



AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

Department Headquarters
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www.vtlegion.org

December 2024

Bulletin

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

Department Commanders Message – Joseph Zickmund

Department Sr. Vice Commander Message – William Brothers

Mid-Winter Banquet & Hotel Info

Commander Zickmund Projects Flyer

Adjutants Membership Challenge

Department Commander

Joseph Zickmund

Legionnaires,

As we prepare to close out another eventful year, we look back with wonder and appreciation for all the good works of our Vermont Legionnaire family. Oftentimes what we do goes unnoticed and unmeasured but is so vital to the wellbeing of our veterans and communities.

Every day, we unselfishly give of ourselves, our time, and our resources. We raise money and commit effort in support of the Four Pillars of the American Legion: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth. Through our home Posts, we support our communities and neighbors. Because of the scores of volunteers who work tirelessly and without complaint, we touch the lives of so many people.



It's not always easy — this work can deplete you, but we are undaunted...we return, time and again, knowing that what we do matters. What we do makes a difference and what we do is vital to our veterans and communities.

On behalf of The Department of Vermont, I thank you for your devotion, your energy, your ideas, and your inspiration. May you and yours experience the peace and tranquility of these holidays, knowing that our community, state, and nation are stronger because of you.

With thanks,

Joe Zickmund
Commander, Dept. of VT



Senior Vice Commander – William Brothers

Hello again, I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and safe travels. We are doing ok on membership, let's keep the steady flow going. I know it is December and Christmas is around the corner, but we still need to get the renewals done.

We have held three Membership Round Tables as of now and have been able to get over 50 members off of the DMS list. I have rescheduled the District 3 Round Table for January 5th at Post 3 in Montpelier from Noon to 2 P.M. I hope we can contact more members off of the list and keep the momentum going, again thank you to everyone that helped at the other three Roundups we have completed.



On another note, I had the pleasure to attend the State House Tree Lighting in Montpelier along with the Commander Erroll Briggs from Post 10 and SAL NEC, PDC Steve England and his wife Lisa and the Auxiliary Unit 10 President Shannon Capron from Post 10. It was a great event, and a great turnout of spectators attended along with our State Governor. I had the pleasure of talking with him.



As you all know we have our Mid-Winter Conference coming up and I am hoping to see a lot of you in attendance. We do have a dignitary coming this year, he is the Eastern Division

NVC from New Jersey, his name is Charles Robbins, and I am looking forward to meeting with him.

Today my Post, Fair Haven Post 49, held a Pearl Harbor Ceremony in our Monument Park. We had a great turn out and I thank our Post 49 Color Guard. Let's not forget to get our Consolidate Post Reports done and submitted on time. If anyone needs help in doing this, let me know, I can assist you. I hope our Country Commanders are doing the Post Evaluations when they are doing their Post visits. Thank you for what you do for our great organization.

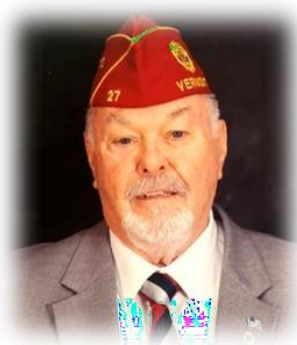
I am scheduling a Zoom Meeting for the Children and Youth Committee along with the Americanism Committee tentatively on January 8th at 7 p.m., to discuss a project before the Convention. I would like to do another poster contest, and have it completed so we can present the winners at this summer's Convention.

Thank you all again for what you do, I hope you all have a great and a Merry Christmas, safe travels to anyone traveling.

For God and Country,

Bill Brothers, Sr. Vice Commander

NEC, PDC – Tom Scanlon



2024 is coming to an end and we are into the holiday season. Let us not forget our veterans, senior citizens, neighbors, family, and friends. Reach out and ensure all are well, both physically and mentally. This is so important, particularly during this time of year. Also remember and pray for the separated families, as a result of military service and deployments.

