



# AMERICAN LEGION

## DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

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Department Headquarters  
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## November 2025

### Bulletin

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

**Department Commanders Message – William “Bill” Brothers**

**Northern and Southern Area Commanders Messages**

**District Commanders and County Commanders Messages**

**Mid-Winter Conference Hotel & Banquet Info**

**National Commander Dan Wiley’s Visit to Vermont Photo’s**

**Holiday Well Wishes & Office Open House**

## Department Commander

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### *William “Bill” Brothers*

Greetings Legionnaires,

I hope everyone had a great Halloween and a safe one. We had a great Fall Conference and the “round tables” seem to be a great addition. We have had and a lot of positive feedback from the Conference. Thank you everyone that attended and thank you for all your input on how it went.

The National Commander – Dan Wiley visited the State on the same weekend as the Conference. Commander Wiley and his wife had a great time in Vermont. We took them around to a few of our Posts and they definitely appreciated the hospitality they received from all. I want to thank all the Posts for the hospitality and everything you did to make the visit great. Green Mountain Post 01, Jay Peak Post 28, Newport Post 21, Windsor Post 25, Woodstock Post 24, Montpelier Post 03. We showed them some of our great Vermont sights and they were amazed by how many covered bridges we have in Vermont.

We did stop and let them take pictures and learn the history of each covered bridge we visited; also took them to the Jay Peak Resort where they were amazingly surprised at the views and the beautiful colors that we did have left for foliage. We had a banquet at Montpelier Post 3 in Montpelier for him and his wife. I thank Post 3 for holding this event and a big Thank You to our office Admin Melodie for cooking and putting this together.

Let's all not forget to do our Buddy Checks as the holiday season is upon us and it's hard on some people this time of year. We need to be more transparent during this time of year and meet the needs of everyone. We also need to work on our renewable Veterans and show National that we do get it done in Vermont we are doing good on membership and just need to keep the momentum going.

I want to say good luck to Steve Frost and Bill Charron who are attending Legion College soon. Enjoy the time and bring back what you have learned and experienced. I also want to thank dept. Adjutant Brian Markwell for everything he did while our National Commander was here and everyone else that helped out during his visit.

For God and country

Department Commander Bill Brothers



## Senior Vice Commander – Fred Wilson

Hello Legionnaires,

As Thanksgiving and winter activities are fast approaching, we continue our mission of service, unity, and leadership.

Also, a very happy United States Marine Corps Birthday on November 10th and Veterans Day on November 11th.

Participated with other American Legion Family members to support Commander Dan Wiley, our National Commanders visit 10/27-30/25, he was impressed with the Vermont American Legion.



USA 250 Challenge, The American Legion's celebration of our nation's 250th birthday. The challenge is a major part of how The American Legion will celebrate the historic occasion, now through July 4, 2026. Join us in one or more of the activities, complete 250 hours of wellness activities such as yoga, meditation, and other forms of mindfulness. **Fitness**, choose to walk, bicycle, or cover 250 miles (or hours) any way they choose. **Community**, achieve 250 hours of community service or reach the 250 bar of a community service project.

The American Legion's theme "Be The One." We believe that one act, one conversation, one moment of support can save a life. Every Legionnaire, every community member, has the power to —to listen, to reach out, and to stand beside those who have served. Together, we honor their service not only in ceremony, but in action. Lessen the stigma surrounding mental health.

As membership chairman I will share our membership comparison report results for Vermont as of 11/4/25: 37th place in state rankings at 64.18% (next goal 65% on 11/13/25) and 28th place at 143 off 2024 comparison. Planning or already planning membership drives at our posts in the months ahead to meet our comparison goals.

As we age, one of the eventualities in life that spouses and families of veteran's face is the death of their loved one who served America in uniform. To help ease the burden on loved ones, veterans can make preparations in advance. The first step is to make certain the family has easy access to important documents such as: The veteran's discharge certificate (DD form 214), VA documents, if any, indicating a VA claim number, a copy of all marriage certificates and divorce decrees (if any previous marriages), insurance policies, including beneficiary designation, a copy of the family will (not required for VA benefits), location of safety deposit boxes (not required by VA), Business address, email address, office and cell phone numbers for local American Legion service officer.

