



AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

Department Headquarters
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February 2026

Bulletin

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

Department Commanders Message – William “Bill” Brothers

District Commanders and County Commanders Messages

Testimonial Dinner – SAL NVC, PDC Jeremy Revell

Rev. George L. Fox Museum Announcement

Post 27 Luau Party Information for Legion Family AEF

Department Commander

William “Bill” Brothers

Greetings Legionnaires,

We had a great Mid-Winter Conference; it was nice seeing everyone that attended. The Banquet was great and the entertainment was as well, Thank you to the Legends band. I hope you all enjoyed it.

Membership is going well but we still have a little way to go. Keep up the great work you all are doing and thank you.

I want to thank Melodie for the outstanding job putting everything together for conference. We need to work on filling the open positions in the districts, anyone interested in County or District positions please let me know and we can get some training set up for everyone to help with those positions. Speaking of training I have heard through HQ's that Commander, Adjutant, Mylegion and Post Service Officers training are up and coming, we will keep you posted.

Hope everyone is staying warm these cold days and night and let's not forget to do our Buddy Checks and see if everyone is OK and if anyone needs help in any way.

The Penguin Plunge date has been changed due to cold temperatures and unfortunately, I will be out of State, as I was to participate with SAL Detachment Commander Marc Colety, he will have to hold the reins on this one! It should be fun and still cold in March, it's all for a good cause. Moving forward if anyone has an event coming up let me know so I can help get the word out. Let's see how the Super Bowl goes this year, and I hope it's a fairly close game. Be safe if you travel during this and good luck to both teams.

We will be getting to “Spring” ahead soon. Time sure is flying! Trainings and communication will be key, attaining new membership and retaining the current. If you have ideas, don't be afraid to let me know of them. Oratorical Contest in the month of March, District competitions are taking place now.

In closing, stay safe and warm.

Department Commander - Bill Brothers



Senior Vice Commander – Fred Wilson

Hello Legionnaires,

Mid-Winter Conference is now completed, the snow has slowed down, so we can proceed with the rest of 2026. DEC meeting followed the conference and discussion on Department Officer stipend increases, budget update to include State Fair for Membership Drive/Roundups, POW/MIA tables and Schools and Capitals, and potential Legion College startup in Vermont. All will be discussed at DEC meeting in April 2026. Stay tuned!



Mid-Winter Banquet was not profitable, which means if attendance does not get better, a price increase will be necessary. Enjoy being with your American Legion Family. Save the date: Grand opening of The Rev George L. Fox memorial museum Saturday, February 7t, 2026 immediately following the 3rd annual Four Chaplains Ceremony. Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Vermont golf classic May 16th, 2026, at Neshobe Golf Club, 224 Town Farm Road, Brandon, VT. FOUR!!!!!!!

The USA 250 Challenge, 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 important event, now through July 4, 2026. Join us in one or more of the activities, complete 250 hours of wellness activities such as yoga, meditation, and other forms of mindfulness. **Fitness**, choose to walk, bicycle, or cover 250 miles (or hours) any way they choose. **Community**, achieve 250 hours of community service or reach the 250 bars of a community service project.

The American Legion’s theme “Be The One.” We believe that one act, one conversation, one moment of support can save a life. Every Legionnaire, every community member, has the power to —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.

Jay Bowen, Leading Candidate for National Commander of The American Legion 2026-2027 anticipated visit 19-21 March 2026. Looking for post from the North on 19th and post from the South on 20th for a meet and greet meeting. Both the 19th and 21st times will depend on his arrival and departure. More to come soon.

As membership chairman I will share our membership comparison report results for Vermont as of 1/25/26: 35th place in state rankings at 81.96% (next goal 85% on 2/11/2026 and 35thth place at 143 off 2025 comparison. District and Country Commanders planning or already planning membership drives at our posts in the months ahead to meet our comparison goals. Let me know, so I can help.

Note from HQ: District and County Commanders, Leadership, Post Adjutants, and Commanders: Officers needed. Please actively look and encourage members of your

Posts to come on board and potentially be a County or District Commander. The pay is terrible, but the rewards for collaborating with your fellow Veterans and their Post homes are great! Department of Vermont - American Legion cannot do all the wonderful work for Veterans without you.

I attended a Information Workshop at Indianapolis over the weekend and the topics discussed were: Legal, Running an Effective Meeting, Membership Retention, Post Operations, including from outside and inside Audits, “Be the One” and TAL Programs, which included AL Baseball, Boys State/Boys Nation, Boys Scouts, {Girl Scouts is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary}, Shooting Sports, Oratorical Contest. Scholarships are available for each of these programs.