Each year most of us make resolutions for the upcoming new year. Do not just address your personal goals but include your goals as pertains to the American Legion. What are you going to do to obtain new membership to strengthen our great organization? What are you intending to do to promote all of the great Legion programs? What are you going to do to support our veterans? Are you volunteering at your post and in your community? I could go on and create an almost endless list, but I think you get my point. Set some attainable goals for the next year and work towards making a difference.

Reach out and thank our service men and women who keep our nation strong. Remember, to honor our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when called upon to serve and protect their country. Keep them all in your prayers. I will keep all of you in my prayers.

Lastly, please take care and enjoy this holiday season. 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.

PLEASE HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY AND NEW YEAR



Department Adjutant – Brian Markwell

There is lots to do before Mid-Winter Conference...Here's your checklist of what you need to do before Jan 17th!

1. Purchase your Banquet tickets for the Mid-Winter Conference.... The price per person is \$40.00 (hotel cost) Dinner and socializing, can't beat that price.
2. Make reservations for Mid-Winter. Call the Hampton Inn by Hilton in Colchester (See the enclosed flyer for more information.)
3. All Department Chairman with budget needs contact the Finance Committee by email PRIOR to Mid-Winter. Your contact for Mid-Winter Finance is Dave Cobb, he is the Assistant F.O. while Dennis Minoli is in Florida. Dennis, of course, should be cc'd on your emails. Be prepared to discuss what your programs needs are and why, if the Finance Committee asks.
4. The Agenda for Mid-Winter is in its final stages and will be sent to you ASAP. It will include the speakers scheduled for the banquet and the Conference. If you are on the agenda, please be prepared to speak about the future of your

programs and what we will be expecting for the remainder of the year. Almost every Committee is scheduled to have the Chair speak, so be prepared.

5. All Posts are encouraged to attend the Mid-Winter Conference!
6. Department HQ's hours of operation over the holidays are as follows:

Christmas: Closed Dec 20th
Open Dec 23rd
Closing at Noon Dec 24th
Closed Dec 25th
Closed Dec 26th
Open Dec 27th!!!

New Years: Closing at Noon Dec 31st
Closed Jan 1st
Closed Jan 2nd
Open Jan 3rd!!!

Your Department Executive Secretary - Melodie and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the incoming New Year!

Northern Area Commander – Robert Pearl

Greetings,

Recently our Department Commander Joe Zickmund pointed out that the value of the National American Legion's Basic Training course, is that it would be great for our members to take the course, as it would serve well as talking points. I thoroughly agree and complement our Commander for pointing this out.



The course is well worth taking. It really covers the history and programs of the American Legion well. For those of us who have wondered what National does for our local Posts, other than to collect and raise dues, this course documents all the efforts and successes for Veterans and their families that have occurred from the efforts made by the American Legion.

I took the course a few years ago and recently retook it. There wasn't much change, but it was a good review and up to date changes. The course has made me more knowledgeable and able to answer questions posed to me by members of the Posts I visit, about the American Legion, (that I otherwise wouldn't have known). The course is free for members. It's a chance to get something back for the dues we pay.

Very respectfully,

Robert Pearl, No. Area Commander

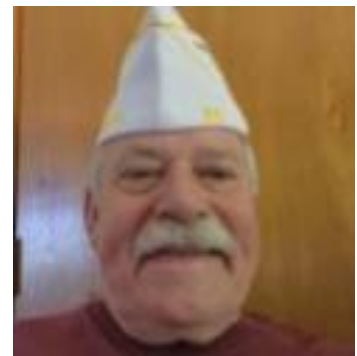
Also, it's great to see that Larry Hart will resume the position as Orange County Commander AND congratulations to Larry for his election to the Vermont State Senate!

Southern Area Commander – Fred Wilson

Hello Legionnaires,

Important upcoming dates are December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, December 14th at 3PM, Army/Navy Game, (GO NAVY), and December 20th, Space Force Birthday.

Registration start date for the 100th season of American Legion baseball is 1/1/2025.