For God and Country.

Fred E. Wilson, Jr.

[2fredwilson@gmail.com](mailto:2fredwilson@gmail.com)

917-763-0354

Senior Vice Commander

## **National Executive Committee –** **PDC, Joseph Zickmund**

Vermont Legionnaires,

I had the honor and privilege of accompanying National Commander Dan Wiley during much of his visit with us here in Vermont. A shout out to our Department Commander Bill Brothers for the excellent visits with many Posts and some fine sightseeing.

I received a note from Commander Wiley letting us know he had a great time and that he and his wife appreciated the warm Vermont hospitality. To all of The Vermont American Legion family who participated and so warmly greeted them, well done!



With the National Commanders' recent visit, I thought it timely that I touch on his 6 priorities for the year.

1. He continues to support and express the importance of our ongoing BE THE ONE initiative. Each of us can "Be The One" to help end veteran suicide.
2. His motto is BETTER TOGETHER. Together we can watch out for and support each other. As a Legion family, working together is important to our success.
3. The legislative Agenda. As a national organization we have a voice in D.C. Individually we can make a difference, too. Commander Wiley encourages us to visit [legion.org/action](https://legion.org/action) and [legion.org/advocacy/legislative](https://legion.org/advocacy/legislative).
4. The 3 C's.
  - Communication-what is your method?
  - Community-What is your Post know for?
  - Camaraderie-Checking in on our fellow veterans. Doing Buddy Checks.
5. Supporting the Veterans and Children Foundation which provides for Veteran Service Officer training and temporary financial assistance.

6. In celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary, supporting and participating in the 250 challenge. Details at [legion.org/usa250/challenge](https://legion.org/usa250/challenge).

In closing, thank you to ANEC/PDC Mark Cloutier for attending the Fall Meetings in Indianapolis in my absence.

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

### **Alt NEC, PDC Mark Cloutier**

Greetings, fellow Legionnaires,  
I want to start this message by thanking you all for allowing me to serve you all as Alternate Executive Committee person, representing the Department of Vermont. I will do my best to fulfill my duties.

I had the opportunity to attend Fall Meetings at the American Legion National Headquarters. These meetings allowed me to make connections with other departments.



During the NEC meeting we approved around thirty resolutions. It was interesting to hear some of the debating going back and forth. I have learned a lot from these meetings and plan to attend more in the future.

National Commander Wiley gave a great speech talking about the American Legions stance on the government shutdown. The American Legion issued multiple statements urging Congress to reach a budget solution and reopen the federal government in October. As student veterans saw their GI Bill benefits delayed, American Legion service officers and appeals representatives continued their work, free of charge, on behalf of VA benefits applicants and appellants, including over \$4.5 million in retroactive awards from appeals.

As the Legion called for a permanent solution to pay military personnel in times of government shutdown, records were set for the number of students who will receive American Legion Samsung Scholarships as well as the number of local post activities in support of the Be the One mission to prevent veteran suicide.

Commander Wiley also urges all American Legion family to go to [legion.org/action](https://legion.org/action). This site is a site that you can sign up for, and it will send letters to your representatives urging them to vote for veteran's bills.

The Holidays are coming, and I hope you all have a great Holiday Season.

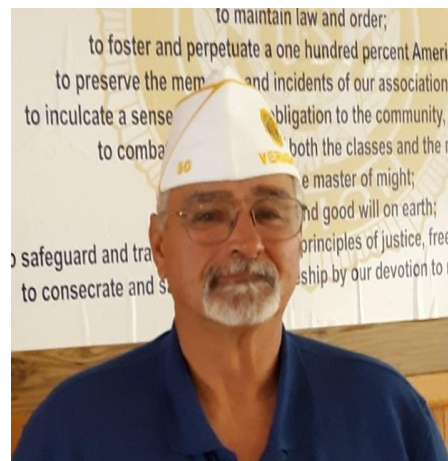
Mark Cloutier  
Past Department Commander 2023-2024  
Alternate National Executive Committee 2025-2027



## **Department Chaplain – Stephen Frost**

Greetings, Legion Family!

