,14, 31)
Legion	4 completed applications (27, 31, 91)
SAL	1 completed applications (91)

Heard from fair visitors and should be remembered by all of us: "I have been to the fish fry at Post 14 regularly, "and not once have I been asked to join." One woman was the daughter of a Post member, and he had never suggested she join the Auxiliary. As people walked by, we put out the questions, "Have you ever served?" "Did your parents or grandparents serve?" To an affirmative second question, we replied, "Did you know that you could join the American Legion?" At least 80% of respondents were not aware they were eligible to join the Legion. I think that is why we had more Auxiliary applications completed. - For American Veterans

Karlene DeVine

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL: AMERICAN LEGION POST MT. MANSFIELD POST 35

*WRITTEN BY
CARROT-TOP INDUSTRIES
PUBLISHED ON
JULY 18TH, 2024*

At Carrot-Top, we understand the significance of the American flag in honoring the brave heroes who serve our country. We aim to help communities nationwide commemorate our veterans and active-duty military by supplying the highest-quality American flags and patriotic products.

We recently had the privilege of speaking with **Charles J. Guyette, the Commander of American Legion Post VT 0035**. Carrot-Top is proud of its role in helping create the Veterans' Memorial in Jeffersonville, Vermont.



This new project began on Veterans Day 2023 with the display of around 50 flags and has since grown. The memorial is displayed a few times a year during patriotic holidays like Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and the 4th of July.

During the 4th of July in 2024, American Legion Post 0035 displayed 98 American flags. Community members could pay \$120 to dedicate one of the flags to a loved one who served our country. Attached to each flag is a card with the name of the veteran and the sponsor. After receiving widespread community support, the post hopes to get sponsors for an additional 52 flags. Their goal is to display up to 140 flags in honor of Veterans Day.

Those who wish to create a similar display in their town can purchase our all-inclusive 9' spinning flagpole kit. This flagpole kit comes with a 3' x 5' nylon U.S. flag, a 9' spinning flagpole, and easy-to-install hardware. Included components make displaying your patriotism simple. Shop now or contact us to learn how our products can help you display American pride today!

Interview with Charles J. Guyette, Commander of American Legion Post 35 Vermont

Carrot-Top: How did you come up with the idea to do the memorial with 98 flags?

Charles J. Guyette: Probably a year ago, David Jescavage, the administrative officer for the town of Cambridge, came looking for somebody to start up this project. Swanton, Vermont...they have a very similar thing. They have maybe a hundred flags in Swanton, Vermont. They also get all of their flags from Carrot-Top. He's the one that recommended starting something here and recommended Carrot-Top. I brought it up to our post and we decided that we were going to do 40 flags, hoping we would sell all 40.

We put it out to the community to have the flags sponsored. It covers putting a card on the flag with a veteran and who sponsored it. The flags are placed out there for Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and the 4th of July, and they stay in the town hall of Cambridge when they're not being used.

We ended up getting a bunch of extra requests and we actually had more sponsors than we had flags, so we ordered another 14. We had 54, I believe. We got even more people reaching out. They saw the flags out in the large field that used to be a lumber yard that has since closed. The village of Jeffersonville took it over, and it's just green space. Route 15, which runs through here, is the Grand Army of the Republic Highway, so it's named after the veterans' group from the Civil War.

The town of Cambridge has one of the only Grand Army of the Republic monuments in town, so it's sort of fitting that we have that military history and the close ties to the community with that monument in Cambridge.

So, we put out the 52 flags and got a ton of responses. Our American Legion post also worked on rehabbing World War I and World War II monuments that we have in Jeffersonville. We raised money to clean it and to patch it and fix it up for the 100th anniversary of the dedication to the town. 1923, it was dedicated to the town. We had the flags in the silo area. We dedicated the monument to the town and had more good publicity for our post.

After that, we kept getting requests for more sponsors. We ended up getting 98 flags sponsored for the 4th of July. That's when we reached out to you guys and got an additional 42. So, we have a total of 140 flags. 42 that are not sponsored that are still waiting to go out in that field. 140 will give us a giant presentation and a good layout with the amount of space that we have.

Carrot-Top: Why did your Post choose to work with Carrot-Top?

Guyette: Value: all the flags are made in the US. We weren't getting rip-off Chinese flags. The poles that you guys' recommended swivel so they wouldn't get caught up and blown down. Good quality and American company.

Carrot-Top: How was Carrot-Top able to help you execute your vision?

Guyette: Yeah, you guys did a great job with getting a quote and getting timely service back. I reached out and talked to Wanda and she's the one that got me in touch with you and the sales manager. I talked to her probably three times, and she remembered me. It was cool that a woman that I had talked to twice remembered me. Wanda was great, and the sales manager was great. He got me back in touch with Wanda and made it, so it was really seamless and really easy to work with. And you know, the product's great. And the reception, or how everything is viewed with all those flags out there with the mountain in the back...it just looks awesome.

