



AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

Department Headquarters
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www.vtlegion.org

March 2024 Bulletin

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

- Boys State Information – Dylan McNamara, Dir.
- American Legion National Commander – Daniel Seehafer Visit – Banquet
- American Legion National Commander – Visit/Itinerary
- Department Commander Project Info
- Membership Impact Report

Department Commander



Mark Cloutier

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

It looks like we are now on the downside of winter. While it hasn't been a terribly rough winter, I know that I am ready for the warm months, longer days and just about everything that goes with spring and summer.

March is The American Legion's Birthday. This year The Legion is 105 years old. In those 105 years there were lots of accomplishments. All of these were significant milestones.

On May 15, 1919, members of the American Expeditionary forces convened in Paris, France for the first American Legion caucus.

Key Historical Events

- September 16, 1919, Congress charters the American Legion
- November 10-12, 1919, the First National Convention convenes in Minneapolis where the Constitution and preamble are adopted.
- On August 9, 2021, the US Veterans Bureau was created. Today we know it as the Veterans Administration
- On July 17, 1925, the American Legion Baseball program was created.
- December 15, 1943, PNC Harry W. Colmery wrote the first draft of what later would become the "GI Bill of Rights."
- June 22, 1944, President Franklin D Roosevelt signed into law the Original GI Bill or Servicemen's Readjustment Act.
- September 1, 1966, The Legion voices great concern over the fate of prisoners of war in Vietnam. Today, the Legion urges a full accounting of all POWs and troops missing in action.
- Aug. 26, 1982, The Legion presents a \$1 million check to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for the construction of the Wall in Washington, becoming the largest single contributor to the project.
- Aug. 2, 1990, The Legion files suit against the federal government for failure to conduct a Congress-mandated study about the effects of Agent Orange on veterans who served in Vietnam.

- Oct. 1, 1995, The Legion forms the Persian Gulf Task Force to enhance service for the newest generation of wartime veterans, thousands of whom suffer from illnesses linked to their service in the region.
- Oct. 10-11, 2001, The American Legion creates the American Legacy Scholarship Fund for children of military members killed on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.
- August 8, 2022: With the American Legion lobbying efforts President Biden signed into law the PACT Act to increase health care and benefits for veterans exposed to “Burn Pits” and other” toxic exposures”. Veterans who were exposed to toxins during the Vietnam War, Gulf War, and post-9/11 operations now have expanded eligibility for health care through the VA. Furthermore, the Act adds over 20 presumptive conditions for exposure to burn pits and other toxins; it also adds additional “presumptive-exposure locations” for Agent Orange, including Thailand and Laos.

It is because of your dues and continued membership of the American Legion Family, that gives us strength in numbers and allows the American Legion to have the strength to lobby for veterans' rights.

The Department Convention will be upon us before you know it. This means that Department Officer nominations and elections are forthcoming. If you plan on running for an office, please be sure to have your endorsements from your Post to Adjutant Markwell at Department Headquarters. I can be reached by email at post7adj@gmail.com

Stay Healthy and Be Safe,

Mark Cloutier
 Commander, Department of Vermont
 For God and Country.





Sr. Vice Commander – Joseph Zickmund

Vermont Legionnaires:

We have hit every benchmark for membership goals as set by national. Well Done! Thank you for showing up and doing the work. As we head into the homestretch, there is still much to be done but I am confident that we can hit 100% if we continue to seek out new members and work to keep the ones we have.

I've been visiting Posts and am encouraged by what I see and hear. The patriotism and caring for our veterans and communities is awe-inspiring. I am proud to be part of the Department of Vermont and to be associated with the legionnaires that support it.

As we head into spring, American Legion Baseball will be ramping up. I hope that you will support this worthwhile and important program. I was in Ludlow recently and will leave you with a quote from one of their members. "...American Legion Baseball – it doesn't get more American than that".

Every veteran counts and every legionnaire can make a difference!

Joe Zickmund
Senior Vice Commander

Dept. Chaplain – Christina Moore

My fellow Legionnaires, I hope all are well and all are in good health. Our National Commander will be visiting the State this month, I wish I could attend his banquet, but regretfully I have other obligations on the 28th. On a positive note, Spring is around the corner, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter.