If you get a chance, go online and read "The Whole Child 2025" publication. They may be our future legionnaire.

For God and Country.

Fred E. Wilson, Jr.
2fredwilson@gmail.com
917-763-0354
Senior Vice Commander

National Executive Committee – PDC, Joseph Zickmund

Legionnaires,

Commander Wiley recently made available a summary of his 5 months as our National Commander. 24 States, 26 Departments, 6 foreign countries, 3 visits to Washington DC. His schedule is about 340 days away from his home in a year. I share this to emphasize that everyone has a different level of commitment to our great organization. It also illustrates Commander Wiley’s commitment to you, The American Legion and our Veterans.



Some of us show up occasionally for a meeting, some attend them all. Some attend our conferences and conventions – most do not. Some serve in time consuming positions, others feel their annual dues are sufficient support. Every member’s contribution matters regardless of how they participate. Membership is a privilege with opportunity to be as active or inactive as one wishes. To every member, I say “thank you” for your service and for your membership!

This month I am attending a training session in Atlanta. Next month’s bulletin entry will provide a summary of that experience. For those that heard me speak at our Mid-Winter Conference, you’ll know that I believe education is never wasted. I seek out opportunities

to learn – and encourage everyone to do the same. It can be by watching videos or taking the Basic Training Course located at the national website. It can be by attending District and Department Conferences and Conventions. It can be attending American Legion College. It can be regularly attending your Post meetings. Effort, big or small, is never in vain or wasted when it is in the service of the American Veteran.

There are many opportunities to serve within the Department. Some require very little time, others are more involved. The time is right should you wish to become more involved. The Department and the membership can benefit from your fresh ideas and increased involvement. If you want to learn more about how you can serve, reach out to Adjutant Markwell, or call me...whatever you are most comfortable with.

Thank you.

For God, Country, and the American Veteran,
Joe Zickmund NEC/PDC

Department Chaplain – Stephen Frost

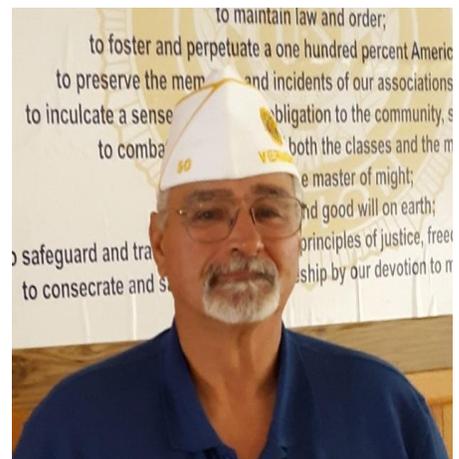
Happy New Year and February Greetings! I pray this finds our Legion family, well, happy and WARM.

I have been delighted to see camaraderie, with which so many of our members and those supporting families have been busy as beavers, organizing and executing the events and programs of their respective units.

This is an active season, between meetings, conferences, meals, etc. Two events, near and dear to my heart, are The Four Chaplains Ceremony, which celebrates and memorializes the brave sacrifices of four Chaplains of various faiths, who encouraged and assisted approximately 900 soldiers, as their ship was torpedoed and sank, in the frigid sea, one fateful February night. They're shining example of courage, faith and love, resonates through each of us, as, despite our vast and varied experiences and personalities, we lovingly share in our common goal of service to our veterans.

The other program I'm passionate about is Oratorical. I'm looking forward to participating in the Oratorical competitions, as some of our state's finest youth, expound on various themes in the vein of Patriotism, and civic subjects. Please show up and support these worthy events, when possible.

Please keep our fellow members and veterans who are suffering from illness and injury in your prayers and assist them when you can. I love you, Brothers and Sisters! May God continue to Bless you and your families, all.



Southern Area Commander – William Charron

Hello fellow Legionnaires,

I hope everyone is enjoying this wonderful winter season, with all of the snow and cold—it truly feels like an old-fashioned winter.

It was great seeing everyone who attended our last conference in Colchester. I know the drive home in the snow made for an interesting trip, and thankfully I did not hear of any accidents on your travels.

My Post recently held our Four Chaplains remembrance. I also want to note that the George L. Fox Chapel will be hosting its 3rd annual Four Chaplains ceremony, along with the opening of their museum. I hope we have a great turnout for this meaningful event.

Reflecting on the sinking of the Dorchester reminds us how not only Vermont, but New York and all of New England, are represented by those chaplains. Their sacrifice truly reflects the spirit and values of our region.

Thank you all for everything you do to make our American Legion great.

“Put the Vermonters Ahead”

Bill Charron

Southern Area Commander



3rd District Commander – Christopher Wood

Hello from the District Three communities of Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties.