Recently, at Fall Conference, where we were graciously, and most capably hosted by our friends at Colchester Post 91, I was humbled, as I took stock of numerous servant leaders. I'm unsure of the actual number in attendance, but, rest assured, we are flush with men and women who serve tirelessly, sometimes, in multiple roles, as traditional members and in dual memberships, (AL and SAL), and, perhaps, as Auxiliary members and Riders, etc.



Their service often extends beyond their Legion activities and includes volunteer and support roles. They can be found in Veterans homes, hospitals, and serving at churches and civic organizations. Also, many are first responders, local government officials and educators, Veteran outreach operatives, supporters of children and youth activities and liaisons, who bring our Legion Family and its vital mission to the masses. For God and Country, they stand forward and take action to meet the needs of our constituents. Though our budgets are lean, for providing these services and activities, we remain a financial powerhouse for many underfunded organizations.

Let us ALL help, however we can, by documenting our hours of service, which benefits our organization through the National level. They use this proof of progress, to convince Congress to help fulfill our mission, through funding and Veterans' benefits. Additionally, we are able to demonstrate publicly, and locally, our beneficial impact on society. This is a valuable contribution for garnering new members, as well as encouraging existing members to re-enlist with us.

I'm sorry to hear of many of our fellow members, who are ill, or recovering from surgeries. Please keep them in your prayers, as I will...may they be Blessed with full recoveries, to hale and hardy health!

Southern Area Commander, Bill Charron and I are attending The National American Legion College, from 16 November through 24 November. We look forward to returning with the latest training and an increased knowledge of our Legion, Servant Leadership, and our Legion programs and legacy. We both desire to offer our newly gained knowledge to all, when we meet again, and expect to breathe new life into, and expansion of existing programs.

May Almighty God visit cozy warmth and comfort upon your households, and grant all of you and your families peace, love and harmony, as Winter nears our doorstep. God Bless and keep you, WELL!

## **Department Historian – Carl King**

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires

What a busy time of year. We had our Fall Conference and D.E.C meeting on October 25th. The Department did a great job in providing training stations that were full of useful information to bring back to the Posts to use as tools to be successful in many areas.



The Department was honored to welcome and showcase Vermont as we received National Commander Dan K. Wiley and his wife. They are from Leavenworth, Kansas. The N.C was shown many places including: the venue for our 2027 Department of Vermont Convention which is being held at Jay Peak Resort. This was hosted by Post 28 Commander Mike Starr, who is the reigning Legionnaire of the year. Post 28 won the bid and will be the host Post for the Convention. Commander Starr and Jay Peak staff showed the entourage around the resort and the amenities and beauty that it provides as well as its self-contained environment where practically everything is on site. Such as restaurants, water park, hiking, gift shops, golf course on site, tram that will take you to the top of the world, movie theatre, live music shows, etc. This will be an exciting venue no doubt. Definitely a great opportunity for others in the state to see the north if they haven't already. Welcome to the Northeast Kingdom!!! N.C Wiley was so impressed, that he said he will come back to Vermont for our 2027 Convention. He was already making plans and schedule. WOW!!!

Commander Starr brought us to Couture's Maple farm. We watched a video on the history and making of Pure Vermont Maple Syrup. Very informative. We were lunch guests at Post 28, where we had a delicious meal. Thank you to the Auxiliary and SAL for everything. There were a few words and gifts given. N.C was very interactive and took pictures and spoke with many Legion Family members. We then took the N.C to Post 21 in Newport, for a tour and refreshments. We showed him Lake Memphremagog and its many beautiful views and locations. The entourage then headed back to Burlington

We visited sites and Posts and The Vermont Veterans Cemetery. A stop at Governor Scotts office for a quick visit and handshake and a banquet was held at Montpelier Post 3 in honor of our National Commanders visit. The food was prepared by our very own Executive Administrator Melodie Ashford-McGrath and her assistants. The only words to describe Chicken 'n Biscuits are YUM-YUM GETCHA SOME!!! Everyone offered compliments to the chef.