[*Prayer Points for Easter*](#)

As you are preparing your mind and heart to pray during the resurrection season, here are a few prayer points for Easter to guide your prayers:

- Give thanks for the gift of salvation
- Praise God for the Good news
- Pray for those who do not know God
- Pray for those who have not given their hearts to the Lord
- Praise God for his faithfulness towards us
- Praise God for Victory over death
- Confess your sins
- Ask for forgiveness
- Pray for a clean heart
- Pray for wisdom to do God's will

- **Worship God for his righteousness**

These are just a few prayer points that can inspire you as you speak to the Lord in Prayer. Remember that prayer is a conversation, and he is a loving father!

For God and Country,

Christina Moore, Dept. Chaplain

Northern Area Commander – Robert Pearl

Honor To WWII Veterans

Greetings Fellow American Legionnaires,

Recently the Department of Veterans Affairs announced the following:

“All World War II Veterans are now eligible for no-cost VA health care, medical services, and nursing home care”

“All WWII Veterans who served between Dec. 7, 1941, and Dec. 31, 1946, are eligible under this expansion, regardless of their length of service or financial status. These Veterans will not have to pay copays, enrollment fees or monthly premiums.”

“Veterans who were not approved for VA health care in the past due to income limits should apply again; income levels no longer apply due to this expansion. VA cannot automatically enroll Veterans in health care; WWII Veterans must apply for VA health care if they are not currently enrolled.”

“VA is reaching out by phone and mail to encourage WWII Veterans who are not currently enrolled in VA care to apply today.”

I was very pleased to receive the above from the VA and believe they will make the calls and mail notices to those WWII Veterans that the VA. knows of. During WWII approximately 50,000 Vermonters served in the military. Presently there are less than 700 WWII Veterans remaining in Vermont. My concern is for those Veterans, who aren't known of by the VA and thus are unaware of this new change.

My proposal/suggestion, is for all portions of our American Legion (from Post to headquarters) get involved and search out all WWII Veterans (regardless if they are American Legion members or not).

In an effort to prevent duplication of efforts in finding/notifying WWII Veterans, it would be best if someone would keep track of those Veterans who have been found and notified. I would be pleased to keep track of the progress being made. Also if anyone would desire for me to explain details to any Veteran, I would also be pleased to do so by phone, email, U.S. mail or in person if necessary.

Email - BobP48@aol.com Phone - 802-372-5882
13 Reynolds Road, Grand Isle, Vt. 05458

For God and Country,

Robert Pearl, No. Area Commander

Southern Area Commander – William Brothers

Hello everyone!

Well just a quick update, visitations are going good and it's great seeing what everyone is doing in their Post and community. Membership is going good but still have to keep up the momentum and we can hit our goals, another reminder to check on your 990s to make sure they are up to date along with your Bylaws. This is important to keep them up to date.

We are now in March; I hope everyone has a great Saint Patrick's Day and a safe one. We also are looking forward to the visit from our National Commanders this month with a banquet in his honor. It's a short visit, and a busy one while he is here. Also let's not forget to work on our End of the Year Reports as these are important for us to get into our Consolidated Reports that go to National. Our volunteer hours are very important to present what we are doing in our communities and Posts throughout Vermont. Thank you all for the great things you are doing in Vermont.

On another note, I am still working on the Resolution regarding the George Fox Chapel, I have many Posts on board now for signatures and I will be going around to more to present the Resolution for them to join us, so we can get it done and into the State House for approval at our Convention in June. Thank you all that are helping me with this.

I hope to see many of you in June at the Convention, I am running for Sr. Vice Commander this year and am looking forward to working with Joe Zickmund as our new Commander next year. Thank you all for the support and to many of you that have helped me with accomplishing my goals and more. I have talked with Joe about a few things I would like to see done next year for the good of our American Legion Family. I will let you all know when we get together at visitations on the things I hope to do and thank you all for all the hard work that you do again.

For God and Country,

Bill Brothers, Southern Area Commander

Department Adjutant – Brian Markwell

March has been “cleanup” month at Department. With the help of our Department Executive Admin, we have reported 990 issues and Incorporation issues to all the necessary Posts in Vermont. While some Posts have been diligent in keeping up with their tax information and their Secretary of State’s information, others certainly have not. We are working with those Posts to get the correct forms filed and to the necessary people/agencies that will help fix these issues. Protocol moving forward will be reminders sent to all Posts regarding these important forms at the beginning of each year.

Next on our Spring-cleaning list will be Constitution and Bylaws. Your Department Executive Admin and myself will be sending Posts copies of what is currently on file at Department. Many Posts have submitted just Bylaws without a Constitution. Some are outdated, some have no officer signatures and several Post have not ever filed a Constitution or Bylaws! With that being said, this will be a large project and will take some time. This will not take place overnight, but definitely needs to be done.