Midwinter has come and gone, the days have more light, and the groundhog is looking for its shadow to predict when spring will arrive. We are in the throes of winter, and now is the time to settle into the hard work of getting the last 15 percent of our members to send in their dues.

Why do you belong to the American Legion? Be prepared to share this as you talk to members so you can sell our programs and remember to do a check in so you can “Be the One.” Don’t forget to get to the many Post meals and events, as they are the lifeblood of many Posts.



Presidents Day is fast approaching, and this means we should be at 85 percent of our membership quota. In District Three 8 out of 14 Posts have already achieved over 85%, and one Post is over 90% of their membership quota. Donald McMahon Post 64 in Stowe holds its lead in the district with 96% of quota to give Lamoille County the top spot. Heath-Doyle Post 61 in Chelsea goes back in the lead in Orange County with 89% of their quota. Harry N Cutting Post 59 of Waterbury maintains a narrow lead in Washington County with a 87 score for percent of quota. Washington County continues to lead the pack with 19 new members thus far.

Those Veterans are out there that have not become members of the American Legion yet. Let's get them signed up!

4th District Commander – Joe Bump

Greetings comrades,

We are deep into Winter now, and I can tell you that I can't wait for Spring.

Midwinter Conference is behind us. and I can honestly say I was a little disappointed in the attendance. The conference in itself was refreshing and instructional as always. I wish that more of you had been able to attend. It is difficult to do the business of our organization without the members. I was especially surprised at the lack of Post Evaluations that were completed. These are some of the most important reports that go forward. I can only hope more emphasis will be put into the Consolidated Reports.



February is coming in fast and furious. We have several Oratorical contests to complete, and the district contest will be completed on March 1st. These important contests will help our seniors in high school who are competing for college. Boys State and Law Cadet are two other important programs that are out there. Please get involved with our youth and push these programs. There are many other local programs happening in our Posts. Make an effort and support your Post as best as you can.

As always, membership is the background of what we do. Continue to increase our membership. Make some phone calls and talk us up when you can. Be as proud of your Post as we are of our organization. Every veteran in your community should be a member of the Post. Make it a point to visit this month. I hope everyone has a happy Valentine's Day, and an early Spring. Thank a Veteran, every day.

Joe Bump,
District 4 Commander

5th District Commander – Lewis Graham

Greetings Legionnaires:

District 5 has been moving forward on membership with all counties over 80%. Keep up the good work.

I will be out of state for the month of February, coming back March 4th. Thank you so much to District 4 for stepping up and holding the Oratorical presentation for District 5 at the Arlington Post 69 on our behalf. We have one participant. The point of contact will be Steve Martin for the rest of the month.

Don't forget, many local town meetings will be held March 2nd and warrant your special attention.

District 5 will have a district meeting after I return, date to be determined. Please plan to attend as we will have some financial matters to decide.

Winter is an especially difficult time for some of our family members so please make Buddy checks and other remembrances. Valentine's Day and spring break are really good times to maintain friendships and calls are usually welcome. Food shelves are really overstretched, so any help you can give there will be greatly appreciated.

If you need help on your taxes there is often a local Council on Aging or other local organization that will help for free. Ask your Post to help you find a contact.

I will be available at 802-279-0441 if you have any questions.

I will enjoy the good weather and you enjoy the snow. Have a good day.

For God and Country,
Lew Graham
District 5 Commander



Bennington County Commander – Dolores Krawczyk

Happy Frozen February to All

To those brave souls that made the drive to conference, it was great to see you again. I want to personally thank Melodie Ashford-McGrath for her priceless support. You are amazing and skilled at making everything possible. You really do make us look better.

I always take advantage of attending as many committee meetings as I can; it's a great way to learn how to run committees. I was so inspired by the recent Legion College graduates. Their newfound belief and love for the Legion was really contagious.

I am grateful for all ideas and events that Post Commanders discuss because it's this kind of sharing that we grow and develop. Don't forget membership, it is everyone responsibility and goal. Just carry an application in your wallet so you're ready when the appropriate time is presented.

Dolores Krawczyk
Post 13 Service Officer
Bennington County Commander



Essex County Commander – Scott Leigh

I hope everyone is staying warm during this cold weather we are having. Don't forget your Buddy checks.

Post 47 in Canaan is having a Cabin Fever Party on Feb 14th "Hobos" real barbecue food 5 to 7 p.m., followed by music by DJ Steve. Come on out and join us and bring your Valentine date.

Gilman Post 41 and Reverend George L. Fox Memorial Chapel are having the third Annual "Four Chaplains Ceremony" followed by a ribbon cutting by Maj. General Green, US Army Chief of Chaplains of the new historic Fox Museum grand opening. On Feb 7th at 11 am. Keep up the good work on memberships District 2!!

