



AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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July 2022 Bulletin

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Department Commander

Tom Scanlon

I want to thank all for their support and confidence in me to be your Department Commander for 2022/2023. It is a formidable responsibility to represent my heroes, our veterans. I assure you I will take the job seriously and always do my best. I will always be cognizant of my actions and conduct myself in a way to represent this organization in a responsible, ethical, and professional manner. I will always try to extend a cheerful greeting and a kind word of appreciation or encouragement to all. As a team working together, doing our best, increases our chances of success in any endeavor we undertake. Additionally, when problems arise, let us all be problem solvers together for the betterment of our veterans, their families, children, and our communities.

We have long been talking about veteran's suicide and the staggering daily numbers. The American Legion has started a new initiative which you will be hearing about.

BE THE ONE

TO **ASK** VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.

TO **LISTEN** WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.

TO **REACH** OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.

This initiative nationally is very much in keeping with my Commander's Project for the next year. It is the **JOSH PALLOTTA FUND**. The mission of this fund is "To provide Veterans with PTS and TBI an environment that fosters healing of body, mind and spirit incorporating resiliency, transition and reintegration tools to help them return to full and healthy lives." To this end they have established "JOSH'S HOUSE" at the old Fort Ethan Allen at 162 Hegeman Avenue, Colchester. It is a wonderful drop-in facility for all veterans. I urge all to stop in and see this great facility and what they are doing today for our veterans. The goal is to also have a similar facility in the northeast corner of our state where veterans are woefully underserved. This Commander's Project is to help them achieve this goal and to serve those veterans in that area. So please help. And for the first time all of the Vermont American Legion Family has the same project which is wonderful, and will give the Fund a big boost in achieving their important goal.

Please be generous and get the checks to the Vermont "HQ American Legion" and annotate "Commander's Project" in the memo area. Let the Vermont American Legion "BE THE ONE" to make a difference in the lives of many Vermont veterans who are suffering, oftentimes silently, and need our help. As a team we can make a significant difference.



Sr. Vice Commander

Mark Cloutier

Firstly, I would like to congratulate PDC Catherine Tester on a job well done on a great year. I would also like to congratulate Dept Commander Tom Scanlon, whom I am looking forward to working with, and finally congratulations to all the newly elected officers. Here's to a great upcoming year.

Some of you know me and some of you don't, so I would like to take the time to introduce myself.

I am a US Coast Guard Veteran (Semper Paratus) with 6 years active and 2 yrs. reserve duty. I have been a member of the American Legion for 12 years now. After about 2 years of being a member of Hardwick Post 7, I started picking up duties around the post I first started as Member at large and held that position for 2 years and then became the post Adjutant and this is a job that I truly enjoy.

Then I was elected 2nd District Commander and held that position for 2 years and then moved up to Northern Area. I have been a member of many committees at the department level and am currently a member of the National Defense Commission for National Headquarters.

This year we need to work hard on membership, Membership is a job that all of us need to work on, not just your membership chairs, or adjutant. Our membership needs to be strong and need the younger vets to become members to they can take advantage of the services and programs of the American Legion.

Once I return from the membership workshop in Indianapolis, I plan on holding 5 membership workshops, 1 in each district. Please standby by for more on this.

I am looking forward to serving the Department of Vermont American Legion Family as Sr Vice Commander

Be safe and stay healthy!

I can be reached at 802-371-8097, by email at post7adj@gmail.com, or just shoot me a message on Facebook.

Mark Cloutier
Sr Vice Commander, Department of Vermont
For God and Country

Southern Area Commander Lew Graham

Hello, Comrades,

I am very pleased to be addressing you as Southern Area Commander. Good things have been happening here and I look forward to sharing in our progress. We now have all District Commanders and County Commanders in place and are ready to put us "on the map" in serving our veterans and communities.

I hope that attention to good communications will help us work together on programs across the Southern Area as well as help folks with their own favorite programs. The Legion Family is a force to be reckoned with. In my work with Meals on Wheels I have found that a large percentage of recipients are older veterans or their family members and would like to propose some support for them this year in our Area as my personal offering for a project.

Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions, comments or questions you may have about Legion business or veteran support. I will find the answers if I do not have them myself. I would like to visit each post during the year and ask that you contact me with a date and time when I can do so. I may be reached at 802-279-0441, vermonter@charter.net.

For God and Country
Lew Graham Jr.

3rd District Commander Joe Zickmund

It's a new membership year full of promise and opportunity. Every honorably discharged veteran with a DD-214 and some active duty is qualified to be a member of The American Legion. That is a tremendous opportunity for us to grow our ranks. I encourage each of you to identify a potential member and invite them to join us. If you need a new member application, see your adjutant, call me, or go online and print one.

www.legion.org/publications/246553/american-legion-membership-application

With elections behind us, it's time to install our new officers. As your District 3 Commander, I would be honored to officiate your Post Officer installations. Contact me at (802) 505-8545 or joezickmund@gmail.com.

We find ourselves in need of an Orange County Commander. If you or someone you know might be interested in learning more about these roles, all you have to do is ask.

Have a great summer!

Joe Zickmund

4th District Commander Bill Brothers

Legionnaires,

Just want to introduce myself, my name is Bill Brothers from Fair Haven Post 50. I am looking forward to working with all of you in the up-coming year. I have been very interested in what the Legion is doing and the direction in which we are heading within the department of Vermont in the year ahead of us. We are really working to get our membership back up and work on renewals this year.

I am also looking forward to going out to national convention this year to be able to learn about all of our programs, especially Americanism which I am on within the department.

I am looking forward to visiting all of the posts within the 4th district, learning about your post activities, and meeting the legionnaires within your post.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or I can be of any assistance.

Thank you

Bill Brothers

4th District Commander

Washington County Commander Christopher Woods

Hello from Washington County. Welcome to summer and here's to working our way through the busiest time of year which will pass way too quickly! Many pandemic related activities have become the new normal for our posts as they continue to do drive thru dinners to pay the bills and have reduced bar hours because help is so hard to find right now. Do your best to continue to support community activities because these links will keep your post relevant and vibrant. Post 59 was the proud sponsor once again of Jewin Antony as he returned once again for the oratorical program. He worked hard on his speaking abilities, and he represented the State of Vermont in the National contest. Keep up the great work of connecting with all Veterans in your communities, and never miss an opportunity to remind them why it is important to belong to the American Legion.

We have closed up the official run for 100% membership for 2022, and now we work to pull in those stragglers that wait until December 31st to renew for the year. Meanwhile, 2023 is off and running and those early bird renewals are already coming in. Please make sure Adjutants are processing membership quickly to avoid having a member that just paid their dues end up getting a renewal notice because processing took so long. There is plenty to make a person angry out there right now, so let's not make our process one of them. Continue to reach out to the young Veterans in your communities and give them your support in any way you can. These Veterans may not be ready to be members of the Legion right now, but if you show them what we do then maybe they will make that jump to a member in the future. Don't give up on them.

Department Adjutant Brian Markwell

Wow!! Another year has come and gone. Summer is here in full force. Department elections are done and now we're on our way to National convention in Milwaukee the last week of August. If you're on the delegate list for the first time, welcome. It will be a very rewarding experience to see how the American Legion conducts its business. Enjoy the comradery of being among thousands of fellow veterans and family members, hearing inspirational speakers give exciting presentations covering multiple issues pertinent to today's veterans. And that's just the formal sessions. The time with your fellow Vermonters and other Legionnaires from all over the country is well worth the trip and more.

The struggles with the National computer system continue. If it is proving to be more of a challenge than you can overcome, please get in touch with Melodie or myself and we will try to address the problem or get an answer from National. I continue to encourage all posts that don't currently process your memberships online to take the time to accomplish this task at your level. If you need assistance in establishing your account, please get in touch with me. At Post 60, it only took us a little while to get the system up and running. Save the cost of a check and postage by renewing memberships online at your location.

I look forward to another year being your Department Adjutant and doing anything and everything I can in supporting your work for the veteran family of our American Legion Family.

For God and Country.