The Department will be hitting the road again to conduct another Mylegion.org Training session on April 6th, 10 a.m., at Windsor Post 25. We will discuss membership processing, email distribution lists and spreadsheet creations along with other online possibilities to help better organize communications within your organization. Lunch will be provided. These sessions are open to any and all Legion members as well as SAL members and not just specifically Post Adjutants. Anyone who would like to become more familiar with the online systems of the American Legion is welcome to attend. You may be surprised at what is possible and share thoughts as to what some are already doing with the systems.

The American Legion National Commander – Daniel Seehafer is visiting Vermont on March 28th and leaving late afternoon March 29th. A banquet in his honor is planned at Colchester 91 and his itinerary is included in this bulletin. Please try to make it to one of his many stops and say hello if you can.

For God and Country.

Brian Markwell, Department of Vermont Adjutant

2nd District Commander – David Perron

Legionaries, Hope this note fines you all well.

___Membership % ___

Orleans County: 93.315

Essex County: 92.881

Caledonia County: 91.784

District II Great job everyone. We got this!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Membership is everyone's job not just leadership. Beat the bushes people. County Commanders get out and visit your Posts and do your Evals please, text me or email me when Post is complete.

Second District Commander, David W Perron
Phone 1-802-272-2793
perrondavid323@yahoo.com

5th District Commander – Fred Wilson

Hello legionaries!

We had a Fifth District meeting on February 17th, 2024, from 11AM to 1215PM. To discuss our By-Laws, Standard Operating Procedure for Procurement of Funds, Financial Report, and Oratorical winner disbursement and other issues. Members present: Steve Turbayne Post 25 Adjutant, Walter Jabs, Jr, Post 18 At-Large, Bill Mattoon Post 18 Adjutant and Fifth District Assistant Treasurer, Andrew Sheldon, Post 18 Adjutant and Windsor County Commander, Steve Martin, Post 5 Adjutant, Dennis Brown, Post 84, Commander, and me.

We discovered that we have work to do to improve our By-Laws and Bill Mattoon was nominated to investigate improvements. I also asked Keith Arlund to advise on any improvements.

Membership is 88.108. Keep up the good work. Only 115 more renewals to meet our 100% goal.

On March 15th at 930AM at the Vermont State Capitol in the House of Representatives, Montpelier, Vermont to honor the one hundred anniversary Henry Breault, a Vermont resident, receiving the Medal of Honor. Torpedoman Breault, the first and only enlisted submariner to receive this honor. Contact Bill Mattoon, cmattoon@vermontel.net, for more information!

You are cordially invited to Windsor Post 25 Birthday Dinner, Saturday April 20th, 2024, RSVP by April 6h to Kimberly Abbott, kabbot21@yahoo.com or 8025950136, 4 Court Street, Windsor, VT 05089.

The American Legion National Commander's visit and Banquet, Banquet on March 28th at Colchester Post 91, 3650 Roosevelt Hwy, Colchester, VT 05446.

Fred E. Wilson, Jr

Bennington County Commander – Joe Bump

Happy Spring.

This has been a very long and hard year for me. After learning of my wife having cancer in June, we have been fighting this disease very aggressively. Although I have been absent from my duties for a while, I plan on jumping back on the train right away.

The annual convention is right around the corner and spring is in the air. Now is the time to clean up the Post and get ready for another great year. We are still looking for those memberships. Nothing would be greater than to end Mark's year with 100% membership. Dig into the books and find those members who have not renewed and simply ask them why. Your post is as good as your membership.

Take a hard look at the Post leadership. Voting is around the corner. Step up and apply for that officer position you've been looking for and get on the ballot. I will be available for installations. Just give me a call.

Consider attending a convention. If you've never been, it is an experience that you should have, at least at some point, in your Legion tenure. It is a time to meet fellow Legionnaires from the State, see Legion politics in action, and be a part of the important votes that are done at Department level. If you are a new officer, this is an opportunity to see how it's done at Department level. Most of all it is a chance to really enjoy your Legion experience. Check with your Adjutant for dates and how to be a delegate for your Post.

I have really enjoyed being your County Commander for the last 5 years and look forward to continuing my journey.

For God and Country,

Joe Bump, Commander
Bennington County

Washington County Commander – Wayne Goulet

Legionnaires,

The 2024 membership season is coming to a close and Washington County is 161 members short of its goal of 1,021 members. Currently, Washington County has renewed 860 members, or 84% of the overall goal. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible. If you don't know who to contact to complete the renewal process, please contact me. Your American Legion membership goes a long way towards supporting veterans and their families. Furthermore, your membership supports military representation not only in Montpelier but Washington D.C. as well.