"RESOLVED: That the American Legion ... inaugurate and conduct baseball leagues and tournaments for local championships, and that local champion determined by the competitions be given opportunity to compete in departmental, sectional and regional tournaments, and that a junior world series championship baseball series be conducted at each national convention."

January 15th, 2025, is the 80% membership target date. Membership is our blood line.

The American Legion Mid-Winter Conference will be held on Friday and Saturday January 17th and 18th, 2025 at the Hampton by Hilton, Burlington-Colchester, Vermont. The Mid-Winter Conference Banquet will start at 6PM on Friday, January 17th, 2025. The deadline for registration is January 10th, 2025, for banquet.

Do you need a Trust or a Will?

Trust: A legal entity that allows you to designate a trustee to manage your assets while you are alive and after your death, offering more flexibility in distribution and potential for avoiding probate.

Will: A simple document that directs how your assets are distributed after your death, ideal for most people with straightforward estates and minor children where you need to designate guardians.

What will “Be the One” achieve?

At its core, The American Legion is activating a national platform to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. The Be the One campaign will: Destigmatize asking for mental health support. Create opportunities for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need. Provide peer-to-peer support and resources in local communities

For GOD and Country. Veterans have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

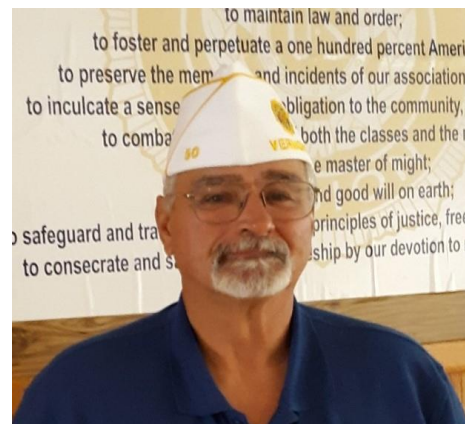
Fred E. Wilson, Jr. Southern Area Commander,

2fredwilson@gmail.com. Text or call 917-763-0354.

Dept. Chaplain – Stephen Frost

Good tidings and holiday greetings, American Legion Family!

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Christmas season is upon us, as is, year-end. Too often, it seems, we ramp up our activities, vigorously working to shop for gifts, close out the books on business, plan for the next year, elect insurance benefits, and promise to be kind to ourselves and others, as stress begins to mount.



May I encourage all, to take a step back, and breathe.... practice relaxation and meditation and reflect on the birth of The Son of God, Jesus. He was born in a time of stress and frenetic activity, His mother, having travelled far, for the gathering of the census, and struggling for a place to rest. Despite the circumstances, the outcome was MIRACULOUS!

Let us parallel the wonderment and beauty of that occasion, by embracing the struggles that face us, the demands we and others put upon us, and find the time to witness the miracles around us. Treasure the moments and memories, be gracious and giving of gratitude, and know that God is clearing our path for the future and nurturing the needs of today. Give your stress to Him and enjoy your time with loved ones.

May God Bless each and every one of you, eternally.

Dept. Historian – Carl King

Well, tis the season. Old man winter is here!

It has been quite a year to say the least.

I have seen a lot of new places and met and seen a lot of new faces. I have gained joy and pleasure in both. I am thankful for it all.

With the holidays upon us and the upcoming new year in mind, I want to invite ALL of our POSTS, SAL and AUX members to start sharing and Post holiday photos and New Years events, so we all can enjoy these moments together. It will help strengthen our bond and show others what we are, who we are. " It's our history, let's make it great "

I also want to encourage everyone to keep a look out for those who are struggling whether it being alone, financial, food insecurities or mental health and could use help. Step Up! It is our duty to lift up those who can no longer themselves continue fighting a battle...

I want to wish everyone a very safe Merry Christmas. And a Happy New Year!!! May Y'all experience the 4 F's of life: Family, Friends, Food, and Fun.

Respectfully,

Carl P. King
Department Historian
carlking73@yahoo.com
802-323-7670



1st District Commander – Victor Stone

The holiday season is upon us once again. A great time to enjoy family and friends and reflect on this year's past events.