The National Commander was pleased with his visit to Vermont. He was impressed for sure. The N.C left early the next morning on his way to Maine and other states on his National Commander tour. Safe travels National Commander Wiley.

As we all know, November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day. A time to be thankful and supported of those who have served our country in the armed forces. There will be many ceremonies. Take time to go see or participate. Take time to thank a fellow vet. Buddy check and always be ready to BE THE ONE to help prevent suicide. Stay safe. Stay Vermont strong.

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Enjoy the 4 F's

Family

Friends

Food

Fun

GOD Bless America, Vermont, and our Veterans.

Carl P. King

Department of Vermont HISTORIAN

### **Northern Area Commander – Roy McKinnon**

Greetings Comrades,

I attended the Fall Conference in Colchester on October 25. It was a very informative conference, and I was given a lot of useful information. I encourage all Posts to send representatives to attend this event and future Conventions. When attending these events, you can learn valuable information on how to assist Veterans in your area.

I recently visited Jay Peak Post 28, Newport Post 21 and the Northfield Post 63 during the American Legion's National Commander's visit to Vermont. Also, I attended the National Commander's dinner at Montpelier Post 03.



Membership in every Post in the Northern Area are above 60 percent. Great job everyone keep up the good work. Let's help the State of Vermont reach a 100 membership.

As always please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I will do my best to help in any way I can.

For God and Country,

Roy (Buzz) McKinnon

Northern Area Commander

1-603-331-5000

[buzzmckinnon5000@gmail.com](mailto:buzzmckinnon5000@gmail.com)



## **Southern Area Commander – William Charron**

American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Wiley made a powerful impact during his late October visit to Vermont, energizing Legionnaires and reaffirming the organization's commitment to veterans and community service.

His tour included meaningful stops at the Dodge House and Josh's House—two veteran support centers that exemplify Vermont's dedication to healing and reintegration. Commander Wiley praised their work and emphasized the importance of local partnerships in veteran care.

In Montpelier, Commander Wiley met personally with Governor Phil Scott to discuss veteran outreach, youth engagement, and the Legion's role in strengthening civic pride. Their conversation highlighted shared goals of service, community resilience, and expanding support for Vermont's veterans.

Commander Wiley also visited American Legion Posts in Windsor, Newport, Jay Peak and Woodstock, where he was greeted by enthusiastic members and local leaders. These stops showcased the vitality of Vermont's Posts and their role as hubs of fellowship and service.

To conclude his visit, Commander Wiley joined Legionnaires and community members for a memorable dinner at the Montpelier Post. The evening was filled with heartfelt conversations, laughter, and shared stories of service—an inspiring reminder of the bonds that unite veterans across generations.

His visit set the tone for the Veterans Day celebrations that followed. Across the state, Legion Posts hosted meals, ceremonies, and community events to honor those who served. From solemn tributes to joyful gatherings, Vermonters came together in gratitude and remembrance.

Commander Wiley's presence inspired renewed commitment to the Legion's mission and values.

**“Put the Vermonters Ahead”**

**Bill Charron**

**Southern Area Commander**



## **1<sup>st</sup> District Commander – Victor Stone**

Autumn Greetings from District One!

We extend our sincere thanks to Colchester Post 91 for graciously hosting the Department of Vermont Fall Conference. The venue provided ample space to support the productive work of the Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons, and the program itself was thoughtfully curated—engaging, informative, and appreciated by all in attendance.



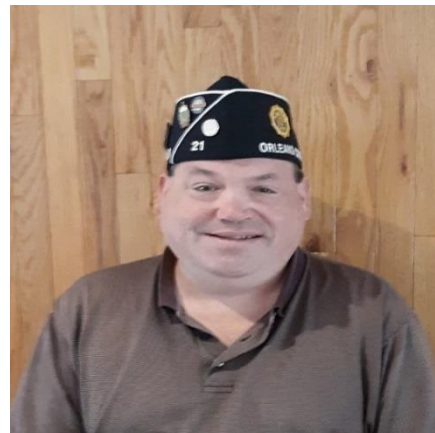
On a more somber note, we mourn the unexpected loss of Joe Gilmund, Commander of Addison/Chittenden County and a devoted member of Post 91. Joe was a passionate and active Legionnaire whose presence will be deeply missed. I had the privilege of spending time with him at the Legion table during the Champlain Valley Fair, where his warmth and familiarity with so many fairgoers was truly remarkable.