In the next few months, posts will hold elections for officers. Please consider supporting your post by volunteering to serve in an officer position. I can assure you that you will feel a sense of self-fulfillment and pride for your efforts. Serving as a post officer does not require a ton of time. Rather, it requires a dedication to the American Legion mission and an interest in taking care of your fellow veterans.

On Town Meeting Day, Waterbury approved Post 59's request for \$4,125 to replace the fluorescent lighting in the post building with LED lighting. The work required for the petition to appear on the meeting day agenda took months and was truly a team effort. Specifically, post members had to collect over 200 signatures from Waterbury residents for the town to even consider the request. After the request appeared on the agenda, post members had to appear at the meeting and justify the request. In the end, Waterbury residents unanimously supported and passed the request.

Wayne Goulet

Legislative Chairman – PDC, Richard Farmer

Legionnaires:

At this time, I have not heard of any great movement of Veterans' legislation. Let's hope this changes.

As you know, legislation is in recess during Town Meeting week. This is a good time to contact your representative at Town Meeting. Let them know that we are Veterans helping Veterans. If anything important happens, I will get the word out. We hope it does.

It is sad to learn that Legionnaire Bob Perham has been called to his Post Everlasting. "Rest in peace, my friend".

For God & Country,

Richard Farmer, PDC, PNEC

Legislative Chairman

PS Don't forget to complete the Consolidated Report. They are important.

Green Mountain Boys State Director – Dylan McNamara



Dear Commander and Post Adjutant:

As you may have heard our Boys' State Program for 2024 will be held at Norwich University from June 23rd--June 28th. This letter is sent to provide copies of all informational pages, flyers, and applications for Boys' State 2024. All materials are also located on the Department of Vermont website. These materials can be downloaded, printed, and distributed for your use.

Please encourage youth in our community to learn more about GMBS and encourage them to apply. I've attached copies of our information sheet as well as application, although we are encouraging youth to use our online application, which are linked on our website. https://vtlegion.org/boys_state.cfm

I want to thank the American Legion for their continued support of this program. For more information, feel free to contact me (Dylan McNamara) at gmbsvtdirector@gmail.com

Here's the highlights of what we know so far:

- AL-GMBS 2024 will be held from Sunday June 23rd- Friday, June 28th at Norwich University. Three documents about Boys' State are attached for your information and use: A General Flyer, a Program Information sheet, and the Application.
- Enrollment will be limited to 50 delegates and 10 staff.
- All materials were delivered to high school guidance personnel by electronic means.
- All materials can also be found on the Department of Vermont website by clicking on the Boys' State link. We have also included a letter format if you would like to solicit banks, companies, or other fraternal organizations to support delegates from your area.
- Points of contacts at schools have been directed to work with their local Legion Posts to confirm support and secure financing for their delegates. We know all Posts will do what they can – so please contact Boys' State Chairman, Dave Cobb to discuss the financial situation, and we will do what we can for all concerned. **Checks from the local Legion Posts should be made out to "GMBS" and mailed to Dylan McNamara at : 51 Tanglewood Drive, Essex Jct., VT 05452**
- We have begun making arrangements with legislators and town officials who assist our staff to provide the delegates with a program that is current and relevant to the issues facing us today.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

Dylan McNamara, GMBS Director
Dave Cobb, GMBS Chairman
AL-GMBS

51 Tanglewood Drive, Essex Junction, VT 05452 802 316-0266 gmbsvtdirector@gmail.com



Mark Your Calendars - Upcoming Events

Mylegion.org Training – Windsor Post 25
Saturday, April 6th 10 am to 1 pm - All Posts and Squadrons Welcome!

National Commander Daniel Seehafer Visit to Vermont
Banquet at Colchester Post #91 – Thursday, March 28th
(Banquet Flyer in Bulletin and Itinerary)

April 14th DEC Meeting – 12 Noon
Barre Post #10

Post Everlasting....Gone but never forgotten.