As far as membership goes, District One Posts are in aggregate at 69% of goal. Good progress to date but keep the pedal to the metal until we achieve our assigned targets.



As you will see elsewhere in this Bulletin there are many events in front of us: Mid-Winter Conference, Oratorical Program and Membership Training just to name a few. This year I urge all Posts to promote the Oratorical Constitutional Speech Contest. It is amazing what students prepare as they study and think about the basic founding document of our country, Americanism at its best.

On behalf of the ten Posts comprising District one we wish all Vermont Legionnaires a peaceful and refreshing Christmas and New Year Holidays. We hope you and yours are blessed with good health and happiness.

3rd District Commander – Christopher Wood

Hello from District Three. Time flies and we are almost to the end of 2024, so our communities in Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties are starting to focus on yearend celebrations while we close up the last membership year. This seems like the busiest time of year while we shop for Christmas, complete our Post evaluations, and get ready for the Mid-Winter Conference.



Don't forget to reach out and "be the one" for Veterans and their family members who might be struggling during this difficult time of the year. This is a good time of year to look at your membership numbers closely and see if any non-renewals jump out at you odd and take stock of how many new members have or have not joined your Post. Every member is a gift.

We are just a month away from our 80% target date, and we all know how difficult it is to get that last 20% of our quota. Johnson Post 46 in Lamoille County continues to lead District 3 with a steady 94% of their quota, but the last 6% might be the toughest to get. Norwich University Post 1819 loses the second spot to Chelsea Post 61 who has 93% of their quota with Post 1819 moving to a tight third spot race with 87%. This makes

representation of each County in the District for the top three spots. Norwich University Post 1819 continues to lead the district with an additional new member bringing their total to 14 this year. So far, the Posts in Orange and Lamoille County have been able to dig up 1 new member each for their Posts. See you all at Mid-Winter

Christopher Wood, 3rd Dist. Commander

4th District Commander – William Charron

The Fourth District has been very busy this Holiday Season taking care of our local communities via dinners and breakfast.

We're driving to help our Veteran community and our Legion family.

We would like to extend a holiday greeting to all of you.



5th District Commander – Lewis Graham

Greetings to District 5 and the rest of the Legion Family

The snow has finally come and some of us are ushering in the Happy Holidays and counting down to Christmas, while others may not be greeting the season with such enthusiasm. I am making a special request for each of our posts to reach out and offer any assistance to the veterans and families in their community to make the months ahead a little easier in any way they can. A salute to the Ludlow Post for getting a jump on their helping hand and sending their holiday gift giving this past week.

The schedule and information for Mid-Winter Conference is out for reference. It will be in Colchester like last year and again the rates are quite reasonable for these times. It is always nice to get together and catch up on Legion business and with friends we seldom see at other times. I hope to see you there.



I was pleased to see that there may be a contestant from District 5 this year for the Oratorical Contest. For anyone interested in helping out, with judging or even just attending, information is available at <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/oratorical-contest/oratorical-contest-resources> . These young people are amazing.

We are still in need of a Windsor County Commander to fill out the remainder of the term. Both the Southern Area Commander and I will be happy to help you fill this important position. It is a good way to keep in touch with the veteran community in your area and work our mission. Please consider stepping up.

Don't forget the 100th year of Legion Baseball is this summer. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the celebration!

Give me a call if you have any concerns, ideas for programs, or if I can help in any way.

For God and Country
Lew Graham
District 5 Commander
802-279-0441

Franklin County Commander – Phil Pearo

The Post Evaluations are done and we all did well, it's always a pleasure joining in on the Post meetings and I do my best to share information from the State Commander and the main office.

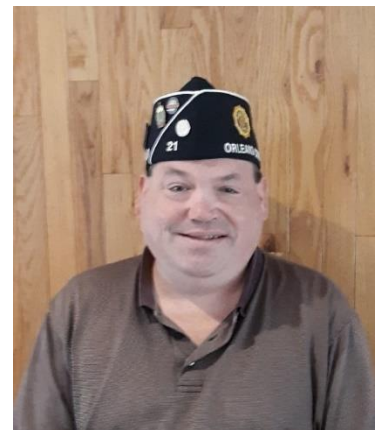
I also share my personal experience of my trip on the North Country Honor Flight and encourage other Legionnaires to apply for it. I'm hoping to revisit all the Posts again with the District Commander later on this winter so until then ...

