

# LEGION DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

Department Headquarters 126 State Street, P.O. Box 396 Montpelier, Vermont 05601-0396

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## **MARCH 2025**

## **Bulletin**

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

Department Commanders Message – Joseph Zickmund

Department Sr. Vice Commander Message – William Brothers

National Leading Candidate Dan Wiley Visits Vermont - HQ's

Oratorical Contest Final - Karlene DeVine

**Legion Commander & SAL Commander Testimonials -**

Endorsements of 2025 - 2026 Officers - HQ's

#### **Department Commander**

# Joseph Zickmund

Vermont Legionnaires,

It's as simple as a phone call.

We consider it our most sacred responsibility to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. Since May 2019, by way of an organization-wide Resolution, Legionnaires are asked to conduct Buddy Checks during the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, March 15th.



Our Eastern National Vice Commander, as busy as he is, checks on me and other Department Commanders regularly. Although all is well in my world, I appreciate it every time. I believe any veteran receiving a buddy check call would find comfort in knowing we care. I encourage all of you to pick up your phone and make that call.

Buddy Checks are a vital part of the bigger "Be the One" initiative. It allows us the opportunity to identify at-risk veterans and to take action. Caring for each other is who we are...it's what we do.

Thank you for all you do in the fulfillment of our mission to care for veterans.

For God, Country, and the American Veteran,

Joe Zickmund Commander, Dept. of VT



#### <u>Senior Vice Commander – William Brothers</u>

**Greetings Legionaries:** 

Hello everyone, I hope everyone is doing good through this winter and being safe and checking in on our shut-in vets that are not able to get out.

We had a great Mid-Winter Conference with a guest that came up to see us from New Jersey, Eastern National Vice Commander - Chuck Robbins. It was great talking with him,



and he was very pleased with our membership and what we are doing in Vermont. Thank you everyone for what you are doing on membership. We still have more to get to hit our next target date, I know we can do this. If any of you have memberships sitting on your desks, please get them into Melodie or processed online. Thank you.

I also had the privilege of attending the Boston conference with PDC Mark Cloutier, it was a great event, and a lot of important information was given. I learned more about what we can do with the Son's and Legion Rider programs to help them to stay on task and at hand with in our Legion guidelines. I also went to the Washington Conference and was very surprised at what information was given.



of the wreaths at Arlington Cemetery and we also visited a few memorials that day. Vermont had the privilege of laying a wreath at the Korea war memorial this year. There were a lot of great meetings, and I attended one on education benefits for survivors of a fallen veterans. The siblings can use these benefits, and they are still working on improving them. Siblings will be able to receive all of the benefits, not just a portion of it. This was brought up and hopefully it is in the works and goes through. They had people there talking

about their experiences filling for benefits and how much it had improved.

We spent Monday on Capitol Hill, DSO - Larry Thompson, Auxiliary Legislative Chair-Dee Colety and myself. We got to meet and talk with Vermont Senator - Bernie Sanders and with Senator - Peter Welch. It was a great session with them both, we discussed working on the homelessness problems with our Vermont veterans and other veteran issues.





I would like to thank you all again for the great work this year on renewals and more importantly we need to keep up the momentum to hit 100% percent this year! In closing I want to thank everyone that reached out to me on the passing of my wife Dottie, thank you all for the cards and messages. It meant a lot to me and the family, she is missed greatly every day, so THANK YOU AGAIN.

For God and Country,

Bill Brothers, Sr. Vice Commander

#### <u>Northern Area Commander – Robert Pearl</u>

Greetings,

The American Legion's Children and Youth programs provide great services in assisting our youthful participants in dealing with today's culture, society and of being proud of being patriotic to our great Country. I assume that on completion of the programs, the participants are given some type of letter/



Certificate of Completion. In addition to a completion certificate, I suggest following be included as follows:

#### Invitation

Please accept this invitation to join the American Legion when and if you become eligible, with your first year of membership being paid by the American Legion. Eligibility requirement consists of having served one day of active military service. This can be accomplished the first day of boot camp (basic training). Simply by sending a copy of your active-duty I.D. card, a copy of this invalidation, and a copy of the attached application filled out.

The above suggestion/idea is purposed in an effort to recognize those who have participated and may become members. Needless to say, we need new young members to carry on the American Legion. Of course, none of this would be possible if our members who run the programs of Children and Youth didn't give their endless hours and days to make it all happen. A great "Thanks" to all of them.