As we transition into the season of crisp mornings and woodland pursuits, many of us will soon be heading out in search of the elusive white-tailed deer. Please take care, stay alert, and enjoy your time outdoors safely.

Finally, we are making creditable progress towards our membership goals. Keep up the good work.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander – Carl King**

A lot has gone on these past 2 months. We had Fall Conference Oct 25<sup>th</sup> and D.E.C meeting. It was a great event where we dug deep into training that not only will help us be more successful as individuals, Post, Counties, Districts, and Department, these trainings are crucial to developing and sustaining membership and maintaining the 4 Pillars of the American Legion. We are very focused on RECRUITMENT.



We need members folks! We also need to encourage those who are willing to step up. We need to fill officer positions in order to help make Posts run efficiently and to alleviate overburden on those who have already. This will help prevent burnout, which most often results in a no turnout scenario.

Many Posts held Halloween parties/dances. They hosted Trunk or Treat at their Post or were helping to support someone else's efforts. It was awesome to see these events take place in support of our children and communities. Bringing the Legion Family into the forefront of community and youth involvement.

It was an honor to have the National Commander Dan K. Wiley and his wife visit Vermont. He was shown many places, Posts, views, and especially the site of the 2027 Legion Convention at Jay Peak. This was brought about by Commander Starr of Post 28 North Troy. They are the host post. National Commander was so impressed by Jay Peak, and Vermont as a whole, he promised to be in attendance for the 2027 Convention.

The weather is changing, and snow is soon to come. Enjoy the beauty and winter scenery and all the activities that come with it. November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day. A time to thank and support our veteran community. There will be many ceremonies. I encourage you to attend or participate. Involve your community, family and friends, and especially the children and youth who are our next generation.

I also invite everyone to BE THE ONE to help prevent suicide. Do buddy checks, and neighbor checks. This time of year, is hard for many people for various reasons. Be on the lookout to help whenever possible. A life may depend on it...

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving.  
Stay safe

For God and Country  
Carl King, Commander District 2  
Dept. Historian

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

Hello from the District Three communities of Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties. The leaf peepers are gone, fall conference is in the books, and now we settle into the holiday season. The same as clearing out the garage so you can get the car in, this is the time of year to start the real work of contacting those members that have not renewed and find out why. Remind them that we are in a time where almost no program is sacred, and The American Legion relies on money from dues to get across the message to Congress that VA programs need proper funding. Don't forget to visit your local posts for the many dinners, breakfasts, and celebrations.



As of this writing, we are closing in on the Veterans Day target date for 65 percent of our membership quota. In District Three 11 out of 14 posts have already achieved over 65%, and seven posts are over 70% of their membership quota. Donald McMahon Post 64 in

Stowe leads the charge with 96% of quota to give Lamoille County the lead in the charge. The leader in Orange County is Earl E Brock Post 20 in Bradford with 76%. Norwich Post 1819 is the leader for Washington County with another 76% score for percent of quota. Washington County leads the pack with 15 new members thus far. Those Veterans are out there that have not become members of the American Legion yet. Let's get them signed up!

#### **4<sup>th</sup> District Commander – Joe Bump**

Hello Comrades,

It's hard to believe that November has sneaked up on us. I hope this finds you all in good health and happiness. For me, this is one of the harder parts of the year. We remember those who are gone and pray for those who need it.

This has been an interesting month. A wet Halloween and the first snowfall of the year. For those who love to hunt, it's been a cold and brisk start. I hope you have a fun and rewarding hunting season. Of course, this is our month. We celebrate Veterans Day and I hope you had a chance to be recognized and took the time to recognize a fellow veteran.