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Orleans County Commander – Carl King

Season's Greetings, Legionnaires

From ALL of us, up here in The Northeast Kingdom.
We hope the holidays bring your families and communities together. Lest not we forget those who cannot be home or are deployed. We give thanks for your many sacrifices in service to our great Nation. 🙏



If You like skiing, snowboarding, ice-fishing, hiking, or just breathtaking God's Country type scenery. We've got it ALL!!!

" WELCOME to our neck of the woods " Come join us!

Post 76 Barton

Post 23 Orleans

Post 21 Newport

Post 28 Jay Peak (North Troy)

Carl P. King, Orleans Cty. Cmdr.



Washington County Commander – Wayne Goulet

Dear Fellow American Legion Members.

I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season filled with warmth and happiness. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the American Legion and your exceptional contributions throughout the year to support our veterans, family members, and community. I wish you the best for the New Year. Enjoy your time with loved ones, and thank you for being a wonderful member of the American Legion Family.



Mark Your Calendars - Upcoming Events

District #3 Membership Roundup – Montpelier Post 3
Sunday 1/5 Noon to 2 p.m. – Bring your mobile phone!

Department HQ's Legion Family Christmas Open House
Thursday, December 19th! 11 – 2 PM

Mid-Winter Conference – January 17th & 18th
Hampton Inn by Hilton – Colchester, Vermont

Mid-Winter Conference Banquet – Friday, January 17th
Hampton Inn by Hilton – Colchester, Vermont

Mid-Winter Conference Agenda coming soon via Email!

Post Everlasting
Gone, but Never Forgotten...

Parent, Leonard ... 01
Zdziarski, Anthony ... 01
Gilbert, George ... 01
Walsh, Harry ... 01
Richard, Donald ... 01
Bouchard, L. Paul ... 01
Manice, Oliver ... 11
Sherman, Richard ... 19
Allen, Jr., James ... 19
Robideau, Louis ... 19
Lapierre, Donald ... 21
Allen, David ... 21
Ward, sr., John ... 21
Willis, Stanley ... 23
Alexander, sr., James ... 23

Devins, George ... 26
Allen, Wilman ... 47
Gaudette, Eulice ... 60
Duchaine, David ... 60
Creller, Shawn ... 60
O'Brien, Brenden ... 60
Minton, William ... 64
Scheuermann, Franz ... 64
PDC - Stewart, Huzon "Jerry" 67
Racine, Thomas ... 91
Leblanc, Raymond ... 91
Swan, Gary ... 91
Drew, Jr., Herbert ... 91



Commander's Projects

Joseph Zickmund

2024-2025

Vermont



My projects for the year – raising funds to cover the unmet expenses, and hopefully to expand the reach of the youth programs – Oratorical, Boy Scouts, Boys State and Baseball. Also, I will be supporting and raising funds for Vermont Paws and Boots. An organization that pairs and trains service dogs with at-risk veterans and first responders.



The goals of American Legion Baseball are the development of team discipline, individual character and leadership development qualities in young people. Over ten million teenagers and over half of all major league players have played American Legion Baseball since its inception.



The Department of Vermont as well as the National organization recognized and provides scholarships for the Eagle Scout of the Year on the local and national levels. Additionally, the Department of Vermont also provides an annual banquet to recognize the achievement of becoming an Eagle Scout.



The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. The program presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.



American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government.



Vermont Paws & Boots mission is simple and straightforward, to save the lives of veterans and first responders who are struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, Military Sexual Trauma and physical disabilities.