Very Respectfully,

**Robert Pearl** 

802-372-5882

#### <u>Southern Area Commander – Fred Wilson</u>

Hello Legionnaires,

Daylight saving time begins March 9th, 2025. I and Senior Vice Commander Brothers plan a visit to Northland Post 47 on March 12th, 2025. Saturday, March 15th, 2025, is the American Legion 106th birthday.



The American Legion Leading National Candidate Dan K. Willey of Kansas will be touring the capital area arriving March 15th, 2025, and departing the morning of March 18th, 2025. A banquet is planned on St Patrick's Day, March 17, 2025, Montpelier Post 3, meet and greet 5 PM social hour and Corned Beef dinner at 6PM.

DEC Meeting scheduled for Sunday, April 6th, 2025, starting at 12PM at Montpelier Post 3.

Ballard Hobart Post 36, Ludlow has changed their regular meeting in April from the 6th to April 13th, 2025. Election of officers for 2025-2026 to follow.

Mark your calendars for Vermont Department Commander Joe Zickmund Testimonial Dinner on Saturday June 7th at Harry N. Cutting Post 59, 16 Stowe Street, Waterbury, Vermont.

BE THE ONE! If you are experiencing any of these and need medical attention, call 911 now. For immediate help in dealing with a suicidal crisis, contact the Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988 then Press 1.

Fred E. Wilson Jr.

Southern Area Commander <u>2fredwilson@gmail.com</u> 9177630354.

#### **Department Adjutant - Brian Markwell**

Good afternoon, Legionnaires,

Just a quick note to let you all know a few things coming up.

The National Leading Candidate – Dan Wiley is visiting us soon from the great State of Kansas. Dan Wileys' visit schedule/itinerary is enclosed in this bulletin. Please try to attend one of the many stops he has in Vermont and say Hello!

Birthday Dinners are taking place all over Vermont in our Posts, we wish the organization a "Happy 106<sup>th</sup> Birthday" and we hope your Post celebrations are well attended.

This bulletin also includes the State Commander and SAL Commander testimonials. They both have done outstanding service to their organizations, please plan accordingly to attend their testimonials.

The 2025 – 2026 Officer Endorsement sheet is attached to this bulletin. If you are running for an office, in June, please get your endorsements into HQ's. Information will be coming out soon regarding State Convention! Oratorical is happening this Month and information is attached to this bulletin as well.

And lastly, your Posts should have all received the Post Data Report to fill out. Please remember there is a \$5.00 increase for the Department to the 2026 dues, we will be at \$45.00 per member. Your Post will need to increase if you keep any of the due's portion for inhouse.

Respectfully,

Brian D. Markwell

#### Dept. Historian - Carl King

Please send pictures of Post events and community activities that exemplify what The American Legion is all about.

This way we can share with our veteran communities and hopefully we can encourage membership as well.

We won't know anything about your Posts unless you share with us.

GOD bless America, Vermont, and the American Legion.

Carl P. King Department of Vermont HISTORIAN



#### 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander – Christopher Wood

Hello from the District Three communities of Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties. I write this as I sit in town meeting, and this is a sure sign that we are headed into springtime in the North Country.

The struggle continues at the local, state, and national level for attention to, and funding to support, Veteran issues. I am working on a program to advertise the "be the one" program across New England, but it is ever important to reach out to the



Veterans in YOUR community to ensure every Veteran has a place to reach out to when times get tough.

Membership is now in those final throes of trying for 100% of our quota. This is when it gets tough to find those few people who are on the fence and ok with just letting their membership expire, and they are just waiting to see if you care enough to call or visit them. Will they hear from you?

The Legion birthday on the 12th of March is the day our Posts are trying to be at 90% of quota, and we all know that the last 10% is really tough. The Posts of District 3 are doing great work! Norwich Post 1819 has kept Washington County in the lead for District 3 with 109% of their quota. Chelsea Post 61 has put Orange County back into second place with 96% of their quota. Johnson Post 46 in Lamoille County has held steady at

94% of their quota, but they are now in third place in a tight race. This makes representation of each County in the District for the top three spots. Barre Post 10 is now tied for most new members as they have brought in 15 new members with Norwich University Post 1819 which had 15 as of my last newsletter. So far the Posts in District Three have managed to dig up a total of 48 new members for their Posts. Thank you for all you do!

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

#### **4<sup>th</sup> District Commander – William Charron**

Greetings fellow Legionnaires from the Southwest corner of the State.

The 4th District has been very busy in the last few months, many of our Posts have been very busy with community events. Bingo leads the way as fundraisers for Posts with many devoted followers. Sundays have been very busy with Posts having community breakfasts with great turnouts.