The holiday seasons are on us. I hope that you have a very Happy Thanksgiving and holiday season. Remember those who cannot be with us this year. If you are traveling, be safe.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not mention membership. Bennington County is in the capable hands of Dolores and Rutland County is in Richard's capable hands. Both counties are doing well with their goals. Evaluations have begun and are going well. Let me know if I can assist. I will be out and about in December and hope to see you in my travels.

For God and country

Joe Bump,  
District 4 Commander

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

Greetings Legionnaires:

I am happy to announce the District 5 membership drive which has been organized at the request of Senior Vice Fred Wilson. Other Districts are reporting success in membership recruitment for the focused outreach.



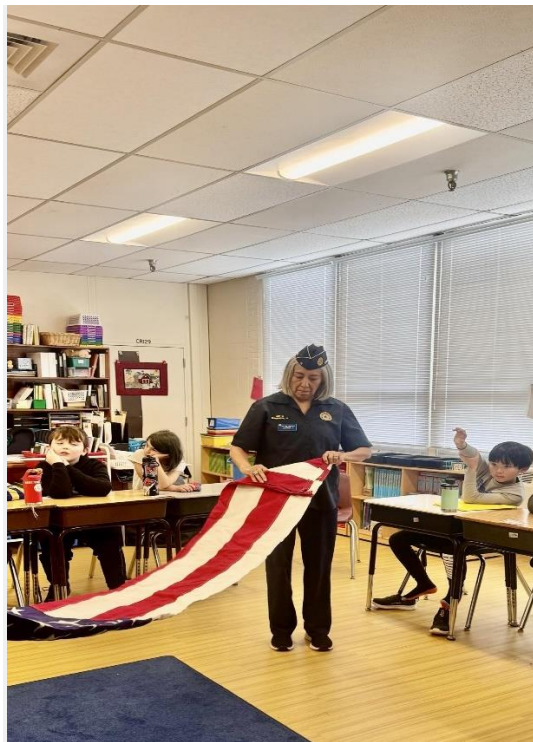
Let's match their success. The drive will be on Sunday, December 14 at Ludlow Post 36. Please arrive at 9:30 to organize the outreach and make calls until 11:30am. Lunch of chili, potato salad and coffee will be available noon to 1:00pm. Donations are appreciated. Afterward those who would like can stay for an after-action review or additional calls until 2:30pm.

All District, County and Post Commanders are asked to attend, as well as the Post Adjutants and the Southern Area and Senior Vice Commanders. Melodie has recently sent out the Post percentages which are hoping to reach 65% this week. Please step up and support this important endeavor.

The Senior Vice and I attended the Post 36 Veterans Day celebration and then went to a local nursing home and had a great chat with 7 elderly veterans. They sincerely appreciated the visit and the small gifts of recognition we brought. One of them was a former Navy Seal who recounted several interesting stories about his service. Please consider visiting veterans in your local nursing homes during the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. You will get far more from the visits than you can imagine.

For God and Country,  
Lew Graham  
District 5 Commander

## **Bennington County Commander – Dolores Krawczyk**



Flag Etiquette Class at Monument Elementary School

11-6-2025



## **Orleans County Commander – Robert Messier**

I would first like to thank all those who have served in the military and those that continue to do so. It is greatly appreciated by many.

I had breakfast with the good people at Jay Peak Post 28 on the 9th of November. The SAL there puts on a breakfast every 2nd Sunday of the month. Adults can eat for just \$10 and children 5-12 eat for just \$5. 4 and under is free. Breakfast is served from 8 to 10:30 AM.



The Veterans Day ceremony I attended at Barton Post 76 was interesting. Participating in the event was the Honor Guard from Orleans Post 23. I was asked to be the bugler which I was honored to do. It was quite warm the previous Veterans Day that I was able to attend. This year was quite snowy, but I did not mind.

I did not get to attend the Veterans Day ceremony in Newport, but I understand it was very well done. Post 21 Commander Carl King gave an excellent speech according to local media outlets. I understand Jay Peak Post 28 sent a group to attend as well.