Thank you for considering donating to these important and worthwhile programs. If you wish to make a tax deductible donation, please make your check payable to: **THE VERMONT FOUNDATION FOR VETERANS AND CHILDREN** and place in the memo line: **COMMANDERS PROJECT 24**

The mailing address :
Department of Vermont HQ
P.O. Box 396
Montpelier, Vermont 05061

DEPARTMENT HQ'S
LEGION, SAL, AUXILIARY, ALR 's
"CHRISTMAS OPEN-HOUSE"



Thursday, December 19th

11:00 to 2 P.M.

All of us here at Department hope to see you!

**Drop in and have light refreshments and
Holiday cheer with your Department St**

NYE PARTY

American Legion Post 49, Fair Haven, VT

December 31 | Doors Open at 7PM

Spoiler starts at 8:30 PM

30 Per Person or 50 Per Couple

Finger foods, Cheese Sticks, Pizza, Chicken Fingers, French
Fries, Onion Rings, Chips & Dip, Cheese and Crackers
Midnight Champagne Toast

Spoiler
ROCK-N-ROLL BAND
Get Spoiled!





American Legion Mid-Winter Conference

**Friday & Saturday
January 17 & 18, 2025**

The room rate is \$119 per night, plus tax and includes a daily full hot buffet breakfast.

To reserve, call 802-655-6177 to speak with reservations - refer to American Legion 2025 or code "JAN" for group rate!

Hampton by Hilton Burlington Colchester

**42 Lower Mountain View Drive
Colchester VT 05446**



THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

2025 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE BANQUET

HAMPTON BY HILTON, 42 Lower Mtn View Dr., Colchester, VT

Friday, January 17, 2025

COCKTAILS – 6:00 P.M

DINNER – 6:30 P.M.



Chicken Cordon Bleu & Roasted Pork Loin

The above will be served with Herb Roasted Red Potatoes, Pasta Primavera, Seasonal Roasted Vegetables,
Dinner Rolls, Tossed Salad & Chef's Choice Dessert

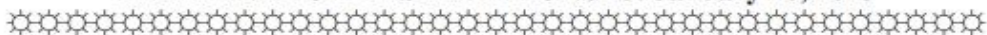
\$40.00 per person – All Inclusive

Make Checks Payable to American Legion Department of Vermont and

SEND CHECKS TO:

Dept. HQ, P.O. Box 396, Montpelier, VT 05601-0396

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS: January 10, 2025



PLEASE RESERVE: _____ Banquet Tickets

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

NAME: _____ Post/Squadron/Unit: _____

(Circle Legion Sons of the American Legion Auxiliary)



2025 MEMBERSHIP NEEDS YOU!!!!

TO: ALL ADJUTANTS AND COMMANDERS

It is that time of the New Year, “**The Department Adjutant’s Membership Challenge**”. I am challenging every Post to bring Membership to the Podium during Mid-Winter Conference. We have obtained a number of National Commander James LaCoursiere Pens & Coins and will present one to each Post that comes to the podium with membership during the Business Meeting at Mid-Winter Conference, Saturday, January 18th.

1. Present Commander Zickmund with membership at the podium and be rewarded with the National Commanders Pen or coin.
2. For those Posts not represented at the Conference, kindly give your membership to the County or District Commander, or anyone that will be present.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND “GOOD LUCK”

Brian Markwell, Dept. Adjutant

The American Legion – Department of Vermont



**May the warmth and love that is all around us at Christmas
time fill your heart with joy; today and always.
Best Wishes in the New Year - - 2025!**

**From the Officers and Staff of The American Legion
Department of Vermont**

*Joseph Zickmund Dept. Commander
William Brothers, Sr. Vice Commander
Robert Pearl, No. Area Cmdr. & Fred Wilson, So. Area Cmdr.
Brian Markwell, Adjutant & Keith Arlund, Judge Advocate
NEC, PDC – Thomas Scanlon & Alt. NEC, PDC – Catherine Tester
Larry Thompson Dept. Service Officer & Richard Baptie, Sgt at Arms
Dennis Minoli, Finance Officer & David Cobb Asst. F.O.
Stephen Frost, Dept. Chaplain
Melodie Ashford - McGrath, Exec. Admin.*