Brian Markwell

Department of Vermont Adjutant

Membership Awards for 2021/2022

PDC ALBERT A. CREE AWARD	McBride Harwood Post 44 130%
COLONEL H. NELSON JACKSON AWARD	Creller Landon Post 60 102.41%
PDC C. S. CAMPBELL AWARD	Norwich University Post 1819
PDC FRANK C. CORRY AWARD	Green Mountain Post 01
PDC HENRY D. VAIL AWARD	Harry N. Cutting Post 59
PDC A. LUKE CRISPE AWARD	McBride Harwood Post 44
PDC N. HENRY PRESS AWARD	Green Mountain Post 01

ELECTIONS

Congratulations to all of our legionnaires who will lead the Department of Vermont American Legion for 2022/2023.

Department Commander – Tom Scanlon – Middlebury Post 27
Sr. Vice Commander – Mark Cloutier – Hardwick Post 7
Northern Area Commander – Lou Furry – Hardwick Post 7
Southern Area Commander – Lew Graham – Ballard-Holbart Post 36
Department Finance Officer – Dennis Minoli – Barre Post 10

District 1

District Commander – Bob Pearl – Creller Landon Post 60
Addison County Commander – Bruce Paquin – Middlebury Post 27
Chittenden County Commander – Jessica Patenaude Colchester Post 91
Franklin County Commander – Phil Pearo – Creller Landon Post 60

District 2

District Commander - David Perron Lyndon Post 30
Caledonia County Commander Angele Marshall – St. Johnsbury Post 58
Essex County Commander – John Manning – Island Pond Post 80
Orleans County Commander - Vacant

District 3

District County Commander – Joseph Zickmund – Barre Post 10
Orange County Commander -Vacant
Lamoille County Commander – PDC Fred Latour – Morrisville Post 33
Washington County Commander – Christopher Wood – Harry N. Cutting Post 59

District 4

District Commander - William “Bill” Brothers – Fair Haven Post 49
Bennington County Commander - Joe Bump – Bennington Post 13
Rutland County Commander – Richard Baptie – Crippen Fellows Post 50

District 5

District Commander – Andrew Sheldon – Ballard-Holbart Post 36
Windham County Commander – Gerald Baraby – Bellows Falls Post 37
Windsor County Commander – Ronald Farrar – Chester Post 67

Upcoming Events

State American Legion Baseball Tournament	July 27-30	Castleton University/St. Joseph’s Field
Fall Conference	October 22	Vergennes Post 14
Mid-Winter	January 20-21, 2023	Double Tree South Burlington
Annual Convention	June 23-24, 2023	Double Tree South Burlington

Six Snapshots from the Annual Convention

By Victor Stone, Dept. Historian



Top Left moving clockwise: 1) Commander Tester arriving at the Annual Convention with the American Legion Riders, 2) Fair Haven Post #49 Color Guard, 3) Line of Succession, PDC Ron LaRose, Commander Tester, Commander elect, Tom Scanlon, 4) Department Judge Advocate installing Commander Scanlon with Sgt-at- Arms Silas Loomis escorting, 5) Commander Tom Scanlon addressing the Convention, 6) Commander (at the time) Cathy Tester presenting Department Judge Advocate, Rebecca Otey with award for outstanding service to the Department of Vermont.

2023 Membership Dues Renewal Notices

FROM: Tom Scanlon, Department Commander

I am sure most of you have received calls from our membership concerning the 2023 dues renewal notices recently mailed out by National Headquarters. I have dealt with these calls as has our Department Headquarters. The problems are centered on the statement "Member Since 2022" on the front of the notice and on the reverse, the sample, with the members name printed on the same has the number "1" for continuous years. Like notices were mailed from National HQ to Paid Up for Life (PUFL) members as well. PUFL members should not be even getting a renewal notice.

Rest assured that no member has lost any of their consecutive years. The 2023 cards as received have the accurate information on the same for all members and these are in the process of being distributed from Department HQ. Being a Post Adjutant I checked on My Legion as to the records of post members and found them to be accurate with the proper consecutive years for the sample I checked.

National HQ is aware of this problem in that they have been flooded with calls from both members and Department Headquarters from across the country. They are addressing the cause of this problem and will attempt to correct the same as quickly as possible. Someone made an unbelievably unwise decision of how to format a renewal notice.