On December 7, 2025, Jay Peak Post 28 will have a Christmas Celebration from 2PM to 4PM. Singer Mark Shelton will be the entertainer. Cost for this is by donation at the door.

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Robert B. Messier  
88 Second St, Apt 202  
Newport, VT 05855  
(802) 487-5118

American Legion, Orleans Post 23 - Orleans, VT  
Sons of the American Legion, Jay Peak Squadron 28 - North Troy, VT  
Orleans County Commander - Department of Vermont

## **DISTRICT & COUNTY COMMANDERS 2025 - 2026**

**1ST DISTRICT** – Victor Stone, [victor.stone2@myfairpoint.net](mailto:victor.stone2@myfairpoint.net)

Addison/Chittenden County - Vacant

Franklin County – Phil Pearo, [logcabinstables05440@yahoo.com](mailto:logcabinstables05440@yahoo.com)

**2ND DISTRICT** – Carl King, [carlking73@yahoo.com](mailto:carlking73@yahoo.com)

Caledonia County – Angela Marshall, [james3girlz@gmail.com](mailto:james3girlz@gmail.com)

Essex County – Scott Leigh, [sleigh1992@yahoo.com](mailto:sleigh1992@yahoo.com)

Orleans County - Robert Messier, [robert.of.newport@gmail.com](mailto:robert.of.newport@gmail.com)

**3RD DISTRICT** – Christopher Wood, [chriswood0869@gmail.com](mailto:chriswood0869@gmail.com)

Lamoille County – Charles Burnham, [cbsto@me.com](mailto:cbsto@me.com)

Orange County – Larry Hart, [larryhart64@gmail.com](mailto:larryhart64@gmail.com)

Washington Cty – Wayne Goulet, [waynegoulet@gmail.com](mailto:waynegoulet@gmail.com)

**4TH DISTRICT** – Joe Bump, [makc57@comcast.net](mailto:makc57@comcast.net)

Bennington County – Dolores Krawczyk, [doloreskrawczyk57@gmail.com](mailto:doloreskrawczyk57@gmail.com)

Rutland County – Richard Baptie, [rbaptie24@gmail.com](mailto:rbaptie24@gmail.com)

**5TH DISTRICT** – Lewis Graham, [vermonter@charter.net](mailto:vermonter@charter.net)

Windham County – Steve Martin, [stemar647@gmail.com](mailto:stemar647@gmail.com)

Windsor County – Fred Stebbins, [stebbinsf1@gmail.com](mailto:stebbinsf1@gmail.com)

**William Brothers**

**2025 - 2026**

**"Department Commanders Project"**



Special Olympics Vermont serves the entire state of Vermont, providing athletic opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities. We currently serve over 2,000 athletes and offer 13 Olympic-style sports and 9 statewide competitions, including four state-wide Games.

**WHO WE ARE**

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

.....

*Please consider donating to my Commanders Project. Checks may be sent to  
Department Headquarters, P.O. Box 396, Montpelier, VT 05601-0396*

*Please write "Special Olympics" in the memo line*

*Thank you. Bill Brothers, Dept. of Vermont Commander*

American Legion  
Department Commander  
**William Brothers**  
2025 - 2026  
“Outstanding ROTC”  
Award



**Award Amount: \$2,000**

**Award Qualifications:**

- Outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership ability.
- Outstanding qualities of military leadership, discipline, character, and citizenship.
- Accomplishments in both military and academic endeavors, and reflects the ideals of patriotism.
- A Cadet who has demonstrated academic excellence by being in the top 25% of his/her academic class.
- "For maintaining the highest school academic grades.