Carrot-Top: What kind of response did you get from the community?

Guyette: People were very excited to see us out there putting the flags out. Right on Route 15, the highway that runs by, we had people waving, honking their horns, yelling out to us. Just happy to see patriotism out there and Old Glory out in that field looking good. So, it was pretty good. We've had non-stop requests to sponsor more flags. That's why the project kept getting even larger. We had the local news media come out and talk to the vice commander for the Post.

Interesting History Piece

Submitted to Department HQs by anonymous Email – A good read!

THE SIGNIFICANT OF DECORATION DAY

We have just passed through a great war – perhaps the greatest war that history has ever known. We can remember America before this war, a little different than it is today. It was then a great and united nation, speaking one tongue, owing allegiance to one flag. Our interests varied throughout the length and breadth of our land but as a people we thought as one. We had, and still have, but one common interest, and that is America.

We, of this generation, cannot visualize the United States in 1861. We cannot appreciate, we do not realize, the difference in the nation as it was at that time – the bitter sectionalism that existed, the placing of state rights above national rights, the utter lack of national unity. America was only a name. Our flag was but a bit of colored cloth, unknown to thousands, respected by few, a symbol of patriotism to but a handful. We were a young nation, not yet taken our place among the countries of the world. Our territory extended from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. It was divided into states as it is today; but the southern states were grouped together, and the northern states were grouped together. Their ways were not the same ways; their industries were not the same industries; their institutions, and the interests, were not the same institutions nor the same interests. A true national sentiment, patriotism, there was none.

The South admitted no reality to the federal government; the North was just discovering that federal rights must be put above state rights, and that a strong national unity must be had if we were to take our place among the nations. The South preferred to further their individual rights at the expense of the whole nation, and they suffered war to attain their selfish desires. Coming at this period in the growth of the young nation, a Civil War threatened to destroy all that eighty years had accomplished. Should the two sections separate, both would lose the independence which had been so dearly gained four generations before, and we might again become mere colonies of European powers. And to preserve that independence, and to maintain our country as a separate nation, the North accepted the challenge to a Civil War.

The men of the North responded to the call of country. They willingly and freely went to war to keep and maintain that nation which their forefathers had won for them. They fought to overthrow sectionalism forever, to keep this a truly united people and to make our country a single nation, united for all time.

For four long years they continued the bitter struggle, suffering defeat and discouragement, undergoing hardships and privations, fighting against handicaps and misfortunes, with no thought of giving up until their purpose had been achieved. They did not give up. And to the

sacrifices they made and to the Victory they won, America today owes its existence as a Nation undivided and powerful, a dominant factor in world affairs.

It is to that Union Army of 1861 to 65 that we must give thanks for our United States of today. Was it not for their hard-won victory, who can tell what might have been our present lot? Who knows but that today we might be a colony of a European power? What hope could we have had of attaining our present size, our wealth, our predominant position among the world nations? How could we have raised an army of four million men, which in 1918 was the deciding factor in the World War?

No war can be won without the sacrifice of life. The price of victory is the loss of the nation's young manhood. No honor can be higher than to give one's life for his country; and a nation can have no more sacred obligation than the honoring of those who died that that nation might live. It is due their memory that the nation should join in honoring those heroic dead. It is for this sacred purpose that Memorial Day has been set aside, and for the honoring of those dead we are assembled here today. As years go by, events lose their significance; our memory of things of the past grows dimmer and we soon forget the happenings of yesterday. So today the Civil War is history, a story to be read in books. Memorial Day is a yearly holiday, and its true significance is realized by few.

This condition is regrettable, and it is unfair to those still living who had a part in that struggle that their glorious achievements should be nearly forgotten. It is sad indeed that so few of the veterans of that great war are with us today. No less is it our duty to bow in reverence to the dead of the Army of the Union that it is incumbent upon us to render homage to those few living survivors of that Army. To the members of the Grand Army of the Republic we pay our tribute today. To them is due the honor and homage of the nation.

It is perhaps well to recall the debt which we owe to this organization, to recollect some of the great and lasting benefits which have accrued to our land through their efforts.

When the Army of the Union was disbanded and its soldiers returned to their homes, they took with them new ideas and new conceptions of their country. For the first time in their lives they had intimately associated with men from other sections of the United States. They had acquired a wider vision of their own land, their outlook had been broadened, they had caught a glimpse of the magnitude of their country. They had learned the value of common endeavor, the need of national unity. They had learned that their first duty was to their country, and they placed that duty above all. To them American had come to mean more than a name, their flag more than a piece of bunting. American was themselves and they were America.

Through their suffering and their sacrifices, they had created a new United States. They had gone to war with a territory composed to two distinct factions; a land divided against itself. They brought a disunited people together into a harmonious whole, a give those people an ideal for which to live. By their suffering, they had built up a national unity which had there-to-fore been lacking. By their blood, they had created a patriotism which had never before existed.