Once again, please advise all your members that they are not and will not be losing any consecutive years. Additionally advise them that they can renew online at www.legion.org/renew and at that time of renewal they can check their online information without needing to login.

I apologize to all on behalf of our National HQ for this erroneous and misleading notice being sent out, and please rest assured that the Department of Vermont has voiced its concern on this issue.

988 Suicide Crisis Hotline launches July 16

The Suicide Prevention Lifeline's new three-digit dialing code will go live nationwide on July 16. People experiencing a mental health crisis will be able to call 988 and connect to counselors with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network. Advocates believe that designating a three-digit telephone number will transform access to mental health care. The three-digit number is easy to remember, which should make it faster for Americans dealing with a mental health crisis to receive life-saving support.

VA Burn Pit Registration

Veterans and Service members who have deployed to the Southwest Asia theater or operations on or after August 2, 1990, as well as those who have deployed to Afghanistan or Djibouti after September 11, 2011 can use the registry. For assistance with registering call 888-607-8773.

Past Department Commander Francis Killay

June 26, 1941 – June 23, 2022

Francis "Frank" John Killay, 80, of Groton, VT passed away unexpectedly on June 23, 2022. Frank was born on June 26, 1941 in Athol, the son of James and Frances (nee Lawskey) Killay. As a teenager Frank was mentored by his brother and best friend, Jim, who introduced him to the pursuits of hunting, fishing, and bird dogs, which became lifelong pleasures.

After graduating from Athol High School in 1959, Frank went to work for the L. S. Starrett Company where he completed their apprentice program, becoming an accomplished tool maker.

In 1964 Frank entered the United States Army and was assigned to a Military Police Company, and so began his law enforcement career. He was honorably discharged as a Specialist 4th Class.

In 1968 Frank applied to and was accepted at the Vermont State Police Academy at Norwich University in Northfield, VT. For several years Frank was stationed at the Bellows Falls and Rockingham Barracks. He was then assigned to State Police Headquarters in Waterbury, where he advanced to detective in the Forensic Crime Lab. He was schooled at the Red Stone Arsenal for EOD training, and worked in the Haz Mat Division. Frank was also an expert in Ballistic Science.

Frank retired in 1991 from the Vermont State Police as a Lieutenant, completing 25 years of service.

A passionate advocate for veterans, Frank was a past Commander of the American Legion Post #3, and as Sargeant of Arms he served over 30 years with the color guard. In addition, Frank held various positions in the Legion statewide and participated in conventions all over the U.S and Canada.

Frank is survived by his brother, James (Jim) Killay and his wife Karen of Templeton, his companion Archola (Archie) Harlow and her daughter, Debbie, and special friends, Dick Harlow, Mike Keough, and Rick Gray, along with his many friends from the American Legion Post #3.

A memorial service with military honors was held at the Vermont Veterans Memorial Chapel in Randolph, VT. Tom Harty, Frank's longtime friend, said the eulogy. The American flag was presented to Frank's brother, Jim. Burial was in the Randolph Veterans Cemetary.



Past Department Commander Milton A. Willis

March 17, 1948 – June 1, 2022

Milton A. Willis Jr., 74, of Chester, passed away peacefully on June 1, 2022, at home with his loving wife and family by his side.

Milton was born March 17, 1948, in Newport to Milton and Margaret (Cota) Willis. He graduated from North Troy High School in 1966 and immediately started to work for his Uncle Floyd, who taught Milt the carpentry trade for many years. Eventually Milt went on to own and operate his own business in the North Troy area for several years. Milt believed in giving back to the community and became a member of the North Troy Volunteer Fire Department and was one of the founders of the Missisquoi Valley Ambulance Service.

Milt joined the North Troy American Legion Post 28, serving as commander for many years. It was here that Milt discovered his true-life passion of advocating for fellow veterans. Milt held many positions in the American Legion from the local post, the American Legion Department of Vermont and at the national level.



During his tenure as department commander, he appointed himself as department service officer, a position he held for the next 37 years, until his retirement in 2021. During those 37 years, Milt helped thousands of veterans at the VA and quickly gained respect as chairman of the Department Legislative Committee. While in this position, he lobbied endlessly for U.S. veterans and his colleagues nationwide. Milt became the “go-to service officer” for colleagues across the nation and was elected president of the Department Service Officers for two years.