MALBOEUF, MICHAEL.....01
GIROUX, BERNARD01
TOWLE, WELLINGTON 01
PILLSBURY, LEO 01
TRUDEAU, MICHAEL 01
KIRBY, WILLIAM 03
SEAVER, MICHAEL 08
WHITE, CONRAD 10
BROUILLETTE, GARY 10
BARRY, JR., WILLIAM10
MAXHAM, JR., EVERETT 10
FAIRLEY, JAMES 13
STONE, ALAN 14
MCNULLA, III JAMES 14
BRADLEY, NANCY 14
LECOMPTE, EUGENE 19
WHITCOMB, DOUGLAS 25
MCQUILLAN, TIMOTHY 26
WELLS, TIMOTHY 26
BLAIR, WARREN 31
COX, CLARENCE 31
PDC, PERHAM, ROBERT 31
BETTIS, EVERETT 43
COREY, EARL 49
SAVAGEAU, RONALD49
COREY, MILTON 49
ZEOLI, NICHOLAS 49
PATTERSON, DAVID 55

WEBB, ROLAND 60
BAILEY, GARY 91
SMITH, JR., HARVEY 91
FURNESS, ARNOLD 91
KUEBLER, MICHAEL 91
MILLHOUSE, ELSA 91
BURNETT, SR., ROBERT 100
CORBIN, BARRY 100



THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

**The American Legion National Commander - Daniel Seehafer's
Visit to Vermont - Banquet**

Colchester Post 91, 3650 Roosevelt Hwy, Colchester

Thursday, March 28, 2024

SOCIAL – 5:00 – 6:00 P.M

DINNER – 6:15 P.M.



Yankee Pot Roast

The above will be served with Fresh Tossed Salad, Rolls, and Double Chocolate Fudge Cake
Coffee and Tea

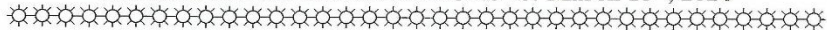
\$16.00 per person

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: March 18th, 2024



PLEASE RESERVE:

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

NAME: _____

(Circle) POST AUX S.A.L.

American Legion National Commander – Daniel Seehafer VISIT/Itinerary

ARRIVAL: THURSDAY MARCH 28TH 12:30 P.M. –

BURLINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 1200 Airport Dr., So. Burlington, VT

Lunch 1:15 p.m. The Lighthouse Restaurant, 38 Lower Mountain View Dr., Colchester, VT

802-448-3361

HOTEL AFTER LUNCH – Down Time before Banquet

Hampton Inn by Hilton, Colchester, 42 Lower Mountain View Dr., Colchester VT (802- 655-6177)

National Commanders Banquet – Colchester Post 91,

3650 Roosevelt Hwy, Colchester, VT (802-872-7622)

5:00 P.M. – Social

6:15 P.M. Dinner

Return to Hotel after Dinner

(POC: Cmdr. Cloutier 802-371-8097)

(Group for Thursday pickup: Cloutier, Scanlon, Markwell, and Manning)

FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH

8 A.M. Breakfast at Hampton Inn by Hilton, 42 Lower Mountain View Dr., Colchester, VT

After Breakfast drive to:

10:00 A.M. The Vermont National Guard Library

and Museum at Camp Johnson, 789 VT Nat 'l Guard Rd., Colchester, VT (802-338-3360)

11:15 A.M. Leave Museum and drive to:

Army Mountain Warfare School – Camp Ethan Allen Training Site,

100 Lewis Chapel Rd., Jericho, VT (802-899-7202)

1 P.M. Lunch in Jericho (TBD)

2:30 p.m. Visit at Burlington Lakeside VA Clinic (CBOC) 120 Lakeside Ave., Burlington VT

802-657-7000

3:00 P.M. Head to Burlington Airport for 4:30 P.M. Flight Out

(POC: Dept. Adjutant Brian Markwell 802-999-1026)

(Group for Friday: Cmdr. Cloutier, Scanlon, Markwell, McKnight, Manning)

(2/6/24 Tentative Itinerary, Subject to change)

2023 - 2024 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

EARLY BIRD/NEF KICKOFF	SEPTEMBER 13, 2023	50%
FALL MEETINGS	OCTOBER 18, 2023	55%
VETERANS DAY	NOVEMBER 15, 2023	65%
PEARL HARBOR DAY	DECEMBER 13, 2023	75%
MID-WINTER	JANUARY 18, 2024	80%
PRESIDENT'S DAY	FEBRUARY 14, 2024	85%
LEGION BIRTHDAY	MARCH 13, 2024	90%
CHILDREN & YOUTH	APRIL 10, 2024	95%
ARMED FORCES DAY	MAY 15, 2024	100%
DELEGATE STRENGTH	30 DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION	

Target dates fall on the second Wednesday of the month unless there is a holiday on that day or at the beginning of that week. Some target dates were moved to the third week to maximize end of year renewal notices.

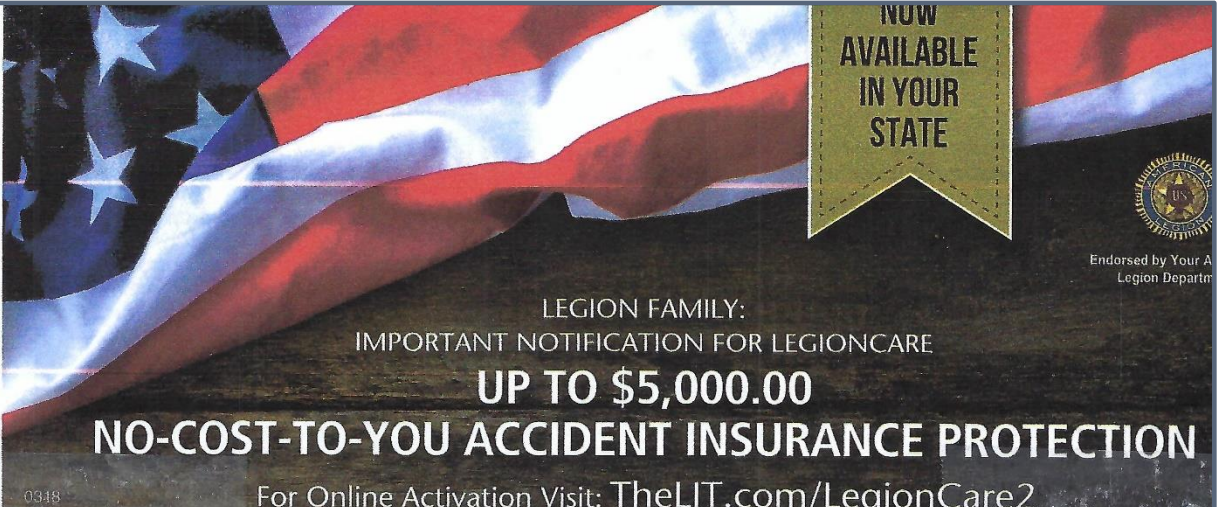
Since Columbus Day falls on a Monday, the October target date will be on a Wednesday.

To maximize the December renewal notice, the January target date will be on the third Thursday of the month because of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

NOW
AVAILABLE
IN YOUR
STATE



Endorsed by Your A
Legion Departm



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Endorsed by Your
American Legion
Department

LEGION FAMILY: IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION FOR LEGIONCARE
NO-COST-TO-YOU BENEFIT

The LegionCare program will pay you \$1,000 for a covered accident or, if the accidental loss occurs when on official Legion Family Business, LegionCare will cover you for \$5,000 of AD&D coverage.

THERE IS NO COST TO YOU

- Coverage has been arranged on your behalf by Your American Legion Department.

GUARANTEED ACCEPTANCE

- Regardless of your age, health or occupation, your acceptance is guaranteed.
- Your coverage will become effective the date your Enrollment is received by the Administrator.

YOUR COVERAGE IS IMPORTANT

We want you to know too, LegionCare is now available to all members of the Legion Family including the

American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion members 18 years and older. The Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been working hard with Securian* to provide valuable benefits to your entire family and we look forward to continuing to serve veterans' insurance needs.

THIS PLAN IS APPROVED AND ENDORSED

- This No Cost to you plan has received complete approval and endorsement from your department.
- Your Department has arranged this coverage at No Cost to you because of the need for this type of protection and the recognition that many Members may not have enough protection.

EXCLUSIONS: In addition to any benefit-specific exclusions, benefits will not be paid for any Injury or Loss which, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, is caused by or results from any of the following: intentionally self-inflicted injury, suicide or any attempt thereat while sane or insane (while sane in Colorado and Missouri); declared or undeclared war or act of war; military or combat activities while serving in the armed forces, National Guard, or organized reserve corps in any state, country, or international authority; sickness, disease, bodily or mental infirmity or medical or surgical treatment thereof, or bacterial or viral infection, regardless of how contracted. This does not include bacterial infection that is the natural and foreseeable result of an accidental external bodily injury or accidental food poisoning; flight in, boarding or alighting from an Aircraft or any craft designed to fly above the Earth's surface: (a) except as a fare paying passenger on a regularly scheduled commercial airline; (b) being flown by the Covered Person or in which the Covered Person is a member of the crew; (c) being used for: (i) crop dusting, spraying or seeding, giving and receiving flying instruction, fire fighting, sky writing, sky diving or hang-gliding, pipeline or power line inspection, aerial photography or exploration, racing, endurance tests, stunt or acrobatic flying; or (ii) any operation that requires a special permit from the FAA, even if it is granted (this does not apply if the permit is required only because of the territory flown over or landed on); (d) designed for flight above or beyond the earth's atmosphere; (e) an ultra-light or glider; (f) being used for the purpose of parachuting or skydiving; (g) being used by any military authority, except an Aircraft used by the Air Mobility Command or its foreign equivalent; the Covered Person's intoxication as determined according to the laws of the jurisdiction in which the accident occurred; voluntary ingestion of any narcotic, drug, poison, gas or fumes; driving while intoxicated or driving under the influence of a controlled substance; riding or driving as a professional in any kind of race for prize money or profit.

ACTIVATE ONLINE AT: www.TheLIT.com/LegionCare2

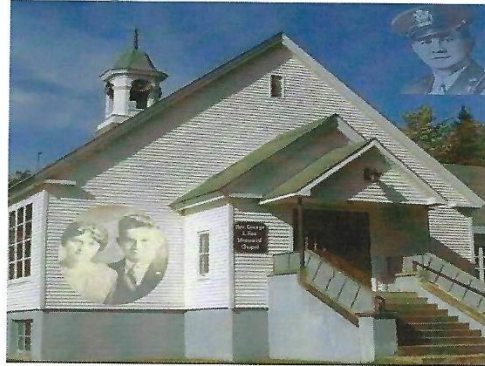
*Underwritten by: Securian Life Insurance Company.

Coverage provided under Group policy form series 17-50925 and individual policy form 17-51040 and any state variation thereof.

Terms and Exclusions may vary by state. Coverage is paid for through the Legionnaire Insurance Trust.

For more information please call 1-800-235-6943

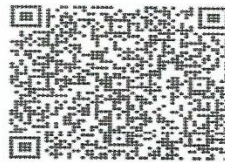
Mark Cloutier - Department Commander's Project Rev. George L. Fox Memorial Chapel



The Rev. George L. Fox Memorial Chapel was purchased to honor & preserve the legacy of Rev. George L. Fox, and his wife, Rev. Isadore H. Fox, and their children Wyatt & Mary.. This quaint church where George ministered to the community members of Gilman, until his heroic death, February 3, 1943 when his ship the USAT Dorchester was sank by a German torpedo is beng revived as a nondenominational house of worship, historical Fox family museum and future military chaplains retreat. Please consider donating and keep the memories of these two American Legion family historic heroes alive!

American Legion Dept of VT

@vtlegion

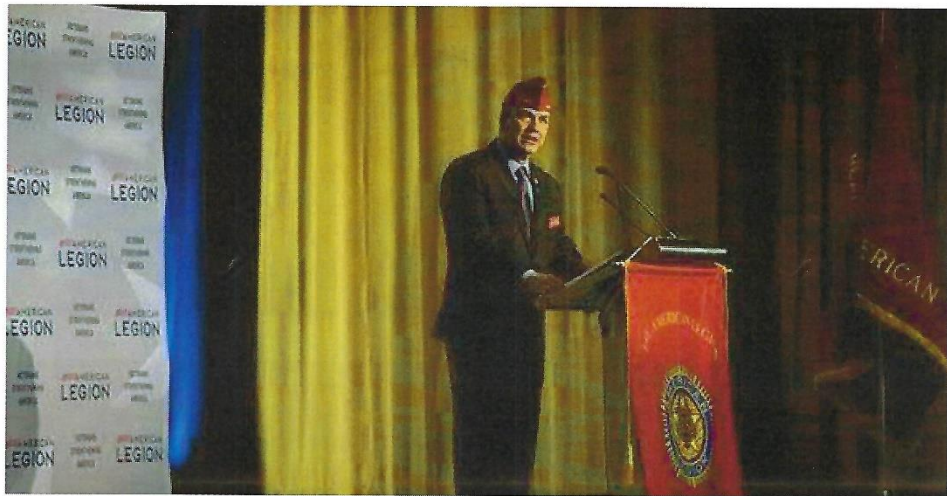


venmo

Scan this code to pay

Make check payable to:

American Legion Department of Vermont
Write "Commanders Chapel Project" on the
memo line Mail to:
American Legion Department of Vermont
P.O. Box 396
Montpelier, VT 05601



VOICES

"Among our agenda items this year is a call for Congress to fight the sharks. We are calling for criminal penalties against any company that skirts the VA accreditation process in order to charge veterans and families outrageous fees to process claims and appeals. In fact, it's against the law to engage in these practices, and those who do should be prosecuted."

- American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer at the Feb. 26 Commander's Call during the 64th Washington Conference, attended by hundreds of Legionnaires who took the organization's legislative agenda to their congressional delegations



159

Meetings conducted by Legionnaires Feb. 26-29 with elected officials and congressional staff during the 64th Washington Conference.



40%

Increase, year over year, in VA disability claims filed in 2023, amounting to a record 2.6 million cases, according to VA leaders who spoke at a Feb. 26 panel discussion hosted by The American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission during the Legion's Washington Conference.

 **\$4,500**

Cap since 2002 on the Department of Defense's Tuition Assistance Program for servicemembers pursuing college degrees, an amount American Legion Veterans Employment & Education Director Joe Sharpe said does not reflect reality, during a Feb. 3 policy briefing on Capitol Hill. That deficiency was reiterated in a Feb. 26 panel discussion at the Legion's Washington Conference, put on by the national Veterans Employment & Education Commission.

 **29**

American Legion service officers who received national accreditation in February to represent veterans with their VA claims, free of charge.

 **150+**

Accredited American Legion service officers who participated in a Feb. 8 virtual meeting – the first of four to be conducted quarterly – to learn about policy changes, new technology and other issues related to VA benefits processing.

 **33**

Hampton, Va., VA Medical Center patients and staff who enjoyed a Feb. 11 luncheon, followed by music, dancing and distribution of goody bags, hosted by Smithfield, Va., American Legion Post 49, to kick off National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week.

 **5**

New Sons of The American Legion squadrons chartered in February, three in Iowa, one in Indiana and another in Arizona.

 **12,179**

Tango Alpha Lima podcast downloads during February, the first time the number of downloads has eclipsed 10,000 in back-to-back months.

 **\$6,923**

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in February.

 **\$11,000**

Approximate amount raised to assist homeless veterans after a Feb. 10 Freezing for a Reason awareness event – an outdoor overnigher in 20-degree weather – coordinated by the American Legion Family of Trier-Puddy Post 75 in Fond du Lac, Wis.

 **3**

New American Legion posts chartered in February, representing 63 members.

 **105**

Eagle Scout certificates presented by The American Legion in February.

VOICES

"I happened to be on the computer and saw something called Be the One. Being a former nurse, I said, 'Oh, that's for me.' I'm a nurse, and I know suicide."

- Alexandria, Ky., American Legion Post 219 member Vyneta Barnett, who organized a VA S.A.V.E. training session for local veterans and now looks to expand it, under the Legion's Be the One mission, to other areas of the state

BE THE ONE

 **\$24,000**

Approximate amount raised by Maryland American Legion Family members for Special Olympics after the annual State Police Polar Bear Plunge into the icy waters of Chesapeake Bay Feb. 2. Out of that, \$16,000 was raised by Maryland American Legion Special Olympics Chairman Bill Ganz, who was the top individual fundraiser in the military and first-responder division of the event this year.



10

Minimum number of years that the Davenport, Iowa, American Legion Family of Post 26 has conducted annual stand-downs (through Feb. 15) to provide services, clothing, food and support for veterans who are homeless or in need.



\$1,000

Amount of one American Legion National Emergency fund grant to a Tennessee Legionnaire who suffered losses and damage from tornados there.



18

Elementary schools visited by members of American Legion Post 221 in Massillon, Ohio, in mid-February to thank teachers and to share information about the Legion's national Be the One mission to prevent veteran suicide.



10

American Legion Samsung Scholarship recipients who were honored by the American Legion Family for their achievements with a Feb. 24-27 visit to Washington D.C., where they met with their senators, had a special recognition dinner with American Legion Family leadership and participated in remembrance ceremonies at memorial sites.



9,799

Veterans who took advantage of the new multi-year American Legion membership option through February, 430 of whom were first-time joiners.



\$92,225

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants disbursed in February to three youth-serving organizations.



18,600

Rounds of ceremonial ammunition distributed to 26 posts and 16 departments through The American Legion Military Surplus Program in February.



25

Cadets who received American Legion ROTC and Junior ROTC awards in February.



15

Number of American military heroes whose remains were identified in February by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.



736

Informal Hearing Presentations prepared in February free of charge by American Legion VA appeals representatives assisting veterans disputing their VA claims decisions.