Posts are also holding dinners to increase community involvement. Bennington and West Rutland are leading the dinnertime events with amazing food leaving their Posts on Friday evenings.

Posts are preparing for elections as well as getting ready for the upcoming events of Spring and summer.

May God bless you all and God bless the American Legion.

Respectfully, Bill Charron



#### 5<sup>th</sup> District Commander – Lewis Graham

I have been in the sunny south for a good share of this last month and had a great time visiting the military clubs there with my friend Steve. I was able to participate in a couple of memorial services and several veteran dinners at the Legion and VFW there. The enthusiasm and support reminded me of the same spirit that many of our Posts have here in Vermont. As I have traveled around, I have noticed that several of our Posts are beginning to have breakfasts, or dinners for the public or for veterans to give much needed community and support in these trying times.



Elections are coming up next month. Please step up and help run your organizations. The work is not difficult, and past officers are always happy to help you if you have questions. I will be happy to do the installations if you like. Just give me a shout at 802-279-0441.

I have recently learned about an interesting magazine called Veterans' Voices. It has been in print since 1952. The writing is only from veterans and many of the writers explain how writing their experiences or other stories and poetry has helped them with PTSD and reentry into life at home. The link is <a href="https://veteransvoices.org">https://veteransvoices.org</a>

Check it out and tell your friends. You never know what can be a lifeline to healing.

There are a lot of celebrations of the Legion birthday coming up and then into the celebrations of the officers of this year's organization. I hope to see you at some of them.

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



#### **Orleans County Commander – Carl King**

Greetings Legionnaires.

We up here in The Northeast Kingdom are having a spectacular skiing and snowmobile season.

Come on up and join us!

Post 76 Barton

Post 23 Orleans

Post 21 Newport

Post 28 Jay Peak (North Troy)

Stop in and see us!!!
Great people, Great times

Carl P. King, Orleans County Commander



#### <u>Washington County Commander – Wayne Goulet</u>

American Legion Family,

There are a few significant upcoming events that are being hosted by the Washington County Posts. I hope that many American Legion Family members will find the time to support these important events. These events are highlighted below:

- **1. 17 March 2025 Dinner with Dan Wiley, National Leading Candidate at Montpelier Post 3.** Meet/Greet Social begins at 5:00 and Dinner at 6:00. Dan is an Air Force veteran and has been a member of the American Legion in Kansas for over 30 years. He has held many positions at the Post, District, Department, and National levels. In 2008 he was appointed as a State of Kansas District Court Judge and helped establish the Leavenworth County Veterans Treatment Court. (https://dankwiley.com/)
- **2. 22 March 2025 Dinner with Lauren Lloyd, Auxiliary Eastern Division National Vice President Dinner at Waterbury Post 59.** Happy Hour begins at 4:30 and Dinner at 5:30. John Tester, Department of Vermont Auxiliary President, is Master of Ceremonies. According to the American Legion Auxiliary website:

Lauren has been married to her husband, Gene, for 27 years. They serve together in their communities and across the globe helping people find their purpose and discover their strengths. Lauren has a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree for science in human services, both from Wayland Baptist University. She is also a candidate for Doctor of Public Health at Walden University. Lauren is an ordained minister, and she is a member of the Apostolic Network of Global Awakening (ANGA), as well as a member of the American Public Health Association. (https://www.legion-aux.org/about/national-leadership)

**3. 10 May 2025 - Testimonial and Roast for Brian Massey Jr., Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Vermont Detachment Commander at Montpelier Post 3.** Social begins at 5:00 and Dinner at 6:00. Brian is relinquishing command as the Vermont SAL Detachment Commander.

**4.** 7 June 2025 - Testimonial Dinner for Joe Zickmund, American Legion Vermont Department Commander at Waterbury Post 59. Cocktails begin at 5:00 and Dinner at 6:00. Joe is relinquishing command as the Vermont AL Department Commander.

I hope to see you at these events.

Wayne Goulet
Washington County Commander

#### **Legislative Chairman – PDC Richard "Dick" Farmer**

The Vermont Legislation has been in session since the beginning of January. There has been progress made for retired military tax exemption. Rep. Canfield rewrote his bill and resubmitted it. The new number is H.43.

The bill "progress to exempt military retirement and survivor benefit income CH43 Canfield. It must be stated this bill has over seventy endorsements, Democrats, Independents and Republicans.