Milt chaired many committees at the department level but was most proud of his Department Legislative chairmanship. During this time, he tirelessly lobbied and was instrumental in the creation of national legislation allowing veterans throughout the United States to be better served. Milt collaborated with many dignitaries, including U.S. Sens. Patrick Leahy and Bernie Sanders, who Milt considered close and personal friends.

Milt also held chairmanships at the national level consisting of Alt. National Executive Committee, the Naval Affairs Committee, National Executive Committee, member of the Commission on Children & Youth Liaison Committee, vice chair of the Distinguished Guests Committee, Region 1 member on the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, Region 1 member, vice chairman and chairman of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, and a member of the Veterans Benefits Committee.

Family meant everything to Junior (as he was known by family). He was only a phone call away if his parents, siblings, children or grandchildren were in need. He relished being an uncle and grandchildren were an added joy to his life.

Fishing, celebrating birthdays, holidays with his family, camping, barbecuing, dancing, country music, playing the spoons, hunting, snowmobiling and listening to the Red Sox on the radio and watching the New England Patriots were his favorite past times. But he was happiest when all

of his family was around. Milt made it known that he felt blessed to have three families, one in the Northeast Kingdom, Chester and, of course, the American Legion.

Milton is survived by his wife Sue of Chester, his children: Penny (Scott) Martin; Tim (Donna) Willis of Derby; Beth- Anne Willis of North Troy; Meaghan Willis (Ryan) of Colchester; and Samantha Willis; and stepchildren Shannon; Kyle and Sierra Kemp and Lindsey Sturtevant, all of Chester. He is also survived by grandchildren Rodney; Macy; Greg (Mya); Tim JR; Emily; Lily; Samuel; Maddox; Halley and Owen, and by three great-grandchildren, Weston, Hailee and Beckett. Milton is also survived by his sister Linda Driver (Everett) of Newport Center; his brother Danny Willis of Tucson, Ariz.; mother-in-law Carol Ploof of Lehigh Acres, Fla.; and many special nieces and nephews.

Milt was predeceased by his parents Milton Sr. and Margaret Willis; brother Neil; father-in-law Bob Ploof and two grandchildren Brianna and Michael, who surely were waiting for him to come home.

A Celebration of Life will be hosted by the Chester American Legion Post 67, at 2 p.m. on Sunday July 31. Milt loved his cowboy boots. Please feel free to wear your favorite western duds, in his memory. A private burial will be held at the Troy, Vermont, Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Milt’s memory to: Missisquoi Valley Ambulance Service, 1375 Cross Road, Jay, VT 05859.

You may also send funds directly to Sue Willis, 110 Marcs Drive, Chester, VT 05143, ear-marked for a Memorial Fund that is being created to continue to service veterans in need throughout Vermont.

Post Everlasting

LAROCHE, GUY	01
POIRIER, JAMES E	01
MORTON, GEORGE H	01
KING, RICHARD B	01
HARMON, ROBERT M	01
BAILEY, RALPH A	01
ROYER, JAMES E	01
VICKNAIR, TERRY M	01
KILLAY, FRANCIS	03
GABAREE, LOUIS L	03
DIXON, WILLIAM F	05
KIMBALL, ALLEN A	07
WELCH, JAMES	13
ROBERTS, LAWRENCE	13
REYNOLDS, ROBERT J	13
CLARK, DONALD B	14
HART, MICHAEL G	14
WELCH, STEPHEN T	14

VAUGHAN, RONALD	20
LEBRUN, NORMAN H	36
CRITCHFIELD, JAMES A	36
COUTURE, DENNIS G	42
STONE, FREDERICK	50
LADUKE, CHRIS H	55
GOODIN, JOHN T	55
RAYMOND, JOSEPH W	80
PRATT, II ANSON M	90
SHEPARD, DOUGLAS	91
MURRAY, PHILIP J	91
COLBY, MICHAEL	91
SHEPARD, SR GERALD	91
SHANGRAW, SR EVERETT W	100
SPOONER, MARVIN E	100

Children and Youth - Chair -PDC Catherine Tester

Temporary Financial Assistance

Since its establishment in 1925, The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program has awarded cash grants to minor children of current active duty or American Legion members. These grants help families in need meet the cost of shelter, food, utilities and health expenses, thereby keeping the child or children in a more stable environment. [Download the TFA Brochure](#) or at bit.ly/TFA_pamplet

Who is eligible for a grant?