For God and Country, God Bless our deployed Service members
Essex County Commander
Scott Leigh



Orleans County Commander – Robert Messier

Greetings and salutations. I hope everyone has had a good start to 2026. The United States became independent almost 250 years ago and no longer under British rule. We must never give up on our desire to be free.

During the summer months, I am sure there will be a number of celebrations to commemorate this milestone. One way is to hold gatherings at one of our many state parks. Do not worry about the access fees. Go to your local town clerk's office and ask for a Green Mountain Passport. Any Vermonter who is 62 or older, or an honorably discharged Veteran qualifies for this pass. There is a small fee of \$2. The Green Mountain Passport is a lifetime free day-use entry to all state parks in Vermont.



There is new leadership at Newport Post 21. James Crowe was elected as Commander to replace outgoing Carl King. Lee Currier was elected as Adjutant to replace Carl who had also held that position at Post 21. I congratulate them both and wish them best of luck. I will do what I can to help them be successful.

I would be interested to find out if there are any members of the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, or the American Legion Auxiliary who are amateur radio operators. If you want to send me an email to let me know, my email address is listed in the directory, or you can get that from QRZ. My callsign is mentioned below.

To everyone, thank you for your service or support and thank you for all you do.

Robert B. Messier
88 Second St, Apt 202
Newport, VT 05855
(802) 487-5118
Orleans County Commander - Department of Vermont
K1RBM - American Legion Amateur Radio Club

Rutland County Commander – Richard Baptie

Greetings Legionnaires

I hope all is well with everyone. For those that attended the Mid-Winter Conference I hope that you enjoyed and obtained the wealth of knowledge that was available, I know I learned a lot, about how taxes are applied to various items. I have not made as many Post visits as I

would of like to do to some health issues but I'm on the road and will visit as many as I can. Last thing... Enjoy the balmy weather.

For God and Country

Rutland County Commander
Richard Baptie

DISTRICT & COUNTY COMMANDERS 2025 - 2026

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

Addison/Chittenden County - Vacant

Franklin County – Phil Pearo, logcabinstables05440@yahoo.com

2ND DISTRICT – Vacant

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

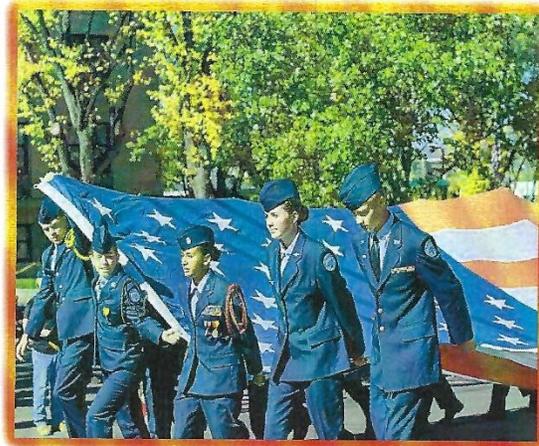
Special Olympics Vermont is a small, highly collaborative organization serving athletes with intellectual disabilities statewide

*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

DEC Meeting – April 12th Montpelier Post 3 @ 12 Noon

Leading Candidate John “Jay” Bowen from Colorado Visits Vermont!

March 19th – 21st

Agenda will be forthcoming!!!

**Oratorical Final Competition March 21st
White River Jct. VA**

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

McAllister, Wilfred ... 07
Purinton, Robert ... 08
Houle, Jr., William ... 10
Lovelette, Neal ... 12
Botlton, William ... 13
Rice, Rodney ... 13
Thompson, Michael ... 14
Recupero, Joseph ... 14
Bruno, Leon ... 14
Mischenko, Martin ... 14

Hefferman, Timothy ... 19
Gonyeau, Terry ... 19
Sargent, Stanley ... 19
Rollo, Joseph ... 28
Fauteaux, David ... 47
Geary, Harold ... 49
Dean, Robert ... 55
Lefebvre, Gordon ... 80
Wolynec, Robert ... 91





SAVE THE DATE
GRAND OPENING OF
THE REV GEORGE L. FOX
MEMORIAL MUSEUM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026

AT THE REV GEORGE L FOX
MEMORIAL CHAPEL & MUSEUM

***IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 3RD ANNUAL**
FOUR CHAPLAINS CEREMONY

FORMAL INVITATION TO FOLLOW



IT'S A
LUAU PARTY

SAVE THE DATE:

LEGION FAMILY AEF FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

DOUBLE TAP TO EDIT TEXT

MIDDLEBURY POST 27

KIDS / ADULT TIMES TBD

