



# AMERICAN LEGION

## DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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## MARCH 2023 Bulletin

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

- Mylegion.org “On the Road Again” Training
- Endorsements
- Oratorical Winners
- Service Officer Update

## Department Commander

### *Tom Scanlon*



I would like to start this month's article by extending my sincere appreciation and thank you to Karlene Devine for the wonderful job she did this year with the Department Oratorical Program, especially in conducting the final competition. I was proud to be in attendance and participate as a judge. Kudos for a job well done.

Next, I would like to address the Department Monthly Bulletin. In consultation with various members of the Department leadership, the consensus is that this document should be published quarterly, possibly April, July, October, and January. A Calendar of Events should be updated and published monthly by Department Headquarters and distributed as a separate document. This does not negate, that if an important issue arises and requires timely attention, a separate document or notification from being disseminated at any time. This matter will be brought up and discussed at the April DEC meeting.

We, the Department of Vermont, cannot be content with the "what is", or not let go of the "what was". We have to move forward and look to the future and what we can become, and it all starts with Training. How can we be a viable organization if the members and officers know little, if anything, about what we are, and what we do as an organization? I have heard discussions at all levels, including at my own post, where officers are uninformed about the American Legion. This must change. All members should take the American Legion Basic Training Course. This can be taken online, and it only takes a couple of hours. It is divided into 5 topical sections to include the History & Organization, VAR, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. There is a concluding section to bring it all together and a short exam which will take less than 30 minutes. This is available at [www.legion.org/alei](http://www.legion.org/alei) All members at the post level and particularly new members should be encouraged to take this. If you have taken this years ago you should take it once again in that it has been rewritten, updated, streamlined, and enhanced. I am a proponent that all officers should complete this course as a requisite for the position they are in, or seek. Our goal should be to Engage, Educate, and Empower all our members, and it starts with, and happens through Training as well as Mentorship.

In addition to training, there is a definitive need for Vision and Mission Statements at all levels of the Department organization that reflects the needs and direction in and for the 21st Century. These should be living documents that are reviewed regularly. Does your post have these? Are they reflective of where we are today and the direction we want or need to go? The department is deficient in this area as well, and this will be addressed.

I urge all, particularly the Leadership throughout the Department of Vermont, to read the Report to the National Executive Committee by the 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee of the American Legion. It can be read or printed from the Department website at [www.vtlegion.org](http://www.vtlegion.org). This report is a blueprint for the direction we are going, and what we must do to get there. It covers Legacy and Vision, Membership and Member Engagement, Training as well as a Summary of Recommendations. We have a lot of work to do at all levels in the Department of Vermont and it will not be easy or fast. This even includes the revamping of the Department's website. However, anything worth doing is normally hard, and in the long run worthwhile. We will get there as a team moving forward. It is important for all of us, and the future of this organization.



### Sr. Vice Commander - Mark Cloutier

I hope that everyone is staying healthy. Spring is right around the corner and I can tell you that I am looking forward to it.

This year the American Legion is celebrating its 104th birthday. March 15 is the designated birthday of the American Legion. March 15, 1919, in Paris, France, the first American Legion caucus was held by 1000 officers and men of the American Expeditionary Forces, and was chartered on September 16, 1919, and is the largest Veterans organization.

Those that have sent invites to you post birthday suppers I look forward to visiting and celebrating the American Legions' birthday.

We are still doing well with membership. As of March 6th, we need 273 renewals or new members to reach the March 15 target date of 90%. I am confident that we can make this milestone. The department of Vermont is currently 10th out of 55 departments. In the Northeast division we are number 2 but only need .06% to take the number one spot.

I want to take the time to thank all of you for your dedication and hard work on membership this year. We have missed only one target date and that was the 70% target. I am confident that we can do this. Please adjutants and membership chairs, start reviewing your rosters and work on your expired and those that have not yet renewed for 2023. Make phone calls and use them as a buddy check. Who knows your phone call or knock on the door could end up making a difference in a veteran's life just by being able to talk to a fellow veteran.

If you are planning on running for a department office, please get your Post Endorsements to Melodie at Department HQ.

Be safe, stay healthy, and remember you can BE THE ONE to help a veteran in need.

I can be reached at 802-371-8097, by email at [post7adj@gmail.com](mailto:post7adj@gmail.com)

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

 BE THE ONE

**988 is the universal telephone number of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline. Remember it and use it if necessary.**

## NECman – Ron LaRose

Fellow Legionnaires:

I just returned from the Annual American Legion National Conference held in Washington, DC. The Vermont delegation included our Department Service Officer Larry Thompson and representing the Auxiliary was Janet Osmer.

First day, I sat in on the Legislative Commission listening to Legionnaires discussing what National is attempting to push through Congress this year. Some of the items discussed were:

- Mental Health & Suicide Prevention
- VA Health Care Modernization
- PACT ACT: Implementation & Oversight
- Protect Veterans from Predatory Actors
- Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity
- GI Bill for Honorable Service
- Support our Afghan Allies
- Military Quality of Life
- Pay the Coast Guard
- Protect the American Flag

These are a few of the issues that Commander Troiola presented to a joint session of Congress on our third day.

The second day comprised of presentations by various power players in Congress and the DC area that support Veteran issues. Some of the presenters were: Chairman of the Senate Veterans Committee; Chairman of the Congressional Veterans Committee; a Marine General discussing the state of the Corps and the direction they were going in; and time was allotted for attendees to meet with their Congressional delegation.

We met with Sen Peter Welch and shared ideas on Veterans issues, and he appeared to be fully onboard supporting us. On a side note, his Intern for Veteran issues is the daughter of Tim McGraw and Faith Hill. She looks a lot like her mother!

Then we went to Sen Bernie Sanders' office, but he wasn't in, and we all know how supported he is of our Veterans. On a side note, there was a young lady and young gentleman in his office. Exactly what their titles are I do not remember. The young gentleman remembered me from Boy Scouts in Addison County.

What a small world we live in!

If anyone would like more details on the issues being pushed through Congress, please contact me.

Ron LaRose  
Dept of VT NEC

## **Southern Area Commander – Lewis “Lew” Graham**

Greetings,

Greetings, Comrades, as I return from the sunny, hotter than usual, south. It was great to have a break from the winter, but I was happy to be able to keep contact with Legion traditions. The American Legion post in Sebastian, Florida dedicated a memorial to Prisoners of War and Missing in Action personnel, and I was honored to attend the solemn ceremony.

It was reassuring to note that Vermont is holding firm at number 10 in membership nationally, and only 4% difference from the top of the leaderboard. A few more casual conversations or phone calls will “move us on up”. Thank you for all your effort to renew and sign-up new members. We need to spread the word about our great organization.

All Department Commanders are reminded that we have a DEC meeting in April when new officers will be nominated. There will be a full slate presented, but interested members can run off the floor as well. If you are interested in running, please contact the Senior Vice or the Commander if you need information about election procedures.

The Military Family Community Network meets at Norwich College quarterly. The last meeting provided a lot of information on financial and housing assistance available to veterans. Please email Boyle, Miriam G CTR NG VTARNG (USA) [miriam.g.boyle.ctr@army.mil](mailto:miriam.g.boyle.ctr@army.mil) if you would like the spreadsheet of data, or would like to be put on the contact list. Meetings are held in person and online. The topic on April 12 will be childcare and the month of the military child. Vermont's Early Care and Education Financing Study done for the State of Vermont Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is available at <https://vermontpublic.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ab1a703905d19f426745609a0&id=d58d3d64ab&e=39a6f3b92c>

As spring opens up, there will be many post events and celebrations. I will be happy to attend them. Please let me know so I can fit them into my schedule.

I wish you all a happy Saint Patrick’s Day, a wonderful Easter, and a short mud season.

For God and Country,  
Lew Graham, Jr.

## **Department Adjutant – Brian Markwell**

Greetings Legionnaires:

Your Department Administrator - Melodie and I are hitting the road again for two final mylegion.org training courses that your Post Commanders, Adjutants and SAL Commanders and Adjutants won’t want to miss. March 25<sup>th</sup> we will be at Orleans Post 23 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., please join us. Lunch will be provided by the Post for a minimal fee.

Contact HQ’s and make sure that Melodie has you listed with National as the person to process membership for your Post or Squadron. We will be doing hands-on training so please bring your laptops if you have one. There will be a couple of extra laptops available for use, so no worries if you do not have one.

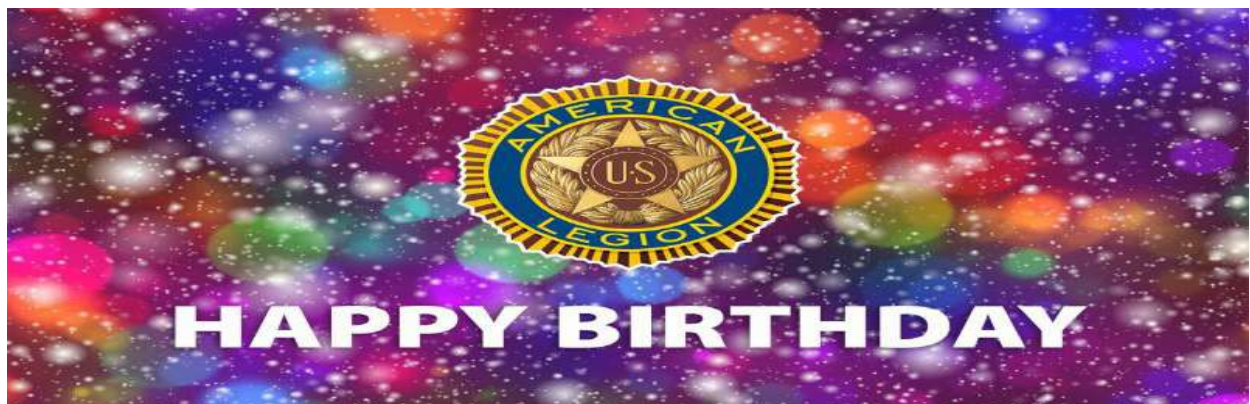
Our final training is being offered before the 2024 membership cards come out and will be at Bennington Post 13 on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m., until 1 p.m. Lunch will be provided by the Post for a minimal fee. Once again, please contact Department HQ's and make sure that Melodie has you listed with National as the go to person for membership within your Post or Squadron prior to either of these trainings.

We hope to see many of you. We thank Waterbury Post 59 and Crippen Fellows Post 50 for hosting several months ago. We had a good turnout at each of those training courses. Please mark your calendar and join us for these two upcoming!

Respectfully,  
 Brian D. Markwell,  
 Dept. Adjutant

**Post Everlasting**

ANDREWS, PAUL .....	07	GRIMES, SR., DONALD .....	19
BELLIVEAU, GERARD .....	07	BANDY, DUANE .....	25
ROYCE, RAYMOND .....	08	ROBY, LOUIS .....	36
DEEP, DAVID .....	10	LEE, EDWARD .....	36
FLEURY, WAYNE.....	10	CHURCHILL, DANIEL .....	36
HABBEP, RALPH .....	10	MILLER, JR., LLOYD .....	59
FERRARI, EDWARD .....	10	FLUERY, JOHN .....	60
THORNTON, PAUL .....	13	LEFEBVRE, RALPH .....	63
BECKER, CHARLES .....	13	MINER, FLOYD .....	91
DONALDSON, THOMAS .....	19	DAY, GORDON .....	CN01
SPARGO, JR., PHILIP .....	19		





# COMMANDER'S PROJECT

2022/2023

## JOSH PALLOTTA FUND / JOSH'S HOUSE

Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, the National Commander, Jim Troiola visited and toured Josh's House and spoke with Andrea Gagner the Executive Director. He was visibly impressed with what was provided to our veterans.

Some of you may remember Valerie Pallotta as one of the founders of the Vermont Chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. Her involvement was a result of her son Joshua joining the Vermont National Guard and deploying to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. When Josh returned, he was a broken person with both physical injuries and PTSD.

In 2014 Josh lost the battle with the demons inside of him and took his own life. His mother became a crusader for all other veterans suffering and for suicide prevention and awareness. As a result, Val founded the Josh Pallotta Fund and ultimately Josh's House, which is a wellness and recreational center providing a myriad of services and activities for veterans. It is located at the old Fort Ethan Allen at 162 Hegeman Avenue in Colchester. It is a wonderful location. You should stop by and check out this vibrant and accessible facility. ([www.joshpallottafund.org](http://www.joshpallottafund.org))

Their goal is to have two other like facilities in the state, one in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, where our veterans are so underserved, as well as one in the southern area. I want to help them, and Val, achieve this goal.

This is so important for all our veterans. The Sons and the Auxiliary realize this as well. For the first time all of us have the same project to help give them a great push in achieving their wonderful goals. There is also a race to see which of us can raise the most for this important endeavor.....Please Help.....

Tom Scanlon

Commander, Department of Vermont



Please send your checks to Department HQ made out to the "Department of Vermont" and with "Commander's Project" annotated in the memo area. It is a wonderful project which helps our veterans who are so underserved.

## Historian – Victor Stone

### American Legion Riders Winter Meeting

By Victor Stone, Dept. Historian

It's 15 degrees outside, there is snow on the ground, the wind is cold out of the Northwest, so what's to be done? How about attending a gathering of motorcycle riders to talk about motorcycles, summer rides, and catch up on what's going on with old friends. To this end, on Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup> the American Legion Riders of Vermont met at Montpelier Post #3 for their Winter Meeting. Along with the aforementioned opportunities to talk all things motorcycling the members attended to the important business of electing new officers for the ensuing year, penciling in a slate of possible Spring and Summer rides, and planning fund raisers, among other things.

The newly elected officers are:

Director – Dave Hendee  
Asst. Director – Chris Wood  
Secretary – Corrinna Colson  
Treasurer – Bonnie Lohr  
Safety Officer – Jay Matthews  
Road Captain – John Christian  
Sgt-at-Arms – Ross Lohr



From Left to Right – Dave Hendee, Corrinna Colson, Jay Matthews, Bonnie Lohr, Ross Lohr, Chris Wood



After the elections were finalized, those attending offered their sincere thanks to Past Director and Northern Area Commander Lou Furry for his decade of service as Director and for the important role he played in forming the American Legion Riders as a program of the Department of Vermont.

Following the meeting, the attendees shared a fine lunch provided by the Riders of Post #59 of Waterbury.



## Mark our Calendar!

March 25 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. MyLegion Training  
April 1 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. MyLegion Training  
April 16 noon – 2 p.m. DEC April Meeting  
June 22-24 Annual Convention

Orleans Post 23  
Bennington Post 13  
Montpelier Post 3  
DoubleTree Hotel, South Burlington



### **3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander - Joe Zickmund**

Election season is upon us. Something I believe every post needs is fresh ideas. How does a Post get fresh ideas? We volunteer to help by being part of the Post leadership. If we put ourselves in positions that we've never held, we bring fresh ideas and a new outlook and we gain a sense of purpose. There is no higher purpose in our organization than to be of service to our fellow veterans – something well accomplished from the front.