The minor child must not be older than 17, or 20 if still enrolled in high school or is physically handicapped. The minor child must be the biological child, stepchild, or in the legal custody of, a qualifying veteran. A qualifying veteran is defined as a member of the United States Armed Forces serving on federal orders current under Title 10 of the United States Code, inclusive of all components, OR any veteran possessing an up-to-date membership in The American Legion. Active-duty applicants can be considered without being a member of The American Legion. A single onetime non-repayable Temporary Financial Assistance grant of up to \$1,500 will be permitted for the minor child(ren) of a qualifying veteran.

No child is considered eligible for Temporary Financial Assistance until a complete investigation is conducted at the post or department level, a legitimate family need is determined, and all other available assistance resources have been utilized or exhausted. Additionally, the TFA application must originate and be filled out by someone at the local level.

How to Apply

Applications must be processed thru a local American Legion Post or District. [Download the TFA Grant Application](#) or at bit.ly/TFA-Application

Make a donation

To make a donation to the Temporary Financial Assistance Fund click [Donate Now](#) or at bit.ly/TFA_Donate

Department Executive Meeting minutes

Friday, June 24, 2022

The Department of Vermont Executive Committee met prior to the 2022 State Convention in South Burlington Vermont. Invocation by Thomas Scanlon. Meeting presided by Commander Catherine Tester. Adjutant Markwell took roll call, and a quorum was present of executive board members.

Motion was made and seconded to except the minutes of the last DEC meeting as written and sent to members. ACTION: Passed.

Finance report was given by Dennis Minoli. Motion made and seconded to accept the finance report. ACTION: Passed.

Discussion of the bylaws for the Endowment Foundation led to a motion to table this discussion until they are reviewed by National Council. Motion was seconded. ACTION: Passed.

Discussion of Emergency funding formerly managed by the DSO then responsibility of be managed by the Rehab Committee. The Finance Committee to meet after the DEC.

Discussion about status of Post 57, Milton. Two previous members attended a meeting with Department Officers. Motion made and seconded to pull the charter and sell the building. ACTION: Passed.

Discussion about when the 3 PDCs had passed.

DSO position was asked about by PDC/NEC LaRose.

Moment of silence for passing of PDCs.

Dept Commander Tester discussed DSO applications.

SAL Adviser Paquin brought to DEC's attention that he had heard that North Troy Post wanted to turn in their charter. Concern about the SAL members status. Northern Area Cdr mentioned that the Post has closed its doors and were not responding to queries about their status. Said IA will be looking into this issue.

PNVC Perham wanted clarification of the Department's actions concerning dealing with Posts in this type of situation. Lou Graham said he has new information of current Point of Contact for the North Troy Post.

There was discussion concerning if the DSO having to be an eligible veteran.

Dept Cdr Tester reviewed upcoming events on this weekend's schedule.

Resolutions Committee will meet after this meeting.

Closing ceremony. Meeting adjourned.

Sincerely submitted,

Brian Markwell

Department Executive Meeting minutes

Saturday, June 25, 2022

The Department of Vermont Executive Committee met after the State Convention. Meeting was presided over by Dept Commander Tom Scanlon.

Dept Adjutant Markwell conducted roll call and a quorum was present.

Department Cdr Scanlon nominated his appointments: Victor Stone as Historian, Dave Woodward as Assistant Finance Officer, Silas Loomis as Sergeant of Arms, Brian Markwell as Department Adjutant, Rebecca Otey as Judge Advocate, Gerald Rogo as Department Chaplain, Robert Pearl as Service Officer. Motion made and seconded to accept the nominations.

ACTION: Passed.

Next DEC meeting is July 10 at noon at Montpelier Post 3.

Closing ceremony conducted and the meeting was adjourned 1329.

Sincerely submitted,

Brian Markwell