*The Cadet must be selected and recommended by an academic staff person; this information must be sent to the Department for review. Selection will take place with a panel of (5) Past Department Commanders appointed by the Department Commander. The winner will be announced in May and invited to the Department Annual State Convention in June to receive the Award. Information will be sent to ROTC Programs in Vermont only.*

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To support this Project, make checks payable to: Dept. HQ's, PO Box 396, Montpelier, VT 05601-0396  
Memo Line: ROTC Award



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## Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

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**Mid – Winter Conference**  
**Hampton Inn by Hilton Colchester**  
**January 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> (Info in this Bulletin!)**

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**Christmas Legion Family Open House @ HQ's**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 11:00 – 2 PM**

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**Directory Changes:**  
**Page 14 – Sparky Ferris phone # is 802-578-6622**  
**Page 18 – Mike Starr phone # is 802-673-8433**  
**Page 54 – Henry Lingo has replaced PDC Barb Bushaw as Commander**  
**His # is 802-922-8037**

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

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Hi Melodie,

Norwich University Post 1819's (in partnership with Norwich University (NU)) December Wreaths Across America (WAA) event to the Dept of VT calendar. Post 1819 would be happy to have additional American Legion support & participation for this first-year event.

Date/Time: Saturday, 6 Dec, 1pm

Location: NU Cemetery, 322 Scenic View Dr.,  
Northfield VT

Over the past year, Post 1819's Assistant Adjutant Shawn LoPorto has coordinated with WAA and NU to "open" the NU cemetery in Northfield for WAA wreath laying. The 6 Dec ceremony will recognize our Veterans, honor them, and teach younger generations about service.

Brett Nelson  
Commander  
American Legion Post 1819  
mobile (571) 379-6111

Griffin, Calvin ... 55  
Furnari, Donald ... 55  
Hirsch, James ... 64  
Daniels, John ... 80  
Gilmond, III Allston ... 91  
Boivin, Charles ... 91  
Trudell, Richard ... 91  
Lavoie, Charles ... 100

## **Mid – Winter Conference**

**January 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Hampton Inn by Hilton Colchester  
42 Lower Mountain View Dr., Colchester VT**

**Rooms = \$119.00+ Tax (\$133.44)**

Greetings!

Happy to announce that your room block for January is now active. I've attached the booking link below. The special rate code will be **ALJ** for any attendees who want to book through our website.

Thank you, let me know if you need assistance! Copy and Paste in your search bar.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=BTVMVHX&arrivalDate=2026-01-14&departureDate=2026-01-18&groupCode=CHHALJ&room1NumAdults=1&cid=OM%2CWW%2CHILTONLINK%2CEN%2CDirectLink>

**Brandon Mercy  
Group Sales & Catering Manager**



Hampton Inn Burlington-Colchester  
Vermont Event Center  
42 Lower Mountain View Drive  
Colchester, VT 05446  
Brandon.Mercy2@hilton.com  
802-318 - 9039 Direct Line

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

**2026 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE BANQUET**

**HAMPTON BY HILTON, 42 Lower Mtn View Dr., Colchester, VT**

**Friday, January 16, 2026**

**COCKTAILS – 5:30 P.M**

**DINNER – 6:15 P.M.**



Chicken Cordon Bleu & Roasted Pork Loin

The above will be served with Herb Roasted Red Potatoes, Pasta Primavera, Seasonal Roasted Vegetables,  
Dinner Rolls, Tossed Salad & Chef's Choice Dessert

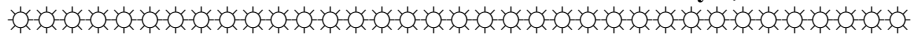
**\$40.00 per person – All Inclusive**

**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: January 1, 2026**



**PLEASE RESERVE: \_\_\_\_\_ Banquet Tickets**

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Post/Squadron/Unit: \_\_\_\_\_**

**(Circle Legion Sons of the American Legion Auxiliary)**

## National Commander – Dan Wiley’s Visit

Some Photos submitted by Dept. Historian Carl King













The American Legion Department of Vermont - Adjutant Brian Markwell & your Headquarters Executive Admin. – Melodie Ashford McGrath wish you Happy Thanksgiving!



**DEPARTMENT HQ'S**  
**LEGION, SAL, AUXILIARY, ALR's**  
**"CHRISTMAS OPEN-HOUSE"**



**Wednesday, December 17th**

**11 a.m. to 2 P.M.**

**Drop in and have light refreshments and  
Holiday cheer with your Department  
Staff!**

**All of us here at Department hope to see  
you!**