And this great body of men determined that future generations should never be confronted with such problems as they had. They were determined that there should be but one United

States on this continent, that but one flag should fly over the people of this nation. They were determined that this country, which they had united, should forever remain united – “one country, indivisible. To ensure that the flame of patriotism, which they had kindled, should not die out, and that love of country should be inculcated in every citizen in the future, the Grand Army of the Republic was formed. Composed only of those men, who had fought to preserve the Union, no organization could be more capable of preserving that Union than they. Those who fought for union in time of war stood for country in time of peace. Their patriotism had been tried on the field of battle; surviving that test, it would survive the trials of peace.

To instill into the hearts of the National patriotism and a sense of obligation to country, the Grand Army of the Republic dedicated itself, and since its foundation it has worked unceasingly to that end. For three generations, they have been spreading the lesson of patriotism throughout the length and breadth of the land. Through their efforts, a flag was placed on every schoolhouse in the land, that the youth of American might from its earliest days learn to know the emblem of their country and to know for what it stood, its meaning, its significance, its sacredness. Children were taught the history of their country, and they learned the principles upon which their national was founded. Patriotism was instilled into their hearts from their earliest years, and they learned to realize their sacred obligation to their country.

For three score years, the Grand Army of the Republic, has been the jealous guardian of our national honor. Carefully have they watched lest it be sullied and guarded that it be maintained on its high plane. In all history few organizations have wielded such power in the government of a nation. None have used that power more unselfishly for their nation’s good. With them, all was for state. As they gave their youth, that their country might be made strong and powerful, so they devoted their manhood to keeping it strong and powerful,

And so successfully was this lesson learned, so thoroughly was patriotism ingrained into the hearts of the nation, so strong our bonds of unity, that when the call came for another war, the nation entered it as one man. Every man, every state, every section, submerged personal and local interests into the common welfare. Differences were forgotten, grievances were overlooked, individual welfare was disregarded by the demand for the nation’s welfare, and we presented a solid and united front against the enemy. And we can trace this growth of patriotism to the teachings and example of the Union Army learned by war, by the suffering they endured, by the hardships they bore, by the victory they won.

For three score years they have taught us, and by their example, they have shown us, how to reverence and serve this country of ours. To the native-born they have set an example by their devoted patriotism. To the immigrant who has come to our shores, they have taught the message of America and made of him an American, and a patriot. Through their efforts and their teachings and their example they have helped bring about the assimilation of a hundred nationalities into our American people, whose loyalty to the land of their adoption was proven many times over in our last war. Verily, that spark of patriotism which kindled in 1865 did not die out but has grown into a mighty flame.

Today we are beset with many unusual problems; conditions have arisen which were undreamed of a few years ago; great changes have taken place in this world; our thoughts, our institutions, our ideas, are different; the future is full of uncertainties. But if we are to remain great and

powerful to maintain our leadership in the world, to progress and not go backward, we must stand firm and true behind our government. Our loyalty, our devotion, our patriotism, are being tested. Have we enough patriotism, a strong enough unity of spirit, enough devotion to country, to bring us safely through these troubled times, remains to be seen. That successor to the Grand Army of the Republic, the American Legion, has a wondrous opportunity before it. Can it keep alive in the hearts of the nation that patriotism, that unity of purpose, that devotion to American which has been our heritage from the Army of the Union, then will they be worthy to follow in the footsteps of that Grand Army,

One of the earliest acts of the Grand Army of the Republic was the setting aside of one day each year for the honoring of their dead. On this Memorial Day they turned their thoughts, and the thoughts of the whole nation, to the memory of their comrades who had died. Down through the years they have kept the observance of this day their most solemn duty, a duty growing more tender and sacred with each succeeding year. The time is near at hand when they can no longer attend to this loved task, and it due them that their country should keep up this custom which they have established. It is but fitting that their successors should take over this duty which they have so faithfully and lovingly performed. We may safely trust this solemn duty to these younger men, for the American Legion has also it's honored dead. Those who fell at Chateau-Thievery gave their lives for the same country as those who fell at Gettysburg. They had common cause – they gave their lives for the same ideal – their country. Their country mourns them both – accords them both the same need of praise.

For many years we will remember the dead of our last war – they and their deeds are too fresh in our memory to forget. We shall recall the achievements of that army – its victories, it's services to the nation. We shall humbly bow in reverence to these dead. But let us never forget the great debt which we owe the memory of that Union Army of 1861. With the passing of the survivors of our Civil War, we become liable to neglect their memory, and we forget to whom Memorial Day was first dedicated. Let us not, in our just duty to the men of the World War, forget our duty to the men of the rebellion. This day shall always be a Memorial Day to the honor and glory of the Grand Army of the Republic. For the America for which men laid down their lives in 1916 was saved to them by the sacrifices of the men of 61.

L. E. Snell

May 29, 1921

St. Evansville. N.Y.