Governor Scott has made mention of tax exemption for retired military in his State of State of Address. He is for the ill and has built in any that may be lost in the early years.

I attended a hearing on Bill H43 on 31 January 25. The bill was presented very well and it was well received. There seems to be some confusion on the military Affairs Committee that only a retired Veteran would be eligible. This would affect 3,900 not 40,000

What can we do. Again, talk to our Representatives. Let them know how this would help the retired miliary Veteran.

For God and Country,

Legislative Chairman, Richard Farmer, PDC/PNEC



# Mark Your Calendars - Upcoming Events

Nat'l Leading Candidate – Dan Wiley Visits Vermont! March 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>

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3<sup>rd</sup> District Membership Make Up Roundup! March 29<sup>th</sup> Noon @ Montpelier Post 3!

DEC Meeting April 6<sup>th</sup> Noon @ Montpelier Post 3

# <u>Post Everlasting</u> <u>Gone, but Never Forgotten</u>...

Gagnon, Harold ... 01
Muldoon, Patrick ... 01
Rice, Gary ... 01
Benway, Bernard ... 07
Elmore, Edward ... 13
Downing, Charles ... 13
Stratton, Jr. Frank ... 13
Davis, Norton ... 14
Douglas, Clifford ... 14
Raftery, Joan ... 23
Gould, Howard ... 24

Símonds, Jr. Ivan ... 25
Husband, Roland ... 25
Baker, Robert ... 28
Bíshop, Maríno ... 39
Warren, Daníel ... 43
Nassau, III Charles ... 55
Kíng, Arnold ... 91
MacCarty, DR. Denton ... 91





Saturday Mar. 22, 2025

Conference Center, VA Medical Center
White River Jct.

9:30 AM Contest Personnel
10:15 AM Public & Audience to be seated
Lunch provided immediately after speeches
Recognition and awards presented
2:30 PM approx. conclusion
Inquries/questions call Karlene
(802) 377-7380

# Commander's Projects

Joseph Zickmund

2024-2025



#### Vermont

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



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



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



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



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



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

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

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

# Department of Vermont Neadquarters

American Legion Leading National Candidate – Ban Wiley from Kansas - Visits Vermont

"St. Patrick's Bay" Binner at Montpelier Post 3

Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> Social/Meet & Greet 5 p.m. Dinner 6 p.m.



Menu: Corned Beef and Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots, Turnip, Rolls, Cottage Cheese and Chocolate Cake for Dessert

\$15 Per Person –

Sign Up! Come Meet our National Candidate!

# American Legion National Candidate – Dan Wiley Visit to Vermont Schedule/Itinerary

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ARRIVAL: Saturday, March 15th 3:55 P.M. - BURLINGTON AIRPORT

HEAD TO HOTEL AFTER ARRIVAL – DINNER J. Morgans (Hotel Restaurant) (Cmdr. J. Zickmund Attending)

#### **Capital Plaza Hotel & Conference Center**

100 State St, Montpelier, VT 05602

Hotel #802-223-5252

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

(Group for Friday pickup: B. Brothers, T. Scanlon, and B. Markwell)

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#### Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. – Breakfast – Wayside Restaurant

1873 US-302, Montpelier, VT 05602

802-223-6611

#### 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 Camp Johnson Museum/Tour (Cmdr. J. Zickmund Attending)

789 VT National Guard Rd., Colchester VT 05446

802-338-3360

#### **Lunch TBD**

#### 1:30 - 2:30 Cold Hollow Cider Mill Tour - Waterbury

3600 Waterbury-Stowe Rd, Waterbury Center, VT 05677

802-244-8771 Ext. 104 (Todd Paton)

#### 3:30 - 4:30 Bragg Sugar Shack - East Montpelier

1005 VT-14 N, East Montpelier, VT 05651

802-223-5757 (*Lisa McGinley*)

#### Back to Hotel Down Time -

#### 6 p.m. Dinner at Sarducci's in Montpelier

3 Main St, Montpelier, VT 05602 - 802-223-0229

(POC: B. Markwell 802-999-1026, B. Brothers, F. Wilson & J. Matthews)

#### Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. - Breakfast - 802 Capital Grounds

27 State St, Montpelier, VT 05602

802-223-7800

#### 9:30 a.m. Norwich University - Tour, Sullivan Museum

23 University Dr, Northfield, VT 05663

802-485-2183

#### 11:30 - 1:00 Lunch and Tour at The Veterans Place - Northfield

220 Vine St, Northfield, VT 05663

(Bonnie, Director 802-485-8874)