We talk a lot about membership numbers, and they are vital to our mission, but we have to serve the members, not just count them. Not ready to be an officer? How about serving or chairing a committee? Americanism, Children & Youth, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Membership & Post Activities, Public Relations, Legislative, Finance, Economic, House, and Service Committees are the Standing Committees. Your Post may have others, too.

The very basic qualification of membership is that we all swore an oath and agreed to stand a post if needed. You are needed. I encourage you to consider standing a post again...at your Home Post. It's rewarding, it's helpful and it's needed.

For God and Country,

Joe Zickmund  
District 3 Commander

### **4<sup>th</sup> District Commander - Bill Brothers**

Hello Legionnaires,

Hello everyone, another month has gone, and we are looking good on membership so far, but we still have some work to do, let's not slip, keep up the momentum we have now, and we can stay ahead of our goals and be number 1 in the Northeast. Thank you for all the work you have been doing on retention and renewals.

Now that we are in the downhill slide on winter let's keep on checking in with our shut ins too, a quick call to let them know that we are still here if they need anything our just to let them know we are thinking of them.

If you are doing any type of fundraising let us know so we can help and get it to state so it can be put in our newsletter too. I know my Post is doing a gun raffle, it's a 911, 45 Cal pistol, we will be starting to sell tickets in the next week, drawing will be when last ticket is sold.

I will also be starting back up with visitations, looking forward to coming around and seeing everyone, if there is anything you need let me know and will see if I can get what you need our have it sent to you from state.

Now don't forget that we have three months until high schools are getting out, so we should be working on or with the counselors to get the applications out for our scholarships to the students.

Thank you all for the work you do.  
For God and country  
Bill Brothers  
4th District Commander

## **Rutland County - Richie Baptie**

Greeting all legionnaires. Hope everyone is well. To those that were able to attend the mid-winter conference I hope that you enjoyed and learn as much as I did in the different meetings that were held. It was also awesome to see old friends and new faces. It's always good to see new legionnaires attending the conference's and getting involved.

As always if any Post needs any assistance, please let me know, I will be traveling to all posts in my area.

For God and Country,  
Richie-Richard Baptie  
Rutland County Commander

## **Legislative Committee PDC Richard Farmer**

Legionnaires:

At this time of the year, legislation is in committee being prepared for the "Cross Over". Cross Over is when the Senate bills go to the House, and House bills go to the Senate. If they don't make the Cross Over, they are dead for this year.

As I write this, I have a list of over two dozen bills in front of me, all of them being related to Veterans. Some seem like common sense legislation, but this does not always hold up in Montpelier. If you wish to see this list, you can find it on the Webb under Vt. State Legislation.

During Town Meeting week, our legislatures will be home. This is a good time to discuss issues with them. Most of our elected officials are not Veterans and do not understand Veterans' issues. Enlighten them.

A reminder to all Posts, get your Consolidated Reports in. They are easy to fill out; and if you need help, call your County or District Commander. Fill out a report, even if you think you did nothing.

Many of our Military and their families be safe.

For God and Country,  
Dick Farmer  
Legislative Chairman

## **ENDORSEMENTS OF DEPT. OFFICERS 2023 – 2024**

Department Commander: Mark Cloutier, Post 07

Department Senior Vice Commander: Lou Furry, Post 07 & Lewis Graham, Post 36

No. Are Commander: Joseph Zickmund, Post 10

So. Area Commander: William Brothers, Post 49

1<sup>st</sup> Dist. Commander: Robert Pearl, Post 60

2<sup>nd</sup> Dist. Commander: David Perron, Post 30

3<sup>rd</sup> Dist. Commander: Christopher Wood, Post 59

Addison Cty. Commander: Bruce Paquin, Post 27

Bennington Cty. Commander: Joseph Bump, Post 13

Franklin Cty. Commander: Philip Pearo, Post 60

Dept. Finance Officer: Dennis Minoli, Post 10

NECman: Tom Scanlon, Post 27

### **Oratorical Program – Karlene DeVine**

Another win for Harwood Unified Union high school senior Jeswin Antony! In his fourth year of competing in the American Legion's Oratorical Competition, Jeswin took First Place at the Pavilion Auditorium, Montpelier on Sunday, Mar. 5th and will go on to represent Vermont at the National competition in Indianapolis, IN April 21-23, 2023. Expenses of the contestant and a chaperone are covered by National.

His Prepared Oration, "We, the Cyber Patriots" addressed the current state of unregulated content of social media and its impact of mental health and security in the U.S. Jeswin is sponsored by Harry N. Cutting Waterbury Post 59. The scholarship award from the Department is \$1500 for First Place.

The Prepared Oration is an original 8-to-10-minute speech on some phase of the Constitution of the U.S. The speech is accomplished using no microphone, notes or a podium.

Each of 3 contestants addressed the 6th Amendment as the randomly chosen Assigned Topic. There are five tenets of the 6th Amendment that affect the rights of a defendant in a criminal prosecution including the right to a speedy trial, an impartial jury, and right to an attorney. The Assigned Topic speech is 3 to 5 minutes. Both speeches must address the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government.

Jeswin was also the 2022 First Place winner and represented Vermont in Indianapolis, IN joining 52 other high school students representing each state, France, Puerto Rico and Mexico in the National Finals.

The overall national contest winner gets a \$25,000 scholarship; 2nd place takes home \$22,500; 3rd gets \$20,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$2,000 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

Megan Mentzer, sophomore from Vergennes Union HS took 2nd place with "The Role of the Supreme Court in America's Everchanging Judicial Climate". Megan received \$750 for her effort and can return next year to compete. Supported by Vergennes Post 14, this was her first time competing.

Hallie Laber, a senior in homeschooling from Irasburg, entered the Oratorical contest through the JROTC program at North Country UHS. Her Prepared Oration was, "He Alone Who Owns the Youth, Gains the Future". Hallie garnered \$500. Sponsored by Newport Post 21, she plans a career in law enforcement.

This year, we had some new twists besides enlightenment about the Constitution—contest date change due to inclement weather necessitating last minute contest personnel changes and we added a Bountiful Breakfast Buffet served and organized by Dave Scott, Navy veteran.

I recommend reading the interview with Mike Pence from the Nov. 2019 Legion Magazine about his experience with the Oratorical Program when he was a high school student.

<https://www.legion.org/magazine/247685/great-debt-gratitude>

Application to participate in the 2023-2024 Program are available from Karlene DeVine [kdevine@myfairpoint.net](mailto:kdevine@myfairpoint.net)



*Commander Scanlon presented Jeswin Antony with a special coin engraved with the Pledge of Allegiance in recognition of the First-Place winner.*



*(L) to (R) Hallie Laber, Megan Mentzer, Commander Scanlon, Jeswin Antony*

For God and Country,

Karlene DeVine, Chair  
Department of VT Oratorical Program

**THE SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN LEGION  
TESTIMONIAL DINNER  
HONORING**

*Jeremy Revell  
Detachment Commander*

**Saturday May 13th, 2023**

**American Legion Post #19**

**Bristol, VT**

**Cocktail & Appetizers 5:00 PM**

**Dinner 6:00 PM**

**Roast and Toast to follow**

**BBQ Chicken Meal \$25 PP**

**RSVP: Erika Revell**

**1032 East River Rd**

**Lincoln VT 05443**

**email: [jerevell@gmavt.net](mailto:jerevell@gmavt.net)**

**By April 29th**

**\*\*Make checks payable to Squadron #19\*\***

# Attention American Legion Members

Thank you for your service! Have you ever visited the war memorials in Washington D.C? Have you ever truly been honored for serving in the military to protect all our freedom?

As the American Legion Auxiliary President for 2019-2021 I received a grant from the Veterans Administration to assist Vermont Veterans who were interested in experiencing the Honor Flight with Honor Flight New England. I received this grant during the COVID Pandemic when flights were grounded and now that HFNE is flying again we need to start getting as many Veterans signed up to use this grant money.

This grant money will be used to transport all our Vermont Veterans to the airport in either Manchester NH or Boston Mass. and back to Vermont! We already have some signed up but have many more to go, so please consider joining the rest of your comrades on the trip of a lifetime to be honored for your service.

The date for this trip is yet to be determined but it will be either this summer or fall and you are allowed to bring your own guardian to accompany you under the age of 65. If you do not have a guardian please do not hesitate as we have many wonderful guardians just waiting to experience this with one of our VT heroes!

Please spread the news to all your WWII, Korean, & Vietnam Veterans and let's pack this bus for an overnight trip with deserving Veterans. Remember there is no cost to the Veteran except hotel room & you need not be a combat Veteran or served during wartime to deserve this opportunity... a Veteran is a Veteran!

Click on the links to complete the application for a Veteran or Guardian and send them back to the address listed. We look forward to having you on our Vermont Veterans trip this year so please sign up right away!

**Veterans Application:** <https://honorflightnewengland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Veteran-1-20.pdf>

**Guardian Application:** <https://honorflightnewengland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Guardian-120.pdf>

In the Spirit of Service Not Self,

Corrinna E. Colson, ALA PDP

802-274-8333

CColson.alavt@gmail.com

**WANTED**

**WWII, KOREAN AND VIETNAM VETERANS**

**A DAY TO REMEMBER, BECAUSE WE WILL NEVER FORGET.**  
Honor Flight New England Transports World War II, Korean and Vietnam Veterans to see THEIR Memorials in Washington DC at **NO COST** to those that served.

**HONOR FLIGHT NEW ENGLAND**  
CONTACT US NOW FOR A VETERAN APPLICATION  
603-518-5368 \* [honorflightnewengland.org](https://honorflightnewengland.org)

## Prepare for Legion Family Day in April



The National Executive Committee passed [Resolution No. 7, American Legion Family Day](#) at its Fall Meeting in October 2022. The resolution established an American Legion Family Day to be observed annually on the last Saturday of April.

This year for Legion Family Day on April 29, posts are encouraged to open their doors to members of their community for the day to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion members, Legion Riders and American Legion Auxiliary, and to bring awareness to the organization’s [“Be the One” initiative](#) to reduce the rate of veteran suicide.

“Tell them about our Be the One campaign and our efforts to de-stigmatize the courageous decision to seek mental wellness,” National Commander Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola said. “Too many veterans take their lives while feeling isolated and alone. Some have no close relatives to whom they can reach out. It is a mistake for them to believe they have no family. Whether they know it or not, they have an American Legion Family.”

At your Legion Family event have an information table with [Be the One resources](#) that include a press release, brochures, posters, wallet cards, branding materials and more. [Visit betheone.org](#) for more information.

If you are planning a Legion Family Day event April 29, or a separate Be the One event, please share with national at [legiontown.org](#).

## Be The One Branding Materials

The approved logos for the Be The One initiative is subject to the same usage rules as The American Legion Brandmark. These guidelines, detailed instructions on proper use of the branding, and downloadable files can be found at [legion.org/brand](#)

# BE THE ONE

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

**TO LISTEN WHEN ANYONE, INCLUDING A VETERAN, NEEDS TO TALK.**

**TO REACH OUT WHEN ANYONE, INCLUDING A VETERAN, IS STRUGGLING.**

## **American Legion Brand**

When it comes to designing products for American Legion events and programs, National Headquarters has developed a style guide to help you create designs that match our existing brand and brandmark. This guide walks you through color, font, and layout specifications among others. It also will walk you through when to use the emblem versus the brand mark. To access the style guide visit [legion.org/brand](https://legion.org/brand).

The brand mark is to be used in all marketing communications applications (e.g., lifestyle apparel, fundraising, sponsorships, digital media, social media, and event announcements). While the emblem should be reserved for official documents and communications (e.g., press releases, business cards, post signage and official letterhead).

The American Legion emblem and other legally protected logos of the American Legion Family is restricted and typically may not be used without permission from National Headquarters.

The use of the emblem by an individual Legionnaire is limited to the wearing of the official insignia and to the possession of authorized jewelry or merchandise bearing the insignia. Posts are confined to using the emblem or reproduction of the emblem on stationery, post publications, notices, posters, or place cards, or matters of similar character used in the ordinary routine and conduct of legitimate post business. Departments are similarly limited.

Any other use of the name “The American Legion” or the emblem shall be subject to the approval of the national adjutant at [legion.org/emblem/request](https://legion.org/emblem/request).





## **Basic Training**

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online.

Already taken the old course? The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam.

### *How Does it Work?*

The Course is arranged into 5 major topic areas and 1 concluding section. Each section will present information about the topic via text, images and video.

### *Evaluation*

At the end of each topic area there is a quiz that will help gauge your understanding of the material.

When you've completed each section quiz, you'll be able to take the final exam. The exam will take roughly ~30 minutes to complete.

Enhance your knowledge of the American Legion and take the Basic Course at [www.legion.org/alei](http://www.legion.org/alei).

## **Service Officers – Larry Thompson**

Here's some information about the new BTSSS (Beneficiary Travel Self Service System). It's coming online throughout the VA by October 2023. The current system of using the kiosk is still working or if they are down the paper form is still accepted. Like all large organizations going online is the next step. I have included how to access BTSSS through My HealthVet, VA.gov and last the paper form vha-10-3542. The web sites with the QR codes are videos that explain the process, type in the web address if you don't have scanning capabilities.

This needs to be disseminated to the members, so they understand this is a new way of submitting travel reimbursement, not mandated yet.

# New Veterans Travel Reimbursement Process—for travel eligible veterans Beneficiary Travel Self Service System

From a computer or smart phone go to :

<https://eauth.va.gov/accessva/>

AccessVA



## 1 Getting Started

## 3 Initiate a Claim

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Choose I am a Veteran

AccessVA

Getting your Access to VA

1a Veteran Travel Claim Entry

1b Login

Select Address from Previously Submitted Claims

- Profile Address
- 814 NE 185th Street Portland OR 97239

First Name: James  
Middle Name: Linus  
Last Name: Madison  
Appointment: Vista Appt - Por POD PHYSAddress Line 1: 1662 Village Park Place  
Address Line 2: 1662 Village Park Place  
City: West Linn  
State: OR  
Zip/Postal Code: 97068

Create Claim and Add Expenses

There is a maximum of 5 attachments  
(If you need to add additional attachments or remove attachments, please contact your facility)

Add Attachments

All visits to a Non-VA location will require a Proof of Attendance attached

Choose an expense type:

- Used a personal car to drive to appointment
- Took a common carrier to get to appointment (e.g. Trains, Bus, Tax, Airplane)
- Pre-approved for meals and or lodging

Add Mileage Expense

Add Parking Expense

Add Toll Expense

Mileage / Reimbursement

Trip Type: Round Trip  
Mileage Requested: 35.9  
Cost: 14.9



Challenge Mileage  
 No  Yes

Add Expense

Expense Line Items

Type	Date	Description	Requested	Submitted	Edit	Delete
Mileage	02/19/2020	Miles 18.15	\$7.54	\$7.54		
			Total	\$7.54		

## 4 Submit Claim for Processing

Beneficiary Travel Agreement Notice

Penalty Statement: There are severe criminal and civil penalties including fines or imprisonment, or both for knowingly submitting a false, fictitious, or fraudulent claim

I agree to the term:

Submit Claim

Helpful Hints:

- \* Direct Deposit is required. Submit form to Agent Cashier if not already receiving beneficiary travel via direct deposit (This is different than monthly Comp and Pension payments)

Next

You must agree to the terms and conditions to access this site

Proceed to Profile Review

NOTE: To update the Profile Information send the info to the Enrollment Office

Then

Proceed to My Dashboard

## 2 My Dashboard

My Claims

Portal Claims View

Name	Submitted Date	Claim Status	Appointment	Claim Number	Create
Claim created by James Madison on 10/30/2020	10/30/2020	Paid	Claim Vista Appt POR EYE PHYS RETINA - Bc	T:1020000006385	
Claim created by James Madison on 01/03/2021	01/03/2021	Manual Review	Claim Vista Appt POR EYE PHYS RETINA - Bc	TC10200000008263	
Claim created by James Madison on 12/18/2020	12/18/2020	Denied	CC - Dialysis	TC10200000936076	

( 1 2 3 4 )

My Appointments

Portal Appointments View

Name	Appt Date	Associated Claim	Facility Name	Owner
David 19 Nurse	1/29/2021	Create Claim	Portland VA Medical Center	Portland VAMC
CC Dialysis	01/30/2021	Creates Claim	Fresenius Kidney Care Lebanon	Portland VAMC
Vista GI Uro by James Madison on 10/30/2020	10/30/2020	2020/10/30 Vista Appt FOR GI Urology	Roseburg VA Medical Center	Roseburg VAMC

( 1 2 3 4 )

# My HealtheVet Offers Easy Access to VA Travel Pay Portal

Quick and Easy Access to the VA Travel Pay Portal. You can now use your My HealtheVet Premium account to sign in to the Beneficiary Travel Self-Service System (BTSSS) Travel Pay Portal. Eligible Veterans can now: Submit BT claims online 24/7, 365 days a year from a computer or mobile device, track the status of submitted BT claims, use self-help tools to make BT claim submission, and reduce BT processing time for submitting claims. Trouble accessing your account? CALL 855-574-7292 (HELP-DESK)



Create BTSSS Account; visit:  
[www.access.va.gov](http://www.access.va.gov)

Through My HealtheVet: Sign in to My HealtheVet with your secure account credentials.

From the My HealtheVet homepage, select Personal Information from the top toolbar.

From the dropdown menu, select Pay or Receive Funds.

Do you have direct deposit?  
Yes: Skip this step  
No: Complete VA's Direct Deposit Form (VA Form 10091)

Select VA Medical Travel Pay to access the BTSSS portal without signing in again.



Scan QR Code  
My HealtheVet



Scan QR Code  
BTSSS Access

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks



SUNDAY

MAY 7, 2023 2:00 pm

Historic Downtown Rutland, VT



Host Sponsor Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 648 Rutland, VT

Dear Parade Supporters,

The Rutland's Loyalty Day Parade Committee, on behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Rutland Post 648 will hold its annual Loyalty Day Parade, on Sunday May 7, 2023, at 2:00 pm Downtown Rutland.

**This years Parade theme "TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED"**

The United States of America was founded by patriots who risked their lives to bring freedom to the nation. The nation's founders are remembered on Loyalty Day, which is a day when people celebrate their freedom while remembering their responsibilities to continue the legacy of liberty. Loyalty Day is celebrated with parades and ceremonies in several communities across the United States. Schools, churches, and various organizations participate in these events. In Rutland we celebrate with a Sunday afternoon parade, to make it convenient for citizens to participate in one of the annual events for the month of May. (see other side of this letter)

Therefore, we are requesting monetary support from your organization, company, or business to financially support the Annual Parade which is an honorary event. This event shows our loyalty to America and supports our veterans and our service men and women of all armed services of the United States of America, especially during these times. We must show our young Americans what patriotism and service to our country means.

We are asking for your support to keep the Annual Rutland Tradition going for future generations to enjoy and celebrate as a community our heritage as Americans.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and our communities. There is a form enclosed for your support.

Loyalty Parade Committee

Co-Chair Donna Manfredi and Shella Mills

**PS: If your company would like to participate in the parade, with a float, antique vehicles, music group, or anything historical, we would love to have you in the parade.**

**Please contact Parade Logistic Committee; Bill Gillam by email**

**[loyaltyparadecomm@yahoo.com](mailto:loyaltyparadecomm@yahoo.com) or call 802.353.8798**



SUNDAY

MAY 7, 2023 2:00 pm

Historic Downtown Rutland, VT



Host Sponsor Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 648 Rutland, VT

**Theme " TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED "**

**LOYALTY DAY PARADE SPONSORS AND SUPPORT FORM**

We would like to honor a family member in the memorial list Suggested donation \$10.00 or more

Memorial Honor Our Best ; \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_, contact email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Our Company or Organization would like to be a Parade Sponsor,

It is our Honor to Honor Our Best for past, present and our future Service Men and Women

Company Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Gold sponsor \$500.00

Silver Sponsor \$300.00

Bronze Sponsor \$ 100.00

Blue Sponsor \$ 50.00

White/Red Sponsor \$ 25.00 Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU HAVE A BANNER OR SIGN  
WE WILL BE MORE HAPPY TO HANG IT ON THE  
PARADE VIEWING PLATFORM AREA

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE : VFW POST 648 PARADE FUND**

Mail To: Loyalty Parade Committee, VFW POST 649, 15 Wales. Rutland, VT 05701

**The Memorial Names and Sponsors will be listed in a large Rutland Herald Ad a few days AFTER the parade**

On Behalf of Loyalty Parade Committee, we THANK YOU !!



## Background

Loyalty Day was first observed in 1921 as "Americanization Day" to counterbalance Labor Day on May Day (May 1), celebrated in other parts of the world. On May 1, 1930, about 10,000 Veterans of Foreign War members staged a rally at New York's Union Square to promote patriotism. Through a resolution adopted in 1949, May 1 evolved into Loyalty Day. Observances began on April 28, 1950, and climaxed on May 1 when more than five million people across the nation held rallies. In New York City, more than 100,000 people rallied for America.

On July 18, 1958, the Congress designated May 1 of each year as Loyalty Day to foster loyalty and love of the country. According to the Legal Information Institute, the President is requested to issue a proclamation, calling on United States government officials to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings on Loyalty Day, and inviting the people of the United States to observe Loyalty Day with appropriate ceremonies in schools and other suitable places.

## What Do People Do?

The United States of America was founded by patriots who risked their lives to bring freedom to the nation. The nation's founders are remembered on Loyalty Day, which is a day when people celebrate their freedom while remembering their responsibilities to continue the legacy of liberty. Loyalty Day is celebrated with parades and ceremonies in several communities across the United States. Schools, churches, and various organizations participate in these events.

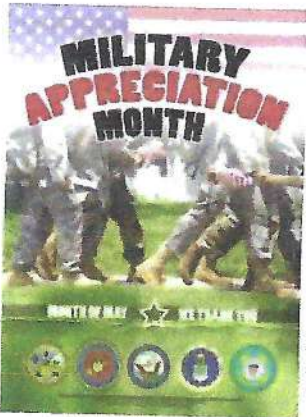
## Rutland Loyalty Day Parade History

Rutland VFW Post 648, in 1963, 60 years ago started the Loyalty Day Parade in Rutland, on the first Sunday in May, on Downtown Rutland's streets, The Parade Committee Co-Chairs Donna Manfredi and Shella Mills

**Loyalty Day** is observed annually on May 1<sup>st</sup>. In the United States, National Loyalty Day is a special holiday meant for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States of America, and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom. Loyalty Day was made an official reoccurring holiday on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1958, although it was first recognized on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1955. Loyalty Day has been honored with an official proclamation every year, by every president, since its inception as a legal holiday in 1958. Loyalty Day will be observed on Friday, May 1, 2020. Loyalty Day kicks off [National Military Appreciation Month](#) each year.

National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM) is celebrated every May and is a declaration that encourages U.S. citizens to observe the month in a symbol of unity. NMAM honors the current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom. The month of May is characterized by six national

## 6 National Observances during National Military Appreciation Month



**Loyalty Day** Date: Sunday, May 7, 2023

About: Loyalty Day kicks off our Nation's month-long celebration of military appreciation. It is a day set aside for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States, and to reflect on the proud heritage of our American freedom.

**Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW)** Date: Sunday, May 7 – Saturday, May 13, 2023

About: Celebrated the first full week in May. About: A time set aside to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees and ensure that our government is the best in the world.

**Victory in Europe Day AKA V-E Day or VE Day** Date: Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

About: May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1945 is the day when Germans throughout Europe unconditionally surrendered to the Allies. This day marked the end of World War II in Europe.

**Military Spouse Appreciation Day** Date: Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Traditionally set for the Friday before Mother's Day.

About: A day to honor military spouses with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Recognizes the important role our military families play in keeping our Armed Forces strong and our country safe.

**Armed Forces Day** Date: Saturday, May 20, 2023. Celebrated the third Saturday in May every year.

About: A single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country. This day honors everyone serving in the U.S. Military branches; Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, Space Force. There is also [Armed Forces Week](#) which typically leads up to Armed Forces Day, although it is not an official observance, many activities are planned nonetheless during the week.

**Memorial Day** Date: Monday, May 29, 2023. A Federal holiday observed on the last Monday in May.

About: A remembrance of our veterans. Commemorates the men and women who died while in military service. All Americans are encouraged to pause, wherever they are, at 3:00 pm local time for a minute of silence.

## History of NMAM

In 1999 Senator John McCain introduced legislation to designate the month of May as National Military Appreciation Month. Both the Senate and House of Representatives adopted resolutions calling for Americans to recognize and honor U.S. Service Members during NMAM. These proclamations also urge the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe NMAM.