#### 2:00 - 3:00 PM - State House Tour & Visit

115 State St, Montpelier, VT 05633

802-461-9923 (Guide - Martina Michelova)

#### 3:15 Hotel Down Time

#### 5:00 P.M. - Meet and Greet - Montpelier Post 3

21 Main St., Montpelier, VT 05602

802-223-9043

**6:00 P.M. Leading Candidate Banquet** (Cmdr. J. Zickmund and NEC T. Scanlon Attending)

(POC M. Ashford-McGrath 802-461-5346)

(POC: B. Markell 802-999-1026, B. Brothers, F. Wilson, M. McKnight & C. King)

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Tuesday, March 18<sup>th h</sup> – 5 a.m. Return to BTV Airport for a flight out at 7:09 A.M.

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

#### **DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**



Joe Zickmund

#### **Testimonial Dinner**

with live music by The WoodSmith Band featuring our very own District 3 Commander Chris Wood!

Please join us as we celebrate Joe's year as your Department Commander.

Saturday June 7th Cocktails 5p.m./Dinner 6p.m.

HARRY N. CUTTING POST 59 16 Stowe Street, Waterbury VT

\$25 per person Choice of Pot Roast or Chicken Dinner

Make checks payable to Harry N. Cutting Post 59 and mail to: American Legion Headquarters P.O. Box 396, Montpelier VT 05601

Please include your name, phone number and meal preferences with payment.

	Pot Roast	Chicken	Amount Enclosed:	
Name:	Phone #			

# \*VOLUNTEER\* \*DAV DRIVERS NEEDED\*



Would you have a few hours a week to transport Veterans to the White River Junction VA Medical Center for their medical appointments?

IF SO – We'd love to hear from you.

Please telephone

802-295-9363 extension 5394 for more information.

Serving Those who Served All

#### ENDORSEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

**YEAR: 2025 - 2026** 

The Legionnaires listed below have been endorsed for the following offices

OFFICE OF:	LEGIONNAIRE	SPONSORING POST
DEPT. COMMANDER	WILLIAM BROTHERS	49
SR. VICE COMMANDER	FRED WILSON, JR.	36
NO. AREA COMMANDER	ROBERT PEARL	91
SO. AREA COMMANDER	WILLIAM CHARRON	50
1 <sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER	VICTOR STONE	91
2 <sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER	ROY MCKINNON	47
3 <sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER		
4 <sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER	MARK LOSEBY	50
5 <sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER	PAUL KENDALL	26
ADDISON/CHITTEN. COUNTY COMMANDER		
BENNINGTON COUNTY COMMANDER	DOLORES KRAWZCYK	13
CALEDONIA COUNTY COMMANDER	JAY MATTHEWS	30
ESSEX COUNTY COMMANDER	SCOTT LEIGH	47
FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMANDER	PHIL PEARO	60
LAMOILLE COUNTY COMMANDER	CHARLES BURNHAM	33
ORANGE COUNTY COMMANDER	LARRY HART	20
ORLEANS COUNTY COMMANDER		
RUTLAND COUNTY COMMANDER	RICHARD BAPTIE	50
WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMANDER	WAYNE GOULET	59
WINDHAM COUNTY COMMANDER		
WINDSOR COUNTY COMMANDER	FRED STEBBINS	26
DEPT. FINANCE OFFICER	DENNIS MINOLI	10
NEC	CATHERINE TESTER JOSEPH ZICKMUND	50 59
ALT. NEC	MARK CLOUTIER	07

# Sons of the American Legion MONTPELER SQUADRON 3



Detachment Commander Brian Massey, Jr. <u>"Testimonial and Roast"</u>



Saturday, May 10, 2025

Montpelier Post 3
21 Main Street
Montpelier, VT

Prime Rib or Stuffed Chicken Breast, Baked Potato/Sour Cream,
String Beans, Tossed Salad, Rolls and Dessert
\$20.00 per person \*\*\*
"Informal Attire"

Social at 5 P.M – Dinner 6 P.M. "Roast" to Follow Dinner

#### PLEASE RSVP BY APRIL 30th

Make checks payable to: SAL Squadron 3

<u>Mail Checks & Reservations to</u>: Randall McGrath, 63 Partridge Lane, Danville VT 05828

\*\*\*ALL Proceeds go to the Detachment Commander Project – Mount Norris Scout Reservation

NAME:		
(Please Print)		
Chicken:	Prime Rib	NUMBER ATTENDING:
		D: \$ e